

A Socio- Economic Analysis of Sri Lankan Tamil Refugees in Uchapatti Camp, Madurai District-Tamil Nadu

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ABSTRACT: The present study focuses on the socio-economic dimensions of Sri Lankan Tamil Refugees within the Uchapatti camp of Madurai District and these are constructed from both the secondary and first surveys within the refugee camps. The study might be of enormous help to academicians to delve deep into the problems of refugees to know the mindset, exigencies of life and refugee world view. To sensitize government officials to deal and treat refugees with respect and dignity while acting within regulations, this study is of great help. The findings and conclusion of research are an eye opener in respect of empirical evidence and expected to influence policies and programs for the betterment of refugees, displaced communities and migrants on mitigate their plight ultimately. It's examined their arrival at different phases and therefore the repatriation to the country of origin with the assistance of UNHCR. Without any clue over their future, the refugees still survive in camps over 20 years.

KEYWORDS: Socio- Economic Condition, livelihood status, quality of life, welfare schemes.

Introduction

India had to face a large refugee influx in 1959 when Dalai Lama along side his followers fled and reached India. The government of India

provided Dalai Lama and his followers a political asylum. Another refugee influx which our country had to face was in 1971 when 10 million refugees fled from Bangladesh to India. For this asylum, India was forced by the humanitarian obligation to offer shelter to the refugees. After some gap, India was again suffering from the influx of refugees from Sri Lanka and Bangladesh in 1983 and 1986. India hosted approximately 400,000 refugees alongside a minimum of 2,000,000 refugees and a few 237,000 internally displaced persons. These groups are accommodated and assisted in accessing education, healthcare, employment and residence to varying degrees.

Definition of Refugee

A refugee is someone who has been forced to flee his or her country because of persecution, war or violence. A refugee has a well-founded fear of persecution for reasons of race, religion, nationality, political opinion or membership in a particular social group.

Sri Lankan Tamil Refugees in Tamil Nadu

Types of Refugee Camps

- I. Refugees within the camps (Camp Refugees)
- II. Recognized Refugees outside the Camps (Non- camp Refugees)
- III. Special Camps

I. Camp refugees

As on April, 2016, the total number of refugees is 63938 in 108 refugee camps and around 34000 live outside the camps with the permission of rehabilitation department (Information Handbook of Department of Rehabilitation). Approximately one hundred thousand refugees live in Tamil Nadu State of India. They are taken care of by government of India and therefore the State government. Their movement is restricted, monitored and therefore the provisions are distributed by officials. With the knowledge and permission of the Commissionerate of Rehabilitation, the NGO undertake different activities for the welfare and wellbeing of refugee community.

II. Non camp refugees

This can be sub-divided into two: those that are staying outside the camps with the permission of rehabilitation center and police, are called registered Sri Lankan refugees. The Nationalities from Sri Lanka who are illegally staying in India after the expiry of their visas, are called unregistered Sri Lankan Tamil refugees. They're not entitled to receive the advantages and welfare measures meant for refugees. They're ready to manage their life with the resources and assistance from their relatives abroad.

III. Special camps

The people, who had record or alleged involvement in any criminal activities like smuggling and aiding the banned organization, are detained in separate camps. A number of them aren't technically and legally prisoners but they're not allowed to remain and mingle with others. In 1992, there have been 1,629 militants staying in five special camps in Vellore, Pudukkottai, Salem, Chengalpattu and Chennai (**PUCL Report, 1999**). It had been reduced to 3 in 2003 with 150 Sri Lankan nationals in three special camps and in 2016, just one special camp with 17 members is functioning. According to the web site of the government of Tamil Nadu the subsequent categories of Sri Lankan Tamils are lodged in the Special Camps: (1) Those involved within the criminal cases, including those on bail, (2) Those released after disposal of the cases, (3) Those with other adverse reports such as involvement in smuggling/criminal activities and members of families of those who fall into these categories.

Concept of the Study

A simplified overall conceptual framework has been developed supported the theme of the study. The three major aspect of the study which will be essentially conceptualized in reference to one another are:

- i) Theoretical aspect
- ii) Data aspect
- iii) Analytical aspect

Objectives

1. To look at the socio – economic background of Uchapatti refugee camp in Madurai District.

2. To analyse the utilization and livelihood status of Sri Lankan Tamil Uchapatti refugees camp living in Madurai and Sri Lanka.
3. To make a comparative assessment of changed quality of life and extent variation of the refugees both in their places of origin and places of destination.
4. To review the camp regulations, welfare schemes and its impact on quality of life of Uchapatti refugee camp in Madurai District.

Hypothesis

1. There is a no significant association between expenditure, saving and the monthly income level of the respondents.
2. There is a no significant association between dept and the monthly income level of the respondents.

Scope of the Study

The study recognizes that the refugees sleep in barely tolerable conditions under a shadow of poverty, illness and death. Often these refugees are forced to measure hand-to-mouth existence, foraging basic wants and dependent on it for basic necessities like food, shelters and water. These need to be studied in-depth and through data collected from a field survey with the Sri Lankan Tamil refugees/ household within the refugee camp.

The Problem of the Study

The present study seeks to look at the socio – economic analysis and dimensions of Sri Lankan Tamil Refugees within the camp of Madurai District. A refugee may be a one that is

outside his or her country of nationality and is unable or unwilling to return due to a well – founded fear of persecution for reasons of race, religion and nationality. Refugees are forced from their countries by war, conflicts, political strife or gross right abuses.

Universe of the Study

This study examines the An Econometric Analysis of Sri Lankan Tamil Refugees in Madurai District, Tamil Nadu. It was necessary to select an area. It was therefore decided to select the state of Tamil Nadu in India. That has a relatively large number of Sri Lankan Tamil Refugees of 63938 with Male 31, 839 refugees and 32,099 Female refugees within the state and Madurai District was selected one refugee camp with 1640 refugees of which 794 are Men and Boys and 846 are Women and Girls.

Location of the Study

Uchapatti village is located in Thirumangalam Tehsil of Madurai district in Tamil Nadu, India. It is situated 6km away from sub-district headquarter Thirumangalam and 20km away from district headquarter Madurai. Thirumangalam is nearest town to Uchapatti camp. Uchapatti Sri Lankan Refugees camp started in the year 1990. There are 530 families with 1640 members living in government sheltered and huts. There are 794 male and 846 female members in camp. The foremost important characteristics of the camps are: separation from the host population, the necessity to share facilities, a scarcity of privacy, plus overcrowding, unemployment, low income and a limited, restricted area within which the entire compass of lifestyle is to be conducted. The physical environment in refugee

camps isn't satisfactory for the refugees living there. Every camp is given electricity and shelter freed from cost by the government of Tamil Nadu. Electricity is supplied only from 6.00 pm to 6.00 am altogether the refugee camps. Houses are scattered and therefore the streets are very narrow. The physical environment within the camps increases the danger of diseases and ill – health.

Significance of the Study

Human rights violation is the important reasons in creating of refugees. An individual becomes a refugee due to some forced circumstances on which he has no control. It's a harsh reality that India has hosted numerous refugees since the time of its independence when Indian economy was showing the signs of stagnation. Despite of, itself being a under developed nation at that point with numerous challenges and constraints ahead, India on humanitarian grounds has allowed refugees from different regions to require shelter here. The refugees issue doesn't only hold national importance but also at international level this issue has been acclaimed especially after two world wars. Refugee issue has gained contemporary

relevance during recent decades. Tolerance on a part of India has made it a haven for refugees.

Tools Used

1. The collected data were analyzed by using the Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS) version 16.
2. The statistical tools used in this study are Multiple Linear Regression Model, Simple Linear Regression Model, R^2 , Adjusted R^2 , Multicollinearity, Analysis of Variance (ANOVA), F – Test and T test.

Limitations of the Study

The Sri Lankan refugee crisis may be a sensitive area. Entering the refugee camps is difficult and collecting information from them is all the more difficult. Due to the time factor the researcher was ready to cover only one camp. Due to the resource constraints, it had been decided to hold out the study only one refugee camps. It's expected that the study would throw light on the character, extent and magnitude of econometric analysis of Sri Lankan Tamil refugees within the camps, giving rise to an understanding of the extent of their problems, difficulties and constraints.

Table -1.1

Sri Lankan Tamil Refugees arrive in Inflow phases

Period	Inflow
Phase I (24.07.1983 to 31.12.1987)	1,34,053
Phase II (25.08.1989 to 30.04.1991)	1,22,078
Phase III (31.07.1996 to 31.08.2003)	22,418
Phase IV (12.01.2006 to Till Date –Current)	25,720
Total	3,04,269

Sources: tn.nic.in

Table -1.2

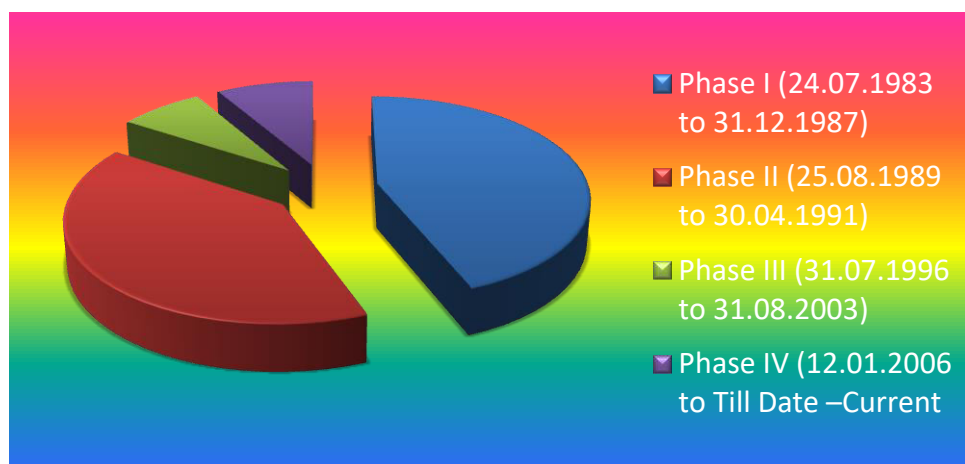
Total Number of Refugee in the Tamil Nadu

S.N	Type of Camps	Refugees
1	Camp Refugees	67,763
2	Non-Camp Refugees	34,482
Total		1,02,245

Sources: tn.nic.in

Diagram 1.1

Percentage distribution of respondents by phase of arrival in India



Relief Assistance to Sri Lankan Refugees in Camps:

Monthly Cash Doles

While living in the camp the refugees receive a refugee card which acts as an identification card. In addition to this there is a card for the procurement of the rations. In order to take care of the immediate food and life needs of the refugee community the State and the Central Governments started assisting the refugees with a subsistence allowance (1996) of Rs. 200 for the head of the household, Rs. 144 for the adult members, Rs. 90 for the children below the age of 12 .Currently the following is the dole pattern:

Table 1.3

Doles for the refugees since 1983

S.No	Family Members	Cash Doles (Rs.) 1983	Cash Doles (Rs.) 1990	Cash Doles (Rs.) (1996)	Cash Doles (Rs.) (2006)	Cash Doles at Present (Rs)	
1	Head of the family	110	150	200	400	1000	To be paid before 5 th of every month
2	Other Adults	82.50	120	144	288	750	
3	Children below 12 years	55	75	90	180	400	

(G.O. Ms. No. 755, Public (Rehabilitation) Dept. dated 31-07-2006) (G.O.No.928 Pu8blic (RH-2) Department Dated 11.10.2011

Summary Statement

The equation of the straight line relating Income and Expenditure, Saving is estimated as:
 $Income = (1263.4146) + (1.3171) Expenditure + (4.909090) Saving$ using the 530 observations in this dataset. The y-intercept, the estimated value of

Income when Expenditure is zero, is 1263.4146 with a standard error of 479.2916. The slope, the estimated change in Income per unit change in Expenditure, is 1.3171 with a standard error of 0.0563. The value of R-Squared, the proportion of the variation in Income that can be accounted for by variation in Expenditure,

is 0.9945. The correlation between Income and Expenditure is 0.9973. A significance test that the slope is zero resulted in a t-value of 23.3827. The significance level of this t-test is 0.0002. Since $0.0002 < 0.0500$, the hypothesis that the slope is zero is rejected. The estimated slope is 1.3171. The lower limit of the 95% confidence interval for the slope is 1.1378 and the upper limit is 1.4963. There is a significant association between expenditure, saving and the monthly income level of the respondents.

Recommendations

1. Better housing facilities like Uchapatti camp could be made available.
2. Drinking water facility could be connected with the local panchayat integrated drinking water system of Tamil Nadu.
3. Though one toilet per house is ideal, at least one toilet for 25 persons could be made available which would solve the health related issues.
4. Free higher education could be given to the college students in government and aided private arts and science colleges.
5. Admission to MBBS could be resumed.

Conclusions

This study has got to provide an in depth from three different sets of knowledge, concerning refugee households, quality of life refugee households and camps, socio-economic dimensions are retained within the three different analyses of principal component co relational analysis method. All the size retained from the info are so designated that they distinctly characterize the refugee households and therefore the refugee camps of the Madurai district. While for the households as an entire, during a collective sense, educational attainment, family and consumption of materials and services, employment, income and wealth and stay and health of the refugee households are shown to be important socio-economic dimensions, educational attainment and income therein order become the many socioeconomic dimensions. As for the camps are concerned, however, people and facilities and benefits from women's associations emerge because the significant socio-economic dimensions. At various levels therefore various socio-economic shows up and every one of them together provide for an understanding of the character of the socio-economic milieu the refugees of Madurai district inform.