Abstract

This paper would be an attempt to delineate the Rohingya woman’s perspective and experiences in forced migration and exile in Malaysia in which the ‘victim’ is trying to articulate her words, but often fails to reach the audience. Arguments in this article are based on fieldwork data that came from both documented as well as uncommented female refugees in Malaysia. It examines two questions from refugee’s perspective: what is life like being a female in forced migration in Burma, and how it is like becoming a refugee in exile in Malaysia. The paper argues that the imposed ‘stateless’ identity has led to many sufferings for the community and shaped women’s gender specific experiences. This approach allows us to explore the struggles and complexities of the refugee women’s experience. More significantly, it challenges the conventional theoretical discourse of looking at refugees as “bare life” and “voiceless”. Moreover, it questions national laws and institutional norms that reinforce gender discrimination; therefore, suggesting greater recognition for refugee women’s voices and experiences as powerful advocates for their own needs and rights.

Keywords: Rohingya, Refugee women, Forced migration, Human rights, Malaysia.
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