

Refugees in Delhi: "The Troubled Youth"

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Abstract: We often talk on the subject "Refugees" with various viewpoints. While some consider them as the downtrodden people who have taken shelters in various developing and developed countries in search of safety, peace and growth, other see them as a liability and burden on the host countries. Similarly, various organizations, politicians, aid workers, academicians and the press have different angles in viewing the term.

However, amid the arguments on eliciting the right definitions on the refugees, we often forget the real issues and concerns such as the socio-economic problems, this population is going through and to be more specific, the issues, risks and challenges of the refugee youth, which has been one of the severely affected sections of the refugee population, whose not only past has troubles and sorrows in it but whose present is handicapped with a very limited opportunities to grow and whose future is full of uncertainties. Thus, this is the high time when the youth refugee population should be given special focus upon by the humanitarian and welfare agencies in Delhi to timely save their futures from the shackles of helplessness, decimation, demotivation and desolation by reviewing the existing support structures for them, advocating for rectifying the shortfalls and backing away for some much needed solutions at a broader level and highlighting the issues related to their situation.

Keywords: Youth, Refugee, UNHCR, education, service, assistance.

1. DEFINING REFUGEES

A **refugee** is a person who is outside his home country because he has suffered (or feared) persecution on account of race, religion, nationality, membership of a particular social group or political opinion. Most importantly, he cannot return home or is afraid to do so. Wars, terrorism and ethnic, tribal and religious violence are some of the leading causes of the refugees fleeing their countries.

The 1951 Geneva Convention which is the main international instrument of refugee law clearly spells out who a refugee is and the kind of legal protection, other assistance and social rights he or she should receive from the countries who have signed the document. It spells out that a refugee is someone who "owing to a well-founded fear of being persecuted for reasons of race, religion, nationality, membership of a particular social group or political opinion, is outside the country of his nationality, and is unable to, or owing to such fear, is unwilling to avail himself of the protection of that country." However, certain categories or people, such as war criminals, do not qualify for refugee status.

Thus, according to this provision, refugees are defined by three basic characteristics:

They are outside their country of origin or outside the country of their former habitual residence;

- They are unable or unwilling to avail themselves of the protection of that country owing to a well-founded fear of being persecuted; and
- The persecution feared is based on at least one of five grounds: race, religion, nationality, membership of a particular social group, or political opinion.
- Bodies such as the Organization for African Unity and Latin American states developed agreements like the OAU Convention of 1969 and Cartagena Declaration of 1984 and further expanded the definition of refugees to include not only individuals subject to persecution, but also those who are compelled to leave and seek refuge in another places

outside their countries of origin owing to external aggression, occupation, foreign domination, or events seriously disturbing the public order and massive human rights violations.

2. DEFINING YOUTH

Youth is generally considered as the period between childhood and adulthood. Youth is also defined as a social position that reflects the meanings, different cultures and societies give to individuals between childhood and adulthood.

The UN, for statistical consistency across regions, defines 'youth', as those persons between the ages of 15 and 24 years, without prejudice to other definitions by Member States.

In much of sub-Saharan Africa, the term "youth" is associated with young men from 15 to 30 or even 35 years of age.

Youth is a more fluid category than a fixed age-group. However, age is the easiest way to define this group, particularly in relation to education and employment. Therefore "youth" is often indicated as a person between the age where he/she may leave compulsory education, and the age at which he/she finds his/her first employment. This latter age limit has been increasing, as higher levels of unemployment and the cost of setting up an independent household puts many young people into a prolonged period of dependency.

3. UNHCR RECOGNIZED REFUGEES IN INDIA

India maintains that the 1951 Convention is Euro-centric and cannot be effectively implemented in the South Asian region and hence, irrespective of it being generous towards refugees, is not a party to the United Nations Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees 1951 (1951 Convention) and the Protocol Relating to the Status of Refugees 1967 (1967 Protocol), however, asylum-seekers who are not offered direct protection by the Indian government can get refugee status from the UNHCR in a bona fide system of refugee protection in India.

At the end of December 2014, there were more than 31,000 refugees and asylum-seekers registered with UNHCR in India.

TABLE I: Breakdown of Refugees Registered under UNHCR's mandate in India

Afghanistan	10,395
Myanmar(including Rohingyas)	14,300
Somalia	654
Others (Sudan, Iran, DRC, Iraq, Eritrea)	516
Total	25,865

TABLE II: Breakdown by Nationality of Asylum Seekers in India

Afghanistan	1305
Myanmar	2970
Others (Somalia, Sudan, Iran, DRC, Iraq, Eritrea)	799
Total	5,074

Some 51% of refugees and asylum-seekers are men, while 49% are women.

These refugees or asylum seekers generally reach/stay in India by overstaying their short visit visas or sneaking in through porous borders.

4. REFUGEES IN DELHI

UNHCR assists refugees and asylum-seekers from non-neighbouring countries and Myanmar. Most of these refugees live in the National Capital Territory of Delhi, and comprise 0.001 percent of Delhi's total population of about 25 million.

TABLE III: Demographic 2014, UNHCR India

MALE REFUGEES	16015
FEMALE REFUGEES	14924
TOTAL	30939

Youth Numbers:

It's extremely challenging to arrive at an exact figure on the Youth refugees' population based on the definition of 'Youth' by the UN, but, an assumption can always be made on the probable numbers by wisely interpreting some of the officially available statistics:

TABLE IV: Demographic 2014, UNHCR India

Refugees in the age grp. 12yrs. to 17 yrs.,	3803
Refugees in the age grp. 18yrs. to 59 yrs.,	18702

If we go by the definition of the United Nations and consider Youth as the persons in the age group 15 to 24yrs. and try to make various permutations and combinations, it's very likely that if not more, at least a minimum of 1000 youth refugees can be assumed residing in Delhi at present. What's more worrisome is a staggering population of 11,000 refugees below 18 yrs., some of whom might have already entered their youth while many more would be just on the verge.

5. UNHCR PROGRAMMES FOR THE YOUTH

Considering the fact, that the needs of refugees are very vast and at the same time very crucial, UNHCR offers a variety of services in the field of legal assistance, education, health, livelihood and employment to the refugees residing in New Delhi. For implementation of these services at grassroots level, UNHCR has been partnering with various Non-government organizations which include:

- i. **Don Bosco Organization for Social concern and operations** for health & education support, psycho-social and child protection services and training classes.
- ii. **The Social and Legal Information Center (SLIC)** for legal assistance to refugees.
- iii. **Access** for training and job placement.
- iv. **Anudip** for IT training.
- v. **SARD** for Education of Rohingyas.

Most of the services available for the refugees make its youth population eligible to take benefit of. However, a person taking benefit should mandatorily be registered and recognized by the UNHCR as a refugee or asylum seeker. Refugees such as Tibetans, who are not under the command of UNHCR are not eligible to utilize the available services.

Outreach Services: Education and Training classes:

One of the most important services available for the youth refugee in Delhi is the outreach services in terms of educational and training support to the children.

Tuition Classes- As a part of the educational services, daily tuition classes are provided in various outreach centres **to assist government school going refugee children in their regular school studies & assignments.** Activities such as English classes (Alphabets, Grammar, Vowels etc.), Hindi classes (Alphabets, Grammar, words etc.), Maths classes (Tables, addition, subtraction, fraction etc.), EVS etc. are organized as a part of this.

Training classes- As a part of the regular training activities, the Outreach Centres organizes daily Computer, English & Hindi classes for the refugees above 13yrs. including the youth. The course includes basic information on the subjects, language, grammar, MS applications, typing and knowledge on software and hardware components.

NIOS Classes- Apart from this, those students who want to pursue higher studies as per the government education curriculum, are assisted in admission in National Indian Open Schooling for class 10th & 12th and provided with NIOS classes at the centres, wherein they are assisted in subjects like Economics, Maths, English etc. or the subjects of their choice in the NIOS examinations. They are also assisted in submission of assignments in the study centres.

Youth Clubs:

With an objective to engage youth in various activities to develop leadership, ownership and responsibility among themselves, various youth clubs have been formed, wherein on a day to day basis activities like life skills sessions,

personality development programmes, motivational talks are organized for the youth by the staff. These clubs are formed on regional basis and there are 9 clubs functioning in various parts of Delhi under direct supervision of Bosco. Different clubs have members from different nationalities, with a one particular club having youth of a same nationality along with some local Indian youth to increase harmony and promote a youth support system for refugees.

The following are the existing youth clubs:

- i) Arya-Afghan-Malviya Nagar
- ii) Genius- Rohingya-Bodella
- iii) Hornbill- Myanmar- Bodella
- iv) Champion- Hindu Sikh Afghan- Bodella
- v) Harmony- Afghan- Wazirabad
- vi) Youngistan- Afghan- Bodella
- vii) Royal - Somalis- Wazirabad
- viii) Simba- Somalis- Malviya Nagar
- ix) Yuva- Afghan- Bhogal

The youth through these clubs are motivated to divulge their hidden talents such as dancing, singing, public speaking, instrument playing etc., build confidence in them and develop in them, team spirit and leadership qualities by participating in the events such as World Refugee Day, Youth Meet, SGBV Meet, Sports Meet and other life skills activities. Annual events such as Refugee day and youth meet are usually grand in nature and are participated and witnessed by UNHCR staff, staff of all the implementing partners, various dignitaries from Embassies, media and other government-non-government welfare agencies, thereby giving youth a big platform to showcase their talents.

Health Services:

UNHCR through its implementing partner, also provide free medical services available to all the refugees and asylum seekers and hence, youth are an obvious beneficiary of these. In the medical services, the patients are provided with the support through medical interpreters in accessing the government hospitals and other health facilities as per their needs on a day to day basis. Those patients who are advised medications are assisted in acquiring the same from government dispensaries or through some contracted chemists. Usually generic medicines are provided to the patients, however in case of non-availability or urgency, branded medicines are also provided.

The patients with severe medical conditions and requiring medical treatments are assisted in various tests and surgical procedures. For a refugee requiring any medical procedure below Rs.5000/-, Bosco health team itself approves and sanctions, but for the cases requiring more than Rs.5000/-, a Medical Referral Committee(MRC) comprising of some panelised government doctors sits, discuss and send recommendations which are finally approved or disapproved by the UNHCR .

Other health services include provision of reimbursements for medical aides and equipment like spectacles, glucometer, thermometer, BP machine etc. Also, sanitary napkins and sanitary kits are distributed on a quarterly basis to the female refugees in the age group 14-49 yrs. Apart from this, occasional distribution of mosquito kits to the refugee residing in some mosquito prone areas such as Wazirabad and Bhogal and organization of health camps and awareness sessions are also a part of the health activities which the youth too can take benefit of.

Subsistence Allowance (SA):

Another vital service given by UNHCR to all of its refugees including youth is the subsistence allowance to ensure refugees are able to maintain a certain standard of living in Delhi by providing monthly cash assistance to those who are eligible.

Generally, the refugees with UNHCR-recognition are eligible for the SA program if, they fit within one of the following categories:

- i. Newly-Recognized Refugee
- ii. Disabled or Extremely Vulnerable Individual (EVI)
- iii. Unaccompanied Minors

Only those in the category “Disabled or EVI” can continue to receive SA as long as necessary.

Those receiving SA as a newly recognized refugee are completely cut-off from assistance after one year. Unaccompanied minors are cut-off once they attain the age of 18.

Psycho-Social Services:

The refugees, including the youth having mental health issues are provided with regular psycho-social support by a trained and qualified team of psychologists and social workers usually referred as case workers. As a part of this, frequent home visits, counselling sessions, individual and group therapies are provided to the refugees. Psychiatric treatment and medications are also prescribed to those with severe mental health issues by some panelised psychiatrists.

Employment & livelihood Assistance:

The UNHCR's focus through its livelihood and employment assistance programmes is to offer an integrated model of training, placement and entrepreneurship services to the refugee youth. Through one of its new implementing partners Access development services, UNHCR is assisting the refugee youth in becoming skilled and getting support in employment. For this, activities like job training and placement services and self-reliance focusing upon enabling the refugee youth to develop their self-sufficiency and self-sustainability by building their skills and capacities and developing community based strategies, are taken use of.

Through another partner, Anudip, UNHCR provides IT classes to refugee youth. Currently, these classes are being run at some selected locations such as Malviya Nagar, Bhogal etc. wherein the refugee youth are provided basic to advance level computer knowledge and IT training. While the Bosco computer classes are a part of educational curriculum, the Anudip classes are meant specifically to train the refugee youth in IT sector and make them professionally skilled. It further intends to place selected graduates in IT industry.

Legal Assistance:

Through Social Legal Information Center (SLIC), the UNHCR provides legal services and general assistance to the refugees living in Delhi. Refugees are also able to renew their refugee certificate through the SLIC office. SLIC is also meant to assist refugees in obtaining the residential permit from the Foreigners Regional Registration Office (FRRO).

When problems arise within the refugee community or between refugees and the local community, SLIC provides help in filing complaints with the police and provides mediation services. In cases such as SGBV incidents, rape or arrest cases, SLIC provides lawyers to represent refugees in court. Youth are also eligible to take assistance of SLIC in the above mentioned issues.

Misc. Services:

A few other services are also available for the refugee youth some of which are as follows:

i. Dafi Scholarship- Its an Albert Einstein German Academic Refugee Initiative to contribute in the promotion of self reliance of refugees by providing them with a professional qualification geared towards future gainful employment & to encourage the development of qualified human resources for the future reconstruction of refugee's home countries upon repatriation or local integration.

The refugee youth of the age 28 yrs. or younger who have completed high schools and taken admission for first college degrees at government/recognized university/college/polytechnic etc are assisted financially to complete their advanced studies with the help of Dafi scholarship. There are only 5-7 scholarships, which are initially granted strictly for one academic year to some selected refugee applicants. Continuation of scholarship till graduation remains subject to availability of funds, and good academic performance. The scholarship covers the fees, as well as a fixed amount towards living costs during studies .

ii. Social Projects- This scheme offered by UNHCR is to support a community's initiative to help itself on any chosen issue. Groups of Youth refugees can also avail this scheme, if they offer some interesting and innovative projects or ideas benefiting their respective communities. A sum of Rs.30,000/- is available per project and there are a very limited projects available annually (this year only 5). A group can prepare a formal community support activities' proposal and submit to Bosco to apply for the grant. The project fund is released as per the successful implementation and progress of the project by the selected groups.

6. ISSUES AND CHALLENGES OF THE REFUGEE YOUTH

Amid the figures mentioned above, there is a big missing link and that is the exact numbers of refugee youth in the state on which neither any figure nor any information is available anywhere. Even, the attempts to have an in-depth study on the issues and aspirations of this population are also seemingly very limited, especially in India and hence, it becomes very vital to focus not only on the issues and challenges of this group but also, the shortcomings of the services offered to them which add on to their miseries.

Even though, for the welfare and support of youth refugees, UNHCR run several programmes and activities, many of these programmes are limited, inadequate and ineffective to meet the long-term needs of the youth. Some these gaps and troubles include the following:

i. Delayed Registration:

The issues for the youth starts from the very beginning, just when they arrive in Delhi/India and apply with UNHCR for refugee status. Very often there are processing delays due to which the families of these youth or the youth themselves have to wait for long times to get exact response on their applications. In absence of any valid documental support of UNHCR, these families face difficulties in searching for accommodations and getting other services offered for the refugees. However, the asylum seekers may utilize the services available to the refugees till the time exact responses on their applications are known.

ii. Inadequate Subsistence Allowance:

Most of the refugee families residing in Delhi are big in size especially, if they are Afghans and Somalis with an average household having 7-8 persons. Very often, out of these members majority are kids or young children due to which the burden of rearing them doubles on their parents or guardians. A few of these households also have members with physical and mental health issues which further adds upon the day to day cost of the livelihood. Hence, a majority of those who receive subsistence allowance get an inadequate amount, making even their basic survival difficult. Then, many refugees are facing progressive slashing of their allowances due to budget constraints, change in policies and other priorities by UNHCR. As a result, the young members in the families are often deprived of quality livelihood and are forced to support themselves and their families by employing themselves, even at the ages meant for their education.

iii. Limited Educational services:

There is a big shortcoming in the existing educational programme of UNHCR, which is very badly affecting the careers of the youth. The over aged refugee (Above 14 yrs. , as per the permissible admission age for Indian schooling, under right to education act), find it extremely difficult to get regular government school admission, due to which they are either compelled to leave studies or pursue the studies through National Institute of Open Schooling (NIOS) till 12th. For those, who are somehow able to complete their studies through NIOS or regular government schooling, there is no further concrete assistance available for advanced studies. Apart from a very limited Dafi scholarship scheme, neither UNHCR, nor any of its partners provide any kind of formal assistance to the refugees in their admissions to colleges or universities by which they could have got actual chance to fulfil their future ambitions. The situation here is again so complicated, as even to apply for Dafi, the youth must first get themselves enrol in any of the advanced level courses or government universities which is obviously not at all easy for them.

Hence, education comes to an end at this point for most of the youth refugees, however, a few being really ambitious, keep trying various tactics to enrol themselves, such as, taking loans from relatives and friends to pay admission fees at regular colleges or opting for any cheaper distance mode course from universities like Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU), which does not solve their problems, but, increase further frustration of not being able to get course of choice or, a sense of burial under somebody's debt. Most of the good universities, like the Delhi University, do not have

any provision related to admission of refugees and instead, put these youth refugees under international students' category, thereby asking fees, which is even more than the local Indian students, to further add upon salt to the injuries of these youth.

iv. Limited Employment Opportunities:

Even after the specialized IT classes or other trainings available for the youth, the employment opportunities remains very limited with majority of the refugee youth depending on the jobs made available by UNHCR itself or by its implementing partners or welfare agencies working in similar sectors, wherein they hire these refugee for themselves. Apart from it on practical ground, the opportunities are very scarce. The employers are very reluctant to hire these refugee youth, due to lack of identity proves or other legal documents. For them, refugee certificates hardly solves any purpose. There is also a general lack of trust most of the employers have towards these refugee youth due to their illegal stay in the Country (as most of the youth very often don't possess Stay permits/Visas) or just because of their association to the terrorism affected countries like Afghanistan, Iraq and Somalia.

Hence, the refugee youth, even after becoming skilled or educated find an uphill task to get themselves employed. Adding to the concern is the mal-treatment and discrimination towards the youth who somehow manage to get job for themselves, by their employers. In the recent past, a few Somalian youth who had got themselves employed in some Call Centres in Gurgaon and Noida, shared that they were often unequally treated, discriminated, abused and misbehaved by their employers, due to their black skins and language difference. They were not paid salaries timely and were often handed with unjustified deducted amounts.

v. Youth Clubs lacks linkages:

The youth clubs available for these youth often lacks regular participation of the youth due missing linkage to the future aspirations of the youth. The youth leaders and other talented young refugees showcasing their talents during the cultural events or other programmes throughout the year, have to often build on their own, the future prospects, as the current youth club services neither links any of these youth to any professional institute, where they can sharpen their talents nor gives any further, financial or technical support, by which these youth can showcase their talents on a bigger platform and develop themselves for professional world.

Even, the fund provided to manage day to day activities of the clubs is very little i.e., Rs.2000/- per club per month. The youth leaders who are the main grass root workers and coordinators for their clubs, are only given a meager honorarium amount of Rs.1000 per leader per month, which is again too small, when compared to the work they do sweating in the community. Thus, the youth including these leaders, gradually lose interest in participating in the regular club activities and very often limit their participation to only the major events like World Refugee Day thereby, making the clubs derail from their actual track of objectives.

vi. Implementing Partners' troubles:

Some of the organizations like Access and Anudip have just started their stint as implementing partners to UNHCR, hence practically what the refugee youth will get from them is yet to be seen, especially, when it comes to employment and job placement. Bosco, being a long-time partner, although has a good say in the refugee assistance programme and have built a strong network with the refugee communities across Delhi but, due to frequent changes in the staffing and slashing of previously available services to the refugee communities by UNHCR such as learn & train programme for Unaccompanied minors, occupational therapy and Income generation activities (IGA) for refugees with special health needs and professional training courses like beauty parlour, computer hardware etc., is facing a strong challenge in keeping its refugee clients' faith on them. What's adding on to this problem, is the continuous minifying of Subsistence allowance and a very limited available option of resettlement for these youth & their families to developed countries.

SLIC's assistance, practically to the refugee community is quite limited and its connections within the refugee communities are not up to the mark. Refugees generally, are reluctant in taking SLIC's assistance in cases concerning security threats and local SGBV incidents, as in most of the cases, the only option made available to them is filing Police complaint. Those refugees with expired stay permits or Visas are even more hesitant in approaching police fearing action against their own selves for their illegal stay. The refugee case workers from SLIC also find difficulty in dealing with the local community and Indian authorities and are also not as effective in negotiating with the local community during interventions and mediations as they should be.

vii. Local Assimilation:

Even after the efforts of UNHCR and its implementing partners in developing harmony among the refugees and the local Indians, assimilation and integration with the local population in Delhi remains extremely difficult for these refugees. The refugee students availing school services often face discrimination by the local students and teachers. Many a times they are subjected to racial comments and made a laughing stock for the difference in their languages, skin colours, hair types or cultural diversities. If one visits these schools, one can observe the refugee students wandering in groups of their own and very occasionally mixing with the local Indian students. In a neighbourhood, if any quarrel starts, than refugee youth and children are made the obvious culprits. Even, the police sometimes suspects their involvement in antisocial activities for no reason. The general scarcity of resources in India, further heightens tension between the refugees and the local communities in Delhi, particularly among the local poor who see these refugees as competition for scarce resources. As a result of these differences, the refugees, especially youth feel insecure and discriminated.

viii. As a result of the above, the youth many of whom have seen the brutal tortures and killings of their near and dear ones in their countries of origin or have themselves bore the physical and sexual cruelties in the hands of the insurgents, are now on the verge of devastation once again. They might have succeeded in fleeing persecution and death in their respective countries but, the hope with which they had arrived or are still arriving in countries like India, remains an impossible dream for most of them. They are grinding in the miseries of past and troubles of present, with their future seemingly uncertain. Already, they are carrying so much in their minds that thinking ahead and that too for a better future with the support systems they are provided with, seems very impractical. Today, the youth refugee are just compelled to avail the services, whatsoever available, without any say of them, without any comprehensive mechanism to permanently solve their issues and without any sturdy connections with their future aspirations.

The youth are becoming more and more addicted to habits like chain smoking, alcoholism, drug-addiction and other anti-social activities, which are further increasing their miseries in terms of social and legal troubles. Many of the youth today, have developed mental health issues and coping with much difficulties and are on psychiatric medications. Some of the youth who had faced physical and sexual abuses in their native countries are now facing chronic medical issues like orthopaedic problems, gynaecological issues and other physical illnesses for which they are compelled to loom around government hospitals and medical staff. The only answer for these troubles as per these youth and their families as of now, is resettlement to developed nations like United States, however in reality, its probability too remains extremely minute i.e., less than 1% of the global refugee population.

7. RECOMMENDATIONS & CORRECTIVE MEASURES

Based on some of the shortcomings in the existing youth programme, there may be a few corrective measures which can be adopted, some on priority basis, to help upgrade the present situation of refugee youth in Delhi:

- i. **Engaging Youth-** The top priority should be given to engage youth at least somewhere and for this, all the implementing partners and UNHCR collectively, should put more and more efforts, so that the youth not availing any of the available services and those who are drop-outs, are linked to various health, education and training programmes, to give them something positive to focus upon, instead of letting them indulge in anti-social activities and other risky habits and behaviours.
- ii. **Frequent Home Visits and follow-ups-** Considering the delicate impact of youth quiescence on its psyche, frequent home visits, follow-ups and regular meetings with their parents or guardians should be organized by UNHCR & its partners wherein, by counselling and motivational interactions, efforts are made to keep youth in a healthy of mind and passively, keep a track on their day to day behaviours, to act promptly against any alarming symptoms.
- iii. **Advanced Educational Support-** For existing educational support programmes to be made more meaningful and career building for the youth refugees, UNHCR should compulsorily assist in advanced or university level education, with the help of Education ministry, government of India. Moreover, the financial assistance should also be given to the enrolled refugee students to continue their education.
- iv. **Linking youth with employment-** Probably, the biggest solution to most of the refugee youth's current troublesome situations is linking them to suitable employment opportunities. At least, for the youth who successfully completes school or NIOS education and the training classes being given by UNHCR, should be provided with at least a minimum nature of job, either by UNHCR itself or its implementing partner or through outside employers, so that they

are able to sustain their lives and rear their families. For this, some special provisions may be inculcated in the existing policy of UNHCR.

- v. The prolonged delays in the registration and recognition process by UNHCR should be reduced by increasing staff and resources.
- vi. Youth clubs should be linked to professional institutions or specialized trainings for the talented youth by which they can nourish their talents for achieving success, like dance academies, school of drama, etc.
- vii. While formulating programmes and policies, youth should also be made to participate (either through Youth Clubs or separate youth associations), along with the implementing partners, to add worth to the decisions being taken and for effective chalking down the ground level activities.
- viii. The criteria to distribute Subsistence allowance should be re-worked upon considering the issues of youth and if required, a separate "Youth Welfare Allowance" should be given to support youth with health issues, financial constraints, disabilities, larger family size etc.
- ix. Frequent harmony sessions especially in schools, should be organized to promote mutual peace and harmony among local Indian students or residents and refugees and to sensitize local population on the issues, challenges and troubles of refugees to get them an empathetic view.
- x. Dafi scholarship, although a good scheme available to support advance education for youth, should also be reworked upon, to not only increase its numbers, but, also its ambit, to support admissions in the universities and slashing the mandatory requirement from its guidelines, of the youth being already enrolled in universities, prior to applying for the scholarships.
- xi. ***Sympathetic View on Closed Cases-*** There a large number of closed or rejected cases which are non-eligible for any of the facilities of UNHCR, for them, if not more, at least some basic services, not involving extra finances, such as training classes, basic educational services at the outreach centres, assistance in health check-ups, etc., should be made allowed for, as these small supports may prove very vital in saving futures of many youth and their families.

8. CONCLUSION

Although, the number of refugee families arriving in Delhi has almost remained constant over the years, the hardships of these families especially the Youth have increased significantly, even after the continuous support of UNHCR and its partners. The prime most reason being the gaps existing in the available scheme of things for the youth which over a period of time has remained ignored, unnoticed or unrectified. The result has been an adverse effect on the young population, which already had a plenty of issues to tackle with and whose miseries got further added upon by the incomplete or ineffective services provided to them.

If resettlement is the only probable answer to the present challenges of the youth, than it should be made speedy giving priority to the families having big youth populations. Also, those youth whose families have a prolonged stay in Delhi, should be either provided with some sources of employment or financial assistance, much bigger and comprehensive than the existing SA scheme. The ones who have been successfully integrated into the main stream education, should be compulsorily supported in their advanced level studies, if they wish for. All the services should be well linked, so as to provide a holistic growth to each of the refugee youth availing those. Be it, training or employment opportunities, education, health, whichever the requirement is, there should be a provision in the existing service delivery model, by which the youth can be linked to holistic development opportunities.

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