



Plight of Refugees and Internally Displaced Persons Represented in Malala Yousafzai's "We Are Displaced"

Ms. Noorkhanam Pathan

Research Scholar

Department of English

Karnatak University, Dharwad

Abstract:

There are many people in the world who are undergoing through conflicts, wars, and as a result their last choice is to become refugees. In this article we come across Malala's own life experience as internally displaced person and across many other girls life as a refugee.

Keywords: Internally Displaced Person, Refugees, Conflicts.

"Refugees" and "Internally Displaced Person" both are having different meanings refugee is a person who leaves his or her home during conflicts or war to find safety and has crossed an international border, where as Internally Displaced Person is someone who leaves his or her home during conflict or war to find safety but has not crossed the borders, he/ she will be displaced within same country. Malala yousafzai is born in 1997 in mingora, the largest city in the swat valley, which was known as the Switzerland of the east, and which is situated in the northwest of Pakistan. Malala was enjoying her life in studies, playing and her father treated her equally to her brothers, a happy atmosphere was prevailing in her home and a very peaceful atmosphere in swat region, until the Taliban entered it. As the Taliban came, life in swat became rigid. According to Taliban girls did not had equal rights to an education, and watching TV ,listening to music was considered as sin. Fazlullah (leader of the Taliban) began to do announcement through radio, people called him as a "Radio Mullah". The life of swat people Was totally disturbed from the rigid and cruel rule of Taliban and those who disobeyed the Taliban they gave them harsh punishments.

A peaceful atmosphere changed to an agitating one. The fearful atmosphere was spreading all over the swat. Malala and her brothers began to watch TV in secret, they moved their TV to a cupboard, so that if strangers come they cannot see it. In school day by day the strength of the girls students began to reduce. When Malala's father had gone to Islamabad, she made it a point to check her house doors and windows whether they were properly locked or not. Even Malala's father changed the school uniform. Children stopped playing cricket in their alleys, children stopped playing hide and seek in the street, all this was happening just because of the frightening Taliban rule.

Malala at a very young age began to advocate for the girls education. By blogging to BBC, by giving speeches at different stages. She also worked in the New York Times documentary, after it was released Malala and swat people received support from all over the world. But the war between the Pakistani army and Taliban got worse and Malala along with her family was forced by the situation to leave her birthplace swat and move to shangla. Ziauddin sent his wife and children to

live with relatives in shangla and he went to Peshawar to fight for the peace at swat. In shangla Malala and her family lived as internally displaced persons. They lived in their relatives home but they did not stay with one relative for long, they kept on moving to other relatives house in order not to crowd in single house for a long time. Malala Yousafzai went to school with her cousin Sumbul but she badly missed her own school, her life in swath.

Finally when they got the news that they can go back to home Malala along with her family moved back to swat. But the swat which they had left was totally changed, the houses were pockmarked with bullet holes, houses were blasted, schools were turned into rubbles and the streets were empty. The Taliban were not destroyed but they were defeated by Pakistani army, as a result the Taliban began to attack in hiding, the people who spoke against them. On 9th October 2012, Malala was shot on the left side of her head by a talibani gunman, for speaking up for girls education and peace. Later Malala was taken to swath central hospital then to Peshawar to Rawalpindi And then she was moved to Queen Elizabeth Hospital, Birmingham for advanced treatment. Now once again Malala was away from her swat but this time she crossed international border. In England she felt homesickness, she missed her school, her friends, the way she used to play, the kids playing in the stree, everything she was missing. Malala tried a lot to go back to her native but the answer always came as no.. then finally after six years she came to Pakistan and stayed there for four days. The work "We Are Displaced" is having two parts part one deals with Malala's experience as being internally displaced person. The second part deals with the experience of nine other displaced people.

Zaynab and Sabreen were sisters who were born in Yemen. Their father left them when Sabreen was born and their mother got a travel visa to the United States, so both the sisters were raised by their grandmother until her death. The crisis at Yemen forced both the sisters to move to Egypt. In Egypt they were staying in their second uncle's house but later Zaynab was thrown out of the house after coming to know that she is suffering from tuberculosis. Zaynab took treatments and finally she completed her treatment by the mid-December and the embassy said that she was finally approved to go to the United States. But her sister Sabreen's application was rejected, therefore Zaynab alone traveled to United States leaving alone her baby sister. When Zaynab left Sabreen became alone everything felt so empty to her the city, the house, everything even people started to treat her differently. Later Sabreen decided to travel Italy through boat along with a group of friends. From Alexandria she began her journey in a bus her journey was filled with full of fear and the condition of the bus was not too good, the windows of the bus were covered by black plastic it did not look like any normal bus. After the journey in the bus they reached near Mediterranean Sea and there they got three small fishing boats on the shores. Those boats were too small and the waves were too big. It made Sabreen feel paralyzed. At this moment the bus driver came along with a knife and started to take money or jewelry whatever the passengers had. As the journey began in between they changed other two boats, after a few weeks there boat ran out of fuel and they were rescued by the Italian Coast Guard. Then she was sent to a refugee camp in Holland, and there she met a man who was also from Yemen, she married him and later they moved to Belgium. Zaynab was getting adjusted with her new life in America. Muzoon Almellehan was from Syria. In 2011 a civil war began in syria and everywhere there were bombings, gunshots in the street, schools were forced to close. During this time Muzoon Almellehan was displaced to Jordan. In Zaatar refugee camp, Muzoon began to encourage girls to attend school, she encouraged girls to get education. In the camp Muzoon Almellehan came to know that many of the parents believed that marriage was the best future for their daughters, muzoon denied it and began to spread the message that education is more important than marriage. Najla was born in a joint family in sinjar, Iraq. Right from a very young age she loved Reading and writing. After completing her primary school she was not allowed to pursue her secondary education. At the age of 14 she ran away, After five days she came back to home, but her father was very angry on her he stopped talking to her but he allowed her to go back to school, but soon her happiness was destroyed when the ISIS entered there region. ISIS were kidnapping women(both small and old) they were killing men who came in there way. In such terrible atmosphere Najla and her family were displaced to Dohuk. In Dohuk Najala began to teach younger kids to read and write. Maria Was displaced within Colombia. Her father was violently killed in Colombian conflict. Therefore she fled with her mother and sisters from Iscuande to Cali. The death of her father was hidden from her for many years. it was very difficult for all to leave there, even simplest everyday things like, brushing teeth, washing clothes everything had become difficult. Due to poverty her mother went tent to tent asking if people wanted to pay her to wash their clothes. Their family was treated worse than animals. Analisa left Guatemala after her fathers death. Out of

fear of her half-brother Oscar, who treated her very badly, she moved Mexico and then the U.S to stay with another half brother Ernesto. After frustrated journey, Analisa reached Texas, here she was transferred between places like hielara("Ice box") and Perrera ("Dog pound). She made it to a shelter of the office of refugee resettlement and reached her half brother Ernesto. Marie Claire's Family moved from the Democratic Republic of the Congo to Zambia. At the age of 12 Marie Claire's parents were killed brutally. After so many years their refugee status was approved and they moved to Lancaster, Pennsylvania in the USA. She struggled a lot with the education system in Zambia and the USA. However at the age of 19 she graduated high school. Jennifer acted as Marie Claire's American mother. Jennifer was working with the church World Service and helped Mary Claire's family to adjust with America. Ajida moved with her husband and children from the Rohingya genocide in Myanmar to Bangladesh, where they were forced to remain in camps. Ajida began to make stoves from clay in the camp for her livelihood. Farah was born in Uganda. She grew up in Canada after Idi Amin revoked Asian Ugandans' Citizenship. Farah who became CEO of Malala fund.

Conclusion:

The stories of all the girls in the work we are displaced or heart touching since World War Two there is a rise in the number of refugee and displaced people. both refugees and displaced people are facing both basic and major life problems. To help these people malela along with her father has started an organization called Malala fund through which she is spreading education all over the world. International Rescue Committee (IRC), United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF) and the Tent Partnership for Refugees, these organizations are also set up to help these people.

Reference:

- 1) Yousafzai, Patricia McCormick. *Malala: My story of standing up for girls rights*. Wren & Rook, 2018. Print
- 2) Yousafzai, Liz Welch. *We Are Displaced: My Journey and Stories from Refugee Girls Around the World*. Weidenfeld & Nicolson, 2019. Print
- 3) Gaur, Anita. *The Life and Times of Malala Yousafzai*. Prabhat Prakashan, 2016. Print

