

## Issues and Challenges in Acculturation Among The Rohingya Refugees in Bangladesh: A Systematic Literature Review

FARHANA ZAMIL TINNY  
ABDUL LATIFF AHMAD\*  
*Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia*

### ABSTRACT

Relocating to a new country and adapting to a new environment and culture can be stressful. Refugees undergo an acculturation process to accommodate and adjust to the new culture. With wide-ranging research on the Rohingya refugee situation, there is still a need for study in academia, specifically in the field of intercultural communication, in these communities. Therefore, this study aims to conduct a systematic literature review to identify the issues and challenges the Rohingya refugees experience while integrating with the local community in Bangladesh. The review process followed PRISMA 2020 guidelines, a seven-step checklist as an assessment tool to ensure the quality of the study. This study systematically searches multiple sources of information to extract, review, and synthesize data from the prominent database on the Rohingya refugee's acculturation process. Studies published within the last 5 years were eligible for review. The PRISMA 2020 flow diagram presents data identification, screening, excluding, and including criteria for the review process. Scholarly empirical studies have been reviewed from prominent online databases, such as SAGE Journals, Taylor & Francis, SCOPUS, Emerald Insight, Science Direct, Web of Science, and Wiley. Key issues and challenges identified in adapting to Bangladeshi culture are- access to fundamental requirements, challenges and coping strategies to assimilate, implementation of the revised policy, access to educational resources, healthcare infrastructure, and integration with the host community. There is a need for proper attention from the respective stakeholders to address the issues and challenges during the acculturation process in Bangladesh.

**Keywords:** *Rohingya refugees, issues & challenges, acculturation, intercultural adaptation, Bangladesh.*

### INTRODUCTION

It has never been easy for the sojourners to accommodate the new culture and environment they settle for (Kim, 2017). With more than 120 million forcibly displaced people around the world at this moment, the world has witnessed the greatest displacement figure post World War II in the past decade (UNHCR, 2024a; AJLabs, 2024). One of the major challenges these fleeing refugees and asylum seekers encounter in the host country is to successfully communicate, adapt, and adjust to the host country and their culture. Adaptation comes at an individual level for the migrants. In contrast, acculturation can be regarded as the adjustments the migrants, or the sojourners make at the group level to accommodate the host country and their culture (Bi & Abdul Latiff, 2024). Lack of information about the living arrangements and inability to master the communication skills that fit the host country is an undeniable challenge for these forcibly displaced people (Aziz, 2020).

The multifaceted issues and challenges encountered by the refugees and asylum seekers also affect the host culture and its community due to the sudden influx of cultural exchange and transition (Anderson, 2017). The refugee-receiving country and the refugees face diversified issues and challenges during their intercultural transitions due to language

barriers, religious and political differences, practised culture, and so on (Anderson, 2017; IRC, 2023). Cultural exchange and transition of the refugees and their integrational challenges in the host countries have been studied in various areas, especially in intercultural communication. Migration studies in intercultural communication address migrants' experiences and the process of cultural adaptation in the host culture, acculturation challenges, daily struggles and obstacles, and coping strategies to survive in the host culture.

Bangladesh has become a home for Rohingya from Myanmar for the last four decades (Aziz, 2020). Bangladesh is hosting over 1.35 million Rohingya refugees at this moment, considered as the largest refugee settlement in the world. This settlement is mostly led by women and children (more than 50%), of which 44% of the children are under 12 years old (Hossain & Dawson, 2022; Rohingya Refugee Response, 2024; World Vision, 2024; Unicef, 2024). The Rohingya are an ethnic minority group in Myanmar who have been forcibly displaced through constant, systematic, and strategic persecution by the Myanmar Government (Nabi, 2021; Mahmud, 2022). Being the ethnic, religious, and linguistic minority group in Myanmar, they were forced to flee their country to the neighboring country, Bangladesh (Khuda, 2020; Sultana et al., 2023). Along with the restricted movement within the country, these Rohingya people have been deprived of basic human rights and denied citizenship since 1982 (Leider, 2018; Ibrahim, 2019; Khuda, 2020; Nabi, 2021; WFP, 2023). They are one of the world's largest, most marginalized, persecuted, and most discriminated stateless populations in the world (Khuda, 2020; Concern Worldwide, 2023; UNHCR, 2024b).

This study sought to understand the acculturation experiences and identify the unrecognized issues and challenges these Rohingya refugees encounter while communicating and adapting to their host culture and community. Most of the previous literature primarily emphasized the Rohingya issue in a historical context (Islam, 2020). While some scholars have generalized the issues and challenges the Rohingya refugees face in the Rohingya camps in Bangladesh, very few of them have identified and studied the issue from the lens of intercultural communication and the issues and challenges encountered by these refugees while adapting to the host culture. This literature review illustrates the concepts of acculturation and intercultural adaptation. This study also aims to identify the issues and challenges the Rohingya refugees encounter during their acculturation process in Bangladesh. This study systematically reviews the existing scholarly literature to extract data and major themes on the Rohingya refugees and their challenges.

#### LITERATURE REVIEW

'Acculturation' occurs when refugees or asylum seekers readily accept cultural modification and change values, behavior, and identities by adapting to the host country's culture (Berry, 1997; Kim, 2017). Acculturation can refer to the changes, both cultural and psychological, that the asylum seekers go through while interacting with the local community, individually or in a group (Ward, 2001; Berry, 2005; Fathi et al., 2018). On the other hand, A successful adaptation process requires constant and active effective interpersonal and mass communication activities within two cultures (Kim, 2017). Adaptation is a continuous and complex process that a person or a group of individuals possesses, physiologically and psychologically, when confronted with a new and unfamiliar cultural environment (Ward, 2001; Kim, 2017; Cuhlova, 2019; Schmitz & Schmitz, 2022).

When an individual or a group of people interacts with an individual or a group of people, there is always room for cultural exchange between them. When the interaction turns out to be long-term, especially between the refugees and the dominant culture, chances are high that the migrants will try to adjust and adapt to the dominant culture for better living. Refugees or asylum seekers flee their country to have a better life in the migrating country (Anderson, 2017) and to escape conflict, violence, natural disaster, or persecution (Basaleh, 2023; Amnesty International, 2024). The displacement causes separation from family and friends and interrupts education (Sheikh & Anderson, 2018). Usually, these refugees face various challenges during their acculturation process due to language barriers, religious and political differences, the educational system of the host country, limited access to learning, and other sorts of communication (Anderson, 2017). Fleeing refugee children, in addition, suffer from PTSD (Post-traumatic stress disorder) due to losing family members, missing years of school, physical injuries, witnessing violence, and so on. According to a body of researchers, around 36% of the entire Rohingya population suffers from PTSD (post-traumatic stress disorder), whereas 89% are suffering from depression (Tay et al., 2019).

As the refugees continued to enter Bangladesh for shelter, it became one of the major concerns of the hosting country due to its scarcity of resources to accommodate the additional influx. As a consequence, the Rohingya refugees' experience could be different from the expectations they had while fleeing their country. Upon arriving in the host country, Bangladesh, these refugees are put in concentrated refugee camps where they suffer from hunger, diseases, natural disasters, and other basic requirements, along with restricted access to justice (Khuda, 2020; Sullivan, 2023). The unmet expectations and the disappointment of landing in another grave situation causes difficulties for them to emerge or integrate with the hosting community. Even though the locals were quite welcoming at the beginning of the Rohingya influx, gradually, with time, they became impatient as they had to share their resources, land, and income, which was limited to start with. Consequently, researchers observed a rising potential conflict between the refugees and the locals (Khuda, 2020).

Refugees require various kinds of information due to the differences (language differences, cultural differences, life experiences, and so on) with the new and unfamiliar environment to make the acculturation and adaptation process to the new country smooth for their everyday life (Hannides et al., 2016; Andrade & Doolin, 2016; Schreieck et al., 2017). The information deficit is quite a common barrier for refugees and asylum seekers settling in a new country fleeing from their own. The inability to access relevant information, interpret, and communicate with the local community often marginalizes them, making it more difficult to adapt to the new environment (Andrade & Doolin, 2016).

Researchers have addressed integrational challenges as the "day 1" issue, which should be considered and taken care of with acute responses (Benton et al., 2018). At times, the acculturation process among the refugees could be quite demanding despite the efforts, as the welcoming gestures from the local communities could be quite mixed and complex toward them. One of the major concerns the scholars have discussed is the lack of proper access to elementary education, learning space, qualified teachers, and adequate funds to support the education system for the Rohingya children (Amin, 2018; Khan et al., 2020; Shohel, 2020; Hossain & Dawson, 2022; Rahman et al., 2022). On the contrary, safe drinking water, proper health care services, host community security issues, economic, social, mental, and psychological health, and environmental challenges have been addressed by some

researchers (Harrison et al., 2019; Akter et al., 2021; Lueders, 2018; Nyukuri, 2020; Sultana et al., 2023).

## METHODOLOGY

This systematic literature review is guided by the seven-step checklist by PRISMA 2020 (Preferred Reporting Items for Systematic Reviews and Meta-Analyses). The PRISMA 2020 flow diagram has been used to present the process of data selection, identification, screening, inclusion-exclusion and other required criteria, if required. A purposive sampling method was applied to select and review the existing literature on the acculturation and intercultural adaptation process of the Rohingya refugees in Bangladesh. This study critically analyses the pre-existing scholarly articles published over the last six years on the Rohingya refugees and their adaptation process in Bangladeshi culture. Furthermore, this study thematically examines and categorizes the challenges of the Acculturation and adaptation process of the Rohingya refugees in Bangladesh. Atlas-ti has been used to analyze the collected data.

### *a. Search Strategy*

This literature review was searched between June 2023 and June 2024 across seven online databases: SAGE Journals, Taylor & Francis, SCOPUS, Emerald Insight, Science Direct, Web of Science, and Wiley. Both qualitative and quantitative peer-reviewed scholarly studies have been reviewed. Search terms used for the literature screening process were: Rohingya refugees, acculturation of the Rohingya refugees, adaptation of the Rohingya refugees in Bangladesh, challenges of the Rohingya refugees in Bangladesh, and challenges of acculturation of the Rohingya refugees in Bangladesh (see Table 1 & 2). These specific and relevant synonymous terms were used to extract data from the existing literature.

Table 1: Search string used in the selected database

Database	String
Scopus	TITLE-ABS-KEY ((Rohingya*) AND (refugees*) AND (acculturation* OR adaptation*) AND (issues* OR challenges*))
Web of Science	TS= ((Rohingya*) AND (refugees*) AND (acculturation* OR adaptation*) AND (issues* OR challenges*))

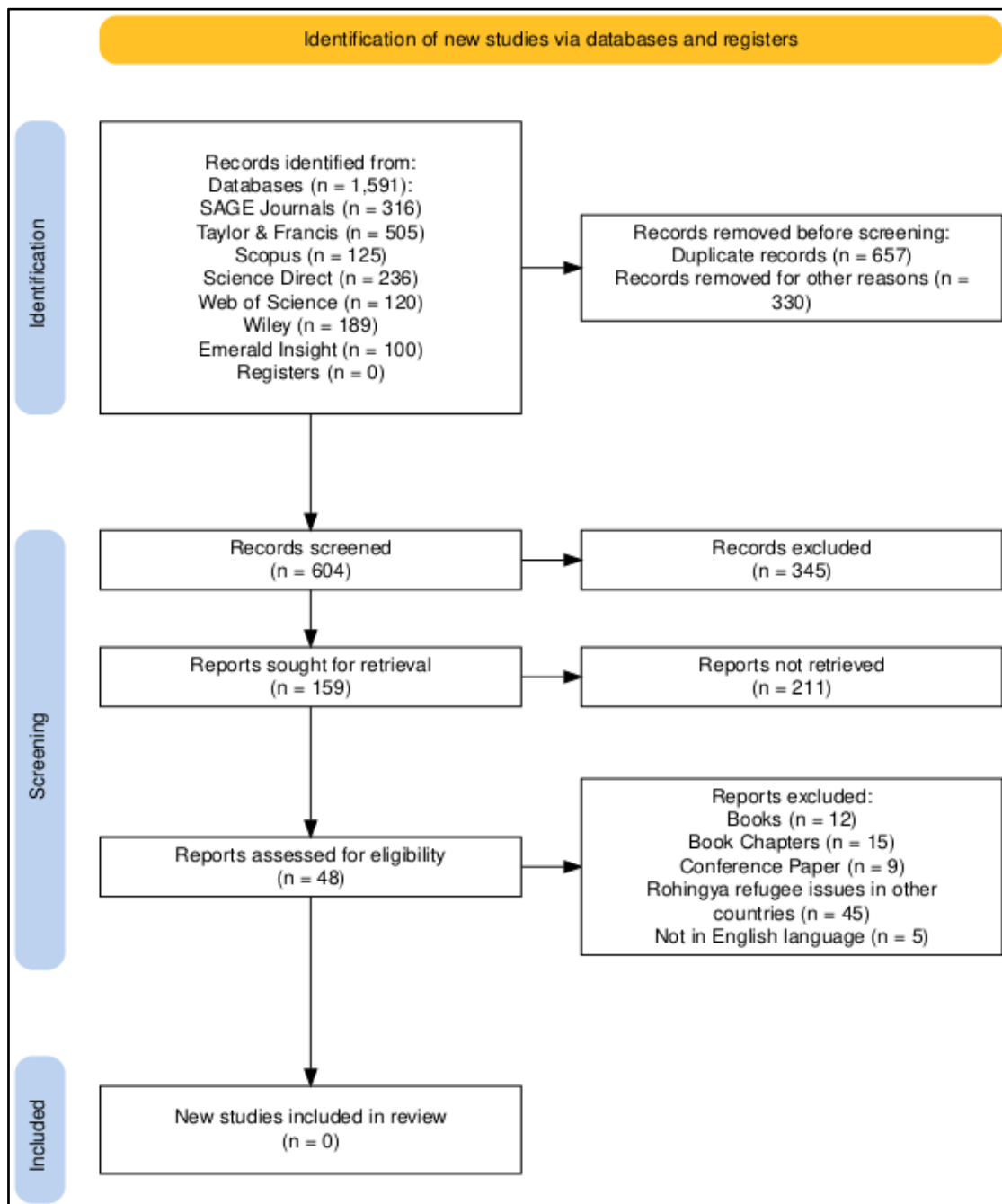
Table 2: Search terms used for the rest of the database

Refugees	Acculturation	Adaptation
"Rohingya refugees" OR	"Acculturation of the Rohingya Refugees" OR	"Adaptation of the Rohingya refugees" OR
"Rohingya refugees in Bangladesh" OR	"Acculturation of the Rohingya refugees in Bangladesh" OR	"Integration of the Rohingya refugees in Bangladesh" OR
"Rohingya refugees and their challenges in Bangladesh" OR	"Acculturation process of the Rohingya refugees in Bangladesh" OR	"Integrational challenges of the Rohingya refugees in Bangladesh" OR
"Rohingya refugees and their life in Bangladesh" OR	"Challenges of the acculturation process of the Rohingya refugees in Bangladesh" OR	"Intercultural Communication of the Rohingya refugees in Bangladesh" OR

*b. Screening, Inclusion, and Exclusion Criteria*

Initially, titles and abstracts related to the search terms were used to extract the expected data from the selected online databases (Figure 1). 1591 titles and abstracts were pre-selected for the 1st screening process. After careful observation, reading, and deducting duplication from the extracted data, 159 articles were selected for the 2nd screening phase. For the 2nd screening phase and quality assurance, full text/article was studied. 48 articles were finally identified after the 2nd screening phase. As mentioned earlier, the Atlas-ti tools were used to analyze and synthesize the collected data. Finally, six themes were identified using Atlas-ti.

Figure 1: Flowchart of the screening process (PRISMA 2020)



Additionally, for the inclusion and exclusion criteria, qualitative and quantitative data from the fields of Social Sciences, Media and Cultural Studies, International and Intercultural communications, Migration and Refugee Studies, and peer-reviewed journal articles (see Table 3). On the contrary, books, book chapters, Rohingya refugee studies in different countries, and conference papers were excluded while extracting and screening data from the databases. As mentioned earlier, 48 pieces of literature were reviewed systematically for this study.

Table 3: Inclusion and exclusion criteria

Data Base	1st Screening	2nd Screening	Inclusion	Exclusion	Final Count
Web of Science	120	53	Social Sciences, Politics & International Relations,	Books,	48
SAGE Publications	316	125	Intercultural Communications,	Book Chapter,	
Taylor & Francis	505	138	Media & Cultural Studies,	Rohingya refugees in	
Scopus	125	86	Refugee and Migration Studies,	other	
Science Direct	236	142	Qualitative & Quantitative	countries,	
Emerald Insight	100	68	Research,	Conference papers,	
Wiley	189	72	Journal Articles, Peer-Reviewed Articles		
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1591</b>	<b>684</b>			

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

This section briefly discusses the results and findings of the study. This study has been conducted to explore the issues and challenges encountered by the Rohingya refugees in Bangladesh while going through the acculturation process from the existing scholarly published literature. Initially, this study explains the concepts of acculturation and intercultural adaptation defined by scholars. Furthermore, this study systematically collects and analyses data on the issues and challenges of acculturation among Rohingya refugees in Bangladesh. A total number of six themes (see Table 4) were identified from the analysis. We have collected data about the issues and challenges of the Acculturation and Intercultural Adaptation process of the Rohingya refugees in Bangladesh. In total, 48 scholarly published articles were analyzed for this study. Identified codes from the article were then thematically categorized. The identified themes from the collected data are- access to fundamental requirements, challenges and coping strategies to assimilate, implementation of the revised policy, access to educational resources, healthcare infrastructure, and integration with the host community.

Table 4: Identified themes according to the coding

Numbers	Themes
1	Access to fundamental requirements
2	Challenges and coping strategies to assimilate
3	Implementation of the revised policy
4	Access to educational resources
5	Healthcare infrastructure
6	Integration with the host community.

Inadequate supply of basic needs and challenges to cope with those inadequate supply and cultural differences have been widely studied in previous literature. Scholars studying this field have also addressed the policymakers and stakeholders to incorporate a few revised policies to facilitate a smoother acculturation process for the Rohingya refugees in Bangladesh.

*a. Access to Fundamental Requirements*

Usually, refugees face various challenges while trying to communicate with the host culture. Most of the challenges the refugees and asylum seekers face while adapting to the host culture occur due to language barriers, religious and political differences, safe housing, health services, access to education, work opportunities, and other sorts of communication (Anderson, 2017; Pandir, 2020; Ziersch et al., 2023; Mareci et al. 2023). Refugee camps in Bangladesh are no different than other camps around the world, especially the Syrian refugee camps in Jordan, which quite resemble the situation of the Rohingya refugee camps in Bangladesh. It is quite challenging to adapt to the host country's system and to have easy access to essential requirements such as food, health, shelter, security, education, and social connections (Ziersch et al., 2023; Mareci et al., 2023).

With the decreasing amount of facilities, assets, and employment opportunities within one's own country, the citizens of Bangladesh started distancing themselves from the Rohingya refugees even though they showed quite warm and welcoming gestures at the beginning. Bangladesh is facing various socioeconomic, political, and financial challenges while trying to provide the necessities of life to Rohingya refugees (Khuda, 2020). It is very difficult for a country like Bangladesh, which is yet to be financially independent enough to take responsibility for such a massive Rohingya population (Khuda, 2020; Nabi, 2021).

Bangladesh is one of the largest refugee-hosting countries in the world at this moment. However, Bangladesh is not a state party to the 1951 Refugee Convention, and neither has ratified the 1967 Protocol. Therefore, Bangladesh is not obligated to recognize the status of any stateless person or can play any role in the reduction to statelessness (Sabuj, 2024; Hossain, 2024). As a result, Bangladesh does not address the Rohingya as 'refugees' and, at some point, may not implement legal acts for or against these stateless Rohingyas. This also results in creating obstacles for the Rohingyas availing basic rights and facilities as per the Refugee Convention (Faisal & Ahmed, 2023).

As the refugee crisis is rising worldwide, the allocated money for the Rohingya refugees from donor agencies has decreased remarkably. As a result, the living standards and conditions and other facilities have been affected. The monsoon season in Bangladesh also has an impact on refugee shelters, as heavy rain, high winds, and landslides cause damage (Faisal & Ullah, 2020).

Like any other refugee settlement around the world, The Rohingya refugees are also relying on unsustainable energy sources. The most common energy source used in the household is firewood, which comes with social, health, and environmental risks (Rafa et al., 2022). Housing is one of the major challenges for these Rohingya refugees as the house size is not big enough for a large number of families (mostly at least ten members) to live moderately. Gender violence plays a prominent role in refugee settlement areas (Faisal & Ahmed, 2022). Women and children within their households do not get enough privacy due to its congested area. To establish power within the camps, the internal 'powerful' Rohingya often force the women and children into trafficking, prostitution, and many other illegal

works. Child prostitution inside the camp has also been reported, along with rape cases by the internal camp leaders (Faisal & Ahmed, 2022).

The government of Bangladesh has restricted mobility around the camps for the Rohingya refugees without proper documents and permission from the camp authorities. As a consequence, it is difficult for the Rohingya refugees to be in contact with other dislocated family members (Gille & Riain, 2002; Crabtree, 2010). The Rohingya refugees in Bangladesh do not hold any legal work permit from the government. As a result, they get involved in various informal and illegal works (Akhi, 2021) around the Rohingya camps they are living in to carry out their livelihood. On the other hand, moving the Rohingya refugees to Bhashan Char, a cyclone-prone island in the Bay of Bengal, was one of the strategies of the Bangladesh government to keep the refugees away from the local community (Aljazeera, 2021). Addressing the labor law institution of Bangladesh's inactivity and weakness, a body of researchers has claimed that the informal labor market will grow easily as it does not require formal permission from the authorities (Tanha et al, 2024).

Since the refugees in Bangladesh cannot have legal work permits, they are forced to join the informal labor force to survive, Akhi (2021) adds to her research. Despite the financial support and aid from international humanitarian organizations, the refugees often flee the refugee camps to look for an extra source of money as the allocated money is insufficient for healthy living (Khatun, 2017; Mukta, 2020; Schneiderheinze & Lucke, 2020). The Rohingya refugees in Bangladesh encounter difficulties accessing the labor market in Bangladesh compared to the local community, along with a wide variation in wages (Akhi, 2021). Employment or the labor force is one of the prominent elements in the integrational process for the refugees, where the success of the refugees in the integrational process depends on the demand of the workforce in the labor market (Ozden & Wagner, 2016).

As the local dialect of Cox's Bazar district (resettlement area for the Rohingya refugees) is quite similar to the spoken language of the Rohingya refugees, it is easier for the refugee seekers to blend into the local community and look out for jobs in the informal job market in Cox's Bazar (Mukta, 2020). These refugees could not take this advantage outside Cox's Bazar as the state language of Bangladesh is 'Bengali,' which is quite different from the local dialect of Cox's Bazar. However, some local agencies are still hiring these Rohingya refugees, ignoring the government's permission at lower wages, which is ultimately affecting the job market for the local workers (Akhi, 2021). Although these refugees do not have any legal right to work in Bangladesh, it is quite predictable that they would do anything dangerous or unsustainable to survive in the host country (Crabtree, 2010).

#### *b. Challenges and Coping Strategies to Assimilate*

Since humanitarian aid is decreasing over time, an increasing deficiency in basic needs is being observed in the Rohingya camps in Bangladesh. It is natural to look for ways to obtain income for a better quality of life and meet the bare minimum basic needs (Crabtree, 2010). To support their livelihood within the camps, the refugees are taking risks and exploring sources to generate income as their survival mechanism. Even though there is no legal commitment for these Rohingya refugees in Bangladesh, most of the refugees of the camp are involved and/or trying to get involved in various low-wage labor forces as a means of coping mechanism to survive the economic deprivations. Illegal unemployment and unauthorized remittances from relatives are the typical income sources of these self-sheltered Rohingya refugees (Crabtree, 2010).



The challenges of coping with the new environment and with the local community can occur in multiple layers. These Rohingya refugees are helpless, but they follow strategic ways out to cope with the constant challenges to survive. From learning the local languages to integrating into the local communities and getting used to the cultural and environmental environment of the local communities, they try everything to accommodate themselves in the refugee camps. Meeting the growing needs due to the decreasing international aid, inadequate opportunities for durable solutions, and not having access to the labour force make them explore different coping strategies for their livelihoods. The Rohingya population is generally vulnerable enough and is still trying to cope with the trauma they faced while leaving their own country.

On the contrary, cultural shock while adjusting to the new environment, along with the hosting community, is inevitable (Crabtree, 2010). With limited access to human, social, natural, and financial resources, coping in the new environment becomes more challenging. The economic hardship arises from decreasing humanitarian aid to a prolonged refugee situation (Bookman, 2002). Refugees frequently seek ways to generate revenue to cope with inadequate international aid (Jacobsen, 2005). Loss of identity, state, family, money, and other associated elements causes frustration, resulting in looking out for unhealthy and illegal coping strategies for the refugees. As a consequence, gender-based violence, smuggling, child marriages, and other illegal acts take place.

### *c. Implementation of the Revised Policy*

Developing countries have fewer opportunities and facilities to support the huge refugee influx. Therefore, sharing the limited assets with the migrants may make the host country individual feel abandoned and resentenced towards the refugees. Bangladesh's open-door policy to the Rohingya refugees has been addressed as one of the worst decisions of all time in the history of Bangladesh, as per some media scholars, just like Germany's open-door policy to the Syrian refugees (Schmid, 2016). Rashid (2020) explores the prospects of a lasting solution for the Rohingya refugees in Bangladesh in his study. It adopts a rights-based approach to understanding state policies, often reflecting sovereign interests beyond human rights and humanitarian considerations. The presence of the Rohingya refugees in Bangladesh has created a security dilemma for their host country (Nabi, 2021).

Islam and Hasan (2021) fear the issue will remain unchanged over time as it gets older day by day, and donor agencies are also losing their interest in the issue. On the contrary, Mahmud (2022) questions the lack of worldwide concern regarding the violence against the Rohingya refugees sheltered in Bangladesh. The huge exodus of Rohingya refugees to Bangladesh has impacted the social, economic, and political life of Bangladeshi people significantly. Calling media the "fourth pillar" and the "mirror" of society, Rahman and Nova (2020) argue that media has the power to draw the attention of the international community to any significant issues through their strokes in the media. Even though the United Nations has recognized them as one of the most persecuted minorities in the world, we do not see enough attention in the media regarding the issue or resolving the issue (Rahman & Nova, 2020).

*d. Access to Educational Resources*

The language barrier can play a huge role in the integrational process of the refugee people to the host countries. One of the major concerns the scholars have discussed is the lack of proper access to elementary education, learning space, qualified teachers, and adequate funds to support the education system for the Rohingya children (Amin, 2018; Khan et al., 2020; Shohel, 2020; Hossain & Dawson, 2022; Rahman et al., 2022). Youths with a lack of proper knowledge and education are easily exposed to sexual assault, exploitation, trafficking, forced recruitment, and extremist ideology (Hossain & Dawson, 2022).

Quality education is essential for the youth dealing with the trauma of displacement from their country of origin. Around 60% of registered refugee children under UN agencies are not attending schools (Hossain & Dawson, 2022). The education facilities within the Rohingya camps in Bangladesh are inadequate, even though the majority of the refugees are young children (Crabtree, 2010). More than 50% of the total refugees in Bangladesh are young minors who do not have access to proper education in the host country (UNHCR, 2023).

Around 500,000 Rohingya refugee children who did not complete their basic education are living below the poverty line, making them eventually turn into labour markets in different parts of the world. The educational competency of the refugees can influence the local community (Borjas & Katz, 2007). The importance of civic education in schools can significantly impact on the refugee youth. Education is acknowledged as a lifetime investment that will accompany someone as an asset for a lifetime (Hossain, 2022). Education helps people to have a better understanding of life and to have greater access to the knowledge bank around us. Better quality education can also help refugees support the host country and their refugee community in the future.

Proper access to quality education is one of the fundamental human rights. More than half of the Rohingya refugees in Bangladesh are school dropouts since the persecution happened in Myanmar (Hossain, 2022). A proper education avails youth the knowledge and power to build successful futures and careers. Youth are essential parts of any nation's future. Constant violence can make the education system challenging for the youth. Youths with a lack of proper knowledge and education are easily exposed to sexual assault, exploitation, trafficking, forced recruitment, and extremist ideology (Hossain & Dawson, 2022).

Even though a 'Myanmar Curriculum Pilot' project was implemented for 10,000 students in the Rohingya camps in Bangladesh in July 2022, a UNICEF-designed 'Learning Competency Framework and Approach' plays a dominant role in education in the camps. This LCFA does not include youth and adolescents as their target audience while designing it, which indicates a priority concern for access to quality education in the Rohingya camps. According to the refugees, the existing learning facilities are insufficient, and the learning centers do not provide the same quality of education as a school (Islam & Naing, 2023).

The findings of the study by Islam and Naing (2023) discuss the quality of education and approaches for the Rohingya refugees. Where employed teachers and/or learning facilitators were from both the host community and the refugee community, the refugees seemed more comfortable with the one from the refugee community. According to the respondents (the Rohingya refugees), the mentors from the local Bangladeshi community turned out to be disrespectful and unfair during the lessons.

On the other hand, there is a lack of effective communication in the learning centers as respondents tend to avoid the humiliation they encounter through responses from the facilitators. There is no special arrangement for disabled Rohingya refugees. The camps are

built on tarpaulin and bamboo, which is inconvenient to access during hostile weather. Addressing the situation as more challenging for women and adolescent girls, one of the respondents in the study refers back to the barriers and obstacles they face when going out for social integration or other purposes (Islam & Naing, 2023).

e. *Health Care Infrastructure*

Fleeing Rohingya refugees are vulnerable people with traumatic experiences of genocide and violence in Rakhine, Myanmar (Aziz, 2020). These stateless people from Rohingya encounter both physiological and psychological challenges in refugee camps in Bangladesh. More than half of those who are displaced or have fled during such humanitarian emergencies are women, adolescent girls, and children, making them the most in need of immediate humanitarian assistance. Women and adolescent girls need access to basic health, safety, and well-being services as well as services for pregnancy, prenatal care, delivery, postpartum care, family planning, and other services relating to reproductive and sexual health because they are mostly of reproductive age.

With more than half of the population being women and adolescent girls, Bangladesh was placed in the difficult situation of having to respond right away to the immediate requirements of such a large refugee population for food, shelter, clean water, health problems, injuries, and traumas. They require effective sexual and reproductive health (SRH) services. Essential steps are required for the effective implementation of SRH services. To address the unmet requirements of this most vulnerable group, WHO aims to offer integrated, comprehensive SRH services. It is important to analyze the current situation at the Rohingya refugee camps in Bangladesh to identify the barriers and obstacles to providing the services (Ahmed et al., 2020).

Implementing comprehensive SRH (Sexual and Reproductive Health and Research) services for the Rohingya refugee women and adolescent girls can have its challenges due to their fragility, transitions, pre-existing traditional beliefs, and cultural norms (WHO, 2018). Due to the lack of quality services and inconsistent implementation of those services offered to these Rohingya refugee women and adolescent girls in Rohingya refugee camps, access to reproductive, maternal, and newborn health services has become a major concern for the people (WHO, 2018). To satisfy the urgent SRH needs of these vulnerable Rohingya women and adolescent girls who are experiencing severe humanitarian situations, WHO aims to provide integrated extensive SRH services. An essential step in implementing this SRH service package is to conduct a situation analysis, understand the psychological state of mind, demographic and cultural aspects, and other necessary strategies to make the process sustainable (WHO, 2018).

On the contrary, encountering violence in the homeland, fleeing from it, and getting sheltered in a new environment altogether is a very traumatic event for the Rohingya refugees. All of these heavily impact the mental health of the refugee people. Mental health conditions are very common in refugee settings due to the heavy exposure to violence in the homeland and other cultural differences in the host countries. These increasing mental health needs require urgent attention and great care, which cannot be taken care of with the limited mental health care and human resources available for the refugee camps. The UNHCR has designed a few programs to provide adequate mental health services to the refugees, providing medical staff and other necessary special forces to help people enhance their

mental health. Although there were numerous obstacles to overcome, it was possible to integrate mental health services into the Rohingya refugee settings (Tarannum et al., 2019).

These stateless people from Rohingya encounter both physiological and psychological challenges in refugee camps in Bangladesh. Fleeing Rohingya refugees are vulnerable people with traumatic experiences of genocide and violence in Rakhine, Myanmar (Aziz, 2022). Lack of proper healthcare services, host community security issues, economic, social, mental, and psychological health, and environmental challenges have been addressed by researchers (Harrison et al., 2019; Lueders, 2020; Akter et al., 2021; Nyukuri, 2020; Sultana et al. 2023). More than half of those who are displaced or have fled during such humanitarian emergencies are women, adolescent girls, and children, who require immediate access to basic health, safety, and well-being services like pregnancy, prenatal care, postpartum care, family planning, and other services relating to reproductive and sexual health.

*f. Integration with the Host Community*

With the decreasing amount of facilities, assets, and employment opportunities within one's own country, the citizens of Bangladesh started distancing themselves from the Rohingya refugees even though they showed quite warm and welcoming gestures at the beginning. On the contrary, be it short-term or long-term asylum seekers, migrants, or refugees, there will always be a possibility to be treated as the 'other' within the host community and steal the 'spotlight' for unwanted occurrences to the country or the population. There will always be the 'self' Vs 'other' struggle among the refugees and host community, leaving the refugees in an identity crisis. As a consequence, these fleeing migrants sometimes may encounter unexpected discrimination or prejudice (Anderson, 2017) from individuals from the host country.

## CONCLUSION

This systematic literature briefly explains the concept of acculturation and intercultural adaptation in general. The study also reviews the existing scholarly articles on the Rohingya refugee's acculturation process while adapting to the Bangladeshi culture and community. This systematic literature explores the issues and challenges of acculturation among the Rohingya refugees in Bangladesh. The data analysis result shows the major issues that act as barriers for the Rohingya refugees while integrating with the new culture. The findings suggest that the inadequate supply of basic needs, cultural differences, and previous traumatic experiences play a great role in separating the refugees to take an interest in assimilation in the host country. Education facilities and proper health care services have much scope to improve, which can help the refugees accelerate their interest towards acculturation. Like any other refugee-hosting country, the host community might hold some undeniable prejudice against the refugee community, resulting in discrimination towards them. On the other hand, the study suggests that a lot of issues and challenges can be easily mitigated by modifying and including certain strategic policies to accommodate the Rohingya refugees in Bangladesh.

The findings from this meta-analysis can be used to support these forcibly displaced people to facilitate their stay in the camps as the repatriation is still uncertain. More research is required in this field, especially from the lens of intercultural communication, to understand and find the gaps that require the proper attention of the stakeholders to facilitate the acculturation process in the host country. A wide range of research is also required on the

relationship between the host and refugee communities to establish harmony for a peaceful co-existence. Being an overly populated country with a scarcity of natural resources, it is quite a challenge for Bangladesh to host the largest number of displaced people in the country. The acculturation process becomes much easier when both communities work together.

#### BIODATA

*Farhana Zamil Tinny* is a Ph.D. candidate at the Centre for Research in Media and Communication, Faculty of Social Sciences & Humanities, Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia. Her research interests include intercultural communication, migration, political communication, and journalism. Email: p108530@siswa.ukm.edu.my

*Assoc. Prof. Dr. Abdul Latiff Ahmad* is a faculty member at the Centre for Research in Media and Communication (MENTION), Faculty of Social Sciences & Humanities, Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia. His research interests include intercultural communication and internationalization. Email: alba@ukm.edu.my

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