THE UNFATHOMABLE CRISIS- INVESTIGATING COVID 19 PANDEMIC AND HUMAN RIGHTS OF MIGRANT COMMUNITY

Written by Akash Bag* & Shashank Nande**

* Research Scholar, Amity Law School, Amity University, Raipur, India

** Assistant Professor & Research Scholar, Amity School of Law, Amity University, Raipur,

India

ABSTRACT

"The labor rights of migrant workers globally, especially of those in essential sectors, must be guaranteed and measures are taken to protect their health,"ⁱ stated Can Ünver, chair of the UN Committee on Migrant Workers, and Felipe González Morales, UN Special Rapporteur on Migrant Workers' Human Rights. Experts call for the protection of migrants' rights, including access to their homelands and rescue efforts for those in crisis at sea and international boundaries, in 17 global governance guidelines. Furthermore, an international organization like the UNHCR encourages governments to integrate all migrant workers into a national COVID-19 preventive and response plan, including providing all social services. The purpose of this study is to discuss the living situations of migrant populations around the world (undocumented, documented workers, refugees, and minorities). Documentary analysis was used to complete the methodology. The paper aims to learn about international workers' rights and how to safeguard them legally. How do migrant workers protect themselves from unpredictable conditions is the central subject of the paper?

Keywords- Integration, Human Rights Law, Undocumented Workers, Derogation Mechanism, International Law and Conventions, Geneva Group of Council, United Nations Human Rights, UN Human Rights.

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The COVID-19 scenario has transmitted the wave of violence worldwide against each other; they are either countries or communities. Migrants' deprivation, gender disparity is violence during the era of a pandemic. In Europe and America, nationalism rises, policymakers are using this nationalism as their power for political benefit. There is no place for migrants' communities (minorities, temporary workers, undocumented workers, persons, and refugees) from the very beginning. The era of COVID-19 has come to their life as a curse. Losing jobs, social disparity is all societal and economical boundaries that make them a vulnerable section of every country's society. The condition makes them worse and increases the possibility of the transmission of COVID-19 from them nationwide due to worse socio-economic conditions and through awful living conditions of refugees in the camps provided by the States. From Africa to the Middle East to Europe and America, the vulnerable picture is similar. Discrimination has increased day by day.ⁱⁱ According to British Safety Council, migrants' workers are working in a vulnerable working place with low wages, unsafe and abusive work rehearses, which is defined by the gig economy; however, the measurement of safety and how to protect them from the situation due to the pandemic has not been discussed.ⁱⁱⁱ The Geneva Council for Rights and Liberties has urged the world policymakers(governments) for an urgent initiative to protect migrant workers, especially in the Gulf countries, from infection. The detention camps of Saudi Arabia are in netherworld condition where workers from Ethiopia, India are treating by the authorities and deporting to their original countries after severe torment.^{iv} According to the Geneva Council, the situation of migrant workers in the United Arab Emirates is at risk as well.^v Kafala sponsorship labor system is a trapped system of UAE through which temporary workers' access to health care, access to accommodation, and freedom of movement have been limited. Therefore, the Geneva Group of the council has urged the World Health Organization to protect those vulnerable workers from COVID-19 and encourage UAE to treat equality with them.

According to^{vi} BWI (a global construction union), in the United States of America, disparities in health care have been observed among migrant employees through their short-term zero hour-based employment, which has no employment standard or any standard code for better wage or salary. The downfall of the economic condition makes them vulnerable and victims of

infection compared to their domestic colleagues.^{vii} Irregular workers in the United States have no access to affordable health care, according to BWI General Secretary Ambet Yuson. As a result, they have been targeted as the epicenter of the Coronavirus victim, which has become terrible for everybody. United Nations launched^{viii} estimated 1.5 billion starlings for the call of humanitarian retorts in the most vulnerable areas of the world. UN has set up essential medical equipment with NGOs of those vulnerable areas of those countries to establish humanitarian hubs. These initiatives have been taken to support refugees, children, exploited women, and every kind of migrant who is already facing a humanitarian catastrophe. Hope has been observed in few countries of the world where integration has been taken for the betterment of migrants in their society during the pandemic.^{ix} The campaigning of community involvement is an excellent example of hope for the migrants of Lithuania, which can be flourished in other parts of the world as a model for the integration of migrants during the pandemic. Lithuanian doctor volunteer network provides support to migrants in the country. Multiple languages such as English, Swedish, and Norwegian have been applied for easy communication access.^x Human aid has been launched for refugees and asylum seekers in Lithuania. Online seminars, counseling, workshop training have been held through various forms of languages.^{xi} There is no restriction to leave original countries for the residents who are living in Lithuania from other countries. Deportation has been suspended. No foreigners will be returned whose visa has expired during the COVID-19 period that has not been occurred by their fault. The migration department will continue services for them except for the citizenship application. Government^{xii} of Lithuania has announced that establishing the concepts of human rights and their implementation for the betterment of the Lithuanian along with migrants are State's top priority. They will prioritize the highest values of human rights.

LITERATURE REVIEW

From the Middle East to Europe to America, the situation of migrant communities is in danger due to discrimination by the State authorities and dominant communities. They are not receiving public health access for safety, not receiving financial package for the emergency livelihood, and their residential camps are in an awful situation for living. As a result, they are

in great danger from COVID-19, and possibilities increase to transmit the disease nationwide. It is a responsibility for every State and the policymakers to taking care of migrants' communities temporarily. They should not be deported at this moment but should be supported for their integration with other communities and should be treated equally. It is not a time for hatred, discrimination, gender violence that can break the nation. It is time to get together to winning the COVID-19. Every State should follow the United Nations human rights charter to maintain fundamental rights for everyone, including minorities, refugees, and undocumented persons.

METHODOLOGY

This paper has focused on the migrant community who are minorities, newly immigrants, temporary workers, refugees, and undocumented persons, who are facing societal and health problems during the COVID-19 era worldwide. The United Nations and its various humanitarian branches have been discussed. The scenario is primarily dangerous, but few countries follow UN instructions for the safety of humans and society as their precautions. The description of sources has taken the methodology to write the paper. Reading, gathering indepth insights on topics, and exploring ideas, summarizing, and interpreting and mainly expressed in words (documentary analysis through qualitative approach). The paper focused on the necessities of migrant care from all over the world.

Academic articles are the primary sources to write this paper.

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

COVID-19 has created a deep crisis among minorities in the Middle East countries and across the globe. The Minority Rights Groups International report has said that the crisis of human rights, public health is worse among minority communities in the world through disparities between migrants, minorities, and dominant communities in every country.^{xiii} According to UNHCR estimated 2.7 million refugees are living in the region. Syrian refugees are the main

proportion of the entire refugee population. An estimated 10.3 million refugees are internally displaced individuals, families.^{xiv} Estimated 2,500 refugees in the Middle East region have been documented as COVID-19 cases (MENA region). The cases are more significant than this amount, but they cannot show up to the hospital for a health check because of hidden identity. They are afraid of arrest as an undocumented person or family.^{xv} According to the spoke's person for the Middle East and North Africa, Rula Amin, refugee communities cannot maintain social distance rules and criteria because of congested houses and harmful environments and situations in refugee camps. Consequently, when a member of the family has signed COVID-19, the other members cannot self-isolate themselves.

The underground situation makes them helpless to protect themselves from this virus. People disregard these preliminary measures due to their awful livelihood through poverty, societal discrimination, and social distances by dominated societies. It has been said that estimated 3 million refugees of the region are falling into horrendous poverty due to pandemics. As a result, they are hopeless and are expressing their comments to die by hunger than COVID-19. The report of Rula Amin is pathetic and harmful for the refugees of the Middle East region. Disparity by the Government is another pathetic narrative for this deprived section of society everywhere. The Government of Lebanon has issued various restrictions over refugees for their commute; restriction in communication is a significant threat. They cannot apply for Lebanese citizenship. They cannot apply for primary health access. The circumstances creating by the government and then dominated section of the society after public encouragement makes an uncontrollable situation among refugees. Minorities and the indigenous people face more racial comments, xenophobia, blaming as a bearer of COVID-19 from the dominant group. In this context,^{xvi} in Eastern, Libya an estimated 5000 plus refugees and migrants have been forcibly expelled by the Libyan authorities. It is a suspicion that they carry contagious diseases, and because of refugees and migrants from other countries or localities, or places, the entire society will decline. The mental situation of the displaced person is another issue during the pandemic in the world. Millions of people committed suicide, especially people who were living in prolonged dislocation. Difficulties in working and living places make the contexts more vulnerable among millions of migrant workers in the Arab area. The conditions place them at an increased risk of COVID-19. Estimated^{xvii} 1920 migrant garments workers in Jordan from

workers live. Factories have a lack of proper ventilation. Therefore, they are unhealthy both in the working place and in the living place.^{xviii} According to Ryszard Cholewinski, a migration expert of the International Labour Organization (ILO), the situation creates a horrible scenario among migrants and minorities in the Arab regions. Even the government is not showing any empathy for those migrants, undocumented laborers in the context of the humanitarian approach temporarily.^{xix} According to Equidem, a human right and labor rights organization, Governments of various Gulf countries are assisting quickly through finances and other facilities to their business and nationals. At the same time, millions of migrant workers are jobless. They are not receiving assistance from the government but are deporting to their original countries. Police are arresting migrant workers even they have a resident pass. Violence against women has increased, they lost their job, but they are still managing various societal responsibilities by paying a lot of money. Due to lockdowns and curfews, families are living together, but it creates stress among them. They are stressed in life during the pandemic.^{xx} Minority Rights Group International suggested ensuring proper data collection of the migrant population and communication with them, safeguarding their human rights, providing inclusive healthcare facilities, and assisting economically. The crisis of pandemics exposes the best and the worst one among all past global crises. As a result, the concept of human rights of migrant's community is now in danger due to racism, discrimination, lack of protection, unsafe living condition. Denying protection means creating more vulnerabilities in society, increasing the risk of infection within the whole population. Consequently, it is no more within the boundaries of migrant communities. In these circumstances, the fundamental values of international law are valid for those deprived communities worldwide, which is the^{xxi} core content of human rights in a time of emergency.^{xxii} During emergency right to life, liberty from torment, cruel and humiliating actions, exclusions of strained labor are some requests of basic rights that apply in any situation to every hominoid along with migrants, refugees and displaced persons, families, and underground community, who have no documents.^{xxiii} The principle of non-refoulment is applicable for all communities who are in danger due to public or private torture and have no alternative for protection of their lives during any emergency; provision of collective expulsion and the correlative right to individual valuation are few rights

under the fundamental principles of international law which applies for the disadvantages community during spare; the principle of non-discrimination and the provision of racism are some rights for the disadvantaged communities of every country when they are in danger from the leading section of the society including administration of such countries. Those core rights of the international law have a minimum standard for protecting vulnerable humanity in communities that applies to all migrants irrespective of their documentation status and usual circumstances.^{xxiv} The core substances of migrant's rights under usual international principles are balanced by the second strata of agreement standard connected to the derogation device provided by a few human rights meetings.^{xxv} Situations like public spare that threats the life of the entire population of the particular country through unparalleled diseases like COVID-19; proclamation and notification by the State officially about a national crisis; a strictly required necessity to protect public life and to reach their specific goals during the crisis; proportionality about the objective of protecting public health and beauty; non-derogation rights(right to life, liberty of opinion principle of legality, recognition of all as an individual before the law, etc.); are some circumstances that States are unable to protect. When the situation is that worse for the community universally, usual international laws are activated to protect all, regardless of sex, color, or nationality, under derogation mechanism.^{xxvi} Convention of human rights and migration is collaborated with other international conventions to implement the derogation mechanism, especially when the problem of migrants and human rights dignity faces danger from any calamity. The Global States participates in the Convention of Economic; Social and Cultural Rights; Convention on the Removal of Racial Discrimination; Convention on the Child Rights; Convention on the Protection of the Rights of the All Migrant Workers; and their Members of Families; Convention on the International Labour Law for Migration Employment; Protocol against the Smuggling of Migrants through Air, Land and Sea; Protocol to Stop Punishment Smuggling in Persons etc. and they oblige the rules and regulations of those conventions to implement in their countries for the protection of everyone during normalcy and abnormally contexts. Therefore COVID-19 is an era to implement those rules to protect the rights of every person along with minorities, migrants, refugees, and undocumented communities of societies. Every State is bound to oblige those international principles as global laws.^{xxvii} The ICESCR (^{xxviii}The Global Agreement on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights is a many-sided agreement that the United Nations General Assembly has assumed on 16th

December 1966) has convinced an example by saying that due to public safety restrictions in social, economic, and cultural lives may be affected. However, some very ordinary or general rights are still active in all kinds of situations;^{xxix} those rights are food, housing, and clean water. These basic needs are for every individual along with migrants, refugees, and undocumented migrants. Unfortunately, human rights, public health care issues are covered by various preconditions by the policymakers of every country. Finally, during an emergency, it gets worse for individuals from other countries to access those rights for livelihood and basic protection from the curse of the society.^{xxx} However, restrictions by the policymakers must meet certain criteria's such as its legality (how much the restriction is legally ground), the restriction is for the protection of the people, which is necessary, the restriction is proportionate to the protection of public health, the restriction is compared with other rights such as the principle of non-discrimination. Therefore, it has been said by^{xxxi} Siracusa Principles on the Limitation and Derogation of Provisions in the ICCPR that any restriction must be for the public safety from disease. In the context of managing frontier areas, every States legally committed to protecting public health and safety. However, closing the border is an eye-opener for everyone to follow State activities. But border closing cannot be a step for public protection from disease. It could be worse through illegal and irregular migration without any health report check.^{xxxii} Closing the border can be justified if it is based on non-discriminatory activity and not through derogation, but for the betterment of the people, such as public health and beauty safety from COVID-19 or any hazards. Stricter immigration control can also be justified if it regards health and protection requirements. States can take various initiatives by taking public health necessities and for their protection seriously. The stakeholders of the United Nations have taken steps like non-binding references for the increment of the protection of the minorities, legal and unground migrants, and refugees with the view of justifying the COVID-19 impact.^{xxxiii} United Nations Network of Migration called to stop forced migration during the pandemic and has taken various steps to access the basic services for every individual.^{xxxiv} The International Organization for Migration (IOM) has recommended for the betterment of the world community. They have talked about the mitigation of visa requirements and the essential workers.^{xxxv} It is their suggestion for a merging between immigration and essential workers such as health care workers; they have talked about (IOM) remote consular access support for the lawful activities during the pandemic; automatic visa extension and stay longer instead of

deporting; relinquishing administrative penalties on foreigners who are unable to go back their original country and permit those undocumented migrants for the access of food, shelter, and medicine. Several countries have taken many initiatives to fight against COVID-19 and facilitation, such as^{xxxvi} immunity passport and mobility passageway. A true collective response through all international agencies and policymakers should implement for the evolution of pandemics. According to the Secretary-General of the UN, xxxvii "No one is safe until everyone" is safe. [...] This crisis is an opportunity to reimagine human mobility for the benefit of all while advancing our central commitment of the 2030 Agenda to leave no one behind." In Canada, the department of global affairs declared a fair stand for all who reside in Canada. xxxviii The term restricting personal movement refers to an effort to limit the spread of diseases. The Canadian government has cleared that any discriminatory means must not be considered during the pandemic due to lockdowns and isolation. It is because of the protection of public health, not for the discouragement of all individuals' fundamental civil rights and human rights. Global Affairs Canada promised that it is their priority for a safe environment during this situation for the people of Canada and to ensure the regular practice of their promoting and essential rights, freedoms, and will. The government of Canada urges other countries to follow the lockdown and isolation (separation) for the safety of public health through a peaceful assembly, not for taking any advantage of self-interest. The Government of Canada^{xxxix} ensures the safety of the minorities, vulnerable and marginalized communities' indigenous communities, LGBTQ2I, and religious, ethnic minorities through a fair package of public health coverage and has assured equal treatment.^{x1} Canada has taken care of gender-based and child protection approach through gender and child protection services and urges other parts of the world to focus on childcare and the gender development initiative during the pandemic. Domestic violence is another major issue during the pandemic and before.^{xli} Canada is advocating domestically and internationally along with the United Nations for the reduction of domestic violence.

CONCLUSION

The public health crisis due to COVID-19 affects people and societies, especially those living in a vulnerable situation worldwide. In this context, migrants can be fallen into vulnerable

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communities. Because of their socio-economic conditions, it is tough to access health facilities as a part of the public. They are discriminated against. UN Human Rights Commission declares that everyone, including all kinds of the migrant community, must be taken an account as a part of the public health and recovery response to COVID-19.^{xlii} The State should be taken steps to protect the people, including vulnerable communities, for the safety of entire public health. The State should take necessary steps for those in danger based on age, gender, disability. According to the UN Human Rights Commission, each people in the territory of the jurisdiction of the State have an equal right to health consciousness regardless of their nationality or immigration status.^{xliii} Every kind of initiative by the administration, policy, legislation should put in place for the assurance of migrant societies for access to health and beauty. Early diagnostics,^{xliv} COVID-19 checks should be available for the refugees, underground communities, and minorities in every country. This is the right of the people or humans for safety and protection from hazards and disease. Outreach information should be accurate for access to health facilities by all migrants without any gender biases. Migrants living in camps and dangerous conditions should be immediately kept under sufficient prevention, testing, and treatment should be appropriately in camps.^{xlv} The migrant's community should be replaced from an overloaded camp to a safe house. They should be given a clean water, proper sanitation, and cleanliness in houses, camps, and shelters. There should be access to emergency shelters, enough places, and spaces for the refugee community who are in an asylum or in camps to live. Sufficient measures should be taken to prevent violence in camps and refugee centers, gender-based violence due to COVID-19.^{xlvi} Every human has the fundamental right to livelihood in the preamble of the UN charter and the Theology of Jesus Christ. Therefore, regarding those rules and respecting humanity, those fundamental rights should be separate from the enforcement of immigration. Because of low wages, engagement in various essential jobs during the pandemic increases through and among migrant workers. xlvii Economic hardship, risk of losing a job, losing a work visa are several things that migrant communities are thinking to live and protect their lives economically and from the pandemic. Therefore, social protection measures should be taken for the accessibility to migrant workers and their families regardless of their identity.^{xlviii} In this situation, migrant children face problems accessing education through school, books, and other educational requirements. The

State should take initiatives for adequate access to education for the migrants' children. The

State should explore the remote ways for the delivery of education. This is how temporary migrants, temporary workers, minorities, and new permanent immigrants, including refugees and undocumented communities, reintegrate into the mainstream of the society to feel them as a valuable part.^{xlix} Immigration detention camps are another source for the transmission of the disease. Illegally arrested migrants live in horrific situations, such as the¹ detention camps of Saudi Arabia. African migrants from Ethiopia are dying hard and committing suicide due to the horrible situation inside the camps; the situation is similar in European detention camps in the United States of America. COVID-19 has spread hatred among other communities about the migrants. Nationalism rises in European countries in the United States for the expulsion of migrants from European land. COVID-19 is an object for this hatred worldwide.

In this situation, every State should take action to release asylum seekers, migrants, refugees, and illegal people from the detention camps and keep them based on human rights-based noncustodial alternatives to protect them and protect others around the society.^{li} Children and women should release from the detention camps. Every State's responsibility is to ensure adequate housing, economy, and health protection for those vulnerable communities. The State should think about border management closed for the transmission of COVID-19 from other countries and communities through traveling. According to the UN Human Rights Commission, border detention should fair. Measures should be in place for the assurance of continued access to individual valuation.^{lii} The State should consider the temporary suspension of immigration enforced return except for lawful decision for any misconduct and has issues with the public health, otherwise temporarily every State should assist temporary immigrants based on humanitarian context.

In the context of racial violence, every State should confirm safety for the minorities and the migrant communities.^{liii} They make sure that pandemic does not contribute to chauvinism, provocation of discrimination, violence, and hatred. A dignity and solidarity over every nation and togetherness in this situation can defeat the COVID-19 because COVID-19 does not discriminate. The feature question of the paper is how do the migrant workers protect themselves from uncertain situations? The matter of protection depends on the State's power, and the answer has been discussed already about the duties of every policymaker for the

JOURNAL OF LEGAL STUDIES AND RESEARCH Volume 7 Issue 4 – ISSN 2455 2437 July 2021 www.thelawbrigade.com vulnerable society. States should comply and respect Human Rights Law and ensure the protection of those minorities and migrants of all kinds of temporality in the era of COVID-19.

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