

Factors Associated with Health Status Among Refugees from Rakhine State, Myanmar Living in a Camp in Ukhiya, Bangladesh

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Abstract

The increase in refugees is a global issue, and refugees often suffer from ill-health for several reasons. Within a short period of time a massive influx of refugees from Myanmar arrived in Bangladesh in 2017. This influx has been considered the greatest humanitarian crisis in the world. This study aimed to identify factors associated with health status (physical health problems, psychological stress, perception of community health problems, and well-being status) among refugees from Myanmar living in refugee camps in Ukhiya, Bangladesh. This cross-sectional study employing secondary data analysis was conducted using the Japanese Red Cross Society project survey dataset. The study participants were 418 refugees. Descriptive analysis was performed to examine the sociodemographic characteristics and health status of the refugees. To examine the factors associated with health status among the refugees, logistic regression analysis was performed. Participants' health status was fair with good personal hygiene knowledge, despite poor educational background and few job opportunities. However, their psychological status was not good. The key factors related to health status among refugees were age and campsite as a habitation; significantly associated with the participants' well-being status were being male (AOR = 0.45, 95%CI [0.28 - 0.71], $p = .001$), job status (AOR = 2.4, 95%CI [1.21- 4.37], $p = .012$), and exposure to the Red Cross Community Volunteers' (RCCV) visits (AOR = 3.18, 95%CI [1.92 - 5.26], p

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<.001). Despite the difficulty of improving the camp conditions, more visits by the RCCV are recommended, especially for the elderly and male refugees.

Keywords: health status, well-being status, refugees, refugee camps, Bangladesh