

## **Refugee Livelihoods and COVID-19: The Case Study of Rohingyas in India**

**Monika Verma (0789705)**

**Social Research and Cultural Studies**

**National Chiao Tung University, Taiwan**

### **Abstract**

Rohingyas are the most persecuted ethnic minority in the world stated by the United Nations. They are a group of Burmese Muslim people from Rakhine state in Myanmar situated on the western coast of Myanmar adjacent to the Bay of Bengal in the Indian ocean. In Myanmar, they are seen as "illegal immigrants" by the Buddhist and other communities. Rohingyas have continuously faced persecution, discrimination, mistreatment, massacre, and statelessness over the past four decades. Facing ethnic cleansing in Myanmar, Rohingyas have fled to various countries in the world. This article analyzes the livelihood of Rohingya refugees in the lenses of humanitarian perspective (especially UNHCR) during the COVID-19 pandemic. The paper aims to compare notes on the trepidations and ramifications of the COVID-19 crisis on refugees, accompanied by the critical and legal conditions of Rohingya refugees in India. The paper concludes with some remarkable insights that describe the impact of COVID-19 on Rohingya refugees in India, including international concerns on refugees about the COVID-19 crisis.

**Keywords:** Rohingyas, India, UNHCR, Covid-19, Statelessness