

Refugee livelihoods in India & Turkey - a comparative study

Aditi Sabbarwal

One of the most pressing problems the world witnesses today is the migration of refugees. This movement of people has resulted in a lot of political as well as social and cultural challenges for nearly all states of the world. Bound by its principles of promoting world peace and peaceful co-existence, India has welcomed the influx of refugee populations from countries such as Afghanistan, Somalia, Nigeria, Congo, Sudan and Myanmar; while Turkey has primarily seen an influx of Syrians.

UNHCR is the principal organization working for the welfare of refugees in India and Turkey. This welfare is secured by generating livelihood opportunities for these refugees which is also the main component of the UNHCR Self-Reliance Project, which is governed by the Global Livelihood Framework (strategy – 2015-2018) which is followed by a few countries – India and Turkey being among these few.

This paper aims to analyse the various livelihood models adopted by both the countries in Europe and Asia and to critically analyse the similarities, differences and the various livelihood programs adopted by the countries to provide decent livelihood opportunities to the refugee populations with a special focus on some of the best practices observed in each program. At the same time a focus will also be made on the support provided by the government and how does this impact the livelihood programs.