

Climate Change: A new threat in Making and Unmaking of Statelessness

Name - Sharmistha Mallik

Abstract *(for professional papers)*

Nations and states are the real guardians of society to protect their subjects by providing security and becoming a means to meet the demands of their people. But the Third World countries brought with freedom another obstruction in the name of fences. They controlled people's mobility, creating borders and partitioning not only the lands but also the people. It was the case in South Asia, where poverty and lack of documents made people stateless by not granting them fundamental rights. This statelessness scenario is not new, and it's still in the making by both the liberal and non-liberal authoritarian regimes worldwide. The problem becomes prevalent as in the case study of CHT in Bangladesh, Tamils in Srilanka, Karana of Madagascar, the Romas, Rohingyas of Myanmar and many more, estimated to be around 10 million people are without citizenship, documents or passports, leaving them vulnerable and exposed to human traffickers. Their state of plight is being caused by the regimes or the states making the minorities vulnerable. UNHCR, 1954 Convention, 1961 conventions on reductions on statelessness. But in all these cases, women have found themselves the most vulnerable. Women and children are the worst victims conventions and treaties are being signed, and the plight of these stateless people is discussed, but not much has been done. Thousands of children find themselves victims of such a cruel mechanism of statelessness where they face difficulties enrolling in school due to no birth certificates or documents. Women are barred from essential health services at times of birth of a child, which leaves many children many stateless from birth. Women are the worst sufferers and feel the brunt of such a system constructed by regimes. Women, mainly the minority community, still feel the brunt of the superior class. While conducting thorough research through books, my findings are clear: oppressive governments make stateless people and deprive them of their essential needs. Women sometimes are equated with nature. In hilly terrains, women are

considered providers and collectors to the family, and it's the woman who understands the need of nature. But it's again the oppressive systems that have caused catastrophic damage to mother nature. Peace for the entire world and women's cause can be found as per my understanding through negotiations of their government for humanitarian reasons. Presently, there may be other pressing problems that need to be taken care of by the governments. Still, the issue of statelessness is something we must focus on as these people may also face the wrath of the government and the changing climate caused by these governments.

The rising sea levels and deteriorating environment make the island nations in Fiji and the Pacific islands vulnerable. The current tension between China and USA fails to throw light on the climate issue, making it an existential threat. The coastal areas are the most susceptible, according to one report by UNHCR. Primarily due to deteriorating climate causing intense storms like that in India Amphan causing many to relocate and leading to the creation of IPDs. But as the water levels start to rise, eating away shores, for instance, the Manta community in Bangladesh who resides in boats on the water as their land has been eaten and washed away by the river leaving many people of the community bared from basic needs and are not being relocated for generations many are living on the floating boats Bangladesh government doing less for them. Gradually they will be turned stateless.

Hence, per my observations, a lot needs to be done simultaneously about the deteriorating environment refugees or forcibly displaced making much more stateless in the Global South. The rising temperature and sea levels can also threaten to make new stateless. Thus to achieve the 2024 goal of eradicating statelessness, we need to look at the climate change issues to prevent more stateless people from living through such a drastic impact of climate change. Coordination between the Global North and Global South is highly required at this hour.

