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## The impact of internal and external factors on Afghan Migrants in Sidoarjo, Indonesia

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### Article Info

### ABSTRACT

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**Background and Objective:** Ongoing conflicts, political instability, economic hardship, and insecurity in Afghanistan have forced many individuals to migrate in search of safety and better living conditions. Afghan immigrants in host countries often face numerous social, economic, health-related, and legal challenges during the resettlement process. Understanding the factors that drive migration and the difficulties experienced after migration is essential for developing effective policies and support mechanisms. Therefore, this study aims to investigate the internal and external factors influencing the migration of Afghan immigrants to Indonesia, as well as the challenges they encounter and their future aspirations.

**Method:** This study employs a quantitative cross-sectional research design. Data will be collected through a structured questionnaire administered to Afghan immigrants residing in Indonesia. The questionnaire focuses on migration motivations, social and economic conditions, health concerns, security issues, and resettlement experiences. The collected data will be analyzed using descriptive and inferential statistical methods to identify the major factors affecting the experiences of Afghan immigrants.

**Results:** The findings indicate that political instability, insecurity, economic difficulties, and lack of employment opportunities are among the primary reasons motivating Afghan immigrants to leave their country. The study also reveals that Afghan immigrants in Indonesia experience significant challenges related to employment, access to healthcare, social integration, financial instability, and uncertainty regarding legal status and future settlement. Despite these difficulties, many participants expressed hope for improved living conditions, educational opportunities, and long-term security.

**Conclusion:** The study highlights the complex factors contributing to Afghan migration and the multiple challenges faced by immigrants during resettlement in Indonesia. The findings can assist policymakers, humanitarian organizations, and relevant stakeholders in developing informed policies and targeted support programs to improve the living conditions of Afghan immigrants and address the underlying causes of forced migration.

**Keywords:** Afghanistan, Afghan Immigrants, Resettlement Challenges, Migration Factors, Government Policy, Indonesia.

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## تأثیر عوامل داخلی و خارجی بر مهاجران افغان در سیدوارجو، اندونیزیا

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### چکیده

اطلاعات مقاله

**زمینه و هدف:** ادامه درگیری‌ها، بی ثباتی سیاسی، مشکلات اقتصادی و ناامنی در افغانستان، سبب شده است که بسیاری از افراد برای دستیابی به امنیت و شرایط به‌تر زنده‌گی، مهاجرت کنند. مهاجران افغان در کشورهای میزبان، در جریان اسکان مجدد، با چالش‌های متعدد اجتماعی، اقتصادی، صحتی و حقوقی روبه‌رو می‌شوند. شناخت عوامل مؤثر بر مهاجرت و مشکلات پس از مهاجرت، برای تدوین سیاست‌ها و برنامه‌های حمایتی مؤثر، اهمیت اساسی دارد؛ از این‌رو، این پژوهش با هدف بررسی عوامل داخلی و خارجی مؤثر بر مهاجرت مهاجران افغان به اندونیزیا، چالش‌های فراروی آنان و نیز چشم‌اندازها و امیدهای آینده‌شان انجام شده است.

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**روش:** این پژوهش با روی‌کرد کمی و به‌شیوه مقطعی انجام شده است. داده‌ها از طریق پرسش‌نامه استاندارد از مهاجران افغان مقیم اندونیزیا گردآوری می‌شود. پرسش‌نامه بر انگیزه‌های مهاجرت، وضعیت اجتماعی و اقتصادی، مسائل صحتی، نگرانی‌های امنیتی و تجربیات اسکان مجدد تمرکز دارد. داده‌های گردآوری شده با استفاده از روش‌های آماری توصیفی و استنباطی تحلیل می‌شود تا عوامل اصلی مؤثر بر تجربیات مهاجران افغان شناسایی گردد.

**یافته‌ها:** یافته‌ها نشان می‌دهد که بی‌ثباتی سیاسی، ناامنی، مشکلات اقتصادی و کم‌بود فرصت‌های شغلی از مهم‌ترین عوامل مهاجرت شهروندان افغان به‌شمار می‌رود؛ هم‌چنین، نتایج پژوهش نشان می‌دهد که مهاجران افغان در اندونیزیا با چالش‌های قابل‌توجهی در زمینه‌های اشتغال، دسترسی به خدمات صحتی، ادغام اجتماعی، بی‌ثباتی مالی و ابهام در وضعیت حقوقی و آینده‌اقامت خود مواجه‌اند. باوجود این مشکلات، بسیاری از اشتراک‌کنندگان نسبت به بهبود شرایط زنده‌گی، دسترسی به فرصت‌های آموزشی و دستیابی به امنیت پایدار امیدوار بوده‌اند.

**نتیجه‌گیری:** این پژوهش پیچیده‌گی عوامل مؤثر بر مهاجرت افغان‌ها و چالش‌های گوناگون آنان

در روند اسکان مجدد در اندونیزیا را برجسته می‌سازد. یافته‌های این تحقیق می‌تواند به سیاست‌گذاران، نهادهای بشردوستانه و سایر ذی‌دخلان کمک کند تا سیاست‌ها و برنامه‌های حمایتی مؤثرتری برای بهبود وضعیت مهاجران افغان و کاهش عوامل زمینه‌ساز مهاجرت اجباری تدوین کنند.

**کلیدواژه‌گان:** افغانستان، مهاجران افغان، چالش‌های اسکان مجدد، عوامل مهاجرت، سیاست‌های دولتی، اندونیزیا.

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## 1. Introduction

The history of Afghanistan is marked by significant turmoil and conflict, leading to waves of migration that have shaped the lives of its people for decades. Following the Soviet occupation starting in 1979, Afghanistan witnessed widespread devastation in various facets of life, compelling millions to seek refuge elsewhere (Otoukesh, 2012). The subsequent civil war further exacerbated the situation, prompting a significant exodus to neighboring countries like Pakistan and Iran (Lee, 1996). The Taliban's rise to power in the mid-1990s and their control over the majority of Afghan territory until 2001 prompted another wave of migration, with many fleeing the oppressive regime (Ralph, 2023). Even during the republican era from 2001 to 2021, despite expanded rights, security concerns persisted, prompting continued migration (Declan, 2014).

Afghan migrants have sought refuge in various countries across the globe, facing numerous challenges along their journey. Often relying on human traffickers to navigate through perilous routes, they face financial hardships and legal uncertainties upon arrival (Muzafar, 2016). In Indonesia, Afghan immigrants encounter a myriad of difficulties, including legal status issues, limited access to healthcare, and financial struggles (Amnesty International, 2021). The Indonesian government's ambiguous policies regarding asylum further contribute to their uncertainty and anxiety (Human Rights Watch, 2021).

Despite these challenges, efforts by NGOs and individuals aim to alleviate the plight of Afghan immigrants, providing essential support and advocating for their rights (Al Jazeera, 2021). However, there remains a gap in understanding the specific circumstances faced by Afghan migrants in certain locations, such as the Puspa Argo Flats detention center in Sidoarjo, East Java, Indonesia (Siti, 2022). This research seeks to address this gap by examining the experiences and challenges of Afghan migrants in this specific setting, aiming to provide

insights that can inform policies and interventions to support their integration and improve their quality of life in Indonesia.

In light of these considerations, this study aims to comprehensively examine the push and pull factors influencing Afghan immigrants' decisions to choose Indonesia as a temporary destination. By exploring their experiences, challenges, and the factors influencing their migration decisions, this research seeks to contribute valuable insights to policymakers and stakeholders, ultimately aiming to enhance the well-being and integration of Afghan immigrants in Indonesia (Amnesty International, 2021; Human Rights Watch, 2021). Additionally, by understanding the factors driving migration and the challenges faced by Afghan migrants, this study can inform strategies to address these issues and potentially reduce the flow of Afghan people to foreign countries, benefiting both Afghanistan and its diaspora (Otoukesh, 2012; Rezaei, 2021).

## **2. Literatur Review**

The global phenomenon of international migration has seen a steady rise over the years, with millions of individuals seeking resettlement in countries like Canada, Australia, the United States, Great Britain, and Germany in pursuit of a better life (Rezaei, 2021). Discriminatory immigration policies, such as those historically observed in Australia, underscore the need for continued examination and reform in this area (Rezaei, 2021).

Afghanistan has been marked by significant emigration since the Soviet occupation in 1979, with millions fleeing the country due to decades of civil war and instability (Michael, 2022). Neighboring countries like Iran and Pakistan have hosted a substantial number of Afghan refugees, with significant challenges faced by refugees in Malaysia due to resource limitations and restricted rights (Stacey, 2020).

In Indonesia, approximately 14,000 refugees arrived in mid-2018, primarily from Afghanistan, Myanmar, and Somalia, facing challenges in accessing healthcare services and living in prolonged uncertainty (Muzafar, 2016). Efforts by organizations like UNHCR aim to provide support to refugees, yet the protracted waiting periods and limited access to services contribute to the refugees' challenges (Adiputera, 2018).

The journey of Afghan immigrants to Indonesia often involves reliance on smugglers and social media for information, with significant challenges faced along the way (Rosbo, 2017). Despite these difficulties, Afghan refugees constitute a significant portion of the refugee population in Indonesia, highlighting the urgent need for policies and interventions to address their integration and well-being (Siti, 2022).

Research gaps exist in understanding the demographic characteristics, socioeconomic integration, local community dynamics, cultural adaptation,

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access to local services, community support systems, local government policies, and crisis response and resilience among Afghan immigrants in Indonesia, particularly in detention centers like Puspa Argo (Haas, 2021). Filling these gaps is crucial for informing effective policies and interventions to support Afghan immigrants and enhance their integration and quality of life in Indonesia (Belabbas, 2022).

### **3. Research Method**

The research methodology employed to investigate the impact of internal and external factors on Afghan migrants residing in Sidoarjo, Indonesia, comprised both quantitative and qualitative approaches. A structured survey questionnaire was utilized to gather quantitative data, covering aspects such as security, employment, poverty, discrimination, and access to essential services. In-depth interviews with 29 Afghan immigrants provided qualitative insights into their personal experiences and perceptions. Purposive sampling ensured a diverse participant pool, and ethical guidelines were strictly followed. Data analysis involved descriptive statistics, correlations, regression analyses, and thematic analysis. Inclusion criteria for participants involved English and Afghan language proficiency and age 18 or older. Statistical analysis was conducted using SPSS version 29, employing descriptive statistics, normality tests, non-parametric tests, and regression analysis. The thesis consists of five chapters, with subsequent chapters exploring the location of immigration, internal factors, external factors, and concluding remarks.

### **4. Duncan's Theory**

Duncan's Theory posits that economic and social causes are key drivers of migration. In this research, two methods are employed to analyze these causes. Firstly, the economic perspective emphasizes the concept of "rationality," which serves as the foundational principle in mainstream economics. While different conceptions of rationality exist, the assumption of rational behavior remains central to economic analysis. Secondly, the social causes of migration include various factors such as institutional development, population growth, class conflicts, and changes in family dynamics.

Internally, security concerns, high unemployment rates, poverty, and discrimination within Afghanistan are identified as significant factors prompting Afghan immigrants to seek refuge in more stable environments like Indonesia. Externally, the policies of the host country, particularly Indonesia, and the involvement of international non-governmental organizations (NGOs) like UNHCR play crucial roles in shaping the well-being and rights of Afghan immigrants. Challenges encountered during the migration journey, including acquiring documentation and facing discrimination by NGOs, further complicate the situation for Afghan immigrants.

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Overall, Duncan's Theory provides a framework for understanding the multifaceted nature of migration, highlighting the interplay between economic and social factors both within the home country and in the host country.

#### **4.1. Internal Factors**

This part explores the internal factors influencing Afghan immigrants, particularly those migrating to Indonesia. The decision of Afghan immigrants to seek refuge in Indonesia is shaped by a combination of internal factors, each contributing to their motivation to flee their homeland. These internal factors include security concerns, unemployment challenges, discrimination, and poverty.

##### **4.1.1. Security**

Security concerns play a significant role in driving Afghan immigrants to seek refuge abroad. Afghanistan has been plagued by ongoing conflict, political instability, and threats from insurgent groups. The country's history, marked by internal tensions and external interventions, has led to a precarious security situation. The Taliban insurgency, armed confrontations, and the presence of various militant groups contribute to a climate of fear and danger for Afghan civilians. As a result, many Afghans feel compelled to leave their homeland in search of safety and stability (Betts and Loescher, 2011).

##### **4.1.2. Unemployment**

High levels of unemployment in Afghanistan serve as another critical factor driving migration. Political unrest, prolonged hostilities, and economic stagnation have hindered job creation and economic growth. Limited access to education and skills training exacerbates the issue, leaving many Afghans without the necessary qualifications for available employment opportunities. The reliance on agriculture, coupled with vulnerabilities to economic fluctuations, further compounds the unemployment problem. Despite efforts to address unemployment through various strategies, the situation remains precarious, especially in the aftermath of conflicts and political transitions (Kantor, 2011).

##### **4.1.3. Poverty**

Poverty is a pervasive challenge in Afghanistan, deeply rooted in the country's complex socio-political environment. Decades of instability, violence, and conflict have disrupted economic activities and displaced millions of Afghans, exacerbating the poverty cycle. Limited access to essential services such as education and healthcare, coupled with widespread corruption, perpetuates the cycle of poverty. Afghanistan's reliance on opium poppy cultivation further

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deepens societal vulnerabilities and sustains cycles of poverty, particularly among populations lacking alternative livelihoods (Ahmadzai, 2014).

#### **4.1.4. Discrimination**

Various forms of discrimination, including those based on socioeconomic class, gender, and ethnicity, compound the challenges faced by Afghan immigrants. The sociopolitical environment in Afghanistan, marked by the presence of insurgent groups like the Taliban, further exacerbates discrimination and inequality. Despite legal provisions guaranteeing equal rights and protections, discrimination persists, affecting access to opportunities and resources for marginalized groups. Initiatives aimed at promoting gender equality and upholding human rights are crucial for addressing discrimination and fostering inclusivity in Afghan society (Nawabi, 2003).

#### **4.2 External Factors**

Examining the external factors that impact Indonesia's policy as the host country, especially in the context of Afghan refugees, underscores the critical role played by international non-governmental organizations (INGOs) like the UNHCR. As a host country, Indonesia is inevitably influenced by global geopolitical dynamics and humanitarian considerations. The arrival of Afghan refugees brings about various challenges, encompassing issues related to security, social integration, and economic strain. The UNHCR, a pivotal participant in the international response, collaborates closely with the Indonesian government to tackle these challenges and devise policies by global humanitarian standards. Nevertheless, the journey of Afghan refugees leaving their homeland and entering Indonesia is marked by intricate issues. Frequently, these refugees encounter substantial obstacles, from perilous journeys to bureaucratic complexities that impede their access to essential services. Discrimination against immigrants, perpetrated by specific non-governmental organizations, exacerbates their predicament. While the UNHCR endeavors to advocate inclusivity and equitable treatment, instances of discrimination by other entities contribute to the susceptibility of Afghan refugees. This discrimination may manifest in restricted access to education, employment opportunities, or necessities, creating additional barriers to their integration into Indonesian society. Hence, there is an imperative requirement for collaborative initiatives involving the Indonesian government, the UNHCR, and various non-governmental organizations to address and rectify discriminatory practices. A comprehensive approach prioritizing the protection of the rights and well-being of Afghan refugees is crucial for cultivating a more inclusive and compassionate environment. As the host country, Indonesia is pivotal in shaping policies that address immediate challenges and contribute to

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the enduring well-being and integration of Afghan refugees by international human rights and dignity standards.

#### **4.2.1. The Policy of Host Country**

As stated in Article 8, paragraph 1 of Law No. 6 of 2011 on Immigration, foreign nationals entering Indonesia must have proper identity. The issues of identity falsification, lack of documentation, foreigner registration and provision of foreign control books, abuse of residence permits, illegal entry or stay, expired stay permit, being in Indonesia outside of raid monitoring, and geographic vulnerability in crossings are the main targets of law enforcement against foreign nationals. The execution of law enforcement duties by immigration institutions involves administrative measures such as denying entry and immigration permits and conducting various administrative immigration actions. On the other hand, when it comes to Pro Justitia law enforcement, which pertains to investigative authority, it encompasses tasks like conducting investigations, making arrests, carrying out examinations, searches, and confiscations, filing cases, and presenting case files to the public prosecutor. Examinations, arraignments, and preliminary proceedings provide a fundamental understanding of the legal cycle in criminal cases. This cycle is started by the police acting as experts, analysts, and other officials. Because they have carried out criminal demonstrations in the area of migration, the experts are government worker authorities, as indicated by the provisions of Article 4 of the Criminal Methodology Code, which states that each agent is a police officer in the Republic of Indonesia.

#### **4.2.2. The Role of International Non-Governmental Organizations (UNHCR)**

The significant role played by international non-governmental organizations (INGOs), particularly the UNHCR, in addressing the challenges immigrants face in Indonesia cannot be overstated. As a host country to a diverse population of immigrants, Indonesia encounters complex issues related to their well-being, rights, and integration. The UNHCR is a crucial facilitator and advocate for immigrants' rights, working closely with the Indonesian government and various stakeholders. The UNHCR plays a central role in providing essential support and protection to immigrants, particularly those fleeing conflict zones or persecution. This involves ensuring access to fundamental necessities such as shelter, healthcare, and education. Additionally, the UNHCR actively advocates for the legal rights of immigrants, guiding them through bureaucratic processes and assisting in obtaining refugee status or other forms of legal protection. In addition to these practical measures, the UNHCR engages in awareness campaigns and educational programs to foster understanding and tolerance toward immigrants within Indonesian society. By promoting a more inclusive environment, the organization

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contributes significantly to the social integration of immigrants, enabling them to become active and productive members of their new communities.

#### **4.2.3. Problems When Leaving Afghanistan to Indonesia**

The journey of Afghan refugees escaping Afghanistan and seeking asylum in Indonesia is fraught with challenges that significantly impact their safety, well-being, and prospects for a stable future. Several crucial issues come to light as they embark on this perilous journey, ranging from the hazardous travel conditions to the complex socio-political factors in Indonesia and Afghanistan. To begin with, Afghan refugees encounter substantial risks during their evacuation from Afghanistan. Many are forced to traverse dangerous routes characterized by rugged terrain and the constant threat of violence. Crossing conflict zones, navigating steep terrain, and braving bodies of water in overcrowded and unseaworthy vessels are all potential components of this hazardous journey. This exposes them to various dangers, including physical injury, exploitation, and even death, underscoring the urgent need for secure and authorized migration routes.

#### **4.2.4. Discrimination Among Immigrants by Non-Governmental Organizations**

The story of discrimination surrounds the predicament of Afghan immigrants seeking asylum in Indonesia, and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) unwittingly add to this complex picture. While NGOs are essential in helping vulnerable populations, the experiences of Afghan immigrants indicate that discriminatory practices continue, making their already tricky circumstances much more difficult. In search of safety and better opportunities, Afghan immigrants frequently travel to Indonesia from their native countries of conflict, persecution, and economic instability. Discrimination is among the most urgent problems affecting their reception in Indonesia, among other difficulties. NGOs, which are frequently viewed as rays of hope, regrettably, can support discriminatory behavior, making life more difficult for newcomers from Afghanistan. The NGOs' language barrier and cultural insensitivity are two leading causes of worry. Language barriers prevent many Afghan immigrants from communicating clearly, which can result in miscommunication and insufficient access to necessary assistance. To close these gaps and provide a more welcoming and encouraging atmosphere for Afghan immigrants, NGOs should prioritize cultural sensitivity training for their employees. Discrimination also manifests itself in the workplace and educational settings. Children of Afghan immigrants frequently suffer bias from local communities or educational institutions, which makes it difficult for them to receive a high-quality education. To overcome these obstacles, non-governmental organizations must aggressively support educational inclusion

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and fight for laws that guarantee equal opportunities for all kids, regardless of background. Similarly, prejudice against Afghan immigrants seeking employment is a possibility. Organizations must cultivate alliances with nearby enterprises to sustain diversity and inclusivity, guaranteeing equitable access to job prospects for Afghan immigrants.

## 5. Result and discussion

### 5.1 Result

The survey was completed by 29 refugees in total. The majority of participants (75.8%) have attained a basic level of education. Additionally, most respondents (69%) lack specific skills, with a smaller percentage possessing non-technical skills (17.2%) and technical skills (13.8%). Furthermore, nearly half of the respondents (48.3%) fall within the age range of 27-32 years. Further details regarding the characteristics of the respondents are provided in Table.

Table 1. Respondent characteristics

	N	(%)
<b>Education</b>		
School	22	75.8
university	7	24.2
<b>Skills</b>		
technical	4	13.8
non-technical	5	17.2
none	20	69.0
<b>Age</b>		
21-26 years	10	34.5
27-32 years	14	48.3
More than 32 years	5	17.2

The findings from the respondents' answers to the questionnaire are outlined in Table 2. A significant majority of the refugees (89.7%) reported that they have been residing in Indonesia for more than seven years. None of the respondents indicated a need for a travel document or passport. Additionally, 75.9% of the respondents mentioned that they arrived in Indonesia via land routes. None of the respondents brought their families with them, and all of them registered themselves with UNHCR. Of those registered, 96.6% stated that they received assistance from UNHCR, while 75.9% reported receiving assistance from the

Indonesian government during their time as refugees. Furthermore, 58.6% of the respondents indicated that the expeditious processing of refugee cases influenced their decision to seek refugee status in Indonesia. All respondents expressed feelings of inadequacy as refugees. For more detailed information regarding the questionnaire and respondents' responses, please refer to Table 2.

Table 2. Respondent responses to the questionnaire

When you come to Indonesia		n (%)
	1 to 7 years	3 (10.3)
	more than 7 years	26 (89.7)
having passport as travel document	No passport	29 (100.0)
How did you come here	By air	7 (24.1)
	By land	22 (75.9)
Have you come here alone or with your family	Alone	29 (100.0)
Have you reg with UNHCR	yes register	29 (100.0)
Does UNHCR help you	Not help	1 (3.4)
	Yes help	28 (96.6)
Does Indonesia Government provide facilities to you?	Not provide	22 (75.9)
	Yes provide	7 (24.1)
Why you have selected Indonesia?	Fast case	17 (58.6)
	Islamic Country	6 (20.7)
	Near to Australia	6 (20.7)
How Indonesian people treat you?	Good feel	29 (100.0)
Do you have permission to work in Indonesia?	Not working	29 (100.0)
Do you have medical insurance?	Not medical	3 (10.3)
	Yes medical	26 (89.7)
How you pay for your living expenses?	By UNHCR	29 (100.0)
Do you have access for education?	Not access	29 (100.0)
What is the reason you migrated from Afghanistan?	Financial issue	3 (10.3)

	Security issue	26 (89.7)
Do you like Indonesia?	Not like	3 (10.3)
	Yes like	26 (89.7)
Which country do you wish to go?	Canada	2 (6.9)
	America	4 (13.8)
	Australia	4 (13.8)
	Any country	19 (65.5)
How do you feel as a refugee for all these years?	Bad	29 (100.0)
Do you want to go back to your home country?	Not go	28 (96.6)
	Yes go	1 (3.4)
Is there any priority among the refugee by UNHCR or such as Afghan, Syrian, Pakistani and Myanmar?	Not priority	29 (100.0)

Table 3 provides an overview of the selection criteria of Indonesian respondents based on their education, age, and skills. Among respondents with a school-level education, 59.1% stated that they chose Indonesia due to the expedited processing of refugee cases. Similarly, 57.1% of respondents with a university-level education cited the same reason for selecting Indonesia. This trend was consistent across different age groups, with the majority indicating the quick processing of cases as a significant factor in their decision to come to Indonesia. Additionally, a substantial proportion of respondents with both non-technical and technical skills also cited this reason for choosing Indonesia as their destination.

Table 3. Selection of country to live as refugee based on education, age, and skills

Variables	Why Indonesia			
	Total	Fast case, n (%)	Islamic country, n (%)	Near to Australia, n(%)
School	22	13 (59.1)	5 (22.7)	4 (18.2)
University	7	4 (57.1)	1 (14.3)	2 (28.6)
Age				
21 to 26years	10	8 (80.0)	0	2 (20.0)
27 to 32years	14	6 (42.9)	5 (35.7)	3 (21.4)

More than 32 years	5	3 (60.0)	1 (20.0)	1 (20.0)
<b>Skills</b>				
Technical	4	2 (50.0)	0	2 (50.0)
Non-technical	5	4 (80.0)	1 (20.0)	0
None	20	11 (55.0)	5 (25.0)	4 (20.0)

Table 4 outlines the reasons for migration based on respondents' education, age, and skills. A vast majority (90.9%) of respondents with a school-level education cited security issues as their primary reason for migration. Similarly, security issues were the predominant reason for migration among most respondents with a university-level education. Across all age groups, security concerns emerged as the primary motivation for migration. However, respondents with technical skills differed slightly, with financial problems being the main reason for migration. On the other hand, respondents with no technical skills and those with no skills identified security issues as their primary motivation for migration.

Table 4. Reason of migration based on education, age, and skills

Variables	Reason of migration		
	Total	Financial issue, n (%)	Security issue, n (%)
School	22	2 (9.1)	20 (90.9)
University	7	1 (14.3)	6 (85.7)
<b>Age</b>			
21 to 26 years	10	1 (10.0)	9 (90.0)
27 to 32 years	14	1 (7.1)	13 (92.9)
More than 32 years		1 (20.0)	4 (80.0)
<b>Skills</b>			
Technical	4	4 (100.0)	0
Non-technical	5	1 (20.0)	4 (80.0)
None	20	2 (10.0)	18 (90.0)

Table 5 illustrates the preferred future destination country of refugees based on their education, age, and skills. The majority of respondents, regardless of their level of education, expressed a desire to go to Canada. In summary, most respondents across all age groups, with varying skills and educational backgrounds, indicated Canada as their preferred future destination.

Table 5. Countries to stay in future based on education, age, and skills

Variables	Countries wish to go				
	Total	Canada,n (%)	America,n (%)	Australia, n (%)	Any country, n (%)
School	22	1 (4.5)	2 (9.1)	3 (13.6)	16 (72.7)
University	7	1 (14.3)	2 (28.6)	1 (14.3)	3 (42.9)
Age					
21 to 26years	10	1 (10.0)	1 (10.0)	0	8 (80.0)
27 to 32years	14	1 (7.1)	2 (14.3)	2 (14.3)	9 (64.3)
More than 32 years	5	0	1 (20.0)	2 (40.0)	2 (40.0)
Skills					
Technical	4	0	1 (25.0)	1 (25.0)	2 (50.0)
Non-technical	5	0	0	0	5 (100.0)
None	20	2 (10.0)	3 (15.0)	3 (15.0)	12 (60.0)

## 5.2. Discussion

As of September 2021, there were 13,273 individuals registered with UNHCR in Indonesia, with 73% being adults and 27% children. Among the adult population, 26% were women, and 74% were males, with the majority of refugees in Indonesia originating from Afghanistan (UNHCR, 2021). Despite not being a signatory to the 1951 UN Convention on the Status of Refugees, Indonesia has served as a transit hub for migrants escaping conflicts or wars since 1999. This is primarily due to its geographical location, bridging Asia and Australia, making it a convenient stop for migrants aiming to settle in Australia swiftly, especially via land routes (Liza, 2019). However, Indonesia has demonstrated adherence to the convention's spirit and core principles.

Refugees and asylum seekers in Indonesia face numerous challenges, including difficulties in obtaining local identification documents and birth certificates for children born to them in Indonesia. Some migrants are also at higher risk of homelessness, with families, particularly those with young children, vulnerable to living below the poverty line due to limited income sources apart from support from UNHCR or affiliated organizations. Particularly vulnerable groups include those who have experienced abuse, trauma, or physical and mental disabilities (Alamsyah, 2020).

Although there is no law in Indonesia prohibiting refugee children from attending formal education, challenges such as language barriers, skill gaps, local resentment, and lack of government regulations on refugee employment hinder refugees' efforts to secure jobs (Cifebrima, 2020). UNHCR in Indonesia operates thirteen Rudenim (Regional Office of the Ministry of Law and Human Rights) offices across the country to process refugees' status determination. These offices handle cases of incomplete documents, administrative errors, and asylum seekers, with approximately 13,515 people currently seeking asylum in Indonesia (Cifebrima, 2020).

Similar to Indonesia, Malaysia hosts refugees awaiting resettlement, albeit with restricted rights. About 2,500 asylum seekers and refugees, primarily Hazaras from Afghanistan, Pakistan, or Iran, reside in Cisarua, West Java. Here, refugees benefit from a cooler climate and lower living costs and maintain relative freedom, supported by personal funds or remittances from abroad. Unlike other areas, Cisarua hosts refugee-operated educational institutions, women's organizations, and informal support initiatives (Thomas, 2018).

However, tensions between Indonesia and Australia periodically escalate due to differences in handling asylum seekers aiming to reach Australia. Australia's Sovereign Border Policy, aimed at deterring asylum seekers from entering, has strained relations between the two nations. Incidents such as Australia turning away boats carrying asylum seekers from Indonesian waters have led to diplomatic disputes, highlighting challenges in response to asylum seekers and refugees (Sartika, 2020).

## 6. Conclusion

The migration of Afghan refugees from their homeland is driven by various factors such as financial hardships, security concerns, and political instability. These challenges, coupled with limited opportunities and socio-political unrest in Afghanistan, push individuals to seek better prospects elsewhere. However, upon arriving in Sidoarjo, Indonesia, Afghan refugees face additional hurdles due to their refugee status and the lack of adequate support from organizations like UNHCR and the Indonesian government.

Both internal and external factors contribute to the plight of Afghan refugees in Sidoarjo. Internally, their socioeconomic status, educational background, and psychological well-being impact their ability to adapt and thrive. Externally, support from UNHCR, local integration efforts, and the global political climate play crucial roles. Despite their resilience, many Afghan refugees struggle to meet basic needs and access essential services due to limited resources and employment opportunities. Addressing the challenges faced by Afghan refugees requires immediate action and comprehensive support from international organizations and local governments. This includes

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recognition of their refugee status, provision of adequate shelter, healthcare, and education, as well as efforts to facilitate their integration into local communities. Additionally, addressing root causes in Afghanistan and preventing further displacement is essential.

In terms of research limitations and future directions, exploring specific themes within the Afghan immigrant community in Sidoarjo could provide deeper insights. Topics such as education, employment, healthcare access, and cultural preservation warrant further investigation to better understand and address the diverse needs of Afghan refugees. However, it's important to acknowledge potential limitations in sample size and diversity, as a small or homogenous sample may not accurately represent the entire Afghan immigrant population in Sidoarjo. Future research should strive for larger, more diverse samples to ensure comprehensive and representative findings.

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