



Internally Displaced Persons: Rights, Implementation, and the Way Forward in Pakistan

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ABSTRACT

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Pakistan currently has one of the highest numbers of internally displaced persons in its territory. There are many reasons why more and more people are being displaced each year. This paper will discuss in detail the condition of those IDPs who attained such character because of violence or war. It further goes on to describe the legal framework for IDPs. Apart from UN Guiding Principles and constitutional guarantees, there is no specific law that deals with IDPs. The Study suggested that the authorities should provide them with all their basic needs and work tirelessly to make their return to their homelands possible. Furthermore, the paper will analyze the challenges faced by IDPs in accessing education and employment opportunities, which further hinder their ability to rebuild their lives. Additionally, it will explore the importance of international cooperation and humanitarian aid in addressing the needs of IDPs and finding durable solutions for their displacement.

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1. Background of the Study

In the last four decades, Pakistan has seen a huge influx of displaced people. Starting with the Afghan War in 1979, Pakistan received hundreds of thousands of Afghan refugees inside its borders. Its humanitarian policies and, due to being one Muslim nation, Pakistan accepted them with open arms and provided them with shelter, food, clothing, and all other basic needs. But they were refugees and had their rights under the Refugee Convention of 1951. Due to a single background, the Pashtuns of the then NWFP (now Khyber Pakhtunkhwa) considered the refugees their brothers. This huge influx has brought problems to Pakistan. A huge number of people had to be relocated with minimal resources, which had its drawbacks. Pakistan was promised support by the Soviet Union's rivals, but the support was only temporary, and Pakistan was left on its own after some time. In addition to that, America decided to attack Afghanistan after the 9/11 attacks. While Pakistan supported the USA's decision, it did not result in any positives for Pakistan. Pakistan, on the one hand, provided America with bases, ports, and strategic help, including intelligence, while on the other hand, it deployed a large number of forces in the border regions to stop the infiltration of terrorists. While the latter was never considered a negative step, the former step was thought of as Pakistan selling itself and its Afghan brothers to America in exchange for dollars. Pakistan had to suffer more than it got as a reward for its

efforts (Hussain, 2005). Joining someone else's war brought the doom to Pakistan. It also resulted in the emergence of the Pakistani faction of Tehreek-i-Talban. It was initially developed to counter the attacks by the American army and also attack its biggest ally, the Pakistani army. Americans, after more than 20 years, could not get what they wanted and had to leave Afghanistan with the Taliban back in power in the country. Americans left, but Tehreek-i-Taliban Pakistan emerged as a strong group, with its base in erstwhile FATA and the Malakand Division.

1.1. Beginning of the War on Terror in Pakistan

Pakistan initiated military operations in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa in the early 2000s. It was advised to the population living in the high-intensity areas where the military was to take action. Moreover, Pakistan initiated a military operation in the previous federally administered tribal areas (now merged into KPK), which is still in progress. Furthermore, drone attacks by America in the territory of Pakistan were not always precise in their direction and placement. It resulted in the deaths of several innocents, which increased fear among the masses about their safety and privacy. This ultimately slowed, or rather resulted in, the closure of economic markets in the regions, especially FATA and Malakand.

The first such operation was Al-Mizan, which comprised several smaller operations between 2002 and 2006 in South Waziristan. Pakistan announced its victory and stated that it was now free from militants. But this victory did not last long as the militants became scattered and started regrouping in other areas, the provincially administered tribal areas of Swat, Upper and Lower Dir, and Bannu. Pakistan has conducted numerous other operations as of now, such as Operation Zalzal, Rah-e-Haq, Rah-e-Nijat, Rah-e-Raast, etc. (Khan, 2011). Pakistan has, on several occasions, claimed victory over the Taliban, but it is not something factual. The Taliban are attacking Pakistani forces even now.

On one hand, these operations could not end the Taliban and their militants, and on the other hand, they increased Pakistan's economic and social woes as well with the increase of internally displaced persons. Millions of people from FATA, especially border areas, and Swat, due to violence and military operations, left their beloved homelands and settled in other areas of the province. While the majority of them settled in KPK, some of them went to the other three provinces.

According to some, more than 3 million people migrated from their homes due to terror and the war on terror, even before 2010 (Wang, Bryan, Oh, & Hamilton, 2009). Pakistan was already a cash-strapped country requiring foreign assistance to mitigate the losses of war itself and to keep fighting against the insurgents; this mammoth migration further increased the agony. More than 550,000 people had already been registered as IDPs by the end of April 2009. The intensity of the fighting between militants and the military had forced 250,000 people out of Bajaur Agency and 180,000 people out of Mohmand Agency, and they migrated to Lower Dir and Nowshera, to name a few. The military operation in Swat led to a further migration of around 2.5 million people, who then settled in different areas of the province. They were not only men; rather, women and children also had to suffer horribly. According to an estimate, there were more than 69000 pregnant women who were displaced during these operations. The conditions were not good for them, as they lacked basic supplies of food and health products. Maintaining hygiene in the camps was another challenge for the migrants, which led to worsening health conditions in the area.

Swat was cleared from enemies after the operations at the beginning of the last decade, and the number of IDPs in Pakistan due to violence started decreasing. Those who were forced to move from Swat were then relocated to their original hometowns after the war. Not all of them could be relocated. In recent months, the Taliban have again gained momentum and are getting stronger by the day with an increased show of force and presence in the Swat region. Those who moved from different areas of FATA are yet to be sent back to their homelands, as the war is still in place and the fight between the Taliban and Pakistani forces is increasing by the day. The influx of millions of Afghans, coupled with the millions of internally displaced persons, has left Pakistan in a very precarious situation, as it is unable to make ends meet its own people's needs, let alone help international refugees and locally displaced persons.

This huge influx in Pakistan has caused lawlessness in the regions, which have a huge number of migrants. It is not because of the character of the migrants; rather, it is because of the situation that they are kept in. They lost their lands, jobs, businesses, flock, and all other valuables in the war and are now being settled in tents and are rarely provided food and health. This puts the migrants in an unwarranted position in which they are unable to earn properly and feed their wives. It has already been proven that unemployment and a lack of food and health for the family are catalysts for criminal behaviour. What do they do if they do not steal? Do they let their children die?

1.2. Who is an IDP?

The number of internally displaced persons has been on the rise ever since the First World War. When the data was first collected in 1982, there were only 1.2 million IDPs. By 1995, the number had increased to 20–25 million, twice that of refugees. In 2021, the number had soared to 59.1 million, out of which 38 million were displaced in only 2021 (UNDP, 2022). The number has been increasing every year. Every year, a lot of previously displaced persons re-settle in their areas, but more than them are being displaced. A huge increase in the total IDP population over the years has made it important for the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and the United Nations to adopt strategies to safeguard the rights of IDPs and prevent them from being forcefully displaced for an unnecessarily long period.

An internally displaced person, or IDP, may be defined as a person who had to leave their hometown or their place of residence against their will. There may be several situations for this forceful exit (UN Guiding Principles). Some of these reasons are climate change, violence, or armed conflicts. Their status remains that of internally displaced persons, as they have not crossed the border of an internationally recognised state (McNamara, 1998).

Another definition of IDPs is that they are persons who have been forcefully removed from their normal place of residence through persecution, violence, or massive violations of human rights, but they do not enjoy protections under international refugee law because they have not crossed an international border (UNHCR, 2000). A problematic situation arises with this definition as it does not involve those displaced due to climate activities or developmental purposes, but their rights could also have been violated during their displacement, settlement in new regions, or re-settlement in their hometowns (Cohen, 2004).

The definition of IDPs suggests that they are at a disadvantage compared to Internationally Displaced Persons, or, in other words, refugees. International Refugee Law provides for the rights and privileges of those who had to leave their hometowns for their security and, as a result, crossed the border and entered another state. Internally displaced persons did not fall under the refugee laws and had no protection previously, according to international law. Furthermore, there is no international treaty that specifically deals with the rights and protection of those who did not cross the border.

2. Literature Review

It has been found that it is not only violence that causes the internal displacement of masses. Natural and man-made disasters are equally to blame for the phenomenon. Large-scale developmental projects and economic hardships may also lead to displacement (Robinson, 2003).

The plight of IDPs must become a focus of the international community (Kälin, 2005). They are vulnerable in a lot of ways. For example, they may be sick, wounded, elderly, children, or women who could not become refugees and instead settled in other regions of their state. It is essentially important to provide them with rights, specifically when it is the state that is persecuting its masses.

Khan states that the military has used heavy weaponry, which has resulted in extreme collateral damage to Pakistan. Innocents have been killed, educational institutes destroyed, livelihoods ended, and resultant displacement has become a massive challenge for Pakistan (Khan, 2011).

Past research has found that the lack of a legal framework for IDPs has resulted in increased difficulty for them, as they are not able to fight for their rights as IDPs in any court of law. Furthermore, Pakistan also lacks a proper disaster management system; therefore, many of the IDPs are not even registered (Din, 2010).

Internal displacement due to violence can have a hugely negative impact on health. IDPs are found to be more vulnerable to negative health impacts than any other conflict-affected group (Cantor et al., 2021). Medical assistance must be provided to the IDPs so that their mortality rate can be reduced and they may perform their tasks properly.

It has been found that a lack of national policy for IDPs has resulted in their poor socio-economic condition. Additionally, they are unsecured as of now, with the fear of discrimination and persecution still looming over their heads (Yadav).

3. Root Causes

Being an IDP is a frightening experience that no one desires for themselves. It is because IDPs have to face a lot of difficulties. Their rights are violated, their homes or hometowns are sometimes destroyed, and they become economically and socially poor due to unwanted circumstances. Even though no one wants to become one, there are several reasons why people become IDPs:

3.1. Violence

One of the main reasons for becoming an IDP is violence or terrorism. Armed conflicts and violence have disturbed the lives of a huge number of people and displaced millions of them (Fielden, 2008).

Sometimes the masses have no option other than to flee their homes to protect themselves or their families from violence or war. They seek shelter somewhere else and are often discriminated against. Violence does not end here; rather, it begins a new cycle of it. There are no guarantees that the new place that they move to will be any better than the one they left. They are at risk of being attacked, killed, persecuted, or otherwise not having their necessities fulfilled.

Not only violence, but the means to curb violence may also result in the displacement of the masses. For example, there is a place where the terrorists are known to regroup or plan their activities and then move to the regions where they are to attack. An armed operation in that specific place will lead to war in that place. As a result, the area will become prone to fighting and terror attacks; therefore, people will have to dislocate themselves from that region.

3.2. Persecution

Persecution is one of the main reasons why people are forced to leave their hometowns. They may be persecuted for their ethnicity, religion, caste, etc. For example, Shias are forced to leave their hometowns, which are Sunni-dominated. The colour of their skin may also become a reason why people are discriminated against and forced to leave their homes. This targeted violence by a community or race may have catastrophic effects on both the development of that area and the safeguarding and protection of those who were forced to leave. Even after leaving their homes, they are at a greater risk of being persecuted and are the most vulnerable group, desperately in need of assistance (Deng, 2007).

For instance, in Rwanda, during the genocide in 1994, the Tutsi ethnic group was targeted and systematically killed by the majority Hutu population. Many Tutsis were forced to flee their homes and seek refuge in neighboring countries, resulting in a massive

displacement crisis. The violence not only shattered the social fabric of the country but also hindered its development as a whole. The Tutsis who managed to escape faced ongoing discrimination and were left extremely vulnerable, requiring urgent assistance from humanitarian organizations

3.3. Economic Conditions

The financial condition of a person may also force him to move elsewhere for better jobs or business opportunities. This is important mainly for rural areas where the economic variables are not so positive. People may also move to bigger cities for better opportunities, and it may not work for them. People who are forced to leave because of their economic conditions are not considered internally displaced persons concerning laws and international obligations.

For example, in a war-torn country, a marginalized ethnic minority may face discrimination and persecution, leading them to flee their homes and seek refuge in neighboring countries. These individuals are left extremely vulnerable, lacking basic necessities and requiring urgent assistance from humanitarian organizations to survive and rebuild their lives. However, even if they manage to escape their country and reach a neighboring one, they may still face challenges in finding better opportunities. The host country might not have the resources or infrastructure to support a large influx of refugees, leaving them with limited access to education, healthcare, and employment opportunities. This can further perpetuate their vulnerability and hinder their chances of rebuilding their lives.

3.4. Development

As surprising as it may sound, the development in a region may also force its residents to leave their homes. It is more prevalent in developing or least-developed nations where the violation of public and human rights is not given enough importance and the law is not given due regard. The governments may use their power to forcefully evict people from their homes for developmental purposes without providing the people with adequate resources and compensation to move elsewhere. For example, in a developing nation, a government may decide to build a new highway through a rural community. As a result, the residents are forcibly evicted from their homes without proper compensation or alternative housing options. This further perpetuates their vulnerability as they are left homeless and without the means to rebuild their lives.

3.5. Mixed Reasons

Some of these reasons may jointly occur in a single place, which makes the displacement more likely and increases the number of people moving out. For example, there may be a region with a war on terror and people moving out of that place. This war on terror will certainly slow down the economic activity of the region and result in the loss of jobs and the closure of businesses. While people were previously moving out due to violence, others will start moving out now due to financial reasons.

Conclusively, there may be one or more reasons for becoming an IDP, including violence, economic disparity, war, persecution, etc. IDPs, especially those who became them due to war or violence, are threatened at every step of the way. In cases of war on terror, IDPs are sometimes moved to government-provided residences, generally tents, and are provided food, clothing, and other basic amenities at the hands of the government.

4. Legal Framework

The huge number of IDPs in the country, including those who became victims of natural disasters, has forced the government to adopt several different laws and regulations that apply to the IDPs. They must be provided with all the rights mentioned in these legal documents. In addition to that, they shall be given special priority as they have suffered more than others.

The legal framework for IDPs is divided into three different sections: international law, the constitution, and local or special laws and policies.

4.1. International Law

Unfortunately, there is no specific treaty or binding international law that deals with only the rights and privileges of internally displaced persons (Koch, 2020). Those who cross borders are protected under international law, but those who remain in their own country are sometimes left vulnerable to further injury and violation of rights. It can be considered inequality that only those who cross a border are protected through asylum and refugee status, and those who had to leave their homes because of their oppressive state are left behind at the mercy of their states (Schimmel, 2022). Although IDPs are protected under the International Humanitarian Law, it only includes those who have become so because of violence or war. It does not include those who became IDPs due to climate change or natural disasters. Therefore, the IHL leaves out millions of those IDPs who hold such identities because of earthquakes and floods, leaving a huge gap in the law. But for this study, we will discuss the legal framework for IDPs affected by violence.

One of the biggest tragedies of international law is that it does not provide special rights to IDPs; rather, a majority of the rights are granted because they are humans, not because they are IDPs. All rights accorded to IDPs are those that are accorded to all other human beings. This can be seen from the UN Guidelines on IDPs, which state that these guidelines are based on the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Some guiding principles are similar to those of other United Nations Conventions, especially those mentioned in the Geneva Conventions, the UDHR, and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights. These rights state that those who are displaced shall not be discriminated against, protected from further violence, and given equal opportunity and equal protection before the law. Other rights include protection from murder, persecution, and genocide. Protection of the life and property of displaced persons is given paramount importance in the guiding principles. The main issue with these principles is that they do not have any special importance for internally displaced persons, as these rights are already accorded to them by virtue of their being human beings. There is a serious question mark on the implementation of these available rights, and this will be discussed in the way forward chapter.

There are only a few principles that provide special rights to IDPs. One of them is principle 19, which states that the authorities shall provide IDPs with necessary documents so that their rights may be protected and they may use their identity for their benefit. This principle also requires the authorities to provide IDPs with documents that were lost in the course of displacement without imposing any unreasonable conditions, such as returning to their hometown to get these documents. Other principles specifically enacted for the IDPs are related to their return and resettlement. These principles state that the authorities shall make sure of the timely return of IDPs. IDPs shall be effectively made part of discussions and plans that involve their return. Furthermore, if they are to resettle in other places or the place in which they went after displacement, the authorities are required to assist and facilitate their resettlement. The authorities are mainly required to establish the conditions of their return and provide them with the means of returning.

These rights are made for the betterment of IDPs, but they do not have binding value over member states in the same way a treaty or a convention creates obligations. Furthermore, they are vague principles and do not demand from the authorities any specific conduct in their dealings with internally displaced persons. All the specific tasks required of a government under these conditions are the same that are provided in other conventions and treaties. So what is new in these guidelines that would help the IDPs in these difficult times? What if it is the government that is persecuting or discriminating against its displaced persons? Yes, they could be held accountable for being against treaties and conventions, but they cannot be held accountable under any law specifically made for the displaced.

4.2. Constitution

Similar to international law, the constitution of the country also does not provide any specific relief to internally displaced persons. The constitution, similar to the UDHR,

provides fundamental rights to its citizens, irrespective of whether they are IDPs or not. The constitution provides for the right to life, information, equality, freedom, speech, etc., which are provided to other citizens as well. In this section, we will discuss the right to education in detail. Article 25(A) (Senate, 1973) requires the state to provide free education, which shall be compulsory for all children between the ages of 5 and 16. The state, ever since this clause was incorporated into the constitution, has failed to live up to the word of the law and the expectations of the public. Pakistan has failed to end child labour and has not been able to provide free education to its children. In other words, the state, although it has made free public schools, has failed to implement the word of the constitution. The country has failed to provide education to the masses living in their homes; how can it be expected to provide education to the displaced children? It is the duty of the state, under the constitution, to take care of the educational needs of the displaced persons. The cash-strapped country has continuously failed for the last two decades to provide IDPs with a satisfactory standard of living. Even after more than a decade, IDPs are still living in tents and not getting enough food. In these perilous times, who is to take care of the educational needs of IDPs?

The right to education is different from other rights in a way that it affects future generations more than some other non-essential rights such as the right to information, movement, or speech. The effects of these rights, even after they have been violated for a decade, can be reversed. They have negative implications generally for the person whose rights are being violated, with no effect on future generations. On the other hand, lack of education does not only affect the person not getting such education. The lack of education will result in fewer opportunities for jobs and ultimately reduce one's chances of growth. This will worsen their chances of becoming economically sound even when the war is over and they have returned to their hometowns. This will impact future generations, if any, and this might become a cycle: children not getting an education, fewer chances of economic growth, grandchildren not getting an education, and the cycle may continue.

Commonly, violence erupts due to a difference in religion. One group follows one religion and does not accept anyone following a different religion, and as a result, clashes erupt. The right to practise a religion or sect of one's own choice is also allowed under the Constitution. IDPs must be allowed to follow their religion freely without any fear. Even when people are displaced, they are more likely to be discriminated against based on their religion, as it might be different from the religion of people who live in those areas. Displacement makes it difficult for the masses to profess their religion or enjoy their tradition. It affects people negatively in two ways: firstly, it results in individual agitation and the loss of a comfort zone, and secondly, it might result in the end of culture or religion itself, which violates international conventions and social norms around the world.

4.3. Other Laws and Policies

As the IDPs remain in their states and do not cross any sovereign border, international law is not much of a help for them. Rather, it is the duty of the state itself to provide for the protection of its displaced personnel. Even though Pakistan has one of the biggest displaced populations in the world, it has failed to materialize any national or previous legislation, specifically for IDPs (Khan, 2015). Pakistan is holding millions of Afghan refugees; in addition to millions of its displaced persons, it is still ill-equipped after decades to deal with the matter and incorporate the UN guidelines into its national legislation.

Pakistan has faced a lot of difficulties in maintaining the IDPs and stopping the violation of their fundamental rights. In addition to that, no special measures have been taken for their betterment or their return to their hometowns. The prolonged war has had a huge impact on the lives of IDPs, as they still face difficulties after several years. In this situation of difficulty, it is surprising that Pakistan has yet to formalise a statewide law for its IDPs.

The issue of lack of a national-level law is a major concern for internally displaced persons (IDPs) in Pakistan. Due to the absence of such a law, IDPs remain in a state of constant fear that their rights might be infringed upon. Moreover, in cases of any violations

against them, IDPs are unable to invoke their rights under the UN guiding principles, as there is no specific law to back their claims at the national level.

As a result, the only way for IDPs to challenge any violations against them is by invoking the laws that are granted under the constitution or other laws available to the general public as well. However, if they are not allowed to return to their homelands without any probable cause, they cannot invoke any law, as it is only a moral code for Pakistan to send them back as soon as possible and not an obligation.

Therefore, it is imperative to have a national-level law that specifically addresses the concerns of IDPs in Pakistan. This would not only provide them with a legal framework to protect their rights but also ensure that they are treated fairly and justly under the law.

5. Health condition of IDPs

When millions of people leave one place and move to another without any prior, adequate arrangements for them, mismanagement is bound to take place. One of the biggest challenges that the IDPs are facing is the availability of shelter. Many people are living in overcrowded shelters, and some are even living without a shelter in the first place. The overcrowding camps lack the basic needs of the people, such as adequate food, water, and sanitation. Because of the deteriorating quality of food and water, people are getting all sorts of related diseases. In addition to this, the lack of adequate sanitation has resulted in the rise of pollution, which brings diseases with it.

Because of these reasons, IDPs are more susceptible to diseases. Furthermore, airborne diseases are more likely to impact IDPs living in unsafe, overcrowded camps than any other group of people. With COVID-19 at its peak, it was this population that suffered the most. They are more vulnerable to contracting diseases while living in tents (Orendain & Djalante, 2021). Already with no money and no jobs, IDPs had nothing saved up, so they could not even afford food and water. They suffered due to the absence of governmental support because of a lack of resources.

Moreover, many people living in different parts of the country are unable to get access to basic healthcare facilities, and the high cost of hospitalisation and medication is putting salt in the wounds. In a case where the general population is not getting healthcare benefits, IDPs are unlikely to get any medical attention from the authorities.

The increase in diseases, lack of adequate food and water, and absence of doctors and medicines, coupled with the worsening sanitation situation, have impacted the lives of IDPs negatively. Workers are unable to perform their tasks due to sickness, children are unable to study because of it, and people dying quickly are some of the issues that the IDPs are currently dealing with.

The international community has provided Pakistan with the financial resources to provide medical assistance to IDPs. Additionally, it has also provided medical assistance and medicines by establishing healthcare centres in IDP camps to bring them out of this misery and help them in their daily functioning.

6. Challenges and the Way Forward

As has been discussed before, there are numerous problems faced by IDPs daily. Even after several years, IDPs are facing the same problems that were present in the beginning. Some of the challenges faced by IDPs and their solutions are as follows:

6.1. Lack of Documentary Evidence

As per the UN guidelines, it is required of the authorities to provide IDPs with all the necessary documents they need for verification and enjoy all their constitutionally mandated rights. They had to leave their hometowns in haste and could not get all their registered documents. Due to a lack of interest by the government, many people are not even considered IDPs to this date, despite fulfilling all the criteria. Moreover, the non-

availability of documents at the time of return makes it difficult for the owners to prove their ownership, and it provides the best available opportunity for land grabbers.

6.2. Lack of Adequate Resources

There is a lack of adequate resources for IDPs. Be it food, water, or jobs, IDPs are struggling at every front. The government shall, on an immediate basis, provide the IDPs with good-quality food, water, and healthcare assistance. Additionally, they shall be provided with quality education, as their future depends on it. Furthermore, they shall be given equal opportunities concerning jobs so that they may prosper and become valuable members of society. The lack of adequate resources for IDPs exacerbates their already difficult situation. Without access to basic necessities such as food, water, and healthcare assistance, IDPs are left to fend for themselves in dire conditions. Immediate action must be taken by the government to ensure that these essential needs are met. Moreover, providing quality education and equal job opportunities is crucial for the IDPs to rebuild their lives and contribute positively to society. Only then can they have a chance at a better future and break free from the cycle of displacement and vulnerability.

6.3. The Prolonging of Wars

A long-term war results in even greater difficulties for both IDPs and the government alike. Maintaining the writ of the state is essential to bringing peace and prosperity to a region. The government needs to act quickly and swiftly to end this war on terror so that people may return to their hometowns and begin their normal routines. The return of IDPs, in addition to prolonged peace, will result in an economic boom in the area. Therefore, the government will have to spend less on emergency relief, and people will finally be able to stand on their own two feet. This will also help the IDPs, as they can enjoy all their rights without any discrimination or fear. Additionally, a stable state provides a secure environment for businesses to flourish, attracting investments and creating job opportunities. With the return of IDPs, the government can focus on rebuilding infrastructure, improving healthcare and education facilities, and implementing long-term development plans. As a result, the region will experience increased productivity and a higher standard of living for its residents. Ultimately, a strong state is crucial for fostering social cohesion, ensuring equal access to resources, and promoting a sense of unity among its citizens.

7. Conclusion

IDPs are currently fighting a war on every side. They must return to their hometowns. Surprisingly, instead of the situation getting better, it is actually getting worse these last few months. Terrorists are now gaining momentum, especially in Waziristan and FATA. If they are allowed to cause unrest among the masses and maintain a stronghold, it will further aggravate the IDP situation in Pakistan. The country needs to address these issues at the earliest to prevent another mass migration and violation of fundamental rights on a larger scale. In addition, the government should prioritize the rehabilitation and reintegration of IDPs into their hometowns, providing them with necessary support and resources to rebuild their lives. Additionally, international cooperation and assistance are crucial in addressing the root causes of terrorism and instability in these regions to ensure a sustainable solution for the IDP crisis in Pakistan.

Author contribution

Khurram Baig: introduction section, and original draft

Muhammad Shahid: Complete the Initial draft preparation and incorporate the comments.

Rehman Akhtar: Justification of objectives, incorporate the comments and finalize the paper.

Jibran Jamshed: Proofread and comments incorporation.

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