



**Report on the paper presentation**  
**On**  
**Reducing Educational Inequalities in India: Options for Rohingya Refugee Integration**

**By Mushtaq Ahmed Shaikh, MMIAS Junior Researcher**  
**27 December 2022**

The Mumbai Münster Institute of Advanced Studies (MMIAS), University of Mumbai, had organised a paper presentation by MMIAS Junior Researcher Mushtaq Ahmed Shaikh on *Reducing Educational Inequalities in India: Options for Rohingya Refugee Integration* on 27<sup>th</sup> December 2022. The presentation was conducted in a hybrid format wherein the speaker and the MMIAS team along with a few invitees were present at the MMIAS, in University of Mumbai's Kalina campus. The Chairperson and other invitees joined the event online. Professor Janet Wilson, Professor Emerita, University of Northampton, UK, chaired the session.

Professor Nilufer E. Bharucha, Co-Director of the MMIAS, welcomed the speakers and participants. Professor Bharucha then introduced Professor Janet Wilson before handing over the proceedings to her.



**Professor Nilufer E. Bharucha, Co-Director, MMIAS**

Professor Janet Wilson welcomed all and introduced Mushtaq Shaikh and requested him to proceed with his presentation.



**Professor Janet Wilson, Professor Emerita, University of Northampton, UK**

Mushtaq's paper focused on the Rohingyas' basic rights to education and their integration in India using pedagogic interventions. He began by addressing their history of being rendered homeless in Myanmar. He spoke about how different groups of Rohingya refugees arrived in different parts of India. At present, the Rohingya families are surviving on the support offered by the UNHCR and assistance from volunteer and other communities in the host country .



**Mushtaq Ahmed Shaikh, MMIAS Junior Researcher**

The speaker then went on to give a brief history of the Rohingyas. He spoke about the historical conflict between the Buddhists and Rohingyas. He mentioned how it aggravated after independence.

The new citizenship law in Myanmar displaced Rohingyas and they are now the largest stateless communities in the world.

Several refugees moved to India in search of economic opportunities, security, dignity, safety, a hope to be accepted in India. Most importantly though they also look at accessing better health and education in the country.

Mushtaq later went on to expound on how the Rohingyas are facing a problem accessing basic education due to the country's perception of them and exclusion from the mainstream services.

Per the author, education will enable Rohingyas to better integrate with the host country, in this case, India. The author has suggested pedagogy inspired alternative routes for educational equality and integration.

In his paper presentation, Mushtaq shared how India has always been a haven for refugees from different parts of the world and also discussed how the refugees have been integrating in the country. He shared that India has a unique history of accommodating and hosting refugees instead of the country not being a party to the 1951 Refugee Convention or its 1967 Protocol.

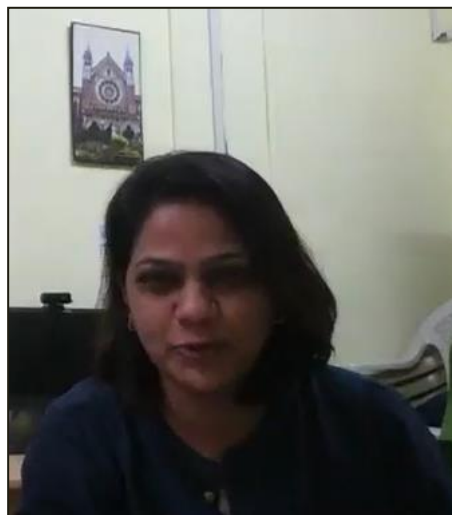
Further, Mushtaq highlighted the important roles of local host community, voluntary and non-profit sector, faith based organizations in assisting the Rohingya community in India. In his paper, he shared that these sectors hold unique and transformative power in uplifting the marginalized refugee community and enabling them to function with autonomy. He later shared the important role of mindful, context driven, non-

traditional pedagogic interventions that could immensely support the community in India.

Mushtaq concluded his presentation by stating that it was an attempt to understand the structural barriers that Rohingyas face due to their history, ethnicity, and statelessness and how it subsequently affected their educational aspirations. The author hopes that if innovative pedagogic interventions were adopted in the Indian education system and most importantly in the local host community, it would significantly mitigate educational inequalities and would lead to a fruitful dialogue between the host and Rohingyas.

The paper presentation was followed by remarks by the Chairperson and a Q n A session. The audience conveyed that the presentation was food for thought for future research.

Ms. Kirti Risbud, MMIAS Research Associate, offered the vote of thanks. The presentation ended with snacks served to participants at the MMIAS centre.



Ms. Kirti Risbud, MMIAS Research Associate

**Date: 27 December 2022**

**Place: Mumbai**

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