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Social and Economic Impacts of Voilent Conflict

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ABSTRACT

Previously conflict is referred to clash between similar parties, but actually it could also arise between dissimilar parties. There are various impacts of conflicts on social life as well as economy of individual and country. In present paper it is reviews of impact of the socio-economic conditions of households which are displaced or refugees in various areas of the world are highlighted and impact of violent conflict on human development is also discussed.

KEYWORDS:

2. Introduction

Conflict is an intrinsic and inevitable aspect of social change. It is an expression of the heterogeneity of interests, values and beliefs that arise as new formations generated by social change come up against inherited constraints. But the way we deal with conflict is a matter of habit and choice. It is possible to change habitual responses and exercise intelligent choices.

So far we have been considering conflicts of interest between relatively similar parties. These are examples of symmetric conflicts. Conflict may also arise between dissimilar parties such as between a majority and a minority, an established government and a group of rebels, a master and his servant, an employer and her employees, a publisher and his authors. These are asymmetric conflicts. Here the root of the conflict lies not in particular issues or interests that may divide the parties, but in the very structure of who they are and the relationship between them. It may be that this structure of roles and relationships cannot be changed without conflict. By conflict we mean the pursuit of incompatible goals by different groups. This suggests a broader span of time and a wider class of struggle than armed conflict. We intend our usage here to apply to any political conflict whether it is pursued by peaceful means or by the use of force. (Some theorists have distinguished between disputes about negotiable interests that can be settled by compromise, and more deep-seated conflicts that involve human needs and can only be resolved by removing underlying causes.)

Armed conflict is a narrower category denoting conflicts where parties on both sides resort to the use of force. It is notoriously difficult to define, since it can encompass a continuum of situations ranging from a military over flight or an attack on a civilian by a single soldier to an all-out war with massive casualties. The research community has identified a number of thresholds and rules for deciding what to count.

Violent conflict or deadly conflict is similar to armed conflict, but also includes one-sided violence such as genocides against unarmed civilians. We mean direct, physical violence. We acknowledge the strong argument in peace research for broadening the concept of violence to include exploitative social relations that cause unnecessary suffering, but prefer to use the now well-known term 'structural violence' for this.

By contemporary conflict we refer to the prevailing pattern of political and violent conflicts in the post-cold war world, and by contemporary armed conflicts, only those that involve the use of force.

3. Impact on Socio-economic conditions

The forced displacement of people from their homes has always been associated with armed conflicts. In recent years, however, forced displacement has moved from being a by-product of armed conflict to becoming a key component in the logic of modern war. Before coming to the displaced camps, some of the male head of the households have been killed by the armed militants in their native places, some have disappeared, while some of them migrated to other towns and cities to eke out a livelihood, thus, shifting the burden of head of the households on the female member of the households. More than 96% of the households belong to the category of below poverty line (BPL). The above poverty line (APL) households are those displaced households, which have a member serving in government or non-government sector and earning comparatively higher income. Majority of the households belonging to BPL category do not possess BPL card and are thus not getting subsidized ration from public distribution system (PDS). The displaced are god fearing and fatalist and all of them reported prevalence of social and cultural practices and superstitions in their households, which is due to lack of education and awareness. The older members of households are more orthodox and religious. The displacement and camp situation has not weakened the traditional institutions, rather strengthen them. As such, they possess traditional attitudes and beliefs regarding life, children and institutions governing social moorings. Marriage before the age of 18 is a reality for many young girls living in the camps. In displaced situations, parents encourage the marriage of their daughters while they are still children in hopes that the marriage will benefit them both financially and socially, while also relieving financial burdens on the family. In actuality, child marriage is a violation of human rights, compromising the development of girls and often resulting in early pregnancy and social isolation, with little education and poor vocational training reinforcing the gendered nature of poverty. Boys are also affected by child marriage but the issue impacts girls in far larger numbers and with more intensity. (Sudan 2010)

3.1. Women Refugee

Gender inequities affect women and girls when they flee to refugee camps in neighbouring countries. Young, unaccompanied females are among the most vulnerable, as well as women from minority ethnic groups. There is plenty of evidence that women and girls are often subjected to sexual and other types of GBV in refugee camps, sometimes by security personnel, camp officials, or aid workers. In some instances, the design of camps adds to women's and girls' discomforts and insecurities. For instance, communal housing offers no privacy for women, while lone women and girls housed in marked tents may become easy targets of sexual abuse. The fact that women and girls in many African societies are responsible for fetching water and fuel, usually at a distance from their tents or even outside the camps, has sometimes left them exposed to sexual and physical attacks.

Most displaced women have little or no access to proper health care. The lack of healthcare facilities affects refugee populations in general, given the basic conditions and resources in refugee camps. However, women and girls are at a greater disadvantage because their reproductive healthcare needs increase during emergencies, given their roles and vulnerability to GBV. Education, training, and income-generation opportunities for women in refugee camps are also limited. Access to education in such conditions is generally limited, with women and girls often left out owing to traditional practices and gender discrimination. Finding employment or any other means of income generation is often harder for women. Lone females, women heads of household, and women with young children or other relatives to look after are particularly disadvantaged, since they have to support themselves and their families in very difficult circumstances.

When they find paid work, in or outside the camp, it is often menial, insecure, and badly remunerated.

4. The impact of violent conflict on human development

4.1 Human costs

Generally speaking, armed conflict reduces a country's human capital in numbers and in skills. In many recent conflicts civilians have been deliberately targeted by armed groups, either to achieve certain strategic or political objectives – such as the creation of an ethnically homogeneous territory – or to deny safe havens to rival combatants; in other instances the aim may be simply to loot civilian homes and other assets. Civilians have also fallen victim to the increasingly indiscriminate use of weapons such as landmines. In Nepal, for instance, landmines killed 415 people between 2004 and 2006, 57 percent of them children (ICBL 2006). In Afghanistan, landmines and unexploded ordnance killed between 150 and 300 people per month in 2000, half of them children (Economist 2002).

4.2 Health costs

Contemporary armed conflicts also often result in large numbers of indirect deaths due to famine, disease and lack of health services. According to the Human Security Centre, war-exacerbated disease and malnutrition kill far more people than missiles, bombs and bullets. Famine results from a combination of food shortage due to war and the drastic reconfiguration of entitlements as food prices rise and people lose their jobs or other sources of incomes. Ethiopia in the early 1980s is an example of such a deadly combination.

4.3 The Economic Costs

Conflict almost always affects the rate of a country's economic growth as a result of its negative impacts on physical and human capital, as well as by disrupting markets and reducing trust. But economic changes can often go far beyond this, when conflicts transform economies and bring about a switch to informal, and sometimes even illegal, activities.

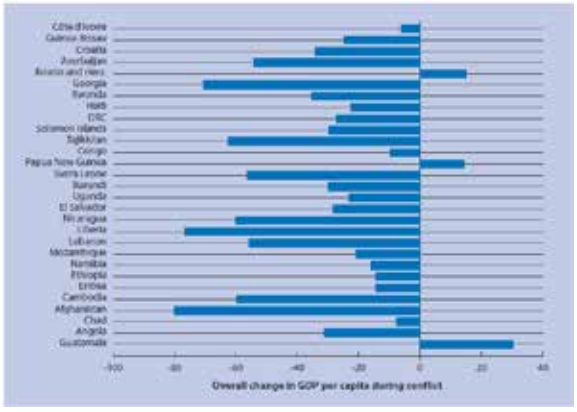
4.4 Damage to physical capital and assets

The destruction of infrastructure is often one of the most visible aspects of the cost of armed conflict. The warring parties often target ports, telecommunication and electricity infrastructure, and other economically important physical facilities in order to gain a strategic advantage. Also contributing to the deterioration of physical capital is the lack of spending on maintenance by the government during conflict. This is often the result not only of continuing insecurity, but also of the overall decline in government revenues, an increasing share of which is diverted to military spending. The loss of physical capital can be quite substantial. As noted by the country assessment for Mozambique, during its civil war about 40 percent of immobile capital in the agriculture, communications and administrative sectors was destroyed. Some two thirds of Timor-Leste's infrastructure was destroyed in the mayhem that followed the 1999 referendum on its independence from Indonesia. The damage to physical capital, in turn, imposes serious hardships on civilian populations through the loss of safe drinking water, sanitation and power systems. Large land areas are also frequently rendered inaccessible by landmines and other unexploded ordinance (UXO). In 2001, Cambodia had more landmines and UXOs than any other country in the world, with 6,422 villages – 46 percent of the total – contaminated (Collier 2003). Clearly, UXO not only poses substantial danger to life, it also severely hampers the prospects of post-conflict recovery of agricultural production. Not surprisingly, Cambodia identified a 9th MDG to eliminate casualties from land mines by 2015. Armed conflicts are also responsible for serious direct and indirect damage to the environment. Environmental damage is often particularly severe in resource-rich countries. For example, the rapid growth of unregulated mining of valuable coltan deposits underlying arable land in the North and South Kivu regions of the Democratic Republic of the Congo has destabilized hillsides, causing landslides that have destroyed fields. About half of the land seized for unplanned, artisanal mining has become unsuitable for agriculture. Extensive illegal logging has also seriously compromised wildlife habitats. The destruction of Liberia's main hydropower infrastructure increased the use of charcoal and wood fuel as energy sources, accelerating deforestation and atmospheric pollution. Land degradation and deforestation compromise prospects for food security, sustainable development and long-term peace. Sudan's long civil war has caused serious environmental damage, with deforestation occurring now at a rate of more than 0.84 percent a year. Indeed, from 1990 to 2005, the country lost 11.6 percent of its forest cover (UNEP 2007). Rates of deforestation are likely 66to worsen in the coming years because of the expected

return of massive numbers of refugees and of IDPs. Finally, the poor often lose their homes and livestock following forced migration, or due to destruction or expropriation by combatants. In Dili, for example, anti-secessionist forces burned houses as it became clear their side was losing. In Uganda, a survey of households who fled the civil war violence in the mid-1980s found that two-thirds of respondents had lost all their assets. In Mozambique, the national cattle stock was reduced by almost 80 percent during the course of the conflict (Collier 2007).

4.5 Decline in output

The economic consequences of armed conflict are often dramatic, as a result of capital destruction, reduced investment and disrupted markets. There are significant differences in the reduction in GDP per capita among conflict-affected countries, but the effect is typically largely negative. The overall effect of a conflict on a country's GDP per capita is a function of the average growth rate during conflict. The graph shows that the change in GDP during the conflict in different countries.



5. Conclusion

There are different types of conflicts worldwide. In present no one country is away from the conflicts or violence. Such violence is one of the causes to displace peoples from one place to another or it pushed into the refugee camps. The situations of such displaced childrens, females as well as even males are not good by the living standard or by the social status. Conflict also makes an impact on human cost and health cost. During the violence the destruction of infrastructure is often one of the most visible aspects. Finally war, violence or any type of conflict is not good for present and future of countries. Conflict almost always affects the rate of a country's economic growth as a result of its negative impacts on physical and human capital, as well as by disrupting markets and reducing trust.

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