



The Role of Afghan Refugees in the Economies of Host Countries: A Delphi Study on the USA and Poland

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Abstract: The global Afghan refugee crisis, intensified after August 2021, has led to significant displacement, impacting host countries like neighboring countries, Europe and the United States. This crisis presents both humanitarian challenges and profound social, economic, and political implications. Afghan refugees face legal barriers, discrimination, and language difficulties, yet they possess the potential to contribute positively to host economies through labor participation, entrepreneurship, and innovation. Understanding refugee integration dynamics is crucial for developing effective policies that support refugees and enhance the economic and social fabric of host nations.

This study employs a positivist epistemological approach to objectively evaluate the economic contributions of Afghan refugees in host countries specifically in Poland and the USA. It combines secondary data from statistical sources, journals, and previous studies with primary data from panel interviews with experts. Delphi method is used to gather and synthesize expert opinions through iterative feedback rounds. This mixed-method approach integrates qualitative and quantitative data to analyze refugees' influence on the labor market, entrepreneurial activities, production indicators, and consumption patterns, ensuring validity and reliability.

The findings shows that Afghan refugees face numerous challenges in accessing labor markets in Poland and the USA, including legal restrictions, language barriers, and discrimination. Despite these obstacles, they show a strong willingness to work. In the USA, Afghan refugees have similar employment levels to other immigrants but often earn lower wages. Supportive initiatives like job fairs and training programs are essential for their employment success. In Poland, limited data indicates many refugees face underemployment and long hours. Addressing these challenges and providing adequate support can unlock their potential, benefiting both refugees and the host country's economy. Afghan refugees also contribute positively to entrepreneurship, innovation, and market demand, enhancing overall economic growth and development in host countries.

Key words: immigration, Afghan refugees, host countries, refugees' employment, economic contribution

1- INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

A refugee is someone who has fled their home country because they face significant human rights violations and persecution. Because their own government cannot or will not protect them from dangers to their safety and lives, they felt they had no alternative but to flee and seek refuge outside their country (Amnesty international, 2023). A refugee crisis is mainly caused by expanded international conflicts, massive violations of human rights, the violence of world wars, the reorganization of country boundaries, the intensification of disagreements about ideology, international power politics, ethnic and religious strife, direct political persecution, and economic and national disasters, among other things. Nonetheless, most refugee flows nowadays are the result of conflict (Loescher, 1992). In Afghanistan, the immigration crisis started when the coalition troops left Afghanistan in August 2021, the Taliban conquered Kabul. In early September, the Taliban announced the formation of Islamic Emirates government in

Afghanistan. and the country faced several economic, financial, and humanitarian issues, which might increase owing to cuts in foreign aid, international commerce, and the Taliban's governing style.

108.4 million people worldwide were forcibly displaced and at least 89.3 million people have been forced to evacuate their homes throughout the world. Nearly 27.1 million refugees are among them, with nearly 41% of them being under the age of 18 (UNHCR, Figures at a glance, 2023). The proportion of refugees hosted in developing countries has remained relatively steady throughout time, ranging from around 85 percent between 2013 and 2021 to approximately 70 percent in the late 1990s and early 2000s. In contrast, there are significant fluctuations in the distribution of refugees based on the wealth levels of the countries that accept them over time. The two most noticeable trends are related to an enormous rise in the proportion of refugees sponsored in upper-middle-income countries since 2009, rising from 7% in 2009 to 40% in 2021. Millions of Syrian refugees were granted asylum in upper-middle-income countries such as Turkey, Lebanon, and Jordan, while Colombia, Peru, and Ecuador welcomed a large number of Venezuelans. The number of refugees welcomed by countries with low incomes has similarly fallen since the early 1990s (51 percent in 1990 against 18 percent in 2022). This is partly due to the economic progress of the group's big hosting countries, which were reclassified as lower-middle-income during this era, such as Pakistan. During the same period, advanced economies housed between 17 and 28 percent of refugees, with a significant rise in 2022 due mostly to the number of Ukrainian refugees hosted in high-income, predominantly European, countries (UNHCR, Refugee Data Finder, 2023).

According to Legrain, refugees may contribute economically to the countries that welcome them in a variety of ways, including as employees, innovators, entrepreneurs, taxpayers, consumers, and investors. Their activities can assist to create employment, increasing local worker productivity and salaries, increasing capital returns, encouraging international commerce and investment, and boosting innovation, business, and growth (Legrain, 2023). Another research by Paolo Verme on the economic impact of refugees on host communities mostly confirms theoretical predictions. A thorough assessment and meta-analysis of the current research on the impact of refugees on host communities considers that the overall effect on household well-being in host communities is generally positive, with just a few studies revealing a negative effect. The research also discovers that the majority of studies reveal no discernible consequences of compelled displacement on host employment or earnings. However, studies that find a substantial and negative influence suggest that employment and incomes are more likely to fall for some groups, including women, youth, unskilled workers, informal workers, and those with a lower level of education (Verme, 2023).

The global Afghan refugee crisis has emerged as a significant challenge in recent years, with a substantial number of Afghan individuals seeking refuge in various host countries worldwide. According to government estimates, at least 1.6 million Afghans have arrived in surrounding neighboring countries since the beginning of 2021. Even though borders are strictly enforced, many Afghans pass through unauthorized border crossing points. Afghan people, including new arrivals in host countries, are projected to require major assistance in 2023. Along with meeting the most vulnerable people's fundamental needs, investments in infrastructure such as health, education, and water and electricity networks demand special attention (UNHCR, Afghanistan situation regional refugee response plan, 2023). Furthermore, many Afghans have immigrated to European Union countries and the United States of America as part of humanitarian and special immigration programs; around 90,000 Afghans have moved to the United States, while approximately 1,000 have moved to Poland. Aside from the cost of these programs for the host countries, a key consideration is the economic benefit and advantage of refugees to these countries. This research is aiming to have a brief overview of the crisis, focusing specifically on the impact it has had on the host countries of the United States and Poland. The data used in this study encompasses the period from 2014 to 2023, shedding light on the social, economic, and political consequences of hosting Afghan refugees.

1-1-RESEARCH GAP

According to Gomez, 75% of the world's refugees are displaced in neighboring countries with land or marine boundaries. Furthermore, the Middle East and North Africa area has the highest proportion of forced refugees in the world (Gomez, M. P., A. Christensen, Y. Y. Araya, and N. Harild, 2010). The present worldwide refugee crisis has driven countries to open their borders and provide safe havens for displaced people, especially Afghan refugees escaping violence and persecution in their native country. The United States and Poland have been major host countries, admitting Afghan refugees with differing reasons and expectations. In

general, accepting migrants requires an upfront commitment, frequently made with public funds. This additional investment functions as a tiny fiscal stimulus in countries with weak demand, producing an immediate demand dividend. This investment may pay off more if migrants begin to work (Legrain, 2023). Different viewpoints on the contributions and/or over costs that refugees make to the host country's society make this a more complex and delicate topic for decision-makers for policy making. In one view, refugees burden taxpayers in countries that accept them and drain their budgets as they unbalancing the labor market supply or goods and services market, while in another, they contribute to the well-being of the community they are living in, and refugees perform menial tasks like office cleaning and senior care that locals despise because they are tough, risky, dirty, and boring. The labor that the migrants perform frees up locals to work in higher-skilled and more lucrative occupations that they desire. A deftness dividend can be produced by higher-skilled refugees (and their highly skilled offspring). They can fill gaps in the labor market and increase locals' productivity with their diverse and complementary abilities. Refugee entrepreneurs establish companies that increase income, provide jobs for people, make the economy more flexible and dynamic, and encourage foreign investment and trade (Legrain, 2023). By considering these points of view, decision-makers are hesitant to tighten the policies about refugees or take the policies easy for welcoming more refugees which may bring more burden or opportunities for the host countries. Understanding the advantages and costs of refugees for the countries that host may help make these decisions easier in order to create an advantageous and win-win strategy for refugees and host countries. One of the objectives of this research is to understand the role and consequences of Afghan refugees on the economies of the host countries in the United States and Poland, revealing both negative and positive effects on the economy.

1-2-AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

The influx of Afghan refugees into many countries, notably the United States and Poland, has sparked debate over the purpose of the migrants and the advantages they bring to host countries. Indeed, refugees have several effects on the host countries, including economic, cultural, and humanitarian elements, but the economic dimension may be the most important part of this phenomenon. This research will look at the different economic indicators that Afghan refugees serve in their host countries, notably the United States and Poland. And aim to identify the effects of Afghan Refugees' Contribution to the Host Country's Economic Development in the United States and Poland. The research is also answering the question of:

How Afghan refugees affecting the economy of the United States and Poland?

The study seeks to achieve the following objectives: determining the impact of refugees on each economic indicator in both countries, although the number of refugees in Poland is tiny in comparison to the United States.

- To identify the effects of Afghan refugees on Labor market participation in the host countries.
- To identify the role of Afghan refugee's contribution in GDP growth of host countries.
- To identify and determine the entrepreneurial activities of Afghan refugees in host countries, including the establishment of businesses and job creation.
- To identify the consumption patterns and economic spillover effects of Afghan refugees, considering their impact on local markets and industries.

1-3-RESEARCH QUESTIONS

1. What is the impact of Afghan refugees' contribution to the labor market of Poland and United States?
2. What is the contribution of Afghan refugees to the GDP of Poland and United States?
3. What is the role of Afghan refugees in entrepreneurial activities in Poland and United States?
4. What is the consumption pattern and market demand of Afghan refugees in Poland and United States?

2- AFGHANISTAN PROFILE AND ECONOMIC CONTEXT

Afghanistan is almost landlocked the nearest the coast is some 300 miles (480 km) to the south and, due to its remoteness and violent political past, it remains one of the world's least studied places. The Afghanistan referred as the Heart of Asia (Ahmadzai, 2023) is bounded to the east and south by Pakistan, to the west by Iran, to the northwest by Turkmenistan, to the north by Uzbekistan, to the northeast by Tajikistan, and to the northeast and east by China.

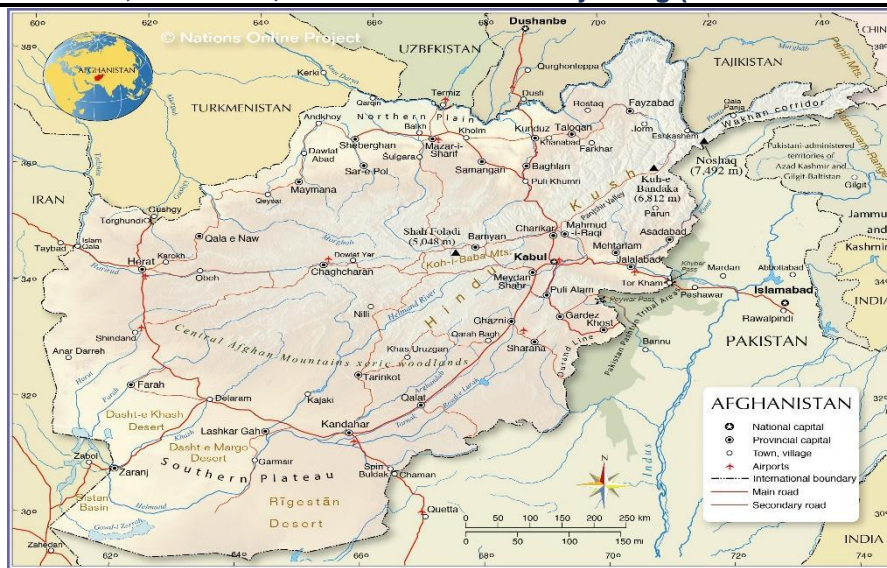


Figure SEQ Figure * ARABIC 1 Afghanistan geographical map, source: nations online

The country is largely mountainous, covering 652,864 square kilometers (252,072 square miles), with lowlands in the north and southwest divided by the Hindu Kush Mountain range. Kabul is the capital and the country's largest city. Afghanistan's population is expected to reach 42.3 million (World Population Review, 2023) in 2023 (officially believed to be 32.9 million) (NSIA, 2022). Afghanistan has not had a national census since a partial count in 1979, and years of conflict and population dispersion have made a precise ethnic count difficult.

Afghanistan suffered economic and personnel challenges following the conflict in 2001. There were no financial resources available to assist the country in rebuilding. After 9/11, it resumed revitalizing the Afghan economy, restoring and developing infrastructure, raising military power, promoting democracy, and improving education and health. Foreign aid, particularly from the United States, supported this effort. These subsidies are undeniably important in the development and expansion of the agricultural, industrial, and service sectors.

Afghanistan's economic growth indicators increased significantly after 2001. In 2002, the country's GDP was around five billion dollars; by 2018, it had risen to more than 20 billion dollars, and by 2019, it had risen to 20.10 billion dollars, including money from opium production. Between 2002 and 2013, the country's economy grew at an average of 9%. However, as international forces were gradually reduced in 2014, foreign financial aid was reduced as well. Foreign aid, for example, dropped from \$12.5 billion in 2009 to around \$8.8 billion in 2015.

As a result, economic growth in the country fell to 2.72% in 2014, 2.66% in 2017, and 2.4% in 2018. However, the country's GDP increased by 2.9% in 2019. From 184 dollars in 2002 to 625 dollars in 2014, per capita income has grown. However, per capita income has fallen in the years thereafter (Farahmand, 2022). Annual per capita income has fallen from US\$650 in 2012 to US\$508 in 2020, with a sharp decrease to US\$350 projected the following year. According to the analysis, the country's GDP is anticipated to drop by 20% to US\$16 billion from a nominal number of US\$20 billion in 2020. The analysis cautions that if quick remedial action is not done, a further drop of 30%, or US\$14 billion, is probable (UNDP, 2021). Afghanistan's economic base has long been insufficient to support its 40 million inhabitants. When women face work restrictions, 5% of the GDP is lost. Failing to invest in half of the country's human capital—in girls' education—will have long-term socioeconomic consequences. The study urges for the mobilization of all available local resources, particularly female relief workers, whose deployment is severely limited in most provinces (UNDP, 2021).

Agriculture generates 27% of GDP and employs 42.5% of the workforce (World Bank, latest data available). FAO estimates 2021 aggregate cereal production at 4.8 million tons, which is more than 20% lower than the 2020 harvest and 12% lower than the average. Manufacturing is the only industry in which women outnumber males (65% of all manufacturing workers are female). The industry employs 18.5% of the total workforce and accounts for 12.5% of GDP. The manufacturing sector accounts for 7.6% of GDP. After years of growth, the services sector now employs 39% of the workforce and generates 56.1% of GDP. Community, social, and personal services account for a sizable portion of the tertiary sector, followed by wholesale and retail commerce (Export Entreprises SA, 2023). Handicrafts hold a unique and vital place in today's world, particularly in countries such as Afghanistan, where they play

a significant role in the national economy. Thousands upon thousands of people are employed in the production process of this sector, which is the primary source of income for women and households. This industry contributes significantly to Afghanistan's national economy, and some of its items, including carpets, rugs, and decorative handicrafts, are exported to foreign markets.

Afghanistan's banking industry is still in crisis. Due to the freezing of foreign assets and the inability to produce fresh Afghan currency notes, the Central Bank (Da Afghanistan Bank - DAB) has lost its authority to administer payment networks and conduct monetary policy. The consequent lack of US dollars and Afghani, as well as the sanctions, prompted a banking sector confidence crisis. The asset freeze and anti-money laundering measures, as well as worries about terrorism funding, are impeding the operation of normal correspondent banking relationships between Afghan and foreign banks, and international banks are hesitant to reestablish correspondent relations with Afghan banks (World Bank, 2022).

Since August 2021, there has been an improvement in overall security and a significant drop in civilian casualties, allowing humanitarian access to all provinces, even locations that had been unreachable for decades. Recent limits on women and girls' involvement in society in Afghanistan have an influence on access to higher education, freedom of mobility, and an opportunity to work for non-governmental organizations, among other aspects of life, and raise the danger of gender-based violence. Widespread food insecurity, rising inflation, and high economic insecurity, compounded by sanctions, restricted livelihoods, and more frequent and severe climatic shocks, have placed vulnerable individuals in a dangerous situation (UNHCR, Afghanistan Situation RRP2023 Summary, 2023). The UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UNOCHA) anticipated in December 2021 that the number of people in need of humanitarian assistance in Afghanistan would climb from 9.4 million in 2020 to 24.4 million in 2022 (59% of the population). All this looks at the situation of Afghan people and briefly explains the tough economic situation of those living in this country.

3- IMMIGRATION BACKGROUND OF AFGHAN PEOPLE

Perhaps a specific date for asylum and individual or group and ethnic movement of Afghan people, like that of other countries, cannot be found; because migration and displacement are as ancient as human history. According to Dr. Tabibi, "some Afghans began migrating abroad a century ago." The first large migration of Afghans from Afghanistan to Australia occurred around 1860. More than seventy Afghan families from the Ghazni and Kabul districts were moved to the biggest island in this migration, which was carried out at the request of the British government, to find a way to learn about natural catastrophes. The purpose was to get to know the burning plains of "Gebson" and "Samson" from the far western coast of Australia, which is connected to the Indian Ocean, to the east, which finishes in the Pacific Ocean, with the assistance of these immigrants, who are stubborn and resistant people. Of course, Afghan immigrants in Australia were not the first group of Afghan immigrants; many years before that, Afghans migrated to Central Asia, India, Iran, and Iraq and lived there for good. During the reign of Shah Mahmud, son of Timur Shah Saduzai, immigrants from the tribes of Uimaq of Herat and Badghis migrated in Iran (Erfani, 2023). Following the HAFT SAWR coup on 27 April 1978, there was a large wave of immigration to Iran and Pakistan, and the performance of the Soviet-affiliated government caused rebellion and resistance against the government in various provinces of the country, and a large part of the Afghan people immigrated to other countries as a result of these wars. The stream of migration abroad grew with the Soviet invasion and the deepening of the battle between the Afghan people and the Red Army. According to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, some of countries have two generations of Afghan immigrants, and some of them were born in refugee-receiving countries and are now married in the same country.

Afghanistan endured the devastation of civil war in the final quarter of the twentieth century, which was compounded by the Soviet Union's military invasion and occupation (1979-89). Following a brief rule by mujahideen groups, an austere movement of religious students the Taliban rose up against the country's governing parties and warlords and established a theocratic regime (1996-2001), which quickly fell under the influence of a group of well-funded Islamists led by an exiled Saudi Arabian, Osama bin Laden. The Taliban rule fell in December 2001 as a result of a protracted US-led military effort against the Taliban and members of bin Laden's al-Qaeda organization. Soon after, anti-Taliban forces agreed to a transitional phase of leadership and administration that would lead to the adoption of a new constitution and the installation of a democratically elected government (Mohammad Ali, Louis Dupree, Marvin G. Weinbaum, Nancy Hatch Dupree, Victor P. Petrov, Frank Raymond Allchin, 2023). So, we can list the major Events and Triggers of Mass Migration and displacement in Afghanistan as below:

1. Soviet-Afghan War (1979-1989): The invasion of Afghanistan by the Soviet Union in 1979 marked the beginning of a protracted conflict that resulted in significant displacement. Millions of Afghans fled the country during this period, seeking refuge primarily in neighboring Pakistan and Iran.
2. Taliban Rule (1996-2001): The rise of the Taliban regime in Afghanistan in the mid-1990s and their oppressive policies triggered further waves of mass migration. The Taliban's strict interpretation of Islamic law, restrictions on personal freedoms, and human rights abuses prompted many Afghans to flee.
3. Post-9/11 Invasion: The U.S.-led invasion of Afghanistan following the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks and subsequent military operations against the Taliban and Al-Qaeda led to increased displacement. The conflict between international forces, Afghan security forces, and insurgent groups intensified, leading to significant population movements.



Figure SEQ Figure * ARABIC 2: Number of Afghan Refugee during 1980-2020

Source: council on foreign relations CITATION Lin23 \l 1033 (Maizland, 2023)

The Afghan refugee crisis has had a large worldwide impact, resulting in widespread displacement and forced migration. The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) reported that there were roughly 2.6 million registered Afghan refugees worldwide as of the end of 2021. According to UNHCR figures from 2021, Pakistan and Iran were the leading host nations, with over 1.4 million and 780,000 Afghan refugees, respectively (UNHCR, Refugee Data Finder, 2023). Germany, the United States, Sweden, and the United Kingdom are among the nations that have taken in a large number of Afghan refugees. Aside from registered refugees, Afghanistan has a considerable number of internally displaced people (IDPs), with estimates ranging from 4 to 5 million people (UNHCR, Afghanistan situation regional refugee response plan, 2023). These statistics highlight the immense challenges faced by both Afghan refugees and the countries that host them, underscoring the urgent need for humanitarian assistance and effective policies to address their needs and ensure their well-being.

The Afghan refugee crisis has been primarily driven by a combination of political instability, armed conflict, and insecurity within Afghanistan. According to UN agencies and the IMF, Afghanistan is in the grip of an economic and humanitarian disaster. The UN warned in September 2021 that basic services in Afghanistan were at risk of "collapsing," and the country was experiencing shortages of crucial commodities such as food (United Nations, 2023). According to the IMF, Afghanistan's GDP would decline by up to 30% in 2021. According to the IMF, instability in Afghanistan is projected to have significant economic and security spillovers across the region and beyond, and it is "fueling a surge in Afghan refugees," but no estimates of possible numbers were provided. Assuming a million more Afghans flee their homeland and settle in other countries in proportion to the current spread of Afghan refugees, the annual cost of hosting them would be \$100 million in Tajikistan (1.3% of GDP), \$300 million in Iran (0.03% of GDP), and more than \$500 million in Pakistan (0.2% of GDP), according to the IMF (Auyezov, 2023).

According to the Afghan Ministry of Refugees and Returnees Affairs, 50% of immigrants identified insecurity and economic difficulties as the primary reasons for their illegal movement to neighboring countries (Iran and Pakistan) and Europe. According to the research, at least 50% of Afghans seek asylum in neighboring countries and Europe owing to civil conflicts, Taliban fear, political concerns, and personal enmities. This research which has performed by Afghanistan's Ministry of Immigrants and Returnees elaborates those economic issues are the second leading cause of Afghan illegal migration. According to the research's findings, at least 36% of Afghans leave their country owing to a lack of jobs, poverty, and job security. At the same time, the majority of respondents to the questionnaires are immigrants aged 18 to 30 who have returned to Afghanistan from Iran and Pakistan. They indicated that the fundamental reason for picking these two countries is to seek sanctuary in cultural, social, and religious similarities. Other considerations such as low travel costs, short distances, favorable jobs and security situations have also prompted

Afghans to enter the two countries illegally. Furthermore, the study found that immigrants use neighboring countries (Iran and Pakistan) as a bridge to come to European countries (Ministry of Refugee and Returnees of Afghanistan, 2023). The Afghan refugee crisis refers to the widespread displacement of Afghan residents forced to escape their homes as a result of the country's protracted conflict, political instability, and difficulties in the economy. Several academic sources have investigated the reasons of this catastrophe. Researchers discovered the following essential factors:

1. **Armed struggle and Terrorism:** A key driver of the refugee issue has been the continuous armed struggle between Afghan government troops, foreign military forces, and numerous insurgent organizations such as the Taliban and ISIS. According to academics, the violence and instability caused by these organizations have resulted in the displacement of millions of Afghans (Barakat, B., & Wardak, A., 2016).
2. **Political Instability and Weak Governance:** Political instability, corruption, and poor governance have all contributed to Afghanistan's refugee issue. According to scholars, a lack of functioning institutions, the rule of law, and inclusive administration has damaged stability and led many Afghans to flee their homes (Giustozzi, 2017).
3. **Socioeconomic Issues:** Afghanistan suffers substantial socioeconomic issues, such as high poverty rates, unemployment, and restricted access to education and healthcare. Because of these circumstances, many Afghans have fled to seek better chances and a more secure future overseas, adding to the refugee crisis (Naeem, S., & Ali, S., 2018).
4. **Gender-based Violence and Discrimination:** The special issues experienced by Afghan women and girls, such as gender-based violence and discrimination, as well as inadequate access to education and healthcare, have all contributed to the refugee crisis. To escape these situations, many women and girls have been compelled to leave their homes (Samar, 2016).

The majority of Afghan refugees have sought refuge in neighboring countries in South Asia. Pakistan has historically hosted the largest number of Afghan refugees, with a significant concentration in the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Baluchistan provinces. According to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), as of 2021, Pakistan hosts around 3.7 million Afghans which approximately 1.4 million of them are registered as Afghan refugees (UNHCR, Pakistan, 2023), making it one of the largest refugee populations in the world. The majority of Afghan refugees in Pakistan are located in the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province, particularly in Peshawar and Quetta. Additionally, Iran has been a major host country in the region, particularly in provinces bordering Afghanistan. According to UNHCR, as of 2021, Iran hosts around 750,000 registered Afghan refugees and another 2.6 million who are either undocumented or have received a headcount laissez-passer live in Iran (UNHCR, Refugees in Iran, 2023). Most Afghan refugees in Iran reside in urban areas, including Tehran, Mashhad, and Zahedan. However, it is important to note that there may be additional undocumented Afghan refugees living in Iran.

European countries have become important hosts for Afghan refugees. Germany has become a major destination country for Afghan refugees in recent years, particularly as violence and instability in Afghanistan have increased. According to the Federal Statistical Office of Germany, there will be around 253,000 Afghan asylum seekers and recognized refugees in Germany by the end of 2020 (Bundesamt, 2021). Other European countries hosting substantial Afghan refugee populations include Sweden, the United Kingdom, and the Netherlands.

The United States has also been a major destination country for Afghan refugees, notably those who have worked for the United States government or military in Afghanistan. According to the US Department of State, about 73,000 Afghan refugees have been relocated in the US since 2002 (U.S. Department of State, 2021). These countries have accepted Afghan refugees through various resettlement programs. The United States experienced a significant increase in Afghan migrants starting in the 1980s due to political instability and the Soviet Union's invasion in 1979. However, the number of Afghan refugees who reached the United States was relatively small compared to Pakistan and Iran, which were more common destinations. Between 1980 and 2000, the Afghan population in the United States grew by 11 times, from around 4,000 to 45,000. The U.S.-led military invasion after the September 11 attacks further contributed to the displacement of Afghans, but it did not immediately lead to a dramatic increase in the Afghan-born population in the United States.

However, as the U.S. presence in Afghanistan continued, more Afghans worked with or for the U.S. government or military, putting them and their families in danger. In response, Congress created Special Immigrant Visa (SIV) programs in 2006 and 2009, offering a pathway to permanent residence for Afghans who helped the United States, along with their immediate family members. After this period, the number of Afghan immigrants increased significantly. Between 2014 and 2019, around 12,300 green cards were

distributed to Afghans, compared to an average of 2,300 between 2001 and 2013. Most of these new lawful permanent residents came through the SIV channel (Batalova, 2021).

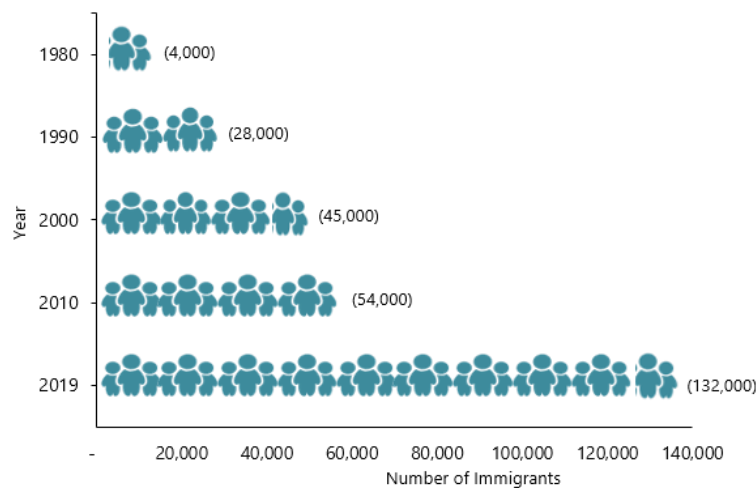


Figure 3 Afghan Immigrant Population in the United States, 1980-2019.

Sources: Data from U.S. Census Bureau 2010 and 2019 American Community Surveys (ACS), and Campbell J. Gibson and Kay Jung, "Historical Census Statistics on the Foreign-born Population of the United States: 1850-2000" (Working Paper no. 81, U.S. Census B

4- RESEARCH TERMINOLOGIES

4-1-ECONOMIC CONTRIBUTION

economic contribution refers to the measurable impact that a specific industry, event, or policy has on a region's economy. It involves analyzing the changes in economic activity, such as job creation, income generation, and overall economic growth, that can be attributed to a particular factor. Economic contribution analysis helps understand the direct influence of factors on an economy and can be used to assess the effectiveness of policies or investments in stimulating economic development. However, it is important to note that economic contribution analysis may not capture the full picture of how different industries interact and impact each other within an economy. In another reference, the term "economic contribution" refers to how economic activity flows through a region's existing economy. It includes the gross changes in the region's economy that can be attributed to a specific industry, event, or policy. Contribution analysis tracks the overall economic activity of the industry, event, or policy as the money circulates within the region's economy. It helps determine whether these factors increase or decrease the economic activity of a particular industry in a given region. However, economic contribution analysis does not consider how spending on one industry might affect spending in another industry. This type of analysis is commonly performed but often mistakenly referred to as "economic impact" (Philip Watson, Joshua Wilson, Dawn Thilmany, and Susan Winter, 2007).

The economic impacts of migration have been extensively researched, however, there are still varying perspectives on this matter, which can result in hesitancy to migrate. Although this issue may not seem significant at first glance, it is crucial to recognize that such viewpoints have hindered numerous attempts to tailor immigration policies to the unique economic, demographic, and political circumstances of different nations. Therefore, we must acknowledge the repercussions and approach the economics of immigration with greater seriousness. It is undeniable that immigration influences a country's social, political, cultural, and economic traits, with certain effects being deemed beneficial while others are seen as detrimental. In general, when examining the concept of migration from an economic standpoint, the main debate is whether migration is considered a benefit for the host countries, i.e. cost-benefit analysis, or merely an additional burden on the economies of these countries.

4-2-REFUGEES' IMPACT ON LABOR MARKET

According to textbook models, immigration is expected to have a primary impact of reducing real wages in an economy, as long as the demand for labor is downward-sloping. This outcome benefits native workers, but also has distributional consequences where the losses for native workers are outweighed by the income gains for capital owners. However, if there are barriers preventing wages from adjusting downwards, immigration may lead to higher unemployment instead. It is important to note that wage adjustment should eventually occur, except in cases where it is hindered by a legally binding minimum wage. Furthermore, immigration can also result in higher returns to capital, which in turn stimulates investment and the creation of new firms. This adjustment process takes place over the medium term and leads to an increase in capital per worker and the number of firms in the economy. Whitaker,

is also agreed that the presence of refugees in host countries leads to an increase in the available workforce, causing a decrease in wages within the local market. Refugees often accept lower wages compared to local workers, contributing to the reduction in wage rates. Additionally, the presence of refugees in host countries leads to increased competition for jobs (Whitaker, 2002).

The impact of immigration on wages and unemployment, as well as the return to capital, is expected to eventually return to their original levels. This is especially true if economic agents anticipate immigration flows or if the average immigrant's capital stock is similar to that of the average native, although this is usually not the case. In addition, there can be welfare gains from differences in skills between immigrants and natives, which allows for the exploitation of complementarities between workers. In a small open economy, immigration is more likely to influence the trade specialization of the economy rather than relative factor prices, according to the Rybczynski theorem (Sébastien Jean, Orsetta Causa, Miguel Jiménez and Isabelle Wanner, 2010).

The available evidence indicates that the impact of immigration on wages and unemployment at the country level is not solely explained by differences in skills between immigrants and natives. Studies by Hanson and Slaughter; and Gandal suggest that this effect is only a small part of the overall adjustment. In reality, the differences in skills between immigrants and natives do play a role in determining relative wages among workers in the host economy. The extent of this impact depends on changes in the relative supply of different categories of workers and the substitutability among them. If relative wages do not adjust accordingly, immigration can also affect the distribution of unemployment rates across different skill categories (Hanson, G.H. and M.J. Slaughter, 1999; Gandal, N., G.H. Hanson and M.J. Slaughter, 2004). Eurostat data from 2014 reveals that among low-wage earners in the EU, approximately 28.2% had completed primary education, 20.9% had completed secondary education, and less than 7% had higher education qualifications. Additionally, many EU countries experienced a higher unemployment rate among individuals aged 25-64 with an education level below secondary in 2015 compared to the pre-crisis period. In 2007, the unemployment rate for this group across the entire EU was 9.2%, whereas in 2015, it rose to 16.3%. Furthermore, in 2008, approximately 20% of nationals and 38% of non-EU-born citizens aged 25-54 faced the risk of poverty and social exclusion. Determining the exact percentage of refugees with limited education in Europe at the EU level is difficult due to a lack of reliable documentation verifying their educational background. Nevertheless, this issue is a significant concern as education and skills are crucial for securing suitable employment and wages. Eurostat data from 2014 indicates that a considerable proportion of low-wage earners in the EU had only completed primary or secondary education, with a small percentage having higher education qualifications. Furthermore, many EU countries experienced a higher unemployment rate among individuals aged 25-64 with an education level below secondary in 2015 compared to the period before the economic crisis. The unemployment rate for this group across the entire EU increased from 9.2% in 2007 to 16.3% in 2015. Additionally, a significant proportion of both nationals and non-EU-born citizens aged 25-54 faced the risk of poverty and social exclusion in 2008. In some cases, refugees manage to find employment in sectors closely related to tourism or in low-skilled labor markets. While they may bring certain benefits, such as foreign language proficiency that can help resolve conflicts with clients, it is important to note that not all refugees possess these skills. Moreover, with the anticipated rise in automation and the growing number of refugees lacking proper job skills, ensuring employment for all working-age refugees remains a significant challenge that the 28 EU Member States must address as a priority (Atanas Dimitrov, Goran Angelov, 2017). Afghan refugees often bring a diverse range of skills and qualifications to their host countries. All Afghan migrant labor has left Afghanistan and is working in other countries under four distinct features.

- 1- Workers who have lawfully left Afghanistan with a work visa and are legally working in various countries across the world;
- 2- Workers who legally left Afghanistan with a tourist visa, but as soon as they arrive in the second country, they work illegally and in the black labor market;
- 3- Workers who were smuggled out of Afghanistan's borders, but work legally in foreign countries accepting immigrants after the end of their acceptance period;
- 4- Workers who illegally leave Afghanistan's borders and go to the second, third, fourth, etc. countries, and eventually settle in one of the countries and work illegally;

What these four qualities have in common is that all of these people, under whatever name they left Afghanistan and reside in other countries, sold their labor force to the host countries and paid their salaries in full or in part. They bring their families and relatives to Afghanistan. Merchants from the host countries or other Afghan merchants from outside Afghanistan take cash from these workers and pay the equivalent in Afghan currency to the workers' families (Sakhizada. Hussain, 2023).

4-3-REFUGEES AND GDP GROWTH

The impact of international migration on economic growth is both direct and indirect. While an increase in the labor force due to immigration does not necessarily guarantee an increase in GDP, there are other factors to consider. One of the demographic impacts of migration is a change in the age structure of the destination country, as immigrants tend to be concentrated in younger and economically active age groups. This can reduce the dependency ratio in society. Furthermore, immigrants bring their own skills and abilities to the destination country, contributing to the accumulation of human capital. Skilled immigrants, in particular, have been shown to significantly enhance research, innovation, and technological progress in countries like the United States. Statistics also indicate a growing proportion of educated immigrants in OECD member countries. The number of immigrants with higher education has increased by over 70% in the past decade, with a significant portion coming from Asia.

Empirical studies attempting to estimate the overall impact of migration on economic growth have faced challenges due to limited comparative data on international migration across different skill levels. However, one study examining 22 OECD member countries between 1986 and 2006 found that immigration had a positive but small effect on economic growth. This effect is particularly significant as it can impact productivity and the ratio of capital to human power. However, even in countries with selective immigration policies, the net effect on economic growth is reported to be minimal. This study suggests that a 50% increase in immigration could result in a growth equivalent to only 0.1% in terms of productivity (Tejarafearda, 2015).

4-4-CONSUMPTION PATTERN AND MARKET DEMAND

From an economic standpoint, although immigrants typically provide low-cost labor to the host society, it is regarded as an advantage for the labor market, or even the presence of specialized forces can produce added value due to specialized services, but the sudden change in consumer demand is regarded as a disadvantage. Although refugee camps are impacted by their host country's policies as well as the physical and economic geography of the location, they also affect market outcomes in the host country, according to Werker (2007) in his study on refugee settlement in Uganda (Werker, 2007). Goods, housing, health, and education may all have a negative economic impact and raise inflation and prices. Simultaneously, refugees can have a negative impact on the host countries' economies by raising prices and increasing demand for essential goods such as food, housing, education, health care, infrastructure such as water availability, sanitation facilities, and transportation, and, in some cases, natural resources such as grazing and firewood (World Bank, 2011). The presence of refugees in host countries has an impact on the cost of goods and services in the local market, when refugees were present in western Tanzania in the mid-1990s, there was a significant increase in prices for essential food items, ranging from 100% to 400% (Barman, 2020).

4-5-REFUGEES' INNOVATION AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP

Diverse societies benefit from a range of perspectives and experiences, fostering innovation and creativity. It is commonly believed that immigrants are more inclined towards entrepreneurship compared to the local population. Long-term data from the United States indicates that around 25% of entrepreneurs, who are considered to be the highest earners in new businesses, are immigrants. Additionally, between 35% and 40% of newly established firms in the U.S. have at least one immigrant entrepreneur involved in their creation. This demonstrates the entrepreneurial inclination of immigrants and their contribution to the economy. Furthermore, the presence of refugees in local communities can attract development corporations and aid workers, leading to economic development. In addition to economic benefits, the presence of refugees can also lead to employment opportunities, improved international image, and stimulation of local commerce (Hanna, 2020).

Overall, the positive economic impact of refugees on host countries is evident through their entrepreneurial activities, job creation, increased spending, and the investment of international aid organizations.

5- RELATE THEORIES TO REFUGEES' ECONOMIC CONTRIBUTION

The research on the contribution of refugees to the host country's economic development is informed by several theoretical concepts and frameworks. Here are some key ones that underpin this thesis.

5-1-ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT THEORY

Economic development theory refers to the study of how economies grow and develop over time. It encompasses various theories and frameworks that seek to understand the factors that contribute to economic growth, such as investment, technological progress, human capital development, and institutional factors. In the context of refugees, economic development theory can be applied to examine the potential economic contributions they can make to their host communities. This includes analyzing how refugees' skills, entrepreneurship, and labor force participation can stimulate economic growth and development. One relevant study in this area is

by Bevelander and Pendakur (2014), which examined the long-term economic integration of refugees in Sweden. The study found that refugees who arrived as adults had lower employment rates initially but gradually increased their employment rates over time. It also found that refugees who were able to secure employment had positive effects on the host country's economy through increased tax contributions and reduced welfare dependency. The study concluded that facilitating the economic integration of refugees is crucial for their own economic well-being and for the overall economic development of host communities (Bevelander, P., & Pendakur, R., 2014).

5-2-HUMAN CAPITAL THEORY

Human Capital Theory suggests that refugees bring valuable skills, knowledge, and experience to their host countries, which can contribute to economic growth. This theory is based on the idea that individuals' skills and education are an important form of capital that can enhance productivity and innovation in the labor market. Refugees often have diverse backgrounds and qualifications, as they come from different countries and professional fields. As a result, they can bring a range of skills and expertise that may be in demand in their host countries. For example, refugees with backgrounds in engineering, medicine, or technology can fill skill gaps and contribute to sectors experiencing labor shortages. A study conducted by the National Bureau of Economic Research (NBER) in the United States provides empirical evidence supporting the Human Capital Theory in the context of refugees. The study found that refugees who resettled in the United States between 1980 and 2000 had a positive impact on the economy. They found that refugees contributed significantly to employment growth, particularly in industries such as manufacturing, health care, and education (Kerr, W. R., & Kerr, S. P., 2011). Furthermore, the study highlighted that refugees' educational attainment played a crucial role in their economic integration. Refugees with higher levels of education were more likely to find employment and earn higher wages. This finding underscores the importance of providing refugees with access to education and skills training programs to enhance their economic contribution. Another study conducted by the University of Oxford examined the economic impact of Syrian refugees in Jordan. The study found that Syrian refugees brought valuable skills and knowledge to the host country, particularly in sectors such as construction, manufacturing, and agriculture. These skills contributed to job creation and increased productivity in these industries. Overall, Human Capital Theory suggests that refugees' skills and qualifications can positively contribute to the economic development of their host countries. However, it is important to note that the successful integration of refugees into the labor market requires supportive policies, such as language training, education, and job placement assistance (Verme, P., & Gigliarano, C., 2016).

5-3-ECONOMIC INTEGRATION THEORY

Economic integration theory focuses on the process by which individuals or groups become economically integrated into a new country or society. It examines the factors that influence the economic outcomes and contributions of immigrants and refugees in their host countries. Refugees' economic contribution is closely tied to their level of economic integration. When refugees are able to successfully integrate into the labor market, they can contribute to economic growth and development. This can be achieved through factors such as employment, entrepreneurship, and skills transfer. A study by Damm, Dustmann, and Preston (2017) explored the economic integration of refugees in Denmark. The study found that refugees who arrived in Denmark between 1991 and 2008 had a positive impact on the country's economy. They found that refugees made significant contributions to tax revenues, particularly after their initial years of arrival. The study also highlighted the importance of language proficiency and education in facilitating refugees' economic integration (Damm, A. P., Dustmann, C., & Preston, I., 2017). Another study by Bevelander and Pendakur (2014) examined the economic integration of refugees in Sweden. The study found that refugees who arrived in Sweden between 1981 and 2000 had a positive impact on the country's economy. They found that refugees contributed to economic growth through increased employment rates and higher levels of entrepreneurship compared to native-born Swedes. These studies provide empirical evidence supporting the notion that refugees can make valuable economic contributions when they are able to integrate into the labor market. Factors such as language proficiency, education, and access to job opportunities play a crucial role in facilitating their economic integration (Bevelander, P., & Pendakur, R., 2014).

5-4-SOCIAL CAPITAL THEORY

Social capital theory suggests that the social networks, relationships, and trust within a community or society can have a significant impact on individuals' economic outcomes and contributions. In the context of refugees, social capital theory posits that the level of social integration and support they receive from their host communities can influence their economic integration and ability to contribute to the economy. Refugees who are able to access and build social capital within their host communities are more likely

to have better employment opportunities, access to resources, and support networks that can help them navigate the labor market. Social capital can provide refugees with information about job openings, training opportunities, and other resources that can enhance their economic prospects. A study by Hainmueller and Hiscox (2010) examined the role of social capital in the economic integration of refugees in the United States. The study found that refugees who had stronger social networks and connections with their co-ethnic communities had higher employment rates and earnings compared to those with weaker social ties. The study also highlighted the importance of community organizations and ethnic associations in facilitating refugees' economic integration (Hainmueller, J., & Hiscox, M. J., 2010). Another study by Schmeidl and Maly (2007) explored the role of social capital in the economic integration of refugees in Germany. The study found that refugees who were able to establish social networks and connections with local residents had better access to job opportunities and resources, leading to higher employment rates and income levels (Schmeidl, S., & Maly, I., 2007).

These studies demonstrate the significance of social capital in facilitating refugees' economic integration. The support, connections, and resources provided by social networks and community organizations can enhance refugees' access to employment, entrepreneurship, and other economic opportunities.

5-5-ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY THEORY

Economic opportunity theory suggests that individuals' economic outcomes and contributions are influenced by the availability of opportunities and resources in their environment. In the context of refugees, economic opportunity theory posits that their ability to contribute to the economy is dependent on the opportunities and resources they have access to in their host communities. Refugees who are provided with economic opportunities, such as employment, entrepreneurship, and skill development programs, are more likely to contribute to the economy. These opportunities can enable refugees to earn income, acquire new skills, and enhance their economic prospects. A study by Bevelander and Pendakur (2014) examined the economic integration of refugees in Sweden and found that refugees who were able to secure employment had higher levels of economic self-sufficiency compared to those who were unemployed. The study highlighted the importance of providing refugees with job opportunities as a means to enhance their economic contribution (Bevelander, P., & Pendakur, R., 2014). Another study by Constant et al. (2012) explored the economic integration of refugees in Germany and found that access to employment and entrepreneurship opportunities significantly increased refugees' likelihood of economic self-sufficiency. The study emphasized the need for policies and programs that promote labor market integration and entrepreneurship among refugees (Constant, A. F., Krause, A., & Rinne, U., 2012). These studies demonstrate the relevance of economic opportunity theory in understanding refugees' economic contribution. By providing refugees with access to employment, entrepreneurship, and skill development opportunities, host communities can enhance their economic integration and contribution to the economy.

5-6-DEVELOPMENTAL IMPACT THEORY

Development impact theory suggests that the economic contributions of refugees can have broader positive effects on the development and growth of their host communities. This theory emphasizes that when refugees are given opportunities to contribute to the economy, it can lead to job creation, increased productivity, and overall economic development. In the context of refugees, development impact theory posits that their economic contributions can have various positive effects, such as stimulating local markets, fostering innovation and entrepreneurship, and filling labor market gaps. By providing refugees with access to employment and entrepreneurship opportunities, host communities can harness their skills, talents, and potential for economic growth. A study by Hainmueller and Hiscox (2010) examined the economic impact of refugees on the host country's economy in the United States. The study found that refugees who were able to secure employment had a positive impact on the local economy through increased consumer spending, tax contributions, and job creation. The study concluded that facilitating the economic integration of refugees can lead to significant economic benefits for host communities (Hainmueller, J., & Hiscox, M. J., 2010). Another study by Damm (2010) analyzed the economic impact of refugees in Denmark. The study found that refugees who were employed had a positive effect on the host country's economy by increasing labor supply, contributing to GDP growth, and reducing welfare dependency. The study highlighted the importance of policies that facilitate refugees' access to employment and promote their economic integration (Damm, 2010). These studies demonstrate the relevance of development impact theory in understanding the potential economic contributions of refugees. By creating an enabling environment for refugees to participate in the economy, host communities can not only enhance refugees' own economic prospects but also reap broader economic benefits.

These theoretical concepts and frameworks provide a foundation for understanding and analyzing the economic contributions of Afghan refugees in Poland and the United States. They help frame your research, guide the selection of variables and indicators, and inform the analysis of the data and findings.

6- RESEARCH CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK

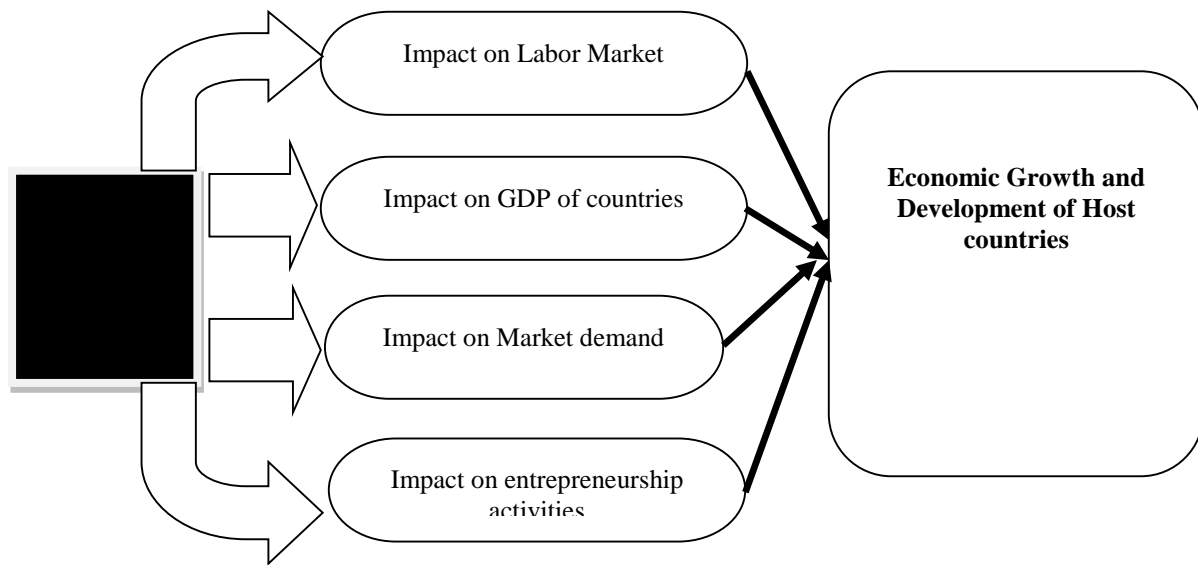


Figure 5: Research Conceptual Model

7- RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

The purpose of this study is to create specific "facts" from objective evaluations "economic development of host countries" given by the subjects "Afghan refugees in Poland and the USA", epistemology is more appropriate research philosophy type for this study. Besides, there are three philosophical viewpoints in epistemology: positivism, realism, and interpretivism. Positivism frequently supports examining or studying an observable social reality in order to get at law-like generalizations comparable to those established by physical and natural scientists (Saunders, M., Lewis, P. and Thornhill, A., 2009). We look to analyze credible and concrete outcomes from individuals in this study to better understand "Refugees' Contribution to the Host Country's Economic Development". As a result of this, we employ a positivist approach in building our fundamental research instruments.

This study also used the secondary data sources to design the conceptual framework and primary data to respond the research questions in this particular research context. The research data collection instrument is panel interview form to measure the research variables.

7-1-RESEARCH DESIGN

Based on the nature of this study, which is studying Afghan refugees' contributions to the economy of host countries, the research population is those Individuals with specific characteristics (Afghan refugees in Poland and the United States) are the whole population of under study of this research and based on the statistics, the total number of Afghan refugees till 2021 in USA was 89500 (New York Times, 2021) and in Poland was around 1000 people (Koschalka, 2022) which the total number of populations is 90500 people.

The research has used the secondary data like statistical books, journals, articles and previous scientific researches to examine the impact of Afghan refugees on economic development of host countries in USA and Poland up to 2021 and primary data through data collection with interviews with experts and professionals.

7-2-RESEARCH DATA ANALYSIS

The Delphi approach is a research method that seeks to obtain consensus or expert opinions on a specific topic. It is particularly useful when there is limited existing knowledge or conflicting opinions. In the Delphi approach, a panel of experts is carefully selected based on their expertise in the research area. These experts are then asked to provide their opinions and feedback on specific questions or statements related to the research topic. The responses are collected and summarized, and the experts are provided with a summary of the group's responses for further evaluation. This iterative process continues until a consensus or convergence of opinions is reached. The Delphi approach offers several advantages. It allows for the systematic gathering and integration of expert

knowledge, helping to reduce bias and increase the reliability of research findings. It provides a structured way to elicit expert opinions, making it particularly useful in forecasting, policy-making, and decision-making processes. Anonymity among experts encourages more honest and independent responses. However, it is important to acknowledge the limitations of the Delphi approach. These include potential bias in expert selection, reliance on subjective opinions, and the possibility of groupthink. To ensure the validity and reliability of the Delphi process, careful design and execution are essential.

In this study, a combination of qualitative and quantitative research methods is being utilized to examine the impact of Afghan refugees on the economies of the host countries, specifically the USA and Poland. The qualitative approach is being employed to gain a deeper understanding of the patterns, opinions, and current and future status of the refugees' role in the economy. To ensure a comprehensive analysis, a panel of experts consisting of nine individuals from the USA and nine from Poland has been selected to participate in this research. These experts possess significant knowledge and expertise in the field and are therefore able to provide valuable insights and opinions on the topic at hand. The research questionnaire focuses on four major aspects of the household economy that are influenced by the presence of Afghan refugees. These areas include the labor market, entrepreneurial activities undertaken by the refugees, indicators related to production and GDP, and the consumption patterns and market demands created by Afghan refugees. By gathering data through both qualitative and quantitative methods, this study aims to provide a holistic understanding of how Afghan refugees impact various aspects of the economy in the USA and Poland. The qualitative data will help identify patterns, themes, and meanings within the responses of the experts, while the quantitative data will allow for statistical analysis and measurement of the economic impact. It is important to note that this research approach has certain limitations. The selection of experts may introduce bias, as certain perspectives or opinions may be overrepresented or underrepresented. Additionally, the reliance on subjective opinions may introduce a degree of subjectivity into the findings. Furthermore, there is a risk of groupthink, where experts may conform to the dominant opinions within the group. To mitigate these limitations, careful consideration has been given to expert selection, and anonymity has been ensured to encourage independent and honest responses. As this research followed the descriptive-analytical research method and the required data have been collected from secondary data, the primary data also have been collected using expert panel interview to obtain facts within the descriptive research design. The table below explains how each question relates to the study parts and objectives.

Table 1: links of research questions with theories/references/empirical studies

Question	Linked to section in the dissertation	Linked to theories/references
What is the impact of refugees on labor market of host countries?	Refugees' impact on Labor Market (Section 2.3.2)	(Whitaker, 2002), (Sébastien Jean, Orsetta Causa, Miguel Jiménez and Isabelle Wanner, 2010). (Hanson, G.H. and M.J. Slaughter, 1999; Gandal, N., G.H. Hanson and M.J. Slaughter, 2004), (Atanas Dimitrov, Goran Angelov, 2017), (Kerr, W. R., & Kerr, S. P., 2011), (Verme, P., & Gigliarano, C., 2016)
What is the impact of refugees on GDP growth?	Refugees and GDPs growth (Section 2.3.3)	(Tejaratefarda, 2015), (Hainmueller, J., & Hiscox, M. J., 2010), (Constant, A. F., Krause, A., & Rinne, U., 2012)
What is the impact of refugees on Market demand and consumption pattern?	Consumption pattern and Market demand (Section 2.3.4)	(Alix-Garcia, J. and D. Saah, 2010), (Werker, 2007), (Damm, A. P., Dustmann, C., & Preston, I., 2017), (Bevelander, P., & Pendakur, R., 2014)
What is the impact of refugees on innovation and entrepreneurship?	Refugees' innovation and entrepreneurship (Section 2.3.5)	(Hanna, 2020), (Bevelander, P., & Pendakur, R., 2014), (Constant, A. F., Krause, A., & Rinne, U., 2012)

8- QUANTITATIVE DATA ANALYSIS

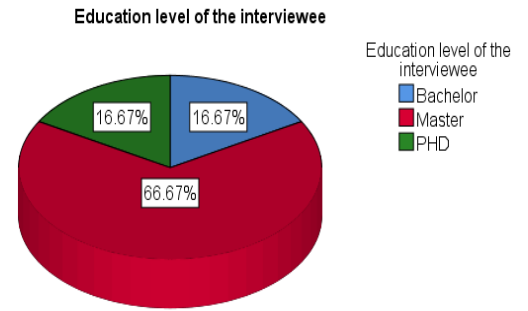
The focus of statistical analysis is the structure and categorization of data, visual representation, and computation of values, such as tabular view of data, central tendency measurement, and others, which explain the features of each specification of the study population. The features of the panel interview and the adequacy, relevance, importance, and clarity of the sub-indicators used to evaluate the research questions are addressed in this section of the research.

8-1-EDUCATION LEVEL OF THE PANEL INTERVIEW

Nineteen experts and professionals from Poland and the USA made up the whole survey's respondent panel, according to the data's demographic descriptive analysis. 16.7 percent of survey respondents had a bachelor's and another 16.7% belongs to PHD level degree, and the biggest proportion of respondents (66.7%) belongs to Master degree level.

Table 2: Education level of the interviewee

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Bachelor	3	16.7	16.7	16.7
	Master	12	66.7	66.7	83.3
	PHD	3	16.7	16.7	100.0
	Total	18	100.0	100.0	

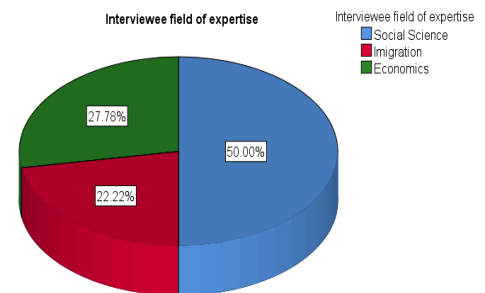


8-2-FIELD OF EXPERTISE OF THE PANEL INTERVIEW

The table displays the frequency and percentage distribution of responses for the given categories. In this case, the categories are "Social Science," "Immigration," and "Economics."

Table 3: Interviewee field of expertise

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Social Science	9	50.0	50.0	50.0
	Immigration	4	22.2	22.2	72.2
	Economics	5	27.8	27.8	100.0
	Total	18	100.0	100.0	

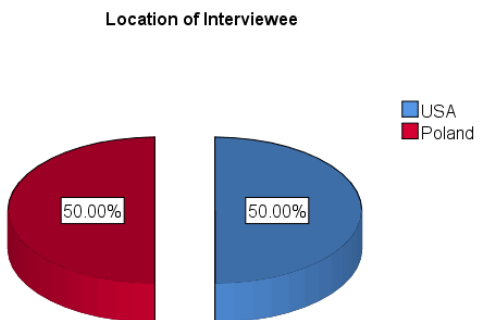


8-3-LOCATION OF THE PANEL INTERVIEW

The table provides information on the location of the interviewees and their corresponding frequencies, percentages, valid percentages, and cumulative percentages. It shows that out of the total 18 respondents, 9 (50.0%) were from the USA and 9 (50.0%) were from Poland. The valid percentages indicate that both the USA and Poland accounted for 50.0% of the responses.

Table 4: Location of Interviewee panel

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	USA	9	50.0	50.0	50.0
	Poland	9	50.0	50.0	100.0
	Total	18	100.0	100.0	



9- QUALITATIVE DATA ANALYSIS

9-1-AFGHAN REFUGEES' EFFECT ON LABOR MARKET

Based on interviewee panel information, Afghan refugees face various challenges and barriers when it comes to accessing the labor force market in Poland. These challenges include legal restrictions, language difficulties, discrimination, and a lack of recognition for their qualifications. However, studies suggest that if Afghan refugees are provided with adequate support and opportunities, they can contribute positively to the economy and society of their host countries. In the United States, for example, Afghan refugees have similar employment levels as other immigrants, but they often experience lower wages and occupational levels. Some companies have taken the initiative to hire Afghan refugees and provide them with training and support. However, there is still a need for more employers to reduce the barriers that prevent refugees from finding work. It is important to note that the impact of refugees on the U.S. labor market is generally not negative, as native workers adapt to the influx of refugees. Additionally, immigration can help alleviate labor market tightness caused by the pandemic. Overall, Afghan refugees express their intentions and interest in participating in the labor force market by seeking employment opportunities and demonstrating their willingness to contribute to the workforce. However, they face significant obstacles that need to be addressed to fully unlock their potential in the labor market.

The information provided by the expert panel shows that there is limited information regarding the employment rate of Afghan refugees in Poland. However, it is known that in August 2021, approximately 1300-1500 Afghans were evacuated to Poland by the Polish government, and 750 of them were granted international protection in the same year. In comparison, Poland has received a significant number of refugees from Ukraine, with over 185,000 individuals who have started working under a simplified procedure. Unfortunately, the employment situation for Ukrainian refugees in Poland is not very favorable, as only 10% of them are able to work in their respective professions, while 79% take up any available job. It is important to note that these figures pertain to Ukrainian refugees and not specifically Afghan refugees.

While specific data on the employment rate of Afghan refugees in Poland is lacking, it is worth mentioning that globally, approximately 75% of Afghan refugees are engaged in some form of work in their host countries. This statistic highlights the resilience and determination of Afghan refugees to contribute to the labor market and provide for themselves and their families. Furthermore, it is worth noting that in the United States, specifically, around 75% of Afghan refugees are employed. This demonstrates the potential and capabilities of Afghan refugees when given the opportunity to participate in the labor force. In conclusion, although there is limited data on the employment rate of Afghan refugees in Poland, it is evident that they face challenges similar to other refugee populations. The employment situation for Ukrainian refugees in Poland is not highly favorable, with only a small percentage working in their chosen professions. However, globally and in the United States, Afghan refugees have shown a significant presence in the labor market, indicating their eagerness to contribute and succeed. It is important for society to recognize their potential and provide them with support and opportunities to integrate into the labor force, benefiting both the refugees themselves and the host country's economy and society as a whole.

Based on respond of the expert panel, Afghan refugees in Poland are working in various sectors, including factories and banks, depending on their educational background and experience. There are efforts to help them find employment, such as job fairs and training programs organized by different organizations. The specific occupations of Afghan refugees in Poland are not mentioned in the available information. However, it can be assumed that they may work in sectors such as engineering, education, healthcare, or business, based on their skills and qualifications.

The part-time worker status of Afghan refugees is not specified in the available data. It is likely that part-time and full-time refugees hold the same employment status. Regarding the hours of work for Afghan refugees, especially newly arrived ones in the host country, it is mentioned that they often work longer hours compared to other individuals. It is stated that they may work up to 60 hours per week or even more. In conclusion, Afghan refugees in Poland and the US work in various sectors depending on their qualifications and experience. Efforts are being made to help them find employment through initiatives such as job fairs and training programs. The specific occupations and part-time worker status of Afghan refugees are not mentioned in the available information. However, it is noted that Afghan refugees often work longer hours, potentially up to 60 hours per week or more.

The employment situation of Afghan refugees in the informal labor market of Poland and the US is affected by language barriers, transportation issues, and other challenges. Despite these obstacles, more than half of Afghan refugees seeking employment have found jobs. They contribute to filling gaps in various industries such as manufacturing, healthcare, retail, tourism, transportation, and education. There are no negative effects on native workers from the influx of Afghan refugees. Based on experience, it typically takes around one year or 150 days for an Afghan refugee in the United States to find employment. Afghan refugees in Poland may experience underemployment in their occupations, but the specific duration is not mentioned in the available information. In the United States, the interviewee panel suggests that refugees are less likely to be employed the longer they live there. However, some companies in the US have been actively hiring Afghan and other refugees, particularly in sectors like technology, hospitality, and manufacturing. The US government has also implemented a new process allowing Afghan nationals to renew their parole and continue living and working in the country for two years. In the United States, underemployment for Afghan refugees may last approximately six months.

The education and literacy levels of Afghan refugees play a significant role in their employment prospects. Many Afghan women, in particular, face challenges in finding jobs due to limited education. However, opportunities may exist for them in industries such as factories, restaurants, and hotels. In the United States, Afghan students and their families may also face obstacles in adapting to the American education system, including language barriers, cultural differences, trauma, and interrupted schooling. The U.S. Department of Education provides resources and tools to support the educational needs of Afghan refugees.

The wages and compensation for Afghan refugees vary depending on the country they are in and the industry they work in. In Poland, the average salary for foreigners starts at around 4,000 zlotys (approximately \$1,000). However, economic growth in Poland is projected to be low in 2023 due to high inflation and energy prices. In the United States, the federal government provides a one-time payment of \$2,275 for each Afghan refugee served by a resettlement agency. This amount includes direct assistance for critical needs such as housing, food, clothing, and furnishings during the refugee's first 30 to 90 days in the U.S., with the remaining funds used to cover administrative costs. The wages for Afghan refugees in the U.S. are generally comparable to those of other citizens and depend on working hours.

Afghan refugees may face difficulties in accessing the labor market, healthcare, education, and other social benefits in certain countries like Poland. There are suggestions that they are neglected compared to Ukrainian refugees who have arrived in Poland since February. However, in the United States, some Afghan refugees have access to work permits and employment assistance, and certain employers have pledged to hire them. This could have a positive effect on the labor market, particularly in sectors facing labor shortages.

The opportunities for Afghan youth refugees to participate in the labor force market vary depending on the country and the specific circumstances they face. While it is not clear what percentage of Afghan youth refugees will enter the labor force, there are many opportunities available to them. Some estimates suggest that up to 40% of Afghan youth refugees could participate in the labor force. However, it is also possible that a higher percentage, such as 80%, may find employment opportunities.

9-2-AFGHAN REFUGEES EFFECT ON PRODUCTION AND GDP RELATED FACTORS

By gathering information received from the research panel interviewee, the productivity of Afghan refugees in the host country can have varying effects. In Poland, currently, there may not be a significant impact due to the relatively small number of refugees. However, in the United States, the productivity of Afghan refugees is expected to contribute to the country's economy in the coming years as they settle and integrate into the workforce.

And the immediate impact of Afghan refugees on the host country's economy may be limited. However, over time, their presence can stimulate economic growth through increased consumption, labor force participation, and entrepreneurship. This can lead to job creation, increased tax revenue, and overall economic development.

The household consumption of Afghan refugees can contribute to the GDP growth of host countries. In the case of the United States, the resettlement of Afghan refugees is estimated to have a minimal but positive impact on the GDP, with an estimated increase of around 0.005% or approximately \$1.4 billion. This increase is a result of their consumption and economic activities contributing to overall economic growth.

9-3-AFGHAN REFUGEES EFFECT ON ENTREPRENEURIAL ACTIVITIES

The panel of experts agreed that Afghan refugees have entrepreneurial potential in their host countries. They stated that the refugees are motivated to rebuild their lives and are willing to open businesses and pursue careers as entrepreneurs. They also acknowledged that Afghan refugees bring unique trade knowledge and skill sets to their host countries. They described the refugees as highly motivated individuals who potentially have a positive impact on the economies, particularly in the United States.

The panel of experts confirmed that Afghan refugees contribute to improving innovation and creativity in their host countries. They noted that the refugees are actively engaged in technology and are focused on learning in areas such as tech. They agreed that Afghan refugees have improved the efficiency and speed of working through modern technologies and approaches. They observed that the refugees are quick learners and are able to adapt and excel in their work.

9-4-AFGHAN REFUGEES EFFECT ON CONSUMPTION PATTERN AND MARKET DEMAND

According to the effect of Afghan refugees on consumption pattern and market demand of host countries, the panel interviewee agreed that presence of Afghan refugees in host countries leads to an increased utilization of resources, goods, and services. The market demand and consumption pattern of goods are influenced by Afghan refugees. While the United States caters to diverse nationalities, Afghan refugees have specific demands that companies acknowledge and accommodate. Considering that there are approximately 2.7 million Afghan refugees worldwide, with 11,814 admitted to the US in 2020, and the US already generates a significant amount of waste per capita (estimated at 4.9 pounds per day), the material flows and waste production of Afghan refugees in the US will depend on how well they adapt to the consumption and disposal patterns of their host country.

10-RESEARCH CONCLUSION

In conclusion, the employment situation for Afghan refugees in Poland is not well-documented, but based on global and US statistics, it is clear that Afghan refugees have the potential to contribute positively to the labor market if given the opportunity. They face various challenges and barriers, such as legal restrictions, language difficulties, discrimination, and a lack of recognition for their qualifications. However, with adequate support and opportunities, they can overcome these obstacles and make significant contributions to the economy and society of their host countries. It is crucial for host countries like Poland to develop policies and strategies that address these challenges and provide Afghan refugees with the necessary support to unlock their potential in the labor market. By doing so, both the refugees and the host country can benefit from their skills, talents, and contributions.

the wages and compensation for Afghan refugees differ depending on the country and industry they work in. In Poland, the average salary for foreigners starts at around 4,000 zlotys, while in the United States, Afghan refugees receive a one-time payment of \$2,275 from the federal government for critical needs and administrative costs. Access to the labor market, healthcare, education, and social benefits may be challenging for Afghan refugees in certain countries like Poland, where there are suggestions of neglect compared to Ukrainian refugees. However, in the United States, some Afghan refugees have access to work permits and employment assistance, with certain employers pledging to hire them, which can positively impact the labor market. The opportunities for Afghan youth refugees to participate in the labor force vary depending on the country and their specific circumstances. Estimates suggest that up to 40% of Afghan youth refugees could enter the labor force, but it is also possible that a higher percentage, such as 80%, may find employment opportunities. Overall, it is important for host countries like Poland to address the challenges faced by Afghan refugees and provide them with adequate support and opportunities to unlock their potential in the labor market. By doing so, both the refugees and the host country can benefit from their skills, talents, and contributions.

The presence of Afghan refugees in host countries has varying effects on production, GDP, entrepreneurial activities, and consumption patterns. In Poland, where the number of refugees is relatively small, the impact on productivity and GDP is currently limited. However, in the United States, Afghan refugees are expected to contribute to the country's economy as they integrate into the workforce. Over time, the presence of Afghan refugees can stimulate economic growth through increased consumption, labor force participation, and entrepreneurship. Their entrepreneurial potential and motivation to rebuild their lives can lead to job creation and overall economic development. Additionally, Afghan refugees bring unique trade knowledge and skill sets to their host countries, improving innovation and creativity. The consumption patterns and market demand of goods and services are also influenced by Afghan refugees. Companies in the United States are acknowledging and accommodating the specific demands of Afghan refugees. However, it is important to consider the environmental impact as increased consumption may lead to higher waste production.

Overall, the presence of Afghan refugees has the potential to positively contribute to the economies of host countries. It is crucial for host countries to provide adequate support and opportunities for Afghan refugees to unlock their potential in the labor market and fully integrate into society. By doing so, both the refugees and the host country can benefit from their skills, talents, and contributions.

11-RESEARCH LIMITATION

- There is a lack of thorough and up-to-date statistics on Afghan refugees' economic contributions. availability of such data could help the researchers to analyze the contribution of the Afghan refugees to the economic sectors of the host communities with more accuracy and quantified approaches.
- The lack of consistent data-gathering procedures across countries and organizations makes cross-country comparisons difficult. As this research is focused on two countries, it needs to compare the same indicators and economic indexes about Afghan refugees in case of comparison analysis which is not possible due to a lack of data on the same indicators in both countries.
- The reliability and accuracy of data sources, as well as the necessity to guarantee that they appropriately represent the Afghan refugee community.
- As the Afghan refugees in USA and Poland and especially in USA distributing in a vast geographical area, it was hard for researcher to have individual interviews from all geographical area and receiving their points of views.

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