

Topic: Immigration Policies: A Violation of Human Rights or a Crucial Step for National Prosperity?

## Outline

### 1. Introduction

#### Thesis Statement:

Immigration policies are vital for maintaining national security, economic growth, and social unity. They often risk violating the human rights if not designed with humanitarian values in mind. Therefore, it is essential to adopt a balanced approach that promotes both national development and the respect for individual rights.

2. Immigration policies have evolved overtime, shaped by historical events and national priorities.

a - US immigration laws for e.g Chinese exclusion Act (1882) and Immigration Act (1924)

b - Europe's restrictive laws post-Syrian Refugee crisis in 2015

## C- Pakistan's Policies towards Afghan Refugees since the 1980's

3- Immigration policies can become a tool for human rights violation

a- Restrictions on legal entry, giving rise to the illegal/irregular movement  
for e.g: At least 8600 people died on migration routes worldwide in Year 2023  
(IOM, report)

b- Unlawful detentions and forced deportations -

for e.g: The UK has faced criticism for not providing legal assistance to the prolonged detention immigrants

c- Denial of essential services to immigrants in detention centers and other facilities.

d- Prejudice and hostility towards immigrants.

e- Family separation and its consequences

f- In Pakistan Afghan refugees face harassment at the hands of police.

#### 4- The Role of immigration policies in fostering national prosperity

a- Significant economic growth through labour contribution

b- Fostering innovation and Business growth-

c- Enhancing Cultural Diversity and Unity

d- Supporting development through Remittances

e- Promoting population growth and long term sustainability

#### 5- Immigration Policies in Pakistan and its positive and negative impacts

a- Contributions in the form of remittances, economic growth and addressing the labor shortages-

b- challenges faced by the refugees in terms of basic needs, discrimination and exploitation-

## 6- Adopting the Global practices

a- Canada's policies focus on multiculturalism and skilled labor contributing to its growth.

b- European Union's focus on helping the refugees has allowed them to manage large number, while promoting stability and prosperity

## 7. Way forward and solutions

a- Focus on sustainable migration

b- Propose a more inclusive and balanced policy that promotes national prosperity ~~and~~ while safeguarding human rights

c- Nations globally may collaborate for the betterment and protection of refugees.

## 8- Conclusion

"Migrants and Refugees are not pawns on the chessboard of the humanity - They are children, women and men who leave or are forced to leave their homes for various reasons -"

(Pope Francis)

According to the World Migration Report, there is 27% increase in the <sup>number of the immigrants.</sup> ~~percentage~~ in last decade, the number rising to 281 million from 221 million migrants. While there are 8.8 million Pakistanis living in the different parts of the world - As Pope Francis said some leave on their free will, while some are forced to leave, there are various reasons contributing to this crucial step of leaving homeland, as it is ~~not~~ a bitter pill to swallow. The migrations are based on the place (origin and destination), that includes Urban to Rural, Rural to Urban or Urban to Urban. International Migration in the form of legal migration, where one is allowed to move, illegal migration refers to forced entry to place where one is not welcomed lawfully and Refugees who are forced to leave because of abuse. Migration can also be based on the time, such as short term Migration where

The stay is for short period or for specific purpose e.g. business trips, tourists, long-term migration includes permanent shifting or for a long term purpose such as for education, companies send for certain projects and lastly, the seasonal migration, people move due to weather conditions and move back after the season is over. Migrations benefit the country in the form of economic growth, enhancing cultural diversity and improves unity and population growth with sustainable long term growth, but it brings challenges in the form of discrimination, denial of basic needs. To control these immigration policies are made for the national security, unit and growth but if they lack the essence of humanity results in the violation of human rights. Therefore, a balanced approach is essential.

Firstly, the evolution of these policies overtime due to the historical events and national priorities. For instance, in the United States early immigrations like Chinese Exclusion Act of 1882 was enforced to limit the entry of Chinese people in the country mainly due to racial prejudice and concerns about competition in the job sector. Later, the Immigration Act

of 1924, was created that favored people from northern and southern Europe while restricting from other regions. These laws reflect the country's concerns regarding race, national security and economy. However, things change in 1965 due to the Immigration and National Act that removed the racial quotas and opened the doors for all the nations. The debate still continues about the balance of security, human rights and economy -

Moving on, in Europe the policies were effected in year 2015 due to Syrian refugees crisis. As millions of Syrian fled the war, initially they were welcomed throughout the Europe but things changed when the number kept increasing, as the public opinion started changing, to limit this stricter regulations were implemented. For example, The Dublin regulation where the refugees firstly will be moved to first EU countries that increased the burden on countries like Greece or Italy. As a result countries like Poland and Hungary refused to take any refugees and implemented the stricter border controls to prevent the entrance. These actions of various European countries gave birth to global debates about the human rights,

security and how to balance offering help and the national security. These policies had long-lasting impacts on Europe.

Furthermore, the immigration policies of Pakistan towards Afghan refugees have changed since 1980. During the Soviet invasions, Afghans in large numbers fled to Pakistan for the safety and because of it the country became the largest host in the world. Pakistan provided basic needs with work opportunities but as the situation improved the government encouraged the refugees to return home. In the 1990s, laws are made and various programs for the return of the refugees voluntarily. Even though there has been a decrease in the number but the security issues, legal rights and access to services remain. In recent times, the rise in instability in Afghanistan raised the number of refugees in Pakistan, this gave birth to the economic challenges and security concerns with dealing the a large number of refugees.

In conclusion, the immigration policies have played a significant role in shaping the economic, social and cultural aspects of the countries around the world. While these policies



can lead to human rights violation in the form of discrimination and exploitation, but provide various benefits including economic growth, innovation and cultural diversity - The experience of countries like United States, Europe, Canada highlights the challenges faced during balancing national security and humanitarian concerns - The example of Pakistan shows how they can be a blessing and a problem at the same time - Moreover, the balanced approach is required to ensure the national prosperity while respecting the dignity of the immigrants - Through the failures and success of various countries, nations can work on the balanced approaches, to ensure fair and prosperous future for all -