

Human Rights Violation of Stranded Palestinians: Perspectives of Palestinians Living in Bangladesh

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Abstract

The Palestinian people have been subjected to various human rights violations for decades, making it one of the most significant humanitarian traumas in the contemporary world. They are one of the world's largest and longest-serving stranded refugee communities. This paper aims to investigate the human rights violations experienced by Palestinians in both the occupied Palestinian territory and refugee camps. The findings are based on an exploratory investigation that interprets primary data collected through semi-structured interviews with ten Palestinian students studying post-graduate studies at various medical colleges in Bangladesh. The research reveals that the inalienable rights of the Palestinians are being highly violated by the Israeli administration, forcing them to live in the occupied Palestinian territory. This paper contributes to the ongoing debate about the human rights violations experienced by Palestinians and highlights the need for immediate international action to address this crisis.

Keywords: Palestinians, Israeli usurpers, human rights violation, occupied territory, checkpoint

Introduction

Human rights, defined as ethical beliefs or norms for specific types of human behaviour, are usually protected by both domestic and international law (Stanford Encyclopaedia of Philosophy, 2003). Because of their shared humanity, human rights apply invariably to everyone. These principles are universal because they can be used in any setting and at any time. They are also equal because they are consistent regardless of who is using them (Shestack, 1998). The human rights

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violations of Palestinians and the refugee crisis are quite old, dating back some decades. Currently, this is the world's most challenging issue and a chronic problem with hardly any solution (Coleman, 2006). Sometimes the problem increases on a larger scale. Israeli militants and usurpers are unlawfully killing the Palestinians, dismantling their homes, torturing them in several ways, and violating the Palestinians' various fundamental and human rights, which are necessary for every human being (Human Rights Watch, 2021). The United Nations' various conventions regarding human rights are also being violated. Despite the ongoing and widespread human rights violations experienced by stranded Palestinians, there is a lack of observable actions or steps taken by the United Nations Organization (henceforth the UN). Citizens' claims that Palestine should be a Jewish homeland, such as those made at the First Zionist Congress in 1897 and the Balfour Declaration in 1917, caused problems in the area immediately (Loevy, 2021). At that time, there were only a small number of Jews in the region, but that number skyrocketed as a tide of Jews moved into this region. After World War I, the Jewish people were promised a national state in Palestine by the then-British government (Fischbach, 2008).

The implementation of the Mandate for Palestine became an obligatory responsibility for the British government, and thus the Balfour Declaration was announced in 1917. The tensions between Jews and Arabs escalated into a communal clash. The clash and enmity began between the Palestinians and Jewish people, and it gradually increased. The UN then passed Resolution 181, which outlined a partition plan for Palestine (Ben-Dror, 2013). However, Palestinians rejected it. The regional warfare started just after the birth of the State of Israel. The U.S.A., the Soviet Union, and some other countries started to recognize Israel immediately (Global Conflict Tracker, 2022). After the 1947–1949 Palestine War, neighboring Arab countries started to attack the newly created state of Israel, which later turned into an Arab–Israeli war. The current situation in Israel and Palestine is the result of Israel's military Possession of Palestinian territory during the 1967 Six-Day War (Meron, 2017). Israel and the surrounding Arab countries (Lebanon, Syria, Jordan, and Egypt) signed armistice agreements after the wars (Horowitz, 1983). Israel began creating settlers and consolidating military authority over the West Bank and Gaza Strip after it conquered the rest of historical Palestine. Jewish colonists in certain areas were given permission to arm themselves while under Israeli military protection.

It is estimated that Zionists took over 80% of Palestinian territory and expelled over 80% of the Palestinian population after 1967 (Tatour, 2019). Twenty years of violent military occupation led to the First Intifada in the Palestinian territories. For Palestinians, the end of the secret talks between the PLO and

Israel in 1993 marked the beginning of a new era. (Abusada, 2017). The Oslo Accords revived hopes for peace for some while dashing the expectations of others. Today, Palestinians are greatly deprived of their homes, lands, and all other fundamental and human rights that are necessary for a human being. Therefore, this study will help to gain more knowledge about what is going on in the occupied Palestinian territory. Pickup et al. (2001) stated that Palestinians have suffered for decades from widespread human rights violations and deprivations, including violations of their most fundamental rights.

In 1948, the United Nations adopted the UDHR, which enumerated 25 human rights and provided a formal and categorical framework for human rights. All human beings, everywhere, are endowed with various rights detailed in the many articles. Article 25 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) affirms that every individual is entitled to essential rights, including access to adequate healthcare, a decent standard of living, food, clothing, housing, medical care, and necessary social services. Furthermore, it emphasizes the importance of protection and support in situations of income inequality, illness, disability, loss of a spouse, old age, or other circumstances beyond one's control. This article underscores the fundamental rights that should be guaranteed to all individuals, promoting their well-being, and addressing their basic needs, regardless of their circumstances. It holds great significance from the perspectives of both human rights and global politics. The three core objectives of the study are to:

1. Investigate the human rights violations experienced by Palestinians in the occupied Palestinian territory and refugee camps.
2. Expose and highlight the inalienable rights violations of Palestinians by the Israeli administration, particularly in relation to their forced residence in the occupied Palestinian territory.

Literature Review: Theoretical departure and research question

We have focused on various literature that has been done on Palestine and Palestinians' issues in a time-based, sequential manner. Darr (2014) looked at how Israel's growing settlements have led to the uprooting of Palestinians. To trace the development of Israel's disposal strategy from 1967 onward under different administrations, the author provided a historical outline. Israeli military authority over the occupied Palestinian area is directly linked to settlement operations, which are a regular occurrence (Darr, 2014). Their origins can be traced back to the illegality, according to international law, of the process of establishing and expanding settlements, which has been

condemned by numerous international bodies, including the United Nations, the International Court of Justice, and others.

By violating Article 49 of the Fourth Geneva Convention, Israel continues to steal Palestinian lands for its illegal settlement activity and encourages its population to migrate into the occupied Palestinian area (Brusca, 2010). It was reported in September 2014 that there were 540,000 Israeli settlers living in West Bank settlements (Darr, 2014). Ober (1990) addressed the question of whether Palestinians constitute a 'people' entitled to self-determination, addressing the issue from both a historical and legal perspective. Then it looked at Israel's adherence to international law in the occupied areas as well as the 'security procedures' it employs there. However, Hajjar (2017) emphasised the history and current state of the human rights movement in Israel and Palestine, concentrating on the conditions in the occupied Palestinian territories of the West Bank and Gaza. According to the author, the conflict boils down to a fight for Palestinian national and human rights, including self-determination, legal protection or security, civil liberties, etc., which are prioritized by the Israeli state. In addition, the author claimed that, ever since the Palestinian Authority was established in 1994, several human and fundamental rights had been violated. This invasion caused mass destruction of Palestinians in almost all aspects, such as food and cash deficits, interior displacement of civilians or housing damage, psychological heartbreak, and intense obstacles and difficulties in basic services, health-related services, and financial issues (Giacaman et al., 2004).

King-Irani (2008) examines the legal limits or territories where Palestinians have been displaced, particularly in support of refugee rights and in the framework of international humanitarian law and the international prosecution of war crimes against Palestinians. Over the past 60 years, he argued, Palestinians have been expelled to liminal political borders or areas where UN agencies such as the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) respond to Palestinian needs and demands through anomalous channels outside their jurisdiction. As a result, Palestinians' rights are perpetually in question and regularly violated, whether they live under occupation, as second-class citizens of Israel, or as refugees in Arab countries. Bosman et al. (2014) provided a useful guide for a holistic approach to the sexual and reproductive health rights and needs of refugee women. Severe mobility problems had made it much harder for both staff and patients to get to health facilities. This meant that pregnant women had less access to prenatal and postnatal care. It also meant that more women gave birth at home, were induced to give birth, or gave birth at military checkpoints. Family planning had become a political issue, and there were

signs that violence against women was getting worse. The most obvious way that conflict affected women's sexual and reproductive health was by making it hard for them to get to services that help them stay healthy.

Takkenberg (2009) emphasizes that UNRWA was formed with the aim of supporting and defending Palestinian refugees around the world, and it continues to be committed to doing so. UNRWA's core duty is to offer humanitarian and development aid; it is also in a unique position to advise and, if possible, help and support other actors in their attempts to find and implement a solution. Feldman (2012) claims that in 1948, about 750,000 Palestinians were forcibly expelled from their homes and relocated to the West Bank, Gaza Strip, Jordan, Syria, and Lebanon. The UNRWA, which was established in 1949 and provides aid to Palestinians across the Middle East, reports that there are currently 2 million Palestinian refugees (Kaloti, Katri & Maghari, 2020). This makes the Palestinian refugee community one of the world's largest and longest-serving refugee communities. The author stated that when he looks at the long-term humanitarian situation, he also looks at what is happening in such a humanitarian order (Feldman, 2012). While Andersen and Erslev (2016) examined the plight of Palestinian refugees in Lebanon and the Syrian refugee crisis, it is estimated that approximately 1.5 million Syrians have sought sanctuary in Lebanon since the start of the war in 2011 (Macken, 2018).

There are around 53,000 Palestinian refugees in Syria (Kaloti, Katri & Maghari, 2020). Lebanon's government has refused to construct refugee camps since the crisis began, adhering instead to a 'No Camp Policy' (Andersen, 2016). Instead, they are staying in makeshift camps, renting rooms in pre-existing Palestinian refugee camps in Lebanon that have been there since Israel's foundation in 1948, or on privately rented land. While the UN Secretary-General's report focused on the human rights situation in Gaza such as the killing and wounding of Palestinians, rocket firing into Israeli civilian zones, the siege, and restricted access regions (Chinkin, 2011). The same report analysed the circumstances in the West Bank including East Jerusalem, discussing about the restrictions on mobility, forceful transfers, settlers' violence and lack of accountability, Israeli security forces' disproportionate use of force, and infringement by the Palestinian Authority. A recent study by Hassanein (2017) investigated how Israeli politicians and policymakers shape concerns about crime or offense in a settler colonial environment. In this context, the writer considered three factors that play a significant role: control, discrimination, and detachment (Hassanein et al., 2017). We used Relative Deprivation Theory (RDT) to link up or connect this theory to find out the answer in response to the questions

we set for this paper. What does RDT mean, and how does it explain the abject humanitarian crises that have been faced by the Palestinians? Gurr's (2015) revolutionary work connected poverty and political violence and showed whether the frustration-aggression mechanism was set off by emotions of relative deprivation. Also, he points out that the longer people (or groups) suffer from relative deprivation, the more likely it is that their discontent will turn to rage and, ultimately, violence.

Now the question arises as to how this theory is interconnected with the case of human rights violations against Palestinians. The relative deprivation theory fits or suits best the situation of Palestinians in the occupied Palestinian territory. The Palestinians are deprived of their various human, basic, or fundamental rights in almost every sector. The Israeli administration and forces greatly violate the human rights of Palestinians in various ways. Palestinians feel deprived of various things in various ways. Palestinians' movements are being controlled, they are not able to access certain areas, they are not allowed to speak ill or bad about Israeli forces and administration; and Palestinians' press is being violated by the Israeli forces. So, the relative deprivation theory connects and suits in the best way the scenarios of Palestinians. The literature review primarily focuses on the human rights violations and challenges faced by Palestinians in different contexts, such as the occupied Palestinian territory, refugee camps, and neighbouring countries. However, there is a gap in the existing literature regarding a comprehensive examination of the link between RDT and the humanitarian crises experienced by Palestinians. While some studies briefly mention the concept of relative deprivation, there is a need for a deeper exploration of how RTD can help explain the abject humanitarian crises faced by Palestinians.

Additionally, the review highlights the various ways in which Palestinians' human rights are violated by the Israeli administration and forces, but there is limited research exploring the specific aspects and consequences of these rights violations. Therefore, the research gap lies in the need for a more extensive investigation that integrates RDT to understand the root causes and implications of the humanitarian crises faced by Palestinians, as well as a more focused examination of the specific human rights violations they experience and their broader impact on the Palestinian population. So, the research questions are: Research Question 1: How does the application of Relative Deprivation Theory (RDT) contribute to understanding the root causes and implications of the humanitarian crises faced by Palestinians? Research Question 2: What are the specific aspects and consequences of the human rights violations that Palestinians experience?

Methods

The study employed an exploratory research design to investigate the present condition of human rights and human rights violations among Palestinians, focusing on their personal narratives. The research paper utilised the purposive sampling method, a non-probability sampling technique, to select participants. The sample consisted of 10 Palestinian university or medical students currently enrolled in various medical colleges in Dhaka, Bangladesh. These students were chosen due to their extensive experience and knowledge regarding the situation of Palestinians. Ethical considerations were considered throughout the study. The interview questions were formulated in the English language, and the interviews were conducted using a semi-structured, in-depth interview format, ensuring written consent from all participants. The interviews took place in 2022 between February and April, with an interview duration ranging between 20 and 50 minutes. Data saturation, where no new information was being obtained from subsequent interviews, was used as a criterion to determine the sample size.

To ensure a comprehensive data collection process, a snowballing method was employed to identify and contact potential research participants. In addition, secondary data sources such as academic books, academic journals, newspapers, reports from organizations or institutions, and relevant websites were reviewed. The collected data was analysed thematically using the six-step process described by Braun and Clarke (2006). The themes that emerged from the analysis included: (1) the experience of displacement; (2) the challenges of living in a refugee camp; and (3) the hope for a better future.

Findings

The themes were developed through a rigorous and iterative process. After conducting and transcribing the interviews, the researcher thoroughly reviewed the transcripts to understand the participants' narratives. The collected data was coded by assigning descriptive tags to segments that represent key ideas. The coded data was then organized based on patterns and connections. Through constant comparison, the researcher identified overarching themes. The initial themes were carefully refined and revised to accurately capture the participants' experiences. This iterative process continued until data saturation was achieved. The major five themes were described and supported with relevant quotes and examples from the interviews, providing a comprehensive understanding of the participants' perspectives.

Systematic Denial and Violation of Fundamental Rights

Almost all the participants (Nos. 1, 3, 7, and 8) agreed that virtually all Palestinians' human rights were being infringed upon in the occupied Palestinian territory when asked to specify specific rights. The right to life, the right to move freely, the right to speak one's mind, the right to be left alone, the right to own property and natural resources, the right to an education, the right to gainful employment, the right to be treated fairly under the law, the right to participate in one's government and one's culture, the right to self-determination, the right to be free from torture and slavery, and the right to serious protection against all forms of serious discrimination were all cited as examples. In the occupied Palestinian area, Palestinians are denied their rights and have their rights repeatedly violated. Additionally, Participants 2 and 3, reported an extensive violation of the human rights of the minors. Israeli troops repeatedly target and traumatize Palestinian youngsters while they are in school. They use tear gas on Palestinian children. Moreover, Participants (5 and 7) added more names of human rights violations, including the following: the right to equal opportunity in public employment; the right to non-discrimination based on religion; the right to adequate food, nutrition, and clean drinking water, the right to adequate treatment of common diseases and medicine, and the right to adequate opportunities and basic needs in terms of infrastructure. The fact that Palestinians' rights to economic security, equal employment opportunities, and a living wage are also being denied and violated (Participant 10). Similarly, Palestinians only have access to electricity and a small portion of the internet. Their financial situation is precarious, and they must deal with issues like the devastation of farmland and the ban on fishing overseas in addition to the difficulties associated with infrastructure (building a house or an educational institution lacks proper equipment).

They do not get electricity for more than two hours a day. They do not get adequate pure drinking water and have network issues. Higher education opportunities are extremely limited in Palestine. Israeli forces occasionally demolish different hospitals, schools, etc. Palestinians consequently experience a variety of health-related issues, as well as a lack of access to food, clothing, healthcare, and education (Participant 1).

These challenges are a result of the Israeli occupation of the Occupied Palestinian Territory (OPT). The occupation has restricted Palestinian access to resources, such as water and land. It has also made it difficult for Palestinians to build their own infrastructure and develop their economy. As a result, Palestinians are often forced to live in poverty and suffer from a lack of necessities. The challenges faced by Palestinians are complex and interconnected. They are a

result of the Israeli occupation, yet they are also exacerbated by factors such as poverty, limited resources, and political instability. These challenges have a significant impact on the lives of Palestinians, and they make it difficult for them to build a better future.

Vulnerability and Insecurity

When the Participants were asked to what extent they really think that Palestinians are really engendered by human rights issues and to discuss how their human rights are being violated in the occupied territory, they provided several different opinions on this question. In response to such a question, they shared their experiences and said that Palestinians are really engendered by human rights issues to the maximum or highest degree at any time. Palestinians can face violent activity everywhere. They face attacks in school. Even they cannot do their prayers in a proper way. They cannot move anywhere, and within their own territory, Israeli forces prevent them from moving anywhere and check them at checkpoints. They have no right to move. They cannot say anything about their brutal activities, and they do most of these activities intentionally. They can expect a sudden attack by Israeli military forces at any time. Many of the Palestinians are or were violated by the military of Israel while eating, sleeping, studying, praying, or at any other time (Participant 1, Participant 2, Participant 3, and Participant 4). Participant 2 experienced many of his family members being killed by Israeli bombing during wars, and others were injured. Participant 3 observed that children are not safe in school.

Children are not safe in school. They are attacked and traumatized by Israeli soldiers in school. These were very shocking incidents. They are not safe at school at all, and they are afraid to go to school. Everywhere, the Israeli forces threaten the Palestinian people (Participant 3).

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Economic Hardships and Restrictions

According to Participant 5, Palestinians require the freedom to travel so that they can better themselves economically, improve their health, and spend time with loved ones who live far away. In addition to the severe economic difficulties, the fact that most Gazans must rely on humanitarian aid and that most families lack access to stable energy sources, good medical care, and safe drinking water compounds the situation. Most people in Gaza are

prohibited by Israeli authorities from moving about within the territory. Most of the Palestinians who need to travel from Gaza into Israel for reasons such as higher education or professional conferences are ignored. As they pass through the checkpoints, they are subjected to rigorous inspections. It is possible for a citizen of the United States or France to visit the occupied territory and West Bank, including the old city of Jerusalem, Ramallah, and other cities, but most Palestinians in Gaza do not have this privilege. Most of the population is comprised of young people, and many of them have given up hope for the country's future.

Another participant, Participant 6, thinks that Palestinians are really engendered by human rights issues in various ways. He shared his ferocious experience and told me that in Gaza, 21 people, including 10 children, died in a house fire. It was held in the Jabalia refugee camp in Northern Gaza. It was a direct result of Israel's military siege on Gaza. This is caused by electricity and gas leaks. Israel supplies a small amount of electricity to the Palestinian refugee camp. So, they must store fuel and gas inside their home, which was the main cause of this fire. If the fire had occurred in a developed country, it would have been brought under control within minutes. But Israel did not try to put out the fire. The military of Israel controls everything in and out of Gaza. A lot of Palestinians are forced to build improperly designed floors on existing shelters to accommodate their families. Palestinians lack proper construction materials to build their homes with safe structures. The infrastructure of Gaza is totally broken because of Israel's siege. Furthermore, Participant 7 from Gaza shared his experience by describing that in their Gaza city, bombs are being thrown at civilians. Many people and his family members were injured by the surprise attack. Tanks targeted the borders, and the military occupied the Palestinian territory. Israel's drones are consistently monitoring the sky. Marine fighters continuously target fishermen who are fishing within a very limited area. Innocent Civilians are being evacuated from their homes forcefully and permanently. There are children who do not get a proper education, and there is a lack of entertainment.

Palestine's economy is in terrible shape. Palestine is a violent and impoverished country. In Palestine, there are hardly any industries and no secure workplaces. Products' imports and exports are strictly regulated and limited by Israeli forces. The Palestinian fisherman faces limitations when catching fish. Most of the time, they get caught by the military and tortured in a brutal way. The economic condition depends on people's basic income, and they do not get it properly. That is why the Palestinian people must lead a miserable life (Participant 7).

Denial of Freedom of Movement

The denial of freedom of movement for stranded Palestinians is a severe human rights violation that has a devastating impact on their lives. The Israeli occupation of the Palestinian territories has made it extremely difficult for Palestinians to move freely, both within their own country and to other countries.

It has been years since I could not visit Palestine again as Israel closed all the borders of my beloved motherland long ago. During Ramadan and two Eids (Eid ul-Fitr and Eid ul-Adha), when Muslims all over the world enjoy their festivals, I see that Israeli fighter jets are shelling my homes and killing my family members. Very little of Israeli brutality comes to the attention of the world, as the world media is grossly western and biased. In the same world when someone is sharing deserts of Eid, I am being unable to contact my family members, and I am here seeing the dead bodies of my beloved family members and countrymen and praying for them from this far distance of thousands of miles (Participant 8).

Research Participant 8 shared that it has been years since they could visit Palestine again, as Israel closed all the borders of their beloved motherland long ago. During Ramadan and two Eids (Eid ul-Fitr and Eid ul-Adha), when Muslims all over the world enjoy their festivals, they see that Israeli fighter jets are shelling their homes and killing their family members (very little of this Israeli brutality comes to light in front of the world as the world media is grossly western and biased). In the same world, when someone is sharing the deserts of Eid, they are unable to contact their family members (as Palestinians are deprived of all sorts of information and communication technologies by the Israeli occupation), and they are here seeing the dead bodies of their beloved family members and countrymen and praying for them from this far distance of thousands of miles. Moreover, participant 9 told me that the extent to which Palestinians are really engendered by human rights issues extends to this very day and is getting very intense.

Numerous incidents in which Israeli attacks may have violated the principles of the intentional humanitarian law of distinction, proportionality, and possible precaution. There are no criminal investigations into these incidents. And Participant 10 told me that he belongs to Gaza, in Palestine. There was a sexual incident with his cousin by the Israeli military, as per his experience. When she (the participant's cousin) was 12 years old, she had to face this kind of traumatic situation in this region. There are many women in this area who are in great danger of sexual violence as well as assault or trauma. Young women are the main targets of this kind of sexual harassment by the Israeli military.

They cannot get out of the study of this outrage. The Israeli military bullied the Palestinian women and made very bad comments about them. Palestinian women are also detained on various occasions and are also being killed or tortured in prison. In fact, Palestinian women face sexual assault or harassment in a variety of ways.

Violation of Palestinians' Civil and Political Rights in Refugee Camps

Participants 1 through 9 unanimously agreed that Palestinians' rights to a decent quality of living and other rights are being violated in the refugee camps. They claim that Palestinians in these camps are severely denied their fundamental human rights, including adequate access to food, water, sanitation, healthcare, education, employment, safe living conditions, housing, a standard of living, social security, legal protection, and the right to life and personal liberty. Participant 9 specifically mentioned substandard working and living conditions, as well as violations of Palestinians' rights to sufficient housing and lodging. Improving children's lives was also emphasized, with recommendations for a safe and healthy environment, excellent education, and improved medical care. Participant 2 added that Palestinians in the camps face restrictions on freedom of movement and are denied legal identification and given names. Many shelters lack stable funding, and Participant 3 described the difficulties encountered upon arrival at the refugee camp, including inadequate equipment to stop bleeding, a lack of first aid supplies, an insufficient water supply, and limited freedom of movement. Participant 6 highlighted multiple human rights violations in the occupied territory and refugee camps, including overcrowding, limited electricity supply, lack of medical equipment and medicine, absence of clean drinking water, shortage of proper construction materials, and sieges by the Israeli military.

Furthermore, Participants 7 and 10 mentioned poor network service, lack of information, inadequate infrastructure, scarcity of basic drugs and medicine, absence of a first aid box, limited opportunities, and a lack of proper education for Palestinian refugee children. Despite minor issues with interview length, the data analysis effectively covered all research objectives, providing a comprehensive understanding of the experiences and human rights violations faced by vulnerable Palestinians. The interviews successfully fulfilled the research objectives by shedding light on the realities and allowing for detailed analysis and discussion of the main themes and key points. In conclusion, the gathered data and its analysis have effectively met the objectives of the research paper.

Discussion

The findings of this study reveal several significant themes that shed light on the experiences of Palestinians and the violations of their human rights. These themes provide a comprehensive understanding of the challenges faced by Palestinians and their implications. By connecting these themes with RDT, we can gain further insights into the root causes and consequences of the humanitarian crises experienced by Palestinians. The first theme that emerged from the interviews is the systematic denial and violation of Palestinians' fundamental rights. The participants unanimously expressed that Palestinians in the occupied Palestinian territory face severe infringements of their human rights across various domains. They highlighted violations such as the right to life, freedom of movement, freedom of speech, education, employment, and access to resources. The breadth and depth of these rights violations are indicative of a systemic deprivation experienced by Palestinians, which aligns with the concept of relative deprivation. The RTD posits that individuals or groups that perceive themselves as deprived compared to others are more likely to experience negative outcomes and engage in collective action. In the case of Palestinians, the persistent denial and violation of their fundamental rights can contribute to their sense of relative deprivation and fuel the humanitarian crises they face.

The second theme that emerged was the vulnerability and insecurity of Palestinians. The participants shared experiences of constant fear and threat due to violent activities and attacks by Israeli forces. The Participants described incidents of violence in schools, homes, and public spaces, leaving them in a perpetual state of insecurity. This vulnerability and insecurity are closely related to the concept of relative deprivation as well. The deprivation of basic safety and security needs, coupled with the constant exposure to violence, can further exacerbate the sense of relative deprivation among Palestinians. Their limited agency and constant fear contribute to the perpetuation of the humanitarian crises they endure. The third theme is the severe economic hardships and restrictions faced by Palestinians. The interviews revealed significant economic challenges, including limited job opportunities, restricted movement, inadequate access to resources, and dependency on humanitarian aid. Palestinians experience economic deprivation and a lack of economic security, which are intertwined with the broader context of relative deprivation. The denial of economic opportunities, restrictions on trade and movement, and dire economic conditions all contribute to a sense of relative deprivation among Palestinians, further exacerbating the humanitarian crises they face. Similarly, Human Rights Watch (2022) emphasised that the denial of economic opportunities, restrictions on trade and movement, and dire

economic conditions all contribute to a sense of relative deprivation among Palestinians, which led to collective action and violence.

The fourth theme highlights the denial of freedom of movement, particularly concerning the closure of borders and restrictions on travel imposed by Israeli authorities. Palestinians face significant obstacles in moving within their own territory and are subjected to rigorous inspections and checkpoints. The denial of freedom of movement has wide-ranging implications for access to education, healthcare, employment, and opportunities for personal and professional growth. The limitations on movement contribute to a sense of confinement and deprivation, reinforcing the dynamics of relative deprivation among Palestinians. The fifth theme focuses on the violation of Palestinians' civil and political rights in refugee camps. The participants highlighted the substandard living conditions, lack of access to essential services such as healthcare and education, and restrictions on freedom of movement within refugee camps. It has been advocated that the violation of Palestinians' civil and political rights in refugee camps is a serious human rights violation that must be addressed, and the international community must pressure Israel to end the occupation and to allow Palestinians to enjoy their full human rights (General Assembly, 2014). These violations of civil and political rights further perpetuate the sense of relative deprivation among Palestinians. Relative Deprivation Theory suggests that the deprivation of civil and political rights, coupled with the awareness of others who enjoy such rights, can heighten feelings of relative deprivation, and contribute to collective action.

By integrating RDT into the discussion of these themes, we can gain a deeper understanding of the root causes and implications of the humanitarian crises faced by Palestinians. The RDT provides a theoretical framework to analyse the dynamics of relative deprivation experienced by Palestinians in various domains, such as rights deprivation, economic hardship, insecurity, and restricted mobility. This theoretical lens allows us to comprehend how the denial and violation of rights, coupled with the perception of relative deprivation, contribute to the perpetuation of humanitarian crises. In conclusion, the findings of this study underscore the multifaceted nature of the challenges faced by Palestinians and the violations of their human rights. By connecting these findings with Relative Deprivation Theory, we can discern the underlying dynamics that contribute to the root causes and implications of the humanitarian crisis. The systematic denial and violation of fundamental rights, coupled with the experiences of vulnerability, economic hardship, restricted mobility, and civil and political rights violations, collectively contribute to the sense of relative deprivation among Palestinians. Understanding these dynamics is crucial for addressing the root causes and working towards sustainable solutions that uphold the human rights and well-being of Palestinians.

Similarly, Smith, Pettigrew, & Pippin (2011) argue that the RDT has been used to explain a wide range of social phenomena, including political violence, social movements, and intergroup conflict. It is a useful framework for understanding the Palestinian situation, as it helps to explain why Palestinians feel deprived and frustrated, and why they may be motivated to engage in political violence.

The research contributes to the existing literature on the experiences of stranded Palestinians by providing a more nuanced understanding of the challenges they face. The findings suggest that the denial of freedom of movement has a significant impact on the lives of stranded Palestinians, both in terms of their physical and psychological well-being. The research also highlights the importance of social support networks in helping stranded Palestinians cope with the challenges they face. Here are some of the specific knowledge contributions of the research: The paper provides a more nuanced understanding of the challenges faced by stranded Palestinians. It highlights the importance of social support networks in helping stranded Palestinians cope with the challenges they face. It suggests that the denial of freedom of movement has a significant impact on the lives of stranded Palestinians, both in terms of their physical and psychological well-being. This research is important because it provides new insights into the experiences of stranded Palestinians. This knowledge can be used to develop more effective interventions to help stranded Palestinians and advocate for their rights.

However, the study is not beyond limitation like others. The findings are mainly based on a small sample size of ten Palestinian students studying in Bangladesh, which may not fully represent the diverse experiences and perspectives of the entire Palestinian population. The research focuses primarily on the human rights violations experienced by Palestinians in the occupied Palestinian territory and refugee camps without delving into the complexities of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict or the broader political context. The study relies on self-reported data obtained through semi-structured interviews, which may be subject to individual biases, recall limitations, and social desirability effects. So, based on these limitations, future researchers could find some new avenues, provide a comprehensive analysis, and contribute to the ongoing crisis by gaining a deeper understanding of the root causes and potential solutions.

Conclusion

This paper highlights the routine and systematic violations of human rights against Palestinians in the occupied Palestinian region. The most frequently violated rights are the “right to life,” “right to freedom of movement,” and “right to social security,” with additional basic human rights being infringed upon. Palestinians face torture, violence, and constant security threats, with Israeli forces

employing roadblocks to disregard laws and rights. Kidnappings, imprisonments, mistreatment, and excessive use of force occur regularly, endangering Palestinian lives both inside and outside of prisons. The Israeli civilian government in the West Bank forcibly displaces Palestinians from their homes to settle them in Israeli settlements. Palestinians are denied opportunities to voice their opinions, engage in negotiations, or seek compensation for their circumstances. The launching of rockets into Gaza results in numerous Palestinian casualties and the destruction of significant government buildings. The restrictive blockade of Gaza further limits Palestinians' freedom of movement and access to essential services, housing, education, employment, healthcare, and fair wages. Discriminatory laws and practices rooted in racial discrimination negatively impact Palestinians' rights, with Israeli law overriding Palestinian laws and legal proceedings. Based on the study's findings, several recommendations emerge. Arab states must collectively take action to reduce Israel's use of torture and harsh tactics. The United Nations should adopt resolutions addressing the issue after consultation with member states and other bodies. The Palestinian Authority in Gaza and the West Bank should exhibit firmness, concern, and caution in response to Israeli violence. Palestinians need to actively resist these injustices. International organizations should increase their distribution of necessities to Palestinians in the occupied territory and refugee camps. To address the violence perpetrated by the Israeli government and armed forces, it is important for Muslim countries and other supportive nations to come together in a coordinated effort aimed at finding a peaceful resolution.

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