

A STATISTICAL OVERVIEW OF INFLOW OF SRI LANKAN TAMIL REFUGEES IN TAMILNADU

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ABSTRACT

India has witnessed a massive influx of Sri Lankan Tamil's since 1983 and they found their accommodation in various camps in the southern state of Tamil Nadu. The decision of Sri Lankan government regarding the enactment of the official language act which built Sinhalese as the official language of Sri Lanka. In India, now over 1, 20, 000 Sri Lankan Tamil refugees and over 70, 000 of them stay in refugee camps situated around in Tamil Nadu. Refugees from Sri Lankan fled in several waves since 1983, and many have been in India for over 20 years. Based on the background the objective of the studies are, i) to study the periods of Sri Lankan Refugees Inflow to India ii) to analyse the population composition of camp living refugees in Tamil Nadu and iii) to analyze the age wise distribution and gender wise classifications of refugees in Tamil Nadu.

The study is based on secondary data sources. Data are collected from literary books, electronic journals, newspaper reports, articles etc. which can be put into the category of secondary sources. Subsequently, this study is relayed on field data and official reports on Tamil Sri Lankan refugees from the Department of Rehabilitation in Tamil Nadu. To analysis the first and second objectives, simple statistical tools like mean plots are applied. To analyze the third objectives, One Way ANOVA with Post-Hoc test are applied.

KEYWORDS: *Inflow of Sri Lankan Refugees, Overview of Sri Lankan Refugees and Statistical Overview of Refugees*

Article History

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INTRODUCTION

During 19th century and early 20th century some Sri Lankan Tamils especially from Jaffna migrated or settled in India for various reasons such as education, employment in the British Indian government, business and other reasons. Among them were Hensman family, who migrated to Chennai from Jaffna during late 19th century. In 1948, immediately after the country's independence, a controversial law labelled the Ceylon Citizenship Act was passed in the Sri Lankan parliament which deliberately discriminated against the Tamils of South Indian origin, whose ancestors had settled in the country in the 19th and 20th centuries. This act made it virtually impossible for them to obtain citizenship and over 700,000 Tamils (consisting of up to 11 % of the country's total population) were made stateless.. In 1964, a pact was signed between Bandaranaike and the then Indian Prime Minister Lal Bahadur Shastri to repatriate much of the population of the stateless Tamils. Over the next 30 years, successive Sri Lankan governments were actively engaged in deporting

over 300,000 Tamils back to India. It wasn't until 2003, after a state-sponsored pogrom against Tamils and a full-scale civil war, that Indian Tamils were granted citizenship but by this time, their population had dwindled to just 5% of the country's population. Tamils repatriated to India were assimilated with location population after taking Indian Citizenships, except a few pockets in Tamil Nadu, where they are still called as Ceylon Tamils. Following the events of the Black July riots, and later the outbreak of the Sri Lankan Civil War, tens of thousands Sri Lankan Tamil refugees arrived in Tamil Nadu in four waves. The first wave on 24 July 1983, after Black July, to the 29 July 1987 up until the Indo-Sri Lanka Accord, 134,053 Sri Lankan Tamils arrived in India.

The first repatriation took place after the signing of the Indo-Sri Lanka Accord in 1987 and between 24 December 1987 and 31 August 1989, 25,585 refugees and non-camp Sri Lankan nationals returned to Sri Lanka. The second wave began with the start of Eelam War II after 25 August 1989, where 122,000 Sri Lankan Tamils came to Tamil Nadu. On 20 January 1992, after the assassination of Rajiv Gandhi 54,188 refugees were voluntarily repatriated to Sri Lanka, until March 1995. Eelam War III commenced in April 1995 starting the third wave of refugees. By 12 April 2002, nearly 23,356 refugees had come to Tamil Nadu. The flow of refugees had stopped in 2002 because of the cease fire agreement.

India has witnessed a massive influx of Sri Lankan Tamil's since 1983 and they found their accommodation in various camps in the southern state of Tamil Nadu. The decision of Sri Lankan government regarding the enactment of the official language act which built Sinhalese as the official language of Sri Lanka. The presence of Tamil community in the island was scorned and a mighty resistance was staged against the discriminatory decision. The setting of Sinhalese as official language had commenced the first spark of violence between Sinhalese and Lankan Tamil's. The Sinhalese ascertain in the Tamil demand for autonomy or decision of the separate country. Gradually the island has victimised furious insurgency between Tamils and Sinhalese. Tamil speaking community in Sri Lanka had constituted 13 percent of the population in 1981 and are located in the north eastern part of island. The conflict reached at its peak in 1983, where Tamil communities in Sri Lanka has displaced and coerced to move. This has resulted in Sri Lankan Tamil fleeing to India, seeking safety among 55 million Tamil populations in the southern state.

In India, now over 1, 20, 000 Sri Lankan Tamil refugees and over 70, 000 of them stay in refugee camps situated around in Tamil Nadu. Refugees from Sri Lankan fled in several waves since 1983, and many have been in India for over 20 years. Sri Lankan Tamils belong to a wider Tamil speaking population, and there has been a historically complex interaction between communities on the both sides of the Palk Strait. Its close proximity to South India, has led to communities migrating from Sri Lankan to Tamil Nadu and maybe more interestingly, there has been migration the other way around as well. Sri Lankan refugees remain largely in Tamil Nadu and live in refugees camps scattered across the state. At present, more than 72, 000 thousand Sri Lankan refugees live in over 120 camps in Tamil Nadu. In addition to this, a further 30,000 Sri Lankans are living outside the governments camps. Those that choose to live outside must register with the local police and visit the camps on a fortnightly basis to register their attendance.

STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

Refugees, especially Tamil Sri Lankan camp living refugees in Tamil Nadu has emphasized several human development issues and the demand for citizen ship have not brought to a conclusion. The study gives an over view on Sri Lankan refugee's history in India and analysis their massive inflow, number of camps and families in Tamil Nadu and their age wise, gender wise classifications also.

OBJECTIVES

- To study the periods of Sri Lankan Refugees Inflow to India.
- To analyse the population composition of camp living refugees in Tamil Nadu.
- To analyze the age wise distribution and gender wise classifications of refugees in Tamil Nadu.

METHODOLOGY

The study is based on secondary data sources. Data are collected from literary books, electronic journals, newspaper reports, articles etc. which can be put into the category of secondary sources. Subsequently, this study is relayed on field data and official reports on Tamil Sri Lankan refugees from the Department of Rehabilitation in Tamil Nadu.

Analysis of Data

To analysis the first and second objectives, simple statistical tools like mean plots are applied. To analyze the third objectives, One Way ANOVA with Post-Hoc test are applied.

Periods of Sri Lankan Refugees’ Inflow

Sri Lankan Tamil’s belongings to a wider Tamil speaking population and historically there has been a reciprocal relationship between communities on the both sides of Palk Strait. The mass inflow of Sri Lankan refugees had commenced on 24.07.1983 and had held prolonged history of asylum in India. The refugees had arrived in four phases to Tamil Nadu. In the first phase 1, 34,053 refugees arrived to Tamil Nadu which was begin in 1983 and continued to till 1987. Table 1 shows periods of Sri Lankan refugee’s inflow to India.

The second wave of refugees arrived in 1989 and ended in 1991. The third wave of refugee’s influx began in 31.07.1996, coinciding with the declaration of Elam war III. As a result Sri Lankan army and Liberation Tigers of the Tamil Elam (LTTE) have combat together in Sri Lanka. The direct battle between Sri Lankan army and LTTE, fourth wave of refugee’s influx had commenced in January 2016 and continued till January of 2010. 8,450 families consisting of 24,527 persons including 18,222 adults and 6,305 children have arrived at Rameswaram during the fourth phase. As a whole, 3,03,076 are came to India since 1983 and about one lakhs of refugees are repatriated in Two phases (First phase- from 1987 To 1989 and Second phase from 1992 To 1995).

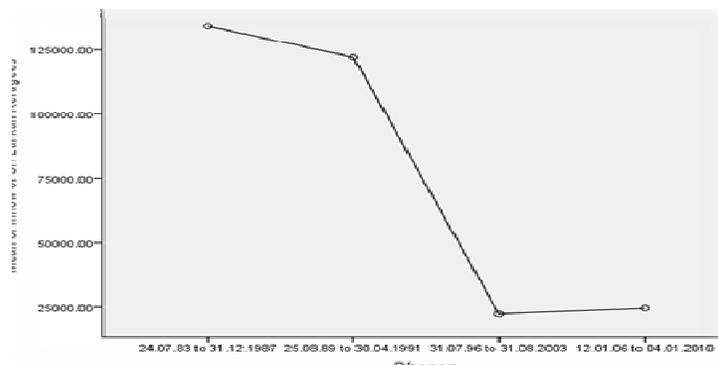


Figure 1

Table 1: Period of Refugees Inflow Mean Plot of Refugees Inflow

Phases	Period	Inflow
Phase – I	24.07.83 to 31.12.1987	1,34,053
Phase – II	25.08.89 to 30.04.1991	1,22,078
Phase – III	31.07.96 to 31.08.2003	22,418
Phase – IV	12.01.06 to 04.01.2010	24,527
Total		3,03,076

Source: Department of Rehabilitation, Tamil Nadu

Refugees Camps in Tamil Nadu

The legal status of Sri Lankan refugees in India is officially governed by the Foreigner's Act 1946 and India's Citizenship Act 1955 which defines all non-citizens who enter without visas to be illegal migrants, with no exception for refugees or asylum seekers. Sri Lankans refugees who are considered to be a threat to national security are deemed to be militants and detained in special camps in Kancheepuram, Tiruvallur or Trichy districts. Besides these special camps, there are 110 ordinary camps located in 25 districts of Tamil Nadu. Refugees living within the government camps are housed in warehouses or in temporary shelters. Each adult refugee receives a small monthly stipend. Though not officially permitted to work in India, the refugees worked as unskilled labour in the informal sector to supplement their incomes. The Indian Government provides basic medical care and education for school-age Sri Lankan children as well as subsidized food grain for the camps' inhabitants. Despite these provisions, conditions in the camps are generally poor with insufficient health and sanitary facilities available for the refugee population.

Figure 2 shows Mean plot shows that district wise distribution of Sri lankan refugee's camps in Tamil Nadu. Comparatively Thiruvanamalai district has maximum number of (13) camps and Ramanathapuram district has very minimum of (1) camp in Tamil Nadu.

Figure 3 shows Mean plot shows that district wise distribution of Sri lankan refugee's total number of families in Tamil Nadu. Comparatively Madurai district has maximum number of (1570) families and Theni district has very minimum of (5) families in Tamil Nadu.

Figure 4 shows Mean plot shows that district wise distribution of Sri lankan refugee's single number of families in Tamil Nadu. Comparatively Thiruvalluvar district has maximum number of (193) single families and Virudhunagar district has no single family district in Tamil Nadu.

As of now, there are as many as 66156 Sri Lankan Refugees living in about 113 refugee camps in Tamil Nadu alone that are situated in 28 out of 32 districts within the state. Some of these camps are quite large, and can accommodate more than 1000 families. Such large camps with a capacity of housing over 1000 families are located in the following six districts of Tamil Nadu like Tiruvallur, Vellore, Tiruvannamalai, Erode, Madurai, Shivaganga and Mandapam. Each of these six districts has absorbed and accommodated 3,500 or more refugees over the years. The planned initiative by the ruling government has helped to avoid problems related of mass exodus. During the 1983 exodus, when the arrival of Sri Lankan refugees was at a peak, the incumbent Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, Mr M. G. Ramachandran had the foresight to draw up a plan that sent batches of arriving refugees to as many different districts as possible. This would ensure that they were not all confined in a few places and no particular district bore the entire financial and social burden. Under the plan, the various District Collectors of all the districts in the state were directed to allot land and resources for the rehabilitation of refugees. This policy of dispersal has managed to give the refugees a number of advantages as well. It allowed them to

have more living space, and ensured better job opportunities – especially for the people who managed to reach a shelter near one of the District Headquarters or one of the small towns.

Table 2: Details of Refugees Camps in Tamil Nadu

Sl. No	District	No. of Camps	Total Families	Single Families	Total No. of Persons
1	Coimbatore	4	1029	150	3221
2	Cuddalore	4	439	65	1390
3	Dharmapuri	8	698	79	2433
4	Dindigul	7	1016	120	3407
5	Erode	3	1209	151	4713
6	Kanyakumari	4	425	51	1420
7	Karur	2	637	85	2052
8	Krishnagiri	2	329	23	1151
9	Madurai	3	1570	170	5881
10	Namakkal	3	701	122	2247
11	Perambalur	1	76	12	260
12	Pudukkottai	3	1009	142	3369
13	Ramanathapuram	1	629	0	2125
14	Salem	8	864	98	3457
15	Sivaganga	6	1061	138	3486
16	Theni	2	5	0	24
17	Thiruvallur	2	1364	193	4562
18	Thoothukudi	3	496	0	1659
19	Tiruchirappalli	2	926	136	2951
20	Tirunelveli	9	852	133	2717
21	Tiruvannamalai	13	1109	155	3574
22	Tiruppur	5	321	65	992
23	Vellore	6	1085	116	3690
24	Villupuram	2	518	63	1800
25	Virudhunagar	7	1081	0	3522

Source: Organization for Eelam Refugee Rehabilitation.

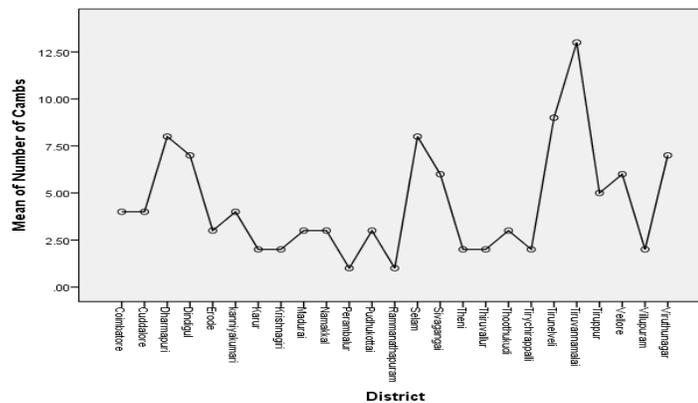


Figure 2

Table 3: Age Wise Distribution of Refugees

Sl. No	District	Children					Adults				Total No. of Persons
		0 to 8 Years		Between 9-11 Yrs			Between 12-17 Yrs.		18 Yrs. & Above		
		Male	Female	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Male	Female	
1	Coimbatore	221	166	118	115	620	454	533	843	771	3221
2	Cuddalore	102	116	56	48	322	108	77	439	444	1390
3	Dharmapuri	180	174	109	95	558	251	224	710	690	2433
4	Dindigul	272	227	147	102	748	355	492	991	821	3407
5	Erode	676	661	116	104	1557	470	431	1148	1107	4713
6	Kanniyakumari	111	96	68	65	340	115	109	434	422	1420
7	Karur	210	228	14	17	469	251	234	509	589	2052
8	Krishnagiri	104	77	70	66	317	185	129	272	248	1151
9	Madurai	527	547	139	160	1373	1190	995	1068	1255	5881
10	Namakkal	188	173	59	65	485	164	150	699	749	2247
11	Perambalur	13	13	13	16	55	23	23	81	78	260
12	Pudukkottai	300	319	91	93	803	426	358	834	948	3369
13	Ramanathapuram	263	279	42	17	601	445	407	286	386	2125
14	Salem	234	225	216	174	849	511	538	838	721	3457
15	Sivaganga	321	325	109	131	886	333	348	935	984	3486
16	Theni	2	4	1	3	10	2	2	5	5	24
17	Thiruvallur	357	323	144	217	1041	735	543	951	1292	4562
18	Thoothukudi	278	247	11	41	577	125	104	420	433	1659
19	Tiruchirappalli	271	284	30	11	596	301	301	846	907	2951
20	Tirunelveli	253	240	103	80	676	158	160	847	876	2717
21	Tiruvannamalai	282	274	121	114	791	368	368	1110	937	3574
22	Tiruppur	93	83	36	20	232	65	51	317	327	992
23	Vellore	367	338	80	92	877	466	369	918	1060	3690
24	Villupuram	225	191	43	77	536	174	190	384	516	1800
25	Virudhunagar	321	272	156	114	863	461	445	874	879	3522

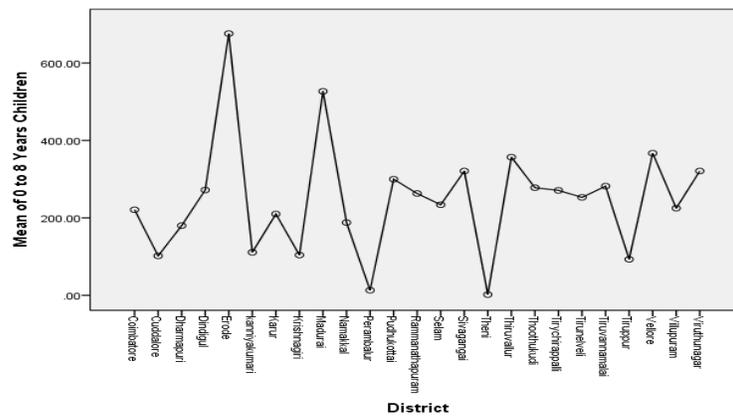


Figure 5

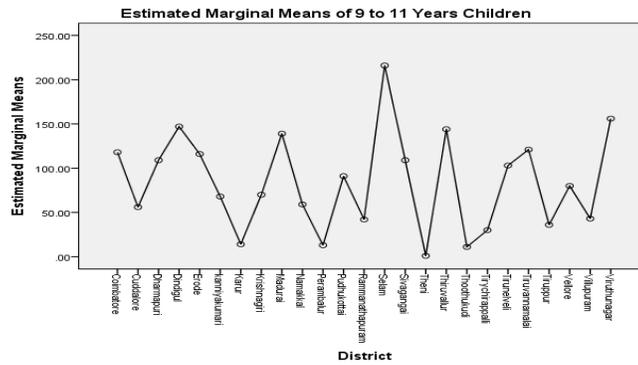


Figure 6

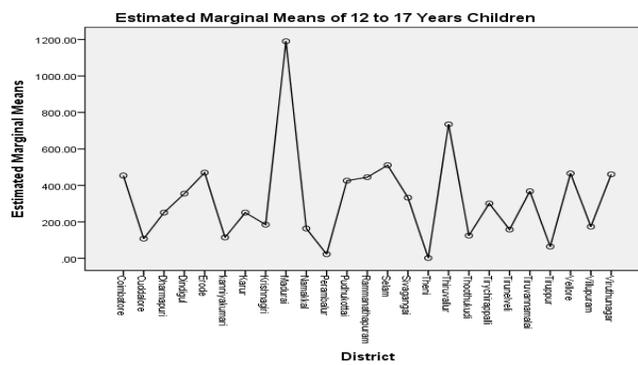


Figure 7

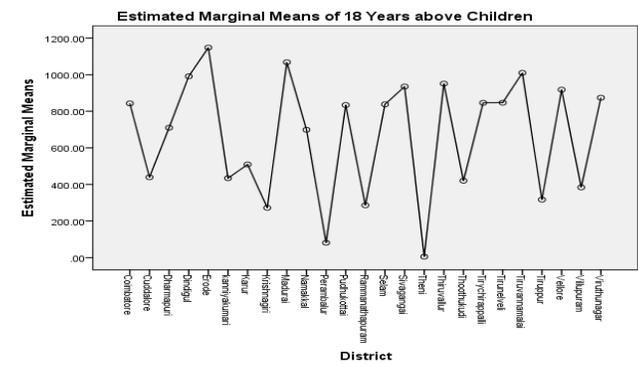


Figure 8

One way ANOVA test has been applied to find out which age group of population’s inflow are more among Sri Lankan Refugees in Tamil Nadu. For that purpose the following hypothesis has been framed;

H₀: There is no significance difference between the age group of Refugees and number refugees.

H₁: There is a significance difference between the age group of Refugees and number refugees.

Table 4 shows the results shows that, there is a significant difference between age group of Refugees and number of refugees in Tamil Nadu with F- value of 32.559 and Sig. value of .000* at 5% level of significance. It can be inferred that, the age category of inflow of Sri Lankan Refugees in India are significantly differ. To find out the difference in age group of Refugees population’s inflow, post –hoc test also applied.

The result shows that, those who are in the age group of populations 18 and above are more compare to other age category of Sri Lankan Refugees populations.

Table 4

ANOVA					
	Sum of Squares	df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
Between Groups	5946299.655	3	1982099.885	32.559	.000*
Within Groups	11932032.940	196	60877.719		
Total	17878332.595	199			

*5% level of significance

Table 5: Category of Refugees Populations

Tukey HSD			
Age Category	N	Subset for alpha = 0.05	
		1	2
0 - 8 Years	50	241.0600	
9 -11 Years	50	314.3400	
12 - 17 Years	50	314.3400	
18 Years above	50		682.0800
Sig.		.449	1.000

Means for groups in homogeneous subsets are displayed.
Uses Harmonic Mean Sample Size = 50.000.

Gender Wise Classifications of Sri Lankan Refugees

To find out differences between gender and age category of Sri Lankan Refugees, ANOVA has been applied. For that purpose the following hypothesis has been framed.

Ho: There are no differences between gender and age category of Sri Lankan Refugee’s inflow.

H1: There is a difference between gender and age category of Sri Lankan Refugee’s inflow.

Table 6 shows the results show that, there is no differences between gender and age category of Sri Lankan Refugees inflow in Tamil Nadu at 5% level of significance for all the age category. It can be inferred that, the inflow from both category (Male and Female) are same level.

Table 6

ANOVA						
		Sum of Squares	df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
0 to 8 Years	Between Groups	1670.420	1	1670.420	.078	.782
	Within Groups	1033908.400	48	21539.758		
	Total	1035578.820	49			
9 to 11 Years	Between Groups	60.500	1	60.500	.020	.887
	Within Groups	142319.680	48	2964.993		
	Total	142380.180	49			
12 to 17 Years	Between Groups	6160.500	1	6160.500	.107	.745
	Within Groups	2756464.720	48	57426.348		
	Total	2762625.220	49			
18 Years above	Between Groups	12355.920	1	12355.920	.111	.741
	Within Groups	5358847.760	48	111642.662		
	Total	5371203.680	49			

Source: Computed data

CONCLUSIONS

This paper tries to give the historical and statistical overview of Sri Lankan Refugees inflow in Tamil Nadu. Summing up, Thiruvanamalai district has maximum number of (13) camps and Ramanathapuram district has very minimum of (1) camp in Tamil Nadu. Comparatively Madurai district has maximum number of (1570) families and Theni district has very minimum of (5) families in Tamil Nadu and Thiruvalluvar district has maximum number of (193) single families and Virudhunagar district has no single family district in Tamil Nadu. The age category of inflow of Sri Lankan Refugees in India is significantly differing. Those who are in the age group of populations 18 and above are more, compare to other age category of Sri Lankan Refugees populations. Regarding about gender and age category, the inflow from both categories is equal.

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