

# EMPOWERMENT OF WOMEN IN RANAGHAT COOPER'S CAMP: A STUDY ON THE REFUGEE MOVEMENT

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## **ABSTRACT:-**

In 1947, the partition of India not only killed thousands of people but also uprooted and displaced million from their traditional homeland. After the partition established many refugee camps in west Bengal. Ranaghat Cooper's Camp is one of the largest transits Camp in West Bengal. Ranaghat Cooper's established Camp on 11 March 1950. But It is true that refugees of Cooper's Camp still struggle for their better position relating to standard of living, health, education and other essential amenities of life. Cooper's Camp of Ranaghat can be labeled and recovering refugee experience. They are deliberately complex, not simply to restore subjectivities. In this context the main purpose of this study to find out status of women in Ranaghat cooper's camp. And also tries to highlight the surveying history of refugee in Cooper's camps on emergency situation. In this study purpose the research has been conducted Interviewees to many refugee women in Ranaghat cooper's camp.

**KEY WORDS: Refugee Camp, Refugee movement.**

## **Introduction:-**

Cooper's Camp – One of the largest transits Camp in West Bengal. A Camp Ranaghat Sub-Division of Nadia District. After partition on 11 March 1950 established this Refugee Camp. Cooper's Camp was divided Several Blocks – B.D.F.G.H. The divides of Blocks for administrative purpose. There were some tents, shops, along the railway line. A Sub-Post Officer, Police – Station, A Hospital for Primary Health situated here. Government was served rice, Dal, Wheat, Cloths & Financial Assistance of One Rupee. The refugee of this locality had to struggle lot of time because not having the Govt. Acknowledgement on emergency & such situation. Being deprived of the Government facilities and opportunities, the financial up gradation of the local people were stumbled. In 1942, 1946 and in 1950 the up rooted people came from the other side of the border and they took shelter here in this place. Then it was considered as a Transit camp for military good supply. In 1960 many a step had been taken by the Central Government for the rehabilitation of these people.

**Objectives of the Study: -** The following objectives were considered for the study –

- To study the background of refugee on cooper's camp in west Bengal
- To describe the refugee movement of cooper's camp in west Bengal
- To study the present scenario of coopers camp in west Bengal
- To find out special camp of refugee in cooper's camp.

**Methodology: -** It is Survey based study. Both qualitative and quantitative methods are applied in this study. In this study purpose the research has been conducted Interviewees for collection of data and information. For this study data and information has been collected from primary and secondary sources. Likes books, Research Article, Magazines, Research Journal, E-journal, and Report of the West Bengal Government 1957.

**The Concept of Refugee:-**A refugee is someone who has been forced to flee his or her country because of persecution, war or violence. A refugee has a well-founded fear of persecution for reasons of race, religion, nationality, political opinion or membership in a particular social group...Most likely, they cannot return home or are afraid to do so. War and ethnic, tribal and religious violence are leading causes of refugees fleeing their countries

### Background of Refugee on Cooper's Camp:-

The partition of India not only killed thousands of people, but also uprooted & displaced millions from their traditional homeland. It is theatricality of re-composition of the nation. Partition such as neighborhood partition, village partition, city partition, community partition, family partition, gender partition and event partition of political parties and humanities. The uprooted and displaced Refugee Camp phase by phase from East Pakistan to West Bengal. Cooper's Camp was one of the largest Transit Camp Organized by Government for that type of Refugee. According to the West Bengal Government relief and rehabilitation directorate report 1957. Refugee flow was seen as a constant feature on the Eastern Side of boarder-

**Table – 1: Refugee Flows to West Bengal (1952-1957)**

Year	Population
Number of Refugees up to end of 1952	2517504
Fresh Arrivals in	
1953	60647
1954	103850
1955	211573
1956	246840
1956 (Up to 30 September 1957)	7993
<b>Total</b>	<b>3148407</b>

### Refugee Movement of Cooper's Camp:-

In 1951 one lakh people lived in Cooper's Refugee Camp. The Refugee movement began as protest against bad quality of food that is to be served. Often stale wheat, rice & dal were served. Alorani Dutta died due to lack of medical help. Dijen Dutta organized the movement with the support 70000 – 80000 people in Coopers Camp, 25000 in Rupashree Pally, 30000 from women's camp. The first martyr of refugee movement of 1950 was Paresh Das, resident of 7 No. Godown. From 1950-52 refugee movement subsided after his killing people were scared. On 6 July 1956, Central Government Minister Mr. Arun Chandra Guha visited the camp and the camp residents were prevented from presenting their deputation before him. There was police lathi charge and in protest of that there was a public demonstration organized by Nadia District Chapter of Bastuhara Parishad. Police firing was a frequent feature in Cooper's Camp on 16 July 1956, Police Organized a combing operation in Cooper's and arrested 44 protesters of which 7 were women. Various noted left refugee activists were arrested. On all August, 1956 under the leadership of Amritendu Mukhopadhyay, a pretest meeting was organized to release 44 activists which was attended by 5000 people. From 1957, a separate demand was placed the Government to recognize and carry out reform activities to convert Cooper's into an industrial township. The police declared this meeting as illegal. By refugee movement in itself and one of the prime reasons was the winding up process of various Camps. The West Bengal Government Relief and Rehabilitation of displaced persons in West Bengal and the report was published in 1957.

The next phase of Refugee movement within Cooper's Camp is to be understood against the following back drop of the finding of the reports on rehabilitation and economic opportunities. Cooper's Camp at Nadia district is treated as one of the ex-camp sites. In 1961, The Government asked the refutes in all relief Camps either to move to Dandakaranya for rehabilitation or to leave camps on receiving 6 months cased doles. In September 1961 about 10000 families were left in campsites. The Government had already closed the camps. Not only the camp benefits such as doles, medical and educational facilities were withdrawn but even tube wells for drinking water was withdrawn by the Indian Nation State. This market another phase in the refugee discourse and State Craft. The emphasis of Refuge discourse changed from refugee care to economic rehabilitation as the perfect solution to the refuge problem. The committee of Review of rehabilitation work in West Bengal appointed by Government of India in 1981 report revealed that 45,000 displaced persons are living at 74 ex-camp sites. Around this time in Cooper's Camp's Camp there were 1068 families awaiting rehabilitation of which 387 were ex-camp site families.

### Present Scenario Of Coopers Camp:-

The main emphasis on economic rehabilitation in Cooper's currently is issue of free hold Title Deed; under which the land allotted to a family cannot be sold for ten years and under certain circumstances like marriage of a girl child, diseases like cancer, AIDS and any unforeseen nature of financial hardship the family has to seek permission from RR and R directorate to sell the land. Cooper's Camp Notified Area Municipality was formed in 1997. For administrative purpose it has been divided into 12 wards. According to 2001 census, there are 17,555 people of which 51% males and 49% of the camp residents belong to the scheduled castes and 18 people to scheduled Tribes. There is a higher secondary school in cooper's camp and there are several primary schools in a number of wards. The primary school in ward no-6 houses is one of the largest primary schools.

**Table – 2 : List of School**

Type of School	Number of School	No. of Student	Girls	Boys	% Girls	% Boys	SC	OBC	ST
Primary	5	550	385	165	70	30	94	2	.5
Secondary	1	1800	550	450	55	45	90	3	.4
Higher Secondary	0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Vocational	2	800	480	320	60	40	80	5	.5
Handicapped	2	300	120	180	40	60	85	7	.8

### SPECIAL CAMP OF REGUREE: RANAGHAT WOMENS HOME

Different types of Camps in West Bengal were set up to deal with an unprecedented refugee influx in the state. The Government mainly set up three types of Camps, namely, Women's Camps, Worksite Camps and Permanent Liability (PL) Camps. The inmates of the Women's Camp's were also P.L members comprising mostly women and children who had no male member of their family to look after them. The location of the "Women's Camp" of Ranaghat is interesting and as one of the Government Officials of the Cooper's Camp Permanent Liability Home. According to the Office Records of Ranaghat Transit Centre, around 40 people in the Coopers PL receive dole. Out of 40 people, twenty-eight are women and twelve men.

**Table – 3: Age Group and Number of Dole Recipients in Cooper's PL Home**

Age Group in Year	Number of Recipients
10-20	2
21-30	7
31-40	6
41-50	2
51-60	9
61-70	20
71-80	3
81-90	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>40</b>

### Conclusion :-

The name of the Cooper's Camp with the attached of Portion, refugee and replacement history. One of the time Cooper's was cog area. So they have survived unhealthy situation. Government help the refugee from starting time of Coopers Camp but it is not sufficient between need. Changed the position of the Camp day by day with incidence. Many refugee are exited from the camp many are entranced. Now Coopers Camp incorporated under the notified.

Healthy service. Road construction, drinking water connection, education are increased. It is true that many problem have their but between the old Coopers Camp and Present Cooper's Camp are for differenced.

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