

Review Article

# Role of Japan in Rohingya Crisis: An Analysis from Economic and Political Perspective

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**Abstract** - Japan is one of the trusted and proven development partners for Bangladesh and Myanmar at the same time. But in the Rohingya crisis, Japan took the path to remain silent in the first place and then wanted to play a mediating role to resolve the issue. But from Japan, Bangladesh wanted something big. This paper aims to point out these questions' answers, whether Japan has any geopolitical interest over Myanmar and why Japan did not raise a strong voice against the human rights violation and other atrocities in Rakhine state Japan portrayed its image as a 'value-driven nation worldwide. To dig out in-depth, both qualitative and quantitative sources of data were gathered and then analyzed in a systematic approach. The data analysis showed that Japan has a significant geopolitical interest (Economic and Political) over Myanmar. Thus, in this situation, keeping Rohingya repatriation in mind, Bangladesh should work closely with Japan to resolve the crisis proactively and also may extend some thinking for Foreign Direct Investment in Myanmar as Myanmar is in thirst for investment.

**Keywords** - Rohingya Crisis, Japan, Bangladesh, Myanmar, Economical, Political.

## I. INTRODUCTION

Historically, Japan and Myanmar have a close bonding. The relationship between Japan and Myanmar is also a fascinating one. Fascinating in the scenes that Japan, which had attacked Myanmar in the 1940s, could form an intense economic relationship with Myanmar in the post-Second World War period [1]. From the very inception of Myanmar as a country faced a huge leadership crisis. And in the 1980s, a wide range of allegations was raised against the then leaders of Myanmar. In these consequences, the United Nations (U.N.) and America suspended sanctions in favor of Myanmar [2]. Despite continuous pressure from the USA, Japan did not cut its tie with Myanmar and continued its economic engagement in the form of humanitarian assistance. The 2011 dramatic election in Myanmar took the entire world by surprise, provided a boost to their economic engagement once again [1]. Myanmar's strategic position in Asia and, with the rise of China as an economic power, gave momentum to Japan to

rethink its active role in Myanmar mostly after 2011 [3, 4]. After 2011 Japan invested heavily in different sectors of Myanmar, notably Thilawa Special Economic Zone and Hydropower Plants Rehabilitation Project, etc. [5, 6]. Regular visits by the top officials of both the countries in both destinations gave a special motion and ensured the bonding between the two nations. Japan always found Myanmar as a playground for investment in a different form, sometimes through Official Development Assistance (ODA) or sometimes in the form of Foreign Direct Investment (DFI) and so on.

The issue of handling Rohingya people is not a new phenomenon for Bangladesh [7]. But 2017 and onward situation is way beyond all of the previous incidents. In 2017 fresh 850,000 (approx.) Rohingya refugees fled from Myanmar and took shelter in Bangladesh [8, 9]. The saga of the Rohingya problem has been uptight with multifaceted ethno-religious conflicts among Muslim, Buddhist, and Hindu factions exacerbated by the scale of people involved, rapidity of events, a regency of incidences, horrible poverty, ethnic hatred, linguistic variances, jumbled ancestral rights, severe humanitarian abuses, genocidal policies, surrounded by nations themselves struggling with few resources [10, 11]. The role of the neighboring countries of Bangladesh and Myanmar is quite dramatic in the issue of the Rohingya crisis. The major players like China, India, and Japan were not interested in addressing the issue in a serious mood. As all of them have some sort of geopolitical interest over Myanmar, that's why major players refrain from doing any visible and legal action against Myanmar. China proposed a three-stage plan and the repatriation agreement between Myanmar and Bangladesh [9]. Japan has done some work on the humanitarian ground, but that remains insufficient. This study especially focuses on the role of Japan in this Rohingya crisis from the lenses of geopolitical (political and economic) perspective.

As Japan remains a friendly nation to Myanmar historically, that's why Myanmar and Japan continue their talk regarding the extension of businesses amid mass violence that occurred in the Rakhine State by the



government forces of Myanmar. And Japan has a very keen interest in Myanmar's Rakhine State. In early 2019, Japan and Myanmar co-organized the Rakhine State Investment Fair, seeking to draw in foreign and national investors while overlooking the deadly rights abuses and massive displacement of people in the state. While addressing the investment fair, the Japanese ambassador to Myanmar, Ichiro Maruyama, justified hosting the investment fair by claiming that *"if there is economic development... there will be no conflict"* [12]. In this series, in August 2019, dozens of businesspeople gathered in Tokyo to get an update on the economy of Myanmar. Participants were convinced regarding the lucrative investment opportunities in sectors including health, education, and infrastructure and repeatedly told about the two countries' wonderful bilateral relationship. At that investment forum, Ambassador of Myanmar to Japan, Thuraing Thant Zin, described Japan and Myanmar as "brothers" and refrained from uttering the word "Rohingya" or Rohingya crisis until he was questioned by an audience [13]. However, it remains to unsettle whether Japan engages with the process of Rohingya repatriation and settlement, some of the high officials of both sides eager to promote foreign business opportunities in war-torn Rakhine state [14].

Amid mass violence in Rakhine state, state councilor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi repeatedly echoed the importance of investment in Myanmar and particularly in Rakhine state and strategically bypassed the atrocities that happened in the Rakhine state and sought support from the investors from Japan against the 'fake' news broke out in the media and emphasized the fact that Myanmar being a young democracy cannot take decisive action against these violations and act against military establishment would imperil the stability of democratic government [15-17]. Besides, during her visit to Japan in 2018, she praised Japan for being an understanding of Myanmar's stand on the Rohingya issue [17]. But on the issue of human rights and mass atrocities in Rakhine state, "it's still an open-ended question" regarding Aung San Suu Kyi's standpoint, and one of the U.N. special rapporteurs on Myanmar, Yanghee Lee, raised the point and appealed to Suu Kyi "to open your eyes, listen, feel with your heart, and please use your moral authority, before it is too late" [18].

In this situation, the Prime Minister of Bangladesh raised the issue in almost all the international forums to draw international attention to the issue of the Rohingya crisis. While addressing such a kind of platform, she said that *"we're providing them with basic necessities, the magnitude of the problem has posed serious challenges for us. We've allocated over 6,000 acres of land,"* and the situations are getting worsening day by day [19]. So, in this study, an attempt has been taken to address the issue of the Rohingya crisis and the role of Japan in addressing the crisis. This study also tries to investigate in-depth Japan's future movement on the issue of the Rohingya crisis and their repatriation to Myanmar. The rest of the paper is sequenced like a central research question,

followed by a theoretical framework, literature review and research gap, research methods and data collection strategy, analysis and discussion, research findings and policy implication, and conclusion.

## II. RESEARCH OBJECTIVES

This study addresses the following research objectives:

- To explore whether there is any economic interest that exists among Japan-Bangladesh and Myanmar, which lingering the Rohingya crisis.
- To investigate whether there is any political interest exists among Japan-Bangladesh and Myanmar, which enduring the Rohingya crisis.

## III. THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

The topic of this paper is related to Political Realism theory and as well as the Liberalism theory to facilitate the understanding of Japan's role in the Rohingya crisis. According to the political realism theory, it takes as its presumption that control is (or ought to be) the essential conclusion of political activity. The theory is, subsequently, to be examined as either a prescription of what needs to be the case, that's, countries and lawmakers ought to seek after control or they possess interface, or as a portrayal of the administering state of affairs-that countries and lawmakers as it sought after (and maybe only can seek after) Power or self-interest [20]. On the other hand, Liberalism is based on the ethical contention that guaranteeing the proper of a person individual to life, freedom, and property is the most elevated objective of government [21].

While discussing the role of Japan in the Rohingya crisis, it is found that most of the actions taken by the Japanese authority always keep the interest of Myanmar on top of all. And after the atrocities in Rakhine state, Japan extended its hand towards Bangladesh on humanitarian grounds, but at the same time, they are very much interested in harnessing their investment in Myanmar, particularly in the Rakhine state. Keeping this in mind, in 2019, Myanmar organized an investment fair in Rakhine state and Japan's JICA, and JETRO was the co-organizer at that Fair. Besides, the policymakers of both sides repeatedly marked their friendly relationship and extended their ambitious plan for the development of Myanmar. Thus, it can be concluded that both the countries (Japan and Myanmar) are feeling a win-win situation. So, for the analysis of qualitative and quantitative data, Political Realism theory and Liberalism theory's mix-up called the 'Eclectic approach' can be considered as the best-suited approach for analyzing the circumstances.

## IV. LITERATURE REVIEW

### A. Japan's interest in the development of Myanmar

Japan has a very keen interest in implementing the development agenda in Myanmar. In different to (FDI, ODA, etc.), Japan extended her hand towards the development of Myanmar from the very age of Myanmar's birth. In the 1980s, when the international community refused to assist Myanmar in the economic ground, Japan continued its assistance on humanitarian ground in the

form of ODA. Japan always claimed that that development assistance was only to enhance the economic condition of Myanmar at that time, but some researchers found some other connections on that continuous assistance. According to Chaudhuri [1] and Seekins [22], the aid served Japan's economic interests as well. Japan was able to create a market for its own goods, as well as promote investments in Myanmar, which helped in its own economic growth. During the period of military law from the year 1988 to 2011, Tokyo worked out a few self-restraint in giving help due to weight from its major partner, the USA, with its human rights plan. However, with the move from junta rule to the sacred government in 2011 came a sensational increment in Japanese ODA, and Tokyo excused huge sums of obligation and contributed in driven brand new special economic zones (SEZ) [23, 24]. According to Fink [25], Myanmar is on the highway of development. There was 06% of economic growth shown in the year 2018. Heavy foreign direct investment (FDI) is injected in different sectors, especially in the garment sector, and also china's Belt and Road initiate boot up the situation. There are other emerging economic opportunities also. New discoveries of oil and gas hold the promise of increased investment in the sector in the coming years. So, Myanmar's ambition to become a developing country is not a mare dream as lots of economic Power (i.e., China, India, Japan, etc.) expanded their hands in terms of FDI and economic growth.

During the past two decades, there was a major shift in the degree of FDI in East Asian countries. On the contrary, Kotrajaras [26] portrays something different in his empirical analysis. Kotrajaras [26] classified the world countries in three categories where Japan falls in number one section (high-income countries), and Myanmar falls into number 3 (low-income countries). The result of the empirical analysis shows that the high and middle-income countries use FDI as a tool for fostering the economy. Whereas, there is a weak relationship between FDI and economic growth in low-income countries because of the poor ability to absorb the benefit of FDI as a channel for development. In this sequence, Japan's investment in Myanmar is a very ambitious decision. They do it basically to prevent the other nations from plowing the untapped economy of Myanmar.

### ***B. Japan and Myanmar's viewpoint regarding the Rohingya crisis***

In the age of today's tech-oriented world and with the extent of the internet and smart hand-held devices, the news is spreading around the world in a second. In most cases, the verification of this news is not done. Sometimes, some fake news can be spread through social media platforms without any verification and cause human-made mass destruction. In a report published by GSMA, the apex body of representatives on mobile operators found that in Myanmar, numerous individuals considered Facebook the only web entry point for information that numerous regarded postings as news [8]. According to Hogan and Safi [8], Facebook was accused of playing a key role in the spread of hate speech in Myanmar at a time when 650,000

Rohingya refugees were forced to flee to Bangladesh following persecution.

On the other hand, Kasai [27] pointed out another aspect of Japan in his write-up. Kasai [27] claimed that Japan used to portrait its national image as a 'value-oriented diplomacy practicing country. But in different issues of world politics, Japan failed to maintain that image and converted itself as a 'values-free diplomacy' practicing country. Kasai [27] also mentioned that Nobel Peace Prize winner and human rights activist Desmond Tutu once said, "*If an elephant has its foot on the tail of a mouse and you say that you are neutral, the mouse will not appreciate your neutrality.*" Japan needs to relive its values and join the vast majority of the nations of the world to publicly denounce the violence and put pressure on Myanmar's government to find a way for justice and repatriation for the Rohingya people [27].

Though it remains to unsettle whether Japan engages with the process of Rohingya repatriation and settlement, some of the high officials eager to promote foreign business opportunities in war-torn Rakhine state [14], while addressing in the investment fair, Japanese ambassador to Myanmar, Ichiro Maruyama, justified hosting the investment fair by claiming that "*if there is economic development... there will be no conflict*" [12].

Based on the above literature studied, it is clearly found that there exists a very clear interest of the Japanese authority in the geopolitical aspects of Myanmar. And none of the previous literature has touched the particular area regarding Japan's interest in Myanmar in light of the Rohingya crisis. The previous literature only focused on the bilateral relation of Japan and Myanmar, but with the emergence of the Rohingya issue, another nation, Bangladesh, came into the talk table. Thus, with this study, an attempt has been taken to address the issue.

## **V. RESEARCH METHOD**

### ***A. Design of the study***

This study is exploratory of nature. A mix of studies was applied for this study. For this, both qualitative and quantitative techniques were applied to analyze the research questions.

### ***B. Sources of data***

For this study, both primary and secondary sources of data were used. It's very interesting to note here that, to explore the answers to the research question, a hand full of original documents have been found to analyze the data. Thus, for completion of this study, limited sources of both secondary and primary data were implied to find the answers to the research questions. In most cases, the official notes have to be taken into consideration for analysis.

### ***C. Data processing and analysis***

For the data analysis, both qualitative and quantitative data analysis approaches were employed. For quantitative data analysis, M.S. Excel software was used.

## **VI. ANALYSIS AND DISCUSSION**

### **A. Qualitative data analysis**

Japan and Myanmar have had a close relationship from the very beginning of Myanmar's birth. However, there has been seen some ups and down in this relation, which does not impact a lot in this proven relationship. In the period of the military ruling, when countries around the world cut the formal relationship with Myanmar, Japan continued the relationship in that adverse situation. According to Chaudhuri [1], there were mainly two strategic reasons behind the Japanese government's decision to continue aid to the military government. The first intention was to counter the Chinese economic clout in Myanmar, and the second motive behind Japan's policy was to tap the business opportunities in Myanmar. After 2011, this bonding got momentum. State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi makes an official visit to Japan, and Prime Minister Abe pledges a loan provision of up to 10.787 billion yen for the Hydropower Plants Rehabilitation Project. He also announces an 800 billion yen (USD7.7 billion) aid, loans, and investment package to promote development and reconciliation in Myanmar [5]. In that sequence, Japan's Prime Minister's visited Myanmar after a long 36 years gap in 2013 [28].

The gravity of the friendship and Japan's interest in Myanmar can be seen in the address of Tarō Asō's (Japan's finance minister) Speech, "I can feel Myanmar has very big potential. It is our intention to support its development by the private-public partnership."

Tarō Asō also chooses Myanmar as the country for his first official visit abroad just a week after taking up his job as the finance minister of Japan [29].

Officially JICA and JETRO are operating some development work in Myanmar. While taking into an interview, Hirokazu Yamaoka, the managing director of the Japan External Trade Organization (JETRO), stated that, "Japan is very positive in Myanmar. We have good chemistry with the locals and a good relationship with the country. Many Japanese want both to invest here as well as contribute to its economic development. In technology-oriented companies, pharmaceutical companies, manufacturing sector" [30].

The plaque of friendship and reliance on Myanmar over Japan also can be found in the voice of State councilor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi. She said in a meeting that, 'Japanese citizens no longer need to apply for Myanmar visas, and she encouraged investors to come and see with their own eyes the business opportunities in the country' [31].

Though a mass atrocity happened in Rakhine State, Suu Kyi described it as fake news and wanted support from the Japanese people to stand by their side. Once, she said, this atrocity news is "calculated to create a lot of problems between different communities" and to promote "the interest of the terrorists". She also argued that

"terrorism is new (for Myanmar), but the Government will do its best to make sure that this does not expand and spread all over Rakhine" [32, 33].

While addressing in the Invest Myanmar Summit [16], State councilor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi stated that, "We promote a more favorable, friendly, and predictable, enabling environment which offers our investors a fair and level playing field and thus attracts responsible investment that creates jobs, provides new opportunities, sustains growth, and spreads prosperity."

She further extends her voice regarding structural changes happening all over Myanmar. She said, "Structural changes enabled by greater levels of foreign investment have seen the emergence of a new breed of vibrant companies, and many of the larger, more established firms have come in from the cold."

On the same occasion, the state councilor also addressed Japan and its investors as a good friend of Myanmar. She said, "Japan is a steadfast ally, our reliable and valued friend. The support that Japan has rendered Myanmar, through good times and bad, is warmly appreciated. Now, linked by daily direct flights, Japanese investors maintain a robust presence in Myanmar, bringing with them understanding, friendship, and expertise."

Thanks to Japan, the Thilawa Special Economic Zone near Yangon is pulsating with activity. Some 108 companies, over half of which are Japanese, have invested in the Thilawa SEZ as of June this year; the Suzuki Motor Company is in the lead producing a range of passenger cars and small trucks. The Japanese probiotic drink manufacturer Yakult also commenced operations in Thilawa earlier this month.

The automobile manufacturer Toyota recently announced its intention to invest in an assembly plant within the Thilawa SEZ, an enterprise that promises to grow and bring with it a range of auxiliary industries.

There are other significant Japanese investments of which I would like to mention those in our energy sector which are already bearing fruit. Access to electricity climbed from 55.6% in 2016 to 69.8% in 2017!"

In 2019, Japan and Myanmar organized a number of events in both the countries' venues to foster the economic development of Myanmar and to find investment opportunities by Japanese investors. Amid mass violence in the Rakhine state, the Myanmar Investment Commission and the Rakhine state government arranged an investment fair is co-organized with Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) and the Japan External Trade Organization (JETRO). While addressing in the Rakhine Investment Fair [12], the Japanese ambassador to Myanmar, Ichiro Maruyama, justified hosting the investment fair by claiming that "if there is economic development... there will be no conflict". The slogan of

that Fair was, "Rakhine is open for business to the world" [34].

On this occasion, state councilor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi stated that, "Today's Rakhine State Investment Fair may be the first of its kind, but it certainly won't be the last. I anticipate that it will evolve into an annual event. I am particularly happy to see here today many participants from countries with which we have strong investment and trade ties such as China, India, Japan, the Republic of Korea, and Thailand. This Fair will not only strengthen these ties, but it will also create strong bonds of friendship between us, not merely in the business sector but across the whole spectrum of positive people to people relations."

Japan has been pro-actively involved in the development of the Rakhine State [17]. Ichiro Maruyama, Japanese Ambassador to Myanmar, stated some comments regarding investment in Rakhine state. Some of them are:

"We are seeking ways for Japanese investors to invest in Rakhine. We also want to introduce potential sectors to the [Japanese] investors." "Some countries have been blaming the Myanmar government for what happened in Rakhine. However, most of the countries - including Japan - want to see Myanmar's economic development, lasting peace, and also a peaceful transition."

On the ground of the Rohingya crisis, he stated that "I understand that there is conflict, but we also need to look into the economic development [of Rakhine State] for the future."

Besides, in August 2019, dozens of businesspeople gathered in Tokyo to get an update on the economy of Myanmar. Participants were convinced regarding the lucrative investment opportunities in sectors including health, education, and infrastructure and repeatedly told about the two countries' wonderful bilateral relationship. At that investment forum, Ambassador of Myanmar to Japan, Thurain Thant Zin, described Japan and Myanmar as "brothers" and refrained from uttering the word "Rohingya" or Rohingya crisis until he was questioned by an audience member about the fact-finding mission report [13].

From the above qualitative data, it can be summarized that Japan as a long-trusted and tested partner of Myanmar, does not want to lose the investment opportunity in Myanmar. And for this reason, Japan remained quiet and did not utter a strong voice against the atrocities that happened in the Rakhine state. Though Japan is doing some form of assistance, they have to do something more. Thus, from the fact mentioned above, it can be said that Japan has a very limited interest in resolving the Rohingya crisis and the repatriation process. Rather they are interested in investing in Rakhine state.

**B. Quantitative data analysis**

From the qualitative perspective, a clear picture has been drawn, meaning Japan is very keen to invest in

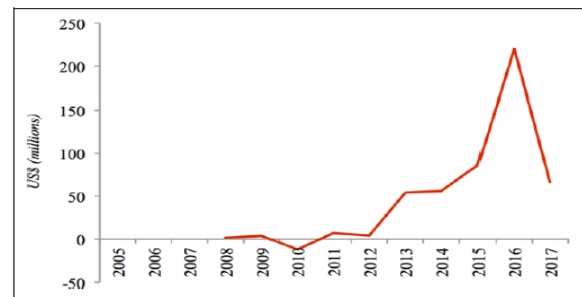
Myanmar rather than resolve the issue of the Rohingya crisis. Here, in this quantitative section, the answer to the research questions can be illustrated with the assistance of some facts and figures.

**Table 1. State and Bureaucratic Visit Between Japan and Myanmar, 2011-2018**

Japan State-level visits Myanmar	18
Myanmar State-level visits Japan	17
Foreign Minister of Japan visits Myanmar (Meeting all parties)	04
Myanmar (all parties) visits to Foreign Minister of Japan	14
Total Japan visits to Myanmar	55
Total Myanmar visits to Japan	59

Source: Adopted from Hartley [35]

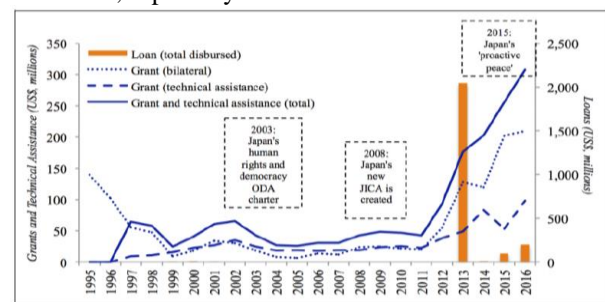
Table 1 depicts the state-level visit that occurred by the Japanese and Myanmar's top-level officials during the year 2011-2018. It is clearly indicated that the relationship between the two countries is deeply rooted. And after 2011, the relationship has gone to a new height.



Source: Adopted from Hartley [35].

**Fig. 1 FDI by Japan in Myanmar, 2005-2017**

From Figure 1, it is clear and justified that Japan had expanded its helping hand towards Myanmar in many folds. However, there was some disruption that occurred in the year 2017. But evidence showed that the investment opportunities had been expanded in some new sectors also after 2017, especially in Rakhine state.



Source: Adopted from Hartley [35].

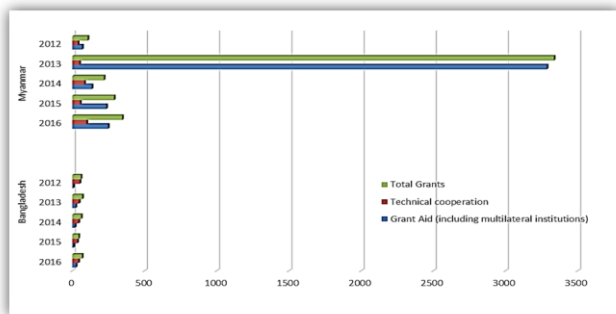
**Fig. 2 Japan's ODA (Official Development Assistance) To Myanmar, 1995-2016**

Fig.2 basically represents Japan's Official Development Assistance to Myanmar between the periods of 1995 to 2016. This ODA comprises bilateral and technical assistance at the same time. It is found from the line chart that; steady growth has been seen between the periods of 1995 to 2010. But all of a sudden, the ODA got momentum and got a sharp increasing pace till 2016 data.



This fact clearly highlighted Japan's ambition towards Myanmar.

Japan got a very good relationship with Myanmar, and at the same time, Japan also remains one of the trusted partners for Bangladesh as well. There are some investments also by the Japanese government here in Bangladesh to foster the economic growth of Bangladesh. But on the issue of the Rohingya crisis, Japan remains silent and refrains from doing any strong voice against Myanmar. So, an attempt has been taken to compare the Japanese ODA in both countries (Bangladesh and Myanmar). Thus, the comparison can be easily depicted Japan's priority. The official data found from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan [36] are analyzed and depicted in fig .3.



Source: Authors' Own Calculation, data from Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan [36].

Fig. 3 Grants Aid by Japan (Myanmar vs. Bangladesh), 2012-2016.

So, from the above figure (fig .3), it is clear that both the countries (Bangladesh and Myanmar) received Japanese ODA. But for Myanmar's case is way beyond the amount received by Bangladesh. In the Bangladeshi case, the investment remains steady, but in the case of Myanmar, it was a massive investment in 2013, and after that, the investment also continued in a progressive manner in order to harvest the investment that occurred in the year 2013. And this continuation is a much bigger amount than Bangladesh.

From the quantitative perspective, it can be said that Japan has an interest in exploring Myanmar economically and politically as well. The comparison between Bangladesh and Myanmar illustrates a very specific picture that Myanmar is a more lucrative destination for Japan than Bangladesh. Keeping these in mind, Japan does not want to lose the forthcoming opportunities in Myanmar.

## VII. RESEARCH FINDINGS AND POLICY IMPLICATION

From the data analysis, both qualitative and quantitative methods, it is found that, as Japan and Myanmar have a very close relationship with each other, so they both are feeling something like a win-win situation. Myanmar needs development and tries to attract fresh investment in different parts of the country. As Rakhine state is very near to the sea area, that's why Rakhine state got a lucrative destination not only for Japan but also for some other regional superpowers (i.e., China and India).

Keeping all this in mind, Japan as a close 'friend' of Myanmar, does not want to lose the golden opportunity to harvest the land of Rakhine at any cost and is proactively interested in investing, particularly in the Rakhine state. One of the major mottos for this pro-activeness may be to whittle out other major players to grab the opportunity.

In this process of investment, the state actors like JICA and JETRO are playing a vital role on behalf of the Japanese government. Through Japanese ODA, FDI, and other forms of investment, this process is going on at a rigorous pace. The top leaders of Japan and Myanmar repeatedly echoed the close bonding between them and on the issue of the Rohingya crisis. State councilor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi sought Japan's shelter, and at one point, she gave special thanks to the Japanese representative for 'realizing the situation. This realization by Japan ultimately goes against Bangladesh, as Bangladesh manifested the genocide that occurred in the Rakhine state [37].

From the facts and figures, it became clear that Japan, on the issue of the Rohingya crisis, will not stand beside Bangladesh because Bangladesh is a less attractive destination for Japan in terms of investment. In this regard, Bangladesh should not give up all its effort. Through the world's biggest platforms (i.e., U.N.'s assembly, International Court of Justice, Organization of Islamic Cooperation), Bangladesh should raise awareness in favor of the Rohingya repatriation. And also have to proactively identify and find new ways to address the crisis towards the world platforms. Right now, Bangladesh is on the brink of huge national security risks by the Rohingya people [38-40]. So, the only repatriation of Rohingya people to their homeland should be the first priority to be addressed by Bangladesh and have to do some real groundwork to seek support from Japan as well to mitigate the crisis. Furthermore, Bangladesh can think something out of the box. As Myanmar is in a thirst for investment, so Bangladesh may also take advantage of this ground. If Bangladeshi investors invest in Myanmar in the form of FDI (i.e., in the garment sector), then as an investing country, Bangladesh can gain some form of bargaining power over Myanmar, which may further settle down the crisis in the long run.

## VIII. CONCLUSION

Many reforms have been occurring in the Asian region. As Myanmar is opening up all of its wings to attract foreign investment, all the major players in Asia are trying to grab the opportunity. Japan sees the new investment opportunity after 2011 as rejuvenating the old friend in a new way. So, for the issue of the Rohingya crisis, Japan will help Bangladesh really a little bit. So, Bangladesh should convince other allies of Japan and Myanmar to address the issue as well as raise a strong voice against Myanmar and create pressure by the international community to take back their people. And at the same time, Bangladesh may also think about some fresh FDI in Myanmar. If Bangladesh can grab some opportunity to invest in Myanmar and contribute to its economic

development, then Bangladesh will gain some bargaining power against Myanmar, which will further mitigate the issues of today and the future as well.

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