

Refugees in Australia and language barriers

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Abstract

This research examines the language barriers faced by Afghan refugee women and other refugees in Australia and their impact on accessing essential services.

Despite Australia's multicultural landscape, many refugees struggle with English proficiency, exacerbating their isolation and unequal treatment.

The study uses descriptive research methods, analyzing secondary data from sources like the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) and scholarly articles. It highlights significant barriers such as ineffective teaching methods, cultural differences, and issues of self-esteem and motivation, which hinder effective English learning.

The study also finds that language barriers severely affect refugees' mental health, social connections, and access to healthcare and employment. A survey of 1,772 women in Victoria revealed that poor mental health linked to language difficulties, affects well-being and social interaction.

The paper concludes that targeted, culturally sensitive language programs, including provisions like childcare, are essential. Additionally, improving recognition of migrant skills and addressing economic and employment barriers are crucial.

Methods

The research design employs a descriptive approach, utilising secondary data from various reputable sources. Data was drawn from the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS), the Refugee Council of Australia, and scholarly articles focusing on refugees in Australia and the challenges posed by language barriers. Relevant academic papers, government reports, and publications from non-profit organisations were reviewed.

Results

Language barriers continue to be closely associated with poor mental health outcomes. The ongoing need for respectful healthcare remains critical, while reproductive and mental health issues persist as significant challenges. Health-related problems continue to affect social connections, and financial burdens, along with delays in accessing care, are ongoing concerns.

Findings:

The primary barriers include teaching methodologies and cultural differences. Key challenges identified were *low self-esteem* and *lack of motivation*. Additionally, *government support has proven insufficient* in addressing these issues.

There is a need for improved language programs that are more attuned to cultural and emotional needs. It is suggested that childcare services be provided to help women attend the classes.

Statistical Findings from a survey of 1,772 women:

- 32% valued respectful healthcare.
- 50% are affected by reproductive health issues.
- 20% had social issues due to health problems.
- 46% needed care but faced delays and costs.

Conclusions

Improving English language support for Afghan refugee women is essential. Better teaching methods, recognition of qualifications, and addressing mental health issues will enhance their integration and economic contribution. Effective solutions will improve their overall well-being and opportunities in Australia.



Contact us

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