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A Multidimensional Framework for Understanding Refugee Poverty in the United States

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A Multidimensional Framework for Understanding Refugee Poverty in the
United States

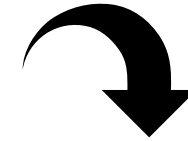


Mitra Naseh



Background

- The abrupt and unplanned nature of forced displacement
- Interruption in access to education
- Structural barriers in host countries



Poverty among refugees

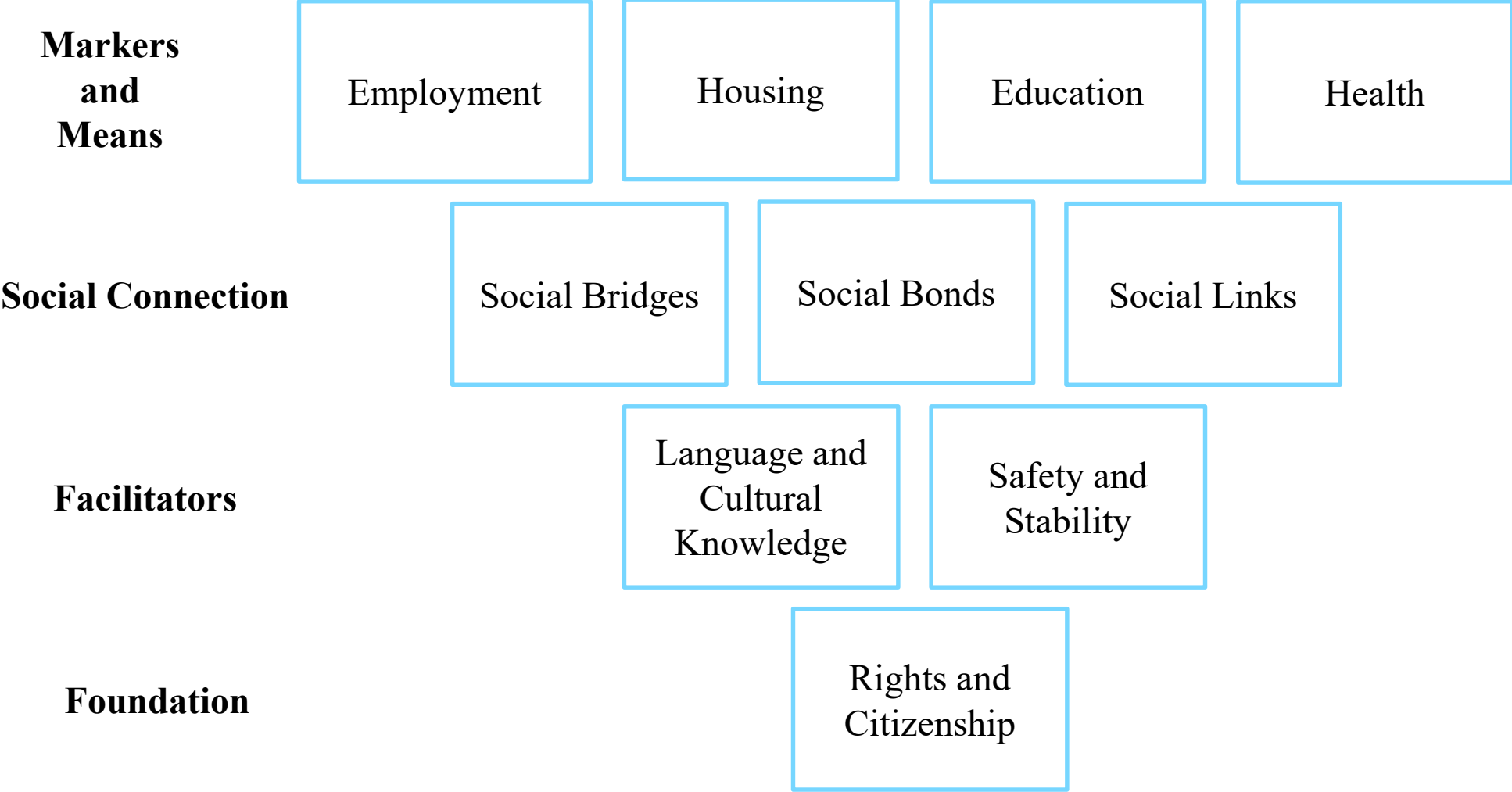
This study aimed to build a multidimensional poverty framework for adult refugees with a specific focus on their first five years in the U.S.



Conceptual framework

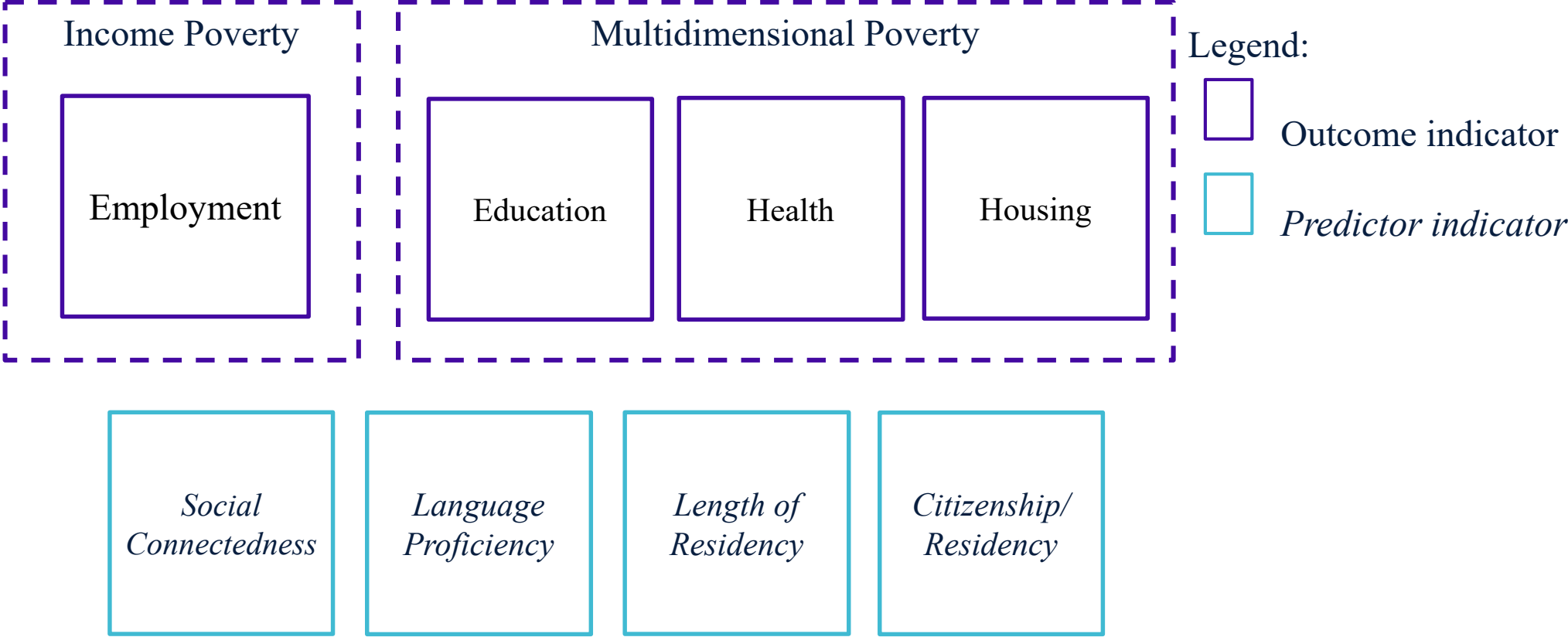
- Monetary approaches to poverty
- Capability approaches to poverty (education, health, standards of living)
- Ager and Strang's (2008) refugee integration framework
- Social exclusion theory
- Kuhlman's (1991) comprehensive theoretical model for economic integration of refugees

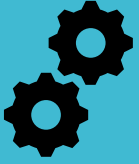
Figure 1. Ager and Strang's (2008) Framework for Refugees' Integration



Source: Ager and Strang (2008)

Figure 2. Adapted version of the Ager and Strang's (2008) Framework for Refugees' Integration





Methods

- A scoping review of literature,
- An inductive analysis of semi-structured interviews with key informants (n=10),
- A secondary analysis of the 2016 Annual Survey of Refugees national dataset (n=1,500)

Results of the systematic review



Qual & Quant data factors associated with poverty

Income poverty: comparing household income with national poverty lines

Multidimensional poverty: an adjusted version of the global Multidimensional Poverty Index (Alkire & Santos, 2010).



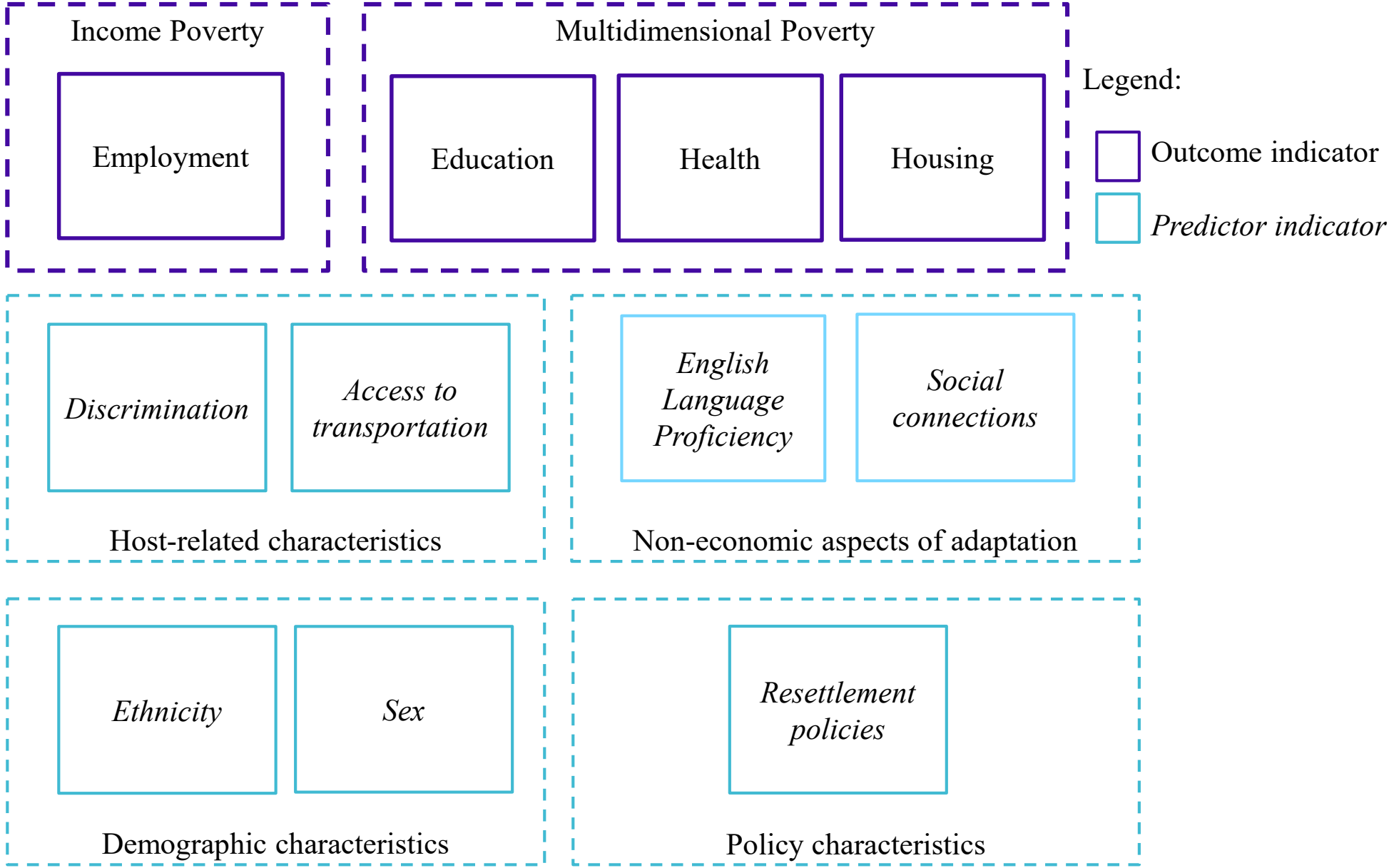
Results

- 1 in every 4 households was income poor
- More than half of the households were multidimensionally poor
- The systematic search found 779 studies (Table 1)
- Thematic analysis of the qualitative data (Table 1)
- Pearson's chi-square tests of quantitative data (Table 1)

Table 1: Associated factors with poverty

Classification of associated factors with poverty	Identified factors	Systematic literature review	Qualitative analyses	Quantitative analyses
			% (#) of key informants referring to the risk factor	Statistical significance of the bivariate analysis between income/ multidimensional poverty and the risk factor
Demographic characteristics	Being female	Alnaeemi (2018); Capps et al. (2015); Franz (2003); Gowayed (2019); Griffiths & Loy (2019)	50% (5)	$\chi^2(1)= 4.68, p= 0.030$, Cramer's V= 0.06)/ Not significant
	Ethnicity	Alnaeemi (2018); Capps et al., (2015); Kallick & Mathema (2016)	50% (5)	$\chi^2(9)= 49.46, p= 0.000$, Cramer's V= 0.18/ $\chi^2(9)= 84.89, p= 0.000$, Cramer's V= 0.24
Host-related characteristics	Lack of access to transportation	Alnaeemi (2018); M'zah et al. (2019); Swe (2009)	70% (7)	Not measured due to lack of data
	Discrimination	Alnaeemi (2018); L. Anderson et al. (2014); Hadley & Patil (2009)	30% (3)	
Policy characteristics	Resettlement policies	Bonet (2016); Chen & Hulsbrink (2019); Gowayed (2019)	100% (10)	Not measured due to lack of data
Non-economic aspects of adaptation	Lack of English language proficiency	Alnaeemi (2018); C. Anderson (2019); L. Anderson et al. (2014); Arafah (2016); Sienkiewicz et al. (2013); Al-Obaidi et al. (2015); Hadley & Patil (2009); Lor et al. (2018);...	100% (10)	$\chi^2(1)= 7.36, p= 0.007$, Cramer's V= 0.07/ $\chi^2(1)= 186.81, p= 0.000$, Cramer's V= 0.35
	Lack of social connections	Alshadood et al. (2018); Ao et al. (2016); Hagaman et al. (2016); Kingsbury et al. (2019); LeMaster et al. (2018); Rana et al. (2011); Wieland et al. (2015);...	100% (10)	Not measured due to lack of data

Figure 3. A Multidimensional Framework for Refugee Poverty





Conclusion

- Contributes to the limited literature
- Social workers are front-line service providers
- Propose a multidimensional framework mapping part of the trajectory of poverty among adult refugees



Limitations

- The ASR is the only available national dataset with data on refugees' self-sufficiency
- Restricted quantitative analyses
- Results might not reflect the current situation
- Results of the scoping review were limited to the published studies
- Results of the scoping review and qualitative analyses of the study might suffer from bias caused by the lack of an independent review process

Thank you

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