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Reflection of Syrian Refugee Women Living in Türkiye in National and International Academic Studies¹

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Abstract

Women and children are among the groups most adversely affected by civil wars and forced migration. Female refugees encounter several hardships, including exposure to physical and sexual violence, torture, human trafficking, early marriages, polygamy, labor exploitation in uninsured jobs for low wages, language barriers, and cultural adaptation problems. Today, refugee women's experiences in countries where they seek asylum have been the subject of many academic studies. This study aims to determine the themes on which studies on Syrian refugee women in Türkiye have focused on both the national database ULAKBİM and the international database Web of Science between 2011 and 2023. Thus, this study aims to identify the focus areas of academic research on Syrian refugee women in Türkiye in both databases and provide recommendations to researchers in this field on the topics they can explore.

Keywords: Türkiye; Syrian refugee women; ULAKBİM; Web of Science; Content Analysis

Introduction

The phenomenon of migration, which is as old as the history of humanity, is not only the separation of individuals from their places of residence and their settlement in a different physical space, but also a multidimensional and dynamic process that brings many socio-economic and cultural changes, both in host countries and in the country of origin. In recent years, human mobility has dramatically increased with the development of communication and transportation networks along with globalization. Scholars like De Haas, Castles, and Miller (2022) have described the century we live in as the 'Age of Migration.'

Since its foundation as a republic, Türkiye has played a multifaceted role as both a receiving, source, and transit country for migrants (Baykal and Yılmaz, 2020, p. 634). While Türkiye served as a haven for Afghan, Iranian, and Iraqi Kurdish refugees, the Syrian civil war that

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erupted in Syria in March 2011 presented Türkiye with one of the most significant humanitarian crises in the world. The substantial influx of Syrian refugees into Türkiye has garnered the attention of researchers from various fields including sociology, anthropology, psychology, education, and forced migration. In particular, the mass migration of Syrian refugees to Türkiye and its socioeconomic effects (Aksu Kargin, 2016; 2018; Boyraz, 2015; Erdoğan, 2014; Kirişçi and Ferris, 2015) and its political impact on Turkish society (Aydemir, 2022; Polat, 2018; Yanasmayan, Üstübcü, and Kasli, 2019) have been the focus of numerous studies.

This academic research, exclusively focusing on the women's dimension of the issue, aims to provide a comprehensive overview of studies on Syrian refugee women in Türkiye. The reason for focusing solely on Syrian refugee women in Türkiye in this study is that the Syrian refugee issue has significantly affected Türkiye compared to other countries that host Syrians. Furthermore, women have historically been considered passive actors accompanying men or household members in the migration process, and have not received adequate attention as a distinct subject of study in migration research for a long time (Buz, 2007). Therefore, it is essential to enhance the visibility of women in migration research, as well as in all aspects of social life, to better comprehend the challenges they encounter during the migration process and post flight. This will help in proposing enduring solutions for the difficulties they face.

In line with this objective, journal articles published in the national database in Türkiye, ULAKBİM, and the international database Web of Science, regarding Syrian refugee women in Türkiye, were analyzed. Within the scope of this study, we aimed to answer the following questions.

1. What are the primary topics of focus in studies on Syrian refugee women living in Türkiye in the ULAKBİM national database between 2011 and 2023?
2. What are the primary topics of focus in studies on Syrian refugee women living in Türkiye in the Web of Science international database between 2011 and 2023?

Migration and Women

Georg Ravenstein, who formulated 7 migration laws based on British population statistics in his renowned work 'The Laws of Migration' (1889), posits that women are more inclined to migrate than men in short-distance migrations. However, for many years, female migrants have often been perceived as passive companions of men in academic research (Morokvasic, 1984), and a distinct area of research dedicated to women in migration has been notably absent (Yılmaz, 2019). In fact, until the mid-1970s, women's visibility in international migration movements was virtually nonexistent (Kofman, 1999, p.269). Nevertheless, while some women continue to migrate with their husbands or other family members, others make this decision independently (Kadioğlu, 1997, p.544). Consequently, in our contemporary world, women assume increasingly active roles in international migration decisions and movements (Arslan 2020; Buz 2007; Dedeoğlu and Ekiz Gökmen, 2020).

The reasons women have become part of the international migration process vary. The demand for labor, particularly in developed countries, and the specific need for women in certain industries, along with lenient family reunification policies in some nations, have contributed to the increase in women's international mobility (Koser, 2007). Economic challenges, such as the fight against poverty, can also be considered as fundamental factors



driving women's participation in international migration (Buz, 2007). In our contemporary age, globalization and neoliberal policies have widened the gap between developed and underdeveloped countries, exacerbating poverty and intensifying gender inequality, which, in turn, propels women to migrate (Özbek and Köşk, 2018, pp. 49-50). Finally, women may also be compelled to migrate because of unforeseen circumstances, such as wars, internal conflicts, and natural disasters.

Today, almost half of refugee movements consist of women (The Global Commission on International Migration, 2005). When war or conflict erupts within society, women and children are typically the ones who suffer the most. Some of the underlying causes of women's suffering include the loss of their husbands during intense conflict (Skjelsbæk and Smith, 2001), the threat of sexual violence (Card, 1996; Pittaway and Bartolomei, 2001), forced early marriage (Berti, 2015; Ferris and Kirişçi, 2016; Kirişçi and Ferris, 2015), and prostitution and sex trafficking (Ward and Vann, 2002). Alongside these hardships, women who witness catastrophic events during war also grapple with psychological issues, such as loneliness and sadness (McMichael, 2002).

On the other side of the coin, the migration process can empower refugee women in various ways, ushering in changes in their lives, such as increased participation in the labor market, greater freedom in decision-making, and improved self-esteem (Pedreza, 1991, p. 32). Furthermore, it provides relief from the constraints of the patriarchal system and grants female refugees a more significant voice in intrafamilial relations (The Global Commission on International Migration, 2005).

Methodology

Thematic content analysis was used in this study. In thematic content analysis, various academic studies are categorized under specific subject headings. One of the most significant advantages of this method is that it provides data on the years, research topics, and main themes focused on by previous academic studies on the same subject.

This study examines research conducted on Syrian refugee women in Türkiye using the ULAKBİM and Web of Science databases from 2011, the onset of the Syrian civil war, through 2023. Content analysis is a method frequently employed in communication studies and applied to the analysis of letters, newspapers, stories, radio or television messages, and various texts (Prasad, 2008). As a result, verbally expressed information, written texts, and all visual messages fall within the scope of content analysis.

Prasad (2008) highlighted the advantages of content analysis as follows:

1. It enables a more objective presentation of phenomena through numerical data and percentages, moving beyond mere observations.
2. It is an effective research method to investigate sensitive study topics.
3. It provides contextual information, thus revealing the symbolic meaning of existing data.
4. Unlike data collection tools like questionnaires, this method allows researchers to double-check and correct incomplete or incorrect coding.

Data Analysis

In both databases, studies on Syrian refugee women in Türkiye were classified according to their main themes and further coded into subthemes. In the search conducted in the ULAKBİM database, the following results were obtained using the specified keywords: ‘göçmen’ and ‘kadın’ (191), ‘sığınmacı’ and ‘kadın’ (33), ‘mülteci’ and ‘kadın’ (76), ‘Suriyeli’ and ‘kadın’ (123), ‘migration’ and ‘women’ (264), ‘immigrant’ and ‘women’ (102), ‘asylum seeker’ and ‘women’ (7), ‘refugee’ and ‘women’ (84), ‘Syrian’ and ‘women’ (161).

In the search performed in the Web of Science database, the following results were obtained using the specified keywords: ‘migration’ and ‘women’ and ‘Turkey’ (389), ‘immigrant’ and ‘women’ and ‘Turkey’ (117), ‘refugee’ and ‘women’ and ‘Turkey’ (161), and ‘Syrian’ and ‘women’ and ‘Turkey’ (202).

In this study, the ULAKBİM and Web of Science databases were searched using the keywords mentioned in the upper section. Among the results obtained from this search, only journal articles on Syrian refugee women/girls in Türkiye, conducted using qualitative/quantitative data methods, were included. A total of 880 results were obtained from the ULAKBİM database using the keywords mentioned above. A total of 869 results were obtained from the Web of Science database. However, in accordance with the specified criteria for filtering, 155 studies, 93 in the field of Natural Sciences and 62 in the field of Social Sciences, were found to be related to Syrian refugee women in Türkiye.

Although the total number of studies on Syrian refugee women in both databases is higher, this research is women-centered, focusing on empirical studies conducted in Türkiye. As a result, literature reviews, book chapters, and studies examining the situation of Syrian refugee women in other host countries as well as those including both male and female Syrian refugee groups were excluded. Further, since this research is women-centered, comparative studies that evaluate both Syrian refugee women and other women groups in Türkiye were included. Finally, an unaccessible article on Syrian refugee women in Türkiye was excluded from the study.

Distribution of Academic Studies on Syrian Refugee Women in Türkiye: Searched in ULAKBİM and Web of Science Databases by Years

Table 1.1. Distribution of Studies on Syrian Refugee Women in Türkiye in ULAKBİM Database by Years

YEAR	Natural Sciences	Social Sciences
2023	3	3
2022	10	8
2021	8	2
2020	10	5
2019	3	4
2018	3	3
2017	-	2
2016	1	2
TOTAL	38	29



Table 1.2. Distribution of Studies on Syrian Refugee Women in Türkiye in Web of Science Database by Years

YEAR	Natural Sciences	Social Sciences
2023	5	2
2022	7	7
2021	11	10
2020	10	3
2019	4	3
2018	5	5
2017	4	1
2016	1	-
TOTAL	47	31

Table 1.3. Distribution of Studies on Syrian Refugee Women in Türkiye in Both ULAKBİM and Web of Science Databases by Years

YEAR	Natural Sciences	Social Sciences
2023	1	1
2022	-	-
2021	-	-
2020	2	1
2019	2	-
2018	1	-
2017	-	-
2016	1	-
2015	1	-
TOTAL	8	2

Findings

Studies Conducted in ULAKBİM and Web of Science Databases in the Field of Natural Sciences

Based on an analysis of the relevant databases, it was determined that the most studied topic in the field of Natural Sciences is Syrian refugee women and pregnancy. A total of 62 articles on Syrian refugee women and pregnancy in Türkiye were found: 31 in the ULAKBİM database, 27 in the Web of Science database, and 4 in both databases. While a few of these studies focus only on Syrian refugee women and their pregnancy status, most of them compare Syrian pregnant women and Turkish pregnant women in distinct realms.

When the non-comparative studies on Syrian refugee women and pregnancy are examined, it is seen that the majority of the studies in this group primarily focused on Syrian refugee women's pregnancy and birth (Toker and Aktaş, 2021; Yaman Sözbir, Erenoğlu, and Ayaz Alkaya, 2021) and motherhood experiences (Korukcu et al., 2018), as well as their demographic characteristics and obstetric and neonatal outcomes in the case of adolescent pregnancies (Yildiz and Cimsir, 2022). In addition to these, risk assessments regarding their pregnancy (Vural et al., 2021a), and their experiences with perinatal care are also analyzed in the studies (Vurğec et al., 2021). Finally, Soysal et al., (2021) analyzed the antenatal care of Syrian refugees and their intrapartum and postpartum characteristics.

Further, factors affecting their high birth rates (Cıft et al., 2019) and the effect of migration on Syrian refugee women's attachment status to their babies (Köpük, Naci, and Çekmez, 2022) are other studies conducted on pregnancy and Syrian refugee women.

Finally, the impact of their population on the prevalence of toxoplasma, rubella, and cytomegalovirus infections (Çoşkun et al., 2020), the changes in their intraocular pressure during different pregnancy periods (Tolunay et al., 2016), and a case study of ichthyosis arising from a dizygotic pregnancy of a Syrian refugee woman are the other studies conducted on pregnancy and Syrian refugee women (Palalıoğlu et al., 2021).

As mentioned earlier, most studies on Syrian refugee women and pregnancy have focused on a comparative analysis of the outcomes of Syrian pregnant refugee women and Turkish pregnant women. For example, comparative studies conducted in this area have focused on the birth characteristics of both groups. The contents of these studies include a comparison of pregnancy characteristics and pregnancy outcomes (Erenel et al., 2017; Karaca Kurtulmus, Sahin Gulec, and Gur, 2022), pregnancy and newborn outcomes (Özgürel, et al., 2022), pregnancy and neonatal outcomes including high pregnancy risk (Sayılı et al., 2022), pregnancy and infection outcomes (Aksin et al., 2021), demographic, obstetric, and neonatal outcomes (Kukrer, 2023), prenatal, delivery, and neonatal outcomes (Kanmaz et al., 2019), pregnancy and newborn outcomes (Karakuş et al., 2022), perinatal, pregnancy, and newborn conditions (İleri et al., 2022) of Syrian pregnant refugee women with Turkish pregnant women.

Other comparative studies conducted, including Syrian refugee women and Turkish women on pregnancy, focus on their birth characteristics (Demirci et al., 2017), as well as their short-term pregnancy outcomes (Kiyak et al., 2020), the relationship between migration and the risk of premature birth (Okman et al., 2020), their stillbirth outcomes (Turkay et al., 2018), and factors affecting this (Selim and Kılınç, 2021).

Furthermore, the incidence of hydatidiform mole (HM) in pregnant Syrian refugee women and Turkish women who undergo abortion (Erkinüresin and Demirci, 2020), is another study conducted within the scope of pregnancy. Moreover, the delivery conditions of both groups who undergo multiple cesarean deliveries (Çökmez and Aydın, 2020), maternal-fetal outcomes during twin births (Özçil and Güngören, 2020), and fetal-maternal serum hormone levels (Ekici Günay and Aksoy, 2020) are the subjects of other comparative studies between Syrian refugee women and Turkish women on pregnancy.

Besides these, some other comparative studies focused on adolescent pregnancies and examined their pregnancy characteristics (Turkay et al., 2020b), maternal and neonatal outcomes (Golbasi, et al., 2022), obstetric and neonatal outcomes and cesarean section rates of both adolescent and adult pregnancies (Kukrer et al., 2022).

In addition, the comparison of obstetric and perinatal outcomes (Güngör et al., 2018; Inal and Inal, 2023), obstetric and neonatal outcomes (Ozel et al., 2018; Turkay et al., 2020a), perinatal and antenatal outcomes (Cantürk, Dağlı, and Cantürk, 2019), and antenatal outcomes (Kurtulmuş, Şahin Güleç, and Gür, 2022) of Syrian pregnant women with those of Turkish pregnant women has been the focus of previous studies. Another study evaluated the factors affecting maternal and perinatal complications in pregnancies of both groups (Firtına et al., 2019). Some studies have assessed the effect of ethnic identity on the prenatal and perinatal processes of pregnant women in both groups (Nacar and Kırıcı, 2023).



Furthermore, Bulut et al., (2019) focused on perinatal characteristics and morbidities of infants of both Syrian and Turkish mothers. Finally, some studies focused on specific cases and evaluated the impact of the July 15 coup attempt on preterm birth rates and poor obstetric outcomes of Syrian pregnant women compared to Turkish pregnant women (Gezer et al., 2019).

Within the scope of the pregnancy theme, some studies have focused on the prevalence of folic acid and multivitamin use during pregnancy and its effects on weight gain in both pregnant groups (Çift et al., 2020). Additionally, some studies have explored the factors affecting smoking during pregnancy and the relationship between these factors and the prevalence of depression (Kurtuluş, Can, and Sak, 2020), while others focus on both groups's perception regarding the practices of Ministry of Health's combating smoking (Can and Kurtuluş, 2022). Furthermore, research has been conducted to investigate the effect of weight gain during pregnancy on birth outcomes (Çoşkun et al., 2020).

Finally, Yassa et al., (2020) examined the attitudes and concerns of uninfected Syrian and Turkish pregnant women towards the COVID-19 pandemic. Soysal and Işıkalan (2020) also evaluated the impact of age, number of births, education level, and immigration status on fear of childbirth.

In addition to all these studies on Syrian refugee women and pregnancy, there have been comparisons of *Toxoplasma gondii* seroprevalence in Syrian refugee pregnant women with Turkish pregnant women (Bakacak et al., 2015; Çökmez and Aydın, 2019; Gonca et al., 2021; Halici-Ozturk et al., 2021). Furthermore, studies have examined the prevalence of anti-*Toxoplasma* IgG and IgM antibodies in both groups (Erdogan, Erdogan, and Altindag, 2020). Additionally, some studies have explored the impact of large-scale migration on the prevalence of this disease, along with comparing the seroprevalence of *Toxoplasma* in Syrian and Turkish pregnant women (Hansu et al., 2021).

In addition to these, some studies have compared the seropositivity of Rubella and Cytomegalovirus, as well as the seropositivity of *Toxoplasma gondii* in Syrian pregnant refugee women and Turkish pregnant women (Altunal et al., 2018; Kul and Turan, 2021). Meanwhile, others have solely compared Rubella and Cytomegalovirus seropositive rates in Syrian pregnant refugees with the local population (Hansu and Hansu, 2022) or examined the immunity of pregnant women in both groups to Rubella (Yücel Çelik et al., 2022).

Furthermore, the prevalence of hepatitis disease in Syrian pregnant refugee women and Turkish pregnant women has been assessed in comparative studies involving both groups. For instance, Hansu and Cıkim (2023) compared the levels of hepatitis B surface antigen and the positivity of anti-hepatitis B surface and anti-hepatitis C virus in Syrian refugee and Turkish pregnant women. Yalçın Bahat et al., (2019) examined the seropositivity of hepatitis B, hepatitis C, and HIV among pregnant Syrian refugee women and their Turkish counterparts. Additionally, Mutlu and Yılmaz (2021) investigated anti-Hbs, anti-HCV, and anti-HIV seropositivity in both Syrian and Turkish pregnant women. İnci et al., (2017) evaluated hepatitis B surface antigen seropositivity in Syrian pregnant refugee women and Turkish pregnant women both before and after vaccination.

5 studies on Syrian refugee women and their health problems were identified in the aforementioned databases: 1 in the ULAKBİM database, 3 in the Web of Science database,

and 1 in both databases. One of these studies investigated the vulnerability of Syrian refugee women in countries hosting Syrians such as Türkiye, Lebanon, and Jordan, and their respective approaches to the health problems faced by these women (Samari, 2017). Another study aimed to determine the health problems of Syrian refugee women living outside the camps (Şimsek et al., 2018).

Additionally, 2 studies focused on breast cancer. 1 study conducted a comparative analysis of the clinical and pathological characteristics of Syrian and Turkish women with breast cancer (Atag et al., 2023), while the other study compared early diagnosis, screening, and the risks of breast cancer between Syrian refugee women and Turkish women (Koçak and Gümüş, 2023). Lastly, Çelik (2016) examined a case involving a Syrian adolescent woman who swallowed a razor blade during an argument with her husband.

It has been determined that there are a total of 6 studies in the field of Syrian refugee women and psychology in the specified databases: 2 studies in the ULAKBİM database and 4 studies in the Web of Science database. One of the studies assessed the levels of depression and psychological problems experienced by Syrian refugee women (Başoğul and Korkut, 2020). In parallel with this study, another research project focused on anxiety disorders, the prevalence of depression, and the risk factors leading to them in Syrian refugee women (Dündar, İlhan and Karamüftüoğlu, 2020).

Other studies concentrated on the relationship between sociocultural adaptation levels and the mental states of Syrian women who left their country for compelling reasons (Kaplan and Düken, 2023), their coping strategies with stressors and how these coping mechanisms are shaped by cultural resources (Kanal and Rottmann, 2021), and the effectiveness, applicability, and cultural acceptability of cognitive behavioral therapy for Syrian refugee women (Eskici et al., 2023). Öğütle et al., (2022) evaluated the effects of the pandemic on the mental health of older Syrian refugee women and older British women.

A total of 7 studies on Syrian refugee women and health services were identified in the specified databases: 1 in the ULAKBİM database and 6 in the Web of Science database. 2 studies focused on health service awareness. Balcılar and Gulcan (2022) examined Syrian refugee women's awareness of preventive healthcare services. Erenoğlu and Yaman Sözbir (2020) evaluated whether healthcare education affects breast and cervical cancer awareness.

In addition to these, research has explored Syrian refugee women's access to healthcare services (Durmaz et al., 2023; Torun et al., 2018) and the challenges they encounter in accessing healthcare services (Qutranji et al., 2020).

Furthermore, studies have examined traditional health methods used by Syrian refugee women (Yaman Sözbir and Erenoğlu, 2021) and their perceptions of a mobile application created to facilitate access to birth and vaccination services (Meyer et al., 2022).

In the databases mentioned above, a total of 7 studies were found on Syrian refugee women and fertility, with 2 in the ULAKBİM database and 5 in the Web of Science database. It was determined that some of the studies evaluated the views of Syrian refugee women on family planning (Alan Dikmen, Çankaya, and Dereli Yılmaz, 2019; Celikkanat and Gungormus, 2022), while others assessed the perspectives of Syrian refugee women on tubal ligation (Donmez, Gümüşsoy, and Koçak, 2020).



Additionally, some studies analyzed Syrian refugee women's fertility characteristics and the factors influencing them (Coşkun et al., 2020), fertility behaviors, and contraceptive use (Demirhan et al., 2022; Özşahin, Emre, and Edirne, 2021), as well as the frequency of contraceptive use (Bahadır and Uçku, 2018).

In the databases mentioned above, a total of 3 studies were found, with 1 study in the ULAKBİM database and 2 studies in both databases focusing on Syrian refugee women and reproductive health. The first study examined the seroprevalence of hepatitis B surface antigen (HbsAg) in both Syrian refugee and Turkish women of reproductive age (Erdoğan et al., 2020). The second study evaluated HPV incidence and cervical smear results in Syrian refugee women (Alan et al., 2020). The last study investigated the frequency of *T. vaginalis* in married Syrian refugee women aged 15–49 years with vaginitis complaints (Doni Yentür et al., 2016).

In the database search, a total of 3 studies on Syrian refugee women and motherhood were found, with 2 in the Web of Science database and 1 in both databases. One of these studies examined the utilization of safe motherhood services among Syrian refugee women (Değer et al., 2018), while the other investigated breastfeeding behaviors among both Syrian refugee women and Turkish women (Bayram Değer, Ertem, and Çifçi, 2020). In addition to these, Bektas and Arkan (2021) assessed the impact of social support provided to Syrian refugee mothers on their infant feeding attitudes.

Studies Conducted in ULAKBİM and Web of Science Databases in the Field of Social Sciences

When academic research on Syrian refugee women in Türkiye in the field of Social Sciences was evaluated, it was determined that the most-studied theme was Syrian refugee women and social cohesion, with 11 research articles. In the aforementioned databases, 11 studies on Syrian refugee women and social cohesion were found: 5 in the ULAKBİM database and 6 in Web of Science. One of these studies examined whether there is a difference in the integration level of Syrian refugee women in Türkiye, taking into account age, marital status, the number of children in the family, and the number of individuals in the family (Açıkalin et al., 2021), while another study focused on how educated Syrian refugee women perceive their acculturation and pre/post-migration life experiences (Şeker, 2022). Apart from these, the role of recreational activities in the social adaptation process of Syrian refugee women (Esentaş, Güven, and Güzel, 2020) and how they perceive the differences between Syria and Türkiye in terms of social adaptation, language skills, and gender have been addressed in journal articles published on social cohesion (Tarakcioglu and Ciceklioglu, 2022).

In addition, Syrian refugee women's ability to cope with the social cohesion problems they experience as a result of the loss of their spouses (Karakurt and Gülerce, 2022), their perception of social support mechanisms, and their hopelessness level (Çankaya et al., 2020) were studied. Furthermore, research has been conducted on their negotiation strategies in language learning classes and broader social spaces, all of which contribute to our understanding of Syrian refugee women's experiences of social cohesion (Rottmann and Nimer, 2021b). Another topic that has been examined under the theme of social cohesion is Syrian refugee women's social relations and perceptions of hospitality (Rottmann and Nimer, 2021a). Moreover, Altunkaynak (2016), drawing from Simmel's typology of the 'outsider,' evaluated how Syrian refugee women and Turkish women perceive the concepts of 'insider'

and ‘outsider.’ Özüdoğru (2018) examined how Syrian refugee women living alone evaluate the approach of local people towards them. Finally, Gözübüyük, Kemik, and Sever (2019) conducted a practical study aimed at changing the prejudices and misinformation held by locals in Türkiye regarding Syrian refugees.

8 studies fall under the category of Syrian refugee women and the labor market.

were identified in the databases mentioned above. 4 of these studies were in the ULAKBİM database, 3 were in the Web of Science database, and 1 study was present in both databases.

While some of these studies focus on the challenges faced by Syrian refugee women in the labor market (Aygül and Kaba, 2019; Karahan and Ertosun, 2023), others focus on the obstacles they encounter when trying to access the labor market (Ozturk, Serin, and Altınöz, 2019). Furthermore, 2 additional studies delve into the integration of Syrian refugee women into the labor market (Dursun and Nizamoglu, 2021) and examine how their vulnerability impacts their level of integration into the labor market (Dedeoglu, 2022). In addition, some studies have explored whether Syrian refugee women utilize social capital to secure employment (Aydın, 2021). Lastly, Körükmez, Danış, and Karakılıç (2022) assessed the challenges faced by Syrian refugee women in their participation in the labor market and the correlation between these challenges and their gender roles. Kiremit and Akfırat (2023) investigated the well-being of employed and unemployed refugee women and the social and psychological factors influencing it.

In the aforementioned databases, 6 academic studies on Syrian refugee women and gender were discovered: 3 in the ULAKBİM database and 3 in the Web of Science database. One study assessed gender-based displacement by delving into the daily lives of Syrian refugee women (Dağtaş, 2018), while another examined the influence of migration on Syrian refugee women with varying levels of education and employment status (Doğangün and Keysan, 2022). Additional studies on this theme include an exploration of how Syrian refugee women establish a sense of belonging and navigate gender roles in a new social and architectural environment, considering their domestic living spaces (Sezginalp Ozcetin and Rottmann, 2022). Another study focused on uncovering young refugee women’s invisibility within the patriarchal order and their awareness of their rights within marriage (Karakartal and Kaylı, 2023).

Finally, Gökalp Kutlu (2020) examined how gender affects the perception of insecurity in Syrian refugee women, and Muhanna-Matar (2022) evaluated how multiple identities based on nationality, ethnicity, religion, and sexuality influence various aspects of gender performativity in Syrian refugee women.

A total of 6 academic studies on Syrian refugee women and their experiences with forced migration in Türkiye, including 3 from ULAKBİM and 3 from the Web of Science, were discovered. One of these studies focused on the positive and negative effects of forced migration on Syrian refugee women with children (Öztoraman-Adıgüzel and Tanyaş, 2020), while another delved into the experiences of poverty and the daily lives of Syrian refugee women striving to cope with the challenges of forced migration (Coşkun, 2016). Biner and Biner (2021) examined the waiting experiences of Syrian refugee women living on the Türkiye-Syria border, and Hakki (2018) investigated the changes in the roles of Syrian elderly refugee women after fleeing Syria and their personal development following the hardships they endured.



In addition to these, Ünal and Doğan (2020) evaluated whether Syrian refugee women are subjected to discrimination and marginalization through the discourses of local people, and another study addressed the problems experienced by Syrian refugee women and their expectations regarding social inclusion (Mirici, 2018).

In the relevant databases, a total of 6 studies were found, with 3 published in ULAKBİM, 2 in Web of Science, and 1 in both databases, all focusing on the theme of Syrian refugee women and media in Türkiye. One of the studies is a case study analyzing how the murder of a Syrian refugee woman was portrayed in the media (Hepkon, 2017), while the other studies concentrated on the representation of Syrian refugee women in the local and national press in Türkiye (Mert Elmas and Paksoy, 2020; Narlı, Özaşçılar, and Turkan Ipek, 2020; Narlı and Özaşçılar, 2021; Uzun and Asrak Hasdemir, 2017). Another study examined how Syrian and Ukrainian refugee women are depicted on Twitter (Akar and Ekmekçi, 2023).

A total of 6 studies were identified on the theme of Syrian refugee women and marriage in Türkiye, with 4 in the ULAKBİM database and 2 in the Web of Science database. One study investigated the reasons for early marriage among Syrian refugee women (Çelik, 2022), while another focused on the early marriages of Syrian refugee women and the challenges associated with these marriages (Çifçi and Yanardağ, 2023). Additionally, separate studies have examined the adverse consequences of early marriages (Çelik and Karasu, 2022), the negative effects of polygamy on both Syrian refugee women and Turkish women (Aksu Kargın, 2018), and the perspectives of Syrian refugee women and Turkish women on polygamy (Eraslan, 2019). Finally, Akyüz and Tursun (2019) explored the gender experiences of Syrian refugee women and their marriages with Turkish men.

A total of 5 studies on the theme of Syrian refugee women and violence in Türkiye were discovered, with 2 in the ULAKBİM database and 3 in the Web of Science database. One of these studies assessed the forms of violence to which Syrian refugee women are exposed during the migration process (Karakaya, 2019), while another study examined the risks of gender-based violence against Syrian adolescent girls and young women and how these risks are shaped by their displacement (Wringe et al., 2019).

Another study evaluated the experiences of violence among Syrian refugee women from the perspective of service providers (Afyonoğlu, 2023), while the experiences of domestic violence and coping strategies of Syrian refugee women constituted the subject of another study (Hassan and Cankurtaran, 2022). Finally, Albayrak et al., (2022) focused on Syrian refugee women's experiences of exposure to gender-based violence and empowerment, examining the role of Safe Spaces for Women and Girls projects.

It was determined that there were 5 articles on the empowerment of Syrian refugee women in the relevant databases: 1 in the ULAKBİM database and 4 in the Web of Science database. Some of these studies evaluated the approaches of non-governmental organizations towards the empowerment of Syrian refugee women and the effectiveness of their practices (Özgür Keysan and Şentürk, 2021b; 2021c), while other studies focused on the empowerment of Syrian refugee women striving to make a living with the assistance of non-governmental organizations and their efforts to establish their own non-governmental organizations (Topçu, 2020).

Some studies concentrate on how Syrian refugee women who receive assistance from non-governmental organizations perceive their problems (Özgür Keysan and Şentürk, 2021a), whereas others focus on evaluating the actions taken by non-governmental organizations to enhance the cohesion of Syrian refugee women within the host community (Erden, 2017).

It was determined that there are 3 articles on Syrian refugee women and space, 1 in the ULAKBİM database, and 2 in the Web of Science database. One of these studies focused on the effects of Europe's border management policies and Türkiye's citizenship policy towards Syrian refugees on the daily life practices of Syrian refugees (Acara and Özdemir, 2022), while other studies examined the politics of spatial solidarity among Syrian refugee women (Dağtaş and Can, 2022). Finally, Erdoğan and Gönülaçan (2018) shed light on Syrian and Afghan women's private and public spaces.

In the ULAKBİM database, no articles were found on Syrian refugee women and their identities in Türkiye. However, 2 studies have been published on Web of Science. One study focused on how different identity perceptions of Syrian refugee women affect their migration experience (Ozkaleli, 2018), while another study evaluated the identity perceptions of Syrian refugee women and the impact of religion on this perception (Ozkaleli, 2021).

When relevant databases were examined, there was only one article on Syrian refugee women and sports. This academic research aimed to identify the factors influencing the physical activity experiences of Syrian refugee women before and after migration (Canbaz and Koca Arıtan, 2020). Similarly, there was only 1 article in the field of Syrian refugee women and education and 1 article in the field of Syrian refugee women and art. Research on education has examined how the war affected the education of Syrian refugee women living in safe/asylum countries (Ibesh et al., 2021), while the study of art evaluated the applicability of nonviolent communication (NVC) in the context of Syrian refugee women (Alshughry, 2018). Finally, Karakartal and Kaylı's research (2022), which is included in the ULAKBİM database but does not fall under any of the sub-codes mentioned above, evaluated academic studies conducted on Syrian refugee women at the YÖK National Thesis Center.

Discussion and Concluding Remarks

Since the earliest ages of history, individuals have become actors in migration movements for compulsory reasons or by their own volition. And since the foundation of Türkiye, the country has encountered a wide variety of migration and asylum movements because of its location at the intersection of Asia, Africa, and Europe. In March 2011, peaceful protests in Syria evolved into civil wars that had been ongoing for more than 12 years. In the Syrian civil war, nearly half a million Syrian citizens lost their lives due to clashes between government forces and opposition groups, and 5.18 million Syrian citizens left Syria and sought refuge in neighboring countries, primarily Türkiye, as well as Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, and Egypt (UNHCR, 2023). In 2015, Türkiye became the country that provided protection to the largest number of refugees in the world in the face of this massive influx from Syria (Ferris and Donato, 2015, p.88).

When human mobility is examined today, it is noticeable that the number of women migrating of their own free will is increasing; in other words, migration is becoming 'feminized' (De Haas, Castles, and Miller, 2022; Şeker and Uçan, 2016). On the other hand, even though the migration process is different for each refugee woman, there is an approach that considers



refugee women as a homogeneous group (Buz, 2007). In this context, determining what refugee women experience in different realms enables researchers to focus on under-studied areas.

This academic research aimed to determine the most studied topics concerning Syrian refugee women living in Türkiye by analyzing journal articles published in the national database ULAKBİM and the international database Web of Science, conducted using qualitative/quantitative data methods. As a result of the search, a total of 165 studies on Syrian refugee women in Türkiye were found in the mentioned databases. Of these, 67 were in the ULAKBİM database, 78 were in the Web of Science database, and 10 were indexed in both databases. Among the 155 journal articles found on Syrian refugee women in Türkiye, 93 belong to the Natural Sciences, while 62 are in the Social Sciences.

First, when studies in the field of Natural Sciences were evaluated, it was determined that the most-studied theme was Syrian refugee women and pregnancy, with 62 research articles. One of the reasons for the high number of studies in this field can be attributed to the higher fertility rates of Syrian refugee women than Turkish women, making it a topic worthy of research. Other studies conducted in the Natural Sciences have focused on Syrian refugee women and their health problems, psychology, access to healthcare services, fertility, reproductive health, and motherhood.

In addition to the studies conducted within the framework of Syrian refugee women and pregnancy in both databases, research on the detection of infectious diseases among pregnant refugee women, pregnancy processes of those with chronic diseases, and malnutrition and nutritional problems in pregnant refugee women can also enrich research on this topic. Furthermore, in both the ULAKBİM and Web of Science databases, it is evident that the number of studies on Syrian refugee women and psychology is limited. Wars can have a wide range of traumatic effects on individuals, such as the loss of loved ones and social networks and exposure to torture and violence. Therefore, how women and children, who are among the groups most affected by wars, cope with the negative effects of war, how they are affected by this process, and how their economic conditions and social environment in the new milieu affect their mental well-being can be listed as topics that can be researched on Syrian refugee women and psychology.

When the studies conducted in the field of Social Sciences on Syrian refugee women in Türkiye were evaluated, it was determined that the most studied theme was social cohesion, with 11 research articles, followed by the labor market, with 8 journal articles. Other studies conducted in the Social Sciences on Syrian refugee women in Türkiye include their forced migration experiences, gender roles, representations in the media, marriages, exposure to violence, identity building, empowerment, space, sports, education, and arts.

Regarding Syrian refugee women and marriage, most studies focus on early marriages and polygamy and their negative effects on both Syrian refugee women and Turkish women. Whether there has been any change in women's marriage decisions with post-war migration and how refugee women who have problems in their marriages approach the issue of divorce in a new country can be considered topics that can be researched further.

Syrian refugee women and violence were another theme mentioned in the analyzed databases. In the studies conducted, it was stated that refugee women were subjected to gender-based

violence during the war period and migration. What kind of dynamics are effective in the increase of this violence, which types of violence occur, how this violence affects women's well-being, what kind of resistance mechanisms women form in the face of different types of violence, and what kind of policies are followed by the institutions operating in the field to protect refugee women from violence can be considered as the themes that can be researched.

Studies conducted on Syrian refugee women and the media in both databases are examined, and it is observed that Syrian women are often portrayed passively in most of the studies conducted. Conducting media research in a way that allows refugee women to express themselves can make studies in this field more objective.

In addition, Syrian refugee women and identity, as well as women's empowerment, are among the other research topics in the Social Sciences. Research areas may include how the migration process affects the self-perception of Syrian refugees, an evaluation of the factors that prevent such changes in refugee women who were not affected by this process, and whether the perception of identity differs among refugee women with different demographic, educational, and economic statuses.

Furthermore, additional academic research can be conducted to determine the activities carried out by civil society organizations, public institutions, and national/international organizations operating in the field to empower Syrian refugee women and to what extent these activities are effective or where they face obstacles.

Finally, it was found that there were almost no studies on Syrian women and education, sports, and arts in the databases analyzed. The main reason for this can be considered the low rate of school attendance for Syrian girls in the pre-war period and the limited activities of girls outside the home. It has been determined that when women in Syria enter puberty, their families force them to leave their education in the middle of adolescence because of the fear that something might happen to their daughters and that their education will not be beneficial for the family in the long run. They are directed towards early marriage after migration (Cankurtaran and Albayrak, 2019, p. 25). However, it is important to ensure the social adaptation of Syrian refugees under the conditions of their permanent stay in Türkiye, and to include them in education as an indispensable part of social life, considering the pioneering role of women in raising new generations.

Therefore, in the long run, academic research should evaluate the policies that should be followed to eliminate the remnants of the patriarchal social structure in Syria in Türkiye, ensure the schooling of more Syrian girls, and foster their social cohesion through sports and arts activities.

In order to access the list of the articles analyzed in this study, please go to the following link: <https://rb.gy/lq7as>

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