

# **From Persecution to “Prosperity”?**

## **Struggles, Aspirations, and Innovations among Rohingya Refugees in Digital Entrepreneurship**

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# Inside the World's Biggest Refugee Camp



# Challenges of Rohingya Refugees in Digital Space

- Rohingyas do not have any official set of alphabets
- Without any formal identification documents, they are legally barred from purchasing any local SIM cards in Bangladesh
  - However, everyone uses mobile phone, amid an appalling ICT infrastructure
- Women are heavily excluded from the digital space
- Rohingyas do not have an established ecosystem available for developing their own audio-visual content



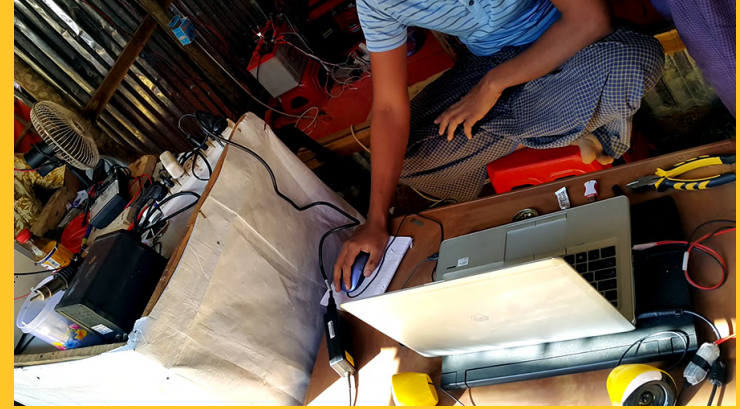
# Offline digital enterprises: Information and communication networks as commodities

- A black market of SIM cards
- The alternative digital network
- Mobile repair shops
- Mobile recharge shops



# Offline digital file transfer and informal data work: A sustainable ecosystem of localized & customized audio- visual content

- Laptops with content on demand
- Illiteracy and the struggle for digital upskilling
- Brokers and the popularity of “local” content





# Conclusion and Future Work

- The exclusion of refugees from digital access can sometimes give birth to unexpected spheres of informal digital work and entrepreneurship.
  - Barefoot digital innovations and entrepreneurship initiatives for the displaced population
  - Resilient techno-economic systems in the COVID/post-COVID era

