

The Socio-Economic Construction of China-Pakistan Economic Corridor according to the Perspective of University Students

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ABSTRACT

Socio-economic growth has its prime importance towards the durable sustainability of any nation. Cautious and foreseeing states enhance their socio-economic capabilities through encouraging bi-lateral and multi-lateral initiatives in the region. China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) is one of the mega bi-lateral project between China and Pakistan. CPEC provides China a smooth and feasible route from Kashgar to Gwadar. The distance from Kashgar to Gwadar is 2,800 km, whereas the distance from Kashgar to Chinese sea port Shanghai is around 4,500 km. With the courtesy of CPEC, China save almost half of its transport distances through bi-passing Pakistan's territory. CPEC is a project of around 62 billion dollars which includes spreading of highways, energy sector up gradation, infrastructural development and many more. CPEC is having a vast impact on social and economic circumstances of every Pakistani. The purpose of this study was to describe the social importance of CPEC according to the students of higher educational institutes located in Lahore. Quantitative analysis was held to identify the perception of students about the social and economic after effects of CPEC on Pakistani society. Frequency distribution through histogram presentation revealed the positive perception of higher education students regarding the fruitful achievements of CPEC courtesy socio-economic development of Pakistan which gether both the countries more closer to each other.

Keywords: China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), Socio-Economic Development, Social perception. University students, Lahore.

INTRODUCTION

The China-Pakistan economic corridor (CPEC) is a mega project of development in the current socio-economic and political sphere. This project provides opportunity for all provinces and regions of the country as the social and economic development is concern (Iqbal, 2014). The Project consist of is 3,000 km network of roads, railways which connects Gwadar to Xinjiang; in order to supply oil and gas pipelines. According to Pakistan times, this mega project includes more than 62 billion dollars between Pakistan and china. According to First post, this is one of the biggest money that China has announced or planned to invest in oversea which leads to become a game changer in this region. The connection of Karachi-Gwadar-Kashgar is the heart of this project that plays a vital role in infrastructural development. This mega project would provide China another way to reach into the Indian Ocean, from Pakistan's Arabian sea port to Gwadar, which is

shorter and cheaper route for china to reach world trade market.

The global economic landscape has changed dramatically, the main drivers of this change are technology, trade liberalization, free capital movements, advances in communication, transportation infrastructure and creation of cross border supply chains. The center gravity of the world economy is shifted towards east with the emerging economies growing countries like China, India, Japan, Malaysia and Pakistan. Both sides (China & Pakistan) should push forward the implementation of the Early Harvest projects as well as the preparation of the projects of the Long-term Plan in all sectors. China; which is the largest exporter of goods in Asia will get a short access to Arabian sea through Pakistan. Proposals for rail link are also under consideration and expected to be announced soon. After considering all the pre-facts and figures of China-Pakistan economic corridor, it is really important to analyze the social construction consequences of CPEC.

Research Objectives

- To evaluate Individuals' perception regarding the social construction and development of Pakistani society under the courtesy of China-Pakistan Economic Corridor.
- To analyze the future in socio-economic development of both the countries (Pakistan and China).
- To access the features and pattern of investment and economic boom in both the countries with reference to CPEC.

Research Questions

- IS China-Pakistan economic corridor is equally beneficial for both the countries as the social construction and economic development is concern?
- This project (CPEC) will reach its most of the require achievements?
- What effect this Project cause on the Pakistan and china Relationship?
- Effect of CPEC on the development sector of Pakistan?

LITERATURE REVIEW

China-Pakistan economic is a developmental alliance that will took both the countries at very high level of **bilateral** relationship and it brings prosperity in the region (The Pakistan Times). A book written by William J. Bernstein named as; how trade shaped the world, described history of world exchange from 3000 BC to today's globalized world that splendidly investigates exchange's beautiful and argumentative past and gives new experiences into social, political, economic, financial history and a convenient appraisal of eventual fate of exchange (Bernstein, 2009). In the book "Globalization and progressive economic policy", a few prominent market analysts examine the rise of the globalized economy and its effect on the political, social and economic fundamentals of a nation (Malik, 2009). China-Pakistan economic corridor is a way to gain momentum in Pakistan (Daily times).

There is around 70 years of political relationship between china and Pakistan, the friendship between china Pakistan was begun by Mao Zedong, Zhou Enlai, Zulfikar Ali Bhutto and different pioneers of the earlier as, and their bilateral activates was moved in an extremely positive course between both the nations. After

such solid bonding, both nations attempted to make their holding stronger, but it was again settled under the thought of General Pervaiz Musharraf. Also the exchange connection between two countries was likewise grown under the administration of General Pervaiz Musharraf. This arrangement picked up a great deal consideration, yet its introductory part was finished by Singapore port authority development of Gwadar port and China-Pakistan exchange passages was given to Chinese organization. By the backing of chinese president XI jinxing and Pakistan president Asif Ali Zardari, head Li keqian dealt with the advancement and he as the first individual who began this work of development and the former prime minister of Pakistan Muhammad Nawaz sharif added improvement to Gwadar project. This long haul vital arrangement holds a multibillion dollar arrangement with a timeline of stretching out up to very nearly 2020-2025. It will associate Kashgar to Gwadar through the new and existing street systems of Indus and Karakoram and further uniting it over the outskirt with Central Asian states giving the expense and time effective chain of supply for exchange inside of the region. Up to 3 billion individuals of the area are relied upon to acquire profits by this network, It will concentrate comprehensively on monetary and specialized participation, exchange linkages, advancement of mechanical zones, development of street and rail connections, oil and gas pipeline and fiber optic link ventures, expanding social association among individuals, trade of political. social thoughts, trades of mastery between government associations and the financial advantages that will develop after finish of the venture. (Khan, 2013) Early objectives are particular, and critical in nature like; development of rail track from Abbottabad, to Xinjiang, development of six line motorway in the middle of Karachi and Lahore, Upgrading, and repairing of sea side highway from Gwadar to Karachi, Construction of airport at Gwadar, and unbar transportation stand for moving of merchandise toward the western area of China from Gwadar through beach front highway and a motorway. In short, much activity are in advancement worth billion dollars for the dynamic improvement of financial and exchange works in Pakistan with the collaboration of the Chinese government. Joint financial commission of Sino-Pak is administering these ventures to finish on time and to exchange the crucial advantages to the populace of both nations in numerous segments

like industry, agribusiness, wellbeing, vitality, instruction and transport parts. Road from Gilgit to Khunjrab is the fundamental part on which exchanging transport wheel their vehicles and that street is named as Silk Road which is primarily hundreds kilometers, and recreating a few kilometers which is associating Karakorum Highway and prompts Khunjrab pass (Holmes, 2013). CPEC, from economic viewpoint is also suitable as the geopolitical and geostrategic welfares of both Pakistan and China (Zhiye). In the long run, the project will not only benefit China, Pakistan and south Asian region even the whole of central Asia, west Asia and north Africa will reap its benefits. This street prompts open new exchange parkways in Pakistan from focal Asia and expands Chinese interest in the region. This would open new finishes of the exchange for both Pakistan and China fit as a fiddle of central Asian exchange an outcomes fort for financial development and will make for flourishing for under creating grounds of Xinjiang locale and itself in Pakistan too. Pakistan's significance in the advancement of Xinjiang area of China is truly essential and this is time to test the astounding connection which exists between both neighboring nations and these both nations are hugely imperative encouraging calculates building up the unique monetary zones. This project's position is exceptionally extraordinary as indicated by the geology of the zone. Integration through street system, streams, and rail lines is seen as a monetary interest for creating administration commercial ventures in both countries. A late quick increment in the exchange relations between both countries has been continuously summing higher ever; by the end of 2013 imports and fares to China were 9.2 billion dollars and 3.14 billion dollars separately (Anwar, 2011). Persian Gulf states encourage China's 60% vitality needs The developments of this passageway will curtail the separation for China to Persian Gulf's by a few thousand kilometers. A change has brought up in Chinese law about the passage extension, and building and low premium credit strategies are likewise presented for representatives who are keen on interest in this Master arrangement.

China is incorporated in those grounds of the world that utilization topography for settling on choices for its vital advantage. The KKH is 1,300 kilometer since quite a while ago, began from Kashgar in Xinjiang with Hasan Abdal in Islamabad. The development of KKH was done

in two stages: first was regulating the development shingled street and second was overhauled it to thruway particular. The pipeline gives vitality to China from African and Arab nations. China turned into the biggest customer with respect to oil after USA in 2009. The utilization is relied upon to ascend by 2030. 80% of the oil is imported in China by means of Africa and Middle Eastern nations. (Kiyani & Ahmed, 2013). The port is essentially a passage between central Asian states and Chinese region Xinjiang. Gwadar port likewise has key worth like that of Karakoram Highway. The normal income from area to ocean exchange through Pakistan and gas and oil travel, are about \$1,000,000 every year. Pakistan has a brilliant open door by Gwadar port to strengthen business relations and exchange with central Asian Republics which has the world's biggest gas and oil assets. By the development of new Gwadar remote ocean sea port, the separation in the middle of Pakistan and Central Asian states diminishes by 500km. Gwadar port encourage central Asian states to exchange their vitality assets in world business sector and consequently Pakistan gets benefits in travel expenses. Pakistan is utilizing this port for vitality and exchange passageway with Central Asia, China and Afghanistan. This Gwadar city will be the following financial extraordinary zone in world (Iqbal, 2015).

METHODOLOGY

Research Type

This study was based on quantitative research a method which is related to the positivist paradigm approach, which is basically focusing the descriptive form of research, in which perception of university students of Lahore about the social construction and economic development regarding Pakistan-China economic corridor was described. The positivist paradigm actually helps to analyze the social based perception of an individual regarding this phenomenon of China-Pakistan economic corridor.

Research Tool

Data for this study was collected through five-Likert scale questionnaires containing 12 sub-questions that covers the perception of an individual regarding social construction and economic development towards China-Pakistan economic corridor. These sub-questions were operationalized into measurable statements with

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the courtesy of four research questions. These questions focused the socio-economic impact of China-economic economic corridor on Pakistani society.

Population and Sampling

Population for this research was the universities of Lahore and the target population was one private university (university of management and technology) and one government university (Punjab University). Simple random sample selection technique was used to collect sample size for data collection was 100 individuals (50 representations from each sector).

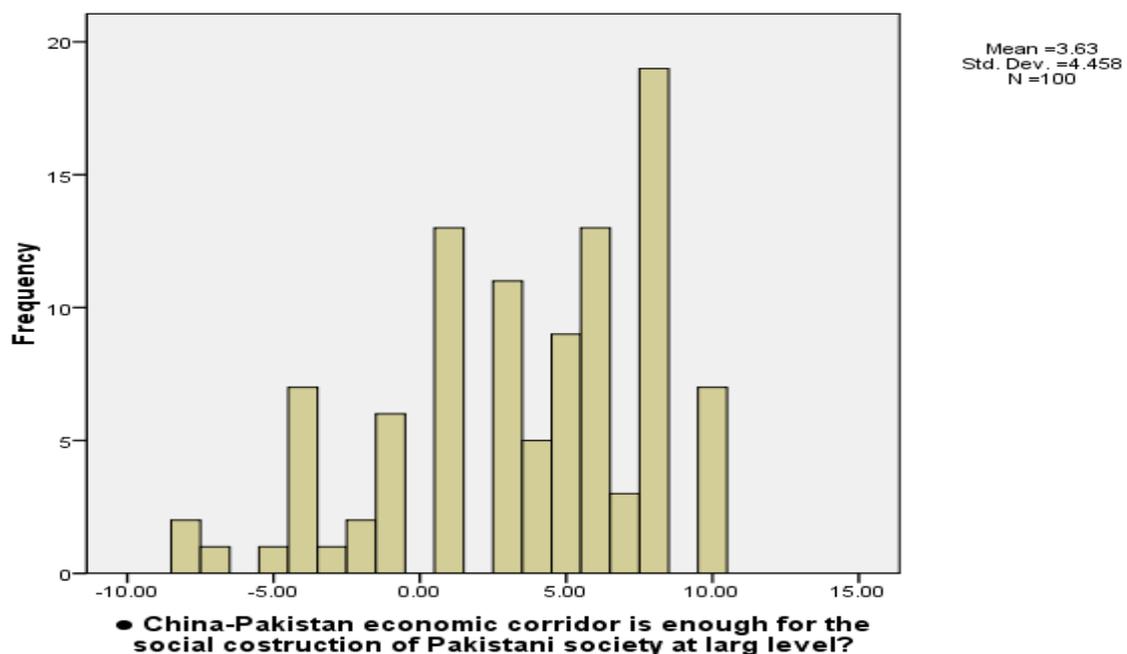
Data Analysis

Data was analyzed after computing the responses of selected participants and histogram charts was designed to describe frequency

Question No.1

China-Pakistan Economic Corridor is equally Beneficial for both the Countries as the Social Construction and Development is Concern?

Result



0 - -10	0	0 -10
CPEC is not equally beneficial for both the countries.	No Response	CPEC is equally beneficial for both the countries

In histogram representation, **80%** of the respondents think that, China-Pakistan economic corridor is equally beneficial for both the countries as the social construction and economic development is concern. In this perspective, the students of higher education institutes consider China-Pakistan economic

results. Low rated frequencies deny the positive impact of CPEC on socio-economic benefits of Pakistan, whereas high frequencies will portray the acceptance of positive impact of socio-economic achievement for Pakistan.

Data Analysis

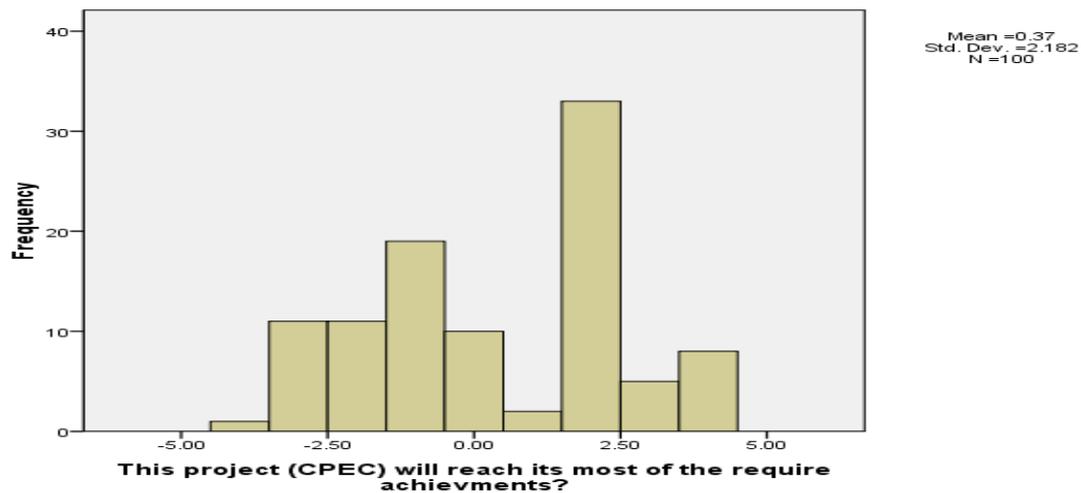
Data was collected from students of universities (50 each from Punjab university and 50 from university of management and technology) to analyze the perception of students studying in higher educational institutes of Lahore about the consequences of social construction and economic development of China-Pakistan economic corridor. In this research they was four major questions having further sub-questions that was asked to the participants through questionnaires.

corridor as enough beneficial for the social construction of Pakistani society at large level and this project is also based on social attributes of both the countries, so it is said to be that, CPEC is highly beneficial for the social construction and economic development of both the countries.

Question No.2

This Project (CPEC) Will Reach Its Most of the Require Achievements?

Result



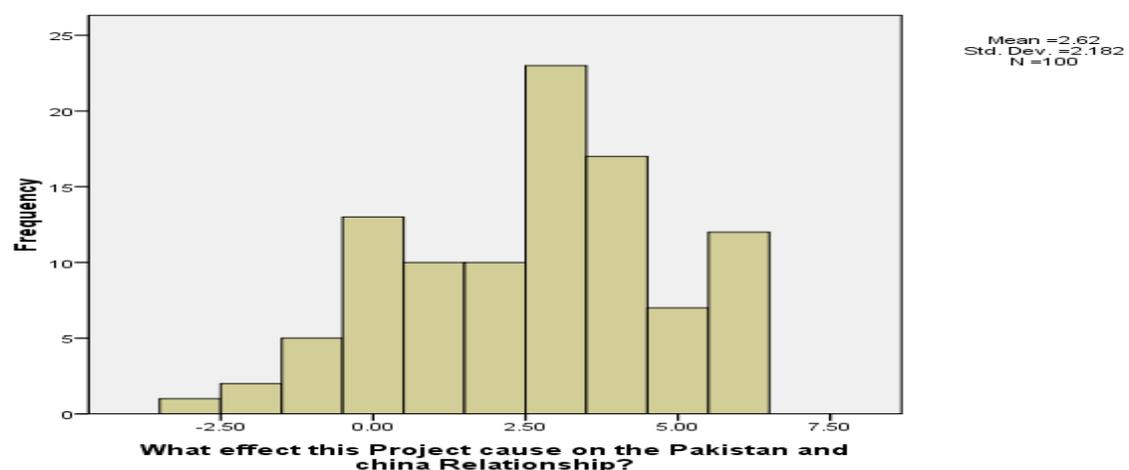
0 - 4	0	0 - 4
CPEC will not reach its require achievements	No Response	CPEC will reach its require achievements

Students of universities are of the opinion that, the chances of this project (CPEC) to reach its most of the require achievements is up to **48%** and **44%** of our respondents think that the

completion of this project will not succeed its required goals, the other **8%** respondents do not give any answer of this question.

Question No.3

Result



0 - 6	0	0 - 6
CPEC will cause negative effects on Pak-china relationships.	No Response	CPEC will cause positive effects on Pak-china relationships.

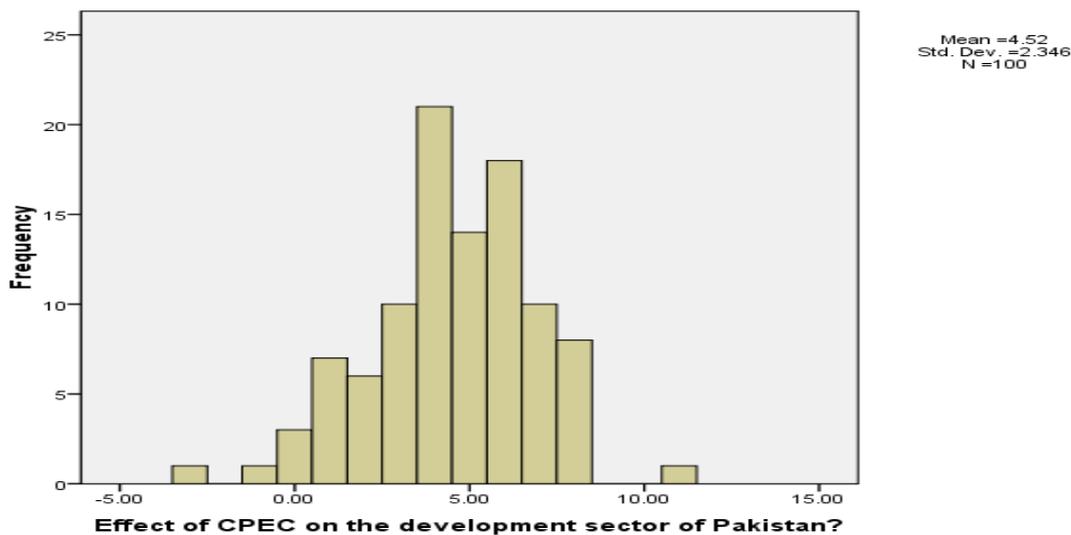
When the question regarding the effects of China-Pakistan economic corridor on Pakistan and china relationship from selected respondents was asked, **82%** of the respondents think that CPEC has its positive impact on strategic

relations of Pakistan with china, bi-lateral relationship and transition of social values will more increase with the courtesy of China-Pakistan economic corridor.

Question No.4

Effects of CPEC on the Development Sector of Pakistan?

Result



0 - 6	0	0 - 6
CPEC will has negative effects on development sector of Pkistan.	No Response	CPEC will have positive effects on development sector of Pakistan.

As the question of effects of CPEC on the development sector of Pakistan is concern, 92% of our respondents think that, the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (PCEC) will be a highly game changer for the development sector of Pakistan especially in the field of tele-communications and energy infrastructure. Most of our respondents also think that, cost-benefit analysis is required to assess for whom it will be the game changer as the development criteria is concern.

CONCLUSION

China-Pakistan economic corridor, a project of around 62 billion dollars is a setup of huge socio-economic development in this region. This project provides opportunities to both the countries to get achievement in their certain development sectors including. The Project consist of is 3,000 km network of roads, railways and pipelines which connects Gwadar to Xinjiang in order to supply oil and gas. The main purpose of this research was to revealed the Individuals’ perspective of students’ studying in higher education institutes of Lahore regarding the social development and construction of Pakistan’s society with the courtesy of China-Pakistan economic corridor. Quantitative research method was used in this study that is related to the positivist paradigm

approach, which focuses the descriptive form of research. The positivist paradigm actually helps to analyze the socially based perception of an individual regarding these phenomena of China-Pakistan economic corridor. Population for this research is, the universities of Lahore, and target population is, one private university (University of Management and technology) and one government university (Punjab University) from where data was collected through using simple random sampling technique from 50 students of Punjab university and 50 from university of management and technology, The research questions for this study was based on social, development and the beneficial criteria of China-Pakistan economic Corridor.

Most of the respondents give answer in the favor of China-Pakistan economic corridor as the effect on social construction of Pakistani society is concerned. 80% of respondents think that, the China-Pakistan economic corridor is equally beneficial for both the countries as the social construction and development is concern. 48% of universities Students of Lahore think that, the chances of this project (CPEC) to reach its most of the require achievements. 82% of our respondents think that CPEC has its positive impact on strategic relations of Pakistan with china. 92% of our respondents think that, the China-Pakistan Economic corridor (PCEC) will

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be a game changer for the development sector of Pakistan especially in the field of telecommunications and energy infrastructure.

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