



CPEC: A promise or a peril

Nadia Nasir, Faculty of Business and Management Sciences Superior College, 17-km Raiwind road, Lahore, Pakistan, nadia.nasir@superior.edu.pk

Ch. Abdul Rehman, Faculty of Business and Management Sciences Superior College, 17-km Raiwind road, Lahore, Pakistan, ceo@superior.edu.pk

Humaira Qudsia Yousaf, Faculty of Business and Management Sciences Superior College, 17-km Raiwind road, Lahore, Pakistan, sobia.nasir@superior.edu.pk

Sobia Nasir, Faculty of Business and Management Sciences Superior College, 17-km Raiwind road, Lahore, Pakistan, humaira.yousaf@superior.edu.pk

Abstract- The China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), a mega project and an economic booster for the economy of Pakistan which will the large investment in the form of infrastructure development by China. The magnificent slogan regarding CPEC provokes high expectations for the scholars and researchers to highlight their concerns about the hitherto governance and control related issues. The CPEC is associated with the national and international geopolitics and is undergoing numerous hazards with regard to its transparency and control to a path of sustainable development. A case study on CPEC project that compares the insights through the theoretical lens by enabling the assessments of the explanations offered against the main perspectives. This paper is an attempt to highlight the potential impact of CPEC on the self-assurance to deal with the wider consequences of governance. As governance seems to be the most serious issue for the successful fulfillment of all the strategies, policies, and targets associated with CPEC The study indicates that CPEC may become a development assertive project with the sound governance. Through asserting the proper restructuring and right blend of policy implications and taking on board the business community and widening the trading opportunities for the Asian countries.

Keywords: Governance, China Pakistan Economic Corridor, Sustainable Development, Investments

I. INTRODUCTION

China decided to invest in Pakistan's infrastructure, particularly on its roads, harbors and power for almost about 35 billion pounds for the upcoming decade. It seems to gain additional foreign direct investments which are almost equivalent to foreign direct investments received in the last few decades in Pakistan (Lavingia, 2016). Further, these foreign direct investments will be undertaken in the form of China Pakistan economic corridor investments (Xie et al.). Almost 26 billion pounds will be funded for generating power; around 9 billion pounds will be utilized for the construction of roads and rail network for about 1677 miles. The China, Pakistan economic corridor is established not only to offset the Pakistan's energy related problems and improve the trade and its relevant affairs. Therefore, Pakistan is on its way to execute the relevant concerns and projects. It is of no surprise that most of the countries are still focusing on substantial projects and opportunities related to investments. No doubt the magnificent slogan regarding CPEC provokes high expectations for the scholars and researchers to highlight their concerns about the hitherto governance and control related issues.

People all over the world seem willing to invest in Pakistan and Pakistanis are also concerned about the political, social stability and economic stability to encourage long term investments. For which the government has to ensure the transparency in the functionality and operationalist of its agencies not only to encourage foreign investments but to sustain development through CPEC. CPEC is considered as a profit oriented agreement that focuses on the trade and investment related activities. If it is considered fair this not only means the tremendous potential to breed gains for the economy (Ramay, 2016). These potentials may emerge in the best manner into tremendous success for Pakistan through good governance. Generally governance is considered as the focal point for the appropriate investment environment and sustainable development (Mok, 2010). Therefore, governance seems to be the most serious issue for the successful fulfillment of all the strategies, policies, and targets associated with CPEC.

This is an era of transparency and the visual variations by the Ministries and Departments may win the citizens and foreign investors' confidence. In the face of emerging CPEC challenges attention should be paid to government interventions, promoting opportunities for Pakistani nationals, infrastructural

amenities and utility for the public. The process needs to be executed for a long period. The governance related issues are to be sustained by considering civil servants, law enforcement agencies and revolutionary efforts. So the government is associated with maintaining the link among government for serving and protecting the nationals of a country. Governance is concerned with implementing empowerment managing with the developmental aspects. Primarily good governance encompasses the universalistic and diverse views where the public sector employees, private corporate sector and civil society are liable for accountability, transparency, openness and regulations reducing inequality. China's concern to manage and handle number of projects and leave Pakistan upon the project's completion would have alarming effects by increasing the unseen costs and a question mark to the credibility of both countries(Zafar, Rehman, Kousar, Nasir, & Sheikh, 2017). Further, regardless of exceptional relation within these two countries the governance related issues in Pakistan are taken cautiously and creates a doubtful state for China's plans. So Pakistan has to be careful enough to manage the governance related issues in order to sustain investments and carry on with the CPEC (Javaid & Javaid, 2016). It is quite important for China to consider the history, culture, and political influences prevailing in Pakistan with respect to Silk Road and CPEC. It seems to be an uphill task for Pakistan's governing bodies and bureaucracy to curtail the negative words about governance related concerns to be managed and dealt through CPEC.

It is still in the initial stages of the execution so there are still the chances of improvement on the part of government to manage and organize the activities related to CPEC. Although CPEC has the potential to contribute to the Pakistani's economy and Pakistan desperately needs China to avail support more than ever. Pakistan's government is required to follow the sound governing strategies with transparency and fairness without overselling China's card. All the CPEC related affairs have to be founded on the strong economic and financial adhesions. Perversely, it may spoil the close relations and will result in the mistrust among two nations. The Pakistan's government is now overwhelmed with the daunting governance related issues(Zafar, Rehman, Kousar, Nasir, & Sheikh, 2017). Rather adversely focusing if the governance related issues will not be addressed properly, it will be revived of situations like the East India Company, Uma Oya hydropower plant project or Hambantota debacle of Sri Lanka and China.

Researchers describe the policy making processes as "governance" to differentiate it from the different institutions performing their role in the government. Earlier studies have highlighted the CPEC related concerns based on the theoretic traditions somewhat reflecting the confusion (Hussain, 2019) rather than the few disclosing the lucid choice decisions (Syed, 2020). The deep and profound thoughts towards CPEC are driven by the rationality regarding economic decision making and sociodevelopmental concerns and encompasses the incentives of all the stakeholders. The sociological perspectives are interlinked to social norms and customs that evolve from the exchanges within their lifestyles. The extensiveness of the above explained perspectives have enabled the researchers to carry on and describe the governance related concerns and CPEC being a promise or a peril.

II. THEORETICAL CONCERNS AND CPEC

It seems challenging to reconcile the diversified analytical concerns that raise the questions regarding how researchers have accumulated the insights and knowledge across the South Asian Context (Kousar, Rehman, Zafar, Ali, & Nasir, 2018). The pressures and relaxations overlap between the theoretical traditions that would be extracted from examining and comparing the quality of explanations being offered on the governance perspectives. This study highlights the various governance domains and the CPEC. A case study on CPEC project that compares the insights through the theoretical lens by enabling the assessments of the explanations offered against the main perspectives of the few existing studies on CPEC

The study of administration is basically the theoretical approach consists of public choices and practices that build the law, rules and judicial decisions, and governmental actions that confine, specify and ensue the supply of publicly supported items and services. Administration thus requires collaborative action in two wide spectrums that is policy authorization and implementations. Implementation process applies those laws and resources that were established by the administration, to give public goods and services. Policy making orders, judicial proceedings, vote wits, court proceedings, and sponsor rendezvous procedure and collective decisions in other administrative forums form roots of administration (Kousar et al., 2018). Enactment includes the governance and implementation of laws by higher authorities as well as

the role played by the public contractors and partnership, citizens' co-production and other gears of government. The main points that determine how these actors will direct these procedures are still not decided. Two main perspectives of theory that are necessarily beneficial for understanding administration are sensible choice and social institutional structures, embrace conflicting norms regarding the organizations, actors activities included in law making agreements and implementations (Cole, 2019). Theory of rational choices and sociological institutions identifies the spectrum on lawmaking and implementations from lucid choices and sociological institutionalism to derive direct tactics to understand administration processes.

Rational choices intuitionism is fixed in a fiscal understanding of political behavior. So it is theorized that the essential stakeholders retort primarily to motivate in order to maximize their personal interests. Consequently, coherent choice studies of administrative surveys, interests, information and gains within the official boundaries and authority that shadow the lawmaking administration and implementation. Rational decision making on the basis of improvements in the legislation and its implementation splits in two public choice theory and principle-agent theory, respectively. Lawmaking administration public choice theory describes rational choices and establishments that help and collect them by giving special importance to the collaborative decision and alliances. It also best describes that how unions emerge, grow and relate during policy debates. Essentially, it is proposed that stakeholders own interest deviates and central actor form policies and leading organizations to power their own interest. Radical policies are policies are possible if union can fuse power or workers can work on reliable pledges, ways to resolve disputes and active care and execution arrangements. Such agreements and steady policies are difficult to withstand due to deviated artists interest. As a result, discussions regarding institutional structures and policy intentions are continuously questioned and not easy to sort. The governing body also faces difficulty to impose the laws and institutional arrangements in their favor due to negotiated policy designs and implementations. To reduce side payments and other methods to pay besides this the captivating unions are as wide as is tis important to safe win, making them politically inactive.

Principle agent concepts emphasize investigation of interest, profits and knowledge of lawmakers and implementers. It mainly consists of ranked relationships, unilateral information and deviated comforts sandwiched between organizers and implementers. These results happen among assemblies and organizational forums, executives and line staff within institute, and between public agencies and external freelancers. Some information unevenness may be compensated by the top-down policy advisors, but they do not lineup the benefits or interests. Since the theory assumes the interest of organizers and implementers deviate so that organizers must create profits and actively keep an eye on directors to enhance the chase of commands but the information is unilateral making the working and monitoring of agents tricky. If the directors are answerable to different principals however different policy implementers can produce more struggles among organizers and implanter profits and information resources. As a consequence within the limits created by the authorizers 'lawmakers, beneficial schemes and monitoring the directors can chase their own personal interests. Sociological institutionalism believes that every folk and organization is rooted in relationship with one another and to make an understanding between these relationship within the boundaries for by institutional rules and regulations.

Studies of governance therefore emphasize on the legislative and directions and to look the informal traditions and relationship that create the behavior. These studies examine the relationship and tradition or public thoughts, and rules in use of the stakeholders who are looking for the enhancements for lawmaking. Because their interests are co-dependent though not all opposite, the administrators in a policy network ally and compete with one another to influence policy decisions. The information available is affected by the designation of each actor. The information disseminated to the stakeholders and the sources link lawmaking suggestions is affected by the network involved in it. As the time passes new situation arises by the common beliefs and subgroups of actors in a grid to justify the attentions and solutions to specific policy quandaries. Bound by shared customs and different policy related studies, backing partnerships tend to be fairly even and measured to change though the wider topic systems or policy societies from which they draw may feature more fluid affiliations.

Effective interactions of knowledge between and cross unions lead to lawmaking's that incline towards incremental variations; radical exodus from former policies are comparatively less. Dealings and interactions between different organizations that distribute public laws studied under the policy implementation research. According to the laws, collective problem-solving chances, and alleged advances in power or resource dependence, institution in similar or interrelated fields that form network with each other to enforce laws. The principal-agent theory elaborates the execution of dealings and

implementation networks, attention on horizontal firms and social bonds among implementers. Executives in enforcements grids direct to lack straight control over their partners, who may be doubted of obvious assertions of authority. They depend on inert ways like building and handling relationships among partners. Such strategies affect information sharing, learning and stamina building between network members, which as a result form law enforcement. With time grid connections can form or delay the growth of working relationships, collective knowledge and shared values between different partners. As the summary shows the problems among different concepts that radical opinion and sociological institutionalism displays the methods of law formation and enforcements in a different way. These changes are necessary for the performance and study of governance because they acme the prominent challenges and opportunities for the artist who involves in policy formation and enforcements. Choices and stages of information deviated is assumed by the radical choice theories so organizing unions as well as enforcing relationships between principals and agents are directed to uncertainty and cunning attitude. Moreover, the radical opinions examine the profits and information as the main object offered to law makers and principals looking to straighten the choices of union partners and implementing agents. Traditional prime organizations hence imagine organization and implementation procedure to differ because of balance o in opinions and knowledge of main factors.

Models of Governance and CPEC, by difference, accept that policy actors are integrally sociable and fixed in relationships grounded in communal standards or core politics. According to it sponsor unions and enforcing grids are highly stable and shared by social pacts. Later sociological institutionalists suppose that organization and enforcements procedure to enhance as a result of artists efforts to tolerate the social traditions and contacts in their professional grids. Investigating administration needs arresting and briefing organizing and directing actions in many institutional networks that unite to create laws output and results. Quest arises by the distinction between two conceptual approaches to learn governance is the one direction clearly along with CPEC? If one theoretic perspective is superior toeven if only for examining precise facets of policy authorization or employment the academicians can use it dependably to study aspects related to CPEC. If these perspectives demonstrate conflicts, researchers need to opt ways to relate them to gather inclusive studies of policy authorization and implementation by researchers who occupy concurrently in partially supportive and inexpensive strategies. This study scrutinizes a CPEC project from the distinct outlooks of the theories reviewed above to assess their analytic potential and compatibility.

This paper is an attempt to examine governance in Pakistan from the perspective of bilateral relations between Pakistan and China and the state related institutions and its strategies to handle the affairs associated with CPEC. Meanwhile, this study is an attempt to highlight the rules of the game in the exercise of political leadership, state institutions, bureaucracy, etc. towards CPEC and how such rules have begun to evolve over a decade.

III. METHODOLOGY

The present study reviews the existing literature to evaluate the CPEC and governance role with the theoretical insights and enabling understanding regarding this project to be a promise or a peril for the South Asian countries and specifically considering Pakistan. In this study the papers that are published and reflect the CPEC and governance related perspectives are focused to theorize and integrate the outcomes how their combination influences the geo-economy.

Analysis and Discussion

This paper is an attempt to examine governance in Pakistan from the perspective of bilateral relations between Pakistan and China and the state related institutions and its strategies to handle the affairs associated with CPEC. Meanwhile, this study is an attempt to highlight the rules of the game in the exercise of political leadership, state institutions, bureaucracy, etc. towards CPEC and how such rules have begun to evolve over a decade. As is explained through the following details

Governance and CPEC

Governance refers to considering all the governing process, either carry out by government or not, by any market or tribe, official or unofficial organization or region and certainly through the laws, norms, power or language. It is concerned with processes of dealings and planning and implementation involved in a

collective problem that makes possible to the establishment, strengthening, or regeneration of social norms and associations.

Government should focus strongly on the proper governance by considering the election pledges, investing in youth and preventing brain drain. Preventive actions by the government are required to be managed the socioeconomic disturbances in the future (Cole, 2019). To which the emphasis should be on the entrepreneurial efforts of youth and women as well as they are major proportion of the inhabitants of Pakistan. Not only the government should address the governance and transparency related issues, but also the regional power should also be focused upon .In the recent few years the investment proportion from Saudi Arabia has also been declining in the consequences of this corridor. The trade relations have improved a lot between Pakistan and Afghanistan (Hadi, Batool, & Mustafa, 2018). Moreover, managing the people movement across borders where government could always do more to manage it.The Durand Line issue remains neglected and it does not prevent to be regulated as Pakistan has to address its internal issues i.e. transparency and governance etc.

Energy Prioritized/Early Harvest Projects

Sr.	Project Name	MW	Cost (\$ Million)
CPEC-Energy Priority Projects			
1	Port Qasim Electric Company Coal Fired, 2x660, Sindh	1320	1,980
2	Sahiwal 2x660MW Coal-fired Power Plant, Punjab	1320	1,600
3	Engro thar 4x330MW Coal-fired, Thar, Sindh	1320	2,000
4	Surface mine in Block II of Thar Coal field, 6.5 metric ton per annum (mtpa), Thar Sindh		1,470
4	Gwadar Coal /LNG / Oil Power Project, Gwadar	300	600
5	HUBCO coal power plant 1X660 MW, Hub Balochistan	660	970
6	Rahimyar Khan Coal Power Project, Punjab	1320	1,600
7	SSRL Thar Coal Block 1 - 6.5 metric ton per annum(mtpa) Thar, Sindh		1,300
9	SSRL 2x660 MW Mine Mouth Power Plant Sindh	1320	2,000
8	Quaid-e-Azam 1000MW Solar Park, Bahawalpur, Punjab	1000	1,350
9	Dawood 50MW wind Farm, Bhambore, Sindh	50	125
10	UEP 100MW wind Farm, Jhampir, Sindh	100	250
11	Sachal 50MW Wind Farm, Jhampir, Sindh	50	134
12	Suki Kinari Hydro power Station, KPK	870	1,802
13	Karot Hydropower Station, AJK & Punjab	720	1,420
14	Matiali to Lahore Transmission line		1,500
15	Matiali to Faisalabad Transmission line		1,500
CPEC-Energy Actively Promoted Projects			
16	Gaddani Power Park Project (2x660MW)	1320	3,960
	Gaddani Power Park Project (Jetty + Infrastructure)		1,200
17	HUBCO coal power plant 1X660 MW, Hub Balochistan	660	970
18	Kohala Hydel Project, AJK	1100	2,397
19	Pakistan Wind Farm II 2X50 MW(Jhampir, Thatta, Sindh)	100	150
20	Thar mine mouth oracle, Thar Sindh	1320	1,300
21	Muzaffargarh Coal Power Project, Punjab	1320	1,600
22	Gas Power Plant 525 MW	525	550

Source:<http://cpec.gov.pk/energy>

Infrastructure governance and Planning

China and Pakistan signed a Memorandum of understanding (MOU) in Beijing in the year 2013. The major concern of this MOU was to enhance the economic regional integration in investment, trade, energy and communication. The objective of this was to bridge the link and develop economic and trade activities

along the corridor between the Western Region of China and Pakistan. The CPEC is a never ending mega project that is intended to tie Gwadar Port of Pakistan to North western region of China through a network of highways, railways and pipelines. CPEC is considered as crucial to maintain the relations between these two nations and will continue for 2700 km from Gwadar to Kashgar (Boni, 2016).

CPEC and its linkage with Central Asia, Middle East and Africa may support the whole region. Moreover the cost of these infrastructure developments may be estimated to about \$46 billion and this CPEC is an extension of the Silk Road's initiative (Ghouri, 2016). So far it is the mega overseas investment and has started its slight operations with the construction of few roads in Gwadar. The corridor will be a strategic fate changer in the region and will strengthen earnings of Pakistan if executed with the involvement of Pakistanis also. The investment in the CPEC will convert Pakistan into an enormous economic activity. Further, it will be an economic lift to attract investments from all over the world (Bhattacharjee, 2015). CPEC will not only affect the infrastructure development but also transform energy infrastructure and telecommunication sector. The energy strategy to manage the power crisis in Pakistan as for it the Planning Commission of Pakistan is playing a major role. The project approved for CPEC for energy, transport and infrastructure with their costs is presented in Table 1 as follows

Projects Portfolio	Cost \$ Million
Energy	33,793
Transport and infrastructure	
Roads	6100
Rail Network	3690
Gwadar Port	786
Others	44

Source: Planning Commission of Pakistan, 2014

The investment and infrastructure developments will also raise few social risks and certainly affect the social influences. The accountability and transparency in regard to these social influences will be an effort to eradicate or minimize the negative social risks at domestic and national level (Qureshi, 2015). The prerequisites for social development are an opportunity induced by the investments to CPEC at the initial level, execution level and functionality level. The commonality of benefits in the form of finance, economy, environment, and society improvements and maintaining social stability are the major aims of investments and developmental activities through control and CPEC (Anwar, 2015).

Transportation Infrastructure Projects

Sr.	Project Name	MW	Cost (\$ Million)
Road			
1	KKH Phase II (Thakot-Havelian Section)	118	1,305
2	Peshawar-Karachi Motorway (Multan-Sukkur Section)	392	2,846
Rail			
3	Expansion and reconstruction of existing Line ML-1	1736	3650
4	Havelian Dry port (450 M. Twenty-Foot Equivalent Units)		40

Source: <http://cpec.gov.pk/infrastructure>

From E-Governance to G- Governance

Good governance ensures improved efforts across all the dimensions of administration. No doubt E-governance is a renowned term these days. Though, it focuses upon disseminating information through the technology oriented developments by government works. Progressively, internet and technology is becoming an influential aspect of inducing public mindset about government and its policies. The increased use of technology oriented governance processes is transforming from e-governance to g – governance. From public utilities to land records for the sake of domestic safekeeping through the deployment of technology. G-governance refers to the use of technology from different dimension in order to enable the decision makers to carry out with the appropriate decisions and policies. The e – governance program in Pakistan is the initiative of the Ministry of Information Technology under the National IT Policy for promoting e-governance in the country. The G-governance supports a framework

that may be used for solution to different situations cohesively. G-governance enables to understand different situations in a better way as it not only gives a glimpse of information but also the understanding relevant it (Mehmood-Ul-Hassan, 2016). The major aims set by the government to meet the agenda are to deliver improved services to citizens, highlight the internal efficiency of government programs through efficient and transparent manner. It is really remarkable that by considering e - governance's number of online databases, e-services rendered, online publications and security policies are also vital. As far as CPEC is considered the government should encompass all the data and systems related to the corridor online to support the business of government and strengthening the citizens' reliability of this mega project.

Military and civilian governance

Over the years Pakistan has been faced with the extraordinary circumstances, regardless of the influential role of the army. The civil government needs to make exceptional changes in order to salvage the governance of political institutions regarding policies and their implications. Considering the whole scenario, the implementation of CPEC would generate the strong standing not only for the civil government but also in the army as the army has ruled Pakistan for quite a long duration. However, due to the mismanagement and poor governmental implementations, i.e. lack of political will, abilities, transparency, communication to cope up with the challenges of terrorism army has been involved in decision making. In order to function properly military has become a necessity in the Pakistani context. It somewhat reflects the failure of civilian government in regard to stability and security. No doubt it is the basic requirement of CPEC development (Wolf, 2016). Primarily, it led to the independence of military based governance in national action plan and subsequently the development of CPEC. Civilian government may continue to be on the front, but obviously army will be maintaining its own standards and supremacy to hold democratic autonomy.

Socioeconomic impact of CPEC in the different regions of Pakistan

The corridor project is established to promote peace, prosperity and well-being of the people of the two regions. The global landscape has changed dramatically as the main drivers of this transformation have been technology, trade liberalization, and free capital movements, improvements in communication and transportation infrastructure and managing supply chain at borders. CPEC needs to cater the different regions of Pakistan and China rail and road network projects through multiple routes from Kashgar to Khujrab and from Karachi to Gwadar. Pak China has incorporated the plans to enhance the electricity capacity up to 10400 MWS through initial energy harvesting and power generation by the year 2018 afterwards 6645 MWs for energy and other financial close for 200 MW wind power projects, 5580 MWs of coal based power generation, 1590 MW hydro power projects, 1000MW solar projects and 3.8 MTPA coal mining project and so many others will be launched upon the completion of project procedures (Chaziza, 2016).

The cluster of projects under CPEC will convert the Gwadar port project into the world's leading port and cities will be encompassing the best hospitality and tourist services, integrated infrastructure and investment opportunities throughout Pakistan. The developmental efforts have been made in Pakistan since its inception, but couldn't reap the desired socioeconomic development equally in all the regions and provinces. In order to manage the regional differences among the different provinces the successive governments have undergone the political economic measures. Moreover the provincial governments are deficient in capabilities and for the last few years are faced with the opposition in this regard from the tribal leaders (Javed & Ahmed, 2016). Certainly the Gwadar port progress in the last decade is considered as a remarkable development in the province. As it will provide the shortest route to Central Asia and China, which is meant to reduce the distance almost around 12000 km the prominent success of this corridor for China's trade benefit. This phase of development which is taking place with China's collaboration, it would generate opportunities for the citizens of Pakistan. Though it is considered that this corridor will be an economic hub and the development through this will raise few economic and social issues as well. Balochistan is rich in mining and this sector is expected to flourish well through the functionality of CPEC (Aslam, 2016). In case of availing the opportunities related to CPEC the government should strive to enhance the potential of human resource and should work on the small and medium size industries. The chaos related to this corridor has raised doubts for the locals as the agreements and MOU terms decided and signed by both the nations have not been publicized yet so the inhabitants of Pakistan particularly Balochistan has few recklessness about this corridor. However, the government of Pakistan

should also consider the environmental hazards and should incorporate these hazards and security into the existing policy for the sustainable implications of this corridor. Indeed the new developments would no doubt cater opportunities but also create challenges for the provincial and federal government. The governments are required to develop policies and share the exact strategy how the resources would be leveraged towards economic activity, poverty reduction and creation of the new jobs and opportunities for the local population. Government is required to maintain transparency and clarity in all the issues related to CPEC and to disclose the relevant facts that outlines a process of inclusive growth and aligns it with the public and private sector activities. The undergoing corridor has the potential to induce Pakistan into a transit hub for the second largest economy of the world. Developing the corridor is in the interest of both the countries. It is significant for the Pakistan government to ensure that the socioeconomic effects are to be considered in the developmental process of CPEC.

OBOR: A Gateway from South Asia to East Asia

One Belt One Road (OBOR) is the important project as it would escort to economic development and prosperity for the South Asian and East Asian countries. CPEC is an initiative that if optimistically considered may bring prosperity in Pakistan and China. As, this project may open extensive investment opportunities for investors and business community to initiate the joint ventures for their benefits. Both these countries have sound social and economic liaison and are the nuclear powers as well.

Due to friendly relationship between both the countries and for strengthening the ties further China has already invested in different Pakistani projects. Currently, the mega project that seems to be a game changer either for good or in bad, includes the highways, railways and pipelines for gas, oil and many others trading activities i.e. imports, exports. So, this OBOR seems to be assessed as an economic route from China to the UAE and Africa, Kashghar. As this project is starting from China through a highway and directed towards Gawadar, Pakistan. The highway route will cover almost all the provinces of Pakistan including AJK and Gilgit Baltistan. The total length of this is approximately up to 3,000km and costing of \$45 billion. It is expected to be finished up to 2030. This project's development is considered important and positive for the economic benefits of both the countries Pakistan and China. China expects that after the completion of this initiative China will move onwards with further projects in UAE and Africa, Kashghar via Gwadar Port. In return to the later situation, China will start the developmental projects in Pakistan and will support to resolve the energy issues. Large proportion of total world oil is taken out from the Gulf regions and Persian Gulf is used for transporting it. Therefore, China is willing to be the part of this trade through Gwadar Port. Moreover China may take care of the activities of India and America in Indus Ocean. When the OBOR will be completed, it may also increase the number of different trade paths among China, Gulf and Africa. Energy restoration is the major issue for China, as it is the world's biggest oil importer, and oil pipelines via Pakistan may reduce ocean travel through South East Asia.

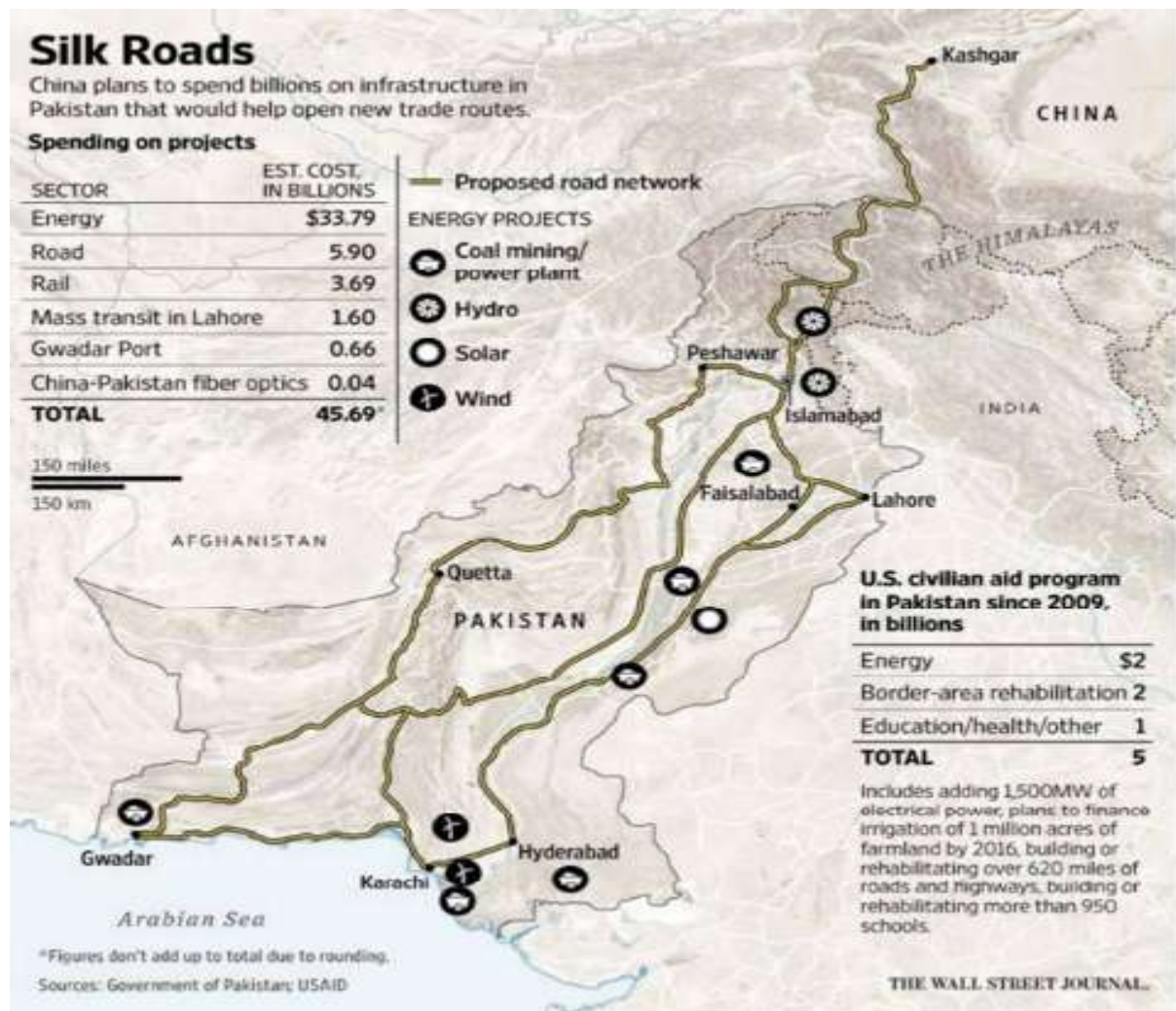
CPEC will link economic stakeholders along with the geographical linkages. It connects economic hubs, adjusted on urban settings, concentrating the huge financial resources. The connected the supply and demand patterns of the markets. The pathway will be served as the linkage between South Asia and East Asia.

It has an essential role in integrating South Asia, which consists of China, Iran, Afghanistan, and strikes the boundaries of Myanmar. To make it functional Chinese government has planned Kashgar as an economic zone. They tend to complete their economic zone by the end of this year, for which Pakistani industrialists have been considered a tax free zone and other reductions. This economic region will demonstrate to be the key to trade between China, Pakistan, India, Afghanistan and eight other central Asian states bordering both China and Pakistan. A route is being made to safeguard rapid trade via this link. Pak-China Economic Corridor project will either strengthen the friendship to new heights or this project will have deep problematic influences on Pakistan and China but entire region social ties. Pakistan is a center of business activities for South CPEC: A pathway between South Asia and East Asia, Central Asia and China. The project will influence lives of three billion people in Asia. CPEC projects predict \$34 billion investment in energy sector and around \$11 billion in infrastructural sector. The project offer vast chances to trades in both countries and will give increase to Pakistan's economy. If conquered properly, Pak-China Economic Corridor would greatly promote trade and trade between these two countries. Indeed, the future economic and trade corridor express of a long-term set of connection between both countries. For the China, this corridor would become the shortest possible route for the land transportation of its energy from the energy rich regions of West and Central Asia, through the Gwadar Port.

The harbor constructed by China will be initiating its operations and forming the linkages grid, which would join the port with all major cities in the area. Also the Chinese energy conveyance routes via sea are getting under threat by its regional and international rivals, along Malacca Strait and South China Sea. This overland pathway would be the best substitute for the Chinese energy conveyance and financial upbringing of its western underdeveloped region. To hasten the projects network both governments should provide the active transportation between the cities and to facilitate them with flow of goods and personnel. The two countries can also move towards the building of commercial trade pathway to promote the hasten development of investment as well as bilateral trade in goods and service by taking benefit of the free trade. Along the frontier region both countries should promote the industrial co-operation.

China can indemnify the western regions to support the two extremes and push them for the mutual co-operation in the various sectors i.e. Industry, agriculture, mines, finances and service sectors. The processes and the structures will support both the regions to reinforce collaboration in atomic, cosmological and biomass energy. In the same manner, oil and gas pipeline projects may also be initiated. Considering the long run perspectives the CPEC project after its completion may become a financial community linking Asia to the Indian Ocean, and operating and influencing its extent to East, South, Central and Western Asian regions. So it may come up with the vital influences on the geo-economy and transform the economy and trading patterns in Asia, Africa and the Indian Ocean region.

Figure 1: CPEC Road Routes



Source: Published in Wall Street Journal, adopted from Vandewalle (2015)

IV. CONCLUSION AND POLICY IMPLICATIONS

Pakistan is still on the edge of economic revival. The administration and governance related issues are required to steer the economic corridor on the sustainable development. The Pakistan authorities either the civil government or military are responsible to ensure the protection of the rights of the inhabitants and the proper enforcement of CPEC. The governance should priorities the investment in its own citizens and empower them through access to the basic needs i.e. education, employment and be given equal opportunities to participate in this corridor. The government should ensure the professional and skills based training for the inhabitants and also equip the people with entrepreneurial traits, their participation in the projects related to infrastructure development and utilizing CPEC in national benefit. The infrastructure projects are required to be scrutinized by the third party through international accreditation and regularity bodies to help prevent human and ecological exploitation. The main policy framework is required to be undertaken by the government in order to manage and exhibit the progress of CPEC. The government should ensure the benefits of the corridor and disseminate it to the masses through social media for transforming the mindsets of the public. Eventually the economic revival through this corridor could reduce the socioeconomic imbalances among the inhabitants that may eradicate the extremism among the provinces about poverty and unemployment. The Pakistan's economy is well integrated and is a largest trading partner of Afghanistan. China relationship with Pakistan may somewhat affect the trade relationship of Pakistan and Afghanistan. So the government is required to be cautious about the CPEC (Salik, 2016). The investments involved in this project are no doubt so high that it contains Pakistan's 20 percent GDP for about five years and China has its geopolitical influences. So the hazards are also there that Pakistan will be faced with exploitation and CPEC in Pakistan would remark a revival of East India Company in subcontinent (Chaziza, 2016). Although CPEC could be a fate changer at a regional level but still the government authorities have to govern and foresee all the other trade related activities and policies. Pakistan has focused some short-sighted influences i.e. Waga border important for Afghanistan. Pakistan needs to learn how to extract national benefits also considering Afghanistan as India and China both are accommodating by investing in Afghanistan and not carrying out the traditional relation. Pakistan governance related issues are yet to be addressed the poor management of Afghan refugees including people whose fathers have been in country since 1979 almost about 5 million were not included in Pakistani nationals even after the birth and brought up in Pakistan. The government of Pakistan needs to maintain sound trade relations across the borders to effectively incorporate the CPEC and reaping benefits out of it.

Moreover, by focusing the Pakistan's history, the military was in the prominent role in Pakistan's politics an improvement and generating the civilian control and governance should be appreciated. So instead of military rule the civil governance should be empowered and maintain transparency. It is a prerequisite for the Pakistan's democracy to exercise the civilian control, transparency and security, etc. If the influences in the same direction are carried out the CPEC will embed the army in Pakistan's politics at the initial level and subsequently harm the influences by putting the country back into the democratic transition.

REFERENCES

1. Anwar, Z. (2015). Regional Economic Integration after NATO Withdrawal and its Implications for Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Pakistan. *FWU Journal of Social Sciences*, 1(2), 74.
2. Aslam, S. (2016). CPEC: Pakistan's Way to Success.
3. Bhattacharjee, D. (2015). Gilgit Baltistan, China and Pakistan. *China and Pakistan (June 16, 2015)*.
4. Boni, F. (2016). Civil-military relations in Pakistan: a case study of Sino-Pakistani relations and the port of Gwadar. *Commonwealth & Comparative Politics*, 54(4), 498-517.
5. Chaziza, M. (2016). China-Pakistan Relationship: A Game-changer for the Middle East? *Contemporary Review of the Middle East*, 2347798916638209.
6. Cole, J. (2019). The China-Pakistan Economic Corridor and the Gulf Crisis.
7. Ghouri, A. (2016). Towards Greater Integration? Legal and Policy Directions of Chinese Investments in Pakistan on the Advent of the Silk Road Economic Belt. *The Chinese Journal of Comparative Law*, 4(1), 36-68.
8. Hadi, N. U., Batool, S., & Mustafa, A. (2018). CPEC: An Opportunity for a Prosperous Pakistan or Merely a Mirage of Growth and Development. *Dialogue (Pakistan)*, 13(3).
9. Hussain, E. (2019). CPEC: Governance and security challenges—Implications for the Belt and Road Initiative. *Chinese Political Science Review*, 4(1), 135-147.

10. Javaid, U., & Javaid, R. (2016). Strengthening Geo-Strategic Bond Of Pakistan And China Through Geo-Economic Configuration. *Pakistan Economic and Social Review*, 54(1), 123.
11. Javed, F., & Ahmed, A. (2016). Gwadar Port: Regional Strategic and Economic Interests. *Defence Journal*, 19(7), 13.
12. Kousar, S., Rehman, A., Zafar, M., Ali, K., & Nasir, N. (2018). China-Pakistan Economic Corridor: a gateway to sustainable economic development. *International Journal of Social Economics*.
13. Lavingia, S. (2016). *Attracting Foreign Direct Investment in Pakistan: The Role of Governance, National Security and Global Investment Trends*. Oberlin College.
14. Mehmood-Ul-Hassan, K. (2016). Geopolitics of CPEC. *Politics*.
15. Mok, K.-H. (2010). *The search for new governance of higher education in Asia*: Springer.
16. Qureshi, A. H. (2015). China/Pakistan Economic Corridor: A Critical National and International Law Policy Based Perspective. *Chinese Journal of International Law*, jmv045.
17. Ramay, S. A. (2016). China Pakistan Economic Corridor: A Chinese Dream Being Materialized Through Pakistan.
18. Salik, M. A. N. (2016). Regional Threats in the Middle East and their Implications for Pakistan.
19. Syed, J. (2020). Ethics and Governance Norms in Cross-Cultural Projects: Implications for CPEC and Other China–Pakistan Projects *China's Belt and Road Initiative in a Global Context* (pp. 75-87): Springer.
20. Wolf, S. O. (2016). The China-Pakistan Economic Corridor and Civil-Military Relations in Pakistan. *IndraStra Global*, 2(4).
21. Xie, X., Li, J., Ma, C., Yunjiao, X., Guowei, Z., Chhetri, P. S., & Ahmed, M. Academic Session: Economic Dimensions of CPEC.
22. Zafar, M., Rehman, A., Kousar, S., Nasir, N., & Sheikh, S. (2017). Is CPEC really achilles heel; fears overlooked? *International Journal Of Engineering Sciences & Research Technology*, 6(2), 604-608.