



Received: 28.12.2022; Revised: 12.01.2023, Accepted: 02.02.2023, Published Online: 28.02.2023

THE EFFECT OF MASS MEDIA REPORTING ON THE CHINA-PAKISTAN ECONOMIC CORRIDOR (CPEC) AND THE SOCIOECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OF PAKISTAN

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Abstract

The researcher faced attaining stability in the region and also identified the role of print media (National & international) in the portrayal of this project. It was a mixed method research where qualitative and quantitative design the of research was used to attain the data. Qualitative data was taken in the semi-structured survey from the randomly selected stakeholders who reside by the routes from where the project route (Roads & Sea routes) passed. Overall 500 sampled participants took part in the data collection. The collected data was then coded and tabulated in an Excel sheet. This sheet was then put to SPSS where univariate analysis and bivariate logistic regression equation ran to get the results. The Quantitative data consisted of the opinions given in the print media published during 2017-2021. These articles were taken using a purposive sampling technique where only those were taken from four national and international newspapers published in China, Pakistan, America, and India. These opinions were narrated in the form of factors illustrating the opinions in favor and

opposition of this project. These results showed the conclusion that this project is not limited to infrastructure development only as it is a common consideration rather it is beyond that conception. It is recommended that the government of Pakistan might speed up the completion of this project. The politicians of Pakistan might drop their brawls and work on this project. Corruption should be banned at least for this project.

Keywords; *Mass media, CPEC, Newspapers, Pakistan and China*

Introduction

A joint venture of two Asian nations China and Pakistan undertook a project abbreviated with the name CPEC. It was a magnanimous socio and economic development for the region. This project is a well-considered treaty between two Asian countries Pakistan and China (Saad et al., 2020). The said project is facing variant challenges on the part of Pakistan (Sultan, 2022). These challenges can be quoted as: firstly, political instability and rapid changes of regime in Pakistan are causing serious damage to the cause which slows down the rapid growth of this project (Gill, 2019). They are defending Indian infiltration at the borders and in the media finding it fit to show the world the wrong face of the project by taking the stance that it was yet another colonial settlement in the sub-continent (Nasir, 2020). They all of a sudden moved towards America against China with a demand to stop the advancement of China in the region and also to shatter the dream of China to strengthen the friendly nation of Pakistan (Tasneem, 2018). Media in Pakistan and India seemed to speak a lot and try to bring out its pros and cons through dissimilar viewpoints shimmering their statesmen procedures & sentiments. The insertion of this research study is CPEC and the Socio-Economic Development of Baluchistan; Challenges and prospects (Otaiku, 2012). In light of the points given above the researcher's intent in this regard is to identify and investigate the answers to the challenges and prospects faced by CPEC scientifically and systematically:

- 1) How did international media including Indian, Pakistani, Chinese, and European newspapers signify the CPEC project in headlines, columns, and dialogues & what structuralism-based theories remained preoccupied as breaking news discussions? (Khan et al., 2021).
- 2) Is the reporting regarding CPEC made on biased opinions and white lies?
- 3) What number of printed opinions on this mission covered identical and dissimilar frames (Van, 1997)?

Research objectives

- 1- To explore the mass media, plays its role in the success of CPEC
- 2- To understand the role of the print media in the critical reporting of CPEC
- 3- To analyze, a print medium shows the urgency to identify the relationship between Sino-Pakistan ties as a supporter.

Research Questions

1. What is the role of the mass media play in the success of CPEC?
2. What is the role of the print media in the critical reporting of CPEC?
3. What is a print medium that shows the urgency to identify the relationship between Sino-Pakistan ties as a supporter?

Literature review

CPEC is the leading project in history between two countries in the world, worth about fifty billion dollars, and it will be completed in fifteen years, i.e. from 2015 to 2030 (Sultan, 2019). It is a national strategic plan beyond any individual, party, or province (Sharif, 2016). CPEC has revealed the importance of Pakistan in world politics to the world (Hameed, 2018). Our Thar region has the world's fifth largest coal reserves which have not yet been exploited but now thanks to CPEC there is not only mining there. has started, but soon the production of electricity will also start there (Mumtaz et al., 2017). Thanks to CPEC, there will be a great revolution in the field of communication and the Karachi to Peshawar railway track will become two lanes. Enviably growth will also be seen in the fields of fiber optics and information technology (Mashkoo, 2017).

CPEC a Treaty of Common Interests and Affection

An agreement of common interests between Pak-Sino was named after China Pakistan Economic Corridor abbreviated as Pak, China established to develop trade infrastructure at the silk route. The entire world would get benefit from this route as it had already been used by the globe (Gao et al., 2017). Not only roads but would also utilize the sea route to start from Gawader port of Baluchistan. This route was designed to link the deepest port of GAWADAR (Pakistan) in the southwest part of Pakistan to the North Western sovereign area of China region of Xinjiang, via a spreading net of roads in the form of highways, train lines, and Gasoline pipelines for the locomotion of cheap rated oil and gas resources (Saleem et al., 2019). It was estimated that both countries would cherish the benefits of these connections (Zargar, 2017). Both of the nations have enjoyed strong economic ties since the 1960s, because of this connection, mutual feelings of conviction in brotherhood between Pakistan and China were translated into economic ties over the past eighteen years (Johnson, 2015). The Financial Review of Pakistan (2012-2015) refers to the 12.5% increase in revenue that amounts to US\$ 9.2 billion (Smith et al., 2012). The confident connotations from Chen Xulong, were interpreted by the scholars who contrived many expressions and idioms to illustrate the languages similar to mutual benefits, shared responsibility", collective fondness, and pooled Meta behavior for these nations since long due to their affiliation (Sial, 2016).

Expansions in the common fields of interest

The establishment of the Joint Cooperation Committee (JCC) by aforesaid nations showed the strength of cooperation in the capacities such as; trade, infrastructure, and development in industrial sectors, modern agriculture, technological advancement in the field of Science and Tech, and social sector (Lieberman, 2012). While agreeing to hand over the task, he said that the close strategic stalemates and profound allies like Pakistan and China withstood all the test of time, keeping in mind the ancient traditions of Pakistan-China friendship and solidarity and cooperation during the Covid-19 pandemic, both countries Will continue to support containment efforts (Dornyei, 2014). Major nations of Asia decided to develop one plus four development plans for the joint scheme (Muller, 2015). The high-ups of these two nations vowed to extend this collaboration in pitches of:

- a) Economy Sector

- b) Developmental fields in Science & Technology
- c) Vacation Industry
- d) Socio-Edu sector
- e) Empowering low Sector Vocational development
- f) Civil Infrastructure Planning and Management (Doryne, 2004)

CPEC will especially tend to perform its existence in the economic development of Muslim states of southern Asia and the middle part of Asia including Pakistan (Goodman, 2015). Through this, rare opportunities for the establishment and development of energy, infrastructure, Gwadarbandh, and Special Economic Zones will be available (Ruiz et al., 2019). CPEC is the guarantor of the bright future of our dear country. It is the promise of our economic security and prosperity (McBride, 2015). CPEC is going to add up many benefits to the Baluch in the region, it has sought to improvize the quality of life of the locals in Baluchistan by providing them with basic education, hospitals, health facilities, and many more (Manzoor et al. 2019). Such schemes of community development were under consideration that would develop vocational institutes in suburbs and provide a better life to the people who are living around them. Priority is given to these mentioned schemes (Sánchez et al. 2020).

Research Methodology

The present research is a mixed method research in which qualitative and quantitative designs of methods are combined where similarities are incorporated from these two methods. In qualitative research design, the researcher developed a semi-structured questionnaire and an interview. The questionnaire and interview were taken from the stakeholders such as; statesmen, journalists, men of opinion, and Baloch students studying in the universities. The semi-structured questionnaire was designed on five Likert scale and the data retrieved from the respondents was fed to the SPSS and set for analysis by using Binary Logistic Regression Equation: description given as under:

$$\ln\left(\frac{p}{1-p}\right) = \beta_0 + \beta_1 X_1 + \beta_2 X_2 + \beta_3 X_3 + \beta_4 X_4$$

$X_1 + X_2 \dots \dots \dots X_4$ (Predictor Variables)

Fig 1.5: Equation of Binary Logistic Regression Equation

Four newspapers were selected from four countries that are Pakistan, China, America, and India. To statistically interpret the general population of the study educed from the accessible tutelage helps establish the bonds between Pakistan and China. All the articles were taken that were published in those daily online published newspapers. So as result, there were 7300 articles collected during these five years. All these published articles were the population of this research. Interviews were also recorded with the stakeholders (statesmen, Journalists, and politicians). Overall, 20 interviews were conducted to pool opinions about the research issue.

Sample distribution of published material ranging (2017-22) in India, Pakistan, China & American daily news editorials

Years	The Dawn Daily	Daily China	Times of India	The New York Times	Total
2017	01	01	0	00	02
2018	09	10	19	02	40
2019	28	10	09	02	49
2020	31	04	12	00	47
2021	30	02	16	02	50
Total	99	27	56	06	188

Therefore, content analysis and observatory methods were applied to collect data from the respondents and literature being written in this context. This provided help in matching the statements given by the respondents and the situation prevailing in reality. The researcher also observed documentary proofs available on profiles.

Delimitations of the Study

This research was restrained due to time constraints unto the estimations printed into the publically given in the viewpoints of daily published newspapers such as China Daily, The New York Times, Times of India, and Dawn. Research is delimited to China, USA, Indian, and Pakistan newspapers published in Pakistan. The research is delimited to the selected newspapers published in four countries of the world. Delimitations are imposed on summaries and concentrate more on the research perspective.

Results and discussion

4.1 Qualitative data analysis

Objective 1 To explore the mass media plays its role in the success of CPEC

Table 4.1 Understanding of mass media participants about the projects included in the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC).

Project Type	Frequency	Percentage
Economic Projects	70	14.0

Energy projects	111	22.2
Infrastructure Development Projects	131	26.2
Social Development projects	104	20.8
Miscellaneous projects	84	16.8
Total	500	100

Bivariate analysis was used to bring out the opinions of the respondents who partook in the semi-structured survey given to the randomly selected participants. The opinions were tabulated in the form of an excel sheet and then it was sent to the SPSS where the researcher used Bi-variate analysis and attained the data in table no.4.1.

This table recorded the opinions of the participants and indicated that 14% of the respondents said they were aware of the economic projects of the CPEC while 22.2% of them showed their opinion that CPEC is a project where only the energy sector would get projection, 26,22% of the respondents in Pakistan had their view that CPEC is just a project which seemed to develop infrastructure all around the country and especially in Baluchistan, 20.8% of them were sure that the CPEC was initiated between China and Pakistan for the social development in the places from where it would pass and 16.8% inferred that this project was designed to make sure all the pre-mentioned features.

Quantitative analysis

2 objectives to understand the role of the print media in the critical reporting of CPEC

Description of Newspapers Publications on CPEC

In the year 2014, Dawn published a total of nine articles showing opinions about CPEC while China Daily printed ten editorials and Times of India published 19 articles while The New York Times Published 02 editorials. On the whole 40 editorials were published regarding CPEC in the year 2014. At the beginning of 2015, the number of editorials began to prosper as the outlines of this project were quite visible in Asian territory. The year 2015 saw 28 editorials from Dawn newspaper while China daily printed ten editorials and 09 and 02 were published by the Times of India and the New York Times.

4.2.2 Comparative Analysis of Editorial published in Dawn and China Daily

Pakistani and Chinese newspapers were all in praise for the success of this project. Pakistani newspaper Daily Dawn is one of the oldest newspapers and is famous for its neutral approach and opinion makers in Pakistan. According to the news editorials of this newspaper, economic benefits provide a great opportunity to alleviate poverty in Pakistan, reduce unemployment and address inequality in the developing regions of the country. Similarly, technical training of youth and an increase in per capita income can be fully benefited from two important areas under CPEC. Furthermore, the editor wrote

that efforts have been made in the past to take maximum advantage of CPEC. And through this, there is a special focus on increasing the per capita income and technical skills of the youth. They believe that CPEC should be structured and targeted in an integrated and result-oriented approach to achieve dual benefits. On the one hand, efforts are being made to modernize Pakistan's TVET sector through technology transfer under the CPEC framework to provide skills to Pakistani youth as required by CPEC. An agreement has also been signed to create employment opportunities for the youth of Pakistan in CPEC projects. Newtech is getting its first batch of smart labs and classroom equipment from China, leveraging its membership in the CPEC Socio-Economic Working Group. He concluded by saying that the confluence of demographics with strong youth growth and the launch of CPEC projects provide opportunities for Pakistan to address issues such as unemployment, poverty, and low income. Collectively 80 articles appeared in Daily Dawn (Pakistan) and China Daily (China). These editorials showed positive opinions about the CPEC and only 9% of the writings published in Daily Dawn showed minor amendments required from China. Daily China wrote in its reports about the efforts put in by the Chinese government in developing Pakistan and how a prosperous Pakistan is in favor of China. China has made great progress in the agricultural sector, using modern farming methods and modern machinery. Not only has agricultural production increased in China, but the income of farmers has also increased, their quality of life has improved, and prosperity has increased. Pakistan will learn from the valuable experiences of China, but with the help of China, it will also develop modern lines of farming. Along with this, the industry related to agriculture will also be boosted. Due to the lack of irrigation facilities in Balochistan, thousands of acres of cultivable land are lying barren. The scientific method will be used to develop on modern lines. Balochistan, Cholistan, DI Khan, and former tribal districts will use new agricultural techniques and can cultivate olives. Chinese agricultural experts visit Pakistan locally. CPEC is the second phase of technology transfer in the agricultural sector. Cooperation in research areas, the establishment of a Center for Sustainable Control of Plant Pest Diseases, China has established the Center of Agriculture, Livestock, and Fisheries in the National Agriculture Research Center. Along with pulses, long-grain super rice and high-yielding sugarcane and cotton are also being developed which will be available for local cultivation in a short period and will revolutionize the agriculture sector in the country. In the second phase of CPEC, the development of agriculture is being promoted, Pakistan will continue to receive the full support of Chinese experts and agricultural production can be significantly increased. A system will be set up which includes warehouses for procurement and storage of products, transit warehouses and warehouses to be built at the port. Vegetable processing plants will be set up. Various ministries and the China Development Bank will provide interest-free loans to purchase tractors, grain-saving machinery, energy-saving pumps, fertilizers, and sowing and harvesting equipment. China has also formed a cooperation committee for the development of the agriculture sector under the CPEC. The main purpose of the CPEC is industrial development and ending the energy crisis, but in fact, our agriculture sector will benefit the most from this project. Agriculture is the main pillar of Pakistan's economy, which has a share of 21% of the GDP. The agriculture sector is of key importance for the development of Pakistan. Under CPEC, detailed plans have been drawn up to achieve the goal, on which work has already begun. Mechanization of agriculture is being given special attention. The technology transfer/import package for seed and agricultural mechanization will include the expected

investment from China and the development of agricultural scientists' skills. Under this, Pak-China industrial and agricultural cooperation will be given full attention.

Q3 what is a print medium that shows the urgency to identify the relationship between Sino-Pakistan ties as a supporter?

Table 4.3

NO	Statement	Percentage
1	It changed living style in Pakistan	70%
2	The Chinese language is promoted in the areas	40%
3	Affected social customs of the land	56%
4	Intercultural linkages developed	60%
5	Technological innovation prevailed	63%
6	Cross-cultural marriages	30%
7	Educational exchange programs	46%
8	Mutual course unification at higher education	72%
9	Effects on landscape interchanging of culture	62%
10	Broadcast of Chinese cultural content on TV	64%

While framing the opinions taken from the editorials of the newspaper it was educed that 65% of the editorials were the negative portrayal of the plan while 35% favored the issue. The reason is obvious in this regard that the Mericans and Indians social media war and print media war is winning over CPEC. Since the inception of this project India and America washed their hands behind Pakistan. The China-Pakistan Economic Corridor connecting Kashgar with Gwadar port will pass through the backward areas of Pakistan whose connection with the nearby cities is difficult, but thanks to the

completion of CPEC, these cities will be connected to the whole world - the trade convoys of Chinese products will avoid the additional distance of thousands of kilometers and travel nearly four thousand (4000) kilometers. They will reach the port of Gwadar by covering the distance and from there they will be able to access the European and African markets very easily. Due to this, abundant employment opportunities will be created in these areas, and per capita income will increase-CP. Due to this, work will increase at Gwadar as well as at Karachi port. will go because if the two major naval powers of the world, the United States and India, succeed in blocking the South China Sea and the Indian Ocean for some reason or even establish their monopoly on these sea routes, then due to the CPEC, China's The economy will continue to benefit from the benefits and fruits of foreign trade – the fact that there will be less extremism and insecurity among the people of the region due to the availability of employment and positive changes in the standard of living. As a result, the war ambitions of America, India, and Israel will be rejected by the Asian people, due to which the hegemony and regional power, and influence of these aggressive countries will decrease drastically. "Pak-China" defense cooperation will also increase the security of delegations and equipment and the "US-India" in the region. Or "cooperation will also reduce the atmosphere of imbalance - that's why the CPEC project is like a thorn in the chest of the United States and India and their fellow countries. This is the reason why these two antagonistic nations were after this project.

Findings

It was found out in the light of the responses educed from the participants that: 14% of the respondents were aware of the economic projects of the CPEC while 22.2% thought that CPEC is a project where only the energy sector would get projection, 26.22% had their view that CPEC is just a project which seemed to develop infrastructure all around the country and especially in Baluchistan, 20.8% of them were sure that the CPEC was initiated between China and Pakistan for the social development in the places from where it would pass and 16.8% inferred that this project was designed to make sure all the pre-mentioned features.

It was found on the opinion based on the developmental works that were under process in the areas where these respondents belonged; It was sought that 34.6% of the participants said that yes construction of roads; industries and others were under process in the areas from where they belonged to. While on the second factor, it was found that the energy projects going on under the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) in Baluchistan (Pakistan) most of the responses showed that the rural electrification projects are working speedily and this would surely seem to improvise many areas of the economy in Pakistan. Energy production units were implanted which would start their production in 2025.

The third factor identified in this survey was that improvisation of the agriculture sector was undergoing at a large scale in Baluchistan province. China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) major work is based on the connection of urban and rural life as these projects seemed to work upon the roads link roads that passed through rural areas. So the rural population would connect to the urban and the transportation of the production would be made easy through these fast tracks in the forms of

roads, railway tracks, and in some areas airports. 10.6% of the respondents identified that the agriculture sector reformation is being held in the areas where they are residing. It is obvious from the findings that the social fiber of Pakistan seemed to be quite rigid in its appearance and such advancement was not able to produce any change in them. Especially Balochi culture resisted their nomadic life. They did not show any reformation of some type of adjustment with the foreign social behaviors or attitudes. There is a new trend in Punjabi culture which is marriage with Chinese women which seemed quite prevalent now a day but in Baloch culture, nothing like this is going to happen to date. They were found quite traditional and resistant to this idea. They are resilient and stuck to their traditional norms.

Discussion

Pakistan and China's economic cooperation moved towards a shift in great economic cooperation and faced security threats and common disputes with India neighboring (Bloomberg, 2015). India wants to stop this investment that supports the economic growth in Pakistan because the China and Pakistan corridor would give access China to the Ocean of India and will affect the economic growth of India (Haider & Mangi, 2015). The CPEC completion will spread different business operational routes between Gulf countries, Africa, and China, China needs to be economically vibrant and be concerned with its energy issues because China is the larger oil importer in the whole world. The CPEC completion will spread different business operational routes between Gulf countries, Africa, and China, China needs to be economically vibrant and be concerned with its energy issues because China is the larger oil importer in the whole world. Pakistan near Iran and China take benefit of China laying down gas and oil pipelines and the result would abridge travel through Southeast Asia (Clark, 2014). CPEC provided transport for different energy and goods and construct oil storeroom amenities and a handling plant at Gwadar Port. Xinjiang Uighur Autonomous Region without going through the waterway of Malacca, the Strait of Malacca is not secured and can be blocked by the U.S. or India if hostilities break out in the region (Chen, 2017). CPEC connect different countries and their economic agents' defined geography market for trading. CPEC will provide a center and link the demand and supply sides of markets and provide an economic connection between hubs and nodes. According to Chinese Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hua Chunying, the corridor will aid as a driver for connectivity between East Asia and South Asia.

Conclusion

Most of the researchers concluded that the CPEC project will also have an impact on the education sector of Pakistan. Various educational and training institutes are being established in Gwadar under the CPEC project. Additionally, the education sectors of both countries are also working to open universities along the CPEC route. Moreover, the Chinese government has also introduced a scholarship scheme under the CPEC project through which Pakistani students can get an opportunity to study at various universities in China. Confucius Institutes have been opened in various universities in Pakistan and are conducting courses on Chinese culture and language.

So it is quite obvious from the figures that Dawn, a Pakistani newspaper published the majority of the

editorials on CPEC which were 99 while the Times of India published 56 and China Daily printed 27 and the New York Times printed out 06 editorials from 2017 to 2022. It may be concluded that the Indian Print media and American print media seemed terrified by the CPEC and China's influence in Asia. American interest is in China they do not want to see China getting into an economic power while India wished to have hegemony in Asia. India is threatened by Pakistan and China both as a prosperous and stable Pakistan meant dangerous to India and China's influence in Pakistan would make Pakistan stabilize and economically strong. So both of these countries' print media in their pursuit seemed to develop a blame game on China and Pakistan.

Recommendations

Achieving these benefits requires constant and continued efforts from both countries' leaderships (China & Pakistan) to stay firm on track. Make sure that all the Memorandums of Understanding (MOUs) and any new policy agreement regarding CPEC between two countries in the future implement and put into action without any hindrance.

At the same time, different projects are running under the umbrella of CPEC the Government of Pakistan makes sure that the performance and maintenance of the quality of these different projects are assured. It required a firm inspection team to safeguard these projects against corruption and kickbacks. Law enforcement agencies in Pakistan must take some safety measures to ensure fool-proof security for Chinese personnel, Engineers, labors and technicians, and other working staff from china who are working on these projects.

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