



## FACTORS CREATING SOCIAL AMBIVALENCE AMONG PEOPLE IN PAKISTAN IN CONTEXT OF CPEC

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### **Abstract**

*The CPEC project and its outcomes are viewed differently across Pakistan with the different genders and nature of stakeholders. Present study was devised to critically analyze the factors creating social ambivalence among people in Pakistan in context of CPEC in Pakistan along with current challenges and future perspectives. Therefore, all the respondents were the nationals of Pakistan. Results depicted that poor transparency in the program under CPEC has turned people against the projects. Additionally, people in the surrounding of the CPEC route exhibited fear pertaining to the migration of people to and far. People argued this may create chaos in the area and local people may be victimized to be ignored. Following the same footsteps, it was also observed that people have doubt in their minds that jobs are actually being created for the Chinese people. Therefore, it can be concluded that due to various factors, Pakistani community has become victim of social ambivalence and therefore, people need more guidance about the CPEC and to earn local support state should play its role and familiarize positive impacts of CPEC on the common man in the country.*

**Key Words:** Social Ambivalence, CPEC, Project, Pakistan



## **Introduction**

China-Pakistan Economic Corridor is a megaproject signed between Pakistan and China. Ishaque et al., (2018) had anticipated that CPEC within the OBOR project is likely to escalate the cooperative readiness including regional connectivity, infrastructure for the telecommunication, tourism, industrial parks, energy projects, agricultural growth, industrial hubs, and improvement in the health sector and improving people to people networking in the region (Alam, 2019; Basit et al., 2019; Fayyaz, 2019; Khan, 2019b; Korolev, 2019; Larson, 2019; Mahesar, 2019; Mukhtar, 2019; Raza, M.A. and Mustufa, 2019; Roy, M.I. and Khalid, 2019; Shah, 2019; Shah et al., 2019; Ahmed, 2020; Fasola, N. and Lucarelli, 2020; Moniruddin, 2020; Samay, 2020). Miller (2017) had concluded that CPEC likely to equal the direct foreign investment made in Pakistan from 1970 to current. This project could bring an institutional shift in Pakistan and hefty opportunity for Foreign Direct Investment and sustainable growth (Tehsin et al., 2017; Kousar et al., 2018). This project is further anticipated to produce new avenues to enlarge the economic situation of Pakistan and the opportunity to strengthen the economy of China.

The CPEC project and its outcomes are viewed differently across Pakistan with the different genders and nature of stakeholders (Ali and Qazi, 2018). According to the report of PIPS, (2016) people were frightened of a job loss due to CPEC and some were worried about changes in the demography of the area due to CPEC implementation. People criticized the scanty engagement of local people in the planning and development of projects (Hanif, 2013; Khan, 2018; Ahmed et al., 2019; Almamatovna, 2019; Kaushiki, 2019; Khan, S.A. and Khan, 2019a; Khan, 2019; Khetran, 2019; Gupta, 2019; Sultana et al., 2019; Khan, 2020; Mankoff, J. and Kortunov, 2020; Shahid and Kralli, 2020; Soherwordi, H.S. and Munshi, 2020). Despite more engagement and involvement of local people would have resulted better (Beg et al., 2018). People asked for the transparency in the projects and job assurance to the people that the implementation of CPEC will not make them jobless. The poor transparency in the program under CPEC can turn people against the projects (Hussain, 2017).

People in the surrounding of the CPEC route exhibited fear pertaining to the migration of people to and far. People argued this may create chaos in the area and local people may be victimized to be ignored (Jaleel and Bibi, 2018). Hussain, (2017) argued that most of the viewed CPEC positively but some had skepticism as well. For instance, people had doubt in their minds that jobs are actually being created for the Chinese people. The doubt of people can impact the local industry of Pakistan and the business circle in the country otherwise (Dvorking, 2019; Naqvi and Masood, 2017; Hilali, 2019; Miro et al., 2019; Mustafa, G. and Hussain, 2019; Nadkarni, 2019; Nagra et al., 2019; Pattanaik,



2019; Rajaye, 2019; Sultana, 2019; Ibañez, 2020; Yuyan, 2020). Therefore, present study was devised with the clear objective of assessment of factors creating social ambivalence among people in Pakistan in context of CPEC.

### **Review of Literature**

The relation between China and Pakistan is admired around the world. Ali (2017) signified the relationship “durable” despite the different political system, cultural differences. However, synergistic economic interests make both countries more closely (Ali, 2017). Dumbaugh (2010) had reported that traditional geopolitical interest fortified the good relationship between Pakistan and China. Pak-China relationship is historical. Butt (2007) augmented that Buddhist pilgrims from China started visiting Gilgit and other associated areas in Pakistan all through their elongated excursions from the areas of Kapica. The mobility between these two countries was further strengthened through the Silk route (Butt, 2007).

Recent signing and implementation of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) worth of 46 Billion US Dollar accelerated the everlasting relationship (Mohapatra, 2013; Pant, 2017; Alam, 2019; Basit et al., 2019; Fayyaz, 2019; Khan, 2019b; Korolev, 2019; Larson, 2019; Mahesar, 2019; Mukhtar, 2019; Raza, M.A. and Mustufa, 2019; Roy, M.I. and Khalid, 2019; Shah, 2019; Shah et al., 2019; Ahmed, 2020; Fasola, N. and Lucarelli, 2020; Moniruddin, 2020; Samay, 2020). This profound project is a mix blend of different projects related to power generation, infrastructure and research and development (Mustaf and Zafar, 2017). Apart from that, CPEC anticipates developing special industrial and special economic zones likely to extend great opportunities of empowerment, employment and development (Hussain and Sangay, 2012; Kalim et al., 2012; Rekha, 2014; Tong, 2015; Bilgin, 2016; Khalid, 2018; Ali et al., 2019; Ansar, 2019; Guo, 2019; Gupta, 2019; Ibrahim, 2019; Khokhar, 2019; Raghavan, 2019; Rudenko, 2019; Sahai, 2019; Bajpai et al., 2020; Konwer, 2020; Roy and Dalei, 2020).

Miller (2017) had concluded that CPEC likely to equal the direct foreign investment made in Pakistan from 1970 to current. This project could bring an institutional shift in Pakistan and hefty opportunity for Foreign Direct Investment and sustainable growth (Tehsin et al., 2017; Kousar et al., 2018). This project is further anticipated to produce new avenues to enlarge the economic situation of Pakistan and the opportunity to strengthen the economy of China. Before CPEC, China was bearing a hefty amount for trade and after CPEC transport cost for 40-foot container between Kashgar and destination ports in the Middle East squeezed to 1450 US dollar while 1350 US dollar in case of destination port in Europe (Vousinas, 2014; Akram, 2016; Shah and Parveen,



2016; Siddiqi, 2017; Mumtaz et al., 2018; Dar, 2019). Moreover, travel time duration shrinks to 21 to 24 days and 21 days for the destination port in the Middle East and Europe respectively. As for as distance is concerned, from Kashgar to Europe and the Middle East lowered to 11000-13000 Kilometres (Alam et al., 2019). CPEC will turn Pakistan a global competitor through significant influence on industrial growth and urban development (Khan et al., 2019). Moreover, Ishaque et al., (2018) found a great possibility of expansion of trade volume across the Asian region through CPEC. The effects of CPEC on Foreign Direct Investment were found highly significant by Rashid et al., (2018). The study summarized that FDI to Pakistan could help the country to encounter domestic savings, investment gaps with more improvement in business and infrastructure development (Thoker, and Singh, 2017; Zia, 2018; Biswas, S. and Chakraborty, 2019; Chaudhry, 2019; Gusevskaya, 2019; Hongdo et al., 2019; Hussain, 2019 a, b; Jerotijević, D. and Jerotijević, 2019; Khan, 2019; Lukin, 2019; Malik et al., 2019; Paszak, 2019; Sehgal, 2019; Velikaya, 2019; You, 2019; Shukla, 2020). However, still there are a lot of factors that are creating hurdles in the success of the CPEC. Thus, present study is an important aspect to consider such type of factors that are hindering in the way of CPEC success.

## **Research Method**

### **Framework**

This is a qualitative as well as quantitative research that has been conducted through semi-structured interviews. The focused group for this study was the residents of the Pakistan that are more closely linked with the CPEC and are living in the nearby areas. A total of 600 interviews have been conducted from common people. The questions included in the interview, have been pertinent to critically analyze the factors creating social ambivalence among people in Pakistan in context of CPEC in Pakistan along with current challenges and future perspectives. Therefore, all the respondents were the nationals of Pakistan. The case studies had been picked up from any part of the country which were the most relevant and the latest.

### **Sampling technique**

The sampling technique has been used as simple random sampling. Data has been collected with the help of interviews and questionnaire as well as data obtained by the authentic sources. The randomization was proceeded through simple excel formula “=rand”.



## **Research Design**

The planned study is the shadow of rational standpoint of the interpretative school of thought; it is espouse qualitative research technique to regulate the research inquiries. Customarily qualitative researches antedate to put the emphasis on exposure, discernment and indulgent from the viewpoint of their focus and suggests about the utmost effort for creating a clear change in the lives of common people. Merriam, (2009) has explained the qualitative research as; “Qualitative researchers are concerned in analyzing the assembled thoughts of people, along with their thought about the world and their experience while living in that world. Keeping in view the above mentioned definition of qualitative research, we can conclude that qualitative research is best suited to the present study planned to perform.

## **Data Collection**

Data has been collected by using all the possible sources that were helpful for analyzing the basic theme of our study. For this purpose, two basic categories of data collection were used namely, primary sources and secondary sources.

## **Primary Source**

Primary data was comprised of all the data that would be comprised of the original data related to the critically analyze the factors creating social ambivalence among people in Pakistan in context of CPEC in Pakistan along with current challenges and future perspectives. For this purpose, various sites have been accomplished to understand and compose the data related to it. Furthermore, questioners were used to investigate our theme of work.

## **Secondary Source**

Secondary data was collected from various libraries and publications (articles, newspapers and conference proceedings) showing the clear relationship with our context. Little research is done on explaining the critically analyze the factors creating social ambivalence among people in Pakistan in context of CPEC in Pakistan along with current challenges and future perspectives. Therefore, all the note-books, articles, magazines and conference proceeding showing the basis for our study were used to properly depicting our results of study.

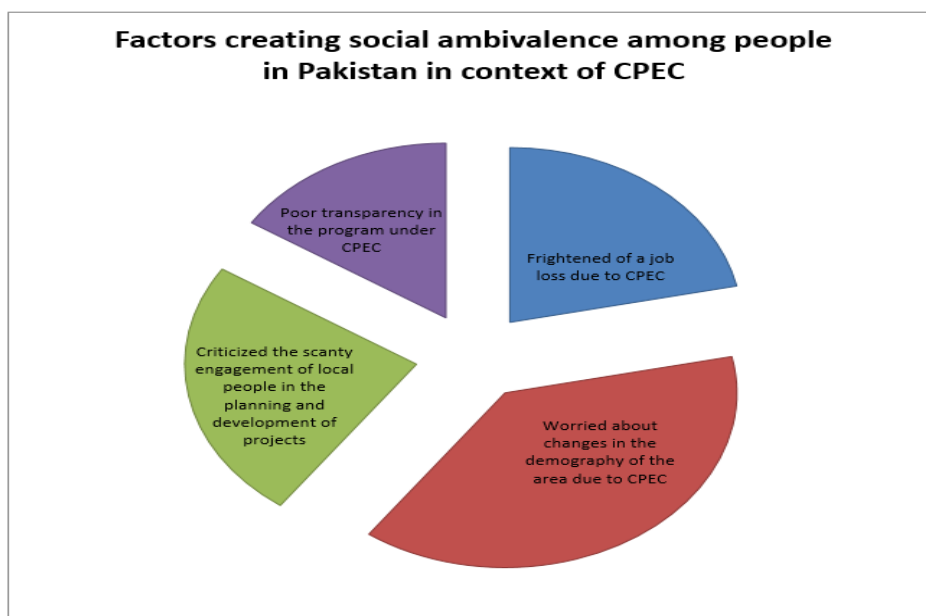
## **Findings**

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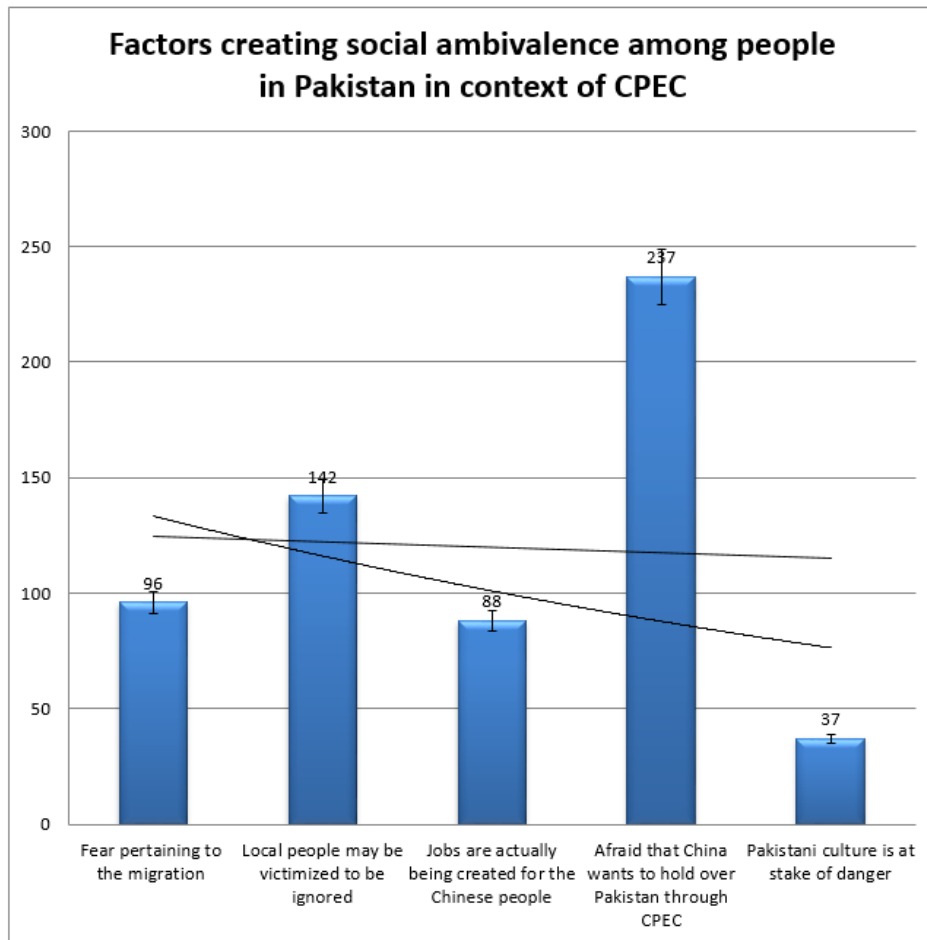


After the detailed analysis of the collected data, it was observed that the major concern of the CPEC is to bring socio-economic development in the two countries. CPEC was anticipated to tackle energy crisis and generating employment opportunities for people of Pakistan, increased access to health and education, escalating trade and business potential to strengthen the financial position of local people. Pertinent to fast trade and enormous potential of business the level of income and employment opportunities for the people will be rising with the time. CPEC can expedite geographical connectivity and employment opportunities and by 2021 a growth will witness a 7.21% rise. However, contrary to all this Pakistani community is passing through various social ambivalence factors that are throbbing them both mentally as well as socially.

Thus, following are the major factors that are playing hard for the social ambivalence. The CPEC project and its outcomes are viewed differently across Pakistan with the different genders and nature of stakeholders. People were frightened of a job loss due to CPEC and some were worried about changes in the demography of the area due to CPEC implementation. People criticized the scanty engagement of local people in the planning and development of projects. Despite more engagement and involvement of local people would have resulted better. People asked for the transparency in the projects and job assurance to the people that the implementation of CPEC will not make them jobless.



**Figure # 1**



**Figure # 2**

Furthermore, poor transparency in the program under CPEC has turned people against the projects. Additionally, people in the surrounding of the CPEC route exhibited fear pertaining to the migration of people to and far. People argued this may create chaos in the area and local people may be victimized to be ignored. Following the same footsteps, it was also observed that people have doubt in their minds that jobs are actually being created for the Chinese people. Furthermore, Pakistani community is afraid that China wants to hold over Pakistan through CPEC. Similarly, according to the respondents



Pakistani culture is at stake of danger due to bulk of Chinese people migration to Pakistan.

### **Conclusion**

The doubt of people can impact the local industry of Pakistan and the business circle in the country otherwise. Therefore, it can be concluded that due to various factors, Pakistani community has become victim of social ambivalence and therefore, people need more guidance about the CPEC and to earn local support state should play its role and familiarize positive impacts of CPEC on the common man in the country. People in Pakistan often associate their own benefits with the CPEC. None of the people was found against the CPEC until their benefits are not compromised. Assurance and transparency in the projects could assist people to be a believer in CPEC projects. Though the majority of the peoples in Pakistan favor the CPEC still rooms for improvement do exist.



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