



SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS: A CASE STUDY WITH REFERENCE TO CHINA-PAKISTAN ECONOMIC CORRIDOR

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ABSTRACT

With the perfect execution of the plan being endorsed by the government of Pakistan in general and the Ministry of Planning in particular, the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor will instigate a new chapter of growth and development in Pakistan. But then from the magnifying glass of an economist, it remains a big question mark whether this development will be sustainable or not. The grand scale globalization and its charms are apparent but the damage it is causing to the environment is alarming as one cannot exclude the economy from ecosystem. Thus each economic activity, whether on a small or large scale has its due effects on the environment. In the case of CPEC, a grand project of connectivity for trade, there will be a huge inflow of containers by road, cargo trains by railway tracks, aero-planes via newly built airports and ships on the seaport. These vehicles will become the major contributors of the greenhouse gases within the environment which is the prominent reason of global warming on macro level. The effects on micro level include the health trepidations such as respiratory and epidermal disorders and the other chronic and lethal diseases including cancer. Therefore these damages can be reduced in many ways with the help of astute economic planning. Because of the unavailability of data, our research relies on the existing literature and examines all the above mentioned and other related concerns based on hypothetical conditions. Sustainability is analyzed in



the research using Overlapping Theme of the Sustainability Paradigm model. The research is basically intended to raise the issue of environmental damage caused by the mega development projects that is often overlooked specially in the case of developing countries. Now is the time when environmental concerns should be addressed formally and seriously as the changing climate has already started to haunt the world. The heat stroke wave in 2015 hit the Sindh, especially Karachi when the temperature was elevated to 49 degree Celsius, seized around 2000 human lives. Later on, Karachi was ranked 14th among the 20 most polluted cities in the world according to the World Health Organization. The same report declared Peshawar, the capital of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, to be the second most polluted cities in the world. With respect to this scenario, it is the need of the time that whatever development projects are initiated within the country are eco-friendly. This study is designed to investigate whether the CPEC will become the reason of the much needed sustainable development within the country or it will, like many other mega projects, countersign the receding climatic conditions.

KEYWORDS: CPEC, Ecosystem, environment, sustainable development.

1. INTRODUCTION

Development in the economy is indeed a good sign for the people living in the country but the attitude of ignoring the damage caused to the environment and society as the development process headways should be discouraged. One of the most prominent concerns of the developed world or what we call the first world countries today is “sustainability” (UN, 2013). The reason of that being so will be discussed in detail later. Sustainability, as defined in the book “Sustainability: A Comprehensive Foundation” edited by Tom Theis and Jonathan Tomkin is a painstaking route (Al-Hallaj, et al., 2012). According to the book, it is not the fixed state of harmony, but instead it is a change process where many objectives including the exploitation of resources, the orientation of technological advancement, the change occurring in the institutions and the direction of investments are said to be consistent not only with present but with the future as well. This research is an attempt to study the sustainability with reference to the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) as to determine whether the projects coming under its head are sustainable by means of environmental, social and economic aspects or it will do worse than good to the realm. This study is also intended to put forward some practical ideas and policy advices as to what measures can be taken in order to keep the ecological balance along with the creation of the series of mega development projects.



The far-reaching emission of Carbon-Dioxide and other Greenhouse Gases to the environment and the scrawny backlash against it, is causing a serious harm to the climatic conditions of the world. Devastating floods, rampant storms, lack of rains, noxious heat waves, inevitable dryness and lethal diseases are all the examples of what is world up to with the rapid change in environmental conditions. There is a term widely used when it comes to the climatic concerns “Global Warming” which is referred to the significant rise in the global average temperature of the world and is one of the most prominent concerns of climatic change as a whole (Tercek, 2017).

Apart from all the metrological devices and satellites that collect the weather updates from around the globe, the scientists also have got some extra-ordinarily accurate and smart ways to collect the historical data of environmental conditions through natural sources that may include the tree rings, ice cores, corals, lake sediments and oceans that help those researchers to design a Paleoclimatology data that help them analyze the long term variations in climatic conditions. These researchers observe a huge transfiguration of climate from colder to hotter by the passage of time (NASA, 2017).

When atmospheric gases (mainly carbon dioxide and nitrogen oxides) resist the heat released by earth from radiating into space is what we call a greenhouse effect (Lallanila, 2016), and that is the key role player in making the planet hotter. There can be natural causes of the climatic change, like volcanic eruptions and sun’s intensity but NASA is of opinion that there is a very small role of these natural fonts as their effects show up not as fast as the global warming is taking place so far.

It is however us, the human beings who are responsible for emitting the greenhouse gases which is the biggest reason why the regions are turning warmer. The proportion of these hazard gases in the environment has increased many folds during the recent decades. According to the estimations by Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), after preindustrial times, the carbon dioxide’s share has increased by 40% in the environment (Denchak, 2017).

Thus, Global Warming is surely the adverse effect of the burning fossils, oil and gas to generate different type of energies. On the other hand, the second biggest contributor in spurring the global temperature world-wide is deforestation (Jakuboski, 2012). Cutting trees more than planting them is the selfish humanitarian behavior that eventually cause harm for human beings themselves.



Trees are the best natural resource to maintain the atmosphere and keep the environmental conditions in order. They are responsible for perpetuating water cycle as they return water back to the atmosphere and keep it moist. A huge land could have turned into the barren desert if trees would not retain this cycle. Trees hold heat at night in the forests emitted by the sun rays during the day time, thus cutting them becomes the reason of a severe threat to the species living beneath (Deforestation, 2017).

Now after having a quick view of climatic concerns of the whole world and the reasons why sustainable development is such a priority for the developed countries of the world, let us get more specific to remain on our theme. China Pakistan Economic Corridor, the very famous \$46 billion dollar investment promised by China as to reach the deep and warm sea-port of Gwadar for its mega trade activity is said to be the win-win play for both the players (Pakistan and China). It has though, recently been revealed in the senate session by the ministry of Ports and Shipping that China will be keeping 91 per cent of the revenues generated from Gwadar as part of the CPEC and the rest of the 9 per cent will be the share of Pakistan (Khan, 2017). From this, it can be predicted that who feasts the bigger slice of this loaf.

The major chunk from the whole investment for CPEC, above 60 per cent has been apportioned to the energy sector and the rest of the money will be spent on infrastructure and communication sectors as per the official website of Board of Investment, Prime Minister of Pakistan's Office. Though the shortfall of electricity in Pakistan is one of its biggest challenges in a way of its growth and development goals but it is yet again a big question whether the energy generating plants will be focusing on clean and renewable energy as to avoid environmental mutilation or not. Moreover, with the formation of infrastructure and the road map connecting Pakistan to China, there will be huge inflow of different type of vehicles carrying the merchandises for trade. The road network, railway tracks, aero-plane routes and sea-port of Pakistan will be the key players in this mega trade drive. This gigantic infusion of traffic through different ways can create some serious problems with reference to the already deteriorated environmental conditions of Pakistan.

In the next part of this paper, we will be reviewing the existing literature that gives us a healthy insight of how can we achieve the sustainable development goals with the help of astute economic planning. In the third part of the paper, we will expand our study with specific reference to the CPEC as to how much will it be affecting the environment. Fourth part is of some policy recommendations as to make sure how can the environmental damage be reduced through this mega trade activity. Last but not the least is the part where we will be concluding our study by giving a very brief review on the subject.

2. REVIEW OF LITERATURE



Many social-scientists have emphasized on the importance of sustainable development goals. Among them some of the relevant studies are discussed as follows. At first, we have reviewed some research studies as to maintain the strong theoretical background of our work to kick start our investigation with some rich and knowledgeable literature on the subject.

(Al-Hallaj, et al., 2012) in their book *Sustainability: A Comprehensive Foundation* discuss the idea of sustainability that on the whole sustainability seeks to find a balance between economic, social and environmental goals for any process to be executed. The definition of sustainability in general refers to the idea of achieving of meeting today's goals in a way that it leaves the conditions for meeting the future needs same as present if not better. Economic interests include the presence and flow of tangible and intangible resources and abilities to utilize those resources in an efficient manner. Social or as we may say socio-political interests include the extent of involvement or reaction of people and institutions to the goals under consideration. The humanitarian, ethical and political dynamics involved in achieving the motives. Environmental interests includes avoidance of degradation of environment, consideration for human living conditions as well as consideration of living conditions for the other species of the planet. Factors like global warming, green-house effect, noise pollution, waste management are some very common examples of environmental concerns for achieving sustainability goals. Environmental interest and how they specifically interact with the living conditions of human beings is a highlighted factor as well. For example the increase in cancer cases, cholesterol, obesity, heart diseases and other diseases that come as a part and parcel environmental degradation are discussed in the book. For measuring the environmental goals specifically an idea of Risk Management is also discussed where different environmental concerns are taken into consideration to avoid further loss of the natural state of the planet and living beings specially the condition of human beings. The book further discusses various tools and methods for calculating the measures to be taken towards achieving those goals.

(Munda, 1997) in his article *Environmental Economics, Ecological Economics and the Concept of Sustainable Development, 1997* discusses the issue from a lay man's point of view. He in his article presents the idea that environmental effect is inevitable if economic growth takes place. Growth is required as with increasing population needs increase which as a by-product affects environment, but not only environment but it has many stakeholders. The effects are overlapping in nature in the context of eco-system, society, political environment etc. to solve a growth related issue only environmental concerns cannot provide the answer as there are many other aspects to it. To reach a better conclusion input from all the factors of the system needs to be taken. This might not lead to



a unanimous answer but would provide insight to every aspect of the issue to conclude something that is calculated in all the manners in contrast to all the stakeholders and a rather better outcome is possible.

(Hadaitullah) in his article discusses how CPEC relates to the climate of Gilgit-Baltistan. As the area has glaciers which are vulnerable to the climatic changes and heavy traffic passing through those areas would have significant effects that need to be handled properly. Though the project promises a great deal of economic growth for the area by enhancing the potential for tourism, transportation, energy and services sector. The economic value promises the project to turn into a *game changer*. But the issues of noise pollution, environmental pollution and increasing temperatures are also a serious concern for sustaining the growth for which both the Pakistan and the Chinese governments should take proper actions.

(Alam, Fatima, & Butt, 2007) in their article discuss how population growth has led to the need of economic growth in particular the energy demands which in response led to activities that resulted in emission of CO₂ in the environment. The paper empirically analyzes the positive relationship between economic growth and CO₂ emission and also concludes level of CO₂ emission is positively correlated to the size of economy. The paper further suggests the need of efficient use of resources, protection of natural resources, invest so that underutilized means of growth could be put together in the growth equation and discourage wastage of power.

(Sahabzada, 1993) in his paper *Urbanization and Environmental Degradation in Pakistan* discusses the environmental degradation based on industry, transportation & energy and poverty. The paper discusses how bad industrialization practices resulted into environmental degradation of different areas of Pakistan and how fuel consumption and increasing vehicles are adding to environmental issues. The paper further analyzes practices of very poor household like burning woods to cook food or warm the place adds further to environmental degradation. It further discusses different policies to be introduced by government like proper industrial practices and training courses to save any further loss of environment.

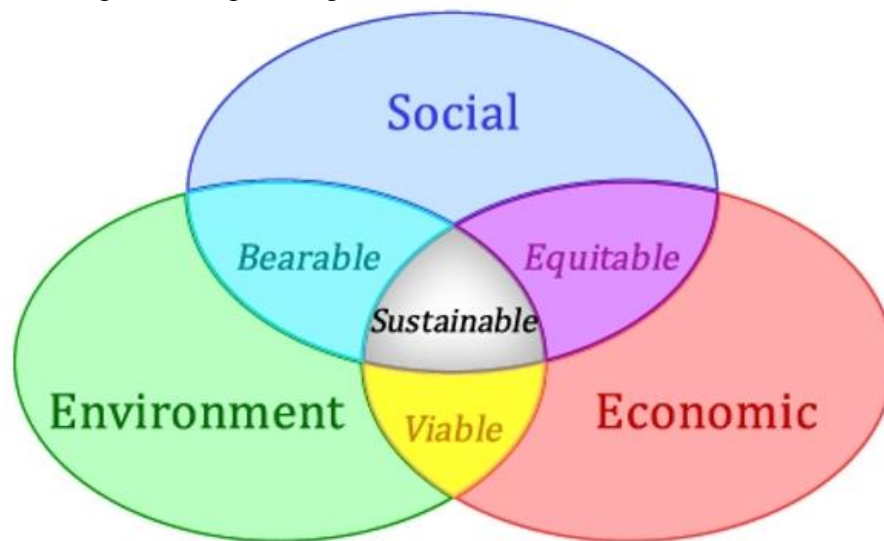
Another study discusses the relation of environmental degradation to the scarcity of food and energy related issues in Pakistan. In the paper, author highlights the importance of sustainability i.e. using natural resources at a rate and in a manner that can be restored. It further emphasizes on the need of research and development and use of better methods to attain goals (Salik, 2013).

3. MAJOR SUSTAINABILITY ISSUES INVOLVED IN CPEC:

Sustainability as a matter of subject seeks to integrate from three different dimensions:

- 1- **ECONOMIC:** it includes the decision making with reference to the financial aspects, commerce facilitation, utilization of natural and human resources and the other matters purely related to economics.
- 2- **SOCIAL/SOCIO-POLITICAL:** It involves the inclusiveness in decision making, welfare of the society and many other ethical issues.
- 3- **ENVIRONMENTAL:** It deals with the diversity and interdependence within the living systems and the attitude of species toward the environment. It explores the impacts of all the economic activity on the overall climate of the system.

The interaction of these three dimensions is illustrated as the Overlapping Theme of the Sustainability Paradigm in the given figure below.



Overlapping Theme of the Sustainability Paradigm

SOURCE: International Union for the Conservation on Nature

Through this picture, the intersection between social and economic aspects lie equity, which means the fair and impartial distribution of wealth among different social classes. The next intersection between environmental and economic aspects forms the viability in the sense of enlightened management. Bear-ability lies between the intersection of social and environmental aspects that means there is a dependency of society related functions on environmental resources. The intersection of all these aspects forms the room for sustainability (Al-Hallaj, et al., 2012).



In the coming sections, we will be shedding some light on these three dimensions of sustainability with reference to the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor. Our main focus will be imparted to the environmental degradation related issues so far.

3.1. ECONOMIC CONCERNS

CPEC would no doubt open a new market for a huge economic activity which is expected to change the whole economic dimension of the region. But the projects needs to be analyzed on a micro level how the project would actually improve the standard of living of a common individual in China and Pakistan. How the cost of the project would include the cost of keeping roads, street and air clean for the people and still be beneficial (Zuberi, 2017).

Some of the important economic concerns include:

There exists a serious question on economic side of the project that will Pakistan be able to pay back china the amount of investment considering the agreed terms and conditions? China's investment in Pakistan relating to the project has reached to a sum of 62 million dollars. Furthermore, except for the cement rest of the required material is to be imported from China which means that a huge business relating to the manufacturing sector would have its way to China only. Moreover, Chinese trucks passing through the route would be exempted from the taxation which would cut a huge income for the government of Pakistan (Venkatachalam, 2017).

Pakistan is heavily under debts already with lack of foreign investment, CPEC is in fact the only reliable investment opportunity available with Pakistan that will result into bringing in the modern technology, better infrastructure and power generation to meet the increasing needs of masses. Governments of both the countries have faith that the business from the project would be enough to pay back the loans and more to inject growth into the current economy of the country but lack of guarantee is something that needs assessment.

A proper disclosure of terms and services of the project is required to be made known so that it could be analyzed considering all the relevant factors i.e. the economic, social, political cost.

3.2. SOCIAL & POLITICAL CONCERNS

For previous few years relation of Pakistan with US is not very warm and with US alliance with India, Japan, Taiwan and Korea known as US Pacific Alliance, Pakistan other than



business point of view needed to have alliance with foreign country(s). Few of the political concerns include lack of complete trust by opposition due to lack of transparency of facts and figures.

Another political challenge that Pakistan needs to keep into account is the presence of militancy across the route from Xinjiang to Gwadar (Zuberi, 2017).

Another political aspect over which government needs to take people into confidence is the change of route from western provinces to eastern provinces which led people think that the benefit from the project will be shifted will be denied to the western part. Pakistan and Chinese government had tried to make an alliance over the issue with other political parties but still there is a need to provide people with the due information to take them on the same page.

In the area around Gwadar port people face scarcity of drinking water. In this case an urgent action to make possible the availability of clean water would be required as the absence of clean water would be a major set-back for such a big project as it requires accommodating and meeting the need of clean water, access to food and other needs of the local and workforce in the area.

3.3. ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERNS

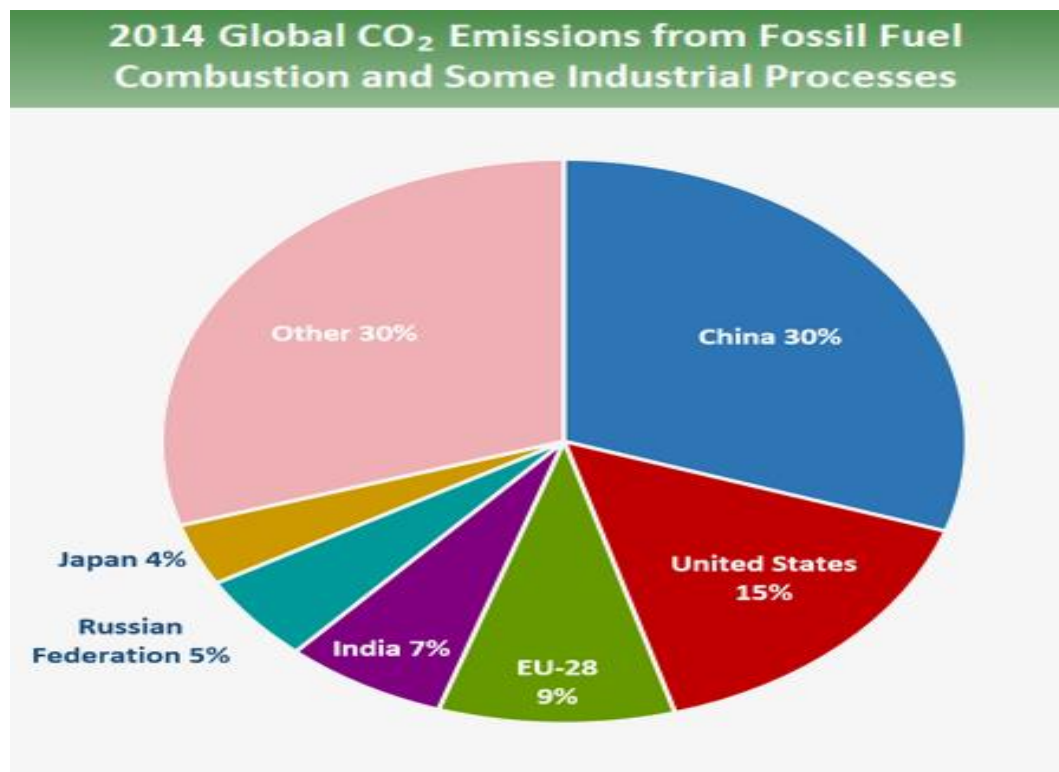
The very famous paradox in Environmental Economics associated to the Human Consumption patterns known as Jevons Paradox ascertains that the improvement in technology also increases the resource utilization efficiency, resulting from the consumption of the resource in excess. This phenomenon cause Rebound effect (amplified consumption that repudiates the efficiency gains) and in many cases become the reason of Backfire or overconsumption (Jevons, 1865). The paradox though is questioned by many great economists as to what sense does it make to stop making technological advancement just because there will be a supposed Backfire?

Likewise, many economists believe that whatever development may take place in the economy is associated with ecosystem thus it has its due effects on the environment. Here, again the question arises whether should we stop development then? The answer is an absolute 'no'. We can however, adopt the policies and methods that can ebb the chances of environmental degradation as much as it is possible. That is what we call *Sustainable Development*, the type of development that does not compromise the ability of the future generations to meet their goals to exist in the society.



3.3.1. GLOBAL WARMING AS A WORLDWIDE CONCERN

There is a growing concern over the rapid climatic change especially in form of the rising global average temperature due to many reasons. However, there are countries where it is something of no such importance (Pew, 2009). Those countries include United States, Russia and China which are the top most contributors of the greenhouse gases in the atmosphere as shown in the following diagram.



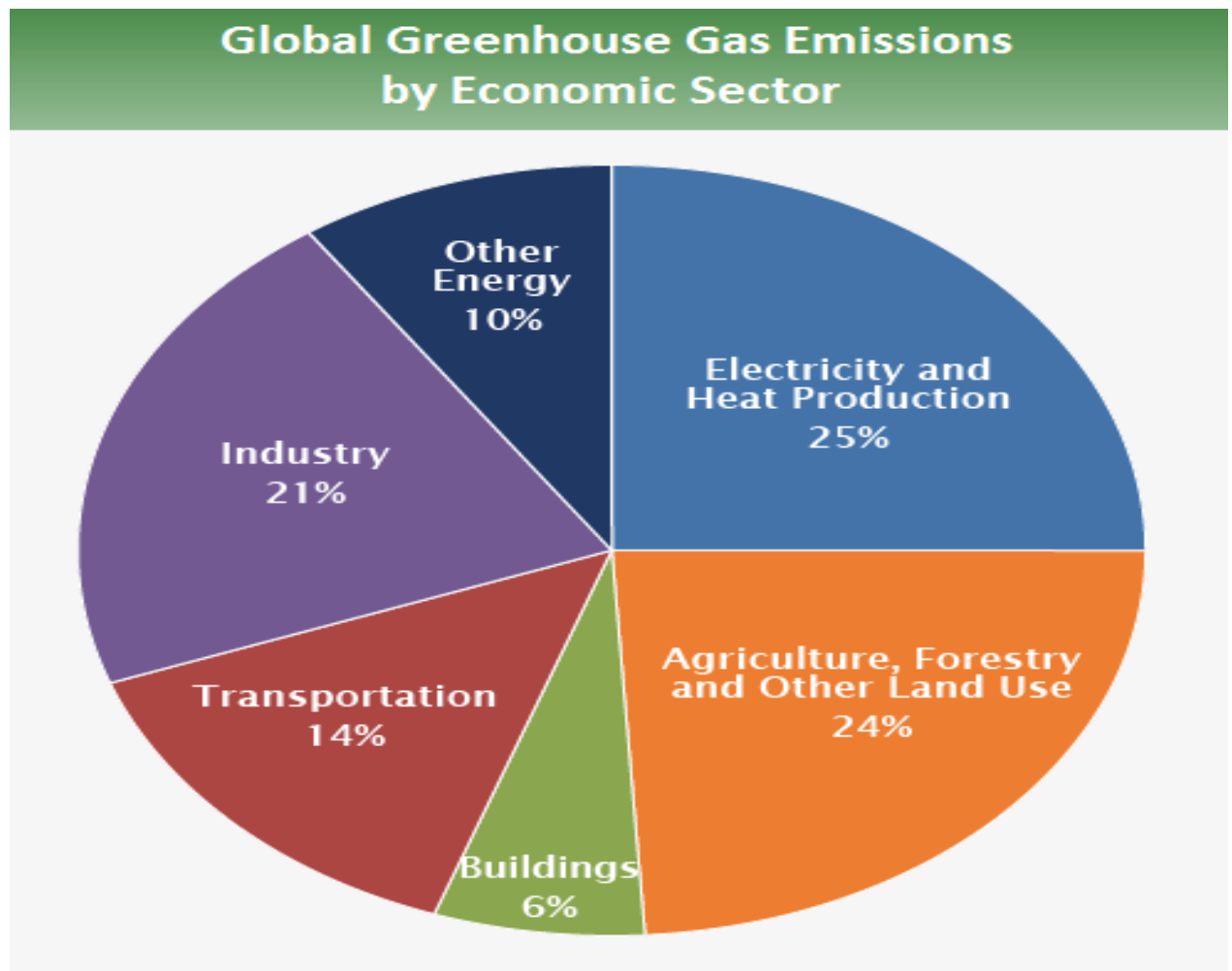
Source: Boden, T.A., Marland, G., and Andres, R.J. (2017). National CO₂ Emissions from Fossil-Fuel Burning, Cement Manufacture, and Gas Flaring: 1751-2014, Carbon Dioxide Information Analysis Center, Oak Ridge National Laboratory, U.S. Department of Energy.

This unveils the fact that the major partner of Pakistan in the great deal of China-Pakistan Economic Corridor has no or very less interest in environmental issues.



Apart from this, the two major economic sectors responsible for emitting the greenhouse gases world-wide as per the IPCC are Electricity/Heat Production (25%) and Agriculture/Forestry/Other Land use (24%). The other contributors include Industry (21%), Transportation (14%), other energy types (10%) and buildings (6%) (Greenhouse Gas Emissions, 2017).

The Pie Chart illustrates the true picture of the perpetrators of the overall emission of the greenhouse gases on a global level:

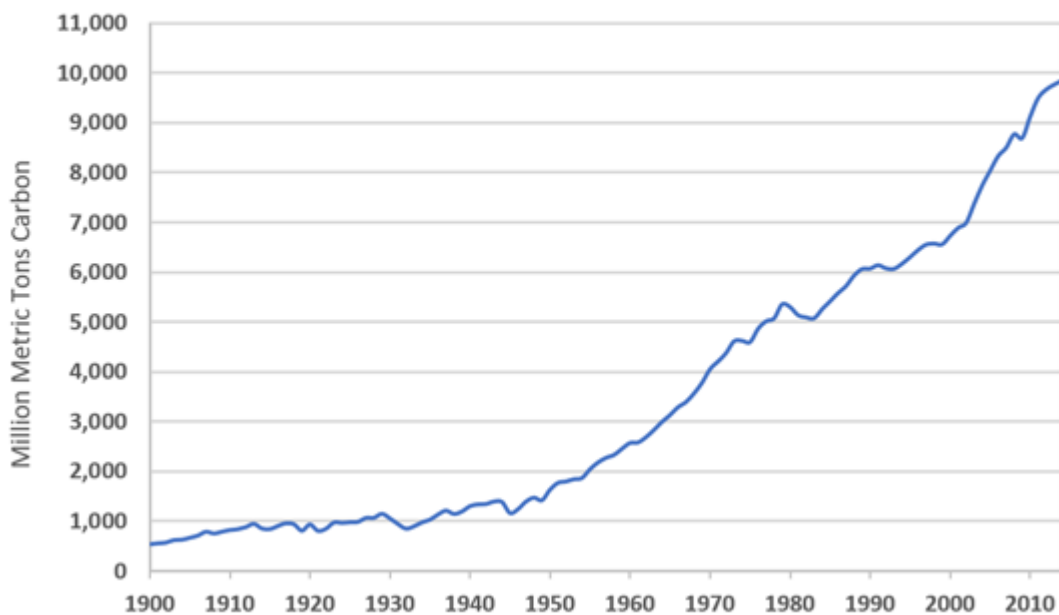


SOURCE: IPCC (2014); based on global emissions from 2010. Details about the sources included in these estimates can be found in the **Contribution of Working Group III to the Fifth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change**.



Likewise, with the industrial revolution and a grand globalization, the world witnessed the development in various sectors. In this century of globalization and consumerism it has been observed that there is a rapid increase in the emission of greenhouse gases because of the fossil fuel production. Below is the illustration that reveals the increased emission of Carbon Dioxide gas into the environment from fossil fuels since 1900 to 2014.

Global Carbon Emissions from Fossil Fuels, 1900-2014



Source: Boden, T.A., Marland, G., and Andres, R.J. (2017). Global, Regional, and National Fossil-Fuel CO₂ Emissions. Carbon Dioxide Information Analysis Center, Oak Ridge National Laboratory, U.S. Department of Energy, Oak Ridge, Tenn., U.S.A.

This incredible increase in the generation of greenhouse gases cause the global climate warmer and environmental conditions vulnerable to survive for living beings specially the future generations. This is why sustainability has become a hot topic for debate among policy makers in the world.

3.3.2. ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERNS OF PAKISTAN FROM CPEC

In the case of environmental concerns associated with the legendary billion dollar investment on the corridor that connects Pakistan with China through Kashgar border for



its mega trade drive, it is important to figure out the factors that can become the reason for the degradation of the environment.

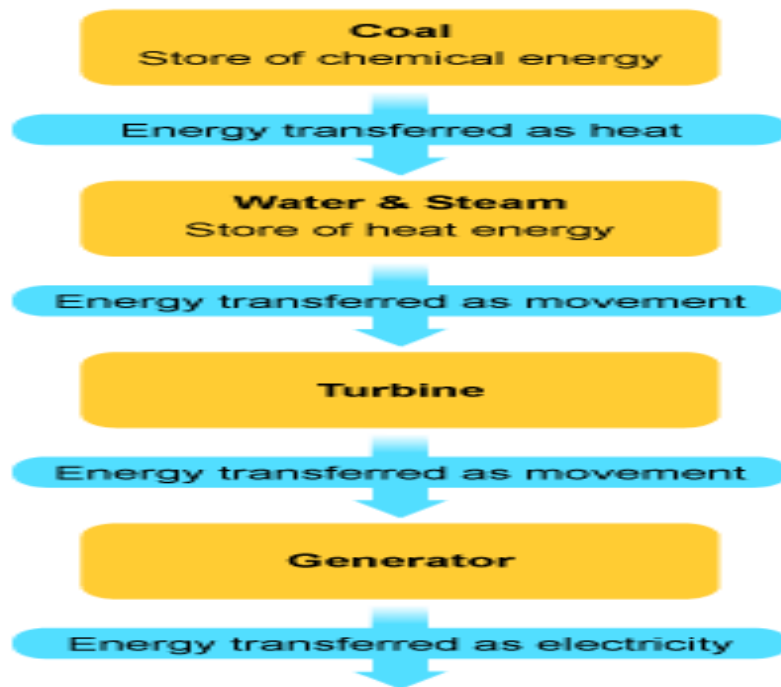


Image Source: BBC GCSEBitesize

http://www.bbc.co.uk/schools/gcsebitesize/science/ocr_gateway/energy_resources/generating_electricityrev4.shtml

3.3.2.1. ENERGY

As it has been discussed earlier that major part of the whole investment is allocated to the energy sector as to compete the challenge of shortfall faced by Pakistan, it should be analyzed too that what type of energy generation will be ordered. According to S. Twangar H. Kazmi Et. Al., the energy related projects under CPEC focusing on the renewable energy can be a great deal of promoting low carbon development in the economy. He also emphasizes on over-coming the knowledge-gap in this regard with the cooperation of Chinese Experts (Kazmi, Rehman, & Nasrullah, 2016).



However as per the official website of China-Pakistan Economic Corridor, there are several energy related projects that will be producing the coal and LNG based electricity. \$5.8 billion as part of Early-Harvest energy related projects are assigned to the coal based energy projects that possesses a huge hidden cost in itself.

3.3.2.1.1. FOSSIL FUEL BASED ENERGY:

Fossil fuels include coal, oil and natural gas. These fuels are burnt as they release heat which is then used to create energy. The following diagram describes the process of deriving energy using coal.

Other than that the transportation of the coal from mine to the plants also create some bad affects to the environment as the particles are infused in the air at the time of its transportation from one part to another (The Hidden Costs of Fossil Fuels).

During the process of generating electricity by burning coals leave extravagant amount of greenhouse gases among which the most common one is Carbon Dioxide. CO₂ is one of the biggest reasons of climatic imbalance, global warming and many diseases related to lungs, kidney and epidermis. The then Ministry of Planning endorsed the project saying it is the first time the Thar coal reserves are being utilized in some productive manner and ensured that the modern technology will be used in order to reduce the environmental hazards.

It is however questionable that no matter how modern the technology is used, if coal based energy plants are installed in the capacity of early-harvest projects of CPEC worth \$5.8 billion so there must be its due impacts on the degradation of environment.

Summarizing the environmental effects caused by burning fossil fuel include emission of CO₂ as discussed above. It also causes emission of Sulphur Dioxide (SO₂) that is the reason of acid rain and breathing issues. Acid rains destroy forests, vegetation and soil and water life (Getz & Writer, 2011). The recent wave of Smog in Punjab and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa is one more example of climatic abnormalities.

3.3.2.2. TRANSPORT CONVOYS:

Transportation is among one of the biggest contributors of the green houses gases emission. That includes from low duty vehicles to heavy duty vehicles including other transportation means like railway, trains, aero plans and ships. As per the Inventory of U.S. Greenhouse Gas Emissions and Sinks 1990–2015 (the national inventory that the U.S.



prepares annually under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change), transportation accounted for 27% of total U.S. GHG emissions in 2015.

Available strategies for the afore-mentioned problems include substituting for the system of transport with lower rate of emission.

The convoluted and narrow track of Karakoram Highway is expected to carry at least one hundred heavy duty trucks carrying different products from China to Pakistan in a day. The frozen gorge is at threat as the prodigious glacier of Gilgit-Baltistan has to swig the heavy dose of unwanted dark fumes on daily basis. It can melt the frozen glory of heaven on earth turning into watery lake that may be speeding-up the land sliding. Editorial in Daily Times suggests installing catalytic converters in the trucks so this may result in reducing the emissions (Editorial, 2017).

Other than the heavy duty trucks, cargo trains and aircrafts that are going to be involved in this trade episode, there will also be *unknown* numbers of ships hanging about on the seaport of Gwadar. It is here to be highlighted that ultimate goal of China is to make use of the deep warm port of Gwadar. The sea pollution and the damage to the marine life after this is one separate concern related to environs.

4. POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS:

There is a lot of room for research on the subject, however, the policy advices that we think should be adopted in the first place that entertain the sustainability concerns with reference to the China Pakistan Economic Corridor are:

4.1. RELEASE THE STATISTICS:

The pure statistical analysis of all the waste and greenhouse gases emission into the environment can be made possible once we have the complete figures. It is however the biggest need of time to make the official data regarding CPEC to be made available for public.

4.2. PROMOTE CLEAN & RENEWABLE ENERGY:

The world is inclining toward producing clean and renewable energy to meet the sustainable development goals. Pakistan should also make its priority crystal clear that the power generation process must not degrade the environment, thus, the projects that are focusing on renewable energy should be encouraged.

4.3. PROLIFERATE FORESTRATION:



There is a dire need of grander plantation drives to maintain the atmospheric conditions. However, there is research required to be done regarding the suitable sites for growing the forests and also about the species that are most appropriate in order to absorb CO₂ and other greenhouse gases from the environment.

4.4. WATER STORAGE:

Clean and drinking water is one major issue in Gwadar. There must be an ostentatious planning to address this issue. Moreover the water reservoirs are important to store the rain water that yearly cause extreme flooding. The water reserves will not only save the country from distressing floods but they can also be used in producing the hydropower energy as to avoid the fossil fuel burning process.

4.5. WASTE MANAGEMENT:

Pakistan lacks in the field of waste management already. According to an article, more than 5 million people die yearly due to the diseases caused by waste. Also it is roughly estimated that Pakistan produces 20 million tons of solid waste on yearly basis (Lew, 2016). By the time CPEC becomes operational, there will be a great insertion of solid waste material into the environment especially on the sea port that can disturb the marine life on a greater scale. An astute planning is required for waste management and to control the dumping.

4.6. INCLUSIVENESS:

Inclusiveness is one of the most important aspects to deal with all the recommendations we have mentioned above. There is a need of educating masses regarding the environmental issues and taking local people on stake to deal with these concerns so that every person on his personal capacity understands the importance of ecological balance and takes part in the different activities like plantation drives, waste collection and its proper management to secure the environment and help the country reach to be one among the best in coping up with today's sustainable development goals.

4.7. ENCOURAGE FURTHER RESEARCH

Research is the only way that can help in designing and implementing the policies with better outcomes. It is however advised that the research support programs are initiated in which students from local universities and colleges are encouraged through stipend and allowances to contribute their notions regarding the subject.

5. FURTHER RESEARCH & CONCLUSION:



CPEC is an amazing research opportunity for Pakistan in many aspects. It will bring in the financial gains. It would help Pakistan gain a business based international alliance. It would help Pakistan develop better foreign relations. It needs to cater the environmental concerns with the financial ones. With better assessment and management Pakistan would be able to overcome these environmental concerns and execute the plan in the best possible way.

Some aspects need further research with clear facts & figure based analysis. Those aspects include the effect of leaving out the private sector, how would industrial manufacturing sector effect from the terms of the contract between China and Pakistan, Tax exemption to the CPEC project and its effect on the local market (Rana, 2017).

As a renowned economist Dr. Qaiser Bengali said, *“As an advisor to former CM Balochistan, I would often get questions that did not have answers.”* A neutral facts and figure based conclusion from Pakistan’s perspective require few questions to be taken into account.

Few of the other benefits and research areas include the number of foreigners joining workforce in Pakistan due to CPEC would bring cultural and ethnic diversity and may affect our nation’s tolerance in a positive way. By involving indifferent foreign projects CPEC and others in future would provide Pakistan with a better international standing. Research areas for further assessment of the project are crucially needed. To reach a neutral conclusion we need to study all the sectors of society that are stake holders to the project.



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