

A STUDY OF THE IMPACT OF CPEC ON EDUCATIONAL DEVELOPMENT IN GWADAR

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Abstract

This paper offers a brief overview of China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) that brings upcoming educational projects of higher education and vocational and technical education center in the Gwadar city. It will provide job opportunities, technical training with modern facilities for youngsters of Baluchistan. It will also help to resolve the political differences among the tribes and make them understand the political, geographical conditions of the region and its needs to cope up with the other provinces of Pakistan and the developing world. The approach in this paper based on the previous literature review during the last five years provides the knowledge and highlights the needs and importance of educational development in Gwadar and how CPEC supports and plays a vital role in education and regional development which helps the students to stay there and can get the best access to higher and technical education. It also helps to make the younger people of the city more flexible and innovative to deal with uncertainty and crises at the national and global level. Preliminary findings show that CPEC fulfill the human resources needed in education, technical and health sector in Gwadar by launching world class government university, appointments of best teachers on merit base only and provide best facilities to youth of this city technically and helps to solve the unemployment issues which promotes economic and social development at grass root level and empowering the common people. Investment in education sector not only brings the changes in educating the people but also improve the power supply sector, water supply and infrastructure of the city.

Keywords

China Pakistan Economic Corridor, Regional Development

Introduction

Gwadar and its surrounded areas handed over to Pakistan in 1958 by Muscat and it's became a tehsil of Makran district. On July 1, 1977, Makran district was upgraded into division and was divided into three districts, Turbat, Panjguar and Gwadar (China-Pakistan Economic Corridor, 2015). Port area of Gwadar is about 64000 square kilometers with three multiple births, the port now developed and have modern facilities for shipment and loading and un-loading, it can cater all types of ships. It is located 460 kilometers west of Karachi, 75 kilometers of Pakistan's border with Iran in the west and 380 kilometers northeast of the nearest point in Oman and it is 330 kilometers away from the Gulf in the Strait of Hormuz and busiest oil shipment corridor with two third of oil reserves where 13-million-barrel oil passes a day. For China, Gwadar port would be profitable business in the long run. China Overseas Port Holding Company (COPHC) on 18 February 2013 made an agreement on ownership of port retained by Pakistan it would be given to China for 40 years leasing stay and will not use for military purpose of China. Gwadar port would help to China to promote its business from Xinjiang and Tibet to Gwadar under the new Silk route strategy (Shahid, 2013).

Development of Gwadar city into a major port city with a deep seaport to connect the highways and railway network of the country formulated by a plan constructed by Government of Pakistan in 1993. To actualize this plan, construction of Gwadar port started on 22 March, 2002 and modern seaport phase I completed and inaugurated in 2007 (Bhattacharjee, 2015) China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) proposed by Premier Li Keqiang when visited in May 2013. The CPEC is a 3,000-kilometer networking of roads, railways, and pipelines to transport oil and gas from southern Pakistan's Gwadar port to Kashgar city, northwestern China (Bhattacharjee, 2015).

Gwadar port brought the major developmental projects for the progress not only for the whole district but province and country as well. The Gwadar district also going to be urbanized from rural state. For this transition it is necessary that people of Gwadar to equip with social and technical skills to meet the local and global needs. This brings

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economic growth and creates the opportunities for people and bring them out of the depression and hopeless condition (Majeed & Kamal, 2007).

Moreover, Gwadar port now becomes an international port and connects three regions Central Asia, South Asia, and Middle East this connection raises the new job opportunities, and this regional development helps to the people of Gwadar to overcome on their socio-economic depression (Aijaz, 2015). There are 12 CPEC projects launched including, Gwadar East Bay Express Way, Gwadar International Airport, Construction of Break Waters, Dredging berthing areas and channels, Development of Free Zone, Technical and Vocational institute at Gwadar (Aliya, 2018).

Gwadar is also attractive investment place from private sector which will provide benefit and opportunities in all the fields of life. Manpower for port like pilots/trig operators. Engineers, Quality Control Officers, Commandants, Hydro Graphic Officers, Counselors-Terminal, Customer services, Managers, Marine-Scientists, Mechanic-Avionics, and shipmen will be required. Currently in Gwadar Free Zone total number of skilled labors is 1100 out of 850 are Chinese and 250 are Pakistani. Although an estimated minimum 0.1 million construction related labor force is required for these projects (Shahid,2018).

Background of the Study

Sino-Pakistan bilateral diplomatic relations were established in 1950, Chinese Military assistance to Pakistan began in 1966, a strategic alliance was formed in 1972 and economic cooperation was initiated in 1979, relationship between these two countries more intensified in recent years. One of the most well-known example of China's bilateral development investment collaboration is the China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) (Taninecz, 2017). In first visit of China's President Xi Jinping to Pakistan offered strong bond between the governments of two countries, he said, "This will be my first trip to Pakistan, but I feel as I am going to visit the home of my own brother. In Pakistan, our relationship higher than mountain, deeper than oceans and sweeter than honey". Pakistan also warm welcomed to the Chinese president and desired to full facilitate their friendship (Arif, 2015).

Research Design

The approach in this paper based on the previous literature review during the last five years.

Status of Education

Situation analysis of district Gwadar presented by Pakistan Bureau of Statistics PBS (secondary data) and Pakistan social and living standards measurement (PSLM, 2012-2013) provides not only the status of education and literacy in the district but also the socio-economic status in terms of health, house quality and services, transport, and communication, employed labor force and livelihood. This report's information helps in the planning and development of educational sector as well by using the national resources and foreign investment like CPEC in the district. Findings of the reports highlight the characteristics of the schooling in the districts by providing situation analysis in terms of access, equality, and quality of primary and secondary education. Schools with available facilities in district Gwadar are 203 primaries,24 secondary, 21 high,12 community, 3 private and 5 intermediate colleges. Electricity is available in only 27% in primary, 33% in middle, 58% of high schools. Only 41% of primary schools surrounded by wall, clean water for drinking is not available in 51% primary schools and no washrooms in 46% of schools. Physical facilities in middle and high buildings, electricity, drinking water, toilets and boundary walls are better than primary schools. Primary and secondary education analyzed by the gross and net enrolments of students having age group 5-9 years 71.26% enrolled in public schools only 3% of students in private schools, education status of students having age group 10-14 years 71.68% enrolled in public schools, 1.62% enrolled in private schools (Fund, 2015). Female students do not have the separate college in the entire district of Gwadar, they were attending the classes in the boy's college in evening. Separate government girl's college Gwadar established with the help of donors within two and half months. Mr. Baloch deputy commission of Gwadar said, "We want girls' education shall be promoted, Gwadar should be developed. "Girls College has different programs and running with eight rooms and eight teachers, are paid by deputy commissioner of Gwadar. Professional training is also provided to the teachers to improve the education system (Parvez, 2016).

Directorate of colleges and Higher Education Commission (HEC) launched BS program, the four-year degree program will be considered equivalent to current M.A/MSc degrees, the intermediate degrees FA and Fusc will be shifted to schools. Students of Gwadar shared their feelings to Pak Voice that they are very happy from this decision of HEC, launching of BS program will bring positive change in education and enhance students learning because

this degree will be globally recognized. Although the program is a one step forward to advancement in education system, but its implementation needs attention due to the unavailability of proper staff for this program. Khurshid Baloch the principle of Government boys' degree college Gwadar said, "Since its establishment in 1991 to 2017, the college has improved a long way from its intermediate degree to graduate degree, but it has the same structure of the 90's, teaching staff consists of only twenty teachers which includes seventeen lecturers, two associate professors and one IT lecturer. Every department of college required at least six M Phil or Ph.D. holders' professors, latest digital library and modern science lab for this program. Colleges not only in Gwadar but all Baluchistan must have proper infrastructure to run this program successfully" (Baloch B., 2017).

Impact of CPEC on Regional Development

On January 10, 2016, Multi-Party Conference MPC was held by Baluchistan National Party Mengal on CPEC in Islamabad and some resolutions related the progress of people of Gwadar are marginalized and brought in front of state to address them. According to the resolution of the conference, people of Gwadar need the necessities of life to upgrade their lifestyle and they could grow with the fast-running changing world. People of Gwadar should be facilitated with clean drinking water, hospitals, schools, technical colleges and centers for skilled persons, maritime university is also a need of time. They also require the technical training and scholarships in reputed educational institutions of other provinces of the country and in foreign countries. Backwardness of this deprived region should be removed by providing free education (Khosra, 2017).

Significance of CPEC in Gwadar discussed by the Babu Ghulab, the chairman of Gwadar City Council, "with assistance from the Chinese government and NGOs, the China Overseas Ports Holding Company (COPHS) Pakistan has sent over 100 young workers and students to China for professional training or scholarships. They also promoted to Pakistan-China Friendship School, annual scholarships to local youth to China's leading universities and preference to hire and train local staff over foreigners". The Pakistan-China Friendship School launched in 2016 with best facilities an infrastructure and attracted and enrolled 450 students although school has only a capacity of 150 students, but dedicated staff made the best of everything they have. Chinese investors also building the confidence of the people of Gwadar that youth of this city is an acid and having great responsibilities and liabilities to promote social and economic development to serve their city and country with honesty and by equipping themselves with modern techniques and Chinese are providing help and opportunities in this regard with the collaboration of Pakistan's Government (Iqbal, 2017).

Education reforms are required to improve the social and economic development so with our old system of education sustainable growth is not possible. CPEC facilitates residents of Gwadar in terms of employment and exchange. The newly established Joint Working Group (JWG) on socio-economic development given a task to identify and ensure the implementation of pilot projects in education by setting up smart schools and knowledge sharing in faculty development and make efforts to equip youth with vocational training and improve high education resources (Daud, 2019).

Pakistani technical staff, senior officials of government at all levels, universities and enterprises will also be strengthened by providing training in the field of transportation, energy, industry, and agriculture and learn from Chinese experience (Government of Pakistan Ministry of Planning, 2017). Strategic partnership between Pakistan and China in 2013 consists long term plan with time frame of (2014-2030), development of Gwadar port and make a bridge for transportation from Gwadar (southwestern Pakistan) to Xinjiang (northwestern China), short term plan consists completion of small projects by 2020 and mid-term plans will be completed by 2025. CPEC's construction effects on the social welfare of the people are living in the districts within CPEC's region and it has been observed that it reduced travel time, maternal health and enhance enrolment and attendance of students in schools situated within western route. Poor and unemployed stratum of Gwadar becoming skillful and full of potential by developing projects of CPEC which also providing employment and sustainable economic growth (Haq & Farooq, 2016).

Construction of roads to get the access of regional countries such as Afghanistan, Tajikistan, Iran, and China required to train the Pakistani labor force so that they can get the benefit by technical and vocational institutions. These institutes prepared them according to the standard of the upcoming projects under CPEC. Development of energy projects are need of time, these energies related projects produced energy through coal, hydro, and wind like 300MW imported coal-based power projects at Gwadar Pakistan created 4100 numbers of job opportunities. Skilled labor required for these projects like civil engineers to prime movers -operators and large number of Pakistani trained labor attracted by foreign investors and they got the opportunities and enhanced their abilities and concerned

trainings. Cultural and regional integration between Pakistan and China promoted tourism industry, student-teacher exchange program and trade promotion and establishment of Pakistan Academy of Social Sciences and China-Pakistan Consortium of Business Schools provided benefit to technical staff, professors, teachers, scholars, tourists, guides, investors, and trade promotion developers in all parts of Pakistan (Shahid, 2018).

Development in infrastructure enhances competence and productivity, as the regional infrastructure of Gwadar is improving and helping to increase the standard of living, reducing poverty among the deprived people. Pakistan is a developing country and China's investment is boosting up its economic position in the world market, social stability of poor people and resolving energy problems.

CPEC is game changer project which will change the fate of millions of Pakistani people who are striving to come out from poverty, internal and external challenges. CPEC embraces the construction of dams, installation of nuclear reactors, creating network of roads, railway lines which generate the employment and feeling of ownership of these projects by the people. Construction of well-equipped hospitals, water supply, energy sources and education system will improve the quality of life of the masses (Haq & Farooq 2016).

CPEC is the tremendous opportunity for both Pakistan and China they develop human resources by their collaboration by business schools and develop leaders, managers, and workers for CPEC projects and develop the young population to train them for new techniques and cross-cultural skills. According to Chinese Deputy Head of Mission Zhao Lijian, is a focal person on CPEC projects in Pakistan. In February 2016 both the countries had an agreement to establish, "The Pak-China Science, Technology, Commerce and Logistic Park" near Islamabad. To produce skilled workers in the country, The National Vocational and Technical Training Commission (NAVTTTC) is providing training in 38 CPEC-specific trades in 197 industries across Pakistan. To train the people of Gwadar for handling and operating machinery at the port Pakistani Government interested to establish a training institute named Pak-China Technical and Vocational Institute at Gwadar costing PKR 943 million. In August 2017, top business schools in China (8) and Pakistan (9) launched the CPEC Consortium supported by the Higher Education Commission (HEC) of Pakistan. This collaboration supports academic development and economic management to support CPEC. These business schools will provide the aid to their respective government, chamber of commerce by working together. Moreover, they will provide joint research training projects to promote business relations between Pakistan and China (Jawad, 2018).

Challenges to CPEC

District Gwadar is one of the most deprived regions of Pakistan faced poor health, infrastructure, weak education system and unemployment due to less opportunities of jobs and unskilled manpower but the foreign investment brought the changes in infrastructure, education system, job trainings, employment, energy, and industries (Baloch, 2015).

Regional Security

Regional security is the big issue for the smooth execution of CPEC. As Pakistan internally faced uprising of rebellions in Baluchistan which have been now under control in military forces (Ali, 2016). Sustainable security mechanism developed by Pakistan Government by arranging 10,000 security forces to protect people and projects of CPEC (Lin, 2017). Security threats from the international levels are raising due to the alliance of US-Japan-India and India-Soviet Union-US, CPEC became controversial between these rival camps of Pakistan. One of the doubts is also becoming strengthened that Gwadar will become a strategic naval base in a critical sea fare lane in the Gulf in the future (Ishrat, 2018).

Trust Deficit

Chinese investment and involvement in the region of Baluchistan leads to trust deficit that only Chinese will get the benefit through CPEC, and this may convert the local population into minority (Ali, 2016).

Political Issues

Political controversy is also a hindrance for the smooth function of CPEC in Pakistan. Political parties in Pakistan having a difference on CPEC's route selection, dividend, and allocation of funds for the projects of CPEC (Ali, 2016).

Natural and Geographical Deprivation

Natural and geographical factors are also a challenge for the smooth running of CPEC's projects because Indus River Valley of Pakistan is comparatively advanced economically with high population and limited resources while the western area is deprived and having harsh natural resources, so construction of cooperation's and infrastructure of project's management became costly (Government of Pakistan Ministry of Planning, 2017).

Improper Governance Mechanism

Sustainable socio-economic growth lacks due to poor energy supply, improper infrastructure and imbalance management and governance became a challenge for CPEC (Government of Pakistan Ministry of Planning, 2017). As new Hydel, renewable, coal-based energy projects are introduced which made the shrink in import of furnace oil and diesel. Well, define planning for the distribution of facilities like education, health, drinking water, vocational training is required for the communities living in the district Gwadar but for those as well who are living outside of the industrial zone in these districts. This type of careful planning for CPEC projects will be provided the benefits to the large segment of population of Pakistan (Ishrat, 2018).

Influence of Third Party

Third party factors are politician, business figures and media houses which are presenting negative image of CPEC inside and outside of the country. According to these third parties' Chinese investments will bring the imperialism by Chinese which leads to authoritarian force by them, and they will get complete takeover on Gwadar port. These kinds of negative thinking distract the internal and external investors in Pakistan and would be damage the smooth completion of CPEC. Moreover, inside the country, third party raise the issues of transparency of allocation of resources and their compliance, values, environmental and labor standards, debt and trade imbalance between Pakistan and China which is increasing the pressure on their cooperation (Muzammil, 2019).

Government of Pakistan minimizes the risk of these challenges by playing an active role in maximizing the benefits for people of district Gwadar. Through smooth functioning of CPEC projects like new network of roads connects the Gwadar city to the different parts of country which helps to provide the opportunity to open the national market of goods, fisheries, livestock, horticulture. This will create the income sources and jobs and lift them up from the graph of poverty (Ishrat, 2018). This research paper will fill the gaps through the lens of educational development and its impact on CPEC.

Discussion

The Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) on CPEC connects sixty countries. Both Pakistan and China want to achieve goals of policy coordination, connectivity, unimpeded trade, and people to people exchange through BRI. It is providing six economic corridors to China to connect the rest of the world, four land routes and two maritime corridors. This region is also providing important corridor for connection to Bangladesh-China-India-Myanmar (Ishrat, 2018).

Smooth functioning of CPEC requires full experts and high efficiency of Government, non-governmental organization, civil institutions between Pakistan and China. In this regard China is sharing its developmental experience with Pakistan and providing capital, technical and professional trainings to local Pakistani talent. Lack of understanding and knowledge is going to be resolve by people to people exchange between China and Pakistan for professional and technical trainings (Muzammil, 2019).

CPEC is also providing opportunities to Pakistan scientists to get the assistance of Chinese scientists to train and collaborate in the field of research, to regulate and exchange of programs and establishment of laboratories. This adaptation and diffusion of technologies will increase productivity in our various fields like health, agriculture and industry, biotechnology, ICT, clean energy, and genetics (Ishrat, 2018).

During the Round Table Conference, Dean Faculty, Sciences and Technology, Fatima Jinnah Women University Rawalpindi shed the light on special economic zone under the umbrella of CPEC which is converting realization to urbanization development in Pakistan. Planning Commission of Pakistan theorize to establish 27 Special Economic Zones across the country under the CPEC. One of them is Gwadar SEZ modeled by China which will provide massive number of employment opportunities, foreign exchange investment, urban and regional development through which revenue will be generated for government of Pakistan. It is also attracting the local and international investors exporters to configure their offshore business. This will improve export growth, skill up local labors for

international and local markets, train youth of this region for use and technology exchange and for management practices between China and Pakistan.

However, the success of economic zones should have proper framework and show all roles and responsibilities of government and non-government sectors so that it will bring the good results not for only the regional population but for the whole country (Rafique, 2017).

CPEC provides the chance to improve the institutions and the organizations of the Governance of the country from ministries to local agencies and their employees as well because they must do the completion, launching and the smooth running of the CPEC projects within given time frame with the collaboration of Chinese Government. That's why selection of people is on merit with technical and managerial competence for the planning, coordinating, regulating, and executing the CPEC projects (Ishrat, 2018).

Findings

It has been observed that a massive amount invested by China in Pakistan for the One Belt One Road, travelling time for trade route is lessen and connected to China to sixty other countries for import and export.

Gwadar sea port in Pakistan is not only beneficial for China but also created the jobs, import and export opportunities for local community and as well as whole country.

CPEC created opportunities for proper education, brought the improvement in technical and professional trainings and provided chance to people to get the training and education in China through offered and collaborated programs by Pakistan and China. CPEC is the nucleus for energy programs and many energy power plants launched by the investment of China under CPEC and are providing help to overcome on short fall of electricity, to improve the production of industries which were almost going too closed due to improper and short fall of electricity.

Education city is planned which professionally and technically designed for people of Gwadar to provide them standard and globally recognized education through trained and professional staff. Investment in education is bringing the change in social development like regularity and enrollment in school is in increased in Gwadar, maternal health is also be seen improved due to the shorten of distance in the region.

Development in infrastructure of city Gwadar brings- out the people from depression and deprived feelings. Jobs and training opportunities within their hometown make them comfortable and peaceful and is building their confidence and trust in Chinese investment that it is not only providing opportunities and benefits to them but the whole country is getting the chance for development.

Through a long-term plan of CPEC Pakistani outstanding students will be benefited and get the opportunity to get the training and higher education in Chinese universities and make cultural exchange. Research projects will be promoted through collaboration of both countries and motivate the research scholars in every field of life and provide the solutions and fill the gaps and bridging towards the solutions for problems. CPEC is making stronger relationship and love between two countries and as well as their people.

Conclusion

This study viewed different aspects of CPEC that how it will provide the benefit to both the countries and the people of Pakistan and China. Baloch community is going to be satisfied by availing the opportunities of education, training of technical and vocational trade also bridging the gap between unskilled manpower and employment. Huge investment of China in Pakistan for different projects of CPEC will bring the social change, enhance the thinking ability, skills of Pakistani youth. Trained youth will be prepared according to the standard of the local and global market. Government of Pakistan should take measure initiatives to overcome the challenges faced by the people and smooth functioning of CPEC. Proper allocation of revenue is required which will be generated by the CPEC. This collaboration will bring the culture exchange, people to people exchange which is beneficial for learning to others experiences and will make confident to the students who are getting the scholarship opportunities in Chinese Universities. Energy short fall will be lessening due to the different energy production projects not only in the Gwadar but all over the country. Industries smooth running is supported by these renewable energy programs. Most deprived region of Baluchistan, Gwadar is going to be connected to the large cities of Pakistan and this will promote internal market investors and transportation becomes easier and shorten due to the network of roads and railway lines. CPEC is the center and heart of the port to promote the development of Gwadar region and the whole country,

but education opportunities need more planning to develop the youth of Gwadar and Baluchistan. Projects under the CPEC will be the bright future of Pakistan.

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