
EXPLORING RELATIONS MEDIA AGENDA ON CHINA PAKISTAN ECONOMIC CORRIDOR IN GILGIT- BALTISTAN

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ABSTRACT

The rapid progress of China and its role in the international market give unique status to the country in the international market. China wants to maintain this status, for this purpose the country initiated OBOR, this project is one of the big projects of the modern era. The main theme of framing is to draw attention to certain news or object. The findings of this study agreed with the findings of Yousaf and Ahmad (2018), which the Leading press of both countries framing positively about the news stories of CPEC. Gilgit-Baltistan has some concerns about CPEC. It is needed to resolve these reservations.

KEYWORDS

CPEC, Gilgit-Baltistan, Media Agenda on CPEC.

1. INTRODUCTION

The main aim of the CPEC project according to China is to boost up its trade and economy. But it will also give leading status to China because China has more investment shares in this project as compared to other countries, which are participating in outstanding belt projects of China. The percentage of export in China is also higher than in other participating countries. To complete the vision of growth and healthy his country, the president of China Mr. Xi Jinping inaugurated the plan Belt and Road project in the year 2012. It consists of linkages to link continents with one another to increase the trade of China in the whole world. The project of OBOR consist of many corridors, China Pakistan Economic Corridor is one of them. CPEC has a unique identity from all other corridors of the Belt and Road project of China and the success of this corridor will positively affect the progress of the grand OBOR project. It will be expected that OBOR project of China will carry prosperity in the whole world and especially in those countries who are participants of

this project. Pakistan is one of those countries because China Pakistan Economic Corridor will link China with gulf countries through Pakistan. According to China and government officials of Pakistan, this project will Change fortune in Pakistan, this corridor will be a game-changer for both Pakistan and China it will stable Pakistan and help the county to overcome their problems.

Having so many advantages it may be possible that the project has some negative aspects. According to some economists, this project will create many problems for the Pakistani economy because the economy of Pakistan is weak and it is not possible for Pakistan to implement on China Pakistan Economic Corridor, for implementation of this project huge amount of budget is required. The local industry of Pakistan will also face many problems when Chines products will easily be available in the market at cheap rates. A large amount of transportation and the establishment of industries will badly pollute the clean environment of Pakistan and especially the environment of Gilgit-Baltistan. People who connect among different ethnic groups will also defect to the unique culture and norms of the region.

2. CPEC

The project CPEC is Chin's vision to boost up its economy this project is part of OBOR the huge project of China. China Pakistan Economic Corridor starts from Xingjian region of China and ends at the port of Gawadar. The basic aim of the state of China for the construction of this project is to get access to Gulf countries through a safe and secure route for trade.

CPEC is fruitful for Pakistan and this project will provide many chances for the country to develop its energy sector, the energy project of CPEC is beneficial for the economy of Pakistan but according to the environmental viewpoint, these project will increase the ratio of emission of carbon (Carley, Tara, & Xiaoguan, 2018). There are many projects of investment and trade. These deals will lead to prosperity in both China and Pakistan (Khan, 2016).

There is a 3000 km long network of roads, gas pipelines, railway tracks, and dozens of energy projects under CPEC. These initiatives of China will help Pakistan to boost up its economy and in the future, Pakistan will be the hub of trade. It is ensured that CPEC is not planned against any country or region, it is a project to help Pakistan to overcome its difficulties. Baluchistan of Pakistan and western regions of China will also flourish due to the China Pakistan Economic Corridor (S. R. Hussain, 2018). The collective vision of Pakistan and China is not only a one project road but it is combinations of energy projects, roads, railway tracks, and Gwadar port. CPEC will enhance the GDP of Pakistan, help the country to control the energy crisis, and develop its infrastructure. It is expected that CPEC will modify the fate of Pakistan (Ahmed & Fatima, 2015).

There are several experts in any field in both Pakistan and China, however, it is a need to train these experts for CPEC. It is necessary to develop a platform to give chance for the exchange of expertise and students. CPEC will help to boost up research to design and examine trade policies. These deals will also bring both countries near to each other, for a gain of prosperity both nations should give special attention to make institutional cooperation and people to people contact. For people, to people contact the government of Pakistan should launch institutions of Chinese language center with the help of China (Khan, 2016).

To make the vision of CPEC factual educational, scientific, and people exchange are necessary. Some militant tries to undermine the project but Pakistan government are taking steps to control this problem. The educational exchange like an exchange of knowledge of youth of both nations will be helpful to know about the cultural values of each other. Smuggling is also one challenge for both countries and this project so Pakistan should make laws and struggle to implement these laws which will help to attract the Chinese toward investment (Sheer, Shouping, Sidra, & Sharif, 2018). The CPEC project can provide opportunities to the educated and skilled youth of Pakistan. To gain benefit from these opportunities planning and unity are mandatory. At the government level, the government should establish institutions where youth will be trained for more and more gain from these opportunities. Indeed, youth is like the engine in the development of the economy of any nation (Yaseen, Afridi, & Muzaffar, 2017). Coordination, connectivity, trade, communication, and facilitation are the main goals of OBOR. This plan wills able China to expand its system of trade and relations with other countries of the world. And also helps China to get raw material for economic growth (George & Catalin, 2018).

3. BENEFITS OF CPEC TO PAKISTAN

The corridor project of CPEC is an opportunity for Pakistan to refresh its economy, mainly with the help of energy projects and connectivity schemes of CPEC. It will increase job opportunities, support to eradicate poverty, and maintain peace by engaging Pakistani youth in fruitful activities. All these activities enhance the GDP of Pakistan (Esteban, 2016). Chinese investment in different projects of CPEC is a Chinese plan to contribute life to the economy of Pakistan. CPEC is part of OBOR project and the success of OBOR will give a positive message to the other neighboring countries of China. The failure of OBOR will also affect the huge project of OBOR. It is a reality that China will get more benefits from OBOR. Stable Pakistan is the need for the success of CPEC and the stability of Pakistan depends on energy projects under CPEC. After the completion of these energy projects, the economy of Pakistan will be strong (Vats, 2016).

CPEC will give chance to Pakistan for development and this project will be a fate changer for the region and especially Pakistan (Qazi, 2016). In a public talk, Mr. Khalid Mahmood Ambassador of Pakistan to China said that CPEC is a favorable point for all administrated areas of Pakistan. It will build and give advancement to Sind province because Sind has ports and a business community. CPEC is beneficial for both Pakistan and China. Both countries are taking good steps for the success of this project. CPEC will positively impact the economy and logistic system of Pakistan. The country will also gain global attention through CPEC (M. Hussain, Ilyas, Mahmood, & Awais, 2017). Pakistan will develop its infrastructure and energy sector through China Pakistan Economic Corridor. It will also support Pakistan to soothe the agriculture sector. There are some negative aspects of China Pakistan Economic Corridor but this initiative will be a fate changer for Pakistan in the future. It will carry prosperity and peace in Pakistan and the whole of South Asia. The ratio of poverty will be decreased and it can be expected that in the future it will completely bring revolutions in the economy of Pakistan (Hadi, Batool, & Mustafa, 2017).

Infrastructure and energy projects play a pivotal role in the development of industry, there are many projects of infrastructure and energy in CPEC, which will help Pakistan to boost up its economy (Bahoo, Saeed, Iqbal, & Nawaz, 2018). CPEC will provide the ability to enhance investment and urbanization in South Asia. It will give job opportunities to natives of the least

developed areas of Pakistan and China. Social and cultural aspects will also pave and flourish due to this project.

Local stakeholder will involve in the projects which are part of CPEC. This involvement will reduce unemployment, especially in Balochistan and KPK. As a result, if CPEC will complete with its real position it is expected that extremism will root out from society but it's depended on government policies and involvement of local people. Completion of CPEC is beneficial for all countries in the region. CPEC will play a leading role by connecting regions and boost cooperation. Regional economic integration and good infrastructure are necessary for each other. CPEC will play a role as a modifier for the Pakistani economy because the good infrastructure of CPEC will enhance regional economic integrations. Political stability is also requiring the achievement of CPEC (Ayza Shoukat, Ahmad, & Abdullah, 2016).

The principal gain which Pakistan wants from CPEC is economic development. The joint initiative of China and Pakistan is to develop the Gawadar Port for International trade. These types of projects are important for weak economic countries to develop their economy and infrastructure. There are three major areas of the project, which are transportation, energy, and infrastructure. For the success of these projects, it should be necessary to keep far away from the project from political and bureaucratic games (Tehsin, Khan, & Sargana, 2017).

CPEC will completely change the future and geographical location of Pakistan into an asset. Transparency is mandatory for the good performance of CPEC. This project will support to counter Indian and American created challenges in the region (Khundi, 2017). The locations of Pakistan with sea given a unique position to Pakistan. This position gives the prospect for Pakistan to build up its economy. The port of Gawadar is a transit point that will help Pakistan to operate its position to strengthen its economy to stand on its own feet without the help of its allies countries. This project is not only gainful to China and Pakistan but it also brings prosperity and integration to the region. China will get a safe and short route in form of CPEC for trade. The Pakistan state will strengthen its position and control the influence of India in the region with the help of CPEC. Pakistan will be like a juncture to connect Eurasian and South Asian countries. CPEC will be the foundation of progress for least develops regions of Pakistan (Hamid, Khan, Khaliq, & Ajmal, 2017).

CPEC will offer a digital connectivity system which will be a good opportunity for Pakistan to improve its communication system. China will also help the Pakistani service system by linking Pakistan with strong economic and technological countries. The government of Pakistan will improve technology with the help of fiber connectivity, this connectivity is favorable to reduce concerns of Balochistan and make good relation with neighboring countries (Latif, Jianqiu, Ullah, Pathan, & Latif, 2017). The scheme is not highly affecting the tourism industry of those countries that have well and advance infrastructure. The region where infrastructure is not goodwill enjoys more benefits from the OBOR because it will give well infrastructure to these regions especially African and south Asian countries (Patrick, 2019). Tourism with the assistance of CPEC will promote people-to-people contacts, however, like other areas, there are no good attention that will be given to the tourism sector. Special attention is need for this sector (Khan, 2016).

4. BENEFITS OF CPEC TO CHINA

CPEC is in a stage of advanced development. It is a bilateral agreement. The endpoint of CPEC is Gawadar port. This port is important for China to boost up its economy and access to the Persian Gulf (Fulton, 2016). Through the port of Gawadar China will handle challenges which the country faces in sea trade (Alam, Li, & Baig, 2019).

The project of CPEC is fruitful for both the friends' countries Pakistan and China. Pakistan will overcome its energy and economic crisis with the assistance of the CPEC. China will expand its influence and get a safe route of supply from the project. Pakistan is one of the countries that get benefits from CPEC, so Pakistan should focus on more economic gain and not waste its precious time on useless issues (Ramay, 2016). CPEC is not only safe and secure but also will save money and time for China for trade. This is an alternative route for China to connect itself with a deep seaport through roads and railway. It helps Pakistan to give development to its infrastructure. It is expected that China will keep 71 billion dollars with the help of the CPEC route because this route is a short route for trade (Alam et al., 2019). CPEC will offer a shorter route to China for trade which is safe and secure for trade. However, there are many challenges to CPEC, the success of CPEC is depend on a secure and stable environment in Pakistan (Ahmed & Fatima, 2015).

When CPEC will complete, it will reduce transportation time for the trade. Approximately three days will be required for containers of China to reach the Arabian Sea. For the import of oil from the Middle East, China will not use the South China Sea because CPEC will save time and money for China (Muhammad Akram, 2018). CPEC is an important project because the route of CPEC was a historical route, which was playing the role of connector among China and Asian countries. The motive of China is to promote economic progress, social harmony, and happiness to the people of China, for this purpose China initiate OBOR initiative (Iftikhar & Ahmad, 2018).

This project is important for China because it has strategic and long-term advantages for China to access the world market (Sahai, 2018). And enhance regional connectivity. Without advanced infrastructure development is not possible. The sustainable development of Pakistan is achievable by a strong logistic system. For achieving good results from CPEC both Pakistan and China should develop infrastructure and logistic system (Shapiee & Idrees, 2017). CPEC will support short the distance of transportation and help China to play the role of major export-import facilitator (Hali, 2016). As a world-leading economy, the export ratio of China is high, the CPEC will be a plus point for import-export of China. The project will help China to save a lot amount of shipping costs and time. China can also get the raw material through this route easily. CPEC is beneficial for both countries so both countries should encourage neighbor nations to take part in this project for more benefits (Ameen & Kamran, 2017).

5. CPEC AND CHALLENGES

The flourish of China is not kind because it will create power unbalance or form a different block in the region (Grauwe, 2017). And CPEC is an initiative of China to get a dominant position in South Asia, there is no wrong that China will get more benefits from this project as compared to Pakistan. One of the general objections one CPEC is the non-availability of clear Knowledge and lack of transparency. The contracts and terms of the government of Pakistan with Chines companies are not formal and clear and in the future, it will be a burden for the economy of

Pakistan. It is needed to address these issues for the success of this project (D. I. Hussain, 2018). CPEC and Port of Gawadar will enhance the security challenges and responsibilities of Pakistan in the Sea.

CPEC is a dream and this dream will become true by harmony and political stability. There are many challenges of security for CPEC, India, and the United States is also against this project. A serious step must be taken to control these threats for the achievement of CPEC (Ayza Shoukat et al., 2016). Law and order situation in Pakistan is not good which challenge is also for CPEC. Pakistan is not capable to control the challenge so China should play their role, China also has facing bad security challenges in the Xingjian region. Heavy deployments of security forces are required for peace (Sahai, 2018). India could alliance with terrorists and enemy states of Pakistan. This may undermine the project. CPEC will develop infrastructure and high economic growth, but the success of this project depends on good relations with India and peace in Pakistan (Iqbal, 2017). Security is necessary to get the confidence of China. The primary problem in way of CPEC is the bad law and order situation in Pakistan. Anti-state elements in Pakistan already attacked workers of China and kidnapped workers to create fear. If this project will complete it will give benefits to Pakistan. The economy of Pakistan will strong which will bring stability in Pakistan (Markey & James, 2016).

Gawadar port and CPEC both projects are essential for the economic, strategic, and energy sectors of both countries. Good security should be a need for the function of Gawadar port so it is necessary to root out extremism from Balochistan. China wants to develop its backward region Xinjiang and get access to warm water for trade. Both countries should cooperate to ensure security for the huge project CPEC (Rafi, Khan, & Aslam, 2016). Traditional and new challenges to Gawadar port and CPEC stress Pakistan to enhance its navy role in the ocean. It is necessary to establish a naval unite to give security to the Port of Gawadar and CPEC. For this purpose, cooperation between both nations is necessary. Pakistan should use CPEC to overcome poverty in the country and make CPEC a platform for other nations.

India has many concerns about CPEC, and India wants to counter CPEC. By realizing Indian intentions China is building Gawadar port which will help the Chines navy's presence in the region. The presence of the Chines navy is not good for India. Gawadar port has geostrategic significance so India tries to use Chabahar port against it (Muhammad Akram, 2018). India has unwillingness and far itself from the improvement initiative of OBOR of China, the causes of these steps of India are misunderstanding and mistrust. India wishes to make good relations with China and other regional countries only in that situation when India seeks its interest. The dark picture of China in the vision of India will not easily change. Growing defense and trade relations of China with South Asian countries created grievance for India. The peaceful policy of Pakistan offers India to join CPEC but India lost this offer of Pakistan (Iqbal, 2017). India is a big challenge for OBOR project because India is against the CPEC project, China realized that India will not change its stand about this project so now China struggles to satisfy India. Legal and technical support from China is helping China to strengthen its stand in those countries that are joining OBOR.

CPEC is a public-private partnership type project. It is history that public-private partnership projects are not completed in Pakistan. The Pakistani government should learn a lesson from the past and address those factors which are a hurdle in way of these projects. Well, design contract management and transparency are a requirement for the completion of this project (Ahmed &

Fatima, 2015). CPEC is a joint project of countries, the project needs consultation and cooperation with a clear policy. It is not easy for both countries to root out challenges rapidly, China and Pakistan can solve problems by joint working groups. By multi-lateral operations among several states, the energy sector will be regulated (Yunjiao & Guowei, 2015). The Pakistani government should take up all terms and conditions with China with transparency and negotiation. If Pakistan continuously depends on China it is a negative point (D. I. Hussain, 2018). Admirable security is necessary for the success of CPEC. The bad law and order situation in the region is a challenge for CPEC. Good security help in the success of this corridor (Bahoo et al., 2018). All issues of terrorism and politics should be addressed for the success of this project.

This project is a combination of many civilizations. The mixture of these cultures will not represent any ideology or society, so this situation brings violence in societies and cultures. To get a huge belt of economy China needs a civilization belt, China should do all possible steps to enhance the identity of different countries for integration, which will also ensure these countries that they will get benefit from OBOR. The difference between culture and ethic of nations, corruption, and bad political situation in Pakistan is also some challenges for CPEC. It is a need to understand and grab these challenges (M. Hussain et al., 2017).

China supports the counter-terrorism activities of Pakistan to keep secure its Xinjiang region and investment in Pakistan (Kabiraji, 2012). Because external forces like the Islamic movement in China and some extremists in Pakistan are a threat to CPEC. Both countries should execute a multi-dimensional approach to eliminate these elements (Khundi, 2017). In the future, the Indian Ocean will be a battle-field for a new great game. Gawadar will play a vital role in this purpose. Gawadar Port is not only used for economic purposes but it will be used for naval purposes. The port will give long term security to China. The port will also provide regional connectivity among China, Afghanistan, and other regional countries to expand their trade (Malik, 2016).

China is the neighbor country of Pakistan. Pakistan mostly exports intermediate goods and raw materials to China. Pakistan is failed to enhance export. Over tax system and value of a currency is also a factor that declines export. Well, infrastructure, investment, and skillful personnel are also need to enhance export (Abbas & Ali, 2018). The USA, EU, and UAE are invested in the private sector of Pakistan but China does not do that because it invests in those areas where state interest is possible (Kabiraji, 2012). China and Pakistan are enjoying good relations but bad security is a negative factor. The rise up of China as a strong economy also raises questions about Pakistani interest. China should also invest in Pakistan to enhance the export ratio of Pakistan, which will help to control the imbalance of trade (Sultan, 2013). Those countries who are participating in this huge project want to receive loans from China to build up their infrastructure, which will become a challenge for those countries. China takes over the port of Srilanka due to not refund of loan, which is not a good example for participant nations of OBOR (Patrick, 2019). Due to the imbalance of the economy, there are many issues. The economic connection will use to overcome these conflicts and challenges in the region (Chhetri, 2015).

Due to huge transportation and energy projects, a large amount of emission of carbon dioxide will affect the clean environment of the region. China can control the issue, other countries must also get access to these mechanisms (Carley et al., 2018). This project will run out of the local business. So it needs time that Pakistan should check that if the project of CPEC will bring prosperity to

Pakistan. Pakistan should also make good relations with other countries of the region to enhance its export. However, this project will bring social development (Shapiee & Idrees, 2017).

It is possible that it would only be logical to expect that the international situation and the international conflicts among big powers will accelerate as compare to slow down, in this situation, there are challenges to CPEC in Pakistan. These threats will undermine the common struggle of Pakistan and China for development especially affect the China-Pakistan economic corridor. India is against CPEC in that situation it is up to the state of India that if the country wants to become part of the common efforts of Pakistan and China to stable Asia or not change its attitude and become itself isolated. It is a fact that China, India, and Pakistan are the big powers of Asia and if they make good relations they will play a good role in Asia by bringing peace and prosperity to the region. There are external and internal challenges to CPEC which will create problems in way of completion of this project. It is necessary to root out this project. The Xingjian region of China and Balochistan and KPK of China are some areas where the law and order situation is not good it is need of time to settle this issue in these areas. These challenges can be overcome by joint efforts that will ensure the security of South Asia.

6. CPEC WILL BRING HARMONY AMONG THE REGIONAL STATES

In past, the relation between Pakistan and China are based on politics and diplomacy now these relations are extended to an economical basis. Both countries have many bilateral agreements of the economy. CPEC is one of them, there are many projects of energy, infrastructure, and industry under the agreement of CPEC. Now both friend countries are entered a new phase of cooperation where they cooperated on issues of separation, terrorism, and extremism. This cooperation is in the interest of both countries (Yaseen et al., 2017).

Pakistan and China make strong relations for a long time. Changes in the regional and global environment will expand globalization. CPEC will play a vital role to strengthen the relationship between Pakistan and China. Economic and political relations will also strong with CPEC (M. Hussain et al., 2017). At the same time, the relations between China and Pakistan are complicated and simple. Pakistan is the first non-communist country who recognized China first. Every need of time China supports Pakistan, CPEC is the initiative of China which is a good chance for Pakistan to progress (D. I. Hussain, 2018).

Completion of CPEC and Gawadar port is a source of development for South Asia. The project will also be a source of cooperation among Pakistan, India, and South Asian countries. CPEC is going to come in truth, Pakistan should ensure the security of this project. The benefits of CPEC are not limited to Pakistan and China but it will bring prosperity to other countries of the region (Khan, 2016). Other countries of the region like Turkey will also gain benefits from the project. Turkey may be part of the project. By joining the CPEC project turkey will also get the benefit for the CPEC, however, it needs to discuss more and more about both BRI and CPEC in-country for awareness (Beşer, 2019).

To expand CPEC, it is necessary that Iran, Afghanistan, and India also join it. If these countries will join the project, trade connectivity and diplomatic changes will come to the region. Gawadar and Chabahar port connectivity are beneficial for both Iran and Pakistan (S. R. Hussain, 2018). CPEC will enhance opportunities between Iran and Pakistan to increase their trade. The state of

Pakistan should offer Iran to come to be part of CPEC because it will support reducing Indian influence in the region. Joining Iran will help to direct link among Pakistan, Iran, and China (Khan, 2016).

China is invested in Pakistan and central Asian countries which are good for peace in Afghanistan. The project will reduce misunderstanding and bring people near to each other's, in the future America and India may also join the project (Saad, 2018). CPEC will also expand trade relations between Pakistan and Afghanistan, this relation will bring job opportunities and revenue. CPEC will fulfill the energy requirement of Pakistan and meet the demands of fossil fuel in China. To achieve maximum gain from the project Pakistan should address all political issues, make the country stable, and bring peace in-country (Hali, 2016). To play a role as a powerful country and enhance global responsibilities, China is facing many challenges. The traditional policy of non-involvement of China is also a hurdle in this way. Afghanistan conflict is an example of this, China wishes to play role in Afghanistan but due to its limited policy, China cannot play a role. This position of China earns just criticism (Mordechai Chaziza, 2018).

The presence of China in the region with the help of the economic corridor project will help to settle geopolitical issues. Disputes between India and Pakistan, law and order position in Afghanistan are the negative point. Good geopolitics is need for geo-economic gain. This is pivotal to Pakistan, India, and Afghanistan to reduce these tensions for economic gain. All three states can get benefits through multilateral and bilateral linkages (Siddiqi, 2018). CPEC is positively affected by the stock exchange of Pakistan. This project will also impact the assets of companies in Pakistan. These positive effects will enhance multilateral and bilateral agreements.

CPEC can lead to a shift of power from Islamabad to Beijing. CPEC will help to promote investments in China in Pakistan. It will provide an opportunity for Pakistan to make itself free from American Financial assistant. Investment in China will be a fate changer for the Pakistani economy. The project will strengthen the Pakistani viewpoint about the Kashmir dispute and promote a favorable atmosphere against cross border terrorism. For the last many decades, the political situation of South Asia is not admirable. But the Belt and Road project will bring revolution and liberalism to the region by promoting economical harmony. China is trying to overcome Indian concerns with the expectation that in the coming days India will review its policies. These commitments will help to resolve big disputes in the region like the Kashmir issue between Pakistan and India (Khurram, 2018). And also support the development of trade by connecting cities of Asia and Europe. These cities will become hubs for producing services and goods (Yousaf, Ahmad, & Faiz, 2018). The project of CPEC is a good example of cooperation. This project is a good opportunity for cooperation. It is a good opportunity for the Asian and Western markets. This project is like a bridge for connectivity.

7. GB AND CPEC

In Pakistan, CPEC starts from Gilgit-Baltistan and ends at the port of Gawadar. Both the starting and ending points of CPEC in Pakistan are backward regions of the country. Gilgit-Baltistan is neither state nor the legal region of Pakistan, this Area is a disputed area between Pakistan and India. Due to undecided constitutional status, the people of Gilgit-Baltistan have many concerns. Poverty, unemployment, lack of industry, and opportunities along with the illegal legitimate status of Gilgit-Baltistan are some issues of natives of Gilgit-Baltistan. People of GB are hopeful that

CPEC will give international representation to the region, which will help to resolve the legal status of GB. CPEC is a combination of plans of infrastructural and energy, which will help to overcome poverty and other issues of GB. Tourism is one of the big industries of income generation in Gilgit-Baltistan, CPEC will provide a good logistic system which defiantly affects the tourism industry and it will flourish.

The study of AKRSP 2017 about CPEC in GB results says that Under CPEC till now there is no any project of development in GB but the people are hopeful regarding CPEC because in future due to this project region will be attractive and several projects will be starting here. GB has no proper representation local government should try its best to attract investment and make a law to secure the interest of GB (AKRSP, 2017). CPEC will join the region of Xinjiang with Pakistan through GB. After completing this project will give support to Pakistan. Karakorum Highway will be played as a route of transit of products of Pakistan and China (Sering, 2012). It is a broader initiative for integration and cooperation in the form of corridors. One big concern of India on OBOR is that CPEC is cross through the area of Gilgit-Baltistan. The GB is a disputed area between Pakistan and India. OBOR initiative can carry many changes to the transportation system of Asia and the Eurasian region. China also opens a bus service from Xinjiang to Gilgit to increase trade with Pakistan. China tries to resolve border issues with India for the development of trade (Chhetri, 2015).

8. RATIONALE FOR SELECTION OF GILGIT-BALTISTAN PUBLIC AND PRESS

The grand plan of "One Belt and One Road", launched by China to join itself with its neighbors in Asia, and further than, 60 more countries are involving in this project. CPEC is a portion of this plan. GB is playing important role in this project. The purpose of the selection of Gilgit-Baltistan for this study is that Gilgit-Baltistan is the door of CPEC. The public of GB have also many expectations from this project. Local newspapers are a basic way of communication and information. Newspapers play a vital role in making the agenda of the public in GB, CPEC is also the hot burning topic of the local press of Gilgit-Baltistan.

Establishment, economists, media, and political leaders all are agreed that CPEC will be a fortune changer, they all think that this project is a good opportunity for Pakistan to stabilize its economy. This project wills strong relations between Pakistan and China (Ashraf, 2016). The economy, government of the state, choice of people, and media play a vital role in shaping the agenda of people. Overall performance of mass media was significant during the flood of in Pakistan in 2014. People consider television a more informative source as compare to other mass media. Daily Ausaf and Daily K2 are prominent newspapers of GB, and these two newspapers are selected for the content analysis of this study.

8.1. Daily Ausaf

Daily Ausaf is a national and international Urdu daily the newspaper is circulated and published at a similar time from Multan, Lahore, Islamabad, Gilgit, Muzaffarabad, London, and Frankfurt. Mr. Mehtab Khan is chief editor and Mohsin Bilal Khan is Editor of Ausaf. Daily Ausaf is the leading newspaper of Pakistan. In 2010 Ausaf group published Daily Ausaf from Gilgit-Baltistan, today Ausaf is one of the leading Newspapers of GB.

8.2. Daily K2

Daily K2 GB is one of the leading dailies of GB, from the last 19 years this Newspaper has been regularly published from Gilgit. Today K2 is the most circulated and biggest Newspaper of Gilgit-Baltistan. The majority of the population of Gilgit-Baltistan start their morning by reading Daily K2. It is an honor of Daily K2 for being the first daily Newspaper of GB. On the internet E-version of this Newspaper is also available. Daily K2 group also publishing the first daily English Newspaper of GB Daily "Wadi" from Gilgit-Baltistan. As a famous Newspaper of the region K2 plays a vital role in the building of the agenda of the local people of GB.

9. OBJECTIVES

The objectives of this study were the following:

1. To explore the agenda of print media of Gilgit-Baltistan regarding China Pakistan Economic Corridor.
2. To explore public agenda regarding the corridor project.
3. To investigate the coverage, amount, and nature which the selected media of GB given to CPEC.

10. AGENDA SETTING THEORY

Agenda setting theory is a famous theory of social science. According to this theory, media is powerful and can change the thinking of people. Media gives importance to certain topic and issues even these issues are not important and at last people are thinking about that issue which media highlighted. If some news is covered by media again and again at last the audience thinks that this is the leading information of that day. Media play a vital role to capture an image in the mind of humans about any event but Walter Lippmann did not use the world agenda setting in his book. Macomb's and Shaw (1972) were studying on American presidential election in Chapel Hill. In that study, they compared the opinion of the public of Chapel Hill with the hot burning news of media. After research, they realized that what has been showing us a most important issue by media at the time of the general election was also the most important issue of the general public. This study was published in 1972 and get unique status in mass media. Since the publication of this study till now 400 studies have been done on the agenda-setting concept of media Littlejohn & Foss (2009) stated that Agenda-setting theory expands the link in terms of associations between the reaction of audiences about a specific issue which the media put and give importance. My contribution to the agenda-setting theory Anderson (2000) said that the advanced media is more powerful in way of the distribution of information which set the identified agenda.

11. FRAMING THEORY

The idea of framing is associated with agenda-setting tradition but amplifies the concept of the idea of agenda-setting theory. Todd Gitlin (1960) was among the first persons who explored the concept of framing in his analysis of how the students were underestimated by new media. Goffman (1974) stated that there are two divisions which are natural and social distinction to play a vital role in the understanding of data. Thus, the main theme of framing is to draw attention to certain news or object Thus, the idea of framing means to "draw attention to certain attributes of the objects.

Tuchman (1978) stated that like other things any content/information also in need has structure. In media, every content which a media received needs structure so the media give structure to it. The foundation of framing theory is that the media emphasizes attention on certain happenings and then places them inside an arena of meaning. According to this concept, media give a specific perspective to any event or problem with a specific meaning which the media define. Media can change the basic theme of any event according to their agenda, in this theory audiences are showed as a passive audience. This theory is one of the most important concepts of mass media and it shows the power of media organization and the ability of media to frame any news according to their will and wish. Framing is just like structure; it means that how media give structure to any topic.

12. RESEARCH QUESTIONS

RQ1: To what extent selected newspapers of Gilgit-Baltistan gave coverage to CPEC?

RQ2: Do the selected print media agenda differ from the public agenda of Gilgit-Baltistan?

13. ANALYSIS OF CONTENT ANALYSIS DATA

In this study, two leading newspapers of Gilgit-Baltistan were selected for content analysis to explore media agenda regarding CPEC for six months from 16 September 2018 to 15 March 2019. The type of news stories was categorized into news column and editorial and measures in terms of the positive and negative frame. The results of the content analysis have been represented in the following paragraphs.

Table 1. Overall Coverage of Selected Newspapers

Overall coverage of Selected Newspapers			Daily Ausaf	Daily K2	
Type of Story	Hard News	Count	34	56	90
		% of Total	31.4%	53.3%	85%
	Column	Count	6	4	10
		% of Total	5.7%	3.8%	9.5%
	Editorial	Count	5	1	6
		% of Total	4.8%	1.0%	5.5%
Total		Count	44	61	106
		% of Total	41.9%	58.1%	100.0%

The table showed the allover coverage of selected newspapers. The daily "Ausaf" GB printed 44 stories (41.5 %) and daily 'K2" GB published 62 stories (58.5 %) The total collective of stories was 106. Out of 106 news stories 90 (85%) were hard News, the number of columns is 10 (9.5%) coverage and the number of editorials is 6 (5.5%). So the news was given the highest coverage types of the stories.

Table 2. Overall coverage per type of Length of Story

Overall Coverage per Type of Story			Newspaper		Total
			Daily Ausaf	Daily K2	
Length of Story	One Column	Count	5	11	16
		% of Total	4.7%	10.4%	15.1%
	Two Columns	Count	20	20	40
		% of Total	18.9%	18.9%	37.7%
	Three Columns	Count	9	27	36
		% of Total	8.5%	25.5%	34.0%
	Four Columns	Count	9	3	12
		% of Total	8.5%	2.8%	11.3%
	Five Columns	Count	1	1	2
		% of Total	0.9%	0.9%	1.9%
Total		Count	44	62	106
		% of Total	41.5%	58.5%	100.0%

The length of the story is measured based on the number of columns on each news story. Out of 106 news stories, 16 (15.1%) are published with one column, 40 (37.7%) news stories with two columns, 36 (34%), news stories are with three columns, the number of four-column stories is 12 (11.3%) and 2 (1.9%) are five column news stories.

Table 3. Overall coverage per frames of the story

			Newspaper		Total
			Daily Ausaf	Daily K2	
Frames Used in the Stories	Positive Frames	Count	30	51	81
		% of Total	28.3%	48.1%	76.4%
	Negative Frames	Count	14	11	25
		% of Total	13.2%	10.4%	23.6%
Total		Count	44	62	106
		% of Total	41.5%	58.5%	100.0%

Table elaborating the frame which the selected newspapers used in the total number of 106 news stories. The daily Ausaf published a total number of 44 (41.5%) from them 30 (28.2%) are positive and 14 (13.2%) are negative frames news stories. The daily K2 published a total number of 62 news stories from the 51 (48.1%) are positive and 11 (10.4%) news stories are negative frame. Overall 81 news stories are with positive frames and 25 news stories are with negative frames.

Table 4. Overall coverage per placement of the story

Overall Coverage per Placement of Story			Newspaper		Total
			Daily Ausaf	Daily K2	
Placement of the story	Front Page	Count	20	30	50
		% of Total	19.0%	28.6%	47.6%
	Back Page	Count	13	26	39
		% of Total	12.4%	24.8%	37.1%
	Editorial Page	Count	11	5	16
		% of Total	10.5%	4.8%	15.2%
Total		Count	44	61	105
		% of Total	41.9%	58.1%	100.0%

There are 106 stories were published in selected newspapers in six months about CPEC. From these 106 stories 50 (47.6%) were published on the front page. The numbers of stories published on back pages are 39 (37.1%) and on the editorial page, only 16 (15.2%) stories were published.

14. COMPARISON OF AGENDA OF LOCAL PRESS AND PUBLIC

Table 5. Comparison of Media agenda and Public agenda.

Media Agenda			Public Agenda		
No.	Topic	Opinion	No.	Topic	Opinion
1	Economic Development (job, trade industry, and local industry)	34%	1	Peace & Security	12.66%
2	Infrastructure Development (educational health and economic zone)	12.3%	2	Economic Development	12.37%
3	Pak China relation and international harmony	12.3%	3	Pak China relation and international harmony	12.29%
4	There are serious challenges to CPEC	10.4%	4	There are serious challenges to CPEC	11.63%
5	Equal share to all provinces and regions	8.5%	5	Infrastructure Development (educational health and economic zone)	11.27%
6	Govt. is planning to Review the CPEC agreements	6.6%	6	Equal share to all provinces and regions	11%
7	Peace & Security	5.7%	7	Social Development	10.83%
8	Gilgit Baltistan is being Neglected and Progress on CPEC is slow	5.7%	8	Govt. is planning to Review the CPEC agreements	9.66%
9	Social Development	4.7%	9	Gilgit Baltistan is being Neglected and Progress on CPEC is slow	8.2%

Table 4.7: showed that the media placed economic development at the top and the public placed peace and security at the top. In the second position media placed infrastructural development and the public placed economic development. Interestingly, the stories of CPEC will strengthen relations between Pakistan and China, bring harmony among regional countries and there are some serious challenges to CPEC were placed at the same ranking of third and fourth position. In the fifth position according to media all provinces/areas will get their share from CPEC while according to the public the position of “infrastructure development” is fifth. The media placed the topic “If the government will review the project of CPEC it might be affected GB” at the sixth position while the public placed the topic of “all provinces/areas will get their share” at sixth. In the seventh position media placed “peace and security” while the public placed “social development” at that position. At eight positions media placed the stories of “Gilgit Baltistan are being neglected and Progress on CPEC is slow” while the public give this position to the topic of “Govt. is planning to Review the CPEC agreements. The stories of Social development got the least coverage from media and placed at last position while the public gave the least response to the topic of “Gilgit Baltistan is being neglected and Progress on CPEC is slow”.

Table 6. RQ1: To what extent selected newspapers of Gilgit-Baltistan gave coverage to CPEC?

Total coverage of two leading newspapers of Gilgit-Baltistan from 16 September 2018 to 15 March 2019.		Newspaper		Total
		Daily Ausaf	Daily K2	
Total	Count	44	61	106
	% of Total	41.9%	58.1%	100.0%

In terms of the first question of the study Table 4.9. Showed that the selected newspapers published a total number of 106 news stories. There are 90 news headlines, 10 columns, and 6 editorials. So, the results showed that print media of Gilgit-Baltistan give importance and enough coverage to CPEC related news stories.

Table 7. RQ2: Do the selected print media agenda differ from the public agenda of Gilgit-Baltistan?

Media Agenda			Public Agenda		
No.	Topic	Opinion	No.	Topic	Opinion
1	Economic Development (job, trade industry, and local industry)	34%	1	Peace & Security	12.66%
2	Infrastructure Development (educational health and economic zone)	12.3%	2	Economic Development	12.37%
3	Pak China relation and international harmony	12.3%	3	Pak China relation and international harmony	12.29%
4	There are serious challenges to CPEC	10.4%	4	There are serious challenges to CPEC	11.63%
5	Equal share to all provinces and regions	8.5%	5	Infrastructure Development (educational health and economic zone)	11.27%

6	Govt. is planning to Review the CPEC agreements	6.6%	6	Equal share to all provinces and regions	11%
7	Peace & Security	5.7%	7	Social Development	10.83%
8	Gilgit Baltistan is being Neglected and Progress on CPEC is slow	5.7%	8	Govt. is planning to Review the CPEC agreements	9.66%
9	Social Development	4.7%	9	Gilgit Baltistan is being Neglected and Progress on CPEC is slow	8.2%

Table Showed that the selected newspaper agenda and public agenda were not the same, public priority was different from media. Local press of Gilgit-Baltistan was given coverage to the stories of economic and infrastructural development and the public placed peace and security at top. The researcher asked nine more questions from the respondents about concerns of the local public of GB from CPEC and the finding showed that environmental, cultural, trade, religious, and many other concerns of public but the media of GB was not covering those concerns.

15. FINDINGS

This study was conducted to exploring relations between the media agenda and public agenda on CPEC in GB. The population of this study was the local press and residents of GB. Two leading newspapers the daily “Ausaf” and daily “K2” for six months from 16 September 2018, to 15 March 2019, were selected for content analysis, and 200 residents of GB were selected for the survey. The finding of this study are as under: During the selected period from 16 September 2018 to 15 March 2019, the two selected leading newspapers published a total of 106 news stories regarding CPEC. Print media of GB given importance and enough coverage to CPEC related news stories. The content/topic of news stories was categorized into two frames which were positive frame and negative frame. Out of 106 news stories, 81 news stories were with positive frames and 25 news stories were with negative frames. Daily Ausaf Gilgit-Baltistan published 44 news out of which 30 stories were with positive frame and 14 news stories were with negative frame. Daily K2 Gilgit-Baltistan published 62 news stories out of which 51 news stories were with positive frame and 11 news stories were with negative frame.

The frames of media content regarding CPEC were positive. Local press of Gilgit-Baltistan was given coverage to those stories which content shows that the project of CPEC will bring economic and infrastructural development in the region. The selected newspapers published a total number of 106 news stories. Out of 106 news stories 90 were news headlines, 10 were columns and 6 were editorials. The length of the stories was measured based on the number of columns on each news story. Out of 106 news stories 16 news stories were published with one column, 40 news stories with two columns, 36 news stories were with three columns, the number of four-column stories was 12 and only 2 news stories were with five columns. The placement of the story was measured by the place where the story was placed and published. Out of 106 news stories, 50 were published on the front page. The numbers of stories published on back pages were 39 and 16 columns and

editorials were published on the editorial page. The content of news stories was divided into nine topics; the selected press given the highest coverage to the topic of “Economic development of CPEC” with 36 news stories and the lowest coverage was given to the topic of “progress of CPEC in Gilgit-Baltistan is slow” with only 2 news stories.

16. CONCLUSION

This research showed that the local press of Gilgit-Baltistan provided enough coverage to the project of CPEC and the majority of the content of coverage regarding the project of CPEC was with positive frames. The findings of this study agreed with the findings of Yousaf & Ahmad (2018), which the Leading press of both countries framing positively about the news stories of CPEC. Especially trade, development, peace, security, and economy. The investigators showed it through research that both countries leading daily newspapers the “China Daily” and “Daily Dawn” of Pakistan reported positively about CPEC. Whereas, only a tiny amount of editorials and news reported the subjects adversely or impartially. Pakistani press is playing a dynamic role in the achievement of CPEC by reporting the subjects. According to Akif & Humma (2016) during the Chinese President's visit to Pakistan in 2015. The Pakistani newspapers gave positive coverage to this visit in perceptions of CPEC. The findings of this study negate Hassan, Shabir & Seyal (2018) that Pakistani newspapers are not in a position that they could be compared with the newspapers of India and China regarding the space of improvement coverage. Regarding CPEC, Pakistan's media should bring itself into line. The local press of GB was given positive frames to news stories of CPEC. Thus the results of this study agreed with Tuchman (1978) Contributing to Framing theory he stated that like other things any content/information also in need of structure. In media, every content which a media received needs structure so the media give structure to it. The finding of this study agreed with Tuchman.

The local public of Gilgit-Baltistan was hopeful about the project of CPEC. They believed that this project will complete in time and bring prosperity and peace to the region. The results of this study were agreed with the findings of Shafique & Iftikhar (2017) that the People of Gilgit-Baltistan have many expectations from CPEC because it will address the complaints of local people regarding the project, the CPEC will give little attention to the region. There is a full chance of empowerment due to CPEC, economic zones of the project provide thousands of jobs. The unique culture of Gilgit-Baltistan will also get representation internationally and the policy of the government of Pakistan toward the region will change by the effect of this project. In her study Siddiqa (2015) also agreed that the matter which is mostly discussing in Gilgit-Baltistan is CPEC because it will provide economic benefits to the region. The government of Pakistan should more focus on the region because once the CPEC will be completed it will carry prosperity in the economy of the region then the infrastructural and socio-political reform will also come. It is correct that the people of Gilgit-Baltistan have some concerns about CPEC. It is needed to resolve these reservations. Another fact which the study found was that both the public and media of Gilgit-Baltistan are agreed that the project is beneficial for both countries but on a priority basis the agenda of media and public differ from each other.

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