

## EXPLORING THE EFFECTS OF CPEC ON SOCIO-CULTURAL TRANSFORMATION IN PUNJAB, PAKISTAN

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### ABSTRACT

CPEC, which stands for China-Pakistan Economic Corridor, is a mega project that combines both infrastructure and economic development. The project aims to connect the Gawadar Port in Pakistan with Xinjiang in China by building a network of highways, railways and pipelines. This is the signature undertaking under China's mega BRI (Belt and Road Initiative), which seeks to maximize regional connectivity and China-Pakistan economic ties. The project is cross-sectored covering energy, transport, communication, and industries indiscriminately, underpinning the project's comprehensiveness with far-reaching implications to both the participating countries and the wider region. China and Pakistan have agreed to build project more commonly known as China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) is expected to bring about both peace and prosperity in South Asia. CPEC focused on improving the economy of both countries through social change in society. Culture is the way of living in society which includes both the tangible culture (buildings, technology etc.) and intangible culture (language, beliefs, ideas, knowledge and customs). When China and Pakistan collaborated with each other, their culture also diffused from one country to another. Because culture is an important part of society, we can't separate both of them. This study aims to know about the perceptions and opinions of common people about the opportunities created through CPEC and its impacts on the socio-economic transformation of country. Cultural diversity affects positively or negatively the culture of native country. This socio-cultural transformation can lead to many social changes. The study was carried out in three districts of province Punjab, Sahiwal, Multan and Bahawalpur. These districts were selected purposively because the projects of CPEC were working so the data can be collected from those nearby areas. A sample of 480 respondents was selected randomly from three districts of selected regions of Punjab for getting quantitative data. Data was collected with the help of a well-structured Interview. Quantitative Data was analyzed through SPSS (statistical packages for social sciences). The major finding of the study suggested that the majority of the respondents agreed that CPEC gives better employment opportunities to the community. The majority of the respondents agreed that CPEC brings socio-economic transformation in all aspects of society like gender empowerment, language, culture, food, work ethics, security, GDP improvement and rural development. The partnership with Chinese firms on the project of CPEC is a vehicle for technology transfer, knowledge sharing, and innovation-driven growth in Punjab.

**Key Words:** CPEC, Social Change, Socio-cultural Transformation, Quantitative analysis, work ethics.

## **INTRODUCTION**

### **What is CPEC?**

The CPEC is a development hub and an improvement belt including reciprocal benefits, joint effort, shared benefits and normal flourishing. With the thorough transportation hall and modern participation among China and Pakistan as the fundamental pivot, and with concrete monetary and exchange collaboration, and individuals to-individuals trade and social correspondences as the motor, CPEC depends on major community projects for framework development, mechanical turn of events and vocation improvement, focused on financial turn of events, success and security in locales along it (Sial, 2014).

China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) has so far assumed an exceptionally enormous part in expanding Pakistan's GDP, development rate, work and in particular the help to handle the energy emergency. Since its beginning, May 2013, individuals from varying backgrounds in Pakistan are expecting so high of it. However, the west has persistently scrutinized this undertaking. The restricting of this undertaking by US can be express from the media meeting of US state secretary Pompeo, saying that Pakistan won't utilize the US upheld International Monetary Fund (IMF) assets to pay Chinese obligations. It isn't first rate that the west has decline Pakistan China relationship, yet both the nations are unflinching to finish the undertaking that will help both the nations. The CEPC modern zone will connect a lot of Foreign Direct Investments to Pakistan as the course is worldwide worth chain. This finish of this eminent venture will prompt the Industrial Development, Global participation, exchange and social trade, decrease in unfamiliar trade shortage and will adjust the unevenness exchange of Pakistan. As per the Pakistan Planning commission, the CPEC will right now deliver around 38,000 positions of which 75% will be intended for Pakistanis and the figure will increment up to 500,000 occupations in the following five to seven years. The improvement of provincial regions will bring the nearby Education, clean drinking water, wellbeing and transport offices and work on their way of life as a piece of corporate social obligation (Govt. of Pakistan, 2018).

### **Layout of CPEC in Pakistan**

The route will begin in Pakistan and travel via Gwadar Balochistan, Northern Pakistan, Punjab, Sindh, Balochistan, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa provinces, and Gilgit-Baltistan before reaching Khujrab Pass and continuing on to China. It will end in Kashgar, in western China.

### **Socio-cultural Cooperation and Transformation**

Socio-social participation involves a somewhat important place in local collaboration. Social is the result of connections in the public eye while the most well-known kind of relationship is collaboration. Culture is the lifestyle in the public arena which incorporates information, thoughts, convictions, customs, customs, dialects, structures, and innovation and so forth shared by nearly everybody in a specific culture. In spite of the fact that, culture and society are interlinked and firmly related ideas that can never be entirely isolated. Moreover, social change is exceptionally wide term it remembers every one of the human wonders for a general public which prompts social change and brought improvement. One might say that for supported connection among China and Pakistan requires a common comprehension of one another societies, customs and language, which can occur just through socio-social ties.

The China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) has provided a 'distinct advantage' in Pakistan's social and political developments. Former Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao launched the Pakistan-China Friendship Centre during a visit to Islamabad in December 2010. At four separate Pakistan Study Centers, 8,000 Pakistani undergraduates are enrolled in Chinese universities (Khalid, 2013).

The chances presented by the CPEC project are certain and show yet would we be able to overlook its socio-social effect? The impact of Eurocentric ideas on our general public is obvious today, which is an aftereffect of a period of expansionism and racial oppression. Globalization has effectively brought about the dispersion of societies somewhat. The new Chinese way of talking is the streamlined commerce and globalization. Additionally, social rubbing because of Chinese flood in Pakistan may happen because of the CPEC Project. We see that step by step the Chinese public is seen all the more

frequently in shopping centers, eateries and different spots. This is only the start of a great social change. As of now, English seems, by all accounts, to be the prevailing language with regards to obtaining steady employments. One must be capable in this language to adapt to the general public, and we have as of now seen Urdu losing its importance. Before long, the Chinese language would additionally decrease the worth of Urdu. We, as understudies, are regularly informed that we would need to be acceptable at Chinese to impart and arrive at higher status positions as new organizations and firms would be opened because of the venture. Head Li Keqiang likewise made the guarantee to send 1000 educators to Pakistan to show the Chinese language in 2013 and today there are bountiful Chinese instructors in Pakistan. In terms of faith, Chinese and Pakistani customs are extremely different. In contrast to China's suspicious public, our society is defined by exceedingly rigid rules and values. Along the CPEC routes, social customs, languages, and beliefs will be shared in addition to goods and other resources. More people would have one-on-one interactions.

Religions like Islam, Christianity, Manichaeism, and Buddhism spread along the historic Silk Road. The Silk Road was the actual route via which Buddhism reached China. After learning about many faiths, the explorers used what they had learned in their own communities. Throughout Eurasia, numerous social orders emerged. The new Silk Road aims to resurrect the ancient path. The significant transmitter of culture is the media. The CPEC end-all strategy uncovered the arrangement to communicate Chinese substance on Pakistani TVs through Digital Television Terrestrial Multimedia Broadcasting (DTMB). It was even announced that these administrations would be stretched out to the rugged spaces of Pakistan where you actually discover individuals carrying on with the conventional life. In any case, there is no mischief in embracing important morals. For example, Chinese hard-working attitudes are significantly more attractive than our own. They emphatically trust in the significance of difficult work, devotion and responsibility and this is one reason for China's quick financial development. While various individuals here have helpless hard-working attitudes especially an absence of responsibility which frustrates the nation's advancement. Also, solid participation can guarantee the achievement of the task. If not, Chinese and Pakistanis, in their work to contend and dominate

against each other, could welcome on bothersome competition. We, as a nation, must recognize that the path to advancement entails embracing and protecting one's own way of life, rather than succumbing to the influence of other societal qualities that contradict one's own, while selectively adopting the most advantageous practices. Furthermore, our extremely ancient and respected culture is in danger. Our own way of life must be protected and preserved (Zahra, 2017).

### **Scope of Study:**

When two different countries work together, it's a chance and it can be expected that they will affect each other in different ways. CPEC has major role in the economy of Pakistan, and it is expected that it will boost up the economy of Pakistan in such a way that living standards of Pakistani people will rise. Many studies have been conducted on the economic side of CPEC from when it started till now and many analysis have been made to figure out the economic impact of CPEC for the economy Pakistan. But it should not be avoided that only economy is not backbone of country, but culture is also important in some country's status. Developed nations do not forget their forefather's culture and give it as a gift to their coming generations. So its need of the hour that we should also consider the importance of cultural transformation through CPEC, because China and Pakistan has absolutely different cultures, their language, working ethics, dressing styles, living patterns, food choices, and consumption are different. This study has designed to study the challenged of CPEC and its impact on socio-cultural transformation in Punjab, Pakistan.

### **Objectives**

- To find out the perception and knowledge of people towards CPEC and to investigate the effects of CPEC projects on the socio-cultural transformation
- To suggest some measures for positive socio-cultural transformation of the local community through CPEC

### **MATERIALS AND METHODS**

The strategies used to test research hypotheses are described in this paper. Sociology is a scientific discipline that studies human behavior in diverse social circumstances. A research design lays the framework for how to conduct the research. The

study design outlines the actions that must be followed to collect the data required to generate and answer research questions. Even if a comprehensive approach for fixing the problem already exists, the specifics are outlined in the research design. A research design provides us with a firm foundation for carrying out the study. It is regarded as a major task in sociology research to discuss the several approaches used in this study to demonstrate the various components and tactics. Researchers in the social sciences frequently employ novel tools and broad sociological concepts. Social science researchers now apply modern strategic approaches and systems. A methodology, or well-defined set of principles and methods, is the foundation of any research effort (Asika, 2011). For an investigative evaluation to be legitimate, dependable, and precise, it must follow a logical procedure (Faryadi, 2018). The universe of the present study was **three Districts of Punjab, Sahiwal, Multan and**

**Bahawalpur.** The reason behind the selected areas is “the study was about the ‘CPEC and its Impact on socio-cultural transformation in Punjab Pakistan’” so those areas where districts were selected in which CPEC projects are working or under construction. The villages were selected which are in the surrounding or near any CPEC project”. A multiphase sampling strategy was used to select samples. The first stage was to deliberately select three districts from the state of Punjab—Sahiwal, Multan, and Bahawalpur. The second phase in the sampling procedure was to select one tehsil from each of the previously selected districts. The final phase involved deliberately selecting two villages from the previously designated targeted tehsils. To complete the sampling process, 480 participants were picked at random for the quantitative data collection step.

Punjab

Districts	Multan	Sahiwal	Bahawalpur
Tehsils	1(1*1=1)	1(1*1=1)	1(1*1=1)
UCs	3(1*3=3)	3(1*3=3)	3(1*3=3)
Villages	2(2*1=3)	2(1*2=2)	2(1*2=2)
Common community	80(2*80=160)	80(2*80=160)	80(2*80=160)
<b>Total from all three districts</b>	<b>480</b>		

Moreover, data was collected with the help of interview schedule. The collected data was analyzed through SPSS. Inferential statistics i.e. Chi-Square and Gamma test was applied to check the association between the variables.

**RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS**

Data analysis and interpretation are essential components of research. Multiple processes are required for scientific study to generalize and make predictions. The features and opinions of respondents are utilized to draw conclusions and make generalizations. Most importantly, you must understand how to interpret the study's findings in

order to draw any inferences from it. Skipping these processes makes it impossible to identify patterns and formulate hypotheses, which are the two primary purposes of scientific research. In order to draw meaningful findings, the respondents' characteristics and opinions are considered. Data processing and interpretation are critical components of any investigation. The goal of scientific research making predictions and generalizations is impossible to achieve without these techniques. Inferences and generalizations are taken from the characteristics and views of those who completed the survey.

**Hypothesis 1: Education of the respondents will be associated with their perception about the CPEC impact on socio-cultural transformation**

**Table 1: Association among respondents' education and their perception about the CPEC impact on socio-cultural transformation**

Education	Socio-cultural transformation			Total
	Low	Medium	High	
Never attended school	10	51	20	81
	12.3%	63.0%	24.7%	100.0%
Primary	10	59	39	108
	9.3%	54.6%	36.1%	100.0%
Middle	14	75	30	119
	11.8%	63.0%	25.2%	100.0%
Metric	8	39	27	74
	10.8%	52.7%	36.5%	100.0%
Secondary school	7	24	26	57
	12.3%	42.1%	45.6%	100.0%
Graduation	5	15	21	41
	12.2%	36.6%	51.2%	100.0%
Total	54	263	163	480
	11.3%	54.8%	34.0%	100.0%

Chi-square = 21.64      d.f. = 10  
 Gamma ( $\lambda$ ) = 0.131

P-value = .017\*  
 P-value = .024\*

Table 1 reveals a significant association ( $\chi^2 = 21.64$ ,  $p = .017$ ) between respondents' education level and their perceptions of CPEC's impact on socio cultural transformation. The gamma value ( $\lambda = 0.131$ ,  $p = .024$ ) indicated a significant positive correlation between the variables. It demonstrates that CPEC had a greater positive influence on socioeconomic transformation among educated respondents. According to the findings, CPEC had a low (12.2%), medium (36.6%), and high (51.2%) impact on socioeconomic transformation for respondents with low levels of education, while 63.0% reported a medium level of education and 24.7% reported a high level. As a result, we support the premise that "respondents' education will be associated with their perceptions about the impact of CPEC on socio-cultural transformation."

Pakistan has a high poverty rate because many individuals cannot afford to buy food, clothing, or shelter, and there are limited job opportunities in the country. The literacy rate is also low. To fight this issue, the Pakistani government has created numerous projects and implemented a number of tactics. Improving Pakistan's educational system and ensuring that all residents have access to educational

facilities may be the most efficient strategy to reduce poverty in the country. Because rising living standards are directly related to rising educational standards, which raises the number of potential jobs. Previous research has found a link between education and work opportunities (Kudasheva et al., 2015).

Multiple studies have demonstrated a strong association between educational attainment and personal income because higher-quality education increases people's ability to gain knowledge and skills, which improves their quality of life (Kanwal et al., 2019b; Makhdoom et al., 2018).

Education can increase the living standards of the local community while also reducing societal inequality and discrimination (Kudasheva et al. 2015). It underlined the considerable association between education and income and predicted that boosting people's levels of education will raise their income. The China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) comprises a number of programmes targeted at increasing people's access to the quality of higher education and professional skill sets (Kanwal et al. 2019).



**Hypothesis 2: Changes in culture due to CPEC will be associated with socio-cultural transformation**

**Table 2: Association among respondents' views about changes in culture due to CPEC and socio-cultural transformation**

Culture	Socio-cultural transformation			Total
	Low	Medium	High	
Low	15	45	25	85
	17.6%	52.9%	29.4%	100.0%
Medium	27	124	65	216
	12.5%	57.4%	30.1%	100.0%
High	12	94	73	179
	6.7%	52.5%	40.8%	100.0%
Total	54	263	163	480
	11.3%	54.8%	34.0%	100.0%

Chi-square = 11.09      d.f. = 4  
 Gamma ( $\lambda$ ) = 0.205

P-value = .026\*  
 P-value = .003\*\*

Above table 2 shows a significant ( $\chi^2 = 32.13, p = .000$ ) association among respondents' views cultural change and socio-cultural transformation of CPEC in Pakistan. It is clear from the above findings, if the respondents observed low level changes due to CPEC then they low (17.6%), medium (52.9%) and high (29.4%) level impact of CPEC, on the other side if the respondents observed high level changes in culture due to CPEC then they had low (6.7%), medium (52.5%) and high (40.8%) level impact of CPEC. Consequently, the hypothesis "Changes in culture due to CPEC will be associated with the socio-cultural transformation" is accepted.

People of my selected area was not really knowing the exact meaning or do not had knowledge about culture mostly thought that Chinese will not affect our culture some said that they wear pants shirts in our country we also wear pants and shirts. Some respondents disagreed they said that Chinese effected our culture, language is major example we learn Chinese language we eat Chinese food but here is needed to change our working style. We are too lazy as compared to Chinese people, so we need to adopt their positive things like their working style. Tamar (2010) expressed that Culture, as per the definition given by Hofstede, is the aggregate mental programming of individuals in a climate, molded by similar schooling and educational experience. Individuals are formed by staggered factors and various conditions they are presented to will raise various belief systems. "Social struggle circumstances are circumstances in which various gatherings in the public arena have distinctive direct standards for a similar circumstance." That is to say,

individuals with assorted foundations will undoubtedly have clashes brought about by culture in correspondence. This widespread wonder which is inescapable and can't be disposed of drastically happens increasingly more because of the speed of globalization. What should be possible is to examine and debilitate the social contentions. China has been affected by Confucianism for quite a while Pakistan is a country with firm confidence in Islam, which acquires the two nations unmistakable social provisions. As per Zhao Fei's examination, in the correspondence between individuals in China and Pakistan, the event where they are not happy with individuals in the other nation takes up to around 80% and the circumstance shows no pattern of improving with additional correspondence. This implies that there are culture and custom contrasts between the two nations and there are likewise some social boundaries that block the correspondence among China and Pakistan. Accordingly, the investigation of this point is of incredible importance.

Socialist philosophy has been quite a while in the past recovered the ladies to be hold back of work, public spaces or joining government and military. Ladies who once utilized and confined to their homes and housewives are currently in each field like government official, military and designing. Chinese socialist climate is albeit not notable for migrants, yet a few female outsiders have accomplished their imprints in this socialist society where they are allowed to progress in instruction and make their own profession as looked at the nations they come from.

There is twofold impact of Chinese ladies, who are raise in a socialist society, on the way of life of Pakistan. To begin with, it gives cutting edge to Pakistani ladies to follow the Chinese ladies as they carry on their organizations, pushing back the guy’s accounting for themselves in the male predominant society and asserting and battling for their privileges. They visit Sunday bazar, markets and stops with disapproving of the time and the strength on men in the spots. Pakistani young ladies at Dhabas are additionally a motion for asserting their ladies’ space, opportunity and right solidly as Dhabas are male ruled harsh street side food providers. Second is ladies’ bicycle riding. As referenced over the

before 80s ladies used to ride bicycle and cycle for visiting universities and markets which later on disappeared in light of traditionalism. Pakistani ladies are currently tired of manhandling and begun riding again paying little heed to people's opinion or discuss them recovering their lost space. This is the way CPEC project is affecting on Pakistani culture which could never been normal when the choice of this task planned to make that this might happen two and this is one of the main 20 effects that CPEC will carry with its formation. The change in culture is positive or negative relies upon one's own psyche and is a topic.

**Hypothesis 3: Changing behavior towards community due to CPEC affected the socio-cultural transformation**

**Table 3: Association among respondents’ views changing behavior towards community due to CPEC and socio-cultural transformation**

Changing behavior of the community	Socio-cultural transformation			Total
	Low	Medium	High	
Low	3	32	17	52
	5.8%	61.5%	32.7%	100.0%
Medium	19	109	53	181
	10.5%	60.2%	29.3%	100.0%
High	32	122	93	247
	13.0%	49.4%	37.7%	100.0%
Total	54	263	163	480
	11.3%	54.8%	34.0%	100.0%

Chi-square = 17.02      d.f. = 4  
 Gamma ( $\lambda$ ) = 0.051

P-value = .005  
 P-value = .003

Above table 3 illustrates that a significant ( $\chi^2 = 17.02, p = .005$ ) association among respondents’ views changing behavior towards community due to CPEC and socio-cultural transformation. Gamma statistic ( $\lambda = 0.051, p = .003$ ) also showed a significant relation among the variables. It means, there is relation between respondents’ views changing behavior towards community due to CPEC and socio-cultural transformation. Consequently, the hypothesis “Changing behavior towards community due to CPEC will be associated with socio-cultural transformation” is accepted. Pakistan has a high poverty rate because many individuals cannot afford to buy food, clothing, or shelter, and there are limited job opportunities in the country. The literacy rate is also low. To fight this issue, the Pakistani government has created numerous projects and implemented a number of tactics. Improving

Pakistan's educational system and ensuring that all residents have access to educational facilities may be the most efficient strategy to reduce poverty in the country. Because rising living standards are directly related to rising educational standards, which raises the number of potential jobs. Previous research has found a link between education and work opportunities (Kudasheva et al., 2015). Multiple studies have demonstrated a strong association between educational attainment and personal income because higher-quality education increases people's ability to gain knowledge and skills, which improves their quality of life (Kanwal et al., 2019b; Makhdoom et al., 2018). Irshad (2015) concluded that everyone, from farmers and traders to exporters and the government, stands to benefit from the CPEC route, which would streamline and lower the cost of commerce and

exports compared to previous methods. The completion of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) projects is expected to result in a surge in local trade, providing a great chance to maximize profit ratios. The CPEC projects would benefit Pakistanis both socially and economically (Mumtaz, 2015). By collaborating, these two countries may improve Pakistanis' quality of life and create new opportunities for them in the many CPEC projects. This information comes from Zhanget

(2015). This sector of Pakistani society can be developed into a more civilized and successful society if the entire population supports these measures. There will be no more room for hate or conflict in society.

Wolf, (2016) said that the completion of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) projects will enhance both nations' social trajectories and reduce poverty rates.

**Hypothesis 4: Employment opportunities due to CPEC associated with the socio-cultural transformation**

**Table 4: Association between employment opportunities due to CPEC and socio-cultural transformation**

Employment opportunities	Socio-cultural transformation			Total
	Low	Medium	High	
Disagree	8	5	5	18
	44.4%	27.8%	27.8%	100.0%
Strongly disagree	26	7	6	39
	66.7%	17.9%	15.4%	100.0%
Agree	12	183	82	277
	4.3%	66.1%	29.6%	100.0%
Strongly agree	8	68	70	146
	5.5%	46.6%	47.9%	100.0%
Total	54	263	163	480
	11.3%	54.8%	34.0%	100.0%

Chi-square = 174.60    d.f. = 6  
 Gamma ( $\lambda$ ) = 0.458

P-value = .000\*\*  
 P-value = .000\*\*

Above table 4 shows a significant ( $\chi^2 = 174.60, p = .000$ ) association among respondents' views about employment opportunities due to CPEC and their perception about the impact of CPEC socio-cultural transformation. The gamma value ( $\lambda = 0.458, p = .000$ ) indicated a significant and positive relationship between the variables. So, if respondents had seen more job opportunities as a result of CPEC, they would have paid more attention to the project's potential influence on economic and social transformation. Based on the data presented above, it is clear that CPEC had a low (44.4%), medium (27.8%), and high (27.8%) influence on respondents who disagreed with the employment possibilities it provided. Respondents who strongly agreed with the employment chances generated had a low (5.5%), medium (46.6%), and high (47.9%) level of impact, respectively. As a result, the null hypothesis "Employment opportunities due to CPEC would influence socio-cultural transformation" is accepted. Better transport is only one example of how CPEC projects can help people get to healthcare, schools,

companies and banks (Barrios, 2008). Agriculture is Pakistan's key economic driver, hence building infrastructure in rural areas, small towns, and villages should be a priority for CPEC projects (Tehsin et al., 2017). Locals and farmers may promote and sell their products to a specific demographic in China with relative ease. For example, Gilgit Baltistan is well-known in Pakistan for its excellent fruits; thanks to CPEC, locals will be able to sell their produce directly to Chinese clients at reasonable costs. This element keeps fruit merchants happy and allows them to provide for their families. Local communities can gain substantially from road networks since they provide direct access to major cities.

Furthermore, infrastructure improvements will cut transportation costs, save time, and improve market access (Agbelie, 2014; Islam et al., 2020), resulting in increased local income. According to Gkritza et al. (2008), purchasing high-quality seeds and fertilizer will make it easier for local farmers to market their products and maximize revenues. This



will boost their yield per acre. Farmers, for example, can easily sell their crops to a vast market with reduced transportation costs and better prices in the global market, generating revenue (Jacoby, 2000). In addition to connecting major tourist destinations, the CPEC will provide access to high-quality medical facilities, marketplaces, educational institutions, and more. People in Pakistan's rural and outlying areas would have easier access to urban centers, schools, and hospitals because to the CPEC. All of these things will benefit the Pakistani people and pave the path for CPEC projects to be built and implemented. So, when a local community benefits from CPEC projects, they are more likely to support them and view them positively.

### **Conclusions**

The study examined the challenges and opportunities of CPEC and its impact on socio-cultural transformation in Punjab, Pakistan. CPEC is a mega project in which China and Pakistan are involved. Through project Pakistan will have many energy plants, coal power plants, better infrastructure and many more. This project is going to boost the economy of Pakistan and it will also provide better living standards to the people of Pakistan. Pakistan is developing country with a huge number of populations and Pakistan is at 6<sup>th</sup> number among the most populous countries of world. But the economic situation of Pakistan is not as good as it should be, employment opportunities are not sufficient for the people of Pakistan and many people are living down the poverty line. So, through this project Pakistan will get a chance to provide better life standards to their people, to minimize the shortfall of energy, easy access to cities, better roads and educational facilities. The globalization theory says that the world is getting globalized. Nations, people, and states are interconnecting with each other and exchanging economies towards a better future. One the other side China and Pakistan have absolutely different cultures and they are working together. So, through this interaction they will have an impact on each other's culture. Economic investments and changes are easy, they can be brought in a shorter time. But nonmaterial culture takes time to change but it comes. Different studies have been done on the economic side of CPEC and its impact on society. Studies have showed that Pakistan will flourish with this project. But it's important to consider the cultural

side of this project because it's also important to consider.

In this study the areas nearby the projects of CPEC were studied and the respondents were common community of those areas, a significant number of respondents said that cultural change can be expected with the passage of time.

They told me that especially language will influence the most. Because the people of Pakistan are working with them, and Chinese language is necessary to talk and work with them and this language is also providing opportunity of employment for the people who are living near the areas where projects are working or under construction.

### **Suggestions**

- Equal employment should be distributed among the people without any discrimination here in Pakistan. So, the whole community could make progress.
- When we talk about language barrier, there should be Chinese language learning institutions here so that people could learn Chinese and earn their livelihood.
- As the study shows, gradual cultural change is also coming in our society because our society is not much strong as it should, it gets influence from any other culture or society. There should be some Chinese learning institutions in our country, but we should not forget to permute our national language which is our great asset.
- As Pakistanis have great abilities to work but due to less employment opportunities and less incentive people suffer here. So, strategies should be made to increase employment opportunities in Pakistan.
- Gender discrimination needs to be minimized because gender equality can help to a better society with better livelihood.
- Cultural transformation is one of the important aspects of CPEC and it should be discussed, and we should take steps to keep our own culture safe and strong while having good relationships with other cultures.

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