

CHINA-PAKISTAN ECONOMIC CORRIDOR'S IMPACT ON PAK-CHINA BILATERAL RELATIONS

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Abstract

Within the larger framework of China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), this study examines the complex effects of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC). The study looks at how China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) as a flagship project promotes economic, political, cultural, educational, and security cooperation while strengthening the historical links between Pakistan and China. The study examines how Pakistan's economic growth, infrastructure development, and regional integration are facilitated by the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), utilizing Rostow's theory of economic development as a framework. It is projected that the effective execution of CPEC will revolutionize global connections, possibly enhancing Pakistan's economy as a whole and encouraging closer ties with China.

Keywords: China, Pakistan, Economy, Development, Bilateral, Relationship.

Introduction:

Within the context of China's vast Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) is a game-changing project that has a significant impact on the bilateral relations between Pakistan and China. Policymakers, academics, and observers alike are drawn to it because it offers significant advantages in terms of politics, economy, and strategy. China and Pakistan's friendship, which dates back many years, has grown into a strong alliance based on trust and common interests. The ultimate goal of this collaboration, known as CPEC, is to improve economic growth, increase regional connectivity, and address Pakistan's infrastructure shortcomings. This paper highlights CPEC's critical role in

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determining the future course of Pakistan-China ties and its wider ramifications for regional dynamics by analyzing its diverse aspects. Greater connectivity and wealth are fostered by CPEC, which is a major force influencing the geopolitical landscape of South Asia and beyond through infrastructure development and increased cooperation.¹

Role of CPEC in Promoting Regional Connectivity:

CPEC not only strengthens the bilateral ties between Pakistan and China but also enhances regional connectivity. The corridor aims to connect Gwadar Port in Pakistan with China's northwestern region, providing landlocked Central Asian countries with a shorter and more efficient trade route to the Arabian Sea. This improved connectivity has the potential to boost regional trade, enhance economic integration, and promote stability in the region.²

Economically, CPEC has the potential to revolutionize Pakistan's economy by attracting substantial investment and fostering industrial growth. With an estimated investment of over \$62 billion, CPEC aims to develop a network of roads, railways, and energy projects, improving connectivity between Gwadar Port in Pakistan and China's northwestern region. This infrastructure development will enhance Pakistan's trade potential, reduce transportation costs, and create job opportunities, thereby stimulating economic growth and improving the livelihoods of its people.³

Furthermore, CPEC holds strategic significance for China's geopolitical interests. It provides China with an alternate trade route, bypassing the congested Strait of Malacca and ensuring a more secure and efficient trade pathway to the Arabian Sea. By diversifying its trade routes and securing energy supplies, China aims to enhance its economic resilience and mitigate potential risks.⁴

Politically, CPEC has strengthened the ties between Pakistan and China through enhanced bilateral cooperation and institutionalized dialogue mechanisms. Regular interactions between government officials, joint committees, and business delegations have fostered mutual understanding and trust. These interactions have led to the establishment of several joint

¹. Siddique, A., and S. Shafiqat. "How Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) and the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) Are Reshaping China's Soft Power?" *Journal of South Asian and Middle Eastern Studies* 44(3), (2021), 61-94.

². Mumtaz, K., S. A. Baloch, M. F. Abbasi, and S. Saeed. "Role of China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) in Regional Integration: A Comparative Study of Pakistan, India, and China." *Future of Food: Journal on Food, Agriculture and Society* 7(2), (2019), 35-48.

³. Khan, N. "Assessing the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor: Opportunities and Challenges." *The Chinese Journal of International Politics* 12(3), (2019), 295-323.

⁴. Ahmed, H. "The China-Pakistan Economic Corridor: An Assessment of Prospects and Challenges." *Asia Policy Briefs* 4(2), (2018), 1-12.

ventures, such as the Gwadar Port and Special Economic Zones, further deepening economic and political ties.⁵

Additionally, CPEC has facilitated people-to-people contacts, cultural exchanges, and educational collaborations. The establishment of educational institutions and scholarships funded by China has contributed to human resource development in Pakistan, empowering its youth and fostering a sense of camaraderie and cultural understanding between the two nations.⁶

CPEC's Impact on Pakistan's Energy Sector: One of the crucial aspects of CPEC is its focus on the development of the energy sector in Pakistan. The corridor includes several energy projects, such as coal-fired power plants, hydroelectric power stations, and renewable energy installations. These projects address Pakistan's energy crisis by increasing its power generation capacity, reducing blackouts, and improving access to affordable and reliable electricity.⁷

Socioeconomic Implications of CPEC for Pakistan:

CPEC is expected to have significant socioeconomic implications for Pakistan. The corridor's infrastructure projects are anticipated to create job opportunities, particularly in the construction and manufacturing sectors. Moreover, the establishment of Special Economic Zones (SEZs) along the corridor is likely to attract foreign investment, promote industrial growth, and foster technology transfer, contributing to Pakistan's economic development and poverty alleviation efforts.⁸

CPEC's strategic significance also raises security considerations. The corridor traverses through Pakistan's volatile regions, including Balochistan and Gilgit-Baltistan. Ensuring the security of CPEC projects and personnel is crucial to its successful implementation. Pakistan has taken various measures, including the establishment of a specialized security force and enhanced surveillance, to safeguard the corridor and mitigate potential security threats.⁹

Environmental Challenges and Sustainability of CPEC: CPEC's large-scale

⁵. Ibid

⁶. Ding, D. "People-to-People Connectivity and China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC)." *Journal of Political Science and International Relations* 2(2), (2018), 6-19.

⁷. Kiani, K. "The Energy Sector of Pakistan: From Challenges to Opportunities." *Energy Strategy Reviews*, 19 (2018), 75-85.

⁸. Ali, A., M. M. Raza, and M. K. Imran. "The Socioeconomic Implications of China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) for Pakistan." *Asian Development Policy Review* 9(1), (2021), 29-44.

⁹. Rahman, A. U., S. Iqbal, and S. Iqbal. "The China-Pakistan Economic Corridor: Implications for Regional Security." *Asian Journal of Political Science* 28(2), (2020), 193-240.

infrastructure development raises concerns about its environmental impact and long-term sustainability. The construction of highways, power plants, and industrial zones may lead to deforestation, habitat destruction, and increased carbon emissions. It is essential to adopt environmentally friendly practices, promote renewable energy projects, and implement effective environmental safeguards to mitigate these challenges and ensure the sustainable development of CPEC.¹⁰

Challenges of CPEC:

The China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) development and the research highlight the environmental and social concerns that have emerged during its implementation. Specifically, the study examines the environmental impact of CPEC projects, with a focus on potential issues related to the displacement of local communities. Furthermore, it investigates the measures taken to address sustainability and social welfare concerns arising from the corridor's construction and operation.

This research contributes to a better understanding of the challenges and considerations required for sustainable development and community well-being in the context of CPEC¹¹. The China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) is a flagship project under China's Belt and Road Initiative, aiming to enhance connectivity and economic collaboration between China and Pakistan. However, several challenges impact both the success of CPEC and the bilateral relationship between the two countries.

1. Security Issues

CPEC projects often face significant security threats from various militant groups operating in Pakistan. These threats not only endanger Chinese workers and investments but also create a perception of instability in Pakistan. The Pakistani government has had to deploy significant military resources to protect these projects, leading to concerns over the effectiveness of these security measures. The ongoing violence can create distrust among Chinese investors, potentially leading to a reevaluation of investment strategies and priorities.¹²

2. Debt Concerns

Pakistan's mounting debt to China has raised alarms regarding the country's financial sustainability and sovereignty. Critics argue that

¹⁰. Luo, Z., M. M. Azeem, I. Khan, A. Ahmed, and U. H. Zia. "Environmental Challenges and Sustainability of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor."

¹¹. Zaman, K., and M. A. Rahman. "Environmental and Social Implications of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC)." *Sustainability* 12(14), (2020), 5673.

¹². Ayesha Sikandar, "Ensuring Security for Progress: Pakistan's Commitment to Chinese Safety," *The Diplomat*, (July 9, 2024), <https://thediplomat.com/2024/07/ensuring-security-for-progress-pakistans-commitment-to-chinese-safety/>.

excessive borrowing could lead to a "debt trap," where Pakistan becomes overly dependent on China, limiting its ability to make independent economic decisions. This concern is particularly pronounced in discussions about potential asset seizures if Pakistan defaults on loans. Such dynamics can foster resentment among Pakistanis toward both their government and China, complicating diplomatic ties.

3. Political Stability

Pakistan's political landscape is characterized by volatility, with frequent changes in government and policy direction. This instability can lead to inconsistent support for CPEC projects, creating uncertainty for Chinese investors¹³. For instance, shifts in leadership may result in changes to project priorities or funding, undermining long-term commitments. As trust diminishes, it could strain the bilateral relationship, as China may feel compelled to reconsider its investments.

4. Local Resistance

The implementation of CPEC has faced opposition from various local communities, primarily due to land acquisition disputes, environmental concerns, and perceived lack of local benefits. Protests and unrest can delay projects, reduce public support, and harm the image of both the Pakistani government and Chinese investors. If local populations feel alienated, it can create significant hurdles for ongoing and future collaborations, thereby affecting overall bilateral ties.

5. Regional Tensions

CPEC passes through contested territories, particularly in Gilgit-Baltistan, which is claimed by India. This situation complicates regional dynamics and can provoke tensions between India and Pakistan, drawing China into the geopolitical fray. China's support for Pakistan in this context could alienate India and affect its broader strategic interests in South Asia, further complicating China's position in the region and impacting its relationship with Pakistan¹⁴.

6. Economic Imbalances

While CPEC aims to stimulate economic growth in Pakistan, there are concerns about the actual benefits accruing to local populations. Many

¹³. Ahsan Abbas, Eatnaz Ahmed, and Fazal Husain, "Political and Economic Uncertainty and Investment Behaviour in Pakistan," *The Pakistan Development Review* 58.(3) (2019), 307–331.

¹⁴. Anwar Iqbal, "CPEC Passes through Disputed Territory: US," *Dawn*, (October 7, 2017), accessed June 15, 2024, <https://epaper.dawn.com>.

projects are perceived as favoring Chinese companies, which can lead to job creation primarily for Chinese nationals rather than local workers. This perception can foster public discontent, as Pakistanis may feel that their economic needs are secondary to Chinese interests. The dissatisfaction can lead to political fallout, affecting the support for CPEC and, by extension, the overall relationship with China.

Analytical Framework:

Rostow's stages of economic growth theory proposes a comprehensive analysis framework that delineates a country's economic development through five distinct stages: traditional society, preconditions for take-off, take-off, drive to maturity, and age of high mass consumption. The theory examines the evolution of economies based on their historical trajectories, asserting that nations follow a linear path of development. In the traditional society stage, economies are characterized by agrarian practices and limited technological progress. Preconditions for take-off mark the initial signs of industrialization, leading to the take-off stage where sustained growth becomes evident. The drive to maturity witnesses diversified economic activities and increased urbanization, culminating in the age of high mass consumption marked by advanced industrialization and widespread affluence. Rostow's analysis framework, although criticized for its deterministic outlook, provides a structured lens for understanding the dynamics of economic growth and the sequential stages that nations may traverse on their path to development.

Application of Rostow's Stages of Economic Development

Rostow's stages served as an analytical framework to structure the analysis. This facilitated an assessment of how CPEC influenced different stages of economic development in Pakistan. Rostow's theory posits that economies go through distinct stages of development, including traditional society, pre-conditions for take-off, take-off, drive to maturity, and the age of high mass consumption. This framework helps elucidate the transformative effects of large-scale projects on a nation's economic trajectory.

Socio-Economic Implications

This study conducted a meticulous scrutiny of the socio-economic implications arising from the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), with a focused analysis on the domains of industrialization, urbanization, and technological advancements. A particular emphasis was placed on assessing the economic benefits derived from CPEC, seeking to discern whether the initiative played a role in mitigating regional disparities within Pakistan. This analytical framework was informed by Rostow's concept of economic evolution, aligning with the stages of economic growth theory to

understand the transformative impact of CPEC on different regions. By delving into the intricate dynamics of industrial development, changes in urban landscapes, and the adoption of new technologies, the study aimed to unravel the nuanced ways in which CPEC may contribute to or exacerbate existing economic disparities across various regions in Pakistan¹⁵. The research approach thus encompassed both a macro-level evaluation of economic trends and a micro-level exploration of localized experiences, offering a comprehensive perspective on the socio-economic ramifications of CPEC.

Rostow's theory of Economic Development:

Rostow's theory of economic development, commonly known as Rostow's Stages of Economic Growth, was introduced in his book¹⁶.

The theory outlines a linear progression of economic development that a country is expected to go through over time. Here's a detailed explanation of Rostow's theory: While Rostow's model provides a structured framework for understanding economic development, it has faced criticism. Critics argue that the model oversimplifies the complex and varied paths that countries take in their development¹⁷.

It may not adequately account for cultural differences, social considerations, and the impact of external factors on development¹⁸.

Moreover, the model assumes a linear progression, which may not align with the experiences of all nations. Some countries may follow unique paths, and external factors such as global economic conditions and geopolitical events can significantly influence their developmental trajectories¹⁹.

In conclusion, while Rostow's Stages of Economic Growth provides a valuable framework for comprehending the evolutionary trajectory of economies, its inherent limitations underscore the necessity of adopting a more holistic perspective when examining the intricacies of development in diverse nations. Rostow's linear model, which outlines stages from traditional society to high mass consumption, tends to oversimplify the multifaceted nature of development by primarily focusing on economic

¹⁵. Iqra Fazal, Waheed Ahmad Khan, and Muhammad Irfan Ali, "Geo-Economic Benefits of the CPEC Project for Pakistan," *Pakistan Social Sciences Review* 7(4), (2023), 573, [https://doi.org/10.35484/pssr.2023\(7-IV\)52](https://doi.org/10.35484/pssr.2023(7-IV)52).

¹⁶. Rostow, W. W. *The Stages of Economic Growth: A Non-Communist Manifesto*. (Cambridge University Press, 1960).

¹⁷. Andre Gunder Frank, "The Development of Underdevelopment," *Monthly Review* 18(4), (September, 1966), 17-31

¹⁸. Schumpeter, J. A. *The Theory of Economic Development*. (Harvard University Press, 1934).

¹⁹. Todaro, M. P., & Smith, S. C. *Economic Development*. (Pearson, 2015).

factors and industrialization. The contemporary understanding of development encompasses a broader array of elements, including sociopolitical dynamics, cultural nuances, and environmental considerations. Acknowledging these complexities becomes imperative for a more nuanced analysis. By recognizing the limitations of Rostow's theory, researchers and policymakers can incorporate a more comprehensive set of variables, ensuring a more accurate and context-specific understanding of the diverse developmental trajectories observed across the global landscape. This holistic approach is crucial for formulating effective and contextually relevant strategies to foster sustainable development in different nations.

Traditional Society:

In the preliminary phase of societal development, a distinct set of characteristics defines communities, predominantly featuring traditional agrarian economies with a notable absence of significant technological advancements. During this initial stage, the majority of the population is intricately involved in agricultural pursuits, forming the backbone of the economic structure. This engagement in traditional agrarian practices is concurrent with a discernible dearth of innovation and industrialization, marking a period where technological progress is limited. The economic landscape reflects a condition of stagnation, as the prevailing emphasis centers on upholding conventional ways of life inherent to these agrarian societies. The socioeconomic fabric of these communities, therefore, revolves around the sustenance and preservation of longstanding agricultural traditions, with a minimal inclination towards embracing transformative technologies or venturing into industrial endeavors. This phase encapsulates a foundational stage where the trajectory of development is characterized by a reliance on traditional agricultural practices and a deliberate preservation of established cultural norms and economic patterns.

Preconditions for Take-off:

This stage marks the emergence of preconditions that set the stage for economic development. Institutions such as political stability, legal frameworks, and basic infrastructure begin to form. Investment in education and technology increases, laying the groundwork for future economic growth.

Take-off:

In the pivotal phase known as "Take-off," societies undergo a transformative period characterized by rapid economic growth and a robust surge in industrialization. This stage witnesses significant strides in the development of key sectors, fostering heightened levels of productivity and economic dynamism. One of the notable shifts during this phase is the pronounced trend of urbanization, marked by a substantial migration of

people from rural areas to urban centers in pursuit of improved economic prospects. This urban migration reflects the societal response to the burgeoning industrial and economic activities concentrated in urban locales. The driving forces behind this surge in economic activity include noteworthy technological advancements and a concurrent increase in capital investment. These factors play instrumental roles in propelling the economy forward, fostering innovation, and driving efficiencies across various sectors. The "Take-off" stage, therefore, signifies a critical juncture where the wheels of industrialization and economic progress gain significant momentum, reshaping the landscape and setting the stage for sustained growth and development.

Drive to Maturity:

In this crucial phase of economic evolution, a nation witnesses sustained economic growth accompanied by the pervasive spread of industrialization across diverse sectors. The economy undergoes a significant transformation characterized by increased diversity, with a deliberate focus on improving infrastructure, education, and healthcare. This multifaceted development approach aims not only to enhance economic prosperity but also to cultivate an inclusive and resilient society. Diversification becomes a key feature, spanning various industries to create a robust and well-rounded economic foundation, mitigating risks associated with overreliance on specific sectors. Infrastructure development takes center stage as a driving force, with investments directed towards building efficient transportation systems, advanced communication networks, and other essential facilities, fostering increased connectivity and facilitating domestic and international trade. Simultaneously, a commitment to elevating educational standards acknowledges the pivotal role of a knowledgeable and skilled workforce in driving innovation and productivity. Investments in healthcare infrastructure and services underscore the importance of a healthy workforce, reducing absenteeism and enhancing overall productivity. The emphasis on innovation and specialization emerges as a dynamic force propelling sustained economic development, as groundbreaking ideas and expertise in niche areas contribute to increased efficiency and competitiveness. In conclusion, this transformative phase reflects a holistic approach to economic development, intertwining industrialization, infrastructure enhancement, education, healthcare, and innovation to build a resilient, inclusive, and dynamic society poised for continuous advancement.

Age of High Mass Consumption:

In the ultimate phase of economic development, nations reach a zenith of maturity, characterized by a notably high standard of living. This

transformative stage witnesses a pivotal shift from a manufacturing-centric economy to one dominated by the service sector, reflecting a strategic response to evolving global trends and consumer preferences. The prevalence of high levels of consumption becomes a hallmark, driven by the affluence and purchasing power of the population, contributing to a consumer-driven economic landscape. Advanced technology plays a defining role, permeating various aspects of daily life and economic activities, fostering innovation and reinforcing the nation's global competitiveness. A well-developed infrastructure further underscores this stage, providing the foundation for seamless connectivity, logistics, and international trade. The service sector, now the primary economic driver, encompasses diverse industries such as finance, information technology, healthcare, education, and entertainment, showcasing a transition towards knowledge-intensive and intellectual endeavors. In summary, the final stage of economic development signifies the culmination of a nation's journey towards prosperity, featuring a high standard of living, a dominant service sector, advanced technology integration, and a well-established infrastructure, positioning the nation as a global leader in affluence and innovation.

Critiques and Limitations:

Rostow's theory provides a structured framework for understanding economic development, it has faced criticism. Critics argue that the model oversimplifies the complex and diverse paths that countries take in their development.²⁰

It does not adequately address issues of inequality, cultural differences, and the impact of external factors on development. Moreover, the model assumes that all countries follow a linear path, which is not always the case. Some countries may experience setbacks or take unique paths to development. The emphasis on economic growth as the primary indicator of development also neglects social and environmental considerations.²¹

Rostow's stages of economic growth theory delineate a chronological progression through distinct phases of societal development. In the "Traditional Society" phase, societies exhibit characteristics of agrarian economies, with limited technological advancements. The predominant occupation is agriculture, and there is a notable absence of innovation and industrialization, leading to stagnant economic growth as the focus remains on preserving traditional ways of life. Moving to the "Preconditions for Take-off" stage, critical foundations for economic development begin to emerge. Institutional frameworks, including political stability and legal

²⁰. Frank, A. G.: "The Development of Underdevelopment", *Monthly Review* 18(4) (1966), 17–31.

²¹. Todaro, Michael P., Smith, Stephen C. *Economic Development (Ed. 12th)*. (Harlow: Pearson, 2015).

structures, take shape alongside the development of basic infrastructure. Increased investments in education and technology lay the groundwork for future economic growth. The subsequent phase, "Take-off," signifies a period of rapid economic expansion and industrialization. Key sectors experience substantial development, leading to heightened productivity. Urbanization gains momentum as individuals migrate from rural areas to urban centers in pursuit of enhanced economic opportunities, driven by technological advancements and increased capital investment. The "Drive to Maturity" stage witnesses sustained economic growth, with industrialization spreading across diverse sectors. The economy diversifies, emphasizing improvements in infrastructure, education, and healthcare. Innovation and specialization become pivotal drivers of sustained economic development. Finally, in the "Age of High Mass Consumption," nations reach the pinnacle of economic maturity, characterized by a high standard of living. The service sector takes precedence, marking a shift from manufacturing to services. Advanced technology and a well-developed infrastructure define this stage, accompanied by high levels of consumption. Rostow's framework provides a structured lens for understanding the evolutionary trajectory of economies, emphasizing key drivers and characteristics at each stage of development.

People's Narratives

People's narratives surrounding Rostow's theory exhibit a diverse range of perspectives and opinions. While some individuals appreciate the clarity and simplicity of Rostow's linear model, praising its ability to articulate distinct stages of economic development, others express skepticism regarding its applicability across various cultural and historical contexts. Many argue that the theory tends to overlook social, cultural, and political dimensions, offering a somewhat reductionist view of complex developmental processes. Moreover, critics contend that the theory might not be universally valid, as it primarily emerged from a Western-centric viewpoint. On the other hand, supporters believe that Rostow's theory provides a valuable foundation for understanding economic growth patterns and serves as a useful starting point for discussions on development. The diversity in people's narratives reflects the ongoing debate surrounding the relevance and limitations of Rostow's theory in capturing the intricate dynamics of development, showcasing the need for a more inclusive and multidimensional approach in comprehending global economic disparities.

Historical Context of China-Pakistan Relationship

The participants in the study offered distinctive viewpoints on the historical connections between China and Pakistan, providing a valuable

augmentation to the historical context previously examined in Chapter III. Through their narratives, participants shared personal insights and experiences that contribute to a more nuanced and contextual understanding of the relationship between these two nations. By incorporating the perspectives of the participants, the study gains a richer portrayal of the historical ties between China and Pakistan, capturing the lived experiences and sentiments of individuals who have witnessed and participated in the evolving dynamics of this enduring relationship. This qualitative layer adds depth to the historical analysis, enhancing the overall comprehension of the intricate historical backdrop shaping the present-day connections between China and Pakistan.

Components of the CPEC

The insights shared by participants during the interviews have illuminated their perceptions of various components of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), encompassing infrastructure, energy projects, and economic zones. This qualitative data serves as a crucial supplement to the information derived from official documents and academic studies. This qualitative approach adds a human dimension to the analysis, offering valuable context and insights into the local impact and reception of CPEC's different facets. Consequently, the combination of participant perspectives with existing academic and official data contributes to a more comprehensive and well-rounded evaluation of CPEC's multifaceted implications.

Socio-Economic Implications

This research represents a comprehensive exploration of participants' perspectives regarding the socio-economic implications of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), with a specific focus on their viewpoints on industrialization, urbanization, and technological advancements. Employing an in-depth interview methodology, the study was designed to meticulously capture the nuanced and firsthand experiences of individuals directly influenced by CPEC initiatives. By delving into these personal narratives, the research aimed to gain a profound understanding of how local communities perceive and engage with key components of economic development. Participants, through their candid insights, shed light on the transformative impact of CPEC on industrial growth, detailing shifts in economic landscapes, and provided valuable perspectives on the changes unfolding in urban environments. Additionally, the research explored participants' thoughts on the integration of new technologies, unveiling a grassroots-level understanding of the intricate interplay between CPEC and technological advancements.

Comparative Analysis

This study employed a thorough comparative analysis, meticulously juxtaposing the qualitative insights derived from interviews with the quantitative data and theoretical framework presented in earlier sections. This comprehensive approach aimed to integrate the macro-level impact of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) with the nuanced experiences and perspectives of individuals on the ground. By systematically comparing qualitative narratives with quantitative indicators and theoretical constructs, our research sought to establish connections and disparities, offering a more holistic understanding of CPEC's overall influence. This methodological fusion allowed for a robust exploration of the broader implications of CPEC, considering both the broader economic trends and the lived experiences of those directly affected.

Recommendations:

- **Follow Economic Development Stages:** Align government policies with the different stages of economic development outlined by Rostow's theory. This will help make sure that projects like the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) contribute effectively to the country's economic growth.
- **Regularly Check and Improve:** Create a system to regularly check and improve CPEC projects. This means looking at how well they're working, what problems they might be having, and making changes to make them better.
- **Make Sure Everyone Benefits:** Make sure that the good things coming from CPEC, like new businesses and better technology, are spread out across all of Pakistan. This will help make sure that all regions benefit, not just some.
- **Keep People Informed and Involved:** Share more information with the public about CPEC projects. Let people know what's going on, what good things are happening, and ask them for their thoughts. When people know more, they can support the projects better.
- **Adapt to Changes:** Understand that things in the economy can change, and be ready to change plans if needed. This includes looking at economic numbers regularly and being flexible with how projects are done.
- **Be Ethical and Respectful:** Always follow strong rules about being fair and respectful. Keep private information private, ask people if it's okay before doing things, and make sure everyone involved is treated well.

- **Invest in Education and Skills:** Put money into education and programs that help people learn new skills. This will make sure that workers have what they need to help with CPEC projects.
- **Work Well with Other Countries:** Keep good relationships with China and other countries. This will help get support and help with CPEC projects and other economic and diplomatic goals.
- **Think About the Environment:** Make sure that CPEC projects are good for the environment. Think about ways to be sustainable and not hurt the Earth.
- **Keep Learning and Studying:** Support ongoing studies that look at how CPEC is affecting things. This will help learn more and make better decisions for future projects.

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