

*Journal of Political Stability
Archive*

Online ISSN

3006-5879

Print ISSN

3006-5860

<https://journalpsa.com/index.php/JPSA/about>

**Challenges and Outcomes of China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC):
A Narrative Review**

Aamir Shahzad

PhD Scholar, Department of Peace and Conflict Studies,
National Defence University, Islamabad
aamir000999@gmail.com

Dr. Lubna Sunawar

Assistant Professor, Department of Peace and Conflict Studies
National Defence University, Islamabad
lubnasunawar@ndu.edu.pk

Abstract

This study explores a mutually beneficial economic corridor known as the CPEC from a public policy and governance lens, specifically the social, political, economic, and the socioeconomic discrepancies in the CPEC-associated projects. The first and foremost is to appraise the development and geopolitical impact of CPEC on Pakistan. It was conducted using a narrative literature review method, as the articles published between 2013 and 2024 were included. The study shows that the efficiency of trade increased in Pakistan after CPEC, positions in employment, and enhanced Pakistan infrastructure. Nonetheless, it has brought regional disparity, social displacement and security issue mainly in Baluchistan due to the project. CPEC and its outcomes have contributed positively on the Pakistan and China bond, yet has destabilized political relations between Pakistan-India. In terms of environment CPEC is good for green infrastructure but question remains regarding nonrenewable energy investment. As key findings of the research, it is argued that without overcoming these challenges, CPEC can hardly contribute to sustainable development; any improvements are only possible if sound governance reforms and sound policies within the framework of regional cooperation are enforced.

Keywords: Challenges, Outcomes, China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), Narrative Review

1. Introduction

1.1. Background and Context of CPEC

The most significant project that marked the coalition between China and Pakistan is the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), which falls under the Belt and Road Initiative. Laid down in 2013, the CPEC plans to bring new infrastructure, energy projects, and a network of roads and railways to Pakistan (Iftikhar et al., 2024). The corridor is from Gwadar in Pakistan's Baluchistan province to China's western Xinjiang region, extending to 3,000 km or more (Ashraf, 2023). In other words, from a global perspective, CPEC promotes trade connections between China and the Middle East, Africa, and Europe. In contrast, from the Pakistani stance, it means economic uplift through infrastructure construction (Waheed et al., 2024).

Many analysts have underlined the role of CPEC on the geopolitical and geo-economic map of the region. Waheed et al. (2023) note that through CPEC, Beijing got an outlet to warm water to avoid the vulnerable Strait of Malacca, making it more secure in providing energy. Similarly, Awais et al. (2019) argue that CPEC has emerged as a focal development project in Pakistan that might be useful in addressing critical issues such as the energy gap, infrastructure development, and FDI.

This review will present a systematic narrative review of the studies related to the analysis of CPEC in Pakistan in economic, social, political, and environmental aspects, using a mix of qualitative, quantitative, and hybrid approaches.

1.2. Research Question

"What are the key challenges and outcomes of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC)?"

1.3. Rationale for the Study

There are some issues involved in CPEC, and the results of CPEC have caused much discussion in the theoretical, political, and social contexts. The proposed research is significant for several reasons, such as to help policymakers, stakeholders, and researchers better comprehend the strategic prominent signed agreements, especially CPEC. Numerous studies have been done on CPEC. However, there is a lack of systematic review of literature studies, which focuses on identifying themes and unresolved issues that reflect a comprehensive view of the challenges and consequences of the CPEC (Caskey, 2024; Waheed et al., 2024).

1.4. Structure of the Review

This paper is structured as an NLR and starts with the introductory section, which highlights the importance of the CPEC for Pakistan and its potential for developing the country across various sectors. Section 2, the Methodology section, discusses the criteria for the studies' inclusion and exclusion, emphasizing articles from 2013-2024 published in peer-reviewed journals. As highlighted in the challenges and outcomes of the CPEC section, the literature discussion focuses on the project's economic, social, political, and environmental threats and opportunities on the Chinese, Pakistani, and regional levels. In the discussion section, the authors incorporate aspects of the study by outlining patterns that emerged from the study, areas of further research that are needed, and the political implications of the study. Lastly, the review ends with a conclusion section that provides the main findings and prospects of the CPEC for Pakistan.

2. Methodology

2.1. Narrative Literature Review (NLR)

A narrative literature review, or NLR short, is an extensive, methodical, and critical synthesis of the literature already written on a given subject or research question. An NLR is more adaptable and depends on the researcher's interpretation and synthesis of the available literature, in contrast to a systematic one, which adheres to a precise and structured methodology. In order to create a cogent narrative that aids readers in understanding the current state of knowledge on the selected topic, it entails a qualitative analysis of the major conclusions, themes, and trends in the chosen studies (Pautasso, 2019).

The research design employed in this paper is a narrative review method, which is most appropriate for reviewing previous literature on complex issues. A narrative review enables identifying temporal trends. Secondly, it enables evaluation of the frequency of occurrence and research gaps across multiple research domains. At the same time, a systematic review is limited to strictly controlled study protocols; a narrative review offers a versatile and extensive approach to analyzing the existing literature for qualitative and quantitative data (Green et al., 2006). Therefore, the complexity and multifaceted nature of CPEC necessitates a comprehensive synthesis of existing research across various disciplines, including economics, sociology, politics, and environmental studies. Hence, an NLR allows for integrating diverse perspectives, capturing the interconnectedness of these

dimensions, and providing a holistic understanding of CPEC's challenges and outcomes (Rother, 2007).

2.2. Inclusion Criteria

The inclusion criteria for this review focus on the mentioned aspects:

- Studies published between 2013 and 2024
- Focus on CPEC's impact on Pakistan
- Peer-reviewed journal articles in English
- Studies addressing economic, social, political, and environmental challenges and outcomes of CPEC
- Studies published in the English language

2.3. Exclusion Criteria

Studies that are not included are:

- Those published before 2013 or after 2024
- Studies that fail to provide substantive analysis of the challenges and outcomes of CPEC
- Non-peer-reviewed articles (e.g., editorials, news, blog posts, conference papers, and reports)
- Non-academic sources and studies outside the scope of CPEC
- Studies published in non-English languages

2.4. Search Strategy

The researcher searched for relevant studies using major academic databases on Google Scholar. The researcher used Boolean operators to combine or exclude terms to refine the search. To account for variations in terminology, the researcher used wildcards or truncation operators.

Keywords used in the search included "CPEC," "China-Pakistan Economic Corridor," "CPEC challenges," "CPEC outcomes," "economic impact of CPEC on Pakistan," "social impact of CPEC on Pakistan," "environmental impact of CPEC on Pakistan," and "political impact of CPEC on Pakistan."

2.5. Data Extraction and Synthesis

When evaluating the final list of studies based on inclusion/exclusion criteria, emergent vital themes and trends were identified. The data synthesis process included grouping studies based on the type of issues addressed and analyzing patterns of trends, issues, and impacts related to CPEC. The synthesis also included calls for more research and areas that have been less explored in the literature.

2.6. Information sources / Publishers

The researcher has selected studies from:

- Emerald
- Taylor & Francis
- Wiley
- Mdpi
- Cambridge
- SAGE (SagePub) and
- Elsevier

2.7. Review and Refine

After conducting initial searches, the researcher reviewed the results, assessed relevance, and refined search terms. New keywords were added, and irrelevant terms were removed to enhance precision. The researcher consistently reviewed and refined the search strategy to align with the evolving focus of the research, ensuring that it captures the most pertinent literature available. This systematic approach enhances the precision, relevance, and methodological rigor of the NLR.

3. Challenges and Outcomes of CPEC

3.1. Economic Challenges and Outcomes of CPEC

This paper identifies the rising debt level in Pakistan as one of the critical economic issues relating to CPEC. The financial strategies of CPEC highlighted that most of the projects are financed through Chinese funds and credit, which raised questions about Pakistan's capability to return the borrowed money, as highlighted by Ahmad et al. (2020). Using loan lending networks for massive civil works may well engender future economic subordination to China, which entails sovereignty concerns. Another problem is that the economic benefits are not shared evenly across Pakistan. Still, Awan and Ali (2022) say that both CPECs will specifically improve the economies of Lahore and Karachi, Pakistan's main urban centers. For the Baluchistan province, the situation is going to remain the same. This has also fueled questions about the fairness of CPEC-based economic gains (Saad et al., 2019).

Nevertheless, CPEC resulted in several improvements in infrastructure to the extent of constructing improved connectivity, transportation networks, and energy resources (Awais et al., 2019). New roads, grants for constructing the ports, and energy plants have significantly improved by trying to eliminate Pakistan's energy shortfalls and enhancing trade relations with its neighbors. As per Baig et al. (2020), its impact includes one of the most significant projects called Gwadar Deep Sea Port, which can make Pakistan a trade center of the region through CPEC. CPEC has also played its role in developing the economy through employment opportunities. According to Caskey (2024), work has shown that thousands of jobs have been created in the construction and energy sectors, thus boosting employment in the respective areas. On the positive side, the significant impact of CPEC in the short term seems positive. However, in the long run, the connotations of the deal's economic impact remain ambiguous. Critics, however, view the relative advantages likely to be overwhelmed by the emerging debt situation of Pakistan to China through CPEC. As pointed out by Awan and Ali (2022), the situation demands that Pakistan be keen on managing its debts to avert being trapped. Moreover, economic interdependence with the Chinese partner will somewhat constrain Pakistan's export-driven regional and global interaction (Awais et al., 2019).

3.2. Social Challenges and Outcomes of CPEC

One of the significant social challenges of CPEC is the displacement of local communities due to land acquisition for infrastructure projects (Saad et al., 2019). Kanwal et al. (2020) have pointed out that constructing highways, energy projects, and Gwadar Port has benefitted thousands of families. However, the number of

families displaced significantly in Baluchistan is also relatively high. They fail to gain the opportunity to enjoy the developments, and the situation is made worse by the lack of resources in the said communities (Ahmad et al., 2020). Also, there are health and transparency issues regarding the CPEC-related projects for Pakistan and other regional countries. In the opinion of Iftikhar et al. (2024), the deficit of public participation and the veil of secrecy surrounding decision-making procedures is the route course of social conflicts between the people of a country and its leadership. These tensions have been further compounded by the fact that Chinese workers are perceived to have flooded the economy, resulting in ethical rivalry and tensions (Iftikhar et al., 2024).

Nevertheless, CPEC generated some positive social impacts, as described below. One of the most conspicuous is social infrastructure gains. Some of the positive impacts of CPEC that cannot be ignored are the establishment of schools, health institutions, and community welfare centers in a few of the deprived areas of Pakistan. Awais et al. (2019) have highlighted that using electricity and clean water has enhanced effectiveness in rural zones due to the CPEC energy projects. Furthermore, CPEC has led to better integration and mobility, especially for those people in Pakistan, so that they can quickly and better fetch better economic opportunities in the main cities. As indicated by Khan and Xu (2021), through CPEC, the disparity between the Pakistan population's rural and urban demography has slightly been closed because of the enhanced unity brought about by CPEC.

Social impacts of CPEC underscore the deficiencies in the existing policy models for promoting equal development and public well-being. There is a need for compensation policies and resettlement plans to rehabilitate such populations particularly the IDP and refugees' affected population in Baluchistan (Kanwal et al., 2020). Some of the main reasons influencing decision-making lack of transparency has led to mistrust, to inform governance reforms aimed at enhancing stakeholder engagement (Ahmad et al., 2020). Therefore, the policy makers must ensure that equity in the distribution of the economic gains as it relates to inclusive development within the CPEC Framework has to be given serious consideration for integration as it affects all provinces. To address inequalities and enhance public support, these authors suggest the development of safety nets and funding for local benefits, particularly education and healthcare.

3.3. Political Challenges and Outcomes of CPEC

Specific political issues have presented themselves in CPEC, mainly revolving around the duality of governance and insecurity. Due to this political instability, the Baluchistan provinces in Pakistan have remained a significant challenge to the completion of most projects under CPEC. This paper has identified that the region has witnessed insurgent attacks on CPEC projects, as Gholizadeh et al. (2020) mentioned, to increase insecurity of China's investment. Also, what has been seen prominently is that CPEC has been a subject of geopolitical rivalry in the region. India is one of the foremost nations to have expressed concern about the project, which is considered a threat to its regional dominance. Ashraf (2023) further

testified the rise of hostility between India and Pakistan through the construction of the CPEC, primarily passing through the insecure Gilgit-Baltistan region.

However, CPEC has strengthened Pakistan-China political relations despite all these political challenges. According to Rajput et al. (2022), political and economic cooperation between the two countries has given Pakistan more bargaining power in regional and global politics. For that reason, CPEC is considered the manifestation of solid political relations between Pakistan and China and an increase in Pakistan's role in the geopolitical sense (Ali, 2020). Moreover, a new opportunity to diversify its allies has favored Pakistan's foreign policy due to the establishment of CPEC. According to Khadim et al. (2021), the CPEC has ensured that Pakistan's foreign policy shifts from the Western world to China, allowing for new trade and diplomacy markets in China. However, it adds that CPEC has given a new dimension to Pakistan's role in BRI as an influential actor in China's foreign geopolitical strategy (Caskey, 2024).

The political risks of CPEC show that the need to pursue governance reforms and diplomatic policies to support the project to increase its sustainability. Due to insurgencies and a lack of strong administrative courts all over Baluchistan, a decentralized type of policy implementation is most appropriate. Enhancing the decentralization of power to provincial institutes and the combined cooperation of local and federal authorities can decrease security threats and improve the timeframe for project execution (Khadim et al., 2021).

From geopolitical perspective, CPEC embodies a classic case of how active diplomatic strategy is needed to address opposition, especially from India. Through multilateral arrangements, there is a possibility of forming regional partnerships and at the same time; using CPEC as means of integration can decrease conflict and increase regional cooperation (Ashraf, 2023; Gholizadeh et al., 2020). This underscores the need for transparency in the governance structures and engaging stakeholders in a bid to counter international displeasure over the debt diplomacy and geopolitical motives. Further development of policies that put into account accountability and inclusion will engender trust and therefore lead to provisions of sustainable CPEC (Caskey, 2024).

3.4. Environmental Challenges and Outcomes of CPEC

Environmental degradation is one of the main issues closely connected with CPEC (Abbas et al., 2019). The construction of mega structures like roads, dams, and energy plants are some factors that have triggered deforestation, land degradation, and loss of species in some areas of Pakistan. Based on the study conducted by Waheed et al. (2024), highways had a very negative impact on ecology because construction destroyed natural habitats in the north of Pakistan. In the same year, there are issues with the feasibility and sustainability of the energy projects under CPEC, particularly those utilizing coal. Akhtar et al. (2021) noticed that although CPEC eased energy insecurity in the country, developmental projects based on the coal plant pose potential environmental threats, especially pollution and greenhouse gas emissions.

It is also important to note that CPEC has the potential for environmental enhancement, mainly regarding producing renewable energy (Khan & Xu, 2021). It has been noted in several studies that CPEC can help Pakistan develop green infrastructure, particularly solar, wind, and hydropower. Shah (2018) and Zhang et al. (2017) found that integrating renewable energy projects in CPEC could pave the way for Pakistan to achieve its climate change target and wean itself off fossil fuels. Also, because of CPEC, environmental standards have been enhanced. Waheed et al. (2023) have pointed out that environmental impact assessments (EIAs) needed for CPEC projects have paved the way for awareness and application of sustainability measures. These EIAs make sure that environmental impacts are evaluated in a project development plan, which may reduce some of the harm done to the ecological system due to infrastructure development undertakings (Gholizadeh et al., 2020).

4. Discussions

4.1. Major Themes Identified in this NLR

From the literature analysis of the CPEC, several areas of interest emerge as critical and more prominent than others. One is relative to the balance between growth and sustainable debt, a significant concern in emerging markets with ambitious structural transformation agendas. CPEC has benefited Pakistan economically. However, Pakistan's accumulating debts have forced a question mark on the sustainability of CPEC investments. Likewise, the aspect of the social result of CPEC has its cherry on the top, which is the question of inclusion and exclusion. CPEC positively impacts social infrastructure but has complained about the rights of several vulnerable communities by displacing them. The second most common topic is stability and security challenges related to political processes. Pakistan's political conditions and regional security threats make it difficult to achieve CPEC project objectives. Finally, the environmental aspect of CPEC raises the contentious issue of whether the pace of economic development or the protection of the environment should be prioritized. On the positive side, CPEC is likely to pave the way for green infrastructure; however, critics argue that the project supports coal and other non-renewable energy sources at the cost of the environment.

4.2. Gaps in Existing Research

Some gaps evident in the literature on CPEC are as follows: Firstly, there is little consideration of the socioeconomic impacts of CPEC from a sustainable and long-term perspective (Awan & Ali, 2022). Although the evaluation of infrastructure development and job generation have arguments with short-run advantages, work is scarce regarding the long-run outcomes in eradicating poverty and social injustice (Waheed et al., 2024). Second, there is a dearth of qualitative research investigating local communities' perceptions of CPEC projects (Akhtar et al., 2021). Much of the literature has limited consideration of micro-level accounts of the impacts of displacement and land acquisition (Shah, 2018). Also, there is a lack of research on the possible impacts of CPEC on the environment formulated here (Waheed et al., 2023). Some previous studies analyze the environmental impact of the different

infrastructural projects undertaken. At the same time, there is an absence of more generalized research concentrated on the collective impact of the CPEC, as well as the possible role of constructing green infrastructure (Iftikhar et al., 2024).

5. Conclusion and Recommendations

5.1. Synthesis of Findings

This analysis has unearthed that CPEC has both a multiplier effect and a cost on the economy in light of the political, social, economic, and environmental effects. CPEC has done wonders economically by improving infrastructure and job opportunities throughout the country; however, it has potential negative impacts on the sustainability of the country's debt situation in the future. Regarding social impacts, CPEC has facilitated enhanced availability of services to people previously denied those basic amenities. However, it has also displaced the country's local population and has generated social problems. In the political aspect, CPEC has improved Pakistan-China relations and boosted Pakistan's foreign policy power and capabilities. However, it has also posed security concerns and geopolitical shuttles. On the environmental front, CPEC provides the potential for the construction of green infrastructure; however, some concerns can be raised over the sustainability of the energy-sector investments provided by CPEC, relying heavily on coal and other non-renewable resources.

CPEC is a game-changing project that has the scope to alter the social fabric of Pakistan and its position on the international map. Nonetheless, it remains to be seen whether these features will deliver sustainable development and what other challenges Pakistan will face in connection with them – from debt burden to social inclusion, political stability, and environmental concerns. If these challenges are effectively addressed, they have the potential to turn the CPEC into a positive growth engine for the sustainable development of Pakistan and the region's support of a free trade system.

5.2. Contribution of the Study

This narrative review gives several vital findings about the CPEC toward economics, society, politics, and the environment, which have implications for academics and policymakers. They benefit policymakers, academics, investors, and other interested parties focused on large-scale infrastructure projects, especially those related to the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) implementation. Therefore, this review supports the enhancement of existing literature on CPEC and includes a detailed examination of its drawbacks and impacts concerning the economic, societal, political, and environmental contexts. It provides an overview of the opportunities and challenges associated with CPEC and discusses this study's research limitations and future directions. The study significantly contributes to various areas such as economic policy, social justice, political diplomacy, environmental conservation, and research agenda. In synthesizing the findings, the study contributes a wealth of information to policymakers, researchers, and other stakeholders in infrastructure development and intergovernmental relations. Thus, by presenting a comprehensive overview of the existing literature and identifying the potential avenues for further research, this

study sets the stage for future academic inquiry and practical decision-making on the management and sustainability issues of massive megaprojects such as the CPEC.

5.3. Implications for Policymakers

As the findings of this review on CPEC indicate, there are several important policy implications that policymakers, especially in Pakistan, must consider. First, the issue of the financial viability of the CPEC projects should be resolved on the same. The public should find ways to help it clear excessive debts to prevent ails of economic longevity. This may include re-profiling loans with China, encouraging the formation of PPPs, and guaranteeing the optimal utilization of resources to optimize the economy's returns and fiscal health.

Secondly, the uneven regional development aggravated by projects under CPEC needs to be addressed. Policymakers must, therefore, devise strategies that would facilitate fairly distributed economic gains in all provinces, particularly in the backward provinces of Baluchistan. These reforms entail providing funds for developing local infrastructure and employment and education provisions to enhance regions' capacity and cohesiveness.

Thirdly, improving communication and public awareness regarding CPEC-related projects or activities is critical. To strengthen partnerships and, therefore, the capacity for effective policy and project implementation, the following should be done: Social: Policymakers should improve the level of trust by enhancing transparency at the national and international level in the planning, implementation, and accounting for funds social projects. Incorporating people as stakeholders can reduce social problems and enhance project relevance to society.

Last but not least, environmental considerations should be incorporated into the CPEC's future projects. The government should also support Green infrastructures and renewable energy and establish high standards of environmental policies that would reduce environmental effects. Thus, by achieving economic development and environmental sustainability principles, Pakistan can guarantee the longevity of the CPEC projects for sustainable development.

5.4. Future Research Directions

Further studies on the CPEC require the following areas of interest, which have not been explored as much as needed to grasp the long-term consequences of its implementation fully. First, there is a dearth of research focusing on the differential social impacts of CPEC in the longer run concerning poverty, income distribution, and regional development. To address the above-discussed study limitations, future work should look at how the short-term gains of infrastructure development extend into the particular sustainable, equitable development of different areas of Pakistan in the long run.

Second, qualitative research methods should be employed to get a better understanding of the effects of CPEC on local communities. Most research treats macroeconomic or geopolitical perspectives, excluding the bottom-up voice of forcibly displaced people and those affected by land purchase and infrastructure projects. This knowledge of challenges and responses would prove helpful in

achieving the goal of modifying such kinds of large-scale projects to be more inclusionary and socially responsive.

Third, future studies should focus more on the role of CPEC in the environment in detail. Although it has been observed that some of the infrastructure projects led to the degradation of the ecological environment, there is little systematic evaluation of the collective environmental loss due to CPEC. Another critical area of research is the feasibility and prospects for green infrastructure and renewable energy projects under CPEC, as well as suggestions concerning their integration into sustainable development. Finally, it might be interesting to study CPEC in terms of its geostrategic features, its impact on the state of Pakistan, and its relations with other countries, including India, within the framework of the BRI concept.

References

- Abbas, G., Liu, Z., Wasti, S. H., Munir, U., & Abbas, M. (2019). CPEC's utility and concerns under OBOR Initiative: A Pakistani industrial perspective. *Economies*, 7(3), 90.
- Ahmad, R., Mi, H., & Fernald, L. W. (2020). Revisiting the potential security threats linked with the China–Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC). *Journal of the International Council for small business*, 1(1), 64-80.
- Akhtar, N., Khan, H. U., Jan, M. A., Pratt, C. B., & Jianfu, M. (2021). Exploring the determinants of the China-Pakistan economic corridor and its impact on local communities. *SAGE open*, 11(4), 21582440211057127.
- Ali, M. (2020). China–Pakistan economic corridor: prospects and challenges. *Contemporary South Asia*, 28(1), 100-112.
- Ashraf, J. (2023). Does political risk undermine environment and economic development in Pakistan? Empirical evidence from China–Pakistan economic corridor. *Economic Change and Restructuring*, 56(1), 581-608.
- Awais, M., Samin, T., Gulzar, M. A., & Hwang, J. (2019). The sustainable development of the China Pakistan economic corridor: synergy among economic, social, and environmental sustainability. *Sustainability*, 11(24), 7044.
- Awan, M. A., & Ali, Y. (2022). Risk Assessment in Supply Chain Networks of China–Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC). *Chinese Political Science Review*, 7(4), 550-573.
- Baig, S., Qasim, M., Xuemei, L., & Alam, K. M. (2020). Is the China-Pakistan economic corridor an opportunity or a threat for small and micro-entrepreneurs? Empirical evidence from Northern Pakistan. *Sustainability*, 12(5), 1727.
- Caskey, G. W. (2024). The political economy of China's Belt and Road Initiative. *Journal of Institutional Economics*, 20, e31.
- Gholizadeh, A., Madani, S., & Saneinia, S. (2020). A geoeconomic and geopolitical review of Gwadar Port on belt and road initiative. *Maritime Business Review*, 5(4), 335-349.

- Green, B. N., Johnson, C. D., & Adams, A. (2006). Writing narrative literature reviews for peer-reviewed journals: secrets of the trade. *Journal of chiropractic medicine*, 5(3), 101-117.
- Iftikhar, A., Li, C., Jiangyu, L., Xi, C., Tao, W., & Haider, A. A. (2024). Perceptions, Challenges, and Opportunities of Chinese Language Learning in Punjab and Sindh, Pakistan: Exploring the Role of CPEC. *New directions for child and adolescent development*, 2024(1), 6662409.
- Kanwal, S., Pitafi, A. H., Malik, M. Y., Khan, N. A., & Rashid, R. M. (2020). Local Pakistani citizens' benefits and attitudes toward China–Pakistan economic corridor projects. *Sage Open*, 10(3), 2158244020942759.
- Khadim, Z., Batool, I., & Bilal Lodhi, M. (2021). China–Pakistan economic corridor, logistics developments and economic growth in Pakistan. *Logistics*, 5(2), 35.
- Khan, M. I., & Xu, Q. (2021). An assessment of environmental policy implications under the China-Pakistan economic corridor: A perspective of environmental laws and sustainable development. *Sustainability*, 13(20), 11223.
- Pautasso, M. (2019). The structure and conduct of a narrative literature review. *A Guide to the Scientific Career: Virtues, Communication, Research and Academic Writing*, 299-310.
- Rajput, A., Maqsoom, A., Shah, S. W. A., Ullah, F., Munawar, H. S., Rehman, M. S. U., & Albattah, M. (2022). Impact of Political, social safety, and legal risks and host country attitude towards foreigners on project performance of China Pakistan economic corridor (CPEC). *Buildings*, 12(6), 760.
- Rother, E. T. (2007). Systematic literature review X narrative review. *Acta paulista de enfermagem*, 20, v-vi.
- Saad, A., Xinping, G., & Ijaz, M. (2019). China-Pakistan Economic Corridor and its influence on perceived economic and social goals: Implications for social policy makers. *Sustainability*, 11(18), 4949.
- Shah, A. R. (2018). How does China–Pakistan economic corridor show the limitations of China's 'one belt one Road' Model. *Asia & the Pacific Policy Studies*, 5(2), 378-385.
- Waheed, A., Fischer, T. B., Kousar, S., & Khan, M. I. (2023). Disaster management and environmental policy integration in Pakistan—an evaluation with particular reference to the China–Pakistan Economic Corridor Plan. *Environmental science and pollution research*, 30(48), 105700-105731.
- Waheed, A., Kousar, S., Khan, M. I., & Fischer, T. B. (2024). Environmental governance in Pakistan: Perspectives and implications for the China-Pakistan economic corridor plan. *Environmental and Sustainability Indicators*, 23, 100443.
- Zhang, R., Andam, F., & Shi, G. (2017). Environmental and social risk evaluation of overseas investment under the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor. *Environmental monitoring and assessment*, 189, 1-16.