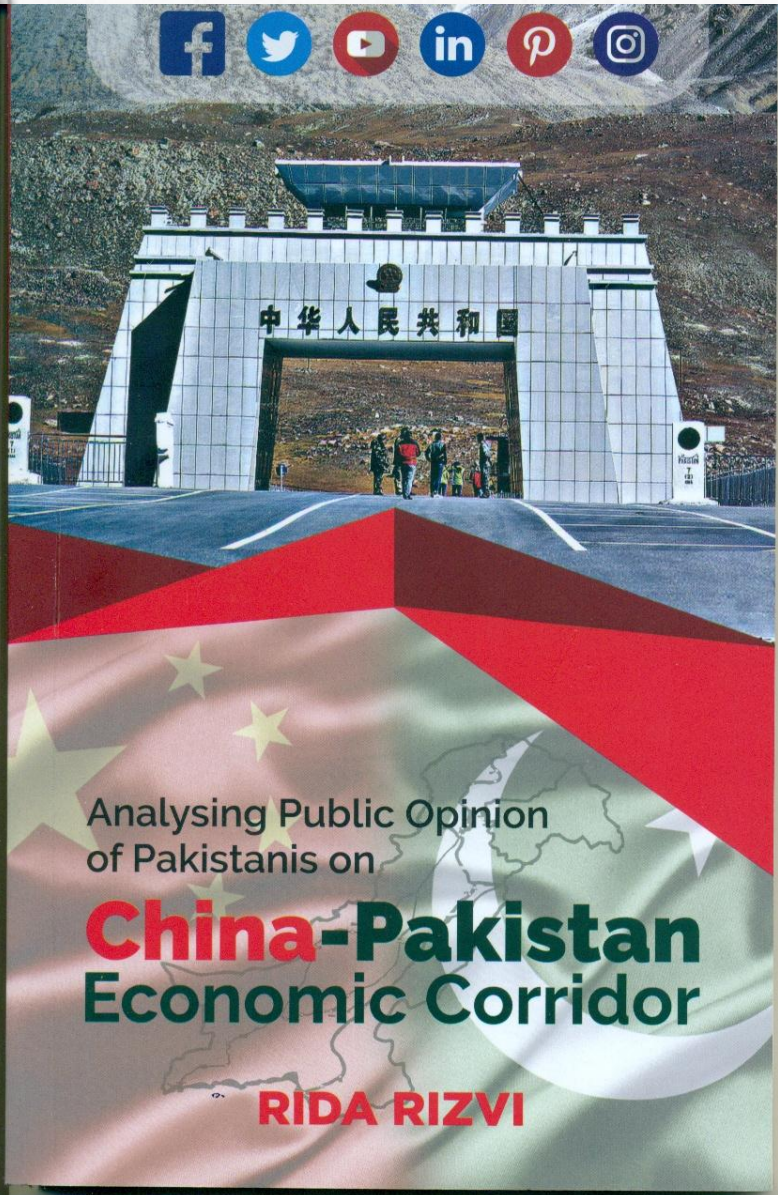


**Analyzing Public Opinion of
Pakistanis on **China**-**Pakistan**
Economic Corridor**

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Analysing Public Opinion
of Pakistanis on

China-Pakistan Economic Corridor

RIDA RIZVI

Rida Rizvi is working in the digital media industry. Her interest has always been in observing the impact social media has in today's age of information warfare. Analyzing Public Opinion of Pakistanis on CPEC is an attempt out of same devotion to understand the perceptions of public. She is an MPhil graduate in the field of International Relations from National Defense University, Islamabad. Her previous degree is of Media and Communications. She is passionate about amalgamating both her study backgrounds to research about threats and opportunities of digital media in the age of information warfare especially pertaining to interstate relations. She is a relentless seeker of knowledge and hopes to continue her studies in this domain.



The Iqbal International Institute for Research & Dialogue (IRD) is a constituent unit of the International Islamic University, Islamabad (IIUI). The IRD has launched a series of publications on various issues in pursuance of its objectives to publish quality books.

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Core Argument

- o Public perceptions matter, especially when it comes to matters of national interest like CPEC
- o CPEC has widespread public support as people are optimistic that it will bring benefits to Pakistan.
- o Social media is an important medium to manage opinions

Why Public Opinion matters?

1. Central to modern democracy
2. Derives policy change and influence decisions
3. Brings legitimacy to Public policy and foreign policy
4. To win the hearts of public

imperative to cater public opinion at right time
in a right manner.

Negative Perceptions-A Threat

1. Efforts to misinterpret BRI and its flagship CPEC as imperialistic in nature
2. The other delicate concern lies within political elites
3. Finally the propaganda to create provincial divide in Pakistan

Embrace a national viewpoint as opposed to fanning parochial emotions and hurting national solidarity

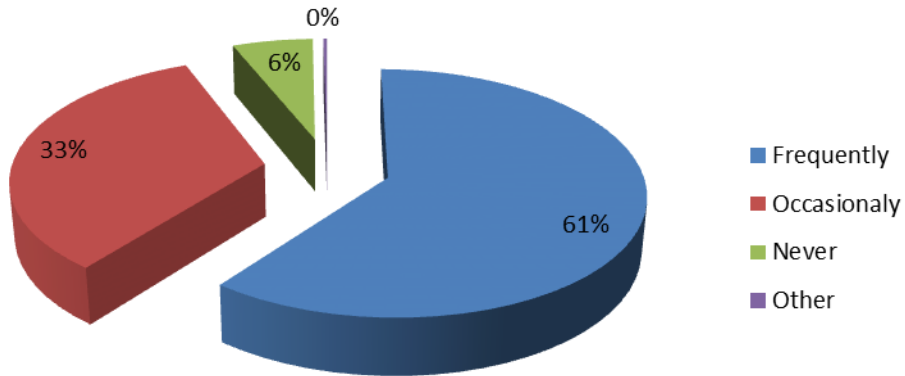
Chapters

- o One: Conceptual Framework
- o Two: China-Pakistan Economic Corridor: An Overview
- o Three: Analyzing Public Opinion on CPEC
- o Four: Strategies to form/shape/manage Public Opinion

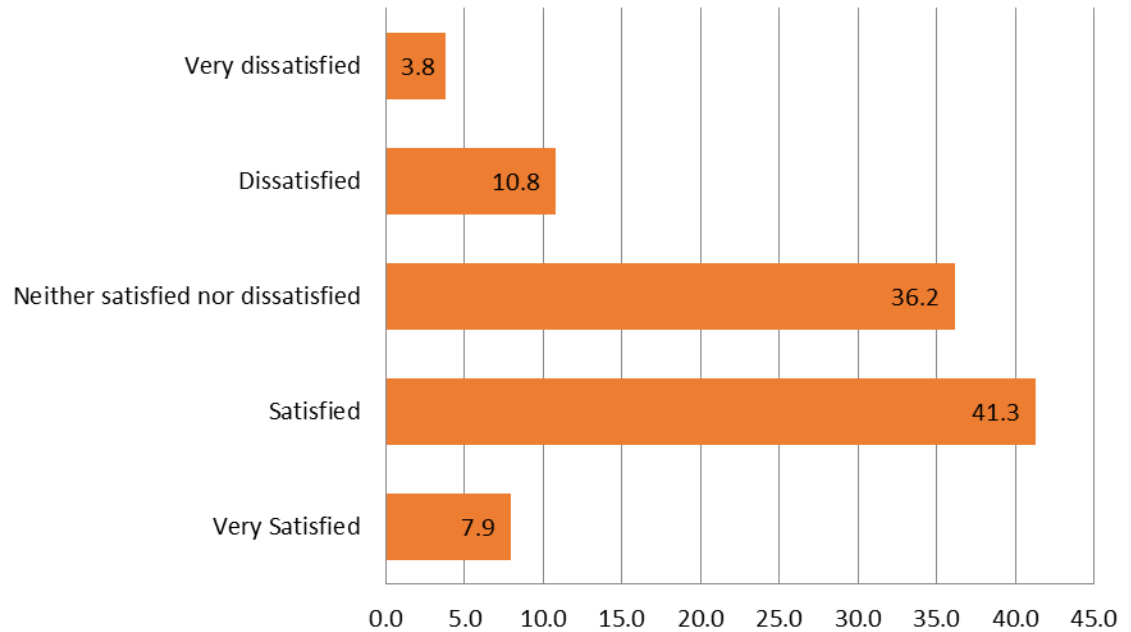
Methodology

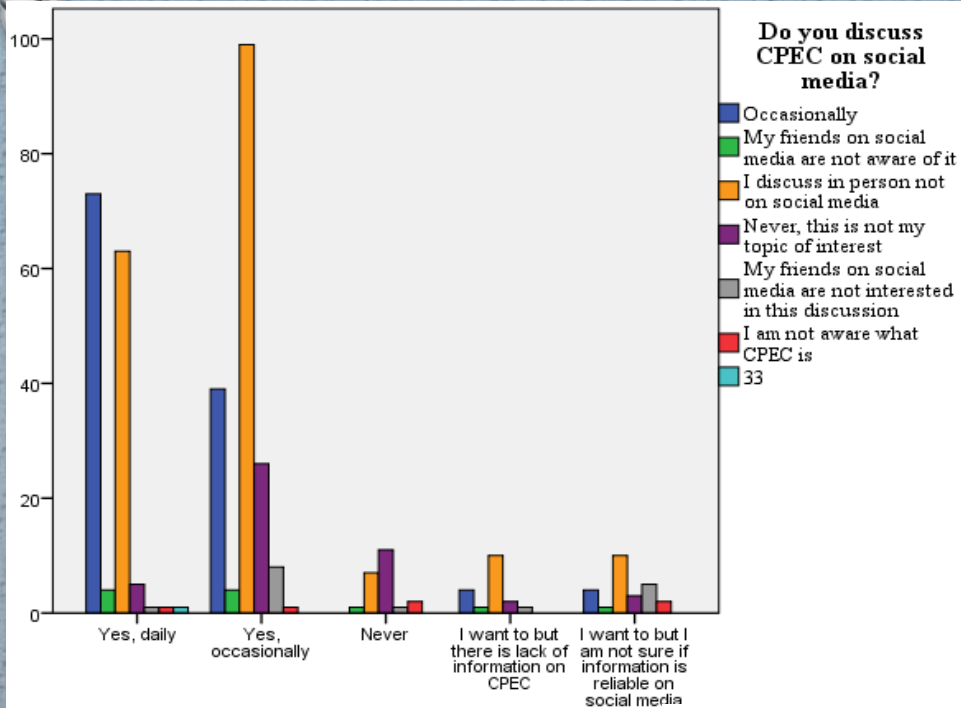
- o Quantitative Study
- o Technique: Survey
- o Sampling Unit: ICT
- o Population: 2006572
- o Sample Size: 385 (confidence level of 95% and margin of error 5%)
- o Questionnaire Response: 400
- o Data Analysis: SPSS

Findings



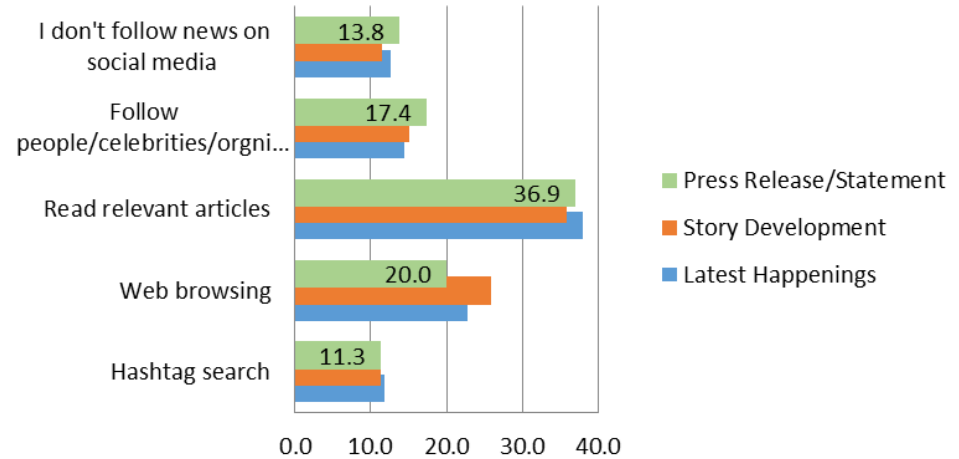
Social Media As Source Of News



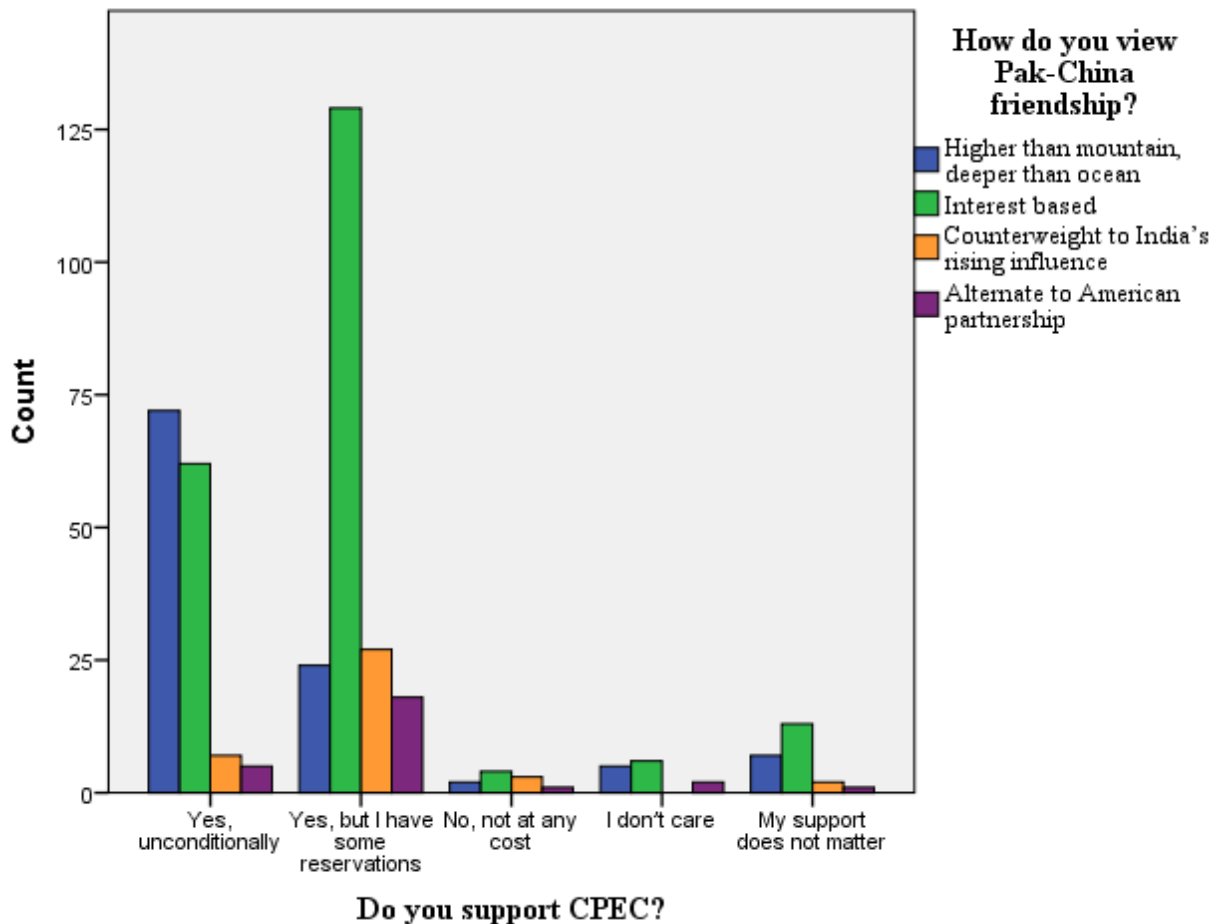


Role Of Social Media In The Contribution Of Knowledge About CPEC

Have you read/heard about CPEC on social media?



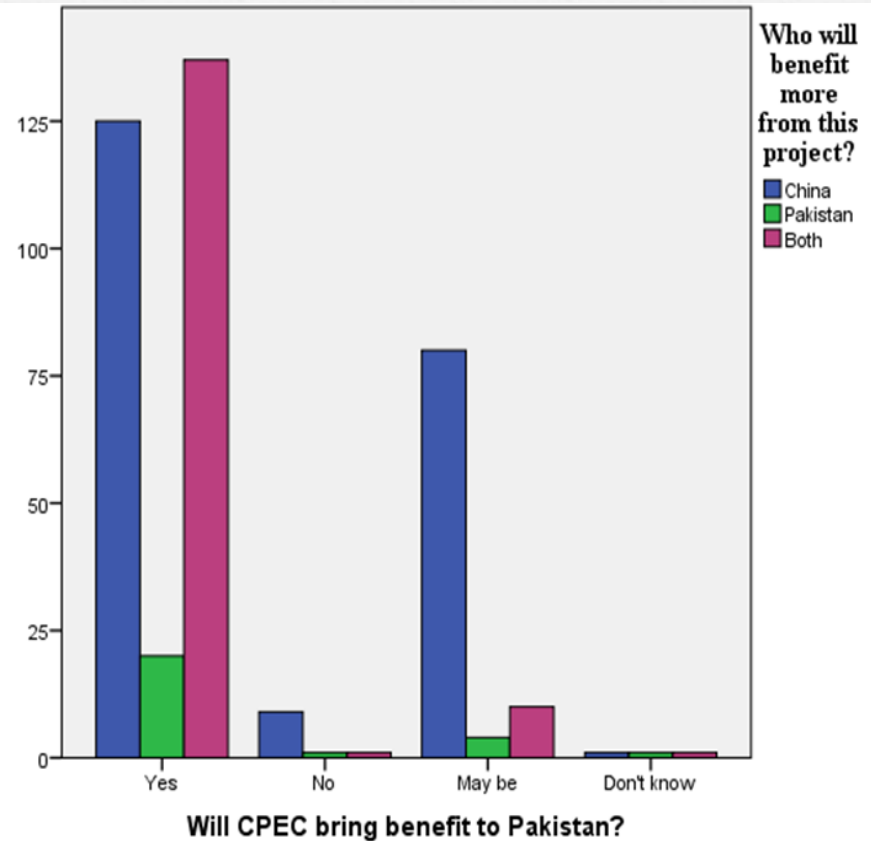
CPEC Support



Perception About CPEC

| | Frequency | Percent |
|---------------------------------------|-----------|---------|
| 1 Game Changer | 166 | 42.6 |
| 2 Economic Aid | 47 | 12.1 |
| 3 Instrument of Chinese imperialism | 52 | 13.3 |
| 4 Means of countering India | 6 | 1.5 |
| 5 Trade route | 67 | 17.2 |
| 6 Means to end load shedding | 2 | .5 |
| 7 Infrastructural development project | 35 | 9.0 |
| 8 Threat to Pakistan's sovereignty | 15 | 3.8 |
| Total | 390 | 100.0 |

Perception About Pak-China Relations



Basic Finding

- o The social media discourse directly hits the masses even if they are uninterested or supporting the differing view. This diverts the opinion and perceptions of the individual. The **key** to successful influence is **constant** and **identical discourse** for a **certain period** of time.

Recommendations

1. Quench public's thirst to know
2. Strengthen Public's perception and encourage participation
3. Use social media as a tool to manage perceptions and neutralize negative influence of propagandists
4. Find out the interests of online social media audience because of which they gather news. content can be curated accordingly which directly lays impact on their thought process and right kind of information is disseminated to the seekers.

Conclusion

1. Collaboration of public with state institutions to provide comprehensive solution to counter misguided narratives
2. Additional responsibility for government and military institutes to counter manage opinions
3. Sharing of information based on ground realities with public