

# How Pakistanis perceive China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC)?

November 2016



## KEY FINDINGS

- 157 respondents participated in the survey, conducted in Urdu. Respondents were chosen from Punjab, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Sindh, and Balochistan; the northern Gilgit Baltistan; Federally-Administered Tribal Areas (FATA), and capital Islamabad.
- Respondents included journalists, political workers, teachers, traders, students – mostly those professional who are relatively well-informed on CPEC, than other segments of society on issues: 91% of these respondents thought of having basic idea about CPEC. Only 9% admitted of having no knowledge of CPEC.
- Around 54% expressed satisfaction with whatever they know about CPEC. 42% said they are not satisfied with their understanding. They called for informing them through dialogues, media campaigns, booklets, among other things. Some also wondered if the government has been holding ambiguity intentionally, calling for accessing information about CPEC.
- Respondents were asked as to what they mean by China-Pakistan Economic Corridor whenever it is discussed. Most of the respondents understood CPEC as a major undertaking with benefits for Pakistan, such as by bringing in investment, initiating projects.
- Only 20 respondents saw CPEC as ending power outages in the country. This is striking because most of the amount meant for CPEC is meant to be invested in energy sector. In many cases, respondents saw CPEC as bringing everything in the country except for ending outages. This is also striking because most of the respondents are, as discussed above, relatively well-informed

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than other segments and expressed satisfaction about their understanding.

- Majority respondents get their knowledge of CPEC from mainstream media, both print and electronic. The responsibility of sharing credible information therefore rests largely with mainstream media.
- Majority of the respondents said they do discuss the CPEC in their conversations, though with varying frequencies. Most of those who discuss CPEC do it on “seldom” basis – on and off, clearly showing that CPEC isn’t much of a “regular” occurrence for them as of now.
- 61% of the respondents said their area is part of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor. Many of them reasoned that their region or area or district is critical for CPEC. They used words like “key”, “gateway”, and even “foundation” of CPEC, when describing their areas. This attests to the importance of CPEC to their localities.
- 77 respondents, around 49%, found the work on CPEC in their areas slower than expected. Most of these voices came Balochistan and KP. Balochistan has also expressed “reservation” over the “way” the work is carried on CPEC.
- Overall, respondents find CPEC having positive impact in their areas.
- Respondents said they knew about the political debates on CPEC. When asked as to which party they support on CPEC, respondents largely chose the party popular in their provinces. Most of the respondents from Punjab, for instance, sided with PML-N’s view on CPEC. In Balochistan, respondents supported Baloch and

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Pashtun nationalist parties. Overall, 59% found the debates conducive to CPEC.

- Respondents from all over the country identifies several common factors are obstacles. Even though many blamed political parties, their interests or politics, it cannot be said with certainty which parties they had in mind, because, as discussed above, many sided with one party over another, founded the debates conducive, and some blamed federal government for lacking seriousness.
- Respondents in Balochistan warned of nationalist or insurgents taking stock of the CPEC projects. People of these areas also seemed concerned that if not accommodated, they might lose out the benefits of the CPEC. Respondents from Gilgit-Baltistan, the northern unit in Pakistan, which adjoins China, clearly marked the discrepancy in the constitutional status of GB as a hurdle.
- An overwhelming majority of the respondents in all the areas asked for engaging all stakeholders in resolving the issues over CPEC. They, for instance, called for “engaging” all, be it different parties, provinces, locals, or any other stakeholder.

## How Pakistanis perceive China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC)?

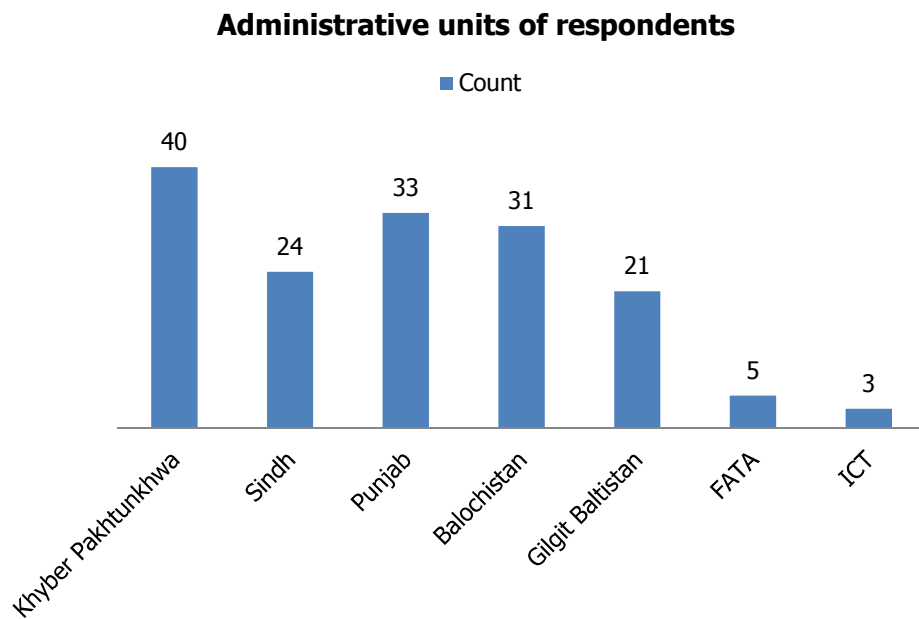
### PERSONAL BACKGROUND

#### Where do respondents come from?

157 respondents participated in the survey.

These respondents were chosen from all the administrative units of the country. Respondents came from 4 provinces namely Punjab, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Sindh, and Balochistan; the northern Gilgit Baltistan; Federally-Administered Tribal Areas (FATA), and capital Islamabad.

This chart displays which administrative units the respondents hail from and how many:



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A selective number of districts were approached within each province. The districts were chosen to ensure that diversity within the provinces is properly captured. Respondents came from those areas that are often associated with the CPEC. These include the two entry and exit areas: Gwadar in the south and Gigit-Baltistan in the north.

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The table enlists areas from where at least one respondent hailed:

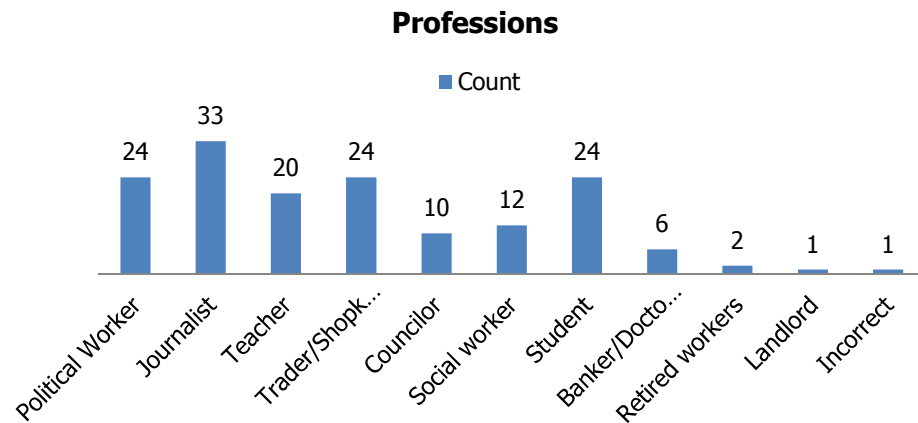
Balochistan	Southern: Gwadar, Turbat
	Northern: Qilla Saifullah/Zhob
Sindh	Capital: Karachi
	Central: Hyderabad, Kotri, Tharparkar
Punjab	Southern: Multan, Layyah, Lodhran
	Central: Mianwali
	Northern: Rawalpindi, Attock
ICT	Islamabad
KP	Southern: Dera Ismail Khan, Bannu, Tank
	Capital: Peshawar

## How Pakistanis perceive China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC)?



### Professional affiliation of respondents:

Respondents worked in diverse fields. The purpose was to choose those who are relatively well-informed than other segments of society on issues like CPEC. Thus, most of those who were surveyed were journalists, political workers, councillors, traders or businessmen, among others.





## How Pakistanis perceive China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC)?

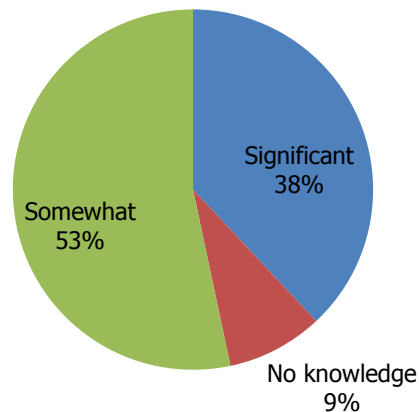
### ABOUT UNDERSTANDING OF THE CPEC

#### Level of understanding of CPEC:

Respondents were asked as to how they evaluate their knowledge of CPEC.

Around 38% of the respondents said they have "significant" understanding, followed by 53% who said they have "somewhat" knowledge of the CPEC. Only 9% of the respondents said they know nothing about the CPEC. Clearly majority – 91% - have at least basic idea of what the CPEC is about.

#### Level of knowledge of CPEC\*



\* Excludes the incorrect entries

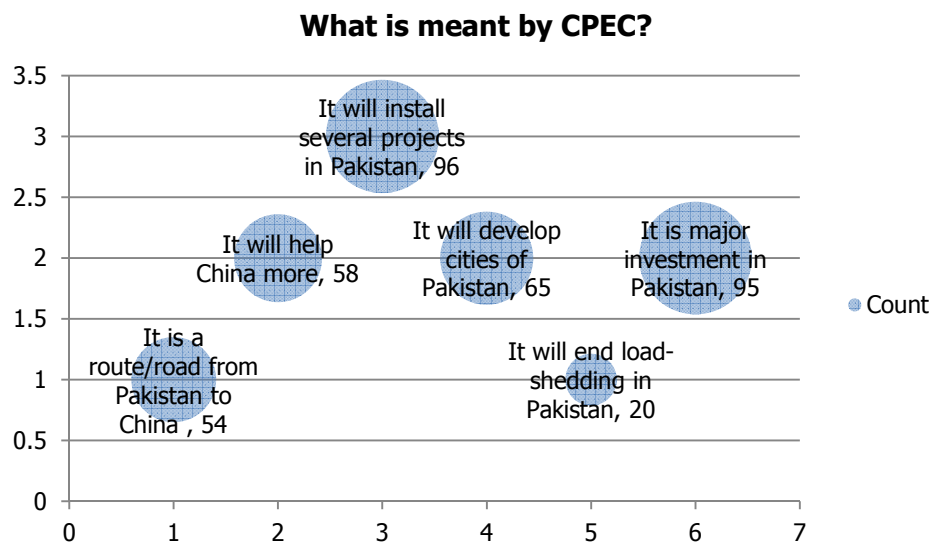
#### What is your understanding of CPEC?:

## How Pakistanis perceive China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC)?

Respondents were asked as to what do they understand by the China-Pakistan Economic. Respondents could choose more than one option in the answer. They could also add anything more as they deemed about the CPCEC.

Most of the respondents understood CPEC as a major undertaking with benefits for Pakistan: 96 respondents said the CPEC will install several projects; 95 said it will bring major investment; and 65 said CPEC is meant to develop cities. 54 also chose that CPEC was a route between the two countries.

Strikingly, only 20 saw CPEC as ending power outages in the country. This is striking because most of the amount meant for CPEC is meant to be invested in energy sector. In many cases, respondents saw CPEC as bringing everything except for ending outages.



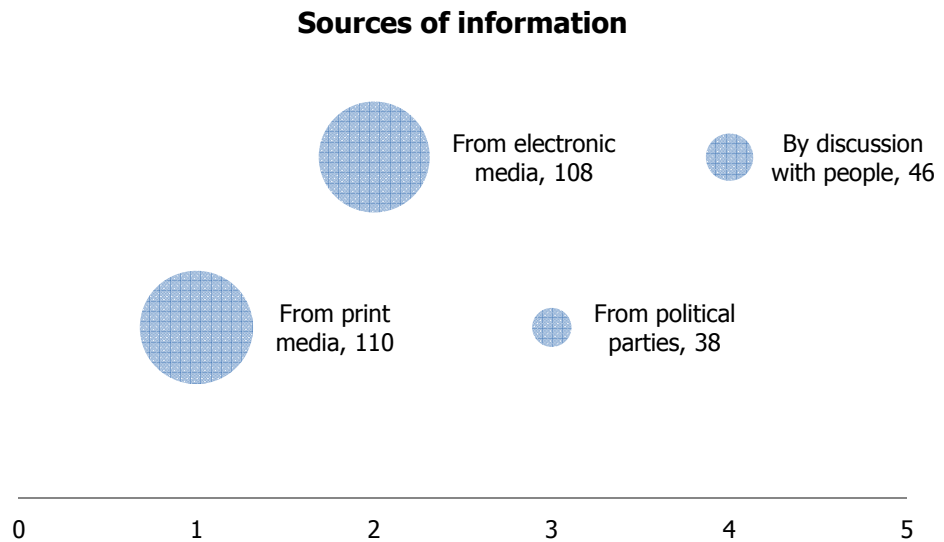
## How Pakistanis perceive China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC)?

As to those who wrote further about how they foresee CPEC, around 9 reiterated that Pakistan will benefit economically, creating jobs.

Yet, a few thought as the CPEC will widen the existing divides. 1 respondent that Balochistan will suffer; 2 said contempt against the largest province Punjab will increase, apparently because it will accrue major benefit; 1 said Balochistan province will suffer; 1 foresaw rise in insecurity, 1 saw that Chinese products will be everywhere.

## How Pakistanis perceive China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC)?

### How do you get to know about CPEC?:



Majority get their knowledge of CPEC from mainstream media, both print and electronic.

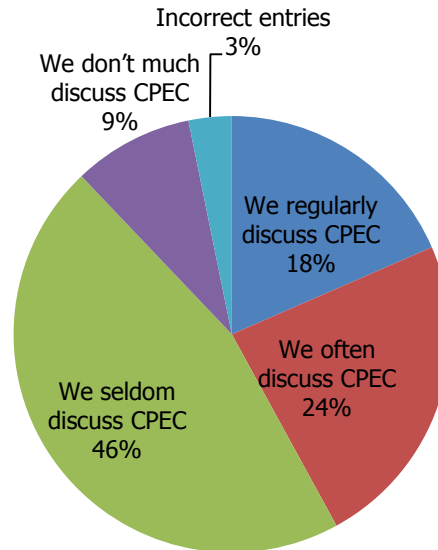
110 respondents chose print media mostly newspapers; and roughly the same, 108 chose electronic media like TV channels and radio stations. The responsibility of credible information therefore rests largely with mainstream media.

46 people said they also got their information of CPEC by discussing with people, while 38 said they received from political parties.

## How Pakistanis perceive China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC)?

### Frequency of discussions on CPEC:

#### Frequency of discussions on CPEC



Overall, only 9% said they don't discuss CPEC at all.

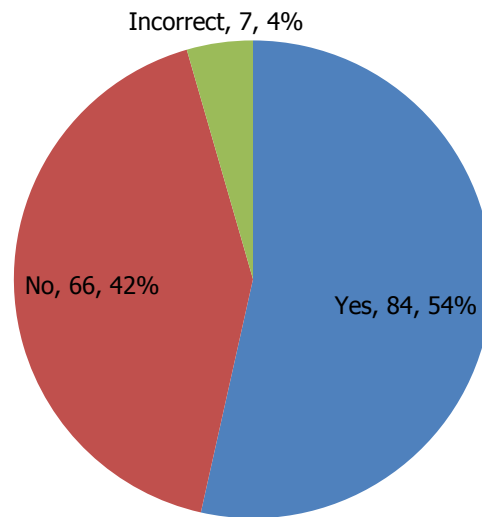
Others, majority, do discuss the CPEC in their conversations, though with varying frequencies.

Most of those who discuss CPEC do it on seldom basis, clearly showing that CPEC isn't much of a regular occurrence for them as of now.

## How Pakistanis perceive China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC)?

### Satisfaction with knowledge of CPEC:

Satisfaction with knowledge of CPEC



Majority expressed satisfaction with what they know about CPEC. 84 said they are fine with what they know, around 54%. 66 said they are not satisfied, making them 42% of the total.

Respondents come from professions like journalism, politics, and social work. These people are supposed to know more than others. Had other segments of society been involved in, they would have further little understanding of what the CPEC is about.

Respondents who were not satisfied with their knowledge about CPEC, suggested different ways of increasing their understanding of the CPEC:

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around 16 asked for holding discussion, forums, or seminars to inform people about what CPEC is what are its benefits; 14 suggested of advertising through different media outlets like TV and newspaper; 5 others called for awareness-raising campaign; 6 said some sort of fact-based literature like booklet or book may be published on CPEC; a few thought of forming committees at local level for informing people, so on.

A few respondents not satisfied with their understanding said that work on the ground should reflect what is being told about CPEC. Some also wondered if the government has been holding ambiguity intentionally, calling for accessing information about CPEC.

## How Pakistanis perceive China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC)?

### ABOUT THE CPEC

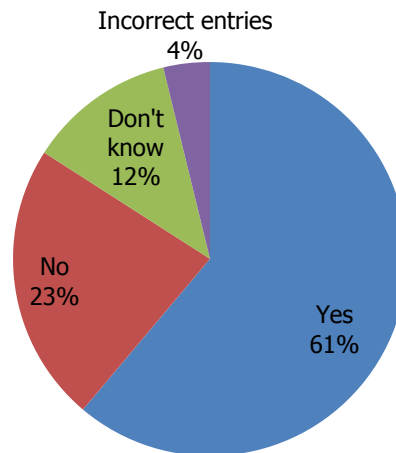
#### Is your area included in CPEC?:

The areas of majority of the respondents are part of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor. 96 respondents said their area is part of the CPEC, around 61% of the total.

36% respondents said their area isn't part of the CPEC. These included respondents from areas like Hyderabad in Sindh or North Waziristan in FATA.

Around 12% respondents were unsure about the status of their areas in the corridor. Strikingly though, 7 respondents from Karachi, out of 11, said they are not sure if their area is part of the CPEC.

#### Is your area included in CPEC?





## How Pakistanis perceive China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC)?

As to those whose area they said is part of the CPEC, they were asked how so.

Many reasoned their district or city lie on the route. To the majority, CPEC has been about the road/route going through the areas.

Interestingly, significant number of respondents reasoned that their region, area or district is critical for CPEC. They used words like "key", "gateway", and even "foundation" of CPEC, when describing their areas. Respondents from Gwadar said their area is what defines CPEC, while in the north, residents of Gilgit-Baltistan reminded about their border with China.

### **Evaluating the pace of work on CPEC in respondent's area:**

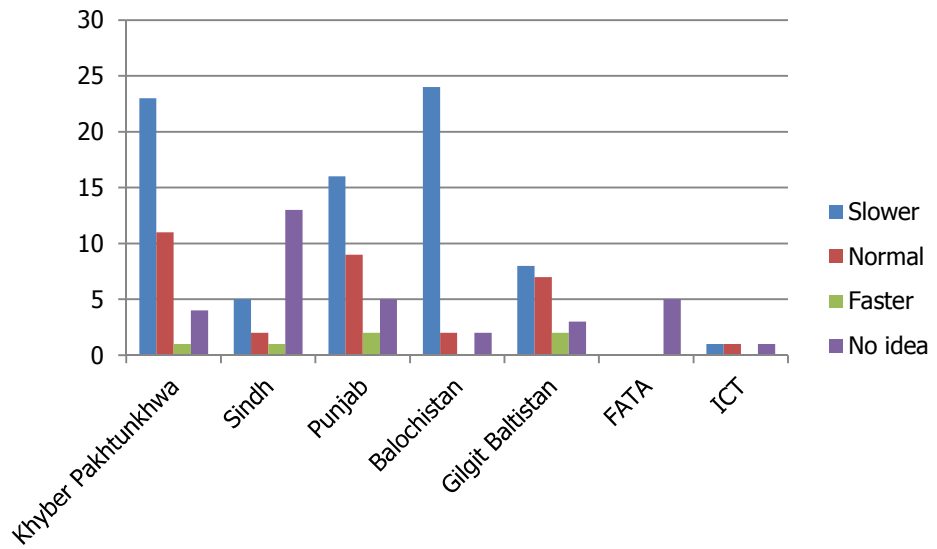
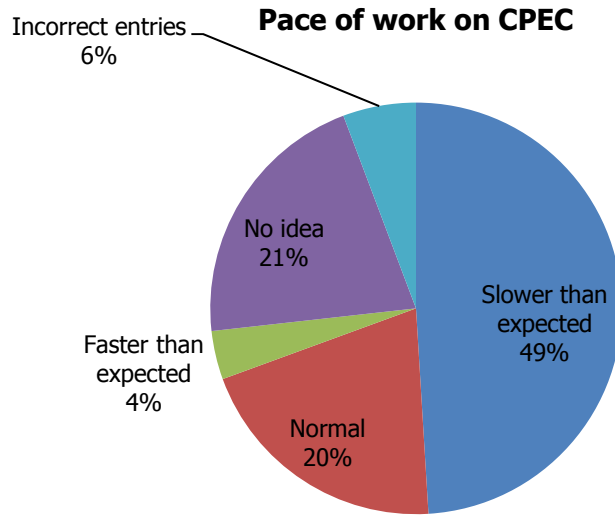
Respondents were asked how they find the pace of work on CPEC in their areas.

Majority said the work on CPEC is slower than expected. 77 respondents found the work slower than expected.

32 respondents said the work on CPEC is normal, they are fine with its pace. 6 respondents said the work done is faster than expected.

Meanwhile, 33 respondents didn't have any idea of the pace of the work on CPEC. Some also said that the work is not yet started.

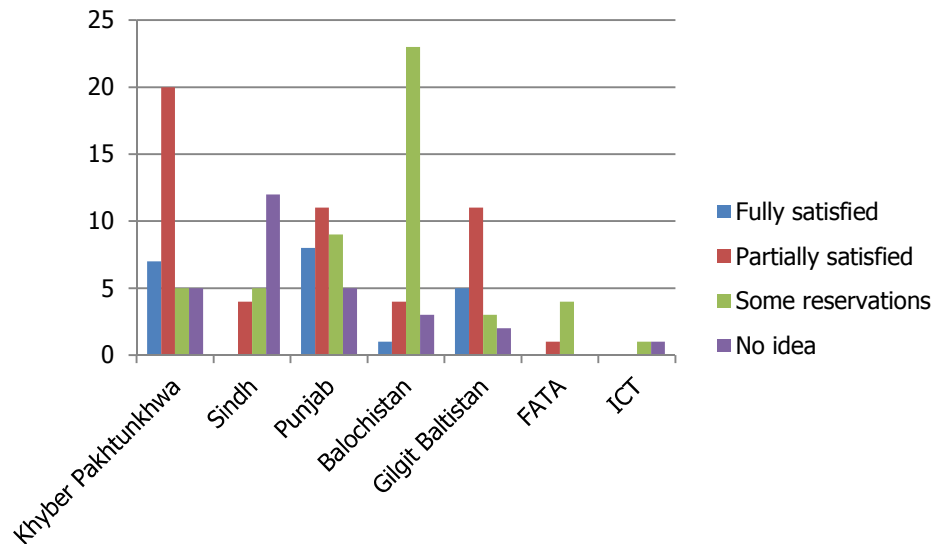
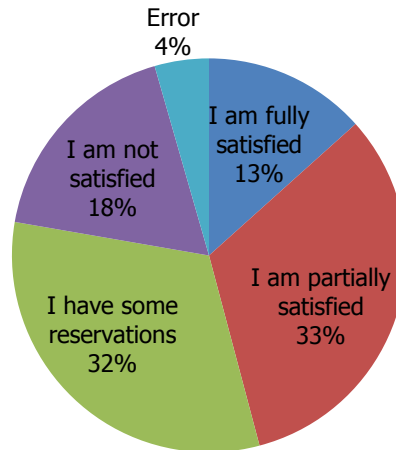
## How Pakistanis perceive China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC)?



## How Pakistanis perceive China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC)?

Evaluating the way work on CPEC is carried in respondent's area:

Satisfaction with the way work is carried



## How Pakistanis perceive China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC)?

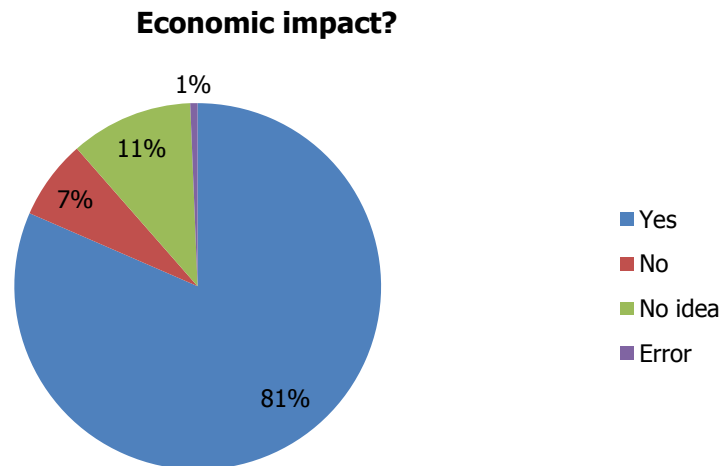
### Impact of CPEC in the areas/provinces:

Overall, respondents find CPEC having positive impact in the area.

Respondents were also asked about the impact of the CPEC in their area. They were asked three questions to this end: how will CPEC impact culture of the respondent's area; will there be any (positive or negative) impact of the CPEC in the respondent's area; and how do they evaluate the cumulative impact of the CPEC in the respondent's area.

In terms of culture, majority evaluated the impact to be positive, though a few reservations were also raised in some parts.

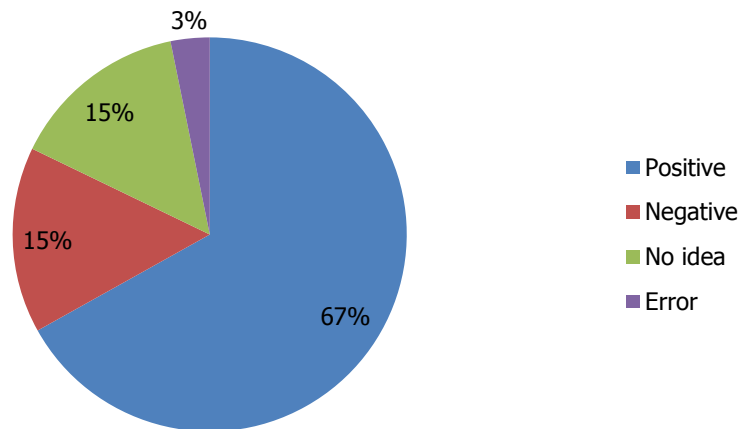
Respondents understood the importance of the CPEC to their area's economy. 81% answered in the affirmative, when asked about the economic impact.



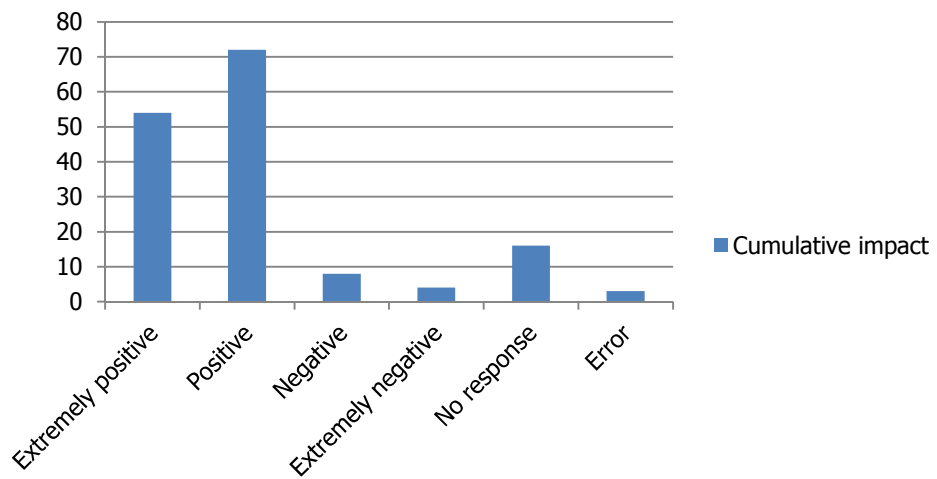
## How Pakistanis perceive China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC)?

As of the aggregate impact, they evaluated it largely to be "positive" or "extremely positive".

### Cultural impact?



### Cumulative impact



## How Pakistanis perceive China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC)?

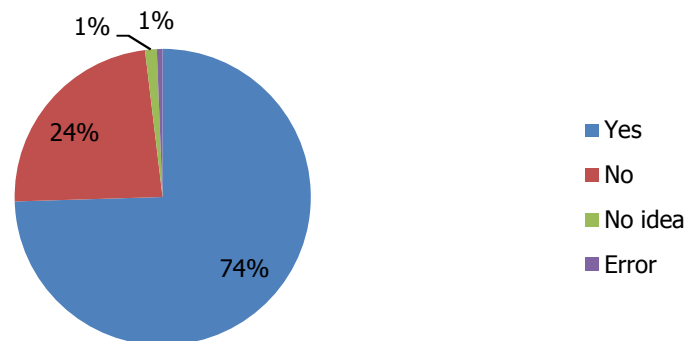
### ABOUT POLITICS ON CPEC

Respondents were asked if they are aware of the political debates about the CPEC.

To recall, different political parties popular in different provinces called upon the federal government, led by Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz, to invest CPEC projects in those provinces. They accused the ruling party of ignoring them. Some of the opposition parties alleged that the federal government has altered the supposed route of the CPEC or that it has changed the priority along what is known as the western route, which goes through western Pakistan. Some of these issues seemed decided when, on 28 May 2015, Prime Minister Mian Muhammad Sharif presided over an All-Parties Conference.

Respondents said they knew about these political debates. 74% said there had knowledge of those debates.

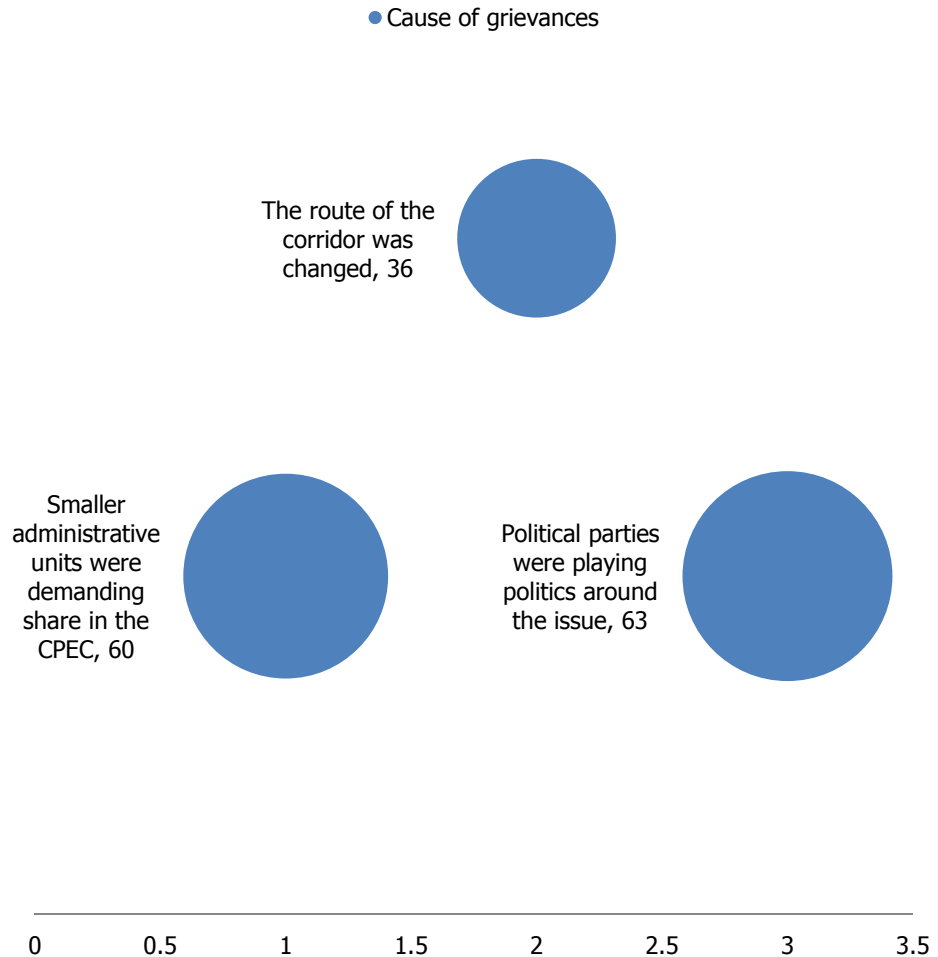
#### Are you aware of the political debates about the CPEC?



## How Pakistanis perceive China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC)?

63 respondents brushed those debates as nothing more than mere politics. They said parties were playing politics. However, 60 respondents argued that the cause of those debates were the demands of the smaller provinces to include them in the CPEC project. A single participant was entitled to choose more than one option.

### Opinion about source of those debates



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### Favourite political party on CPEC:

Participants were asked which party they support on the CPEC.

Below are the top 3-4 choices from the 4 provinces:

<b>Khyber Pakhtunkwa</b>	Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf, Pakistan Muslim League Nawaz None
<b>Sindh</b>	None Awami National Party Nationalist parties Pakistan People's Party
<b>Punjab</b>	Pakistan Muslim League – Nawaz Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf None
<b>Balochistan</b>	None Baloch nationalists especially Balochistan National Party (BNP) Pashtun nationalist parties

Their answers reflect the popularity of those parties in each province: Respondents from Punjab mostly supported Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz, a popular political force in Punjab; in Balochistan and Sindh, respondent struck chord with nationalist forces; In KP, the response is

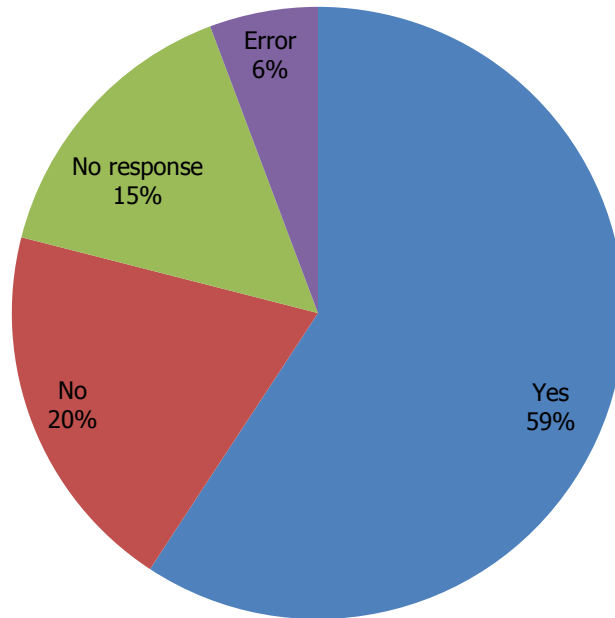


### How Pakistanis perceive China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC)?

mix, with some drawn towards Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf, which rules the province, and others, mostly from northern KP, towards PML-N.

Pointedly, almost all parties have in the past criticized PML-N's government for disregarding them or their province from the CPEC. This way, PML-N stood on one side, and other parties, on the other side.

#### Are debates conducive?



Respondents from the four provinces called for involving all parties or provinces raising concerns over the CPEC. Many also called for holding discussions like seminars where reservations could be addressed.

How Pakistanis perceive China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC)?

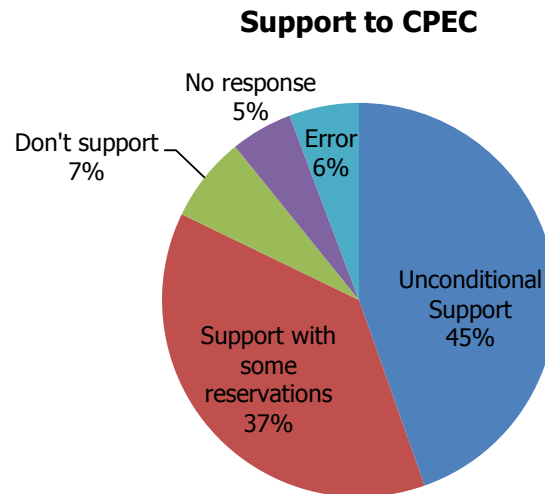
<b>Khyber Pakhtunkhwa</b>	
Working together/listening to all	6
Discussing the issues	6
Handing over to the military	4
Removing reservations	3
Raising awareness	2
Government taking responsibility	2
Prioritizing low-developed areas	2
Consulting federal government	2
<b>Sindh</b>	
Listening to all	3
Ignoring politics	2
Engaging other parties	2
Resolving reservations	2
Discussing the issue	1
<b>Punjab</b>	
All parties be consulted	8
Engaging all	4
Continue with work	2
Discussing the issue	2
Ignoring politics	2

How Pakistanis perceive China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC)?

Enlisting reservations	1
Shaping team of technocrats	1
Giving warning	1
<b>Balochistan</b>	
Listen to all parties/provinces	6
Inaugurate/restore western route	5
Enforce promises made	3
Sharing details of CPEC	2
Integrate Pashtun belt	2
Think above politics	1
Use force	1

## How Pakistanis perceive China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC)?

### CONCLUSION



### Potential obstacles and their solutions

Participants were asked open-ended questions about potential obstacles to the laying down of the CPEC in their areas/provinces, as well as the solutions.

Respondents from all over the country identifies several common factors are obstacles. Many blamed political parties, their interests or politics. However, it cannot be said with certainty which parties they had in mind. Many sided with one party over another, and some blamed federal government for lacking seriousness.

## How Pakistanis perceive China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC)?

Yet, an overwhelming majority of the respondents in all the areas asked for engaging all stakeholders in resolving the issues over CPEC. They, for instance, called for “engaging” all, be it different parties, provinces, locals, or any other stakeholder. A tiny minority though asked for ignoring the concerns raised or using force if required. Some called for completing the corridor.

At the same, respondents from different areas identified unique obstacles in their areas, too. For example, respondents in KP chose terrorism – something missing from the response of other areas’ respondents.

Respondents in Balochistan warned of nationalist or insurgents taking stock of the CPEC projects. People of these areas also seemed concerned that if not accommodated, they might lose out the benefits of the CPEC. One called for addressing the concerns of fishermen, another worried about jobs lost; another about changes in demography. Together with Sindh, Balochistan’s respondents also worried about lack of unskilled labour. They recommended imparting technical trainings to the people of their area.

Respondents from Gilgit-Baltistan, the northern unit in Pakistan, which adjoins China, clearly marked the discrepancy in the constitutional status of GB as a hurdle. The constitution defines GB as a special status, unlike other four provinces. Respondents called for according GB constitutional status. That respondents of the GB were mostly students show how ingrained the notion of constitutional status, or lack thereof, is in the minds of the people.

## How Pakistanis perceive China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC)?

### Khyber Pakhtunkhwa

Obstacles	Politics/political parties/disunity among parties, etc.	15
	None	11
	Terrorism	4
	Federal government is not serious	2
	Change in route	2
Solutions	Work together/engage all stakeholders/ federal government should work with provinces	8
	Hand over to the military	6
	Uplift the area	2
	Complete the corridor	1
	Take anti-terror steps	1

## How Pakistanis perceive China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC)?

### Sindh

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Obstacles	None	5
	Nationalist forces	2
	Federal government is not serious	1
	Politics/political parties/disunity among parties, etc.	1
	Poverty/unskilled labour	1
Solutions	Engage all/ all be given opportunity	5
	Awareness-raising	1
	Complete/expedite the corridor	1
	Constitute technical team	1

## How Pakistanis perceive China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC)?

### Punjab

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Obstacles	Politics/political divide	4
	None	3
	Low rates allocated for land	3
	Feudal	2
	United States	1
	Lack of involvement of people	1
	Extremist forces	1
	Poverty/unemployment	1

Solutions	Engage all (seminars, agreements)	4
	Take locals in confidence	3
	Awareness raising	2
	Set aside politicians	2
	Handover to the military	1
	Use force	1



## How Pakistanis perceive China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC)?

### Balochistan

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Obstacles	None	<b>7</b>
	Baloch armed groups/nationalist forces	5
	Politics/political divide	5
	Alienation of the people/conversion into minority	3
	Pashtun belt be included	2
	Fishermen are not taken care of	1
	Punjab	1
Solutions	Engage all (parties, nationalists)	4
	Use force	2
	Give jobs to locals/train people for jobs	2
	Start work	2
	Share all details	1
	Give lead role to Balochistan	1
	Set aside discussion	1
	Involve fishermen	1

## How Pakistanis perceive China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC)?

	Resort to original plan	1
	Pashtun belt be integrated	1

### Gigit-Baltistan

Obstacles	Lack of constitutional right to GB	5
	Excessive influence of China	3
	Accidents in the mountainous areas	2
	Displacement of people	2
	None	2
	External forces	2
	Politics/political divide	1
	Lack of constitutional right to GB	5
Solutions	Give constitutional status to GB	6
	Give residences to displaced people	2
	Don't get too close to China	2

## How Pakistanis perceive China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC)?

	Enforce driving rules for safety	2
	Engage religious people	1
	Control pollution	1

### FATA

Obstacles	Lack of infrastructure in FATA	1
	None	1
	Punjab	1
Solutions	Pass the route through FATA	1
	Engage all	1

### Islamabad

Obstacles	None	2
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## SAMPLE QUESTIONNAIRE

### Questionnaire (conducted in Urdu)

This questionnaire is meant to assess the perception among subject specialists like you, on China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC).

This survey is conducted by Pak Institute for Peace Studies (PIPS), an independent think tank based in Islamabad. For more details about PIPS, visit: [www.pakpips.com](http://www.pakpips.com)

Before answering the question, please read the question carefully. Should there be any confusion, please ask the coordinator.

The survey is meant to assess aggregate perceptions. PIPS will maintain confidentiality of the survey respondents.

### About the respondent

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

(If you don't want to write name, please write initials or numbers)

Age: \_\_\_\_\_ Gender: \_\_\_\_\_

Hometown: \_\_\_\_\_ Province: \_\_\_\_\_

Profession: \_\_\_\_\_

## How Pakistanis perceive China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC)?

### ABOUT UNDERSTANDING OF THE CPEC

1. How would you evaluate your knowledge of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor?

I have significant knowledge of the CPEC	
I have somewhat knowledge of the CPEC	
I have no knowledge of the CPEC	

2. Based on what you have read or heard, what is your understanding of the CPEC? (You may choose multiple options)

It is a route from Pakistan to China	
It will help China more	
It will install several projects in Pakistan	
It will develop cities of Pakistan	
It will end load-shedding in Pakistan	
It is major investment in Pakistan	
Any other: _____	

3. How do you get your knowledge of the CPEC?

From print media	
From electronic media	
From political parties	
By discussion with people	
Any other: _____	

How Pakistanis perceive China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC)?

4. How often is CPEC part of your professional discussion?

We regularly discuss CPEC	
We often discuss CPEC	
We rarely/seldom discuss CPEC	
We don't much discuss CPEC	

5. Are you satisfied with your knowledge of the CPEC?

Yes	
No	

5(b): If the answer to 5 is "No", what can be done to improve your knowledge of the CPEC?

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**ABOUT CPEC**

6. Is your hometown part of the CPEC?

Yes	
No	
I don't know	

How Pakistanis perceive China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC)?

6(b): If answer to question 6 is "Yes", please write how:

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7: How do you rate the pace of work on CPEC in your area/province?

It is going slower than expected	
It is going normal	
It is going faster than expected	
I have no idea about it	

8: Are you satisfied with the way the work is carried out on CPEC in your area/province?

I am fully satisfied	
I am partially satisfied	
I have some reservations	
I am not satisfied	
I don't know	

9: How will CPEC impact on the culture of your hometown/province?

Positive	
Negative	
I don't know	

10: Will CPEC have any impact on the economy of your hometown/province?

How Pakistanis perceive China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC)?

Yes	
No	
I don't know	

11. Overall, what will the impact CPEC will have in your hometown/province?

Extremely positive	
Positive	
Negative	
Extremely negative	
I don't want to answer	

11(b): If you answer to 11 is "negative" or "extremely negative", please suggest what can be done to improve the impact of CPEC in your hometown/province?

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**ABOUT POLITICS ON CPEC**

12: Are you aware of the political debates about the CPEC?

Yes	
No	

12(b): If answer to the question 12 is "yes", what in your opinion was the source of those debates?



How Pakistanis perceive China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC)?

Smaller administrative units were demanding share in the CPEC	
The route of the corridor was changed	
Political parties were playing politics around the issue	
Any other: _____	

12(c): If answer to the question 12 is "yes", which political party do you agree with mostly on the CPEC?

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12(d): If answer to the question 12 is "yes", what could be done to address the grievances of those parties?

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13: Are political debates conducive to the CPEC?

Yes, the debates will satisfy everyone	
No, the debates will harm the project	
I don't want to answer	

How Pakistanis perceive China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC)?

**CONCLUSION**

14: Do you support CPEC as a whole?

I support it unconditionally	
I support it with some reservations	
I don't support it	
I don't want to respond	

15: What could be potential obstacles to the CPEC in your hometown/province?

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15(b): What could be the solutions to those obstacles identified in question 15?

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