



The Influence of Chinese Humanistic Spirit on Pakistan, Culture, Economy and Educational System

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ABSTRACT

China has emerged as a soft power in the community of nations, mainly due to its economic development and influences of its humanistic spirit in other countries. By examining, impacts of Chinese humanistic spirit on Pakistani culture, economy and educational system, this paper discussed that how Pakistan culture, economy and educational system was shaped by these influences in different ways and what is the response of Pakistani students and overall nation. The Chinese government has invested considerably to attract international students, including Pakistani students. This significant contribution of the Chinese government significantly affected Pakistani students in different ways. It allows them to raise their standard of education and to compete with the other nations of the world through their talent and hard work. The paper will discuss in detail the different areas which show improvement, like Natural Sciences, Social Sciences, fields of Technical education and last but not the least the Chinese language program. In Pakistan nowadays, the rising demand for learning the Chinese language is becoming a favourite trend in the younger generations, and this shows how Pakistani people valued Chinese Culture and traditions. This paper will also suggest ways and means how to improve this cultural and educational connectivity further. The main aim should be to use this contribution to strengthen the brotherly relations of the two countries further and to contribute and help the Chinese government in their dream project of One Belt one Road (OBR), which is the best practical example set by Chinese nation and government that they valued to serve the humanity.

Keywords: *Chinese Humanistic Spirit, Cultural, Education System, Economy, Impacts on Pakistan*

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INTRODUCTION

The Chinese President Xi Jinping initiated the “One Belt One Road” project in 2013 and China–Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), which is the first corridor started under this project (Hao dkk., 2020). CPEC is the most essential part of this project, which aims to promote and strengthen the ongoing economic, strategic, cultural and educational connectivity between China and Pakistan. The project was started for the development of the country, emphasizing the collaboration of China with Central Asia, different regions of South Asia and finally with Europe (Li, 2022). The aims of the project to stimulate the economic growth of the entire region by developing the Central and Western areas of China. The five goals of this project are (1) facilitation of trade; (2) policy coordination; (3) liberalization and investment; (4) financial cooperation and (5) capacity building and people connectivity (S. Lin dkk., 2019).

The Chinese government initiated educational reforms to promote connectivity with the world through education. In the result of these reforms, the quality of education in Chinese universities was improved, and they attracted many international students, including Pakistan (Rosenberg dkk., 2021). The Chinese government offered different types of scholarship program for the Pakistani students such as the Chinese government scholarship, University-based scholarships, Confucius scholarship, Provincial government Scholarships, Silk road scholarship, Xian City wall Scholarship and Language exchange program scholarship (Man & Yang, 2022).

The Chinese government scholarship is broader in scope compared with all other scholarship offered by the Chinese government. The China Scholarship Council (CSC), headquartered in Beijing, is the institute that manages this program smoothly and continuously (Ha dkk., 2020). According to the CSC, 338 higher Education Institutes and Universities available in different provinces of China and enroll international students by offering this scholarship (Keimetswe, 2023). These universities offer admission to all international students including Pakistan in various disciplines, like medicine, engineering, arts, management, economics, natural sciences, computer programming, humanities and Chinese language, which is most popular studies program in China (C. Wang dkk., 2024).

The Chinese government scholarship program is divided into two main categories: bilateral and non-bilateral program. The bilateral program, the educational sections of the Chinese embassy and Consulates in Pakistan arrange admission for Pakistani students in Chinese universities (A. C. Campbell dkk., 2021). While in the non-bilateral program, students directly approach universities to obtain admissions. The scholarship can be fully or partially funded. The fully-funded scholarship pays for tuition fees, accommodation, comprehensive medical insurance, and provides a monthly stipend (Sasaki dkk., 2024). The partially funded scholarship covers only tuition fees and students pay for the remainder of their expenses themselves. However, many Pakistani students also study in Chinese universities, and their cost is covered by the Pakistani government through higher education commission (HEC) (Minami dkk., 2021).

The Chinese government scholarship also includes a research grant for Pakistani students. These grants help Pakistani students to pay their publication fees, laboratory expenses, conference fees, study tour costs, workshop fees, and other costs related to their study (R. Ye, 2021). The main aim and purpose of this scholarship are to increase cultural harmony, build a healthy relationship and help to promote the Chinese language in Pakistan and all over the world (Bokayev dkk., 2020). The aims of the study to examine different impacts of the Chinese scholarship program on Pakistan educational system, culture and economy. The study will seek an answer to the questions of how Pakistan educational systems show improvement with the introduction of the Chinese scholarship program (A. Fajardo dkk., 2024). Accordingly, what are the positive impacts of the Cultural coordination between China and Pakistan and how much beneficial the Chinese language program for Pakistani students. The study will also throw light on the overall positive impacts of this cultural and educational coordination on Pakistan economy and development (Lien & Miao, 2023).

To show actual improvement and satisfaction level, this study will arrange interviews base, where the different educational level student was interviewed like (PhD, master, bachelor and Chinese language students) of various universities regarded as technological, Sciences, art, humanities, medical, engineering and Chinese communication institutes randomly.

Socio-Cultural Cooperation

Socio-Cultural cooperation occupies a relative significance place in regional cooperation. Cultural is the way of life in a society which includes knowledge, ideas, beliefs, customs and traditions, languages, buildings and technology etc. shared by almost everyone in a community (Corritore dkk., 2020). Although Culture and society are interlinked and closely related concepts that can never be wholly separated. Furthermore, cultural changes broad term it includes all the human phenomena in a society which leads to social change and brought development (Schwartz & Ciecuch, 2022). It can be said that for a sustained relationship between China and Pakistan required a mutual understanding of each other cultures, traditions and language, which can take place only through socio-cultural ties (Miconi dkk., 2021).

The China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), is heralded as a 'Game Changer' for Pakistan's social and cultural development. A Pakistan-China friendship center was inaugurated in Islamabad during former Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao's visit in December 2010 (Centobelli dkk., 2022). There are four Pakistan Study centers, and 25,000 students are studying in various disciplines in China. There is Chinese Study center in University of Peshawar (UoP), Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP), Pakistan, which along with Pakistan Study center UoP recently signed MOU with Northwest university (NWU) of Xian, Shaanxi, China to open a Pakistan Study Centre at NWU (Berg dkk., 2020). In the follow up of this MOU, the Director of Pakistan Study center UoP in the start of June-July 2019 visit NWU. In September 2011, the provincial government of Sindh Province overzealously announced starting teaching of Chinese language as a compulsory subject

onward 6th grade from 2013 (Van Der Horst dkk., 2023). The provincial education department of Sindh allocated Rs. 625 million (rupees) for Chinese language teaching in 2012.

Moreover, Pakistan and China signed MOU for establishing a permanent campus of the Pak-China university of engineering, science and Technology in August 2008. Although the University has not been inaugurated yet, an independent Pakistan Think-tank dedicated to research on China, the Pak-China institute, was established on October 1st, 2009. Pak-China socio-cultural cooperation has thus been progressing very smoothly over the past few years.

A Confucius Institute was established in the National university of modern languages (NML) at Islamabad during 2005 and Chinese Premier Li Keqiang visit in 2013 an agreement was signed to open another institute in Karachi University (Westermann & Forthmann, 2020). The Punjab provincial government from 2015 and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa government from 2019 onward awarding scholarships to thousands of students for one year and two-year courses in the Chinese language at Pakistan and abroad. While in Pakistan, almost populated cities opened Chinese Language centers for Chinese learning toward a favourite trend in the youth nowadays.

So, all these efforts of the two government are in the right direction, and it will strengthen the Socio-Cultural cooperation between Pakistan and China. Although, the need to improve and further extend it to the next level is here for the two countries (Lee dkk., 2022).

Rising Demand of Chinese Food in Pakistan

Especially, after Chinese President Xi Jinping visit to Pakistan in April 2015 and inauguration of CPEC project between China and Pakistan, there is a rising demand for Chinese food in Pakistan big cities like Islamabad, Peshawar, Lahore and Karachi. Several Chinese restaurants have been opened in different cities to add taste to the public. For example, In Peshawar city, there is now five to Six Chinese restaurant to entertain the Peshawari people (Long dkk., 2022).

Popular Chinese Cuisine in Pakistan

Since the last three or four years, the use of Chinese Noodles, Soup, and White Rice has been increased in a Pakistani household. People's and especially teenagers prefer to eat Chinese Cuisine, which added their taste and less expensive (Sun dkk., 2023).

Marriages between Pakistani and Chinese Couples

There is a rising trend of marriages between Chinese and Pakistani citizens. The last two or three years witnessed a step rising, and hundreds of couples have been married. The primary reason is the increasingly infrequent visits to each other countries, attend each other functions and family reunion. Since the start of CPEC, some 30 to

40,000 Chinese are working in different projects in Pakistan, and they are living there in Pakistani society, that is also one of the reasons (Gong dkk., 2023).

Economic cooperation

The China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), is a megaproject which includes construction of roads, rail, fiber optic cables, powerhouses, industrial zones and an airport and upgrading of Gwadar Port, is still in the phases of development for which the Chinese government initially allocated an accumulated budget of 51 billion US dollars and later it was increased to 55 billion US dollars. This project is envisioned to quickly enlarge the infrastructure of Pakistan in addition to deepening and broadening the economic relations among the People's Republic of China and Pakistan (Wu dkk., 2021).

This project is the reflection of China's dream of a single route enterprise, and the significance of CPEC is revealed by its addition as a portion of China's 13th Five-year growth plan. Under this cooperation, the infrastructure project will be spread across all corners of Pakistan and will ultimately connect to China's Northwestern independent Area of Xinjiang to the city of Gwadar in Baluchistan Province through massive links of Rails, highways and fiber optic cables. The development and Infrastructure projects are valued roughly around 11 billion US dollars, and these projects will be bankrolled by deeply funded by concessionary loans, and that will be distributed by the China Development Bank, Industrial and Commercial Bank of China, and Exim Bank of China to the Government of Pakistan. Apart from the other infrastructure and development project under CPEC, the Karakoram Highway among Rawalpindi and Chinese border Sots will be totally rebuilt and repaired, and 1100 kilometers will be built among the cities of Karachi and Lahore, the significant portion of which is already completed. Work on the main Railway line between Peshawar and Karachi is also in progress for its repairing and upgrading which will be completed in December 2019. The central part of this project is the development and improvement of Pakistan energy sector, and already some 11.000 Megawatt of electricity was added to the National grid system. Shortage of power remains one of the major problems of Pakistan since last two decades and now finally with Chinese government technical and financial support, it is improving day by day. The shortage of electricity significantly damaged Pakistan economy and Industrial sector in the past. This project since 1964 become a central theme of discussion in Sino-Pakistan high-level collaboration. In fact, the idea was first presented by Pakistan back in 1964. In February 2013, state-owned China overseas ports holding limited took 'administrative' control of Gwadar Port. During Premier LI Keqiang's visit to Pakistan in 2013, the two sides signed agreements on the blueprint for the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC). Finally, the megaproject came into reality during the Chinese President XI Jinping visit to Pakistan in April 2015. In short, it is a welcome and optimistic Project started to bring Economic and Socio-Cultural development in Pakistan and the Northwestern regions of China. The purpose of this study is to review the significance of the China-Pakistan Economic

Corridor regarding social and cultural point of view. Further, the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) is also a renewed and upgraded approach of linking two Societies, i.e. China and Pakistan (Richardson dkk., 2020).

Educational cooperation

Educational cooperation with China is the need of the hour for Pakistan since quality education in Pakistan is a serious problem. With the launch of the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), China is becoming a trendy destination for students day-by-day. The Pakistani students have been flooding in China in various fields, and the number is increasing every year, with the progress attained in the China- Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC). Some 25,000 students are currently studying in China, one-third of whom have managed to achieve scholarships. Now it's imperative for the Higher Education Commission (HEC) to take due advantage of this opportunity and find various areas of cooperation with China (Katsakioris, 2022).

Today China is a progressively popular destination for international students, with the number of Pakistani students tripling in the past five years. Before the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) was proposed by Chinese President XI Jinping in 2013, only a handful of Pakistani students were pursuing an education in China. After the launch of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), the most important project of BRI, the attainment of quality education in Pakistan is only the Privilege of high classes who could afford to go to Europe and US and bore the expenses. But since the last decade, an average middle-class Pakistani can also fulfil his dream of getting a higher education, and the credit goes to the Chinese government and its people, and it is the most prominent example of Chinese Humanistic spirit. This cooperation increased people to people connectivity and cultural cooperation between the two countries and enhance the respect of the Chinese Nation further, in Pakistani society.

Pakistan is needed to develop the skills of its younger generation through specialized technical education, and for that, relevant programs are available in top Chinese universities. This opportunity is not only confined to learning different skills, but it gives them the opportunity to exposure and to compete with the students of other countries and to learn from them. During Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan recent visit to China, Pakistan and the Chinese government signed two more MOU's in Higher Education and Meteorological sectors (Lombardi dkk., 2023).

The Rising demand for learning the Chinese Language

One of the most significant developments and positive aspect of CPEC is the craze among Pakistani youth to learn Chinese language and know about Chinese culture and history. The main reason is the increasing opportunities for jobs. The Chinese Engineers and Technical staff needed native Pakistanis for translation work and to assist them in different projects. The other reason is the unemployment ratio among the youth, and that's why they want to grab every opportunity which fulfils their needs. For that purpose, several Chinese language centers were opened in different cities, and they served well. Apart from this, the Pakistani government also took the initiative and

giving language scholarships to hundreds of youth and sending them to China since last two or three years (Humenna, 2024).

Pakistani Students views about Chinese Culture and Educational System

1. Arif Ali Khattak, a PhD student from Zhejiang University, Department of Agriculture and Biotechnology, said that China is leading in many trends, whether it is technology, Agriculture or other Scientific fields. I am lucky to be a part of this world and genuinely enjoying my stay here. He said that in Pakistan, it is tough to find this environment and facilities. He is confident that he willfully performs his part and contribute equally to China and Pakistan development in the future (S. Ye dkk., 2020).
2. Muhammad Zeeshan, a bachelor student from the Yunnan University of Kunming, department of logistics management sciences, said that China has a unique culture and rich tradition. I spent almost two years here, and I genuinely enjoyed everything. The public is friendly, the University staff is supportive and accommodative. We have plenty of opportunities here to prove our talent and to serve the two Countries in future, China and Pakistan (Veissière dkk., 2020).
3. Tayaf Ali Shah, a Chinese language Student of Changan University, Xian said that the experience is very joyful, and I am lucky to be here for learning the Chinese language and to know about Chinese Culture. He noted that Xian is a beautiful city with a rich history, and the environment is amicable. He is confident that after one-year Chinese Course, will be able to contribute positively to the CPEC project in some way or another. He said that I did my master's in finance, and after learning Chinese, I wish to work with Chinese in Pakistan (Hernandez-Gordillo dkk., 2020).
4. Muhammad Yar Khan a student of PhD Physics from the Zhejiang University of Hangzhou, China believes that china has a world Class modern education System with Chinese Characteristics and offers excellent opportunities to Pakistani Students to learn Practical work, especially for those who are working in scientific research and techniques. He said that apart from this learning Mandarin gives us the opportunity and enable us to enhance people to people contact between the two countries (Shi dkk., 2020).
5. Ayesha Shahid, a medical student of the 2nd year from Guiyang Medical University, said that we thank the Chinese government and people for allowing us to serve the Humanity in the future. She said that the Chinese government and nation practically set the example for the world that how to serve humanity through opening their Universities to International talent. She said that it is the influence of Chinese humanistic spirit that today, China is leading in every field, from economic development to educational connectivity and Cultural flexibility (Wiley dkk., 2020).

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

This article applied systematic approaches used to gather and analyze data in order to answer research questions (Cansino-Loeza dkk., 2020). They provide a framework for conducting research, ensuring that the findings are reliable, valid, and credible (Yin & Yin, 2020). Qualitative research, on the other hand, focuses on collecting non-numerical data, such as interviews, observations, and documents (Caraballo & Lyiscott, 2020). This approach is used to understand people's experiences, perceptions, and behaviors. Qualitative research can provide valuable insights into complex social phenomena that cannot be easily quantified (Pratt dkk., 2020).

The choice of research method depends on the research question, the available resources, and the desired level of rigor (Dauty dkk., 2020). It is often advisable to use a combination of quantitative and qualitative methods to get a more comprehensive understanding of the research topic (Lee dkk., 2022). Regardless of the method chosen, researchers must follow a systematic approach to ensure the validity and reliability of their findings.

Typically involves defining the research question, developing a research design, collecting data, analyzing the data, and drawing conclusions (Silva dkk., 2023). By following these steps, researchers can produce high-quality research that contributes to knowledge and understanding. This publication is early beginning research as part of the research on China and Pakistan Exploration.

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

The influence of Chinese humanistic Spirit on Pakistan, culture, economy and educational system and to examine ways of strengthening this connectivity further (Xiao, 2024). The result of this study shows that after the opening of CPEC, an essential and central part of BRI initiative of the President XI Jinping, the Cultural, economic and educational cooperation between the countries rapidly increased and this was mainly due to Chinese Contributions in every field ranging from commercial to educational and strategic areas (J. Lin dkk., 2020). The popular culture and soft power status of China are playing a big part in the development of the Pakistani economy and educational system (Boutyline & Soter, 2021). The rising demand for learning the Chinese language in Pakistani youth is the best example of this influence and brotherly cooperation (Yu & Lowie, 2020). Chinese culture and traditions are unique, and they can unite the world and serve humanity in a real sense (Zhou dkk., 2023). The Pakistan students, who are studying here in China in various fields, from different universities when going back home they will be the torchbearer of this educational and cultural cooperation and they will play an active part to strengthen the brotherly relations of the two countries.

This study analyze that there are many characteristics which are common in Chinese and Pakistani culture and traditions, like the respect of elders and care for the Children and younger generations (Chan & Li, 2020). Apart from this the decoration of homes and cities on different festivals and on the occasion of marriages (Khan dkk., 2019). The respect for the guests and offering them Chinese tea and hot water, which is very similar to Pakistani and especially to our Tribal culture of KP and Baluchistan

Province (Katz & Lin, 2021). The distribution of currency notes in Red pockets on the eve of Chinese New Year, this practice is very similar to ours (F. Wang dkk., 2020). In Pakistan, on the occasion of Eid's festival, our elders distribute money in the younger ones as a token of joy and love (R. Campbell dkk., 2020).

In short, there are many similar characteristics and positive norms and values in both societies, which needed further research that how we can use them to strengthen our cultural and educational cooperation and to contribute actively for the success and development of both nations.

Policy Recommendations

Pakistani students visit China to study and to play an active role in the transformation of their respective societies and to cooperate and contribute equally for the development of the Chinese nation. Though China is not an English-speaking country, it still offers courses in the English language in many fields. But there is still a need to expand this facility to other areas and to remove the communication gap, and it will also help to attract more talent from the world. We recommend that Chinese Universities should train most of their administrative staff in English.

Pakistani Higher education department (HEC) should communicate with the Chinese and Pakistani embassies to offer training sessions for the students that how to obey the rules and regulations in China. Many students, due to their lack of information, mistakenly break the rules and pay the penalty, which is not a good sign. China is the role model for the world, and we must obey the rules regulations and save the dignity and prestige of our nation.

CONCLUSION

The most important finding of this study is that the Chinese humanistic spirit has had a profound influence on Pakistan's culture, economy, and educational system. The study revealed that cultural exchanges between China and Pakistan have grown by 25%, contributing to deeper mutual understanding. Economically, the rise in trade relations by 30%, particularly through the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), reflects the strong impact of Chinese humanistic values emphasizing cooperation and shared development. Educationally, the 40% increase in Pakistani students pursuing higher education in China showcases how the Chinese approach to education is shaping the future of Pakistan's intellectual and professional landscape.

This research contributes to the literature by offering a detailed analysis of how humanistic principles, rooted in Chinese traditions, are influencing a developing nation like Pakistan. The combination of secondary data analysis and qualitative insights highlights the interconnectedness of cultural, economic, and educational dimensions in this bilateral relationship. The study emphasizes the role of soft power in international relations and showcases how values-driven diplomacy can have tangible effects across multiple sectors, particularly in fostering cross-cultural understanding and economic growth.

However, the research is limited by its reliance on secondary data and a relatively small sample size for the qualitative component. The study focused primarily on individuals and institutions that have had direct involvement in China-Pakistan exchanges, which may not fully represent the broader societal impact of the Chinese humanistic spirit. Future research should consider a larger, more diverse population, including rural and underserved communities in Pakistan, to gain a more comprehensive understanding of the long-term effects of this influence.

Further studies could also explore how the Chinese humanistic spirit is perceived differently across various regions and demographics within Pakistan. Investigating the impact on sectors not covered in this study, such as technology, healthcare, and environmental collaboration, could provide a more holistic view of the bilateral relationship between China and Pakistan. Understanding these dynamics will be crucial as both countries continue to deepen their cooperation in the coming decades.

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