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Slums Shadowing  
the Dreams of  
Well-Planned Cities: Future  
Urbanization of  
Pakistan under CPEC

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## **Slums shadowing the dreams of well-planned cities: future urbanization of Pakistan under CPEC**

### **Abstract**

Slums mostly shadow beautiful cities – massive urbanization coupled with slumization is one of the biggest challenge for growing cities. Cities provide attraction for people but this may open-up in tragedy sometimes, trapping the dwellers in slums. Urban population is increasing drastically at global level, half of the world’s population is living in urban areas. This huge increase in population is proportionately involves rural to urban migration resulting formation of informal settlements or slums. Usually these are densely populated area established in or around the cities. Shadow traps more residents than its real city. Intellectual dissection of this problem makes elements of a well-planned city building responsible for nourishing this phenomenon. Pakistan is facing serious problems of slums, about 47.5% of the urban population of Pakistan was living in slums in 2005. This study highlighted the problem of slums in Pakistan and suggested policy recommendation for policy makers for future urbanization in Pakistan under CPEC. With initiation of China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), it is expected to bring immense developments in Pakistan. CPEC is going to accelerate urbanization in Pakistan. Slum development should not be allowed to decelerate this development. For that comprehensive master planning of potential cities is required to cope the challenge of unplanned settlements.

Keywords; Slums, Developing world, Cities of Pakistan, Urbanization, Pakistan

### **1. Introduction**

Global population is escalating at drastic level. This huge increase in population is having immense consequences. One of them is majority of population is moving towards the cities from rural areas for better job opportunities, improved health facilities, and well-structured living conditions. As the scale of increase in population in urban areas is very high, it is becoming impossible to accommodate this huge flow of population to the cities and metropolitan areas. Slums formation is a universal urban development problem and are becoming an increasingly fast spreading urban settlements. Sustainable development goals determined to solve the problem of everyone living on this earth for sustainable development at global level. Vision 2025 of Pakistan states that Pakistan’s urban population is increasing rapidly. Current urban population is 36.7% of the total urban population while it was only 32% in 1998. If this increasing rate continuous to grow with the same scale, it is expected that

Pakistan's urban population will be about 50% of the total population in 2025. Pakistan is in need to fully utilize the potential of planned urbanization by using modern technologies, infrastructure, connectivity to develop smart, creative and green cities. The World Cities Report 2016, Urbanization and Development: Emerging Futures says that one fifth of the world's population is living in 600 cities and produces 60% of the global GDP. However, it explains that when cities are unmanaged and unplanned, this urbanization can lead us towards increased level of inequality, growth in numbers of slums and disastrous impacts on climate change. Further it is projected that population living in urban areas will double in developing countries and area covered by urban area could triple (The World City report, 2016).

CPEC will greatly increase the speed of industrialization coupled with urbanization in Pakistan. The cities that come on the route of CPEC are Gwadar a destined city in Baluchistan, Karachi, Hyderabad and Sukkur major cities from Sindh, Lahore, Multan, D. G. Khan from Punjab, Peshawar, Dera Ismail Khan from KPK and passing through Gilgit connects to China in Kashghar.

Slums are basically densely populated and unplanned settlements where living standard is extremely low and poor. Sustainable Development Goals 01, 03, 06, 08, 11 and 17 are set to deal the problems of poverty, health well-being, water and sanitation, employment with decent work, safe and resilient housing and sustainable development of slum dwellers.

In 1990, the rate of slums dwellers was 51 percent of the urban population. While in 2005 the proportion of slums in urban population was 47.5%. In this modern age this rate should be decreased at immense level. Now planning is accompanied by experts, technology and advanced tools for developing modern designs for settlements.

Pakistan is the 6th largest most populous country of the world. According to provisional results of recent population census, 2017, Pakistan's population is 207.8 million in total. The urban population is roughly 36.4% of the total country's population. Province of Sindh is the most urbanized province of the country having 52% of its population in urban areas. Karachi, Hyderabad and Sukkur are among the major cities of Sindh. 68% Of the total urban population of the province is residing in these three cities. 36.7% of the Punjab's population living in urban areas. Lahore, Rawalpindi, Faisalabad, Multan and Gujranwala are among the largest cities of the Punjab. 27.5% of the Baluchistan's population is urbanised. Major cities of Baluchistan are Quetta, Khuzdar, Chaman and Turbat. KPK is the least urbanized province of Pakistan.

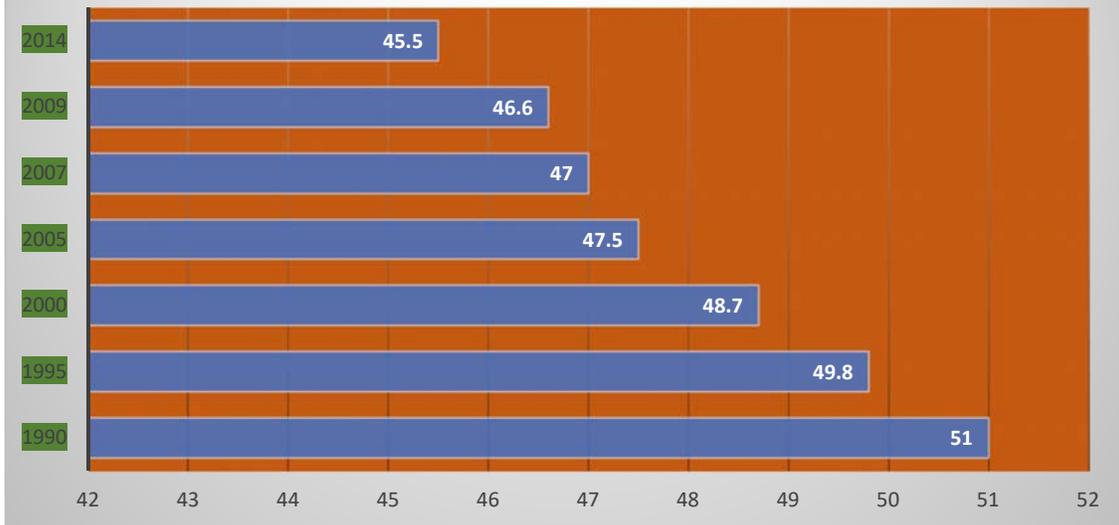
Peshawar, Mardan, Dera Ismail Khan, Nowshera and Abbottabad are among the main cities of KPK.

Urbanization is considered an inherent part of economic prosperity. However, this becomes true if urbanization has the potential of providing jobs, increase productivity and provides high standard of life (Collier and Venables, 2017). Slums and informal settlements are established in the shadows of these great cities of Pakistan. Due to lack of affordable housing in Pakistan, many people are driven to live in outskirts of the cities. Affordable housing is one of the well-recognized and fundamental human right for all citizens.

Just to draw the attention of the readers that Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), Pakistan is a signatory of SDGs where Goal 11 is inclusively about sustainable human settlements. The main theme of this goal is “*making cities and human settlements, inclusive safe, resilient and sustainability*”. This goal ensures access for all to the adequate safe and affordable housing and provision of basic services to all residents and up-gradation of slums. This goal will be achieved by 2030. Much of this target has to be achieved by the government of Pakistan and it needs consistent and sustainable policies to reach this target. Very low standard of housing and living quality are seriously having adverse impacts on the health of residents and affecting the quality of environment which results in health problems. It is strongly suggested to have a very close check to avoid further degradation and promote sustainable urbanization and increased standard of life. (Imam, M. *et al*, 2017)

Urbanization of Pakistan is spread over unplanned urban sprawl which is seriously affecting the quality of life. It is creating issues of poor sanitation, drinking water, and lack of access to other basic facilities of life which results in poor health, poverty etc. Policy makers have not paid adequate attention to urban development in Pakistan because Pakistan’s majority of population is still rural and most of the public elected representatives are from rural areas.

**Figure 01: Pakistan's population living in slums (% of urban population)**



Source: World Development Indicators (Online open data source)

CPEC: The China-Pakistan Economic Corridor – a game changer both for China and Pakistan – is in fact a complete package of regional development. It is envisaged to bring massive development/infrastructure work, specifically in the areas of energy, infrastructure, and communications, which will be followed by the establishment of special economic zones (SEZs). When completed, CPEC is expected to boost economic growth and urbanization. However, rapid urbanization might be coupled with several settlement issues. CPEC will also impact the settlement pattern at drastic level. Conversely, in the absence of ancillary policies or measures, CPEC projects could also contribute in exacerbating Pakistan's urban growth at adverse scale. It is thus important to undertake a comprehensive review of the potential effects of urbanization, on all the planned investments under CPEC.

CPEC implementation will greatly influence and accelerate the urbanization in Pakistan and will help to grow it globally compatible, prosperous and complete country which will can provide basic necessities and increased quality of life. It will also attract people across Pakistan to catch the opportunities from this great development. CPEC routes are crossing all regions and provinces of Pakistan. Baluchistan has the huge capacity of urbanization as its population is scattered and density of population is very low in most of the areas. According to the population census 2017, population density of Baluchistan is 18.9 persons per square kilometer. The highly dense area of Baluchistan is Quetta district where density of population is 286.4 persons per sq.km. There are some areas e. g. Awaran district, Kharan and Panjgur districts

with very low density of population, 4.0, 4.3 and 3.9 persons per sq.km respectively. Latest survey also highlighted that Gwadar District contains only 14.7 persons per sq.km. This is great opportunity for decentralized urbanization and utilization of equal natural resources.

Economic attractions are the major driving force for growth and developments in cities. Establishment of SEZs are considered as engines of economic growth, accompanied by fast-track urbanization. The proposed SEZs will bring great potential for urban development, which need to be tied with sustainability well in time, through appropriate regulations and policies. Moreover, if grand developments materialized through CPEC are engulfed by the slum monster, it will be counted as a grand failure for Pakistan. To evade these failures, Pakistan now needs to review critically its process of urbanization by unmanaged and unplanned expansion of the cities. All this resulting in formation of agglomeration where people are living in the neighbourhood of cities, this phenomenon brings another issue of settlements called slums. This study highlights the general problems of slums and formulated policy measures to cope this problem in the wake of CPEC implications. CPEC will result in formation of new cities and support the existing cities to convert into large cities.

## **2. Slums Definition**

UN-HABITAT describes it as “*slum household as a group of individuals living under the same roof in an urban area who lack one or more of the following: I) Durable housing of a permanent nature that protects against extreme climate conditions. ii) Sufficient living space which means not more than three people sharing the same room. iii) Easy access to safe water in sufficient amounts at an affordable price. Iv) access to an adequate sanitation in the form of a private or public toilet shared by reasonable a number of people. v) Security of tenure that prevents forced evictions*”

Slums are human abodes settled mostly outside the main urban centres and mostly these residents are poor, daytime workers and marginalized communities of the society. United Nations report on world slums 2016 has named Orangi town of Karachi among the top five slums of the world along with Mexico’s Ciudad Neza of Mexico City, Dharavi, Mumbai, India, Kibera, Nairobi, Kenya, and Khayelitsha, Capetown, South Africa.

### **2.1) Defining slums in Pakistan**

The definition of slums varies from country to country. Although this is most comprehensive definition of slums but most of the countries have their definition and local titles of these settlements. There are following forms of informal settlements in Pakistan;

1) Katchi abadis: which are basically unplanned settlements developed by crouching or casual sub-sectors of the state or by private real estate developers.

2) Slums: these kinds of settlements are usually lie within city or very nearby city comprises of small town or fragmented informal settlement, or open urban agricultural land developed by poor occupied community.

### **3. Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and Slums**

SDG goal 3 determined to provide good health and working for wellbeing of people where its subcomponent 3.8 target is “By 2030 achieving Universal health coverage, including access to quality essential health care and access to safe, effective, quality and affordable machine”. This goal ensures the health coverage and healthy environment to all at universal level. SDGs goal 4 is providing quality education to all, 4.1 is set “to ensure all complete equitable, free and quality primary and secondary education leading to effective learning outcomes”. This is a basic problem that slum dwellers do not have access to quality education. Sustainable Development Goal ensures provision of clean drinking water and sanitation, under this theme target 6.1 is “By 2030 achieve universal and adequate access to safe and affordable drinking water for all”. Access to clean drinking water is a severe problem for slum settlements. SDGs target for sanitation and drainage is “By 2030 achieve access to adequate and equitable sanitation and hygiene for all, end open defecation”. Such problems of sanitation drainage are persistent in slums of the developing countries. Another target of SDGs for solid waste management is 6.3 which says, “By 2030 improve water quality by reducing pollution, eliminating dumping and minimizing release of hazardous chemicals and materials, having the proportion of untreated waste water and substantially increasing recycling and safe reuse global”. These problems are visible in slums at extensive level.

Goal 11 “Making cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable” inclusively sets the target to solve the problems of slums. Subcomponents of goal 11 are seven in numbers starting from 11.1 to 11.7. 11.1 ensures the availability of safe and affordable housing and basic services for all, and up gradation of slums. 11.2 ensures the provision of affordable, accessible and sustainable transportation with improved road safety and expansion in public transportation. 11.3 is determined to enhance sustainable and inclusive urbanization with a strong capacity for participatory, and sustainable and well-integrated human settlements across the globe. 11.4 is about protecting and safeguarding the natural and cultural heritage of the world. 11.5 is targeted to significantly decreasing the deaths occurred by disasters and recovering the economic losses which may lead to the affected people to vulnerable

situation. 11.6 is set to reduce the adverse effects of per capita cities environmental impacts, specifically by paying attention to air quality and waste water management. 11.7 ensures for the provision of public and green spaces with easy and safe access to the public particularly people with disabilities, women, children and people with old age.

#### 4. World Cities and Pakistan

UN report of World Cities 2016 shows that contribution of emerging Asian cities in world's population has increased tremendously. Karachi has been ranked at number 12 among the world's largest cities and it is expected to shift to number seven in 2030 (Table 2). At present, world's cities with 10 million or more inhabitants are 31 in numbers. 24 of them are in global south or in developing countries. India and Pakistan share 5 and one respectively and China alone has 6 of its cities in the list. On the basis of current growth in cities, it is projected that that 10 cities will become megacities by the year 2030, and all will be belonging to the developing nations, which includes Ahmadabad (India); Bangkok (Thailand); Bogotá (Colombia); Dar us Salaam (Tanzania); Hyderabad (India); Johannesburg (South Africa); Lahore (Pakistan); Luanda (Angola) (UN Population Division, 2016). By 2030 Lahore will be the second one from Pakistan to be the part of megacities of the world, consequently it will bring a high rate of urban development and transformation in Pakistan. Lahore will lead from Pakistani side instead of Karachi. Current growth of change of Karachi is 37.37% from year 1998-2017 while Lahore growth of change from the same period is 53.77%. Karachi being the largest city of Pakistan has the population 14910352 in 2017 and it was 9339023 in 1998. Lahore 11126285 in 2017 and 5143495 in 1998 census. If Lahore follows the same pattern of growth, it will be largest and most populous city of Pakistan by population. Pakistan has the largest share of its population living in urban areas as compared to other south Asian countries.

Table 1: World megacities by city size rank (2016 and 2030)

| City-size rank | City                 | Population in 2016 (thousands) | City               | Population in 2030 (thousands) |
|----------------|----------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------|--------------------------------|
| 1              | Tokyo                | 38 140                         | Tokyo              | 37 190                         |
| 2              | Delhi                | 26 454                         | Delhi              | 36 060                         |
| 3              | Shanghai             | 24 484                         | Shanghai           | 30 751                         |
| 4              | Mumbai (Bombay)      | 21 357                         | Mumbai (Bombay)    | 27 797                         |
| 5              | São Paulo            | 21 297                         | Beijing            | 27 706                         |
| 6              | Beijing              | 21 240                         | Dhaka              | 27 374                         |
| 7              | Mexico City          | 21 157                         | Karachi            | 24 838                         |
| 8              | Kinki M.M.A. (Osaka) | 20 337                         | Al-Qahirah (Cairo) | 24 502                         |

|    |                    |        |             |        |
|----|--------------------|--------|-------------|--------|
| 9  | Al-Qahirah (Cairo) | 19 128 | Lagos       | 24 239 |
| 10 | New York-Newark    | 18 604 | Mexico City | 23 865 |
| 11 | Dhaka              | 18 237 | São Paulo   | 23 444 |
| 12 | Karachi            | 17 121 | Kinshasa    | 19 996 |

Source: UN Data Booklet on The World's Cities in 2016

Recent study of United nations on urbanization projected that almost 40% (36.7%, 2017 population census of Pakistan) of Pakistan's urban population while 34 percent and 33percent of urban population from total population of Bangladesh and India are living in cities respectively (Mekamu and Schmidt, 2016), however, Pakistan does not have the defined urban boundaries yet. The definitions which are used to identify the rural and urban areas are ambiguous in Pakistan. There are numerous sets of economic and social statistics not considered in counting people really suggests that how this dichotomy of rural and urban is ambiguous and in correct. On the bases of recent population census of Pakistan, rural and urban divided only based on administrative criteria. Administrative boundary defines what is a city, town, or village etc. which are infrequently revised with the passage of time. Moreover, cities consider only municipal area and population (S. Akbar Zaidi, 2017). Pakistan does not differentiate between urban area and town within tehsil and zila, peri urban areas etc. which are located on the nearby of any city and transportation corridor of Pakistan.

## 5. Cities of Pakistan

There are several factors for growing cities in Pakistan however, basic factor is rural to urban migration. Pakistan population census found that eight percent of the total population were migrants, 10.8 million in numbers. First it is calculated that 36.7% of the migrants, migrated to urban areas whereas 25 percent of the migrants moved to the large cities such as Karachi, Lahore, Faisalabad and Rawalpindi. Karachi alone received 13 percent of the migrants (Arif Hassan).

Pakistan has a very serious shortage of housing. 4.3 shortage of houses was estimated in 1998 survey, it has climbed up to 9 million. Overcrowded housing is another notable problem as more than 6 units of a house is a national rate in Pakistan and 3.5 persons per room as well. International standard of per room is 1.1 persons. With this pace of urbanization in major cities of Pakistan, there will be more than 20% increase in housing demand to be faced Karachi and Lahore in coming 20 years (Ministry of Climate Change, Government of Pakistan, 2015). Due to increase in housing, real estate prices and unavailability of affordable housing, slums or informal settlement formed.

Table 03: Situation of Pakistan Cities (2000, 2016, 2030)

| City       | Statistical concept | City population (Thousands) |       |        | Average annual rate of change (per cent) |       | City population as a proportion of the country or area's total or urban population in 2016 (per cent) |                  |
|------------|---------------------|-----------------------------|-------|--------|--|-------|---|------------------|
|            |                     | 2000                        | 2016  | 2030   | 2000-                                    | 2016- | Total population  | Urban Population |
| Karachi    | Urban Agglomeration | 10302                       | 17121 | 24 838 | 3.3                                      | 2.7   | 9.0   | 22.8             |
| Lahore     | Urban Agglomeration | 5 452                       | 8 990 | 13 033 | 3.1                                      | 2.7   | 4.7   | 12.0             |
| Faisalabad | Urban Agglomeration | 2 142                       | 3 667 | 5 419  | 3.4                                      | 2.8   | 1.9   | 4.9              |
| Rawalpindi | Urban Agglomeration | 1 521                       | 2 582 | 3 809  | 3.3                                      | 2.8   | 1.4   | 3.4              |
| Gujranwala | Urban Agglomeration | 1 226                       | 2 193 | 3 274  | 3.6                                      | 2.9   | 1.1   | 2.9              |
| Hyderabad  | Urban Agglomeration | 1 221                       | 1 812 | 2 613  | 2.5                                      | 2.6   | 0.9   | 2.4              |
| Multan     | Urban Agglomeration | 1 263                       | 1 969 | 2 866  | 2.8                                      | 2.7   | 1.0   | 2.6              |
| Peshawar   | Urban Agglomeration | 1 066                       | 1 787 | 2 640  | 3.2                                      | 2.8   | 0.9   | 2.4              |
| Quetta     | Urban Agglomeration | 615                         | 1 148 | 1 740  | 3.9                                      | 3.0   | 0.6   | 1.5              |
| Islamabad  | City Proper         | 597                         | 1 433 | 2 275  | 5.5                                      | 3.3   | 0.7   | 1.9              |

Source: The World's Cities in 2016 (UN Data Booklet)

## 6. CPEC and Emergence of Slums

The belt and road initiative are one of the largest economic development plan of the modern history. It will spread hard and soft infrastructure in more than 60 countries of the world from Asia, Europe and Africa. It will connect the world to Faster the economic development and trade development through road, rail air connections of B&RI. By forming such a grand plan, China aims to protect local economy and social development by introducing the new globalized economic development based on understanding of the win-win economic relationship with other countries partner in the project (Rehman and Shurong, 2017).

The China-Pakistan Economic Corridor is well organized, well-crafted concept to open up the meaningful and useful cooperation between two nations, Pakistan and China. Indeed, this project is for the benefit of the region, China, West, Central and South Asia. This project is entirely based on win-win balance, China Pakistan economic corridor meanings need to be find out from historical, geopolitical, economic and cultural perspective. CPEC is one of the main projects of One Belt, One Road. It will take off from the border of Pakistan and China, Khunjerab spreading huge network of roads, power plants, mega projects of infrastructure to the Gwadar city (Ahmar2015).

CPEC is a unique opportunity for Pakistan to make stronger its strategic and economic position coupled with other social benefits. If both nations plan this project properly, it will serve the benefits of Pakistan and China (Avais et al. 2016).

The CPEC strategically and economically is a useful project for China and Pakistan. It will unleash the trade opportunities for China from Gwadar to access the Indian ocean, middle east and Africa. Pakistan will overcome energy shortage and sustainable economic growth through trade and industrial development (Ali A.2016). Moreover, CPEC is not an investment project for Pakistan and China, it is game changer for the whole region of Asia especially south Asia (Ali W. et al. 2016).

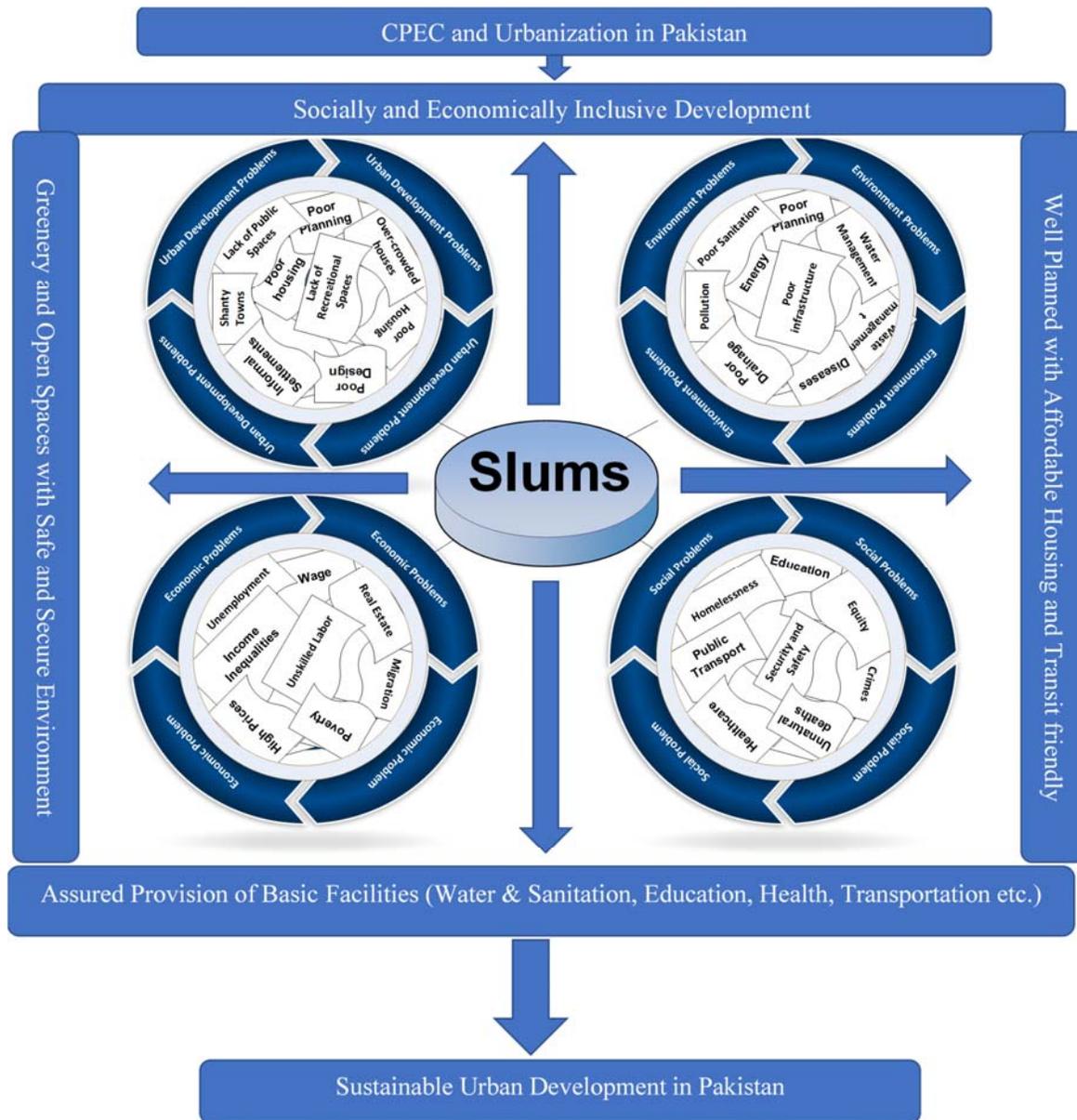
CPEC is very crucial part of the billion dollars project initiated by China, One Belt, One Road (OBOR) to connect countries across continents. However, to maximize the benefits from this project, it is important to foresee carefully the potential threats and challenges, and collective interests and its impact at local and regional level (Wolf S.O., 2017).

Increase in percentage of the total population residing in urban areas is taken as the major indicator (Jones, 1991). Pakistan is experiencing immense rapid urbanization and urban growth resulted by several factors like to meet the economic necessities, decreasing dependency on agricultural sector and for better access to basic facilities of life (Arif and Hamid, 2009). This occupational redistribution and services are working as pull factor for rural residents coupled with push factors such as poverty, natural calamities and disasters, and economic opportunities (Mandal, 2000). Generally, it can be concluded that Pakistan being the agricultural country, people have started to shift their occupation from agriculture to industrial and service sector (Li and Yeh, 2004). This scenario of Pakistan's urbanization created big challenges but on the other side of the picture, it brings opportunities as well. Cities are not the problem, these are a kind of cities developed and formed are problems. Cities have positive and negative sides, positively these are centers of economic activities and problems of housing, and provision of basic facilities health security etc. negative sides (Browne, 2014).

Previous studies suggested that future emerging cities of the developing world caused by unprecedented, unpredictable and uncontrolled urbanization would face tremendous challenges for urban population (Awan and Nasir, 2010). In the perspective of Pakistan, this country could be hazardous with poor governance and huge migration of people from rural to urban areas and uneven distribution of resources utilization is visible. This study attempted to highlight the living conditions and illustrated the problem faced by this community and recommended

strategies to avoid this problem. Informal resident structure with people living in poor conditions in unsteady locality is the key challenge for sustainable urban development. Current state of urbanization in emerging cities of the developing nations like Pakistan are causing serious problem for urban sustainability. These major problems can be solved by providing essential amenities like, affordable housing for poor, provision of basic facilities, building sustainable infrastructure, policies to reduce natural disasters, providing eco-friendly environment, reducing congested traffic and accidents and providing social security etc. Nowadays cities are dominating the world and working as economic hub for economic activities. London, Paris, Tokyo, Hong Kong, Washington, Brussels, Chicago, New York, Toronto, Istanbul and Shanghai etc. are the best cities for economic growth. CPEC will bring the economic growth which will immensely transform the urbanization of Pakistan. CPEC projects are location based which will develop specific regions of the country. Baluchistan which is low density province of Pakistan is expected to attract the huge flow of population from all areas of Pakistan. This potential development may convert into big problem of slums.

Figure 02: CPEC and Urbanization in Pakistan



## 7. Addressing the Problem

Urbanization brings remarkable developments in a country. Challenges of rapid urbanization in Pakistan include, increasing urban deficit, poor livability, deficiency and unproductivity of urban centers, degradation in urban ecosystems and urban poverty. There is dire need to cope with these challenges for sustainable urban development in the country. Sustainable cities are

well planned to facilitate general public equally meet the necessities, to improve wellbeing with-out harming nature or effecting living conditions of other citizens, at present or in future (Girardet, 1999), sustainable city is a place where citizens and businesses constantly struggle to impose their built, cultural and natural environment, while working in a way that supports the global sustainable development goal. Both countries China and Pakistan should further strengthen relationship between local government to strengthen the level of communication between all planning stakeholders of both nations. It will increase the livelihood of the people and increase the standards of life, service quality of cities along the CPEC route.

### ***7.1. Population growth in Pakistan***

There are several problems our earth is facing today is because of increasing population. This is one of the greatest challenge of the 21<sup>st</sup> century. There are several problems arise global warming, air pollution, water problems, food security far bigger is altering natural resources to meet the demands of the humans on earth. If this pace of rural to urban migration and natural increase in population continues, it will cross 50 percent by 2025. Pakistan vision 2025 described that urban population of Pakistan has increased 3 times from the last three decades and it is also estimated that currently 75 cities of Pakistan have the population 0.1 million to 1 million (Ministry of Climate Change, Pakistan, 2015). Small towns with less than 0.1 million residents, are around 448 in numbers (Planning Commission of Pakistan, 2007). Vitally large and mega cities govern urban system with supporting advantage of large population.

Based on current population census of Pakistan 2017, more than 36% of total population living in urban areas. Gradual increase in the CPEC's results is expected to bring sharp increase in this percentage of population, driven by migration of people from deprived rural areas towards newly developed areas, especially nodal cities and small cities near the nodes of the CPEC route. Province-wise, this CPEC stimulated development is expected to drive movement of people from southern Punjab, inner Sindh and remote areas of KPK and Baluchistan towards better opportunities and services in CPEC development zones. Pakistan would thus have to see and manage accordingly the CPEC driven changes in this domain of urbanisation.

### ***7.2 Economic Development***

Economy in fact has to sustain all the metabolic processes of any urban agglomeration. Economically well planned cities are the dire needs of today time. There should be providing welcoming employment opportunities for future population. Opportunities for business community, building financially self-sustained cities. Formation of slums with CPEC

involvement will pose a serious question for economic development as well as for Pakistan's policymakers. It is visible in Pakistan that current slums are traps of poverty. Economic poor conditions lead the poor dwellers to slums. Pakistan must look critically the development trajectory of CPEC, economic development and urban development to avoid the problem of slums in the country. There is a need to improve the wellbeing of people and reduce the level of inequality for sustainable development.

### ***7.3 Urban Governance***

Although 18<sup>th</sup> amendment has brought changes in governance structure of Pakistan. Local body elections in Pakistan is somehow a turning point in forming the democratic governance structure. However, elected people need more powers, and finance to bring public friendly policies. Decentralized urban governance pattern is required. Financial and decision making autonomy is required. System of cities, connectivity with small and large cities for the development of system of cities. Urban governance is critically important for building efficient institutions of planning and policies related to urban development. Significant contributions from community and other organs of the society are highly required. There are very few development authorities e. g. Capital development authority, Faisalabad Development authority, Multan development authority, Karachi Development authority, Hyderabad development authority, Quetta development authority, Peshawar development authority etc. which have autonomy in decision making, implementation and financing. Generally, participation of the community is poorly articulated, any planning related project that involves civil community, there participation should be made sure at the beginning of the planning. New urban developments should be coupled with sustainable urban governance structure.

### ***7.4 Social Exclusions***

One of the most visible and enduring physical representation of exclusions in cities is the expansion in slums. Slums dwellers are usually thrown to the edge of society where they are excluded and prevented from all kind of participations in development process of planning. This exclusion will perpetuate the situation to overcome the problem. Therefore, social exclusion should be considered as a multi-dimensional concept. According to World Development Indicator, an online data source, in 2005 4.7.5% of the urban population were living in slums. That means about half of the population is not included in decision making or policies are drafted not for slum/informal dwellers. Currently majority of the population of the world living in urban areas. Large proportion of this population in developing countries living in inadequate housing and with less access to the basic facilities of life. Mostly slums are

overcrowded with 6 to 7 persons living in very small poorly built in area. People of these are experiencing economic, social and political exclusion at a very high level denying them to provide access to basic resources of the community. Another aspect which all inclusive aspect of a durable civilisation, which no urban design affords to ignore. There should be sustainable social development with respect to basic facilities of life. Health and education should be considered as core subjects of service provision. All this should be planned with the proportion to population. There is a need to adopt the policies to ensure slum residents access to basic services clean drinking water, health, education to help them come out of this bleak situation.

### ***7.5 Living in Slums is always a choice***

The repulsive environment of slums with lack of nutrition, infrastructure, healthcare, education and services, why someone would like to live in these conditions. Is it by choice or with only choice? Both who experienced both rural and urban life, can understand this easily. Living in slums is the only alternative solution. People choose to live in urban poverty rather rural poverty, they'll prefer to live in slums than going back to slums. Slums are the places to attract people to be rich, so let's create the environment to the best of attraction for all people by utilizing all planning tools.

Let us make our cities developed for all. Slums are not formed by choice, slums are only options to live for poor citizens. Slums are continuously growing for several reasons of social, economic, political and demographic reasons. Lots of reasons can be enumerated like poor planning, rapid migration of people from rural to urban areas, unavailability of basic facilities and services, social conflicts and natural disasters etc.

Some specific solutions;

- **Planning Departments directly involved with the planning:** It makes sure the involvement of all planning departments of the government. Weaknesses within the intellectual and physical fabric of this government system makes room for the emergence of slum trap. A perfect coordination and integration among all these departments, at every step from planning to implementation, may help in keeping the emergence of slums at bay from the city. Gwadar Master Plan is the best practice of current time. This is also related to CPEC as well. Gwadar mater plan should be a well-integrated master plan of Gwadar city among all the stakeholders and government departments.

- **Plan must make a meaningful way**, from its blueprint folder, up to the city resident with all its informatics. All the stakeholders, from the planner to the inhabitant, must be able to contribute in the city building, according to the informatics put in the plan. Any perception, which does not resonate with a set level of perfection, should not find room for its actualization. This kind of dreams may contribute in enlarging the slum shadow of city. As mentioned earlier that more than 47% of Pakistan's urban population living in slums. CPEC is expected to create new urban centers as a venue of attraction for people across Pakistan. These new urban developments should make sure to discourage the creation of unplanned settlements.
- **Imbalance between elements of attraction within the city and housing arrangements:** A well-planned city needs to be realized, in a balance between its attractions and housing the dwellers, who would try their best to get close to these attractions. When a city is realized with grand communication, business, education, and social infrastructures, and goes in imbalance in context of housing of the prospective residents, living for proximity to these amenities, then it would make room for the slum shadows. We thus need to seek balance, in the attractions of our urbanization, and consequent accommodation of the prospective residents. All the cities should have a proper long-term plan to meet the housing demands of the population. For instance, Islamabad has all attraction for people, education, opportunities etc. however it failed to meet the housing demand which resulted in slums and unplanned settlements in the city. In future under CPEC, all urban developments should critically consider accommodating the coming people in the city.
- **Real Estate and Well-Planned City:** Most of the largest cities of Pakistan have been breeding a highly untamed real estate sector. A great proportion of this enterprise steels the plan and breeds shadow slums: trapping thousands of households in the shadows instead of letting them make to the real city. Thousands of people plan to live in a well-planned urbanization, breakdown in the black hole of its slums. Pakistan urgently needs to make legislation and regulations, to tame this enterprise. There should be policies for approving any settlement or town etc. Many illegal housing societies are trapping the people. Real estate endeavors have been paid well for the last three decades in in big cities of Pakistan, which has strengthened this enterprise. All the largest cities of Pakistan, e.g. Karachi, Islamabad, Lahore, Rawalpindi, Multan etc. are poorly dealt with the planned real estate involvement. Some stakeholders from this sphere have also

been providing nice urban elements after gaining experience. So, this enterprise needs to be threshed out, for efficient and inefficient elements. Real estate should be properly aligning with government policies and should be used as a stakeholder of planned urbanization as well as source of revenue generation.

- **Compromises in City Nature Relationship:** Working of a city, in its entirety, must correspond with the sustainability of geo-ecosystems. A city operates like a metaorganism. Its working depends on the goods and services from nature. Unless it operates in harmony with nature, it may not be provided with these goods and services continuously. Thus, a city's plan must reflect stewardship with nature. For instance, capital of Pakistan Islamabad is full of natural beauty with natural greenery and mountain. Islamabad's natural should never be compromised at any cast. City plans pregnant with compromises in City Nature Relationship fall into the slum phenomenon more quickly. Likewise, Karachi and Gwadar are coastal cities with economic opportunities and beautiful Seaview. Thus, city's metabolism must be wedded with sustainability and recycling. All its energy consuming pathways should be guarded by stewardship of nature. It should reject the elements of unsustainability, in every bit of its working. Urban development of Pakistan has been breeding compromises in this regard. Pakistan is making its rapid transition from rural to urban life. Unsustainability is shadowing this transition, which need to be checked, before it infests the urbanism in this world to uncontrollable levels. In pursuit of producing more urban amenities, serious injuries are being inflicted to the geoecosystems. Pace of extinctions in the precious elements of biodiversity is increasing, some of which has no substitution. To have our cities sustainable, sustainable water and sanitation, drainage system, pollution, and all other negative should be encounter with relevant policies.
- **Land Ownership Systems Contributes in Breeding Slums:** Slums find another ally in the developing world, which is its land ownership system. When someone owns a land within the city or in its peripheries, he/she also owns to transform it, whatever the way he likes. Real estate also owes its successes to this system, where they first own the land and then the plan. Landscapes with robust ecosystems are purchased, and transformed ultimately into slums. It does not discourage to change the land ownership system in Pakistan but there should be a mechanism for approval of any development on a piece of land. Relevant planning department should have plans for converting land into any form. Price is set for the precious elements of nature, which succumbs to slum

phenomenon within couple of years. Citizen who does not own land, or owns less land cannot contribute in planning or building of urbanization. Urban development plans, where a person, who can make a marked contribution in actualizing a robust urbanization, fails in accomplishing it, because of not owning land, usually take a slippery slope to deterioration.

- **Taming the City Expansion:** Planning always sets some lines and limits. Urbanization when expands boundlessly, slums are usually waiting there on the peripheries, where they may evade the planning apparatus easily. To curb this phenomenon, the planning and implementation apparatus should be endowed with enough power of making and implementation policies, to cut its tentacles after certain limits. Cities of Pakistan are expanding limitlessly and directionless. For instance, expansion of Islamabad is going indefinitely to all direction. Urbanization spread and expansion should be based on the capacity of the city. Future cities should be well-planned for any expansion.
- **Justice and Equality:** Urbanism which does not reflect justice and equality, usually takes a rapid fall into the slum phenomenon. Pakistan's urbanism has been failing in checking the entry of inequality and injustice in its planning and implementation. Inequality is encouraging factor for slums. Pakistan is home to several slums in big cities of Pakistan even in Islamabad comparatively a planned city is having lot of slums in the city. CPEC should not allowed to be coupled with slums problem. Pakistan is a developing country and having population with disparities and huge income gap. Future urbanization under CPEC should plan cities for everyone diminishing the injustice and inequality.
- **Institutionalization:** To keep the slum monster at bay, all urban processes need to be appropriately institutionalized. Urban processes, only when simulated through strengthened institutions, produce all the beautiful tints of urbanization. Pakistan does not afford it any more, to leave the grand transformations of space like urbanization uninstitutionalised. Management and governance of urban space is one of the major determinants of their success. It would also determine scale of slum urbanism in this part of the world. Development authorities should be established at all large and medium cities of Pakistan. It will help to have strength of making decision and financial autonomy.

## 8. Conclusions

Pakistan is a country with natural increase of urban population. It is creating great challenges for sustainable communities. Slums are the outcomes of the population flow from rural to urban areas. It is also a result of economic concentric policies rather sustainable urban development creating regional disparities. Uneven economic and resource based activities are creating serious socio-economic problems. It is proved with enough evidence that emerging cities of Pakistan are increasing tremendously whereas the provision of services are not being provided with the same pace. This pace of growing cities causing insufficient infrastructure, provision of public services to slums dwellers, natural hazards and calamities, bad governance, lack of institutions, social insecurity etc. On the other side un-operational government organs is a major hindrance towards sustainable infrastructure and basic services provision in cities. Public participation is ignored in our planning systems, involvement of public in decision making is very important. Citizens of any country should be considered as resource who can contribute to the national development, if they have access to basic facilities, economically well established, social stable and healthy. In the case of Pakistan, unfortunately government does not utilize resources properly to meet the needs of its community. Slum dwellers face very common problems of inaccessibility of public facilities in the nearby of their locality because all the slums or well unplanned urban areas with lack of attention of the government authorities to the issues of slums. Provision of services can only be ensured when all the planning tools have utilized with future invasions considerations. In consideration of the study, to improve the living environment of the vulnerable communities of slum dwellers, it is required to formulate community friendly policies rather economic gains. As mentioned in Long Term Plan of CPEC, Pakistan should learn lessons from transformed urbanization of China. Our nodal cities can be developed as model cities of Pakistan by providing affordable housing and transportation, provision of all basic facilities (drinking water, health, sanitation etc.). Pakistan should also learn from technological advancement of China and utilize their technology and equipment to solve the problems of urbanization in Pakistan. There are some practical examples of the projects under CPEC, Orange line train project in Lahore which is partially operational now, Karachi Circular Railway, Peshawar rapid bus transit system.

### ***8.1 Recommendations***

Emergence of slums is a phenomenon, which is seriously decelerating the urbanization gains in the developing world. Here are some recommendations to tame this monster:

- ❖ Collaboration and coordination between all the components of planning apparatus, at government level. Participation of all relevant stakeholder, for instance, planning organs of the government, investors, finance providers etc. and making sure the involvement of policy maker and regulatory authorities.
- ❖ Ensuring a meaningful delivery of urban plans – from the plan blueprint folder up to the city dweller – at the lower tier of planning. All the essentials of the planning should be made sure with respect to the delivery from conceptual framework and implementation of the planning.
- ❖ Ensuring a balance between the attractions which city presents to its prospective dwellers and in their housing arrangements. Housing arrangements by relevant official authorities should be one of the pivotal component of planning for perspective population.
- ❖ Real estate enterprise need to be tamed, to optimize the gains of urbanization, as well as to evade the slum phenomenon. There should be housing schemes for poor people.
- ❖ City should be planned with no compromises in context of the city-nature relationship. Environmental concern should be contingent part of planning and local ecology should always be protected at any cost.
- ❖ Principles of land ownership need to be molded towards the optimization of urban gains.
- ❖ City need to be tamed to remain within certain limits. It should not expand its tentacles indefinitely. For instance, major cities of Pakistan, Islamabad, Lahore, Karachi, and Peshawar etc. are expanding indefinitely.
- ❖ To evade slum urbanism, city must reflect justice and equality in all its processes
- ❖ Slum phenomenon cannot be defeated without appropriate institutionalization
- ❖ CPEC will certainly accelerate urban development and shift in urban growth of Pakistan. Emergence of slums should never be allowed to dominate this development. For this preparation of comprehensive master plan of all potential cities that may develop under CPEC should be well prepared to cope the challenges of future unplanned cities and settlements.

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