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China-Pak Economic Corridor (CPEC): Economic Transformation-Challenges and Opportunities for the Local Residents

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ABSTRACT

China-Pakistan Economic corridor is a game-changing project between China and Pakistan. This corridor provides opportunities for economic Development to Pakistan especially to the people of Balochistan. This research paper determined the concept of CPEC in the specific context of socio-economic life of local people. It will look the positive and negative aspects of the projects by taking the local resident into consideration. This study has tended to rely on qualitative methods in order to explain the use, values and interpretation of concepts. The study is qualitative therefore; in depth semi structure interviews and focus group discussion are selected as a tool of data collection. The findings of study are discussed in details. The practical implications of study are future directions are also discussed.

Keywords: Gwadar sea port, Kashgar route, Arabian Sea, Regional Development Political Controversies

Introduction

Province of Xinjiang of China connects borders with Pakistan Afghanistan and Eastern central Asian. Besides this, the population of the providence is too much high. The providence gives 60% cotton production to the country. However, due to high population it remains backward. Gwadar being geographically important give an option to china to overcome the crisis in its respective province. China can

easily access Gwadar by building Silk Road also known one belt one road. CPEC is a fate changer step with other multiple economic projects, including Gwadar help china and Pakistan to fight against economic crisis (Malik, 2015). In order to make good economic relationships nations strive hard to tail advanced economic interest. From the very begging both Pakistan and china have made mutual economic interests. The relationship of Pakistan and china is like Mountaineers, it is deeper than the ocean, this all because of mutual understanding and striving hard to make economic opportunity for the people of Pakistan and china. The long term economic trade patterns. Concept of one belt one road under the umbrella of China Pak economic corridor proved to strengthen the relationship of both nations. Connecting Gwadar to Kashgar is one of the main objectives of China and Pakistan by building Gwadar port and western route.

It is also famous for the development as a free trade port which is the head quarter of Gwadar district. In 2011, Gwadar was titled the winter capital of Balochistan Province by the government of Balochistan. Gwadar has 600 km long coastal belt with beaches and bays. It is 624 Km far from the Hormaz strait is said to be important route of oil tankers bound for Japan and western countries out of Persian Gulf. Sea port of Gwadar is significantly important for Middle East China as well as South Asia (Shigri,2016).

Gwadar is the hub of central Asia and gateway to Persian Gulf. It has naturally got endless importance. It's situated in the most backward area of Balochistan. It plays a growth oriented role in order to generate new ways for economic development. For the purpose of Approaching World Economy and expanding market productions China has planned CPEC by taking Pakistan into confidence in order to approach the Arabian Sea. According to the Sources, "the current budget that China is going to spend on CPEC, is estimated to be more than the financial help of America to Pakistan right after 9/11". The corridor on the other hand, has the capacity of building energy sectors, transport, telecommunication, infrastructure and the largest solar -power generating complex of Bahawalpur, Apart from the above projects, there are other development projects going to be launched soon, such as estimated amount 33.79 billion for energy sectors, 5.9 billion for roads construction, 3. 69 billion for railways network, and approximately 1.6 billion dollars for Lahore mass transit 66 million for Gwadar regional Development. Lastly, millions of dollars will be consumed on fiber optic project, China-Pak economic corridor has been labeled as a game changer and a fate changer project both for Pakistan and China. The corridor would help to establish an economic zone (Nasir, 2016).

Importance of Arabian Sea

Arabian Sea is famous for its significant location. It is situated on north western location part of Indian Ocean. It is positioned among the Arabian Peninsula and the Indian subcontinent. It is connected to the gulf of Oman in the Northwest and to the Aden Gulf in the South west. It covers total area of 1,491,000 square miles. Moreover, the depth of the deep sea changes while it connects to the Indian Ocean to the South, but commonly estimated at 8,970 feet (Murtugudde &, Seager R & P Thoppi 2007). The sea produces an imperative link between the nearest countries

like Iran, the Arabian Peninsula along with Yemen, Oman, United Arab Emirates, and Pakistan including the horn of African Nation as well as the democratic India. It has multiplied with prominence as to become worldly important due to the longest trade route. Besides this, the small political areas in the world too boot edge the Arabian Sea along with Socotra of the coast of Yemen, Khuriyya Muriyya islands and the Lakshadweep islands. It has the importance to bring rampant economic opportunities for newly economic uplift for the South Asian regions.

Strait of Hormuz

Strait of Hormaz is a leading waterway that connects the oil rich Persian Gulf to Gulf of Oman and Indian Ocean. It is estimated that, Hormuz id around 48 to 80 kilometers wide. It is a gate way that pursues oil producing countries of the Persian Gulf. According to Lehman, (2015) "the strait can take over approximately 88% of the oil of Persian gulf for the rest of the world like USA, Asia ,and Western Europe and around 20% of the oil that it carries About 35% of sea-borne oil." Secondly, one of the main importance's of the Strait of Hormuz is that it bears almost 3,000 Vessels that contain fishing boats and oil tankers. Similarly, the key factors of CPEC are to bring China connected to Strait Hormuz since it has a huge impact on global economy due to rich oil. The purpose of Building Gwadar port is to reach Middle East and Gulf of Oman. Using this route China not only expands her production but also reach to import oil from the route. Being historically important it will help China with Gwadar port to have an access to the world oil for the sake of growing her economy (Jamshed, 2015).

China-Pak Economic Corridor (CPEC)

China Pak economic Corridor, an economic plan, an institution to boost up the economic strategy of China and Pakistan ,CPEC is one of the most important agreement that enhance the economic integration of both emerging nations. The economic plan would connect China to Middle East nations for the due purpose of economic well-being. The main theme of this Game changing project is to bring economic development, and expand the market production of China in every nock and crony of the world. However, it will also become one of the benefiting factors for Pakistan to bring industrial development and overcome economic crisis, because the economy of Pakistan is key factors for to be stable to ease the internal crisis (Hussain, Yuan & Ali, 2015). China Pakistan Economic Corridor is a fate changing infrastructure investment project. A multi-billion dollar is herald as a game changer for the economy of Pakistan as well as it is important for the regional development. It is major development step by China, known as one belt; one road is to connect the Middle East, Africa and Asia with Europe. One belt one road or Silk Road is a basic plan to revive trade routes by connecting Asia with Europe and Africa. It is a target declared by the Chinese President Xi Jinping in 2013. Economic corridor is an initiative for the economic development by it is nature and emerging concept (Shabir, Samina & Kazmi, 2007).

China Pak Economic Corridor makes sure infrastructure development projects. Because 11 billion are fix for public investment along with 33 billion private investments which opens the door for the people of Pakistan to get economic opportunities. It will also open the doors for other neighboring Countries to get

attracted by these projects. After the completion of these projects Pakistan will run out from the multiple cycle of low growth rate in economy and will improve the life style of people in Pakistan. Similarly, this agreement will produces new paths for both Pakistan and China to become more and closer in terms of trading and to easily high the level of their economy. Gwadar port connects Gwadar port in southern Pakistan to china north-western and to the region of Xingjian through highways, railways and gas pipelines. So as to, transport oil and gas. CPEC will create approximately 3000 kilometers roads from China's western hinterland to Gwadar port. It also creates a network of infrastructure in KPK as well as Balochistan. The main purpose of the game changing project is to bring china in front in order to do the trading of oil in a peaceful manner. Currently china is importing oil from another route of Persian Gulf. The construction of Gwadar port facilitates china to do the trading of oil from gulf countries as well as to expanding her market production in all over the world. Therefore, china remains very committed to this corridor to be completed as soon as possible. On the other hand, china would like to bring the province of Kashgar with the population of 350,000in the stage of those developed provinces of china. Currently it remains very underdeveloped. The western route and its construction will bring modern infrastructure development in the country. It will be linked between Khunirab pass and Gwadar. After the port is completed the value of overall project associated to the value of the foreign direct investment of Pakistan. Besides these, this fate changing project will make 70,000 employment opportunities for the people of Pakistan in coming 15 years

Social Implication of Gwadar Port

Gwadar port has got number of importance. It will ensure number of benefits and opportunities for the people of Pakistan. It will at the end would fascinate transportation and trade shipments with the connectivity of very nearly twenty countries comprising Central Asian region (CARs) or landlocked countries along with Afghanistan. The port will make available all of these countries a very nonstop route to sort out trading between each other's. The key factor of CPEC is fascinating regional development. CPEC including Gwadar port project plays the key role eradicates poverty and brings economic opportunities for the people of region. Basically, region of Gwadar remains backward due to lacking education and employment opportunities. Implementing Gwadar port project by China would facilitate the region to overcome economic crisis. The people of the region will be getting multiple opportunities to have a new life style in case they remain the equal share holder of the project.

Potential Development

According to the administration sources "A leading plan for the development of Gwadar City by way of land zoning and core infrastructure linkages was accepted by the Government of Pakistan in 2003. The Gwadar Development Authority (GDA) is indicated with the accomplishment of this master plan. The key part of its current work program is to do fast-track construction of roads, supplementary infrastructure and public buildings. The provincial government has launched multiple development projects including the industrial parks located east of the city. According to governmental documents the game changing Gwadar Port

maneuver was authoritatively handed over to china as a contract. With preliminary manufacture asset of \$750 million. The port is assumed to be strategically significant to China, because it will enable China to more securely and consistently import oil. Currently, 60% of China's oil is transported by ships from the Persian Gulf to the only commercial port in China, Shanghai, and a distance of more than 16,000 kilometers. The journey takes two to three months during and by Using Gwadar port instead will reduce the distance of these ships must travel and will also enable oil transfers to be made year-round

Political Controversies and the Long Route

The new Kashgar route to Gwadar seems is a sign of new economic transmission for both Pakistan and China. Along with this route there found other multiple projects associated with it. These projects play the utmost role for the economic development. There present political controversies with regard to the route. The one belt one road route which connects Gwadar to Kashgar province of china covers the distance of 3000 Kilometers. There are debates about the routes and the policy and their implementation. The controversies regarding yet remain unsolved, following are the routes being planned.

Figure 1

Map of the route



Similarly, due to unsatisfactory situation of Balochistan the prime minister of Pakistan is about to change the route covering the province of Punjab. Therefore, there was an all-party conference against the decision of prime minister. KPK and Balochistan have lodged to protect about the change in the route as well as talked of transparency in the project connected with the corridor.

China's Gwadar and India's Chahbar

Strategic competition between democratic India and People Republic of China is all about to access the world Market. China is interested to be connected with Indian Ocean and Arabian Sea for the key purpose of getting into the world of

trade. However, getting the same objectives Indian is interested building Chahbar port with Iranian government. Besides, this Gwadar remains economically important for China. This port is the only gateway for the Chinese government to get connected to Gulf region. The importance Gwadar region serves both Pakistan and China economically. Similarly, getting into Gwadar China can easily have eye of both Indian Ocean and Arabian Sea, because, these are crucial for china to promote trade around the world (Khan, 2015).

There are interests of China into Gwadar port that seeks to empower the relationship of China and Pakistan. On the other hand, it would maintain the business of oil from the gulf countries. This oil will be taken to china through a long highway. The great influence of china's investment in Gwadar tends to secure the presence of Chinese in the Indian Ocean along with Arabian Sea. To counter the growing trade investment of China the Indian government has planned to secure her routes of energy. The only aim is to counter the massive presence of china in the Arabian Sea, Persian Gulf and the Indian Ocean.

For the purpose to counter the presence of China in Pakistan, India has brought Iran into consideration for economic and strategic importance. However, Iran is working on Chahbar port in Sesthan Balochistan. Indian government easily approached to exports and imports goods and services by using the route of central Asia, and Afghanistan by railways links and roads. The development of Gwadar port by China and Pakistan and Chahbar port by India with Iran has opened competitiveness between the two economical growing countries in the region. However, this has also brought the resources of central Asia into risk (Khan, 2013).

Interest and Economic Benefit of Pakistan

Pakistan is blessed multiple natural resources. Pakistan is geographical important as compare to rest of the world. Pakistan share border with Afghanistan on northwest China on North east Iran on west and India on the west. Pakistan is also near to the Arabian Sea one of the most important area where the whole world cab be connected for the due purpose of trade. On the other Hand, Pakistan can also access the central Asian republics. Being geographically important, Pakistan made great steps to penetrate Central Asian Market by building Qasim sea port of Karachi and Now Gwadar port. In the race of economic competition, Pakistan can edge economic development by building infrastructure. The location of Pakistan is very much important for China to reach Arabian Sea and Indian Ocean through the way of Karakorum. China is in demand of getting access to oil rich Persian Gulf and Gulf of Oman. Using this route under China Pak Economic Corridor China can peruse oil for the western region (Mustafa, 2015)

Importance of Gwadar port for Pakistan is not less than a blessing, Because, Pakistan has been fighting tooth and nail to overcome economic crisis. Poverty eradication is one of the massive challenges, fighting against war on terror, decline of industry sectors have brought the economy in down lines. China Pak economic corridor plays the key role to stabilize the economy of Pakistan. However, the main purpose of the corridor and one belt one road including port of Gwadar are theme of economic zone. Pakistan is blessed with natural resources and which is the source of her economic survival. Pakistan is geographically important in the

world. Pakistan has sea line of 1100 kilometers from west to southeast. According to the sources "every year the country receive 36,000 ships transit due to which the annual trade of Pakistan found to be 38 million" (Khan, 2013). Because Pakistan has one of most productive Qasim sea port, which is a source of sea borne trade for the country. In order to generate multiple development plans through China-Pak Economic Corridor the port after its completion provide multiple opportunities, like railways tracks, highways including twenty megawatt electricity which generate 3 billion employment for the people of Pakistan with the benefit of 100 million dollars annually. Since, the route starts from Gwadar covers the area of Balochistan and KPK touches the highway of Karakorum route and reaches to the Kashgar province of China. Following are the benefits Pakistan is going to get by this corridor Gwadar port will enhance the trade with CARs and Middle East.

- It will stronger the relationship with the neighboring countries that can improve the trading relationship.
- Pakistan can also earn lots of foreign exchange through transit fees and improve her foreign exchange preservers.
- There will be a gradual growth and improvement and most of the backward areas can be improved.
- Living condition literacy rate of these areas can be improved.

Challenges and Obstacles

Newly built Gwadar port faces number of challenges. The law and order situation in Balochistan are getting worse day by day. Historically, When General Parvez Musharraf was holding the government of Pakistan who being a military ruler announced number of development project and started manipulation of resource's in 2000 without taking the people of Balochistan in to account. Due to which it was feared by Baloch Nationalist that those tracks to deplete the resources of their province and to organized a non-Baloch state of Balochistan which was strongly opposed by Baloch Nationalist in the provinces. Furthermore, the situation became worsen when the Baloch old tribe chief Nawab Akbar Khan Bughti was associated by military operation in 2006. From the day the Baloch insurgency got it roots stronger Though, Balochistan is blessed with Natural resources by Allah the Almighty remain the most backward province of Pakistan whether educationally or economically. Therefore, it has been claimed by Baloch Nationalist that the "government of Pakistan has been exploiting the resources of Balochistan without paying any attention to the due rights of Baloch. Baloch militant became armed in 1948,1958,1963,1971 and tell to date they are worsening the law and order situation. In order to counter Gwadar port, India is interested building Chahbar port a bilateral agreement with Iran so as to secure oil routes. No doubt there found any American influence towards Chahbar. Being connected with Arabian Sea, Persian Gulf both China and India are competing by building ports, this can be one of the major challenges for both China and Pakistan.

Local Communities and Opportunities

Gwadar is the most important region. It is the hub of world business and gateway to Arabian Sea from which the ships from the different part of the world would be landing in the sea port of Gwadar. Gwadar is newly known a port city and city of export and import. The population of Gwadar according to the census of 1998 is (278,988) people and it is 12637 km in areas, Similarly, being the region of the most backward province of Pakistan the people of Gwadar are not historically educated, in order to survive they have used different sources to gain money and feed themselves.

One of the participants expresses that,

"If the port is operationalized it will surely boost up the increasing economy of Pakistan and china but unfortunately, we being ignored local people may not be fully benefited from this port. Because we believe that the benefit goes to China and Pakistan.

Thousands of people who are the resident of Gwadar region found to be fishermen. Since, they belong to a region where the deepest sea of the world exists. Historically, while the region was under Oman the people at that time also used the way of fishing tell to date they are doing the same. But unfortunately, due to the emergence of the port which is being constructed by china and Pakistan. The people are facing number of problems they are only allowed to catch fish as far 20 kilometers.

"The people of Gwadar are traditionally strong. There are very few people who are promoting education. Gwadar Development Authority has been trying to construct new infrastructure but remains fail due to unbearable law and order situation in the region."

Correspondingly, the living standard of local people in Gwadar according to their own observations and opinions isn't changed yet. There were not any new sources to bring changes in our lives. However, these development schemes aim to provide basic necessities to the people and raise their standard of living. Moreover, it has been manipulated to judge out that the way of life in the region is 21st century is not raised according to the promise given. As some of the respondent were in the opinion that.

"We are more disappointed, fearful than before. The law and order situation are worse than before. The There is no implementation of any policy. The current development schemes including the port of Gwadar would bring prosperity by building new infrastructure schools and hospital. The people of Gwadar must be awarded the equal share of resources."

In order to operationalize the port and to functionalize the long route the policy should be to nationalize the port and the people of the region should be taken into account while the government is going to initiate any kind development projects in the region. Furthermore, the people should not be degraded rather they should be given the actual priority for the sole purpose to maintain peace in the region as according their own observation

Respondent explains that,

"Undoubtedly, the people from that time felt that they would not be getting any kind of benefit from Gwadar port The value of their land was brought into high price which compelled the poor people to sell their land to survive and live a better life but unfortunately, they didn't know that they are far from the benefit of Gwadar port project. Apart from that, people being uneducated didn't know the importance of their land."

Unfortunately, the people of Gwadar face the problem of clean drinking water, infrastructure, hospitals, schools, technical colleges. In order to overcome all of these basic issue of local people of Gwadar, CPEC is the growing project which has the potential to eradicate the issue in case the local people are taken into consideration. According to the resolution of All Party Conference held on 10 January 2016 in Islamabad, illustrate that for the purpose to overcome the deprivation of local resident of Gwadar, the people should be given free and compulsory education along with health facilities. To overcome the backwardness of fishermen, alternative earning opportunities should be provided to them.

One of the participants said that,

"If the port is planned, initiated honestly and with full commitment it will be possible for the government of Balochistan to get billion of rupees which could increases the national budget and the people of Balochistan especially Gwadar will be the real share holder."

The most important thing which is known is the fisheries department is not performing well to facilitate the fishermen. It doesn't get much budget from the government. There is misallocation of local budget. Another factor is fish harbor, which has fixed taxes even for the common people. It is not bearable for a common fisherman to pay taxes. They pay 2% taxes to the fish harbor due to which they cannot get the real benefit of their work. Despite all these they set no facilities for the fishermen. Therefore the fish harbor remain fail to work properly and facilitate the people of Gwadar.

Negative and positive impacts of Gwadar port and local people

The port of Gwadar under CPEC was thought to bring economic development in the region. The reality was constructed that the people of the Gwadar will be spending a peaceful life. The residents of Gwadar region are the real share holder of the benefits. The opinion of people regarding CPEC and Gwadar port reported opposite. They didn't deny the port because it is a fact that the port is a productive source will ultimately provide a better life for the people of Gwadar.

It is a developmental concept that each development or infrastructure has got some negative and positive aspect whether they are social are environmental. The same Gwadar port has got both negative and positive aspects for the people of Gwadar. The life of people in Gwadar suffering the most due to unfavorable law and order situation which are caused by the port while it was about to be implemented

The resident expressed that,

...... There is no any positive aspects from the port rather there are number of negative aspects produced by the port due to which they are more suffering and yet they have not gotten any benefit....."

Having this in the mind I found majority of the people not happy with port. Reasonably, the concern authorities are found to be responsible for the situations. On the other hand, some of the people were happy to have this opportunity, since they thought that the port is going to give them the opportunities to become one of the richest ones like others. The less percentage of the people believes that their life style is going to have a new shape after the port is operationalized.

"We feel ourselves lucky enough to have the opportunity of these mega projects which are going to bring out a huge change in our life. We will be getting employment opportunities, health and educational facilities which would support us to be part of the economic world."

It is worldwide accepted that the culture of Balochistan is very diverse because of its material and non-material aspects in the world. Balochi culture, with rich norms and values respected in the world by everyone, Culture of Baloch with its diversity has going to be negatively affected by the Gwadar port projects and Pak-China economic Corridor.

One of the professional said that

"We are proud to have our Balochi culture which is respected everywhere in the world. We now have fair in our mind that our culture in going to be harmed by the Chinese and other people in the world."

GDA is an organization aims to provide economic opportunities for the people of Gwadar. But unluckily, the people are not happy by the initiatives of this organization. Who believe that this organization is failed to satisfy them. It is fail to counter the most basic problem of water sanitation, education and health. Besides these the GDA is lastly built GDA School to support the people of Gwadar to be in a position to compete others educationally and economically. The purpose of GDA is to develop some development activities like building roads and other infrastructure.

Interviewers said that

"We are not satisfying with the activities of Gwadar development Authority. We are suffering to have basic needs of water, education and health. Many people are suffering by diseases. On the other hand, the majority of the employees in GDA are not from Gwadar which is another discrimination being faced by the people of Gwadar."

Perception about Benefit Sharing, Opportunities and Local People

Gwadar development authority is the representative of Balochistan government which is being run by the federal government. The aim of GDA is to do the developmental scheme by building roads and other infrastructure development. Besides these, the GDA is supposed to solve the basic problem of water. One of the sources of water in known is Ankara Dam which was constructed in 1993,

which covers the area of approximately 17,000 acres. Unfortunately, due to less rain the dam is dried as a result the people are suffering more and the chances of diseases being increased day by day. Similarly, there are many Baloch engineers who are skillful and well trained. They can participate in any kind of engineering, but they are ignored and not given any importance.

One of the participants explained that,

"There are many skillful workers in Gwadar. Who are able enough to work related to engineering. But they are found disappointed. In place of local engineer the position has taken others who are not native of Gwadar. They are mostly from China or other part of the country which has generated a concept of hate in the mind of people in Gwadar."

It seems very disappointing to mention that the people of Gwadar not given any priority. It was made sure that the people of Gwadar will be given priority. But after the work started they found themselves ignored. It is sad to say that, while the port was on the stage to be implemented the people of the area were not aware of it. Therefore, they now claim that they won't get any benefit from this port as the

Local respondent said that.

"We are the native of Gwadar. We were not aware about the port before. We are fearful that we are going to be ignored in-term of benefit sharing.

It is assumed after the interviews conducted are data's are analyzed that the people of Gwadar are facing uncountable problem. They are so far deprived of their basic needs like water education health and shelter. It is sad to find out the people in the region with disappointing faces. It is the responsibility of the government along with capital to look into the matters seriously so that the people must get benefit from the projects.

Recommendations for Policy and Exercise, and Opening for More Research

As my interviews bring out the phenomena that the government of Pakistan is supposed to build institutions whether educational or other social institution so that the people should not be deprived of their basic rights. It is therefore, suggested that the government has to focus on building institution which should benefit the local people .no one can deny the fact that the people of Balochistan are being ignored at the time of benefit sharing. Secondly, the government of Balochistan should take serious steps to solve out the problem of local people in Gwadar so as to make the port possible enough to be operationalized. However, the local people believe that they are not profitable to be taken into contemplation,

Conclusion

Based on literature research based sources present a bright future of the projects in Balochistan, Especially the main concern is the mega port project of Gwadar and China-Pak Economic Corridor. First and the foremost initiative of the port will bring a huge infrastructure change in the region of Gwadar including many areas of Balochistan province. Similarly, the development of Gwadar port as the center of business by the mean of export and import, there will be the development of income inequality between the people of Gwadar and rest of the districts in the province. For the purpose to eradicate the income disparity the government should cope with such a future trend of economic inequities by establishing small industries and do infrastructure development in other part of the province as well.

China being one of the strongest economic powers in the world has undertaken the responsibility of this mega project which in future will be an important part of china's economic trade zone. This critical and analytical study of Gwadar port and other development projects may serve to inform and challenge key stakeholders of development sector of Pakistan and international businessmen including policymakers, economic experts, and finance minister. A broad range of diverse perspectives and observations from different stakeholders as well as actors who are involved in development sector have been examined in order to provide a broad based evaluation of the current Socio economic life of local people in Gwadar. This evaluation highlights issues that need to be critically considered by policymakers and other relevant authorities' Apart from that, the Planning and development Sectors should conduct Monitory based research to find out the impacts after any development Schemes.

According to their own observation they are not going to be benefited from the port. The government of Balochistan should assure that, the local people are not going be ignored and most importantly their basic problems like education and water should be taken in to serious consideration and solved. Apart from that, it should be made clear that the policy with regard to the port should be made according to the will of the local people and they should be taken in the activities of the port.

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