

CPEC and job opportunities of youth



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of MS Peace and Conflict Studies

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Dedicated to my parents whose affection, love, encouragement and prayers made me able to
finish this thesis.

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Hadiqa Tariq

List of Acronyms

ADB	Asian Development Bank
ATOD	Alcohol, Tobacco and Other Drugs
BRI	Belt and Road Initiative
CDIA	Cities Development Initiative for Asia
CIIPP	City Infrastructure Investment Programming and Prioritization
COVID-19	Corona Virus Disease
CPEC	China Pakistan Economic Corridor
	Cross River State Economic Empowerment and Development
CR-SEED	Strategy Document
CSR	Corporate Social Responsibility
CYE	Critical Youth Empowerment
CYP	Commonwealth Youth Programme
DRC	Democratic Republic of Congo
ETF	Education Trust Fund
FATF	Financial Action Task Force
FDI	Foreign Direct Investment
FET	Further Education and Training
FO	Foreign Office
FPCCI	Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce and Industry

GDP	Gross Domestic Product
GES	Graduate Empowerment Scheme
GIS	Graduate Internship Scheme
GNP	Gross National Product
ICT	Information and Communications Technology
IMF	International Monetary Fund
ISSI	Institute of Strategic Studies, Islamabad
JETRO	Japan External Trade Organization
LSM	Large Scale Manufacturing
LTP	Long-Term Plan
MEL	Monitoring, Evaluating and Learning
MOU	Multinational Oil Companies
MW	Megawatt
NAVTTTC	National Vocational and Technical Training Commission
NCC	National Coordination Committee
NDE	National Directorate of Employment
NGO	Non-Governmental Organizations
NOAS	National Open Apprenticeship Scheme
NSTP	NUST Science and Technology Park
NTFP	Non-Timber Forest Products
NUML	National University of Modern Languages

NUST	National University of Sciences and Technology
NYP	National Youth Policy
PAR	Participatory Action Research
PAYE	Plan of Action for Youth Empowerment
PSDF	Punjab Skills Development Fund
PTI	Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaaf
RL	Radio Latino
RMB	Ren Min Bi
SEZs	Special Economic Zones
SIWES	Students Industrial Work Experience Scheme
SME	Small to Medium Enterprise
SPSS	Statistical Package for the Social Sciences
SUREP	Subsidy Re-Investment and Empowerment Programme
TEVTA	Technical Education and Vocational Training Authorities
TL	Turkish Lira
TVET	Technical and Vocational Educational Training
VTE	Vocational and Training Education
YAEDI	Youth Agriculture Entrepreneurship Development Initiative
YD&E	Youth Development and Empowerment
YEN	Youth Employment Network
YES	Youth Empowerment Scheme

Youth REP

Youth-led Research, Evaluation and Planning

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Abstract

Development of CPEC, with all its associated projects, favorably influences the socio-economic prospects of Pakistan. CPEC acts to be a critical study to scrutinize the role it could play in the cost-effective refuge of Pakistan. The study includes the economic prospects for youth generated from CPEC, a visualization into a noticeable reality by addressing the economic benefits in terms of employment and empowerment. The aim of this research is to determine socio-economic significance of CPEC considering youth as a requisite factor to support national economic development; act as an effervescent viable pivot in the designed trade and energy projects connecting Pakistan with adjoining regions to generate massive economic disbursements. The research methodology applied in this study is of mixed methods to collect both qualitative and quantitative data. The data consists of semi-structured interviews followed by questionnaires and an online survey to substantiate the dynamics prompting the CPEC. Based on empirical findings, the research further identifies areas with recommendations that require immediate attention of policy makers to explain the promises made to youth; of employment and empowerment into a tangible reality by addressing issues with a success rate.

Introduction

China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) is a dilated strategic project for both the countries. Industrial development is considered as one of the most unfailing strategies to promote long run growth of an economy. That's why a sensible strategy under the umbrella of China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) was proposed. According to Nazir (2017), CPEC is a multi-billion dollar mega project, aims to achieve military, political, economic and cultural objectives to influence the global sphere. The main importance of CPEC is connectivity among continents (Asia, Africa and Europe) and to boost the economy. The researcher has found a good representative literatures focusing on CPEC and promotion of industrialization, agriculture, medicine, advancement in technology or digital technology, information network infrastructure, accelerating economy, poverty alleviation, geological importance, defense strategy, cyber security, opportunities, threats and challenges. Unfortunately, no ample literature data is available on job opportunities for young graduates in CPEC which needs to be investigated. This study will explore CPEC and job opportunities for young graduates. The available information of employment in CPEC is quite inadequate. The research further includes the economic opportunities for youth created from CPEC vision into a tangible reality by addressing the fiscal benefits.

Problem Statement:

Keeping in view the economic and social situation of the country, developmental projects under CPEC appears to be a crucial research to examine the role it could play in the economic security of Pakistan. The problem to be identified is CPEC as an economic game changer addressing the

needs and aspirations of the youth. The research will ascertain the functioning of Economic Zones and their contribution in the economic growth of the country by the involvement of youth.

Research Questions:

Following research questions will be addressed in this study:

- 1) How does CPEC create opportunities for the youth?
- 2) How youth/ university graduates will benefit through CPEC?
- 3) What will be the success rate in job creation through CPEC?

Research Hypothesis:

CPEC projects provide meaningful job opportunities for the Pakistani youth to create peace and stability in the society.

Objectives of the study:

- 1) To measure the employment rate of university graduates through CPEC.
- 2) To find out how the youth in Pakistan would not only benefit from CPEC but also how can they be instrumental in being a promoter of peace and stability in the country.

Significance of the study:

Pakistan's economy is largely dependent on the proper execution of its projects by the government. The developmental projects under CPEC require detailed analysis on the factors that will have positive and negative impacts on the success of the project. The research will entail how CPEC will sustain the economy and transform the country into an upper-middle income nation to secure its interests. There is a dire need of identifying the employment opportunities for the university graduates through CPEC projects. This study will disclose the

importance of development of CPEC, by the contribution of youth, for socio-economic growth of the country.

Methodology:

The study consists of a mixed method design. It is a process for gathering, examining and mixing, quantitative and qualitative both data at some phase of the research course within a single study, to understand a research problem completely. (Creswell & Maitta, 2002) Neither quantitative nor qualitative methods are appropriate to capture the drifts and particulars of the study. When quantitative and qualitative methods are used in combination, they allow more complete analysis. (Green, Caracelli & Graham, 2011)

Social research needs a design to study the research topic before data collection. It is a work plan that provides details about what has to be done to complete the project. The work plan is based on the project's research design. The main purpose of the research design is to make sure that the facts attained are permissible to answer the crucial question as absolute as possible. (De Vaus, 2002) The study is based on primary sources consisting of mixed research methods which includes qualitative and quantitative approaches to identify the job opportunities for youth.

In quantitative research, an online survey was conducted to get the perception of 254 young graduates on job opportunities in CPEC by the help of Stratified Random Sampling. The sample size was determined on the basis of population of twin cities of Pakistan; Rawalpindi and Islamabad. In this way, the study explored more about existing and emerging criteria for young graduates in CPEC. In quantitative research, researcher was dependent on statistical data. The researcher costumed the data for mounting knowledge in the form of lessening the particular variables, hypothesis, questions, use of quantity and observation. A researcher then segregated

the variables and related them to determine the magnitude and regularity found between them. The collected data was formulated, organized and analyzed in Statistical Package for the Social Sciences (SPSS) software. The frequency tables of variables were generated. The frequency distribution summarized the data by listing the number of participants and their responses. The large data was converted into small meaningful units to easily draw conclusions. The variables were measured on a 5-point Likert scale ranging from “Strongly Agree” to “Strongly Disagree”. The bivariate relationship was driven between the variables. The relationship was shown in the form of bar graphs with percentages mentioned by finding correlation. Graphs were generated to examine the relationship between the pairs of variables.

Whereas, qualitative research is known as an inquiry method of consideration where the researcher cultivates a multifaceted, all-inclusive picture, studies words, analyzes detailed views of interviewees or respondents and carries the study in a natural setting. (Creswell, 1998) In this method, the researcher created knowledge statements based on participatory perspectives. The data was collected from those engrossed in daily life of the situation in which the study is outlined. Data analysis is based on the values that participants perceive for the research study. It gave an understanding of the problem based on multiple contextual aspects. In qualitative research, semi-structured interviews were scheduled as interview is the oral dialogue and exchange between two people with the purpose of data collection (Kothari, Kumar, & Uusitalo, 2014). The questionnaire comprised of six questions based on literature. The semi-structured interviews of five respondents were conducted in the circle of regional analysts, lecturers, research associates, policy makers and government authorities. Snowball sampling technique was chosen because snowball sampling is helpful in finding people of the same genre. The in-

depth interviews highlighted the prospects, opportunities and challenges for youth in CPEC. In the time of pandemic, there were few limitations. The outbreak of COVID-19, did not allow researcher to travel and conduct live interviews and get required number of surveys filled. Because of time constraint and restricted resources, researcher was able to conduct five interviews. Four telephonic interviews were conducted and the fifth respondent answered the questions in written form via email. The data was concerned with the situations that existed, beliefs that stood, developments that were on-going and opportunities that were developing.

Chapter 1

Literature Review

By studying the relevant literature, it will help the researcher to understand how developmental projects based at community and national level play a massive role in the empowerment of youth. To date, the existing physical resources will show the relation of unemployment and violence. The study also covers how socio-economic growth and stability is dependent on the operationalization of the projects under CPEC.

The chapter is divided into six sections. In the first section, development growth is discussed. In the second section, developmental projects are discussed. In the third section, empirical evidences of unemployment and violence is given. In the fourth section, China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) is discussed. In the fifth section, Special Economic Zones (SEZs) is discussed and in the sixth section, CPEC and Corona Virus Disease (COVID-19) is discussed.

Living in a multifaceted environment of interaction, survival, power politics and globalization is a complex phenomenon. The influx of innovation, technological revolution and integrated global economy has led to the increased flow of goods, services, technology and services without any boundary restrictions. The development projects tend to industrialize, modernize and uplift the third world countries, with the aim of social stabilization.

Development growth is the source of rising living standards by improving the quality of life and competing in the global market. Development refers to a set of social progression brought by volunteering certain actions which are competent enough to transform a social setting, through institutions or by individuals. (Tinturier, 2011) Development Project is a project designed for

construction of infrastructure for the improvement purpose, redevelopment for upgrading the already intended tenants. (Law Insider) Development project is a project designed to improve the economic and social situation of a certain group or class. (Development Project Management, 2015) According to Gold. E (1987) Economic Development Projects provide subsidies which may include; 1) property tax relaxation, 2) loan guarantor, 3) grants, 4) sales tax release, 5) reduced energy costs, 6) bond financing, 7) low market lease, 8) public upgrading, 9) special zones for massive developmental projects and use of well-known domain to assist productivity. Ziai defines development projects as space and time related limited for progressive measures in developing or less developed or underdeveloped countries with an aim to improve the living standard of the population. From the conception till completion of the development projects, a broad-based team of experts, bureaucrats, technicians, engineers, NGO members and researchers play a significant responsibility. (Tinturier, 2011) The Asia Foundation works to achieve less tangible goals including economic development and improved governance. Development is a gradual process which takes decades to attain a desired result. The Asia Foundation works with the collaboration of NGOs, academicians, donors and researchers. The Foundation's aim is Monitoring, Evaluating and Learning (MEL) about the development projects. The MEL model provides increased team communications resulting in the improved responsiveness through all the phases of development projects. (The Asia Foundation, 2018) The Cities Development Initiative for Asia (CDIA) provides the support to the cities for planning, financing, construction and maintenance of the development projects. CDIA deals with the poverty reduction and economic growth. (Cities Development Initiative for Asia, 2017) From 2007 – 2018, CDIA has occupied 95 states in 19 countries covering Asia and Pacific. Under the umbrella of City

Infrastructure Investment Programming and Prioritization (CIIPP), 52 projects have been successfully completed. Till now, 2870 participants have participated in 116 courses offered by CDIA. The offered courses promoted cooperation, knowledge sharing, integrated and sustainable approaches towards the economic projects. (GIZ)

In 2015, three best showcased development projects of the Asian Development Bank (ADB) were 1) solar technology in Thailand, 2) provision of quality education for the poor in Mongolia and 3) improving agriculture machinery in Vietnam. (Asian Development Bank, 2016)

According to Vinod Thomas, Evaluations not only provide the success or failure rate of development projects but also analyze whether public funds were well invested or not. It provides the room for improvement for the effectiveness of projects and recommendations for thriving development projects. (ADB Evaluation, 2016) In Thailand, a 55 megawatt solar power plant was fixed in Lopburi province. It is Asia's largest solar power plant because through this project it gave investments and bank loans to the investors for the renewable energy finance market. Subramaniam quoted that after the activation of the solar project in 2012, it has avoided 50,000 tons of greenhouse gas emission on an annual basis. During the 2008 – 2009 global financial crisis, Mongolians were threatened which resulted in the withdrawal of poor students from schools. At that time, the government was unable to provide quality education to the poor. ADB provided a grant of \$17 million to the Ministry of Education, Science and Culture. The endowment was granted for the time frame of 2009 to 2011. During these two years, the funding was used for the successful continuation of quality education without any hurdle. Kolkama argued that the project exhibited the capacity of ADB to take immediate action to cater the unanticipated need efficiently. A funding of \$30 million ADB loan was allowed to the

Agriculture Science and Technology Project in Vietnam. The main purpose was to institutionalize market based research to serve farmers to brace the human and physical aptitude. The project involved 42 organizations such as farmer's union, research institutions, extension services and vocational schools which helped in providing skills and small businesses to the farmers. The outcome was that farmers were trained to merge traditional methods into the newer products which were required in the global market. Lozac's spoke that the involvement of actors from different fields strengthened the team participation which resulted in the success of the project. (Asian Development Bank, 2016) Since 2000, India has emerged as one of the largest exporters of high valued crops. By now, India is the world's 10th largest agricultural exporter. India, being the agricultural country focused on the economic projects with job-focused interventions. The state is responding domestically and globally to the market needs. In this regard, the food processing industry is active in revenue generation. The industry contributes about 15 percent in the employment sector by providing 240,000 jobs to the skilled workers. (The World Bank, 2018) The Sichuan Urban Development Project was held in four cities i-e Mianyang, Suining, Yibin and Panzhihua. The aim was to strengthen urban development by establishing economic development zones, upgrading networks of urban transportation, sewerage systems and scenic public areas. From 2008 – 2012, the Mianyang attracted Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) of Ren Min Bi (RMB) 365 million and local investment of around 25,785 million. 3,340,000 people benefited from the Sichuan urban Development Project. (The World Bank, 2014) Through this project, steady growth in Gross Domestic Product (GDP) and job opportunities were observed. (The World Bank, 2015) The Kyrgyz Republic is dependent on its natural resources. The prime goal of the Republic was to create jobs, provision of goods and

services and affordable health care. Hanchoro Murzaliev, head of investment policy at the Ministry of Economy, appreciated the rapid modernization and development in the region has opened new pathways for the people. They can buy new technologies, advanced machinery, up-to-date equipment and encourage the youth to participate in policy making, legal procedures and financial framework which includes development projects. The Republic has built 18 new private dialysis centers with inexpensive treatment. A 25 percent decline in the treatment expenses is observed in hemodialysis. More than one quarter of the women have utilized the loan in Small to Medium Enterprise (SME) and have increased the profit to \$16.5 million. (Asian Development Bank, 2020) Turkey has developed a strong development strategy to revive its economic conditions. (Cecen and Dugruhal, 1994) Since 2000, Turkey's social and economic development has been inspiring because of increased employment opportunities. Turkey has maintained a long term smart strategy for implementing reforms in less developed areas of the country. (The World Bank, 2019) One of the renewable energy sources is solar energy. It can generate electricity and the sun has produced energy for billions of years. (Balat, 2005) The Konya Kızören Solar Power Plant is one of the successful projects in Turkey. 74,106 solar power panels were used in Konya Solar Power Plant. More than 400 workers were employed in the project. (Daily News, 2016) The project will be providing jobs to more than 250,000 to the people. (Daily Sabah, 2018) The Konya plant will prevent approximately 18,000 tons of Carbon dioxide emission per year. (UNICO) The solar power plant is meeting the needs of 270,000 households and contributing Turkish Lira (TL) 200 million to the economy. (Daily Sabah, 2018) Entrepreneurship plays a significant role in the financial growth of the country. There are two types of entrepreneurship; 1) Opportunity entrepreneurship is related with the business start-up to

utilize the identified or unidentified business opportunities. Necessity entrepreneurship is related to the business start-up utilizing the best available chance for employment. Entrepreneurship encourages employment and self-employment, contributing to the country's economic stability. (Looi and Lattimore, 2015) Entrepreneurs lead to self-employment and they are considered to perform better than people who work for a necessity. (Appiah, Donghui and Majumder, 2019) Entrepreneurship and The SMEs provide platforms to the educated youth and skilled workers. SMEs contribute to employment generation, increased profitability, economic diversification, impressive productivity and a handsome market share. In Bhutan, SMEs are a key driver in providing jobs to the young and educated Bhutanese. In the country, there are 95 percent registered businesses including 36 percent of the women owned registered SMEs. Working with a 59 percent of a female-to-male labor ratio, women are emphasized and encouraged to expand their micro enterprises in the market place. (Wees, 2019) The government is dedicated in conducting the training sessions by providing appropriate skills. The government has successfully addressed and addressing the concerns regarding employment, skillfulness and workforce involvement in the economic and social development of the country. In Bhutan, youth employment has reached 10.7 percent. (Asian Development Bank, 2015) Cambodia's economic and social development is based on natural resources, agriculture and rural development including education and transportation. During 2011-2017, new schools were built in which 400,000 students were enrolled, comprising 180,000 female students. 4000 trained teachers were given jobs in the schools to ensure quality education. Improved water supply was provided to 100,000 rural houses. 55,000 new households were connected to low-cost electricity. (Asian

Development Bank, 2019) The development project provides business opportunities, creates employment, provides quality education and uplifts the socio-economic situation of the country. There is a strong connection between unemployment and violence or conflict. Lack of economic opportunities for youth may lead them to participate in violent activities, crime, conflict and other heinous activities. According to Kimberly, unemployed people are those who are for the short term, laid off and are waiting to be called back to the job. (Amadeo, 2020) Korpi, in his article, defined unemployment as the means to assure claims on the national employees to be compatible. (Korpi, 2001) In sociology and psychology, unemployment is related to the economic, social, physical and psychological well-being of an unemployed individual. (Strom, 2003) The study highlights how young people are prone to violence. In developing countries, between 1997 and 2007, the number of unemployed youth increased from 63 million to 71 million and the number is still increasing. The youth unemployment rate is two to three times greater than adults. (Amarasuriya, Gunduz and Mayer, 2009) The uneducated and jobless men participate more in conflicts. (Collier and Hoeffler, 2004) In 1948, Sri Lanka came into independence. Since then high unemployment and underemployment among youth was a major problem. At that time, youth unemployment rose to 40 percent. Sri Lankan youth were involved in the social unrest and violent insurgencies and were a threat to political stability. The government created 8 percent jobs for youth. In 2001, the Youth Employment Network (YEN) set four priorities: 1) Employability 2) Equal opportunities 3) Entrepreneurship and 4) Employment creation, which were an important source of employment. (Amarasuriya, Gunduz and Mayer, 2009) During 1972 and 2009, 100,000 people were killed because of unequal distribution of power and marginalization. (Yass, 2014) For nearly three quarters, youth aged 17-

26 were mostly unemployed, underemployed or hired on low wage jobs. (Obeyesekere, 1974)

The indirect inequity in the job sector was also a cause of conflict between Sinhalese and Tamils as the official language was Sinhalese. (Venugopal, 2008) In the mid-1990's, in Poland, a relationship between industrialization and provincial unemployment was observed. In 1989, registered unemployment was zero and in 1992, it rose to 14 percent. In 1996, the unemployment was ranging from 58.1 percent to 64.0 percent. (Newell, Pastore and Socha, 2001) In 2007, 19 percent of the youth under the age of 25 was registered as unemployed. This situation worsened the social status of the country creating unrest. (Porter and Sztanderska) Unemployment in developing countries and unemployment for youth is inappropriately designed. In 2005, in Algeria, 70 percent of the people under 30 were listed jobless which makes 15.3 percent of the total population. The reason for the high unemployment rate was high taxation of labor and strict regulation of the labor market which resulted in the economic upheaval. (Kpodar, 2008) In 1980's, in Northern Ireland, Catholics were more jobless than Protestants with a ratio of 10 percent. The increased number of unemployment between Catholics resulted in several killings of civilians. In 1997, the erupted violence came to an end with anti-discriminatory policies signed within the Good Friday Agreement. (Stewart, 2015) The author believes that one of the factors that prolonged the conflict in Sierra Leone was unemployment and insecurity. (Riddell, 2007) The socio-economic situation in Hungary was awful because there were only five jobs available for 100 jobless people in 1993. During the same year, the percentage of unemployment rose to 13 percent. The Hungarian government did not consider employment policies a serious matter to be resolved. (Dovenyi, 1994) In 2006, in Kosovo, 76 percent of the youth remained unemployed and in 2012, the unemployment rate of youth was 53 percent. (The World Bank,

2008) In 1995, the same situation was observed in Herzegovina and Bosnia. The unemployment percentage was 64 which reduced to 44 percent in 2014. The author argued that horizontal inequalities were not addressed which led to the social unrest and discrimination among the masses. (Stewart, 2015) Unemployment, under employment or working on a low wage directly or indirectly contributes to the participation of youth in violent activities.

Pakistan has experienced and is experiencing many crises in terms of economic unsteadiness, structural imbalances, extensive corruption, power collapse, substandard public services, deep rooted poverty, high inflation, growing unemployment, scarcity of utilizing domestic resources and debt crisis. The ideals of Allama Iqbal were based on the creation of a pluralistic society but the problems within and historical background never allowed Pakistan to create such a society.

Corrupt leaders and bureaucrats have destroyed the democratic structure of Pakistan and created instability in the country. (Shaikh, 2000) Since the inception of Pakistan, the country is facing demographic upheaval and economic, political, social and cultural disruption. Whereas India, a sister state enjoyed stability and democracy. Till now, the leaders could not settle the turbulence and havoc leading the country to a complete disaster. (Burki, 2020) In developing countries, foreign aid plays a significant role in the economic growth of the country. Developing countries like Pakistan rely on foreign aid and depend on external sources for economic development.

Foreign aid is categorized into grants and low rate loans. Pakistan started getting foreign aid soon after the independence. In 1960, Pakistan got foreign aid around 6.6 percent of the GNP. It increased to 53.3 percent in 1970. During this tenure, mega projects such as Mangla and Tarbela dams were constructed. Government launched public investments programs such as roads, electric power, social services programs, Indus Super Highway and Pakistan Steel Mills. (Khan

and Ahmed, 2007) American aid declined in 1988, in the Bhutto's era in the pursuit of nuclear technology. (Ali, 2009) After 9/11, Pakistan joined the US War on Terror and the aid was increased by 7 times. (Khan and Ahmed, 2007) Till 2014, Pakistan had received \$25 billion in US assistance. This is one of the highest aids received among the weaker states because of its strategic alliance with the US in the War of Terror and its failing status. (Brooks, 2005) Pakistan was not able to contribute to the economy's growth because human resources were not well-developed and institutions could not support development. The foreign aid did not improve the governance or policy making strategies. (Burki, 2009) During the last two decades, Pakistan faced devaluation of rupee. The country borrowed Rs 700bn from the State Bank of Pakistan and the oil prices exploded up to \$147 per barrel. (Husain, 2019) To avoid going back to the International Monetary Fund (IMF), several measures are needed to be implemented to bring the deficit below two percent. Pakistan should fill a gap by becoming a part of the Network Industry and by contributing in the value chains in the marketplace of producing young, dynamic and middle-income consumers in the East. (Pasha and Kardar, 2017) The phenomenon of urbanization is increasing rapidly. The migration from rural areas to urban areas is breaking through utilization, productivity and competitiveness. The government needs to improve institutions, governance and technology to utilize the resources in the productive manner. (The Nation, 2019) In 2019, Pakistan failed to make any progress under the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) and is still included in the grey list. The budget allocated by Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaaf (PTI) was Rs 7.022 trillion. Monetary consolidation and revenue generation should be addressed but unfortunately they were not. (Chuadhry, 2019) It was stated in the 2012 – 13 annual report of the State Bank of Pakistan, Pakistan's macroeconomic stability is continuously

at risk because of the growing burden of debt service. (Younas, 2019) Bosnia, Herzegovina, Rwanda and Georgia are few of the countries who were successful in broadening the tax base. In the early 2000's, in Bosnia and Herzegovina, businesses were registered. It lowered the tax rate from 30 percent to 10 percent and increased the revenue generation. In Rwanda and Georgia, more companies registered their businesses, exemptions were not reduced and revenue rose steadily. (Hayat, 2018) Previously, Pakistan's 60 – 70 percent of the exports came from a handful of products but now they have lost their competitiveness. (Khan, 2019) Pakistan is under the increasing debt of loan from IMF, devaluation of rupee, payment crisis and government struggling to meet the challenges. Dig deeper, Pakistan's imports are twice the number of its exports. Lack of exports and increased demand for imports is also hampering the economy to grow. This is also the reason that Pakistan is unable to compete with the foreign firms and heighten the productivity. (Wani, 2018) Finance Minister, Asad Umer stated that despite failure and obscurity painted by opponents, there are golden opportunities present for foreign investors to invest in Pakistan. He confidently argued that Large Scale Manufacturing (LSM) has become more well-defined. (Husain, 2019) Macroeconomic stability and economic reforms can help in boosting the economy. For sustainable economic growth, foreign investors should be taken into confidence. It will restore private financial constraints. (Amjad, 2015) The joint ventures provide an opportunity for each partner to benefit from the comparative advantages of the other. Foreign partners may offer advanced technologies, latest management techniques, an access to export markets and providing skilled laborers. (Miller, Glen, Jaspersen and Karmokolias) Joint Venture can be short term or long term based on the nature of the project. It can be for a limited purpose of business establishment or it can be establishment of capital investment for unlimited duration.

(Donovan, 1974) The Pakistani Government urges to facilitate the local manufacturing by establishing 1st Pak-China joint venture in Mobile Manufacturing. This joint venture will create 100,000 jobs in the mobile industry. Currently, 40 percent females are working in this venture. (Pak-China, 2019) The Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FPCCI) hailed business-to-business agreements with Saudi Arabia on the need to improve standards of Pakistani goods and services to avail maximum potential of the deals. (Dawn, 2019) Pakistan and Australia are good partners in business-to-business and people-to-people connections. Australia believes that Pakistani goods are the best and have a huge potential in the Australian market. Australia offered Pakistan to set up joint ventures in energy, dairy, food, livestock and other sectors. (Daily Times, 2019) Turkey also offered joint ventures in IT, automobiles, education, home appliances and other fields. (The Express Tribune, 2019) In Pakistan, 80 Japanese companies including Honda, Suzuki, Toyota, Isuzu and Nissan are successfully operating. Japan wants to expand its business in the textile sector. According to Japan External Trade Organization (JETRO), Pakistan is the second most profitable platform for the Japanese companies. (BR, 2019) Government's efforts in achieving the target can be appreciated by the initiative of Kamyab Jawan Program to gain the momentum of economic growth. Through this government's flagship program, unemployed youth will get loans ranging from Rs 100,000 to Rs 5 million to establish small businesses. (Ghilzai, 2019) Hafeez Sheikh said this program will create hundreds of thousands of new jobs for skilled and unskilled youth. (The Nation, 2019) Iftikhar Malik wrote that establishment of SEZs under CPEC will generate thousands of new jobs for youth. (APP, 2019) The National University of Sciences and Technology (NUST) developed a Science and Technology Park for the multinational companies. The aim of the

NUST Science and Technology Park (NSTP) is to provide a platform for a work space, free training, mentorship and funding opportunities. NSTP has international linkages through the project of CPEC. Residents will enable to import advanced technology and machinery without paying any tax. (APP, 2019) Pakistan's youth is comprised of more than 60 percent of the total population. Through E-Rozgaar scheme, youth is trained for a period of 3 – 3.5 month, the technical skills essential for online platforms. The training centers are established in more than 25 districts across Punjab. More than 10,000 youth is enrolled in technical, non-technical and creative designing programs per year. Through internet based freelancing, youth is becoming economically independent. (Jamal, 2017)

CPEC is divided in three phases. According to Noor (2019) the first phase was completed in October 2019 and the two remaining phases are expected to be completed by 2030. Under the pivot of BRI, the completed phase and the second phase of CPEC is considered to be the Years of Industrial, Socioeconomic and Agricultural Cooperation. (Noor, 2019) China and Pakistan agreed on the formula of 1+4 for economic collaboration, featuring 1 as CPEC and 4 as Gwadar, energy, transportation and industrial cooperation. (Khawar, 2017) CPEC is a model of "Sustainable Development " as it contributes 2.5% to Pakistan's Gross Domestic Product (GDP). (Khan, 2020) CPEC route is 3,000 km long which connects China and Pakistan by rail and road networks, pipelines and fiber optics. Xinjiang, Chinese province is connected with Gwadar, Pakistani port and gives China access to the Arabian Sea. (Khan, 2020) The objectives of CPEC for Pakistan are Economic and Infrastructural Enhancement, Employment and to overcome the energy crisis. (Jan, 2017) Through CPEC, a surge in the form of FDI will be experienced by Pakistan. (Husain, 2016) It is argued by Mehmood-ul-Hassan Khan that during the second phase

of CPEC, SEZs will be the priority. It will attract FDI and industrialization in Pakistan will be accelerated. (Khan, 2020) 20-25 mega Chinese companies are functional in Pakistan. 60,000 Pakistanis were employed in CPEC projects. (Dawn, 2020) China will be investing in SEZs under CPEC. (Haider, 2019) CPEC cannot be compared with any of the projects in the world but Panama and Suez Canal somehow share a number of similarities with CPEC. The U.S was able to ship more rapidly which elevated trade between Asia, Europe and South America. The canal shortened the time and distance from the Atlantic Ocean to the Pacific Ocean. The Canal strengthened the U.S navy (D, 2014) The Canal revenue was accelerated to \$2 billion. From 2008 to 2016, the projects under the domain of Panama contributed to 4 percent in the annual economic growth. Suez Canal makes 5 percent of Egypt's Gross National Product (GNP) and 10 percent of GDP. The Canal made Europe a center of trade and attracted domestic and international investors. (Khan, 2017) Chinese investment in CPEC is making the mega project possible. 80 percent of China's transport of oil is through Malacca strait. Through CPEC, the shortest trade route will be attained. (Hussain and Hussain, 2017) CPEC has the potential to generate jobs in construction, transportation and trade sectors. The operationalization of the projects will provide employment security in economic and industrial divisions, to the people. (Express Tribune, 2018) CPEC has the potential to promote industrialization, pharmaceuticals, agriculture and digital technology resulting in generating job opportunities for young graduates. (Khan, 2020) Sahiwal Coal-fired Power Plant, Punjab, Coal-fired Power Plant at Port Qasim, Karachi, Sindh, HUBCO Coal Power Project, Balochistan, Engro Coal Power Project, Thar, Hydro China Dawood Wind Farm, Thatta, UEP Wind Farm, Thatta, Sachal Wind Farm, Thatta and Three Gorges Second and Third Wind Power Project are in operational form. (CPEC) In

Sahiwal Coal-fired Power Plant, 3000 local laborers and 200 Pakistani engineers were hired for operationalization of the project. (Xin, 2018) The Power Plant has a capacity of producing 1320 Megawatt (MW) energy costing \$1.8 billion. It consists of two units of 660 MW with greater efficiency, reliability and environmental friendly technology. Pakistan is now self-sufficient in the energy sector. (Abubakar, 2019) During the construction, more than 3000 locals were hired which improved the socio-economic conditions. Technical training school was built and provided free education and technical training for future projects. (International Energy Agency, 2018) In the Coal-fired Power Plant at Port Qasim, 600 local workers and 46 university graduates were recruited in the project and have stable jobs. More than 3500 Pakistani employers have worked in the project. (Congqin and Yongsheng, 2019) Thus, CPEC is generating jobs for young graduates and improving the socio-economic status of the country. In 2020, The Port Qasim Coal-Fired Power Plant has generated 1.34 kWh of electricity providing electricity to four million families' daily power consumption. (PowerChina, 2020) The plant has the world's supercritical thermal technology with a capacity of generating 2660 MW of energy. In 2016, 104 engineering graduates were hired. 5 month technical training was provided to them. 5000 direct jobs were created during the construction phase. (Shiyu, 2018) Senator Mushaid believes this gigantic project will open remarkable opportunities for Pakistan, by involving less established areas and established areas. (Nihao-Salam, 2016)

Under CPEC, nine different Special Economic Zones are to be established in Pakistan:

Mogpondass SEZ (Gilgit-Baltistan), Mirpur Industrial Zone (Azad Jammu and Kashmir), ICT Model Industrial Zone (Islamabad), Rashakai Economic Zone (Khyber Pakhtunkhwa), Mohmand Marble City (FATA), Bostan Industrial Zone (Balochistan), Port Qasim Special

Economic Zone (Sindh), Allama Iqbal Economic Zone (Faisalabad) and Punjab-China Economic Zone (Punjab). By now, a total of 2450 jobs have been created; 1000 in Peshawar, 690 in Hattar, 400 in Gadoon and 690 in Nowshera SEZs. (Abbas and Ali, 2017) According to BR Research (2018), 75,000 jobs were created through 22 projects under CPEC. According to Crane, Albrecht, Duffin & Albrecht (2018), SEZs are defined by geographical area, local management, unique benefits, separate customs and economic laws. Zia, Malik & Waqar (2017) believed SEZs are usually established with the aim of attracting FDI, generating employment and experimenting economic reforms by modifying trade policies. SEZs as a specific area of land Special Economic Zone (SEZ) is a particular area of the land used to promote industrial growth in a country by providing more moderate economic and tax policies as compared to general economic policies in a country. (Khan and Anwar) SEZs offer two main benefits which are categorized as static and dynamic. Static benefits include job creation, growth of export products, revenue increment and growth of foreign exchange reserves. Dynamic benefits include skill improvement, technology advancement, innovation, economic diversity and increase in local firm's productivity. (Zia, Malik & Waqar 2017) Mahmood (2018) argued CPEC will be a lifetime opportunity for Pakistan working with Chinese companies for development purposes. Rashakai and Allama Iqbal Economic Zones have become operational. The two zones will sponsor the industrialization and will create around 300,000 jobs. The projects will strengthen the communication networks, provision of cost-effective electricity will be ensured. (The Express Tribune, 2020) 20-25 mega Chinese companies are functional in Pakistan. China will also be investing in SEZs under CPEC. (Haider, 2019) Pak-China cooperation also intends to focus on strengthening irrigation, livestock breeding, crop farming, horticulture products and cold chain management. (The Nation, 2020)

Unemployment is one of the major issues in Pakistan. Muhammad Muzammil Zia, a policy head of job division in CPEC Authority stated that in four out of nine SEZs: Rashakai will generate 150,000 jobs, Dhabeji will generate 80,000 jobs, Allama Iqbal will generate 290,000 jobs and Bostan SEZs will generate 55,000 jobs. He also stated that through the National Vocational and Technical Training Commission (NAVTTTC) and Technical Education and Vocational Training Authorities (TEVTA), local youth will be trained to get maximum employment in SEZs. (Malik, 2019)

In the beginning of 2020, a contagion broke out from China and became a pandemic; COVID - 19. It challenged the feasibility of CPEC. The considerable popularity of CPEC was listed in the list of impossibilities because of economic upheaval. The CoronaVirus slowed down the progress of BRI by disrupting supply chains. The SEZ in Cambodia was a home to 160 businesses and 20,000 workers, which are now quarantined due to the pandemic. 2000 Chinese workers were also sent to home within the fourteen days of outbreak of CoronaVirus. (Reuters, 2020) Lockdowns and the border's closures made a cessation situation on the progress of CPEC. Pakistan Foreign Minister, Shah Mahmood Qureshi assured that a slight slowdown in the headway of CPEC is possible but there will not be any curtailment in the long run. (Rauf, 2020) If lockdown remained for the extended time period, Pakistan's economy would collapse and people would die of unemployment. Prime Minister of Pakistan, Imran Khan held a meeting of the National Coordination Committee (NCC) and decided to restart the halted CPEC projects unaffected by the pandemic. (Ali, 2020) The shared fortune, coherence and development between China and Pakistan raised many questions with the outbreak of COVID-19, despite the significant geo-political stature, nuclear power and strong defense strategies. China, being the

leading world economy tackled wisely in the pandemic. On the other hand, Pakistan, being a developing country, was questioned on the economic priorities and CPEC. (Khan, 2020) Alice Wells, US diplomat criticized CPEC claiming it is lacking transparency and Pakistan, heavily indebted in the predatory loans will never pay back its loans. Pakistan was reviving its economy and will revive post-COVID. Alice has criticized Pakistan many times by saying that Pakistan will go through the major economic crisis at the time of repayment of loans. (Khan, 2020) Kaiser Bengali referred to the economy of Pakistan as a casino economy. People are investing in stock exchanges and real estates with no long-term goals. China plays clever and has controlled Saindak Copper and Gold Project for 10 years. The profit obtained from these two mining is cloaked in mystery to Pakistan. CPEC is not a good choice when two-third of the youth is unskilled. It is difficult to consider CPEC as a game changer, rather it will be a game over project for Pakistan. It is a win-lose situation because Pakistan needs to create jobs to strengthen the economy. (Ahmed, 2017) The Foreign Office (FO) clarified that Wells' criticism is baseless as Pakistan's debt relating to CPEC is less than the total debt nuisance. He further stated under the pivot of CPEC, Pakistan and China are striving to achieve a win-win situation. (Syed, 2020) On June 25 and July 6, 2020, two hydro-power generation projects worth \$3.9 billion were signed by Pakistan and China. The projects will be amid economic fallout due to COVID-19. (TRT World, 2020) The investment is considered to be the biggest-ever foreign investment for power generation. It is decreasing Pakistan's reliance on importing fuel. (Chung, 2020) By taking the examples of above mentioned countries, public investment in key infrastructure should be made. If human capital would not increase, Pakistan's economy would not improve.

Chapter 2

Connection between development and youth empowerment

In the first chapter, literature review was discussed. The deliberated sub-topics were development growth development projects, empirical evidence of unemployment and violence, CPEC, SEZs and CPEC under COVID-19. In this chapter, connection between development and youth empowerment is built by presenting different case studies where youth was not amongst disenfranchised groups. Youth participation was not problematic and was utilized in an optimistic approach in Nigeria, Southwestern Ontario, United States, African countries and Zimbabwe.

Youth empowerment means crafting and supporting the aiding circumstances under which youngsters have the right to act on their own and on their own terms. They are not dictated by the governing authorities. The enabling conditions are based on economy, society, politics, equality, right to life and right to information. (The Commonwealth Plan of Action for Youth Empowerment, 2007 – 2015) Youth empowerment is an action yielded at an individual level to enable their own ability to act in the times of oppression. (Brown, 2006) Kim, Crutchfield, Williams and Hepler (1998) discussed Youth Development and Empowerment (YD&E) Approach. The YD&E model promoted youth development by integrating youth empowerment processes. The model promoted an in ordinated participation of youth in the socio-economic affairs of the community. Youth was not considered to be problematic rather they were treated as community assets and resources with greater contribution in socio-economic and public affairs of

the community. The model gave social, economic and public opportunities to solve social problems that were imposed by adults on youth. In the 1960's to 1980's, drug abuse prevention was famous for its social influence model. It involved problem solving and coping strategies, assertiveness skills, self-instructional skills and accurate adjustments. Youth was trained in the core-skill area. They were taught to create, plan and evaluate ideas for career development and prevention of drug abuse. Youth participants determined steps to evaluate efforts and recognize achievements. (Schinke, Gilchrist & Snow, 2011) The survival of agriculture in Nigeria is dependent on youth and want to regain the lost pride. Their aim was to widen the food supply chain by rising agricultural exports, increase in agricultural production and contribute to the socio-economic situation of the country with the help of youth. Mass migration of youth into urban areas led to leave farming in the hands of illiterate farmers who followed the traditional farming methods. The farmers needed to learn scientific knowledge for survival. The graduates were provided the training on vocational skills, entrepreneurship skills and psycho production skills. Youth was engaged in the marketing of farm supplies to achieve entrepreneurship skills to divulge in agricultural businesses. In Nigeria, a high number of youth remained unemployed after the completion of bachelor's degree. Youth Agriculture Entrepreneurship Development Initiative (YAEDI) was initiated with an aim to facilitate Nigerian youth in agricultural related opportunities. According to National Youth Policy (NYP), youth was empowered by providing opportunities to them. Graduates were provided vocational training and farm settlement schemes were taught to them. (Amadi, 2012) The worsened economic situation and political unrest threw youth into joblessness, social unrest and vehemence which gravely affected the economy. Like every developing country, Nigeria is also facing unemployment. It is observed in 2002 – 2003,

28.9 million youth out of the total of 138 million youth bulge was unemployed. Youth unemployment is higher in urban areas as compared to the rural areas. In 2008, 80 percent of the youth was unemployed and 10 percent was underemployed. In 2011, 42.2 percent of Nigerian youth was jobless. Due to joblessness, Nigerian graduates are more likely observed to be involved in societal crimes; pipeline vandalization, armed burglary, car stealing, oil bunkering and human trafficking. To tackle this redundancy, development and empowerment of youth was the sole solution, contributing to the sustainable development of the country. In 2004, the Education Trust Fund (ETF) determined the market prerequisites and the results found from 20 various organizations in Lagos State, were devastating. 44 percent graduates were rated as average in creativity, 50 percent was of the opinion that graduates were average in rational judgement. Furthermore, 63 percent graduates possessed ordinary leadership skills. 56 percent graduates had average innovation ideas. (Jeffrey & Emeh, 2012) The quality of life wasn't economically, socially and politically improved in Nigeria. Through Vocational and Technical Education (VTE) youth gets equipped with the practical education, required skill set and competences to be self-contained; to play a part in the sustainable development of the country. There were many problems in successful running of the VTE: lack of funding, dearth of competent trainers, unavailability of infrastructures, improper implementation of the Students Industrial Work Experience Scheme (SIWES) and marginalization of the diploma holders. Sustainable development can only be achieved if youth is properly empowered. (Yakubu, 2012) One-third of the world's poor belong to Africa. The substantial reason is horizontal and vertical inequalities. In Niger Delta, locals are largely dependent on Non-Timber Forest Products (NTFP) for the livelihood. The products include fuel wood, fruits, nuts, fibres, mushrooms, spices, honey

and palm wine. The Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) of the Multinational Oil Companies (MOU) examined the role of rural youth in NTFP and found that only urban youth was empowered. (Oduji & Okolo-Obasi, 2019) Unemployment and underemployment among Nigerian university graduates is increasing with an aggregation in poverty, delinquency and criminality. Over the period of time, Nigeria has initiated many VTEs program to enhance the capacity of youth especially young graduates:

In 1989, National Directorate of Employment (NDE)

In 1999, Youth Empowerment Scheme (YES)

In 2004, Graduate Empowerment Scheme (GES)

In 2009, National Open Apprenticeship Scheme (NOAS)

In 2012, Graduate Internship Scheme (GIS)

In 2012, Subsidy Re-Investment and Empowerment Programme (SUREP)

These programs were accessible to the youth without any discrimination. These trainings provided technical knowledge to youth in the fields of industry, agriculture, technology, science, business and economy. These trainings contributed in the unemployment reduction of the youth. (Nwankwo, Obeta & Nwaogbe, 2013) Every year, graduates faces difficulty in finding jobs. To address this purpose, entrepreneurial education was started to provide them with required skills and knowledge and to shape their minds in a constructive manner. In Nigeria, entrepreneurial education was introduced in the curriculum at a primary level. According to Minniti and Levesque (2008), entrepreneurial education is a readiness to transmit out forms of arbitrage indulging the economic threat of new ventures. Furthermore, according to Alberti, Sciascia & Poli (2004), entrepreneurial education is the designed prescribed conveyance of entrepreneurship

aptitudes which in turn states to the notions, assistances and mental awareness used by individuals during the course of starting and developing their growth oriented ventures. Entrepreneurial education provided youth economic understanding, management, marketing, digital skills and enhanced interpersonal skills. (Aja-Okorie & Adali, 2013) Entrepreneurial education was taught through teaching, research, transmission and offering services to the people of the community. Felix Ohiwerei Education Trust Fund was introduced with a focus on career counselling. With the start of this initiative, educational projects were offered across 40 communities, 180 scholarships were awarded, 250 classrooms were built and 22 libraries were constructed. Through this program and YES, employment opportunities for African youth were created. One way to empower youth is through educational empowerment. (Ekpiken & Ukpabio, 2015) In 2009, National Youth Policy promoted provision of fundamental human rights and protection of health, social, economic and political wellbeing of people, to boost their participation at community and national level. Entrepreneurship education helped in poverty alleviation, improvement in economic growth, decline in unemployment, increase in income per capita, reduction in social crimes and lessening of human trafficking. (Kolade, Towobola, Oresanya & Omedewu, 2014)

To normalize the situation, strategies for empowering youth were designed. (Ofem & Ajayi, 2008) According to Cross River State Economic Empowerment and Development Strategy Document (CR-SEED), the government provided youth; skill development training, favorable workplaces and active participation at local and State level. (Cross River State, 2007) The unskilled, jobless and poverty-stricken youth was targeted in youth development programs to resolve conflicts in Nigeria and xenophobic movements came under control. (Dike & Dike,

2017) Through YES, poverty was reduced. Vocational training was provided to the youth, hence contributing to the socio-economic growth of the country. (Adamu & Ohize, 2009) In Southwestern Ontario intercity school, students worked for 12 weeks on an enrichment program for youth. They used computers and the internet for a school-based community development project. Community assessment activities consisted of mapping, walkabout and photographing their needs. Participants realized health issues and categorized them as violence, alcohol, drugs, smoking and pollution. They accessed 6 computers in the library to construct websites for community assessment findings, peers surveying online, documentation, information access through the internet and communication through computer-mediated communication systems. Moreover, youth were able to write private email messages to the group's bulletin board which can be viewed by every participant. Community members were also given admittance to post and read the uploaded information. (Valaitis, 2005) Youth-led Research, Evaluation and Planning (Youth REP) was a means of promoting youth development in a positive way to generate prevailing learning for organizational and community improvement. The project addressed social inequity and power unhinge. Furthermore, it established the association between youth and community development. (London, Zimmerman & Erbstein, 2003) According to Cutler and Edwards (2002), communities that actively engaged youth empowered them in a positive way. The Youth REP planned the strategies to implement the recommendations at the community level, to raise the voice of youth. Through Participatory Action Research (PAR), participants were supported towards empowerment and self-determination. Youth-led evaluation provided tools to the youth, to develop and validate the information disseminated. Youth guided the marginalized groups of the community. People were suffering from misguided policies that were

crafted without their input. Through this program, youth was rescued from the dysfunctional environment. Through positive participation of youth, they tend to be a vehicle for social integrity by eradicating discrimination based on race, color, sex and status leading to the sustainable development. (London, Zimmerman & Erbstein, 2003) In the United States, use of Alcohol, Tobacco and Other Drugs (ATOD), bullying, ragging and teasing were major concerns to be addressed. (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 2004) To cater these problems the Youth Empowerment Strategies (YES), a post-school project for youth was initiated. YES engaged youth in Photo-voice by designing social action projects. Photo-voice is a method to integrate photography by free writing a few questions: What do you See here? What is Happening here? How does it relate to Our lives? Why does this problem Exist? And what can we Do about it? (Wang, 2003) SHOWED engaged youth in critical thinking in identifying the existing problems and raising awareness about the solution to the problems. Thus, by the use of Photovoice, many opportunities were created for people living in shelter in Ann Arbor, Michigan. Groups of people were guided to the importance of resources, cost, time, allies, frames and obstacles and directed to a level of intrusion through a dialogue. (Wilson, Dasho & Martin, 2015) Moreover, a Plan of Action for Youth Empowerment (PAYE) was introduced for: 1) Youth Enterprise and Sustainable Livelihoods, 2) Youth Work Education and Training and 3) Governance, Development and Youth Networks. In 2006, through the Commonwealth Youth Programme (CYP), approximately 1800 youngsters studied the Diploma in Youth Development Work. Participants took training in Information and Communications Technology (ICT). The diploma is offered in 45 countries including India, Guyana, Zambia, Solomon Islands and South African countries. This initiative made young people the part of policy making. Youth was given

the rights of making democratic and developmental decisions. The abilities of youth were used in a positive manner to eradicate poverty. A proper budget was allocated to youth development. Skill training and diploma certificates not only empowered youth but also women, minorities and people with certain disabilities. Young people were empowered because they accredited that they have their own choices to act upon, they can make their own decisions and are responsible for the consequences. (The Commonwealth Plan of Action for Youth Empowerment, 2007 – 2015)

Pearrow argued ways in which marginalized youth can be empowered. Youth were empowered to be activists for social justice through civil management. (Pearrow, 2008) Jennings et al, identified six dimensions through Critical Youth Empowerment (CYE): 1) supportive environment, 2) meaningful participation, 3) shared power, 4) socio-political goals, 5) acute reflection and 6) empowerment at individual and community level. (Jennings, Medina, Messias & McLoughlin, 2006) Through CYE, youth was able to make real changes by consuming the required resources in a meaningful manner. Youth identified escalated dysfunctional behavior and guided them to utilize their skills in productive work. (Pearrow, 2008) In Africa, tribalism or ethnic hatred is not the only reason for civil wars but deep political and economic development failure derives major crises. About 40% of Africa have experienced at least one period of civil war such as in Southern Sudan, Rwanda, Botswana, Kenya and Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). (Elbadawi & Sambanis, 2000) It is stereotyped as the disastrous continent with inexorable ethnic cleavages and violent tribal conflicts. The high prevalence of civil war in Africa is not due to extreme ethno-linguistic fragmentation but due to high levels of poverty, dependence on natural resources and failed political institutions. The exacerbating civil war in selected African countries represents an extreme failure of inter-group cooperation, lack of

political rights and low economic development. Selected African countries are counted as failed states as their legitimate political power and legal structures have fallen apart resulting not in anarchy but in the collapse of the state apparatus. (Knight & Gebremariam, 2004) Due to the outbreak of civil war, available opportunities for youth became unavailable. In conflicted countries, youth was used as a tool of productivity. Technical colleges and universities offered diplomas and certificates for young graduates. Those who have undertaken certificates and diplomas have greater opportunities of employment. Governmental, private sectors and NGO's, together provided a platform to youth to effectuate development. (Kang'ethe, 2017) In African countries, 60 percent of youth is unemployed. In Zimbabwe, youth unemployment is because of social exclusion, lack of command over resources, lack of participation, insecurity and vulnerability. (Mokoena, 2013) To create job opportunities for youth, collective efforts by stakeholders, governmental and non-governmental were made. Youth took loan funds from the Ministry of Youth Development, Indigenization and Empowerment. Youth self-started their small businesses to achieve sustainable sources of livelihood. To sustain competition with established companies, they required huge capital and advanced technology. (Mukuhlani, 2014) Further Education and Training (FET) facilitated 300 unemployed graduates and 7986 graduates were provided internships to gain experience and skill. (Mokoena, 2013) Youth empowerment is a source of social change. Program impression, effective use of resources, sustainability, and conceptual accuracy are the major keys in youth empowerment. (Dupuis & Mann-Feder, 2013) Vergas and Erbo (2017) wrote about radio based social learning of young graduates. The high school students worked in Radio Latino (RL) to empower youth at community level through service learning courses. The courses enabled the students to improve interpersonal

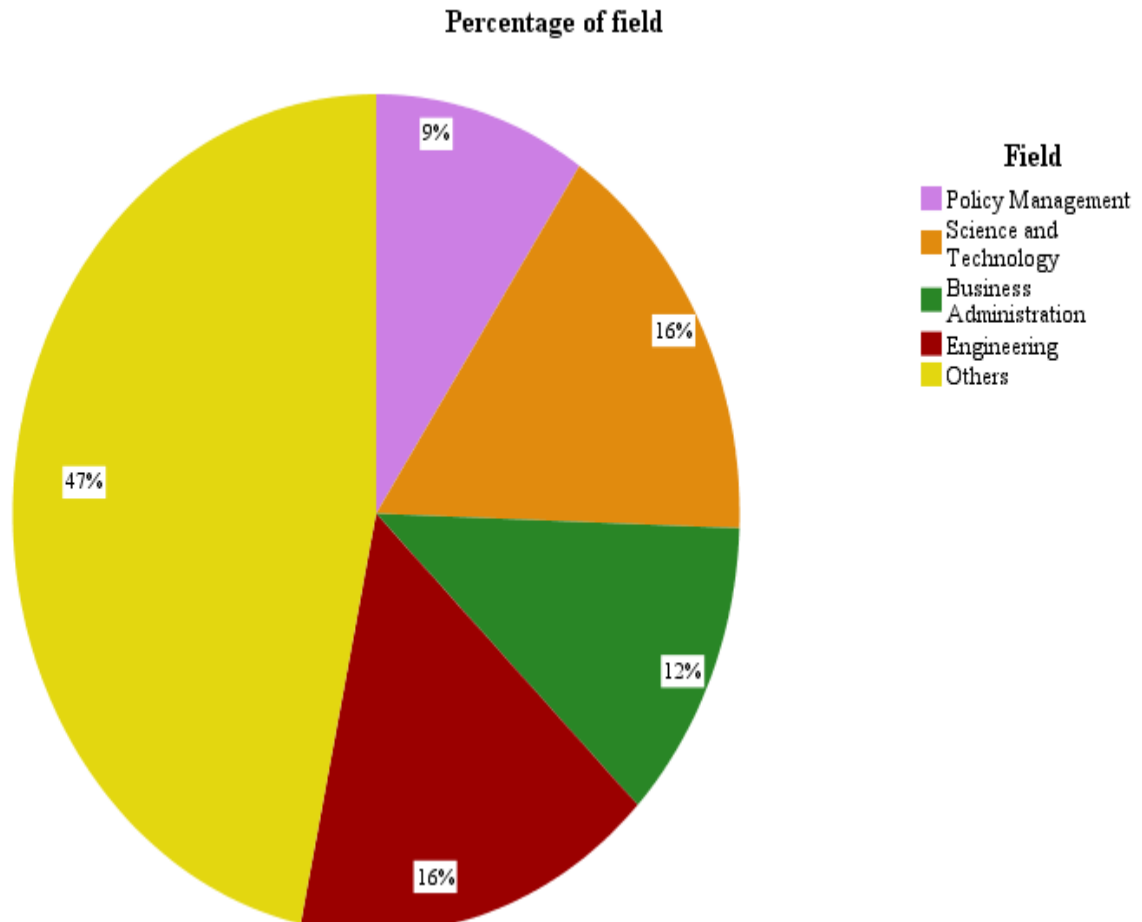
communication skills to get culturally proficient in US conventional media. In RL, the topics discussed were immigration, poverty, higher education, media, mental health, reproductive health, sexuality and issues related to domestic violence. Technical and Vocational Educational Training (TVET) contributed in creating empowered youth leading to the peace of the country. (Usman & Tyabo, 2013) Youth must be given a say in the policy making, decision taking, with an increase in opportunities for empowerment.

Chapter 3

Findings and analysis

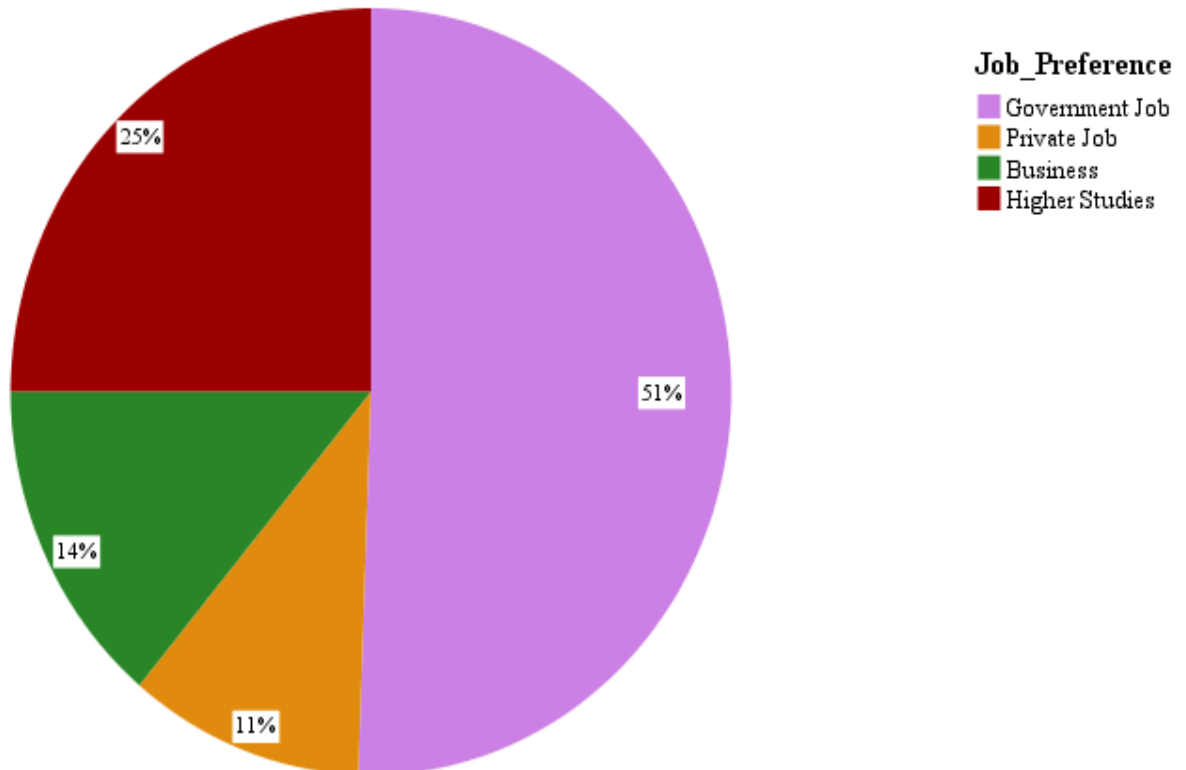
The chapter includes findings and discussion that how the analysis conducted ties back to the research questions. The researcher's involvement with the data collection in the two phases: quantitative and qualitative research designs were different. In the quantitative section, the researcher administered the survey. Data was collected using standardized process including stratified sampling amongst the existing groups. Reliability and validity of the instruments were checked. Different statistical analysis techniques were used to analyze data in SPSS.

Additionally, the chapter includes demographics: gender, age, field, work experience and job preference: Pie chart and bar graphs. The survey was designed to analyze the perceptions of 254 young graduates from Rawalpindi and Islamabad. Included in the chapter are answers of the five respondents who were interviewed for the study. In qualitative section, researcher assumed a more participatory role due to the persistent experience of the participants in the form of semi-structured interviews.

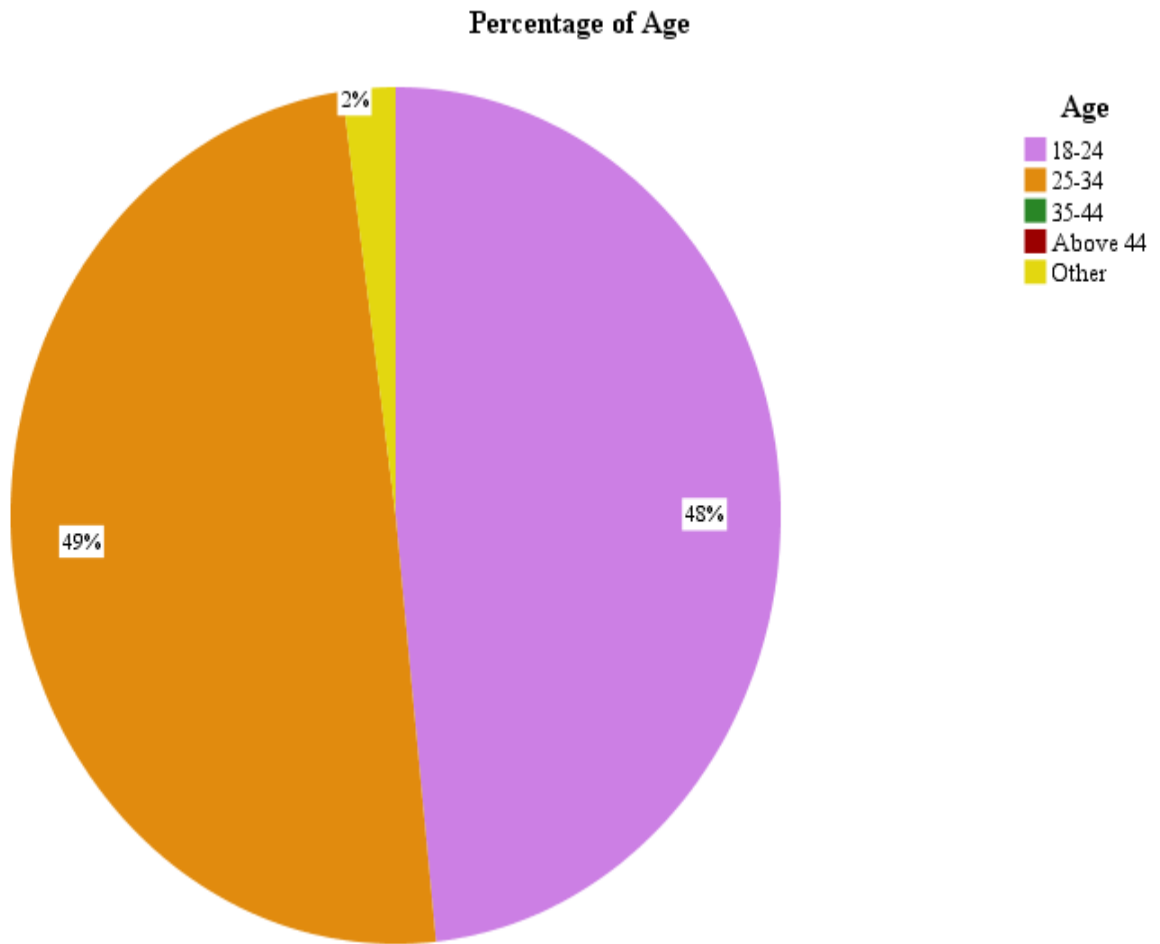


The graph shows 47% of the graduates belong to different fields. 16% belong to the field of Science and Technology. 16% belong to the field of Engineering. 12% belong to the field of Business Administration and 9% belong to the field of Policy Management.

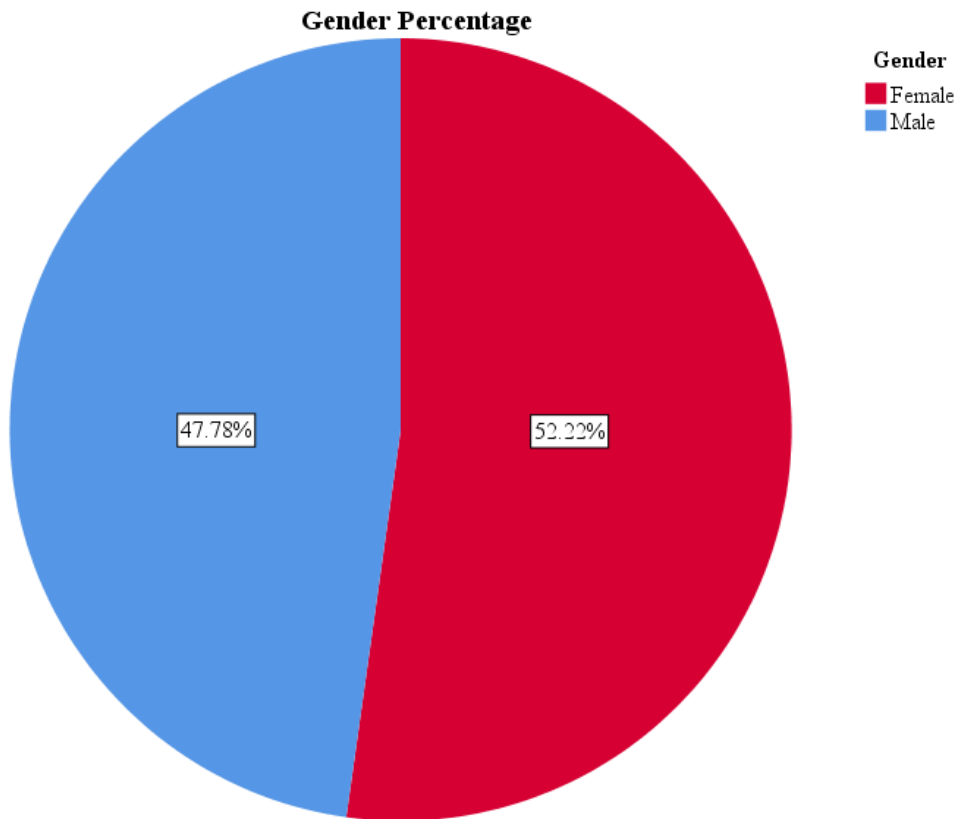
Percentage of Job preference



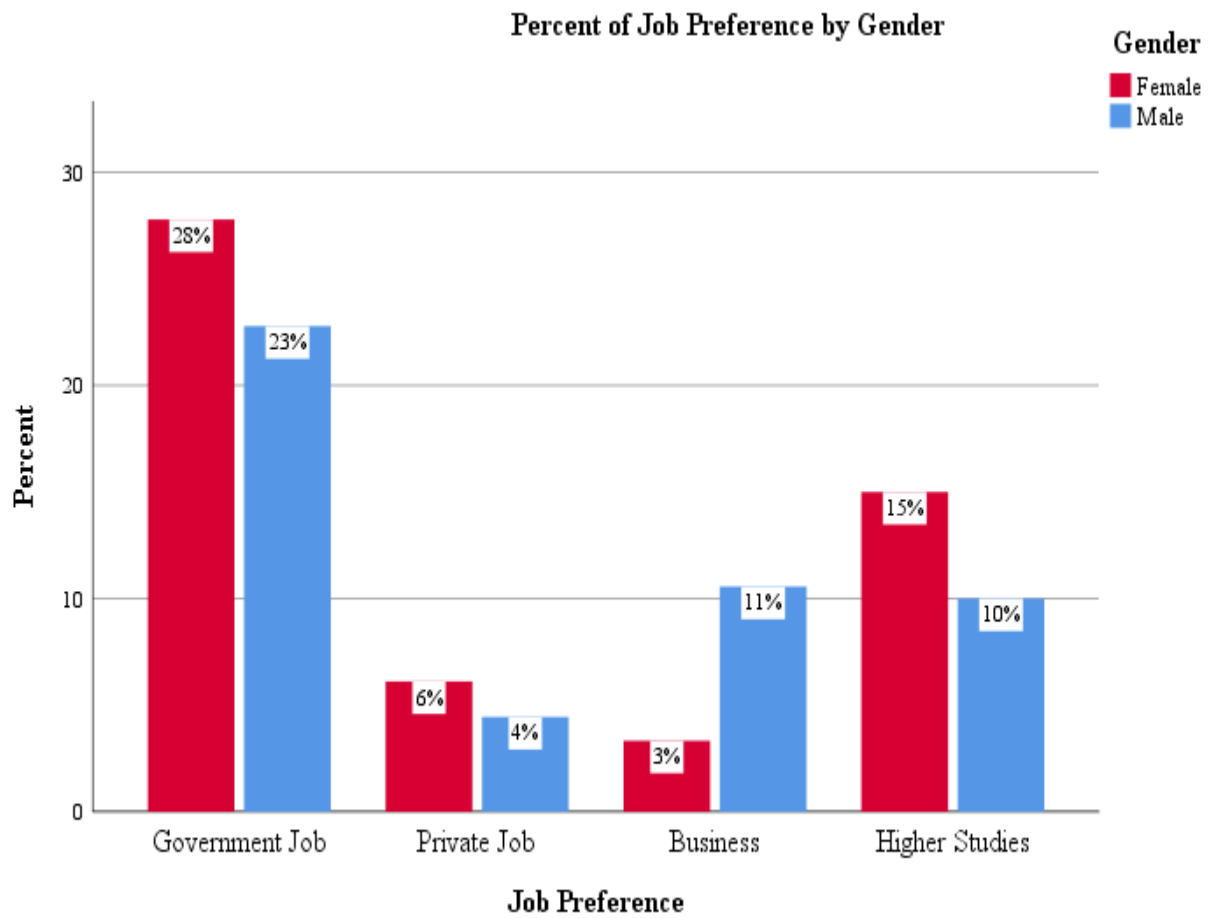
The graph shows that 51 % of the graduates prefer government jobs. 25% of the graduates prefer higher studies. 14% of the graduates prefer business and 11% prefer private jobs.



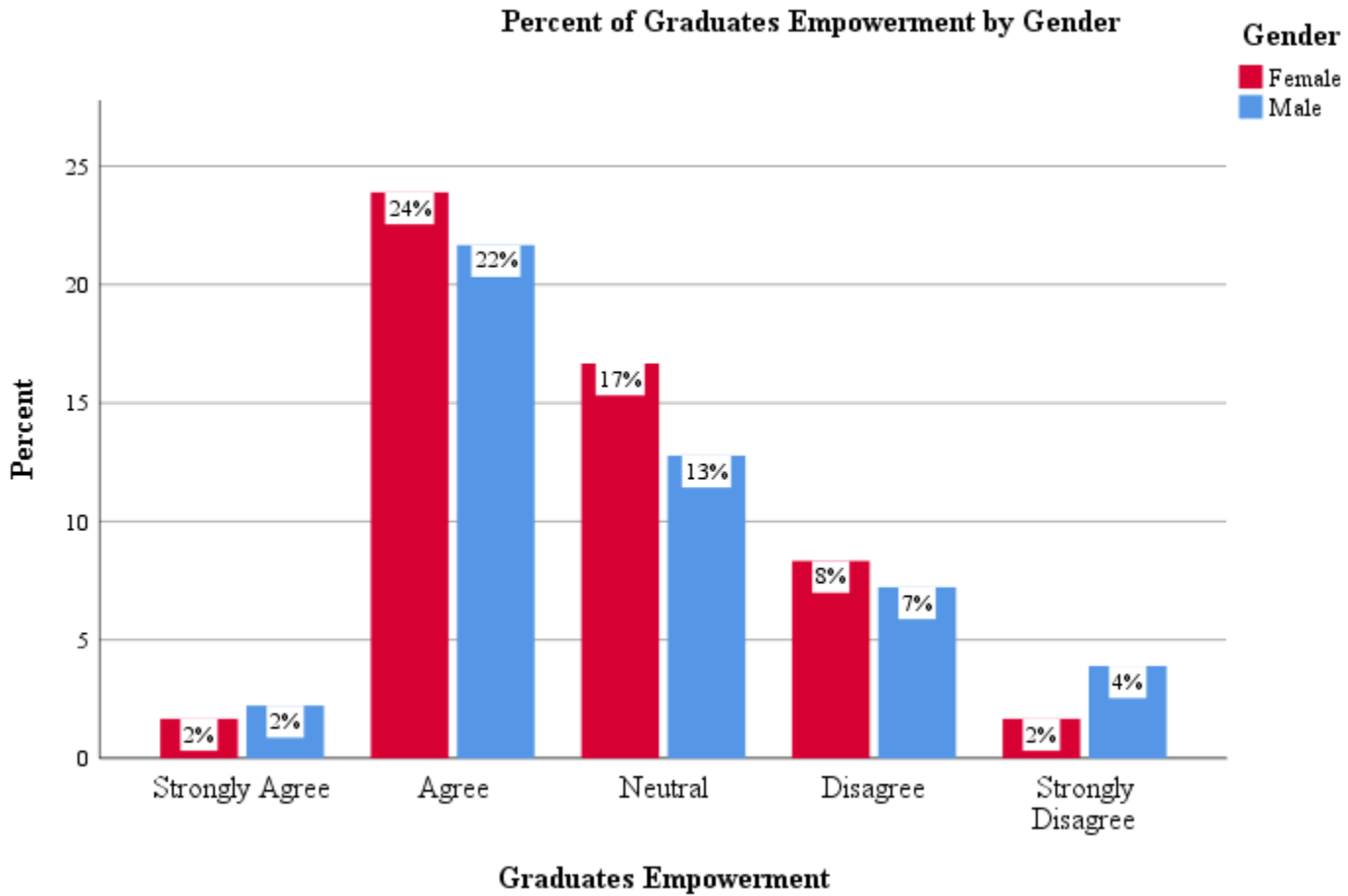
The graph shows that 49% of the respondents were aged between 25 – 34 years of age. 48% of the respondents were aged between 18 – 24 years of age.



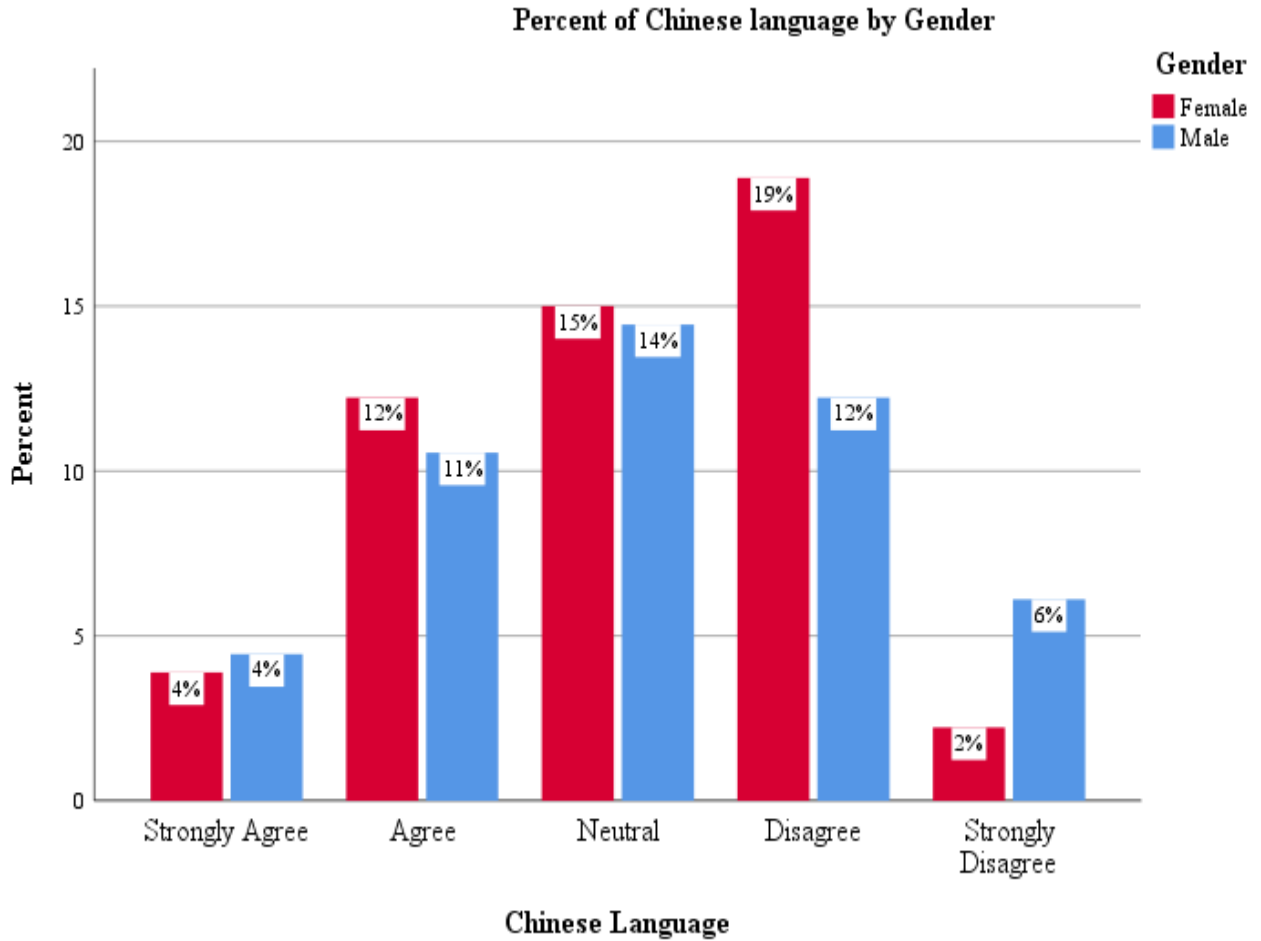
The graph shows that 47.78% are males and 52.22% are females among the respondents.



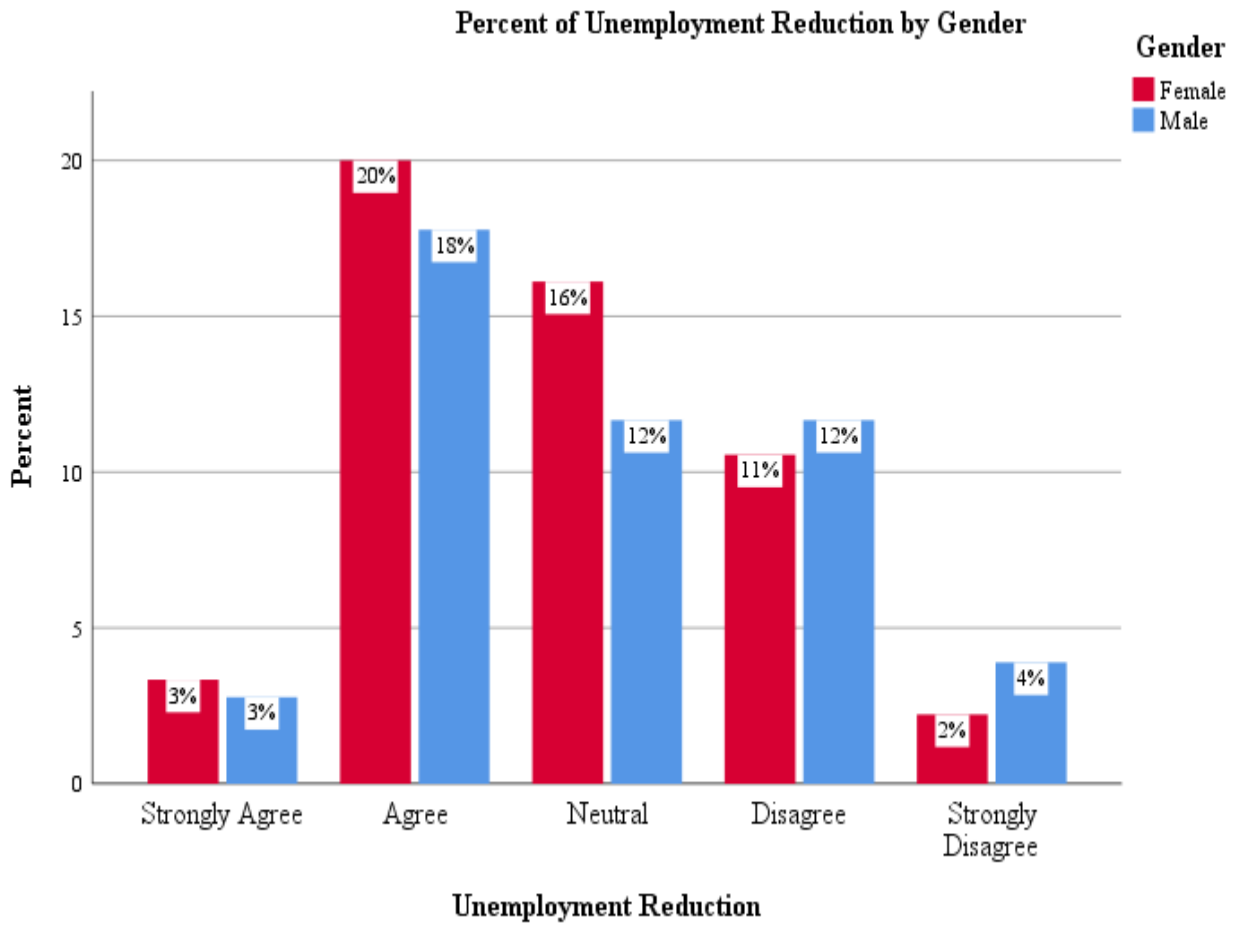
The graph shows the relation between Gender and their job preferences. It shows that 28% of the females and 23% of the males chose government jobs to be their preferred job.



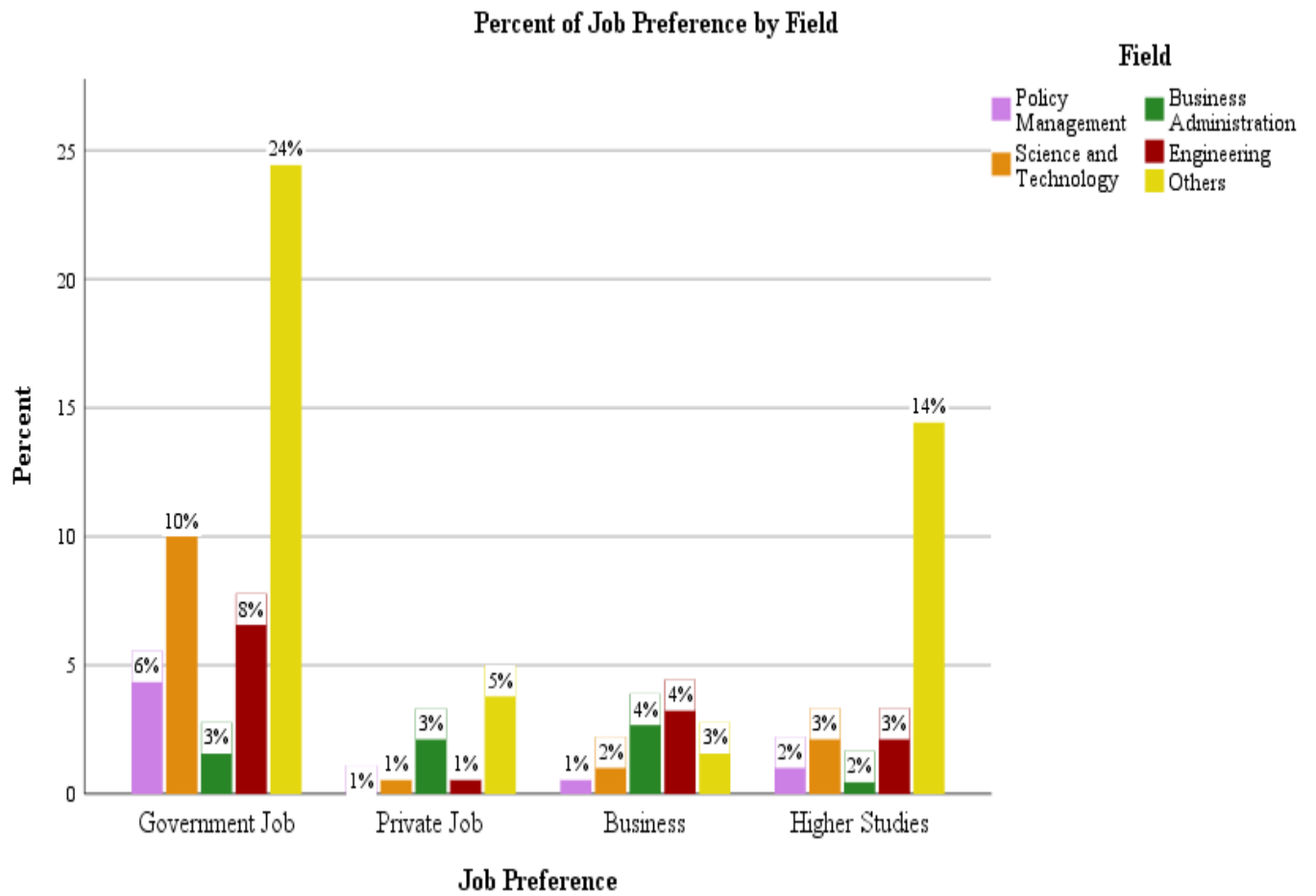
The graph shows the relation between Gender and Graduates Empowerment. It shows that 24% of females and 22% of males agree that CPEC is empowering graduates.



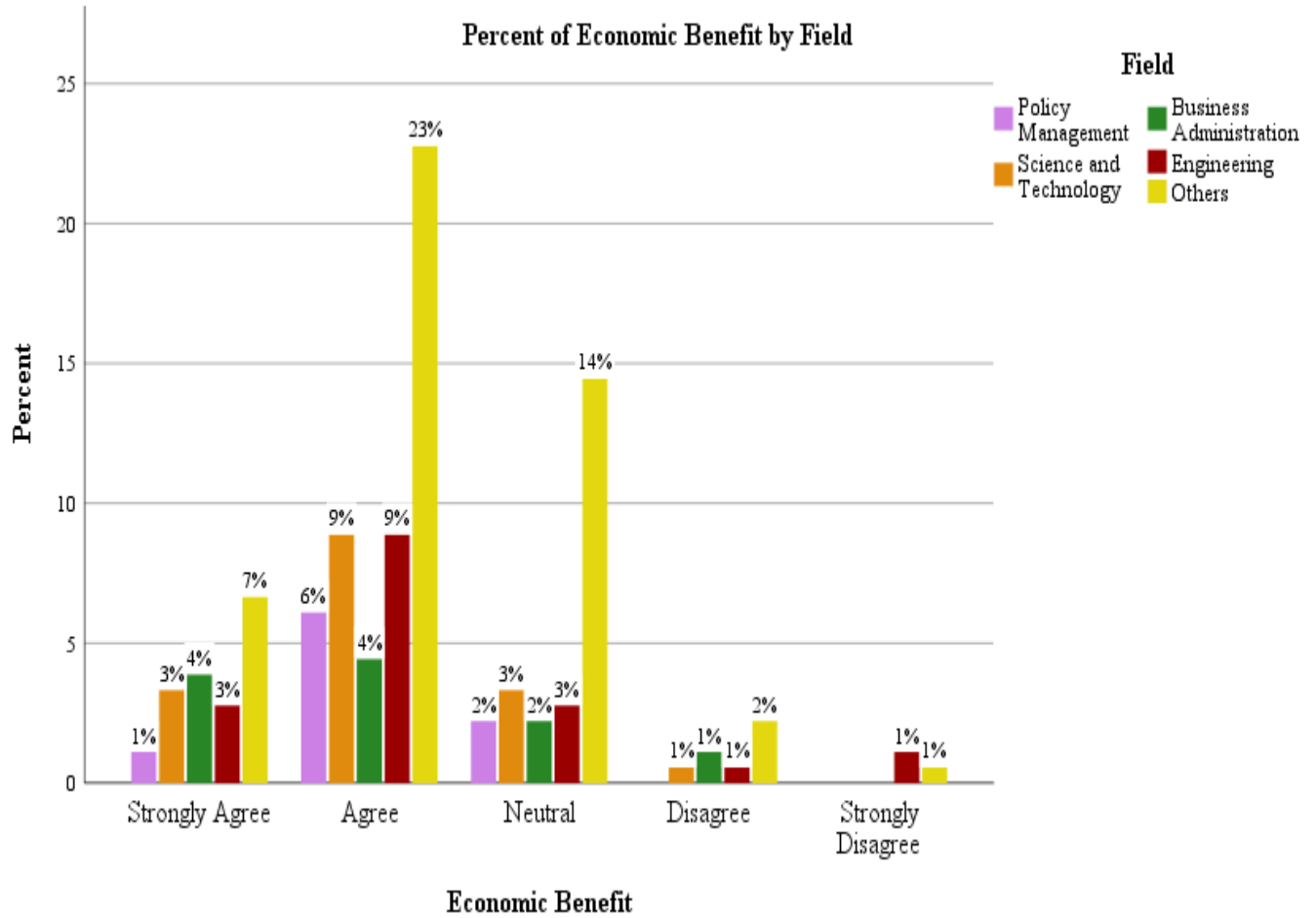
The graph shows the relation between Gender and learning Chinese language. 19% of the females and 12% of the males agree that learning Chinese language is not necessary to get hired in CPEC project.



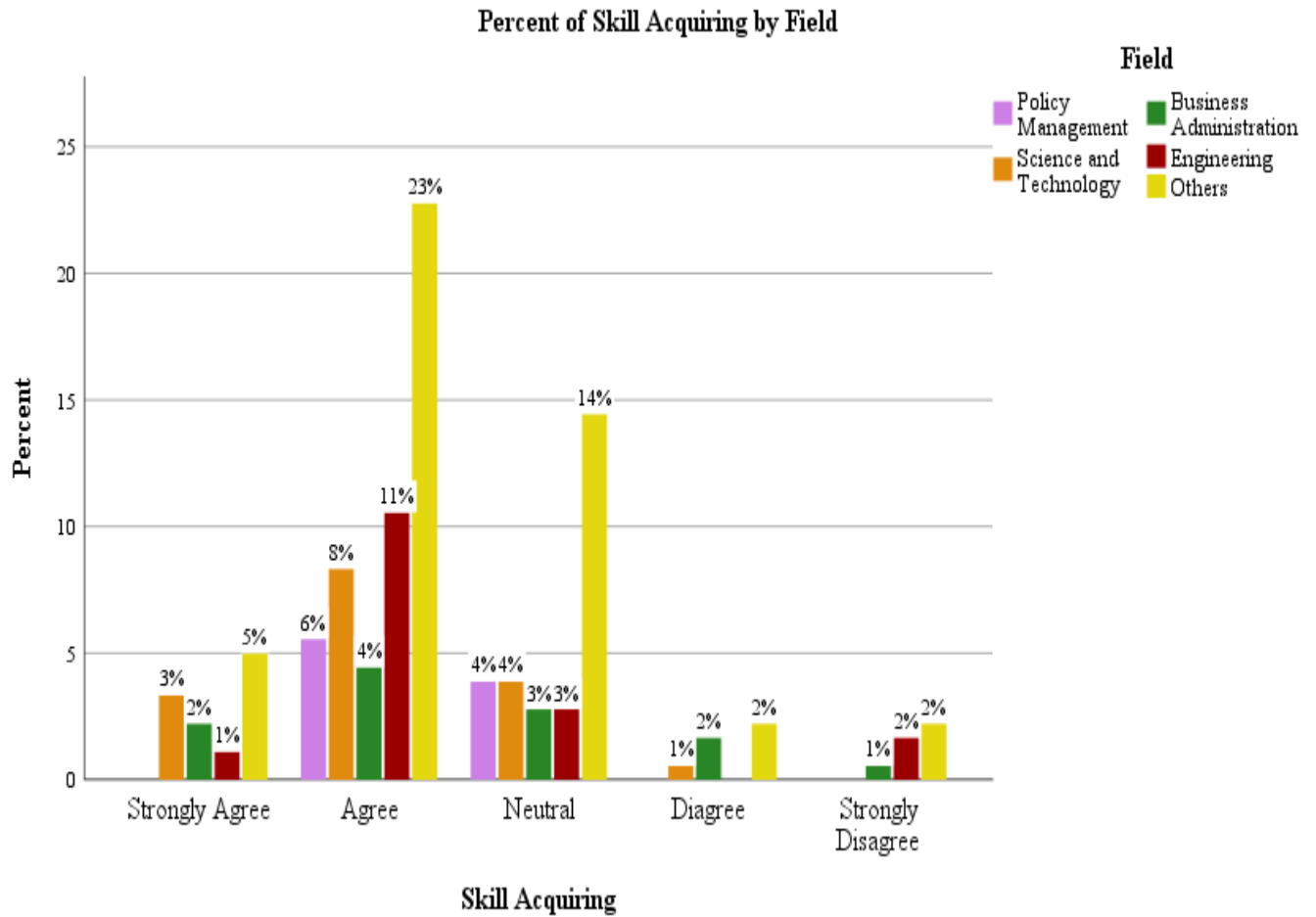
The graph shows the relation between Gender and the Unemployment Reduction of the graduates. The graph shows 20% of the females and 18% of the males agree that through CPEC, unemployment of the graduates is reducing.



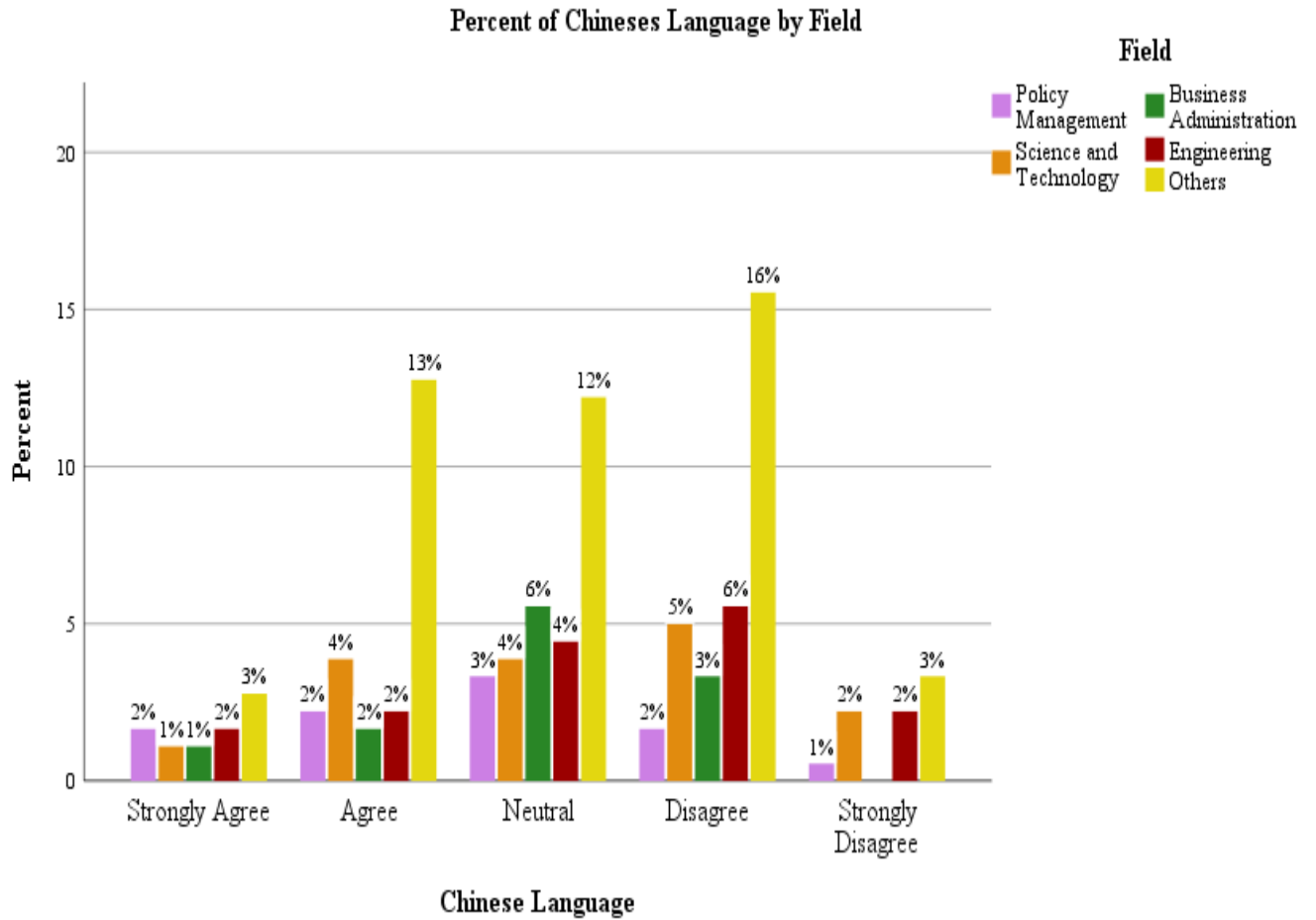
The graph shows the relation between Field and Job Preference. It shows that 24% of the people from different educational background prefers government job.



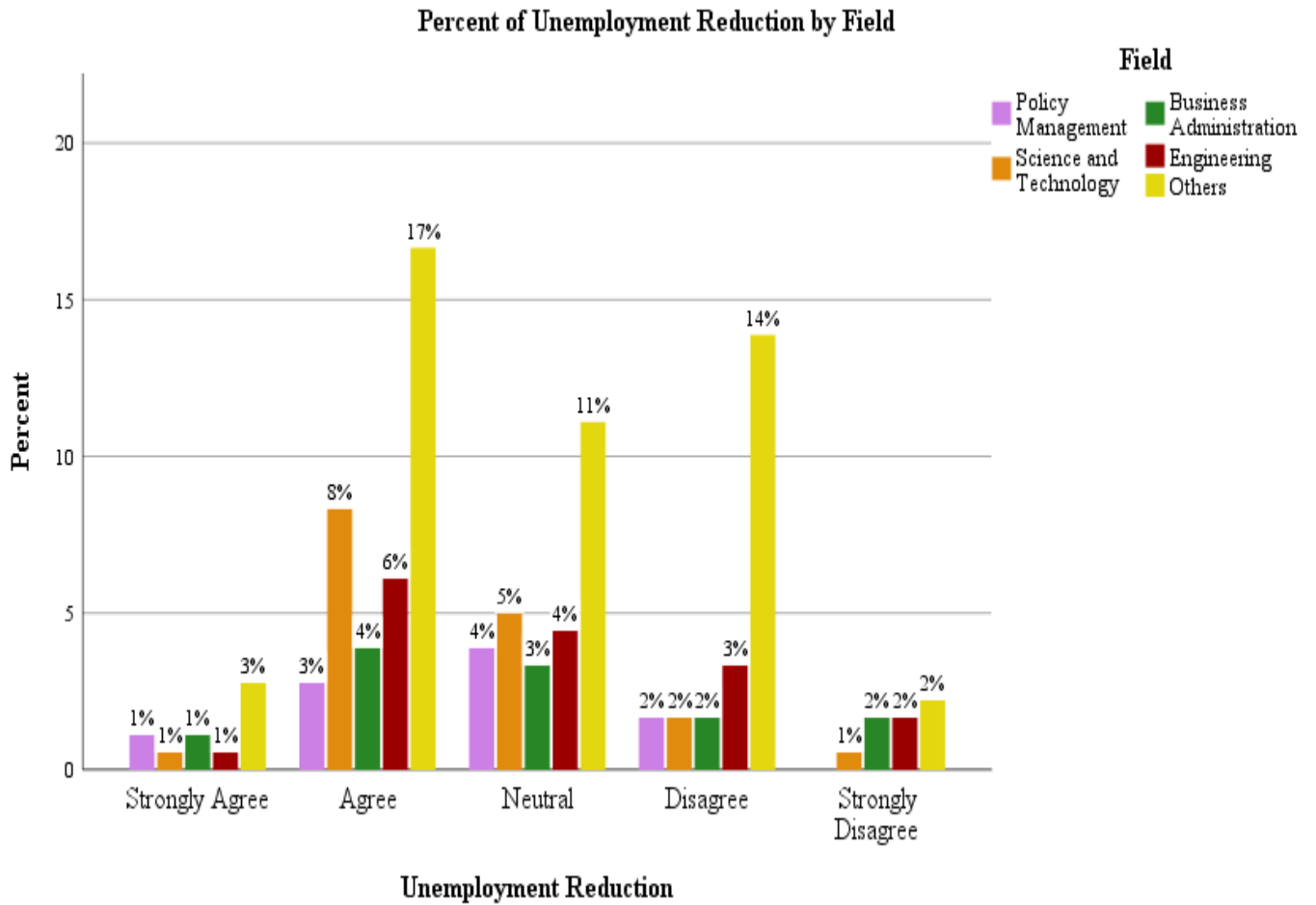
The graph shows the relation between Field and Job Preference. It shows that 24% of the people from different educational backgrounds prefer government jobs.



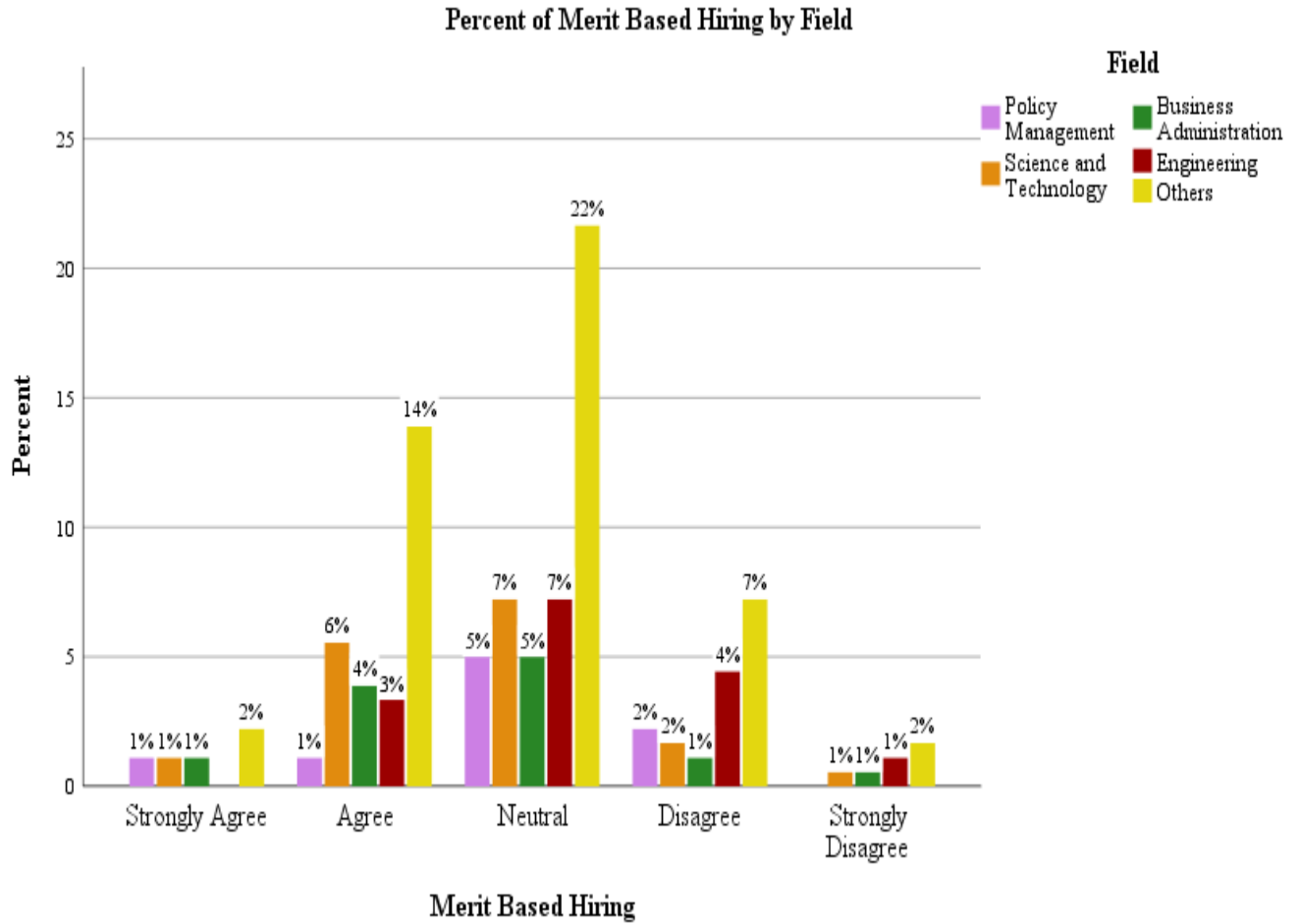
The graph shows the relation between Field and Skill Acquiring. It shows that 23% of the people from different educational backgrounds agree on the statement that through CPEC, young graduates are acquiring skill.



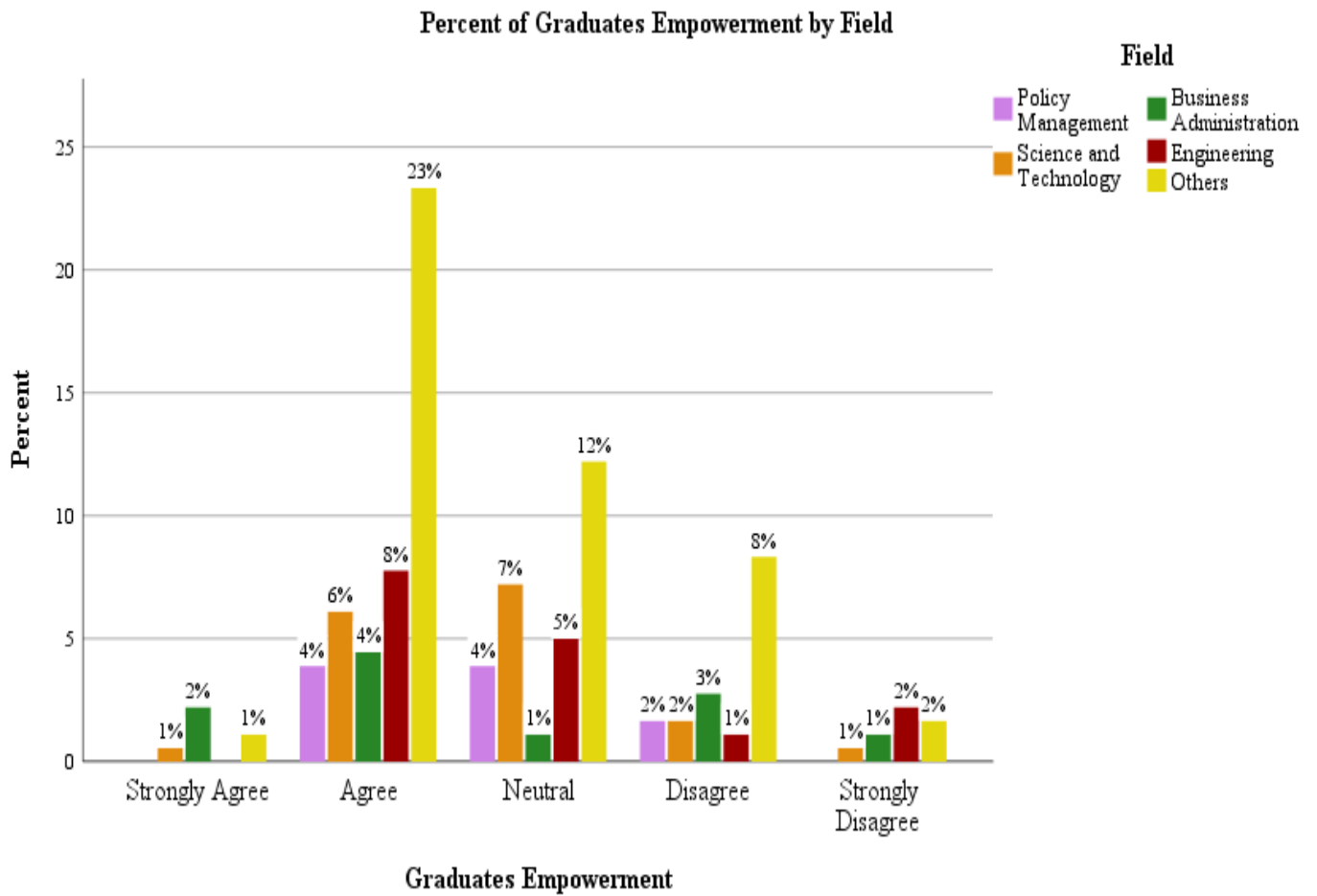
The graph shows the relation between Field and learning Chinese language. It shows that 16% of the people from different educational backgrounds disagree that learning Chinese language is not necessary to get hired in CPEC related projects.



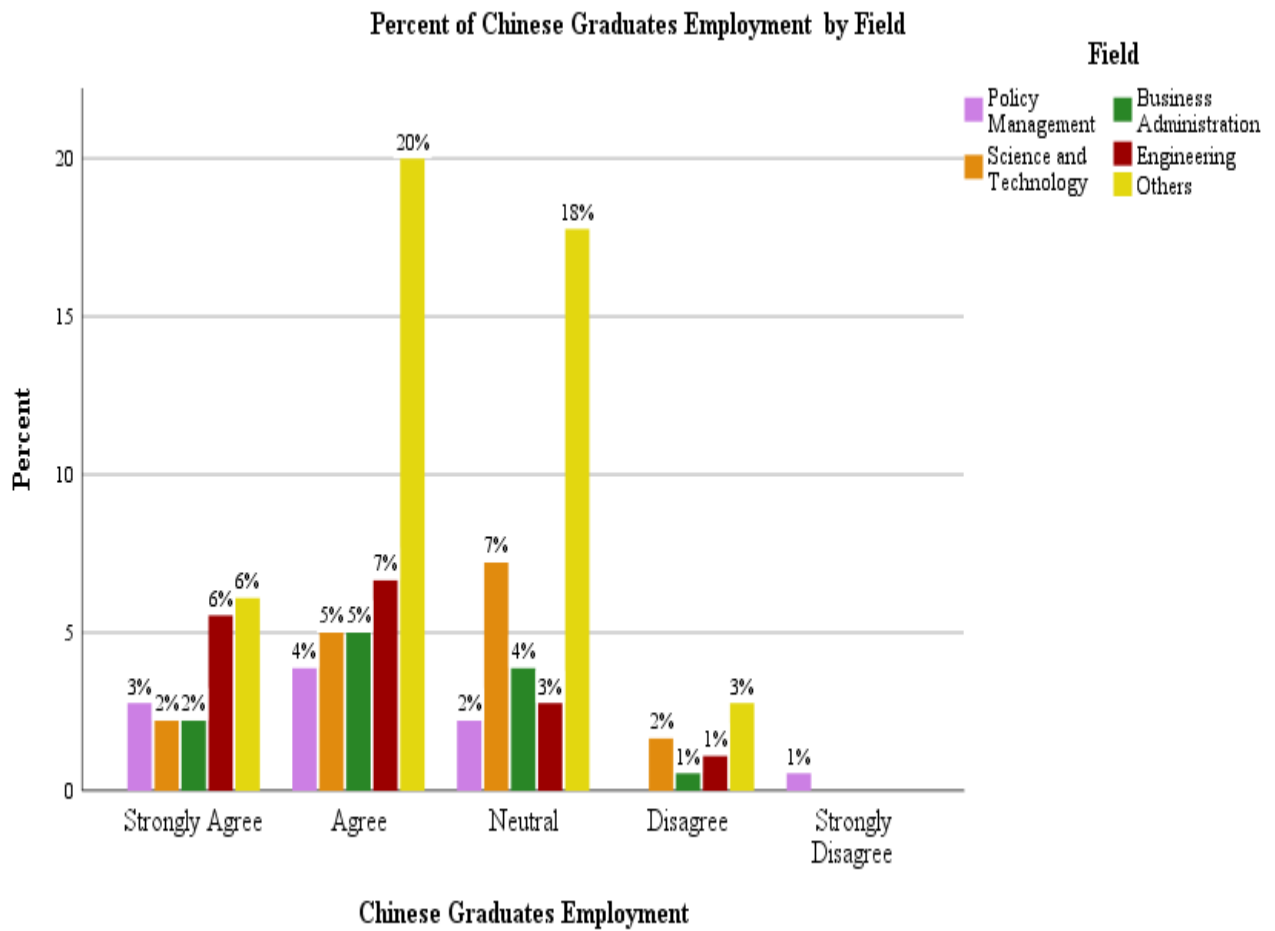
The graph shows the relation between Field and Unemployment Reduction. It shows that 17% of the people from different educational backgrounds agree that CPEC is reducing unemployment of the young graduates.



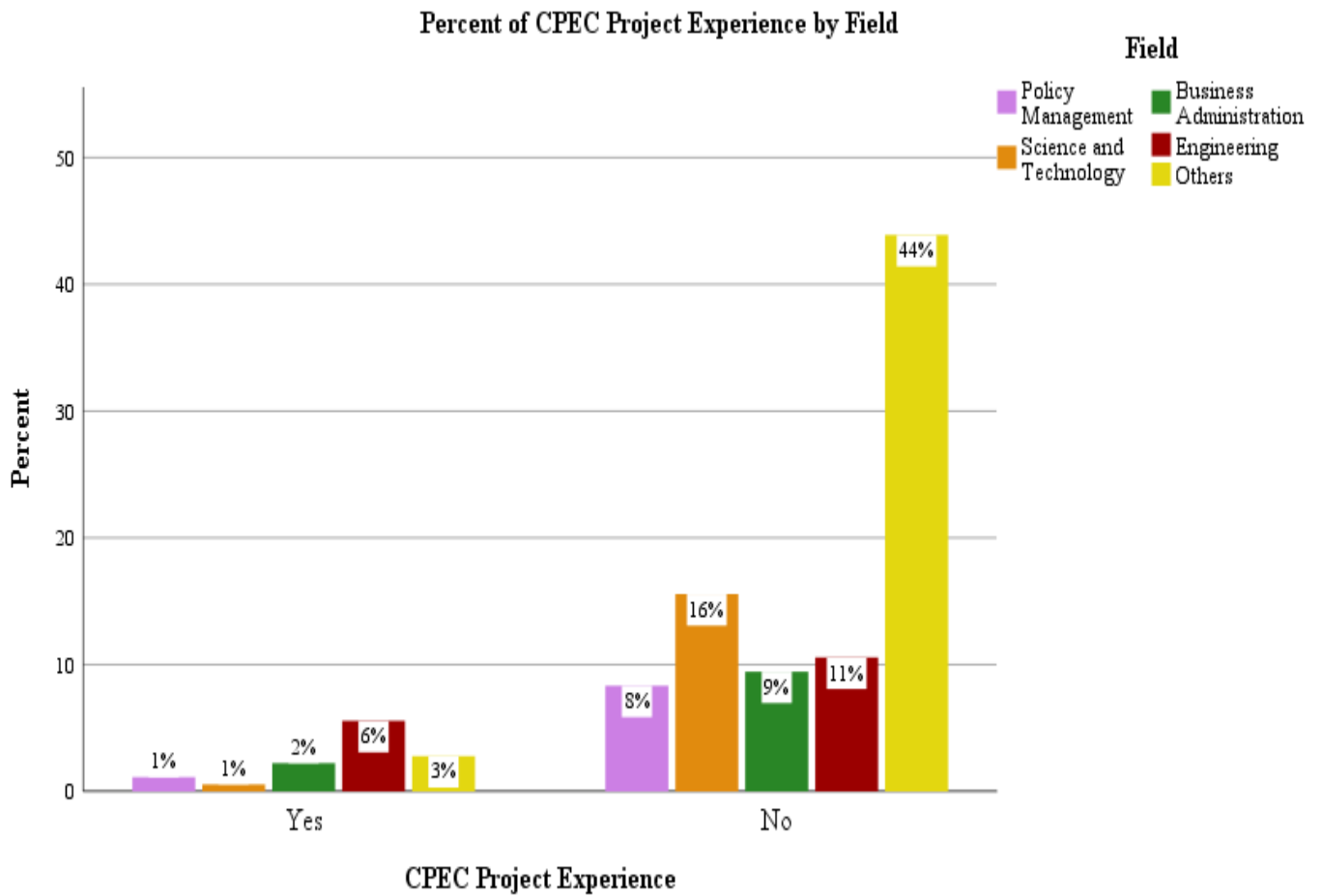
The graph shows the relation between Field and Merit based hiring. It shows that 22% of the people from different background neither agrees nor disagrees that merit based hiring is done in CPEC project.



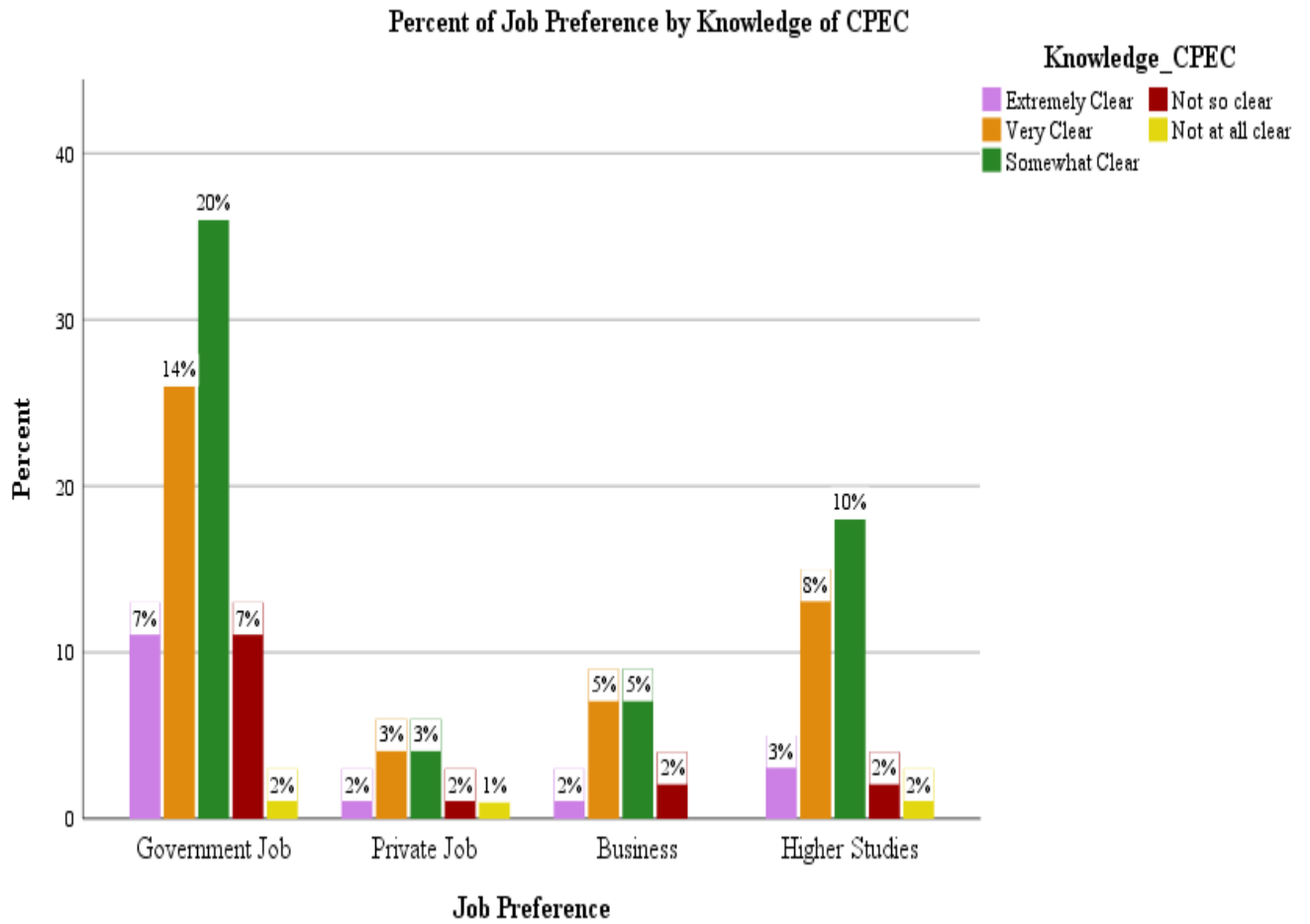
The graph shows the relation between Field and Graduates Empowerment. It shows that 23% of the people from different educational backgrounds agree that through CPEC, young graduates are being empowered.



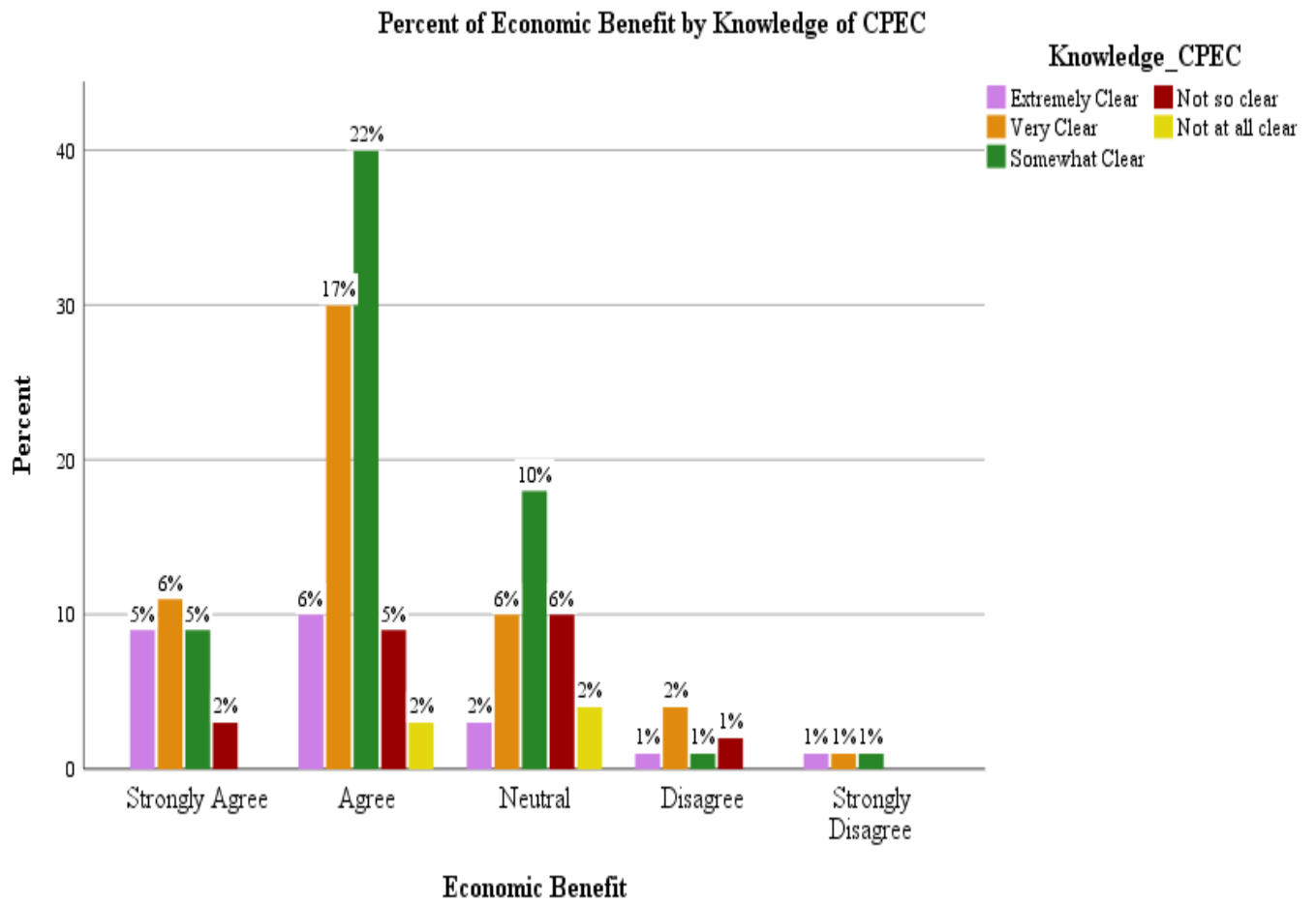
The graph shows the relation between Field and Chinese Graduates Employment. It shows that 20% of the people from different educational backgrounds agree that in CPEC, Chinese graduates are more employed than Pakistani graduates.



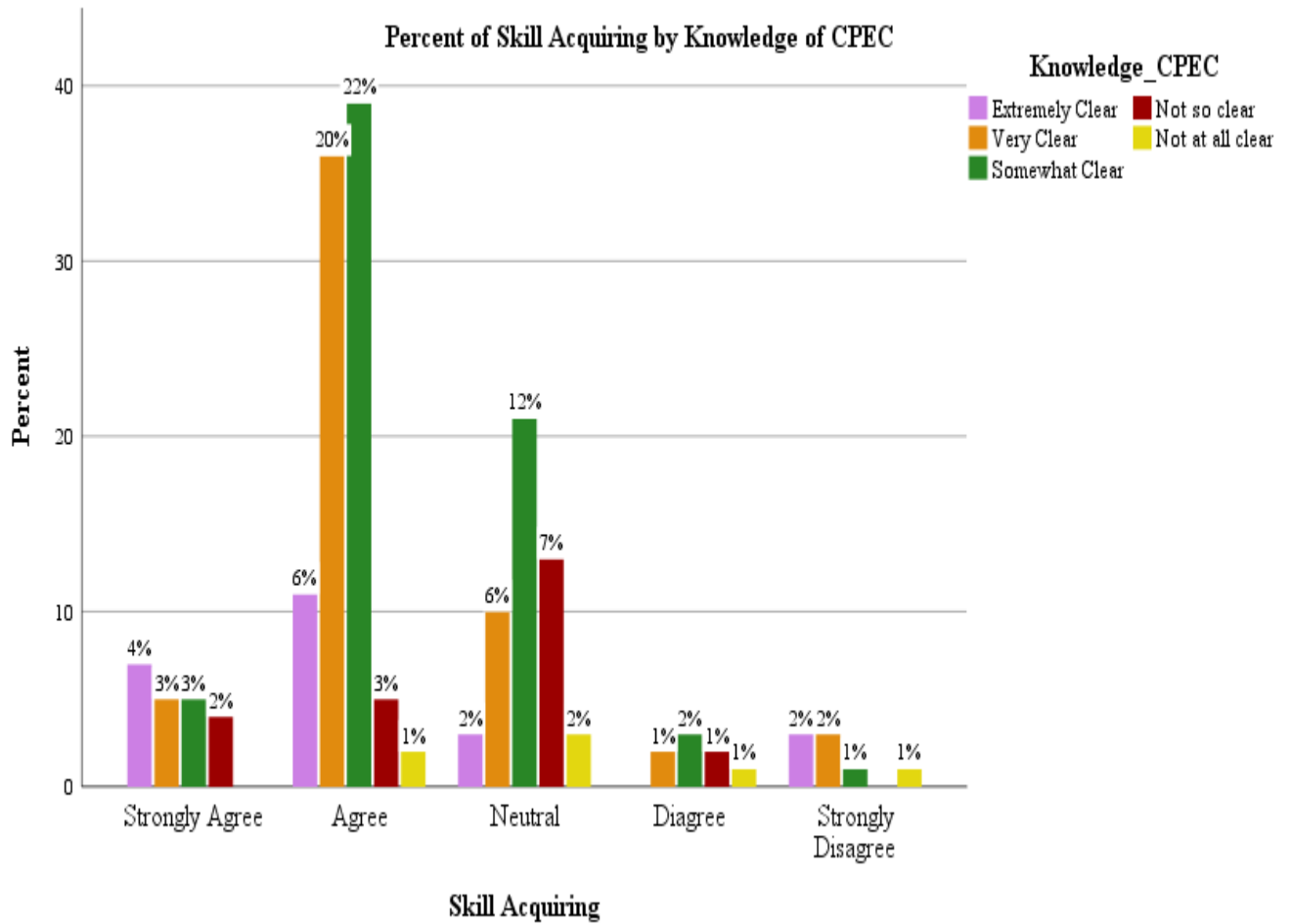
The graph shows the relation between Field and working in the CPEC project. It shows that 44% of the people from different educational backgrounds have no experience of working in CPEC projects.



The graph shows the relation between Knowledge of CPEC and Job Preference. It shows that 20% of the people from the government department have somewhat clear knowledge of what is CPEC.

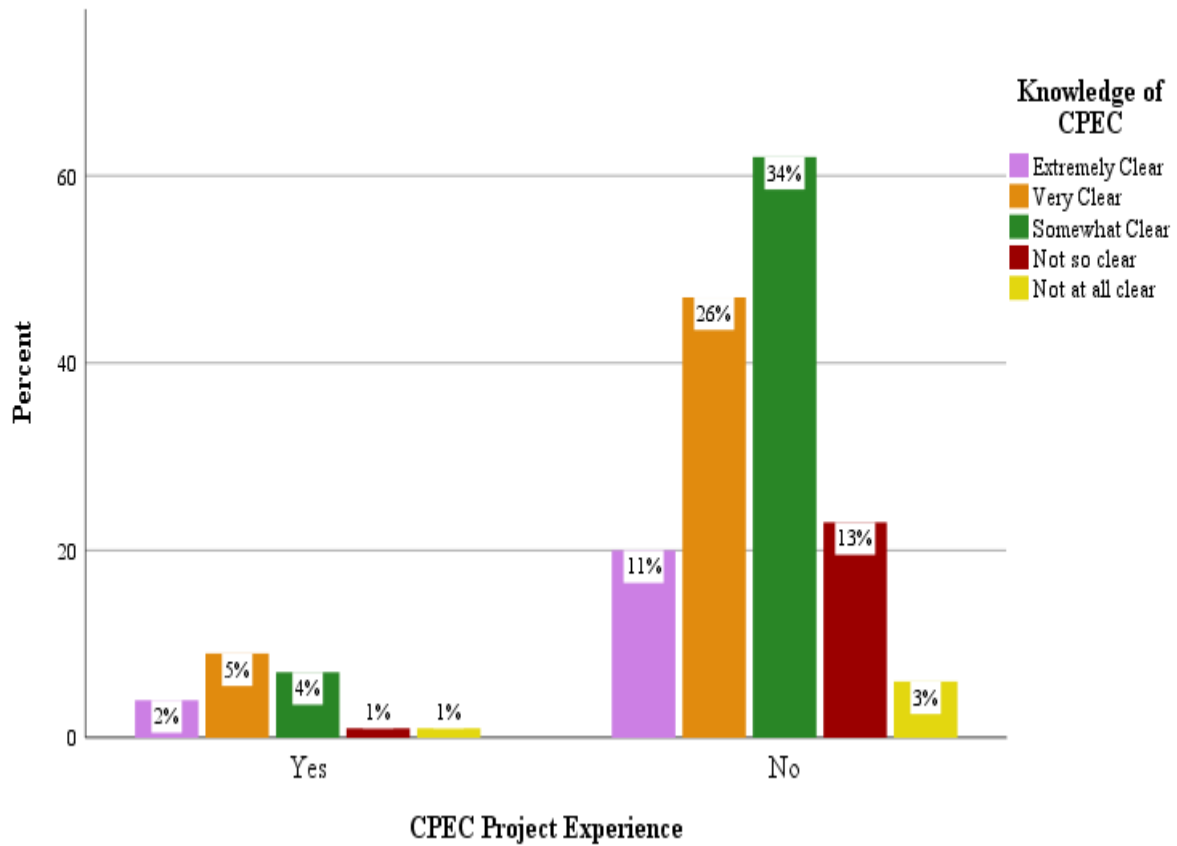


The graph shows the relation between Knowledge of CPEC and Economic Benefit. It shows that 22% of the people agree that CPEC is economically benefiting the country.

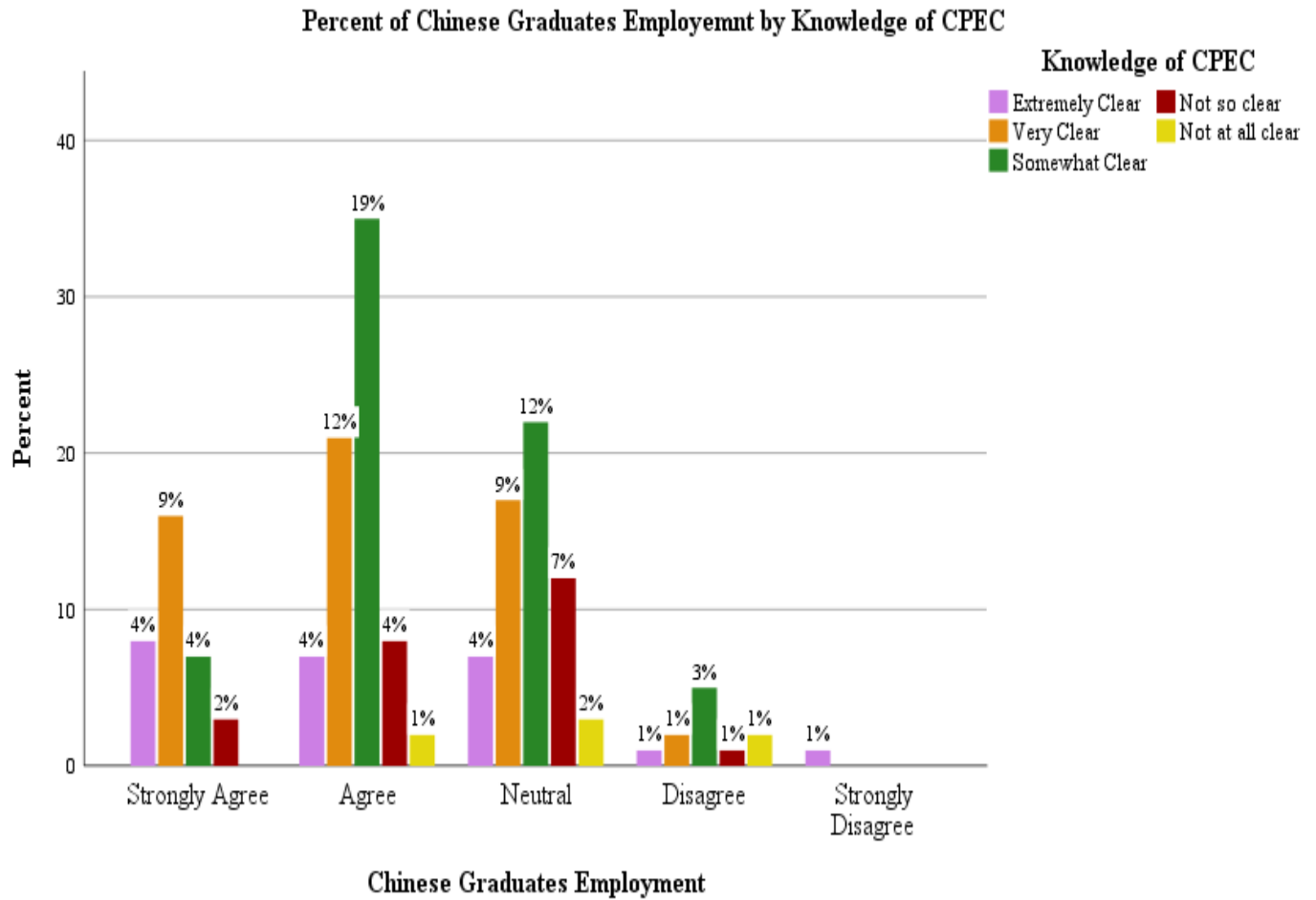


The graph shows the relation between Knowledge of CPEC and Skill Acquiring of graduates. It shows that 22% of the people agree that graduates are acquiring skill through CPEC.

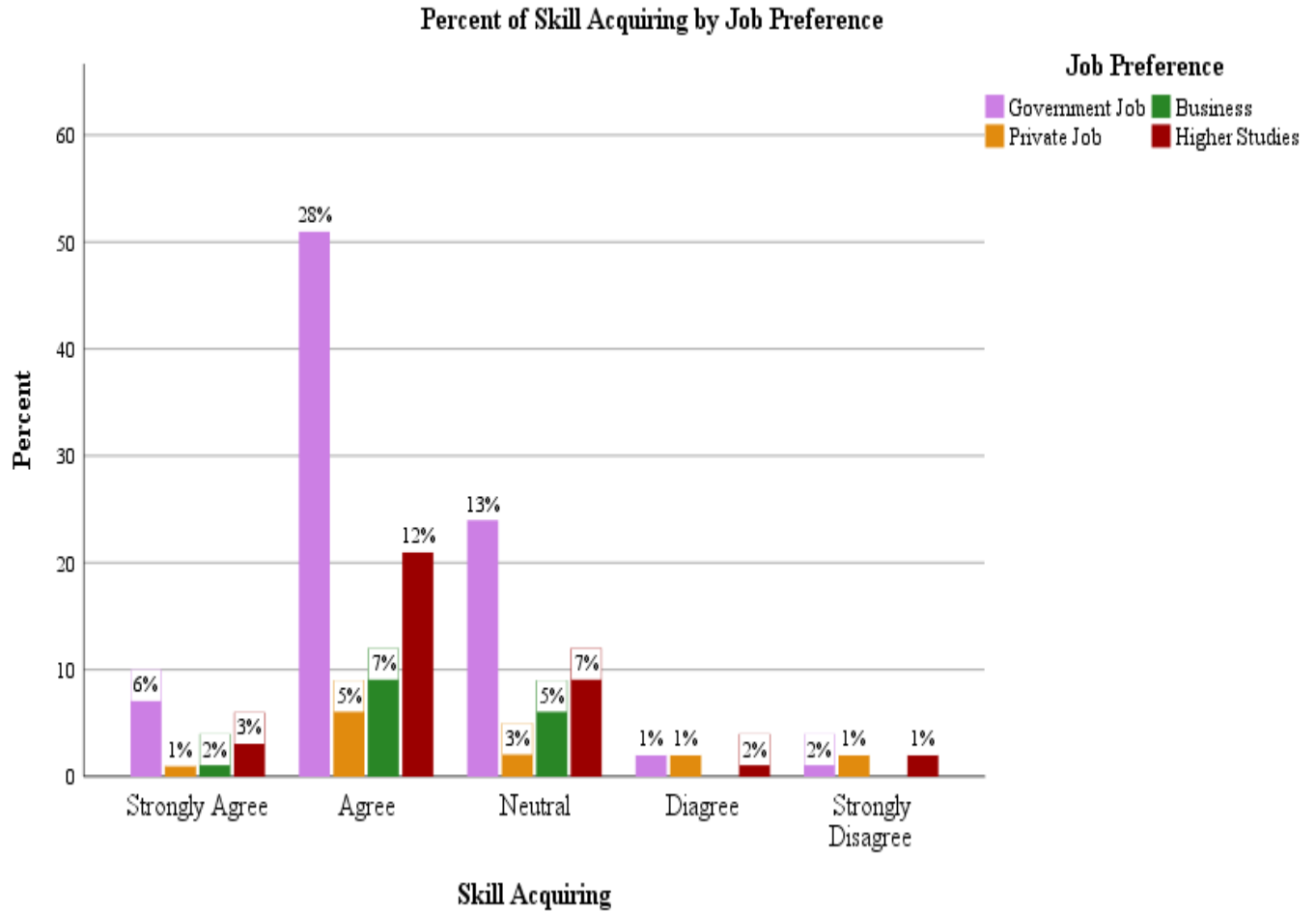
Percent of CPEC Project Experience by Knowledge of CPEC



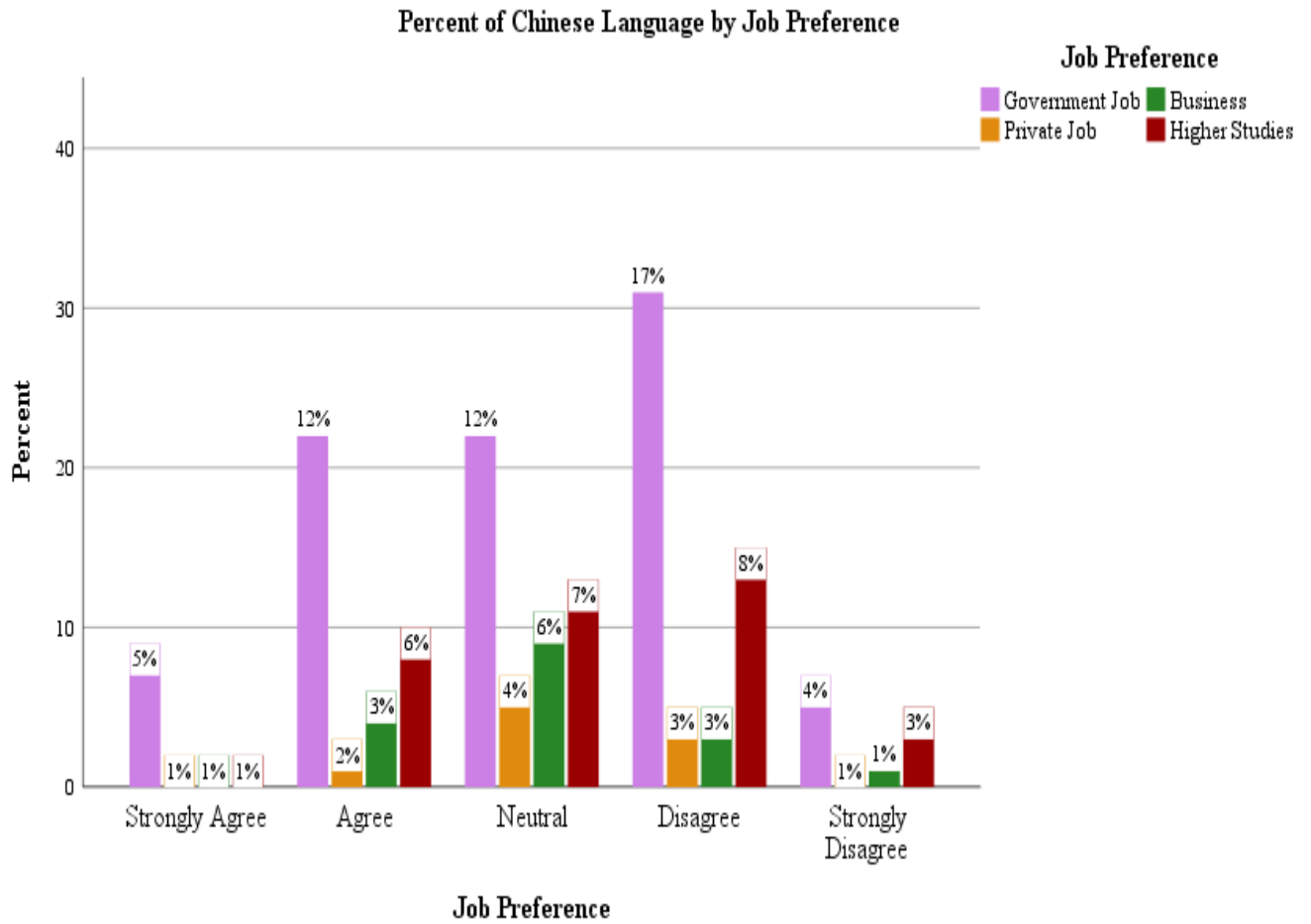
The graph shows the relation between CPEC Project Experience and Knowledge of CPEC. It shows that 34% of the people who have somewhat clear knowledge of CPEC possess no experience in CPEC.



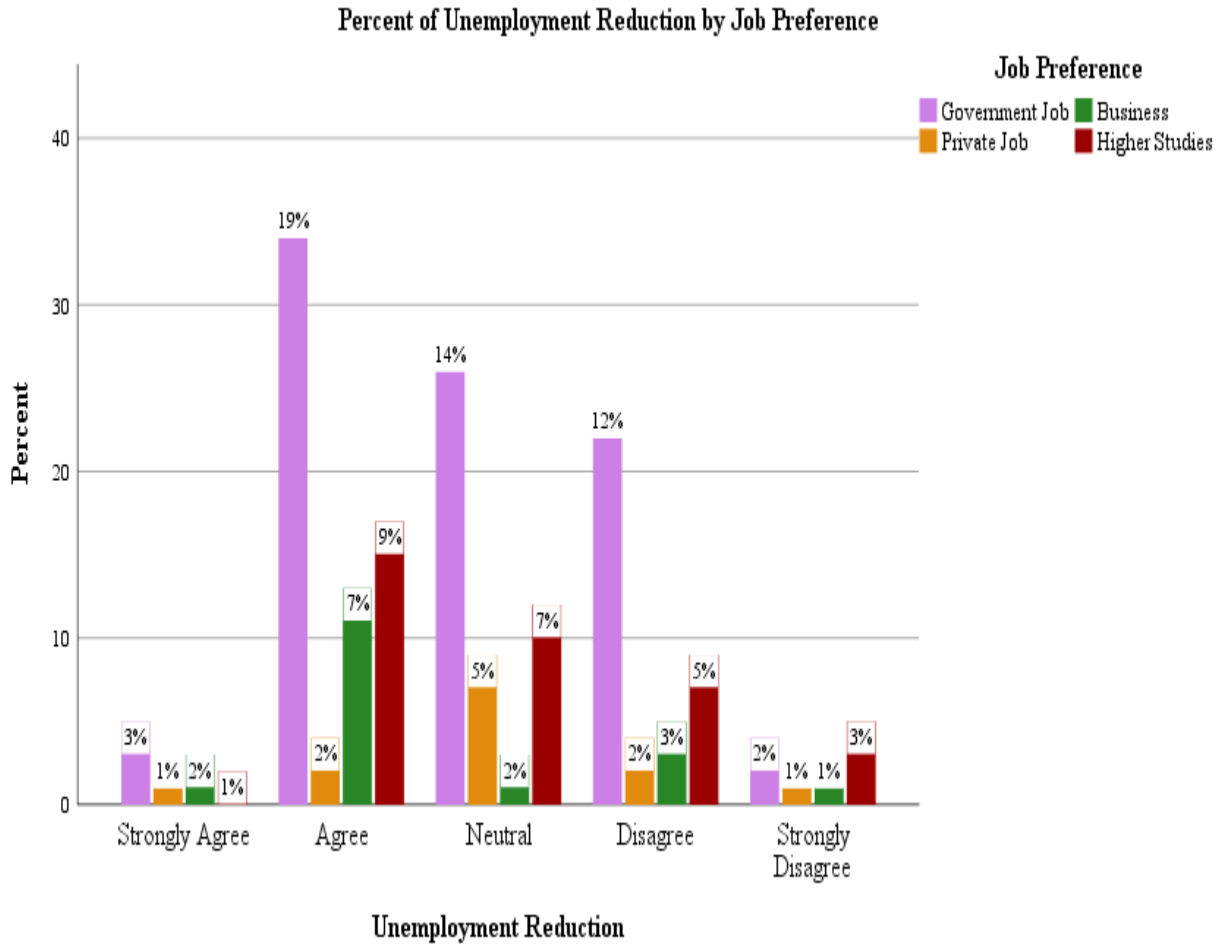
The graph shows the relation between Knowledge of CPEC and Chinese Graduates Employment. It shows that 19% of the people who have somewhat clear knowledge agree that Chinese graduates are more employed in CPEC than Pakistani graduates.



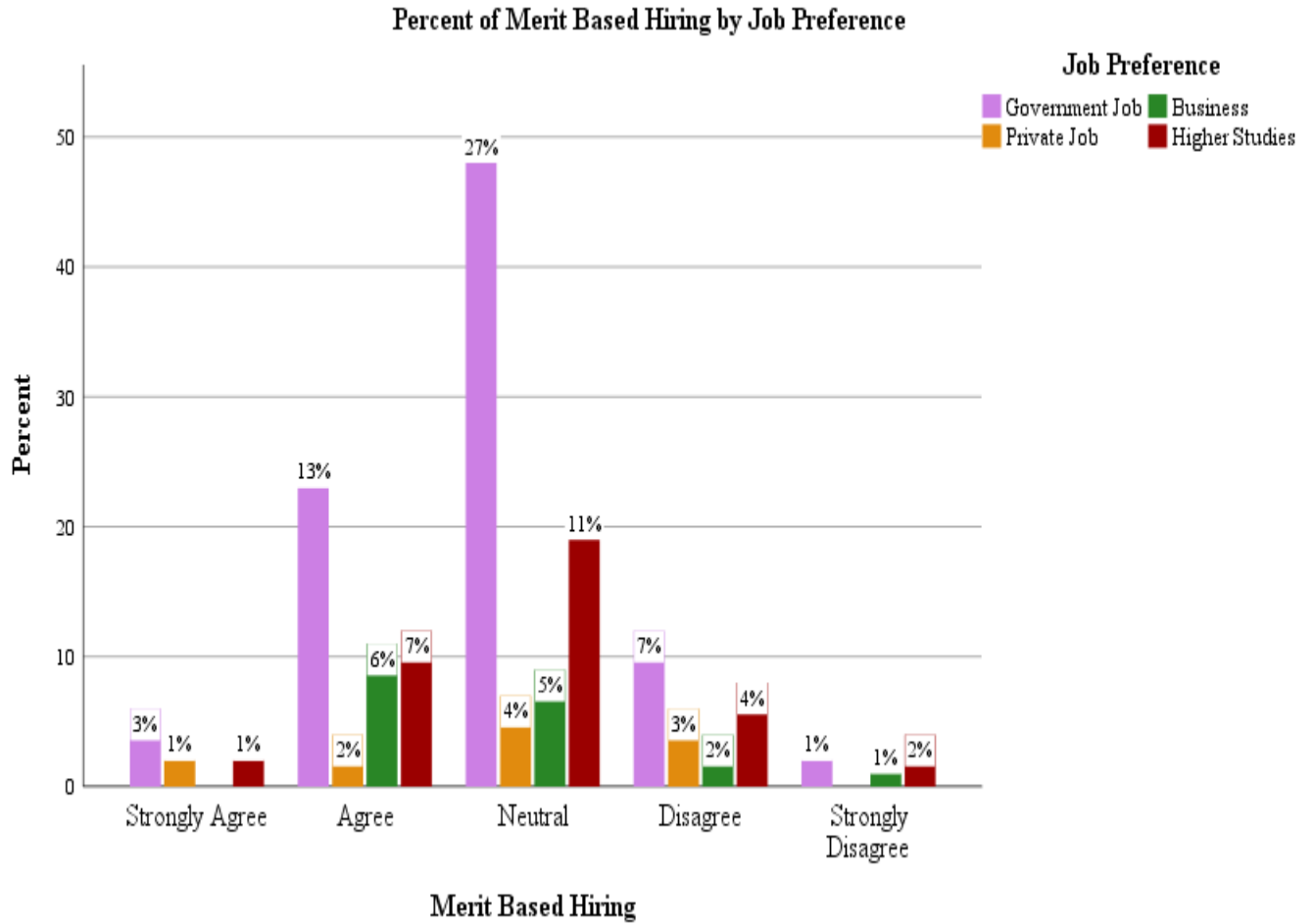
The graph shows the relation between Skill Acquiring and Job Preference. It shows that 28% of the people from the government department agree that through CPEC, graduates are acquiring skill.



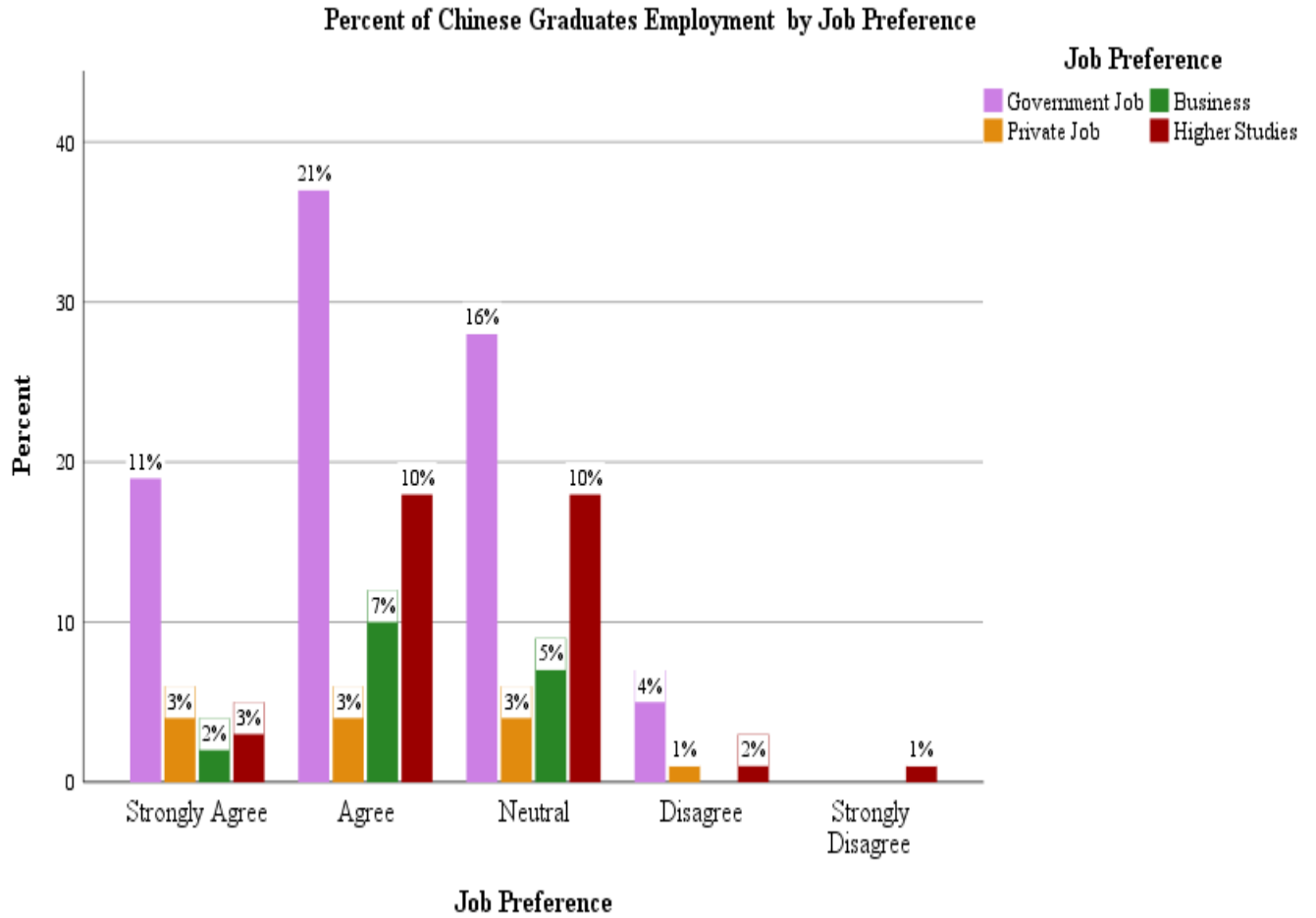
The graph shows the relation between Chinese Language and Job Preference. It shows that 17% of the people from the government department disagrees with the statement that learning Chinese language is compulsory to get hired in CPEC projects.



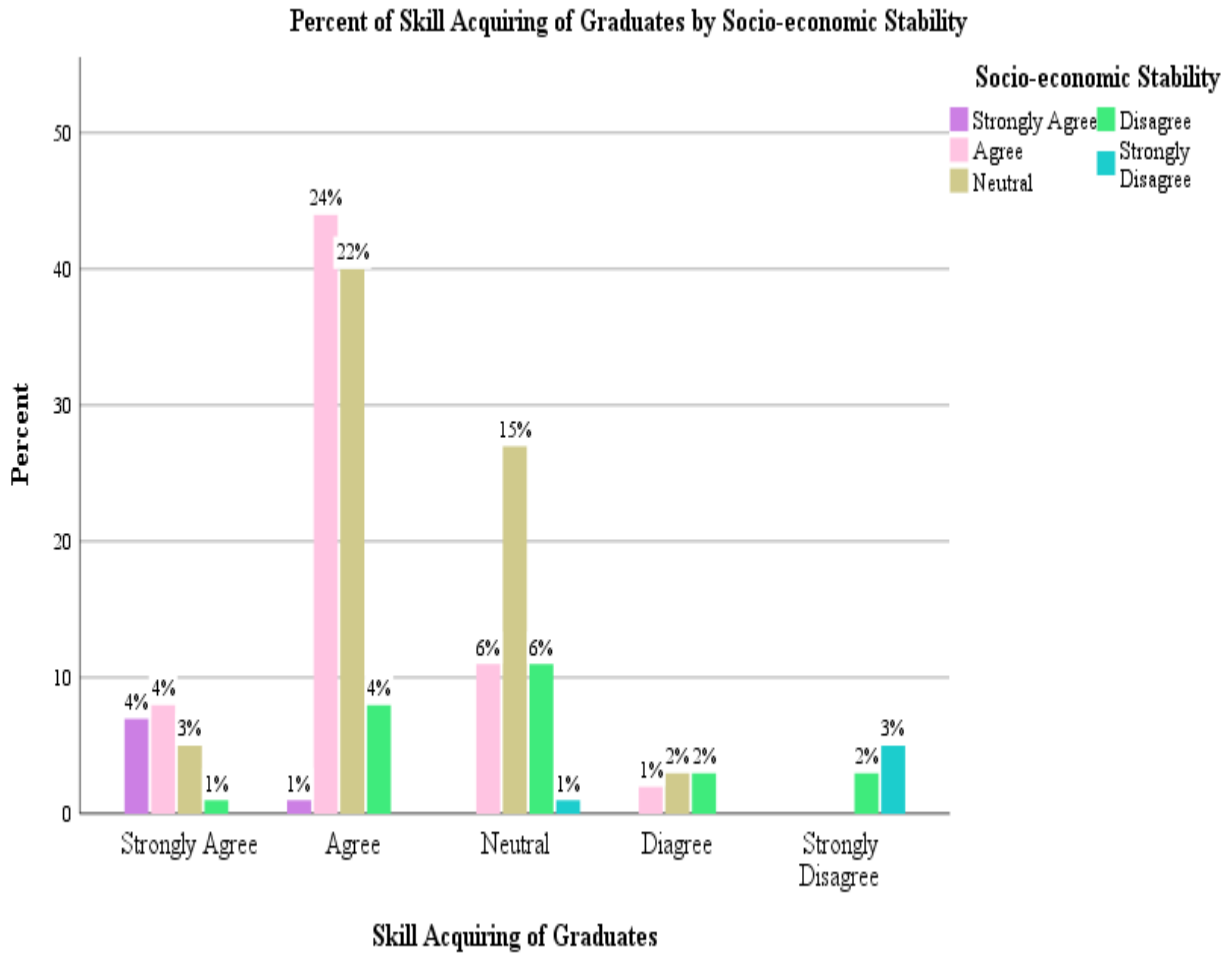
The graph shows the relation between Unemployment Reduction and Job Preference. It shows that 19% of the people from the government department agree that through CPEC, unemployment of youth is reducing.



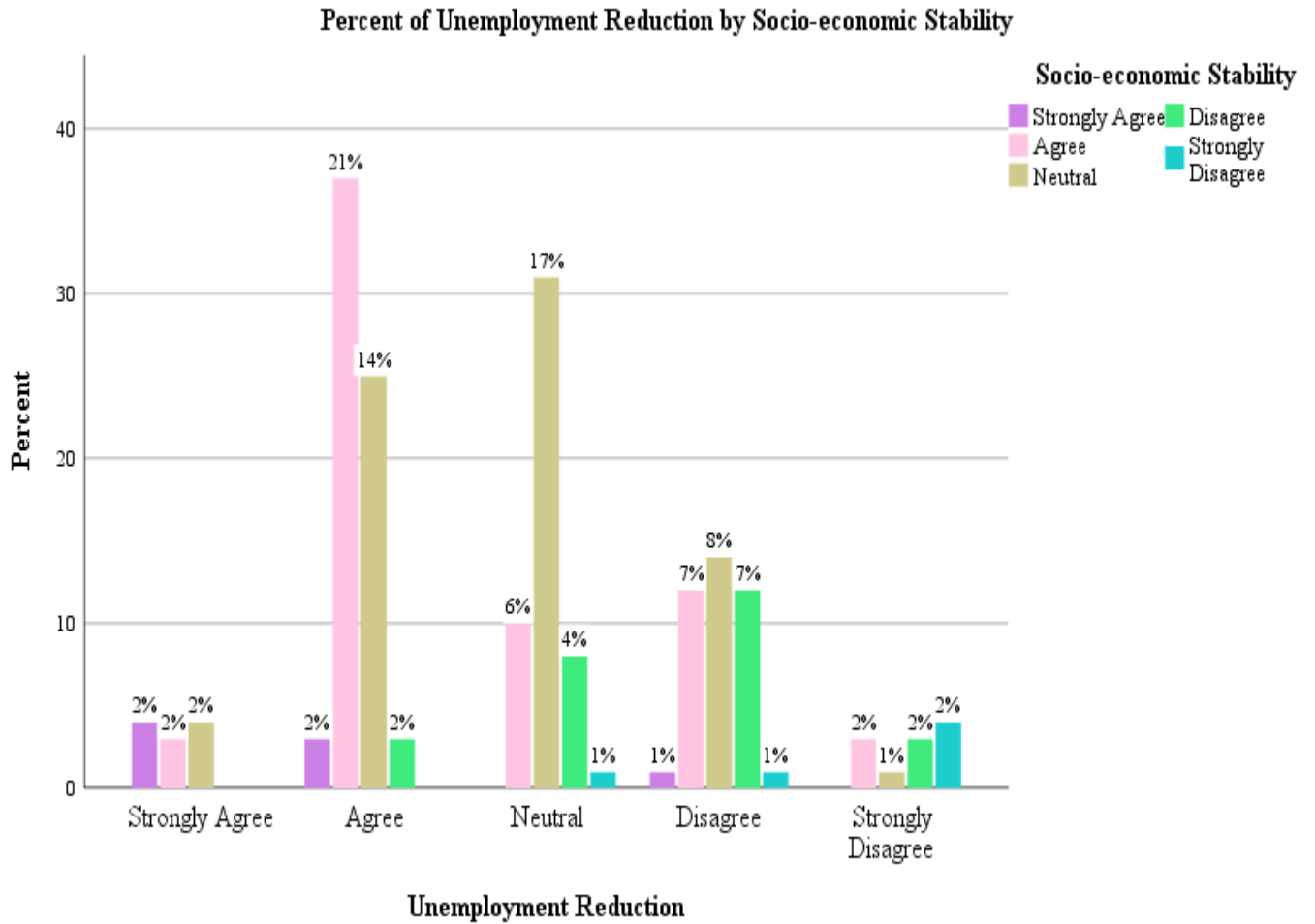
The graph shows the relation between Merit Based Hiring and Job Preference. It shows that 27% of the people from government sector neither agrees nor disagrees that in CPEC, hiring is on merit based.



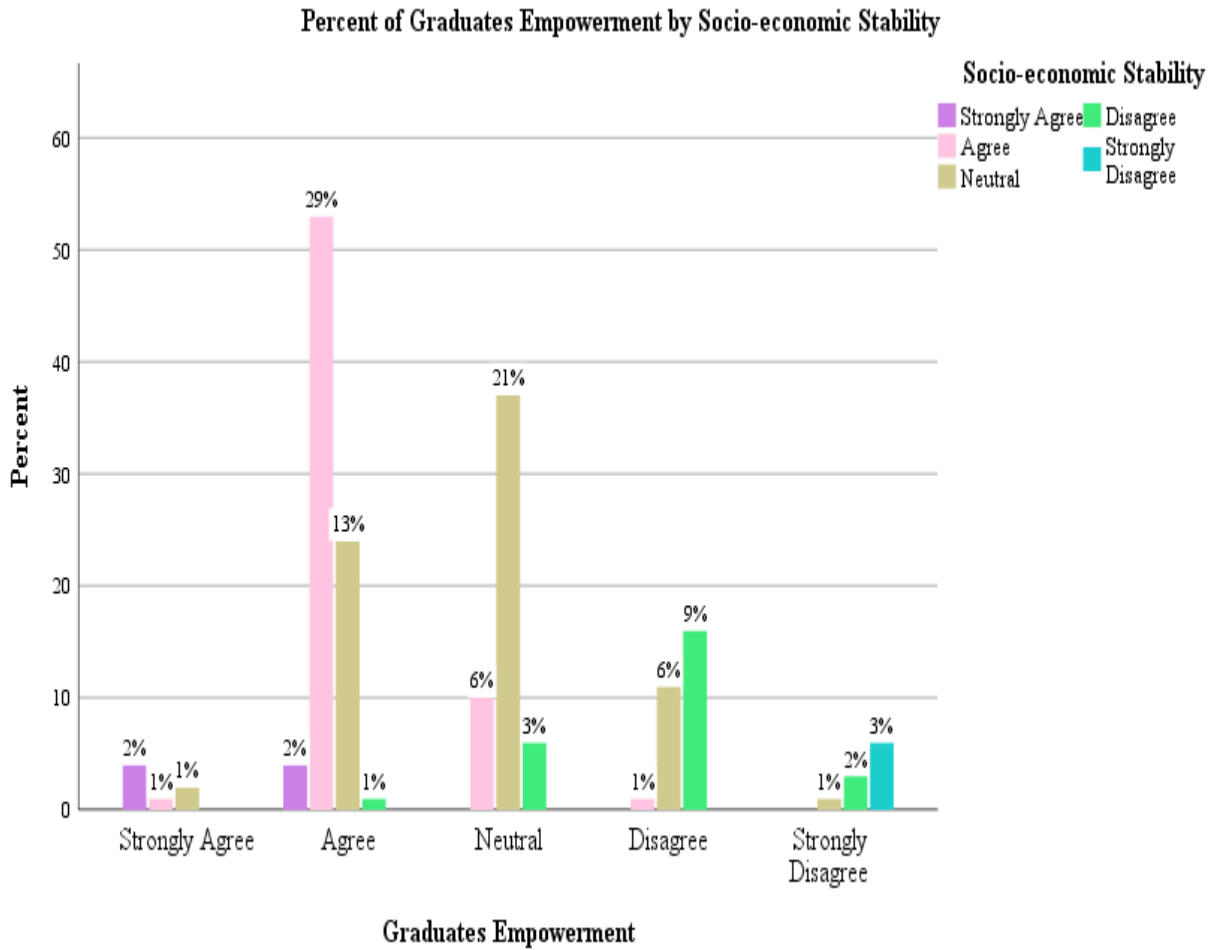
The graph shows the relation between Chinese Graduates Employment and Job Preference. It shows that 21% of the people from the government sector agree that in CPEC, Chinese graduates are more employed than Pakistani graduates.



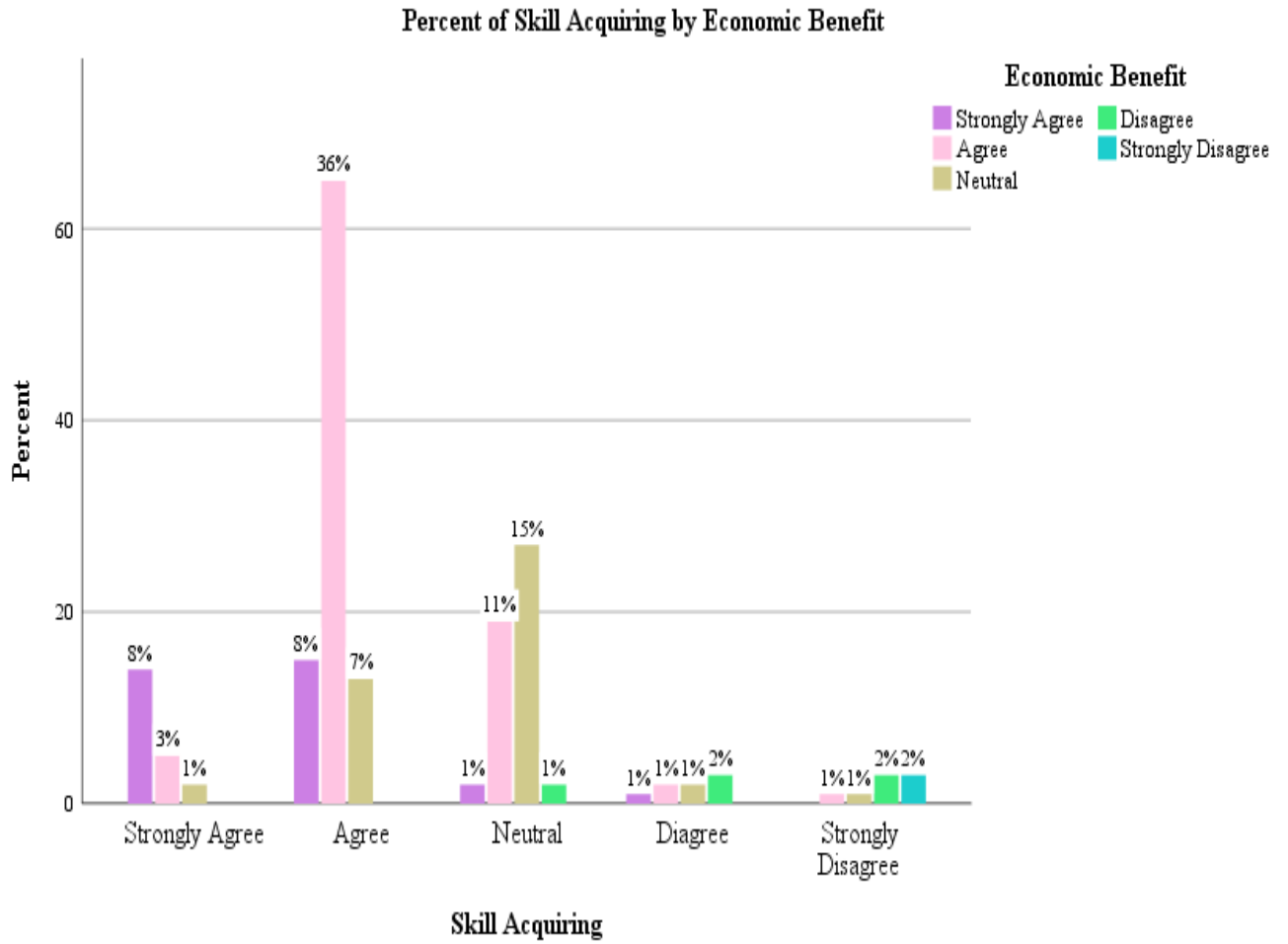
The graph shows the relation between Skill Acquiring of graduates and Socio-economic Stability. It shows that 24% of the people agrees that graduates are acquiring skill through CPEC and contributing in stabilizing the socio-economy.



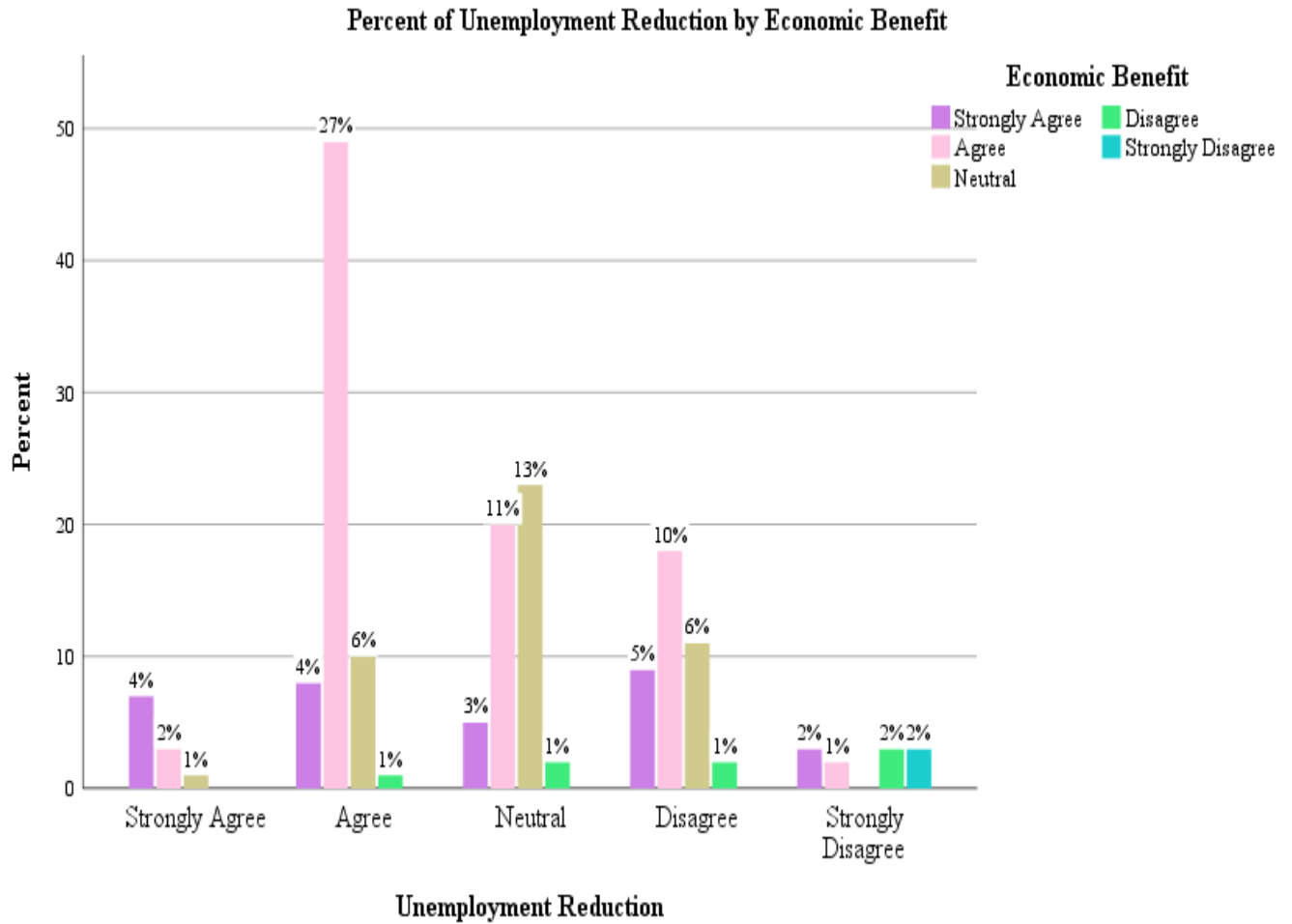
The graph shows the relation between Unemployment Reduction and Socio-economic Stability. It shows that 21% of the people agree that through CPEC, the unemployment rate of graduates is reducing and it's contributing to the socio-economic stability of the country.



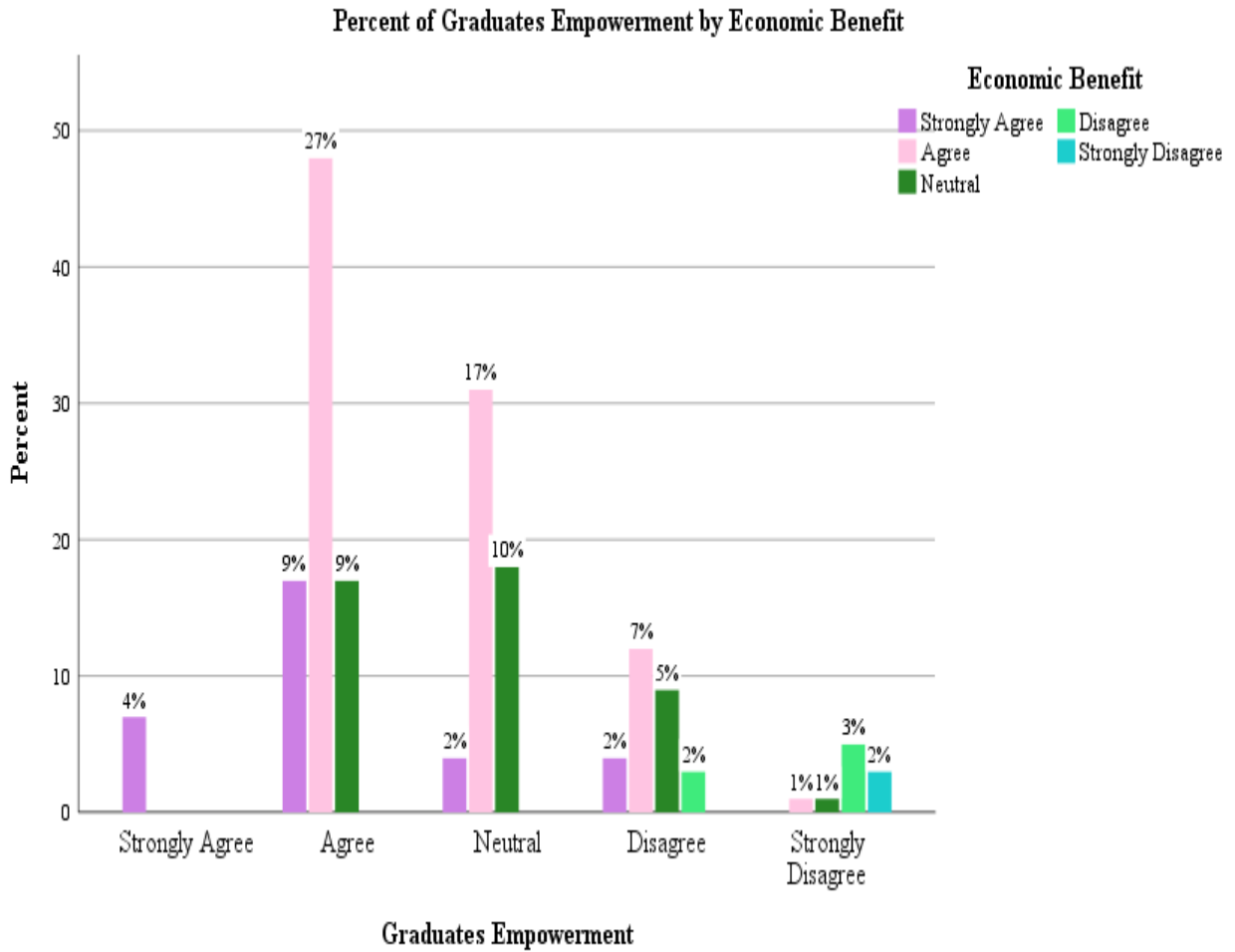
The graph shows the relation between Graduates Empowerment and Socio-economic Stability. It shows that 29% of the people agree that through CPEC, graduates are empowering and contributing towards the socio-economic stability of the country.



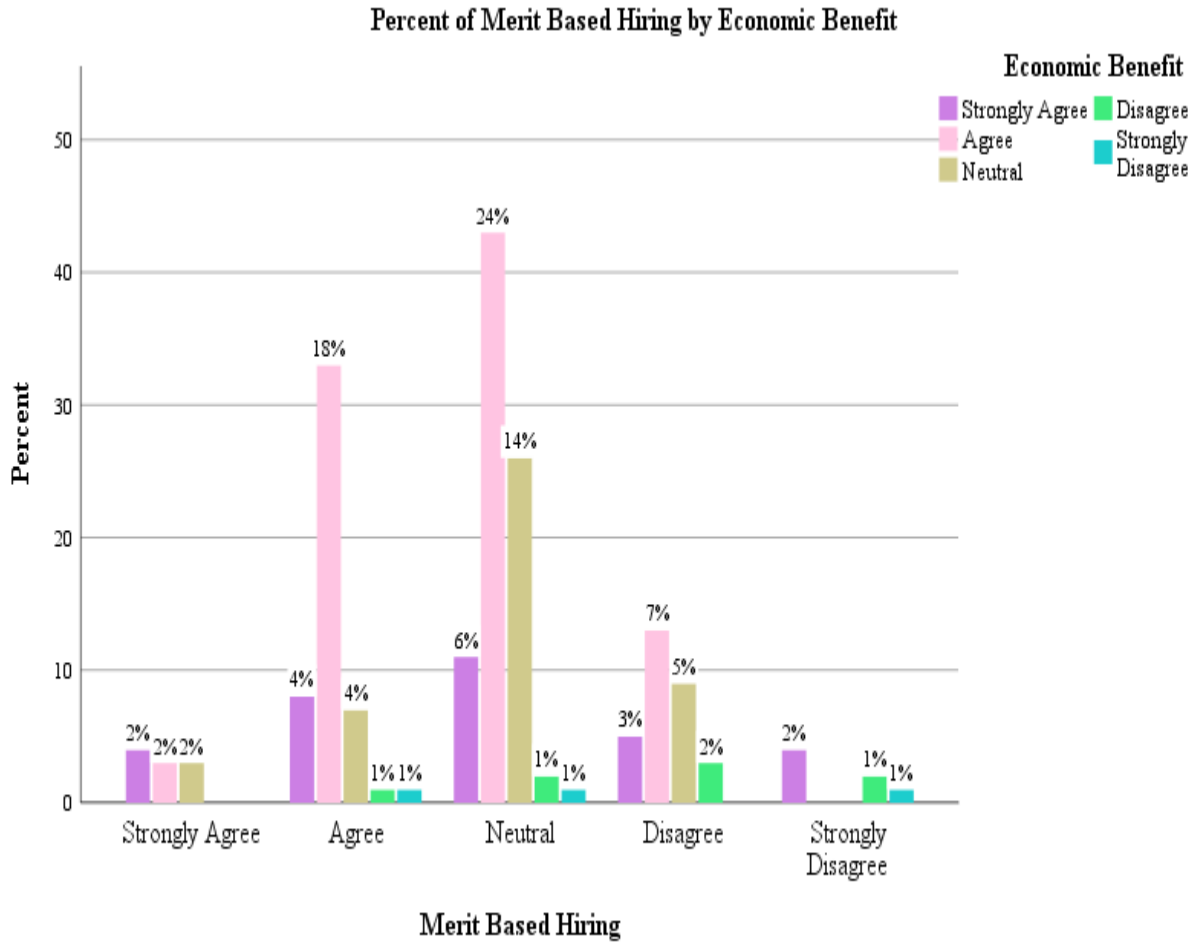
The graph shows the relation between Skill Acquiring and Economic Benefit. It shows that 36% of the people agree that through CPEC, graduates are acquiring skill and economically benefiting the country.



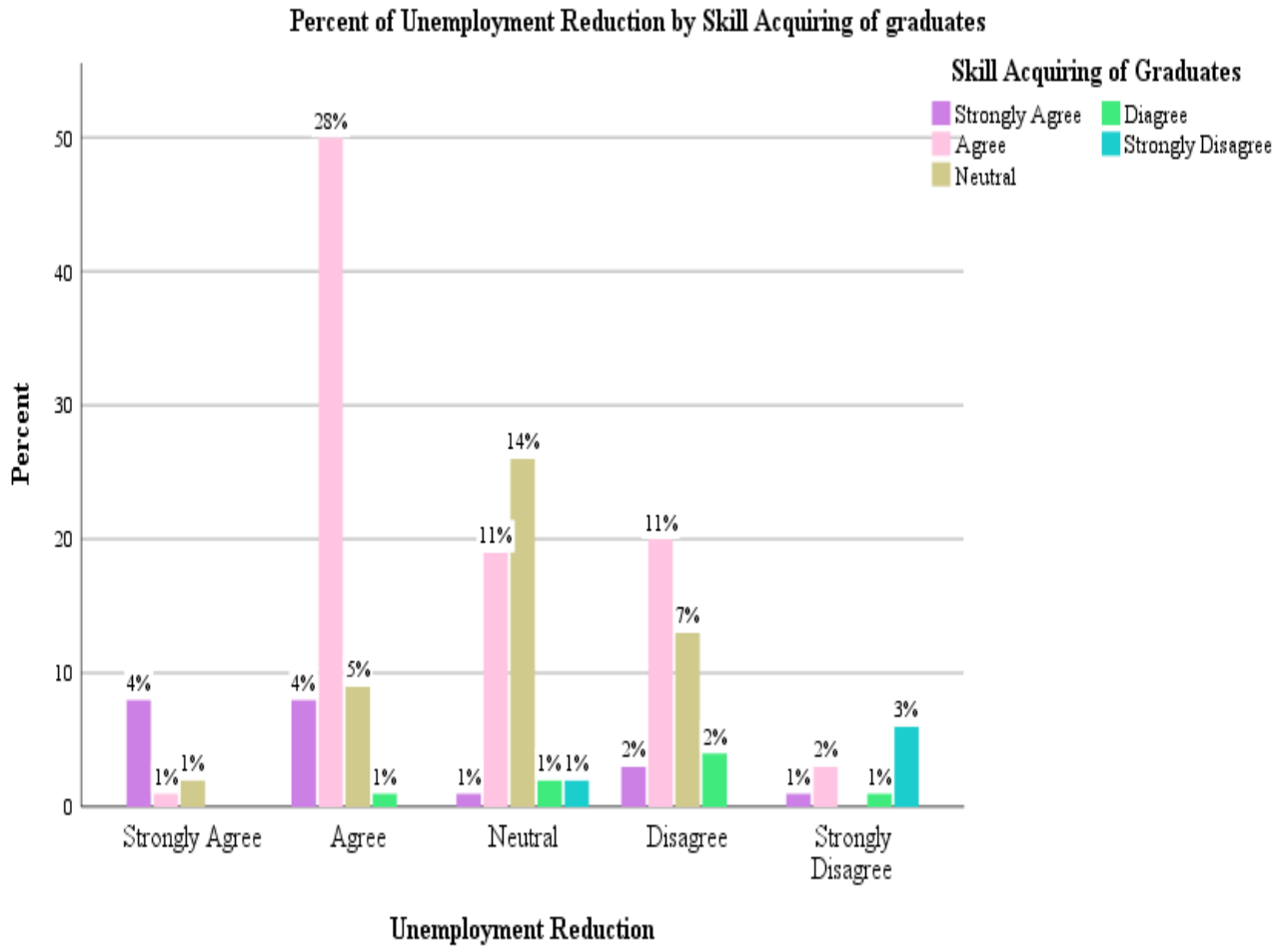
The graph shows the relation between Unemployment Reduction and Economic Benefit. It shows 27% of the people agree that through CPEC, unemployment of graduates is reducing and the country is economically benefiting.



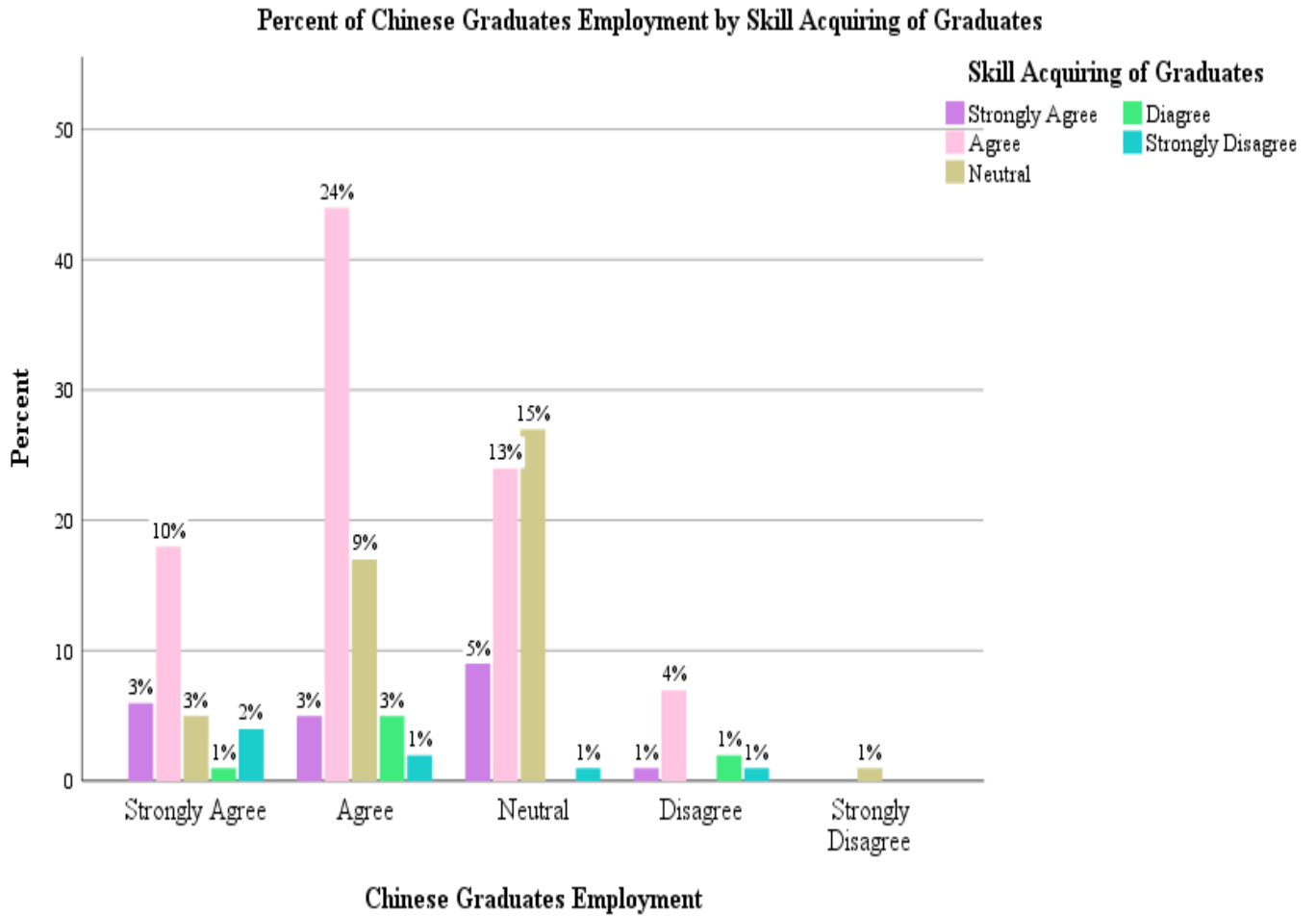
The graph shows the relation between Graduates Empowerment and Economic Benefit. It shows that 27% agrees that through CPEC, graduates are empowering and economically benefiting the country.



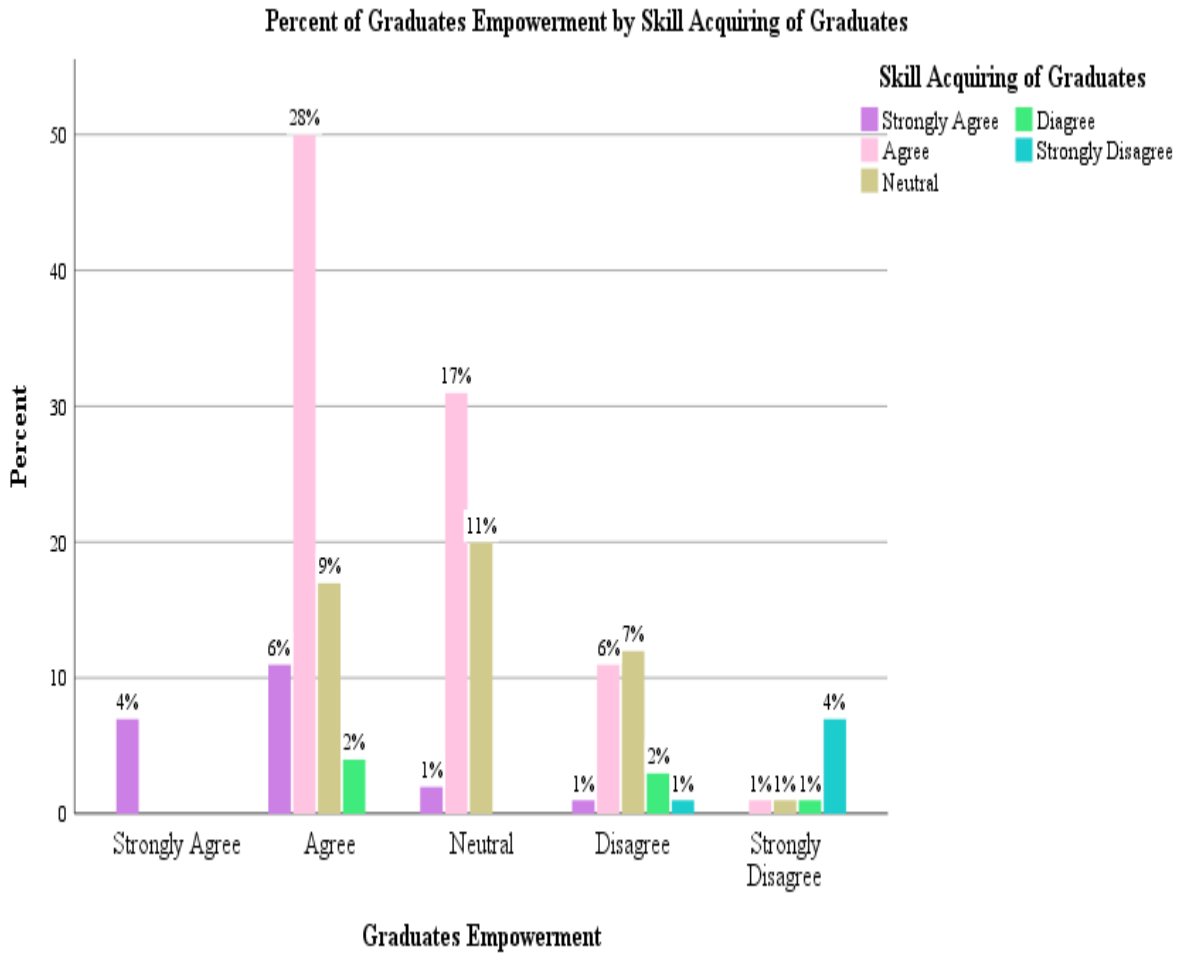
The graph shows the relation between Merit Based Hiring and Economic Benefit. It shows that 24% of the people neither agrees nor disagrees to the statement that through CPEC, graduates are hired on the basis of merit. So, they are also not sure about whether they are economically benefiting the country or not.



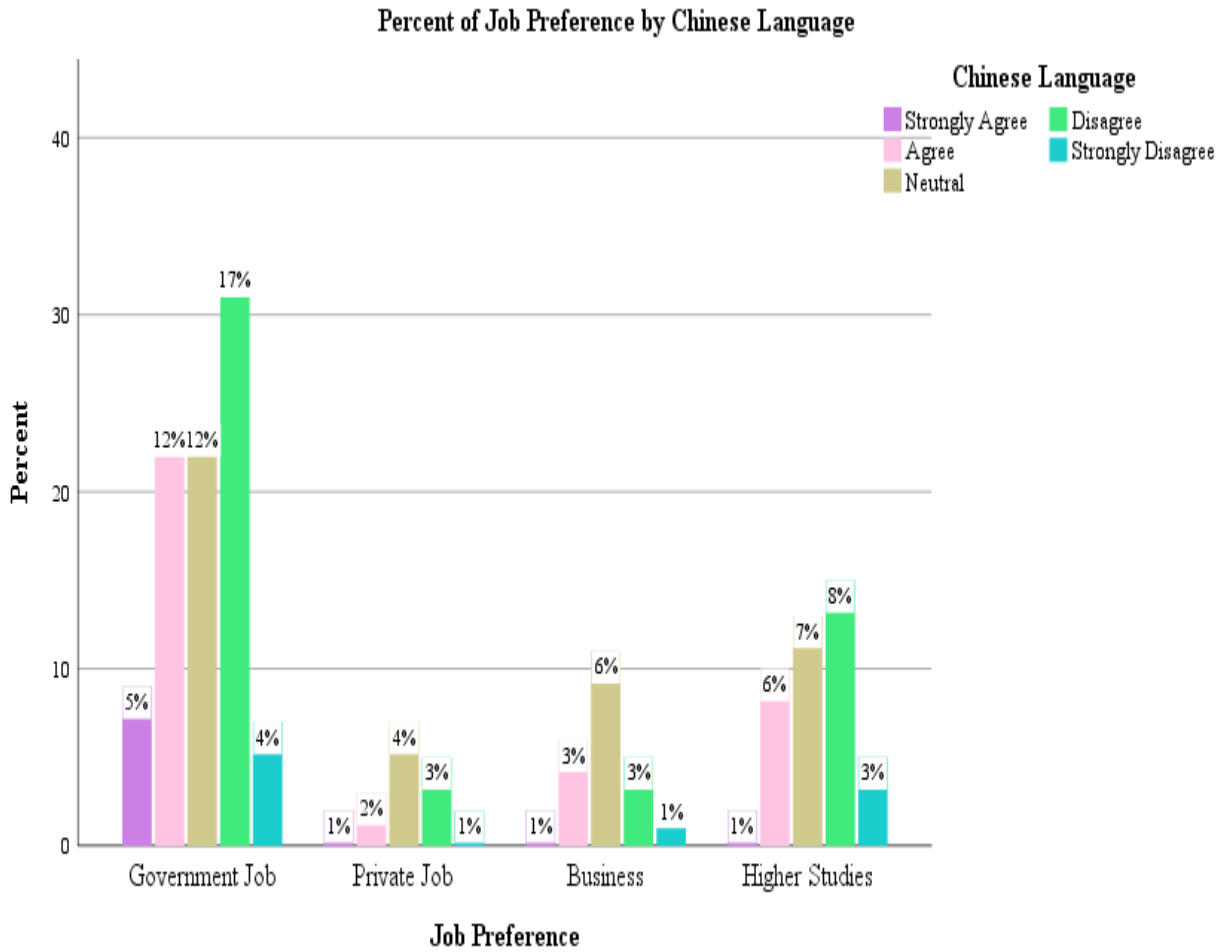
The graph shows the relation between Unemployment Reduction and Skill Acquiring. It shows 28% of the people agree with the statement that through CPEC, unemployment of graduates is reducing and they are acquiring skill.



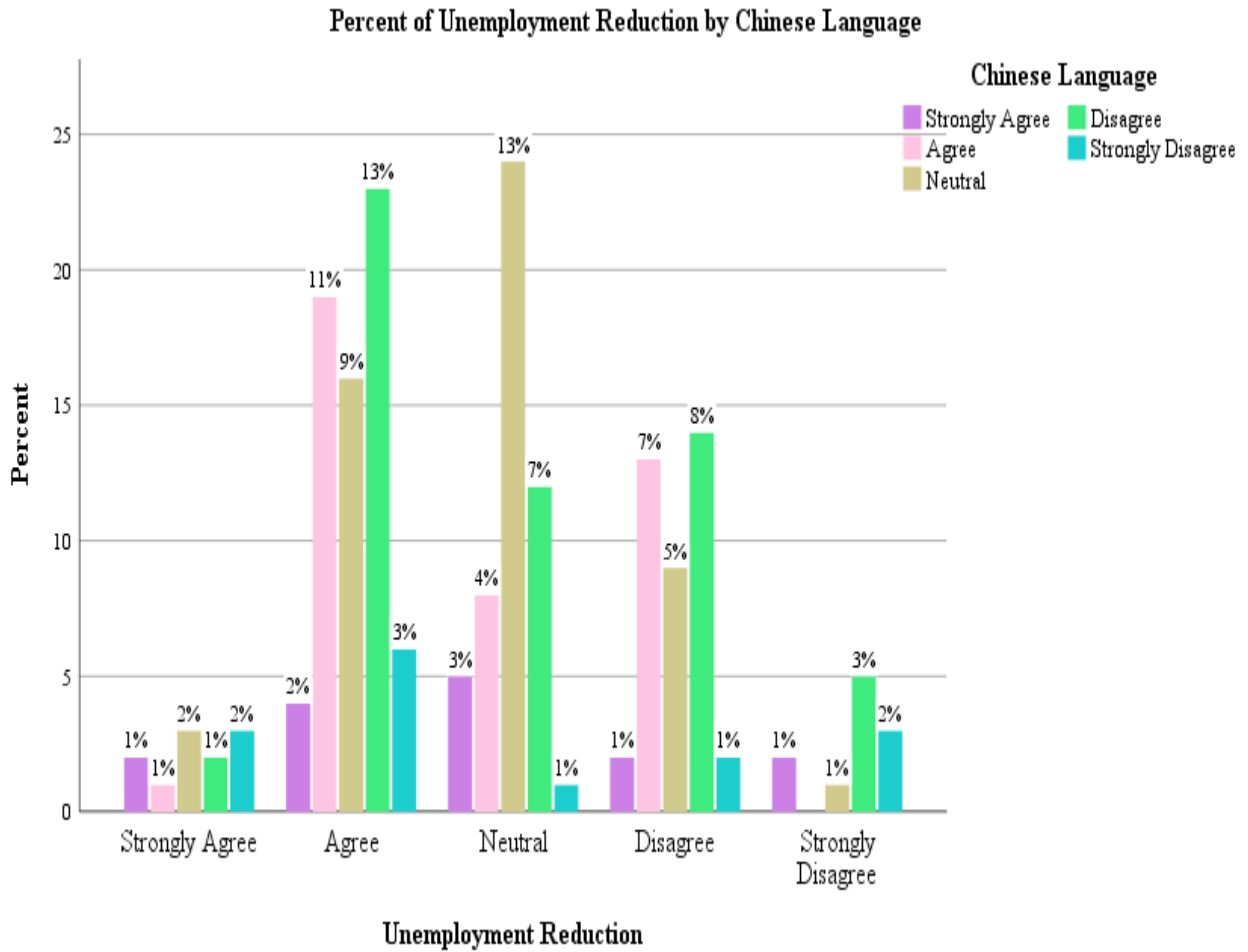
The graph shows the relation between Chinese graduates Employment and Skill Acquiring of Graduates. It shows that 24% of the people agree that Chinese graduates are employed in CPEC projects because of their acquired skill.



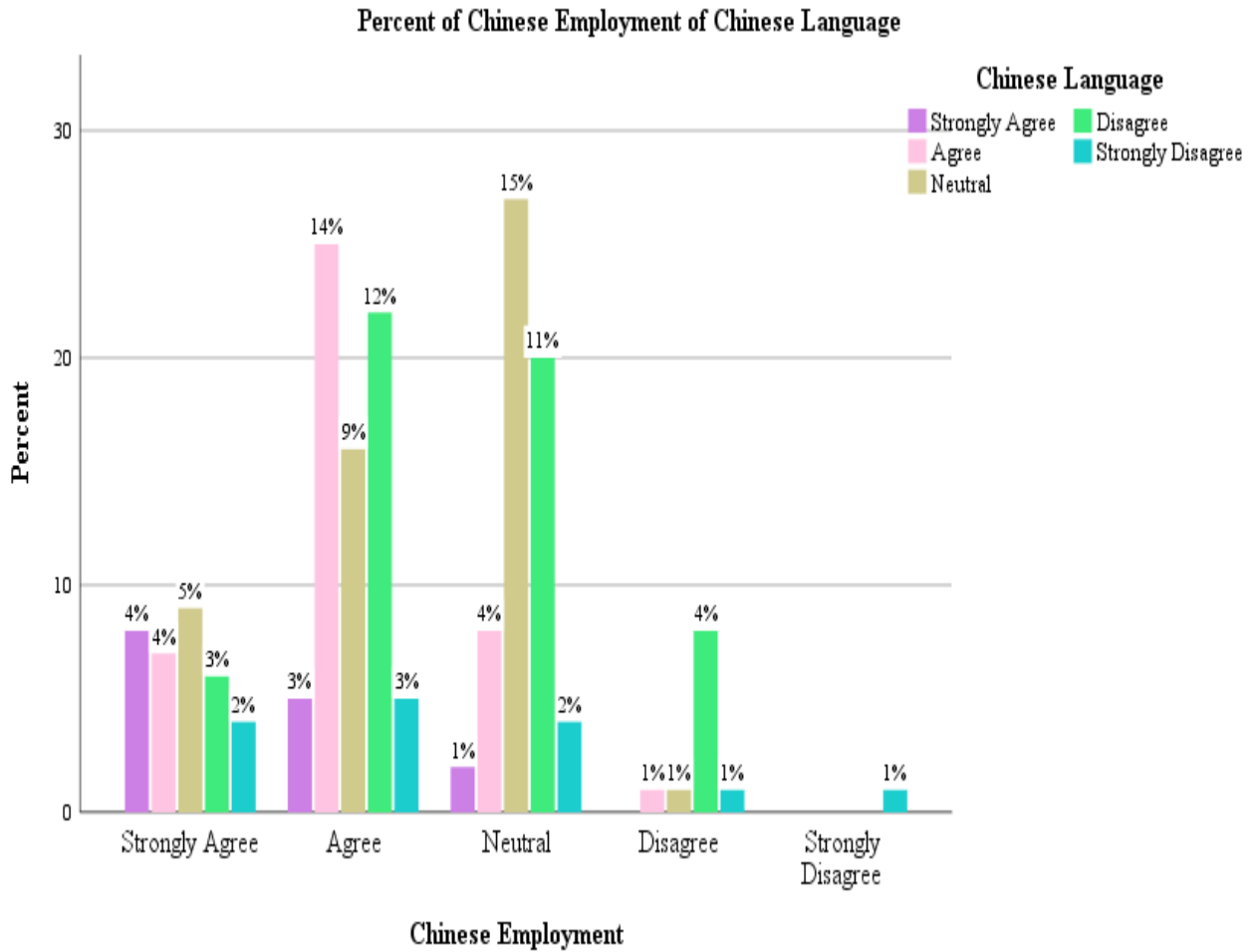
The graph shows the relation between Graduates Empowerment and Skill Acquiring. It shows 28% of the people agree that graduates are empowered through CPEC and acquiring skills.



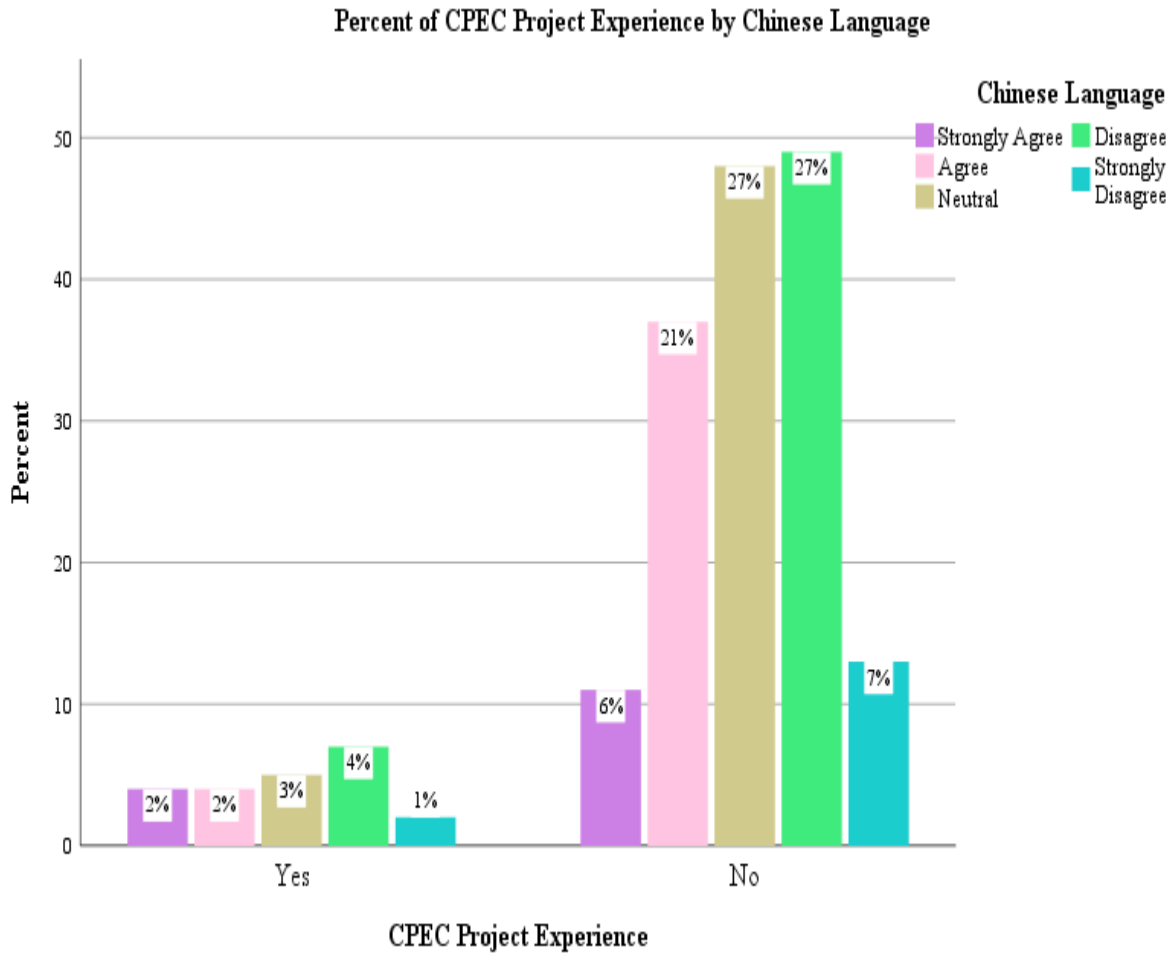
The graph shows the relation between Job Preference and Chinese Language. It shows 17% of the people from Government sector believes that learning Chinese language is not necessary to get hired in CPEC project.



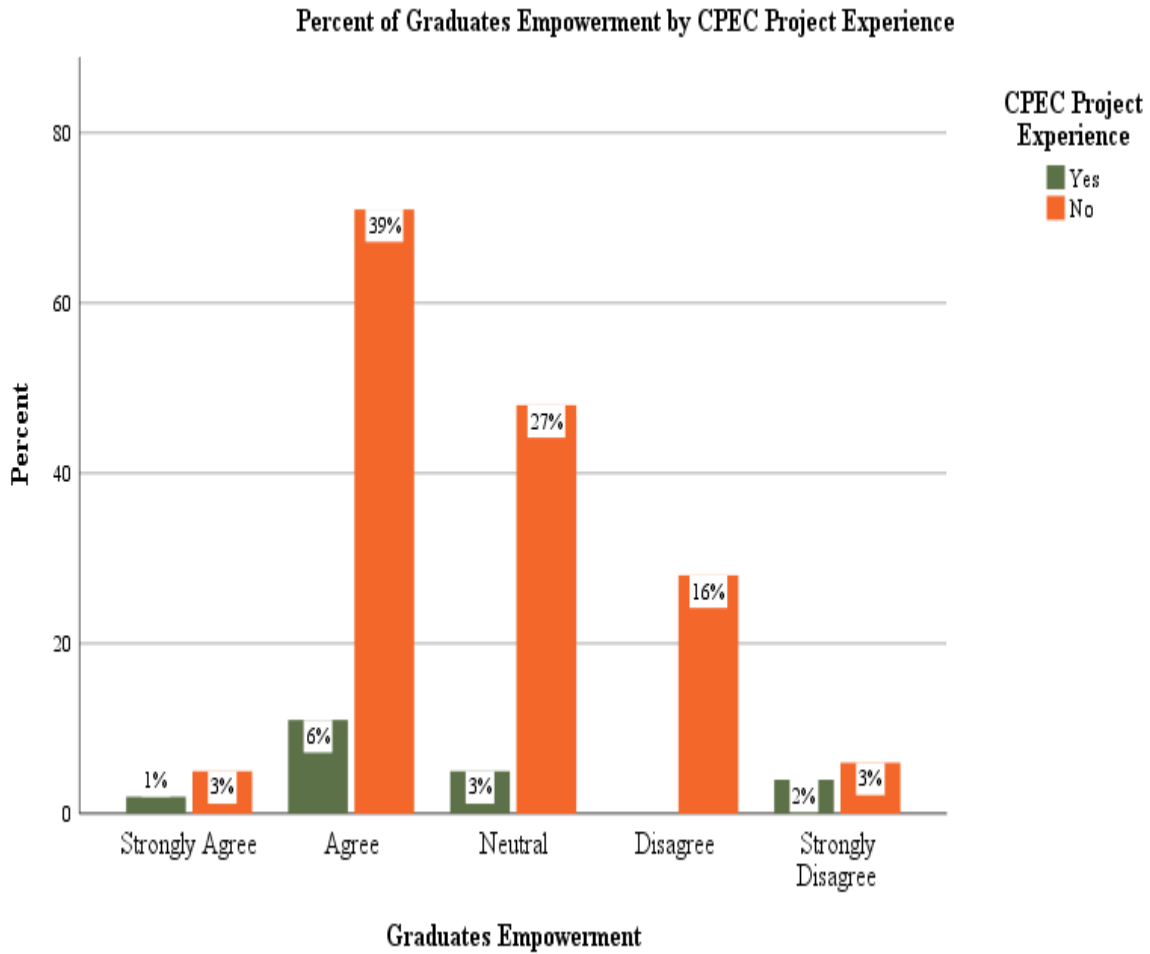
The graph shows the relation between Unemployment Reduction and learning Chinese Language. It shows that 13% of the people neither agrees nor disagrees that learning Chinese language is reducing unemployment of graduates.



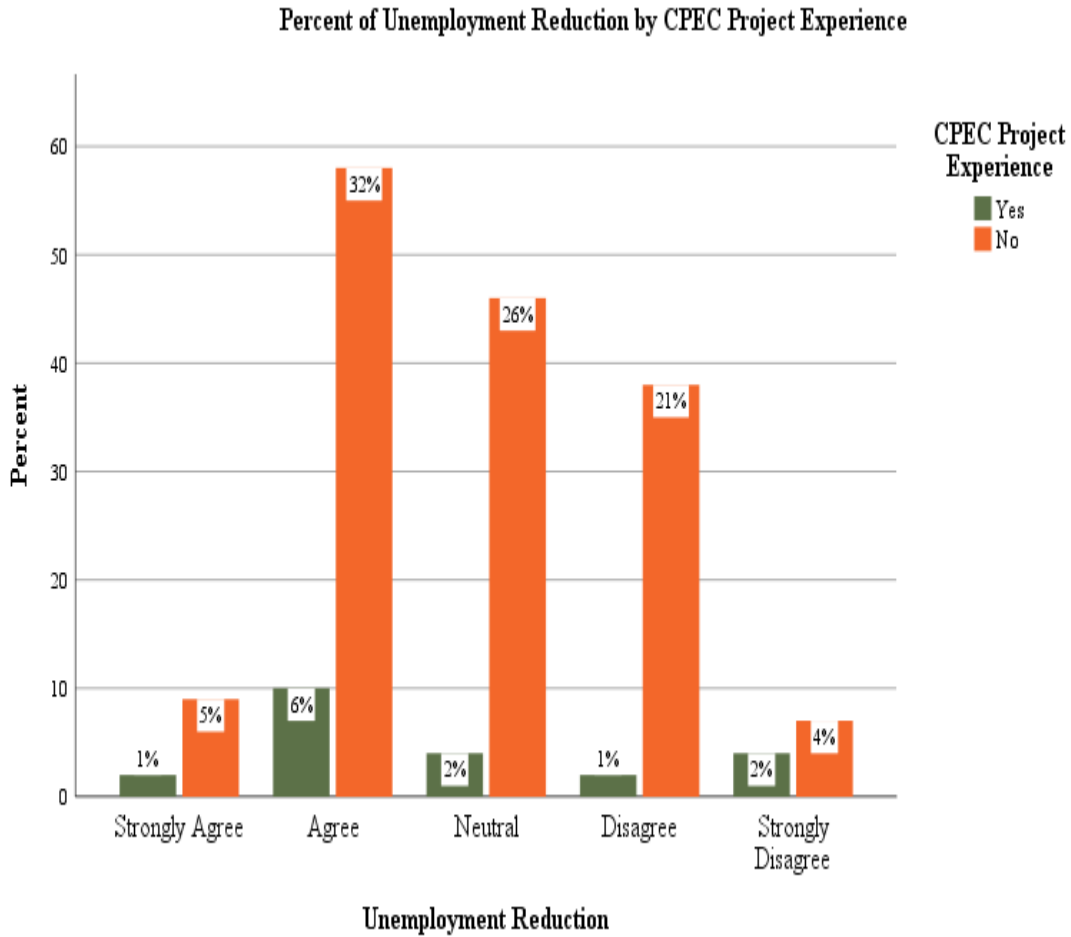
The graph shows the relation between Chinese Graduates Employment and learning Chinese Language. It shows that 15% of the people neither agrees nor disagrees that learning Chinese language is leading to the employment of Chinese graduates in CPEC.



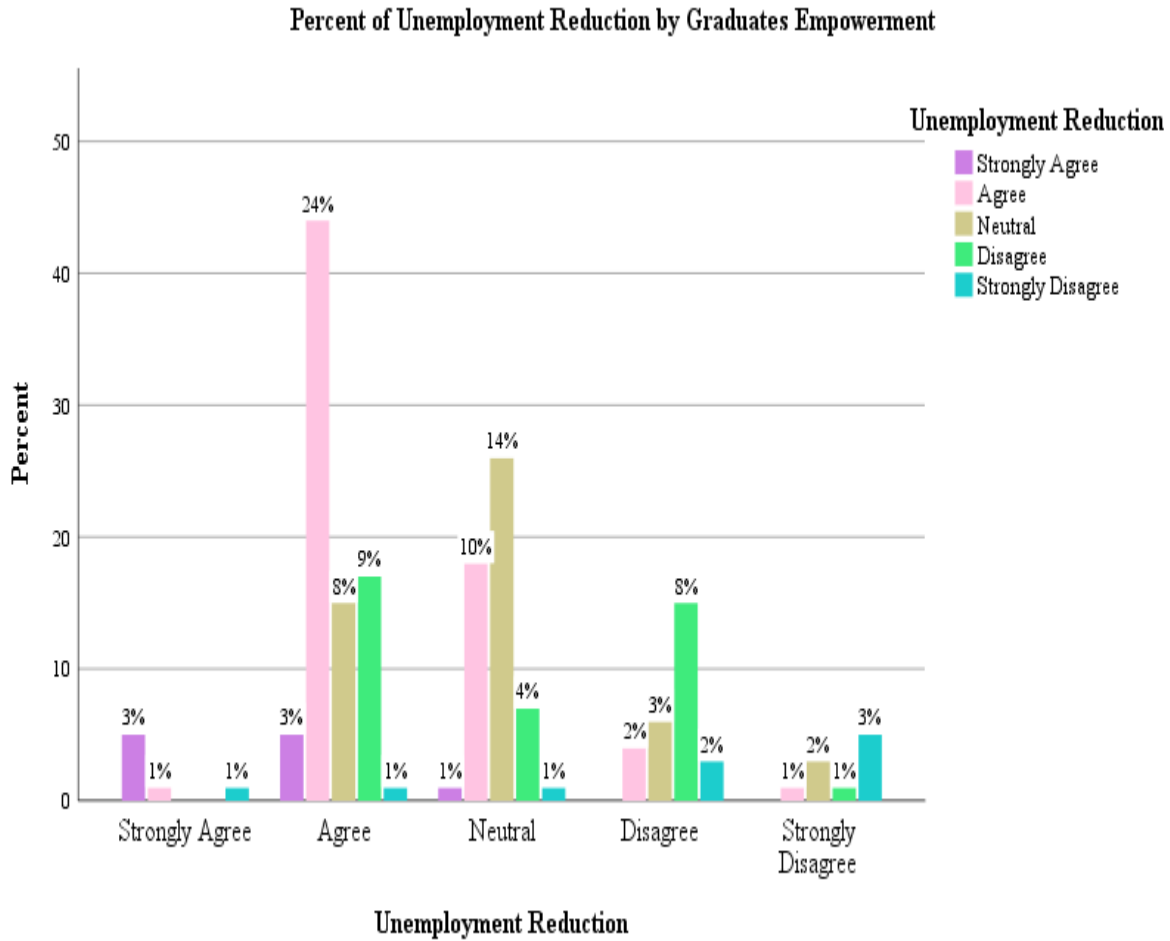
The graph shows the relation between CPEC project experience and Chinese language. It shows that 27% of the people have no experience of working in CPEC.



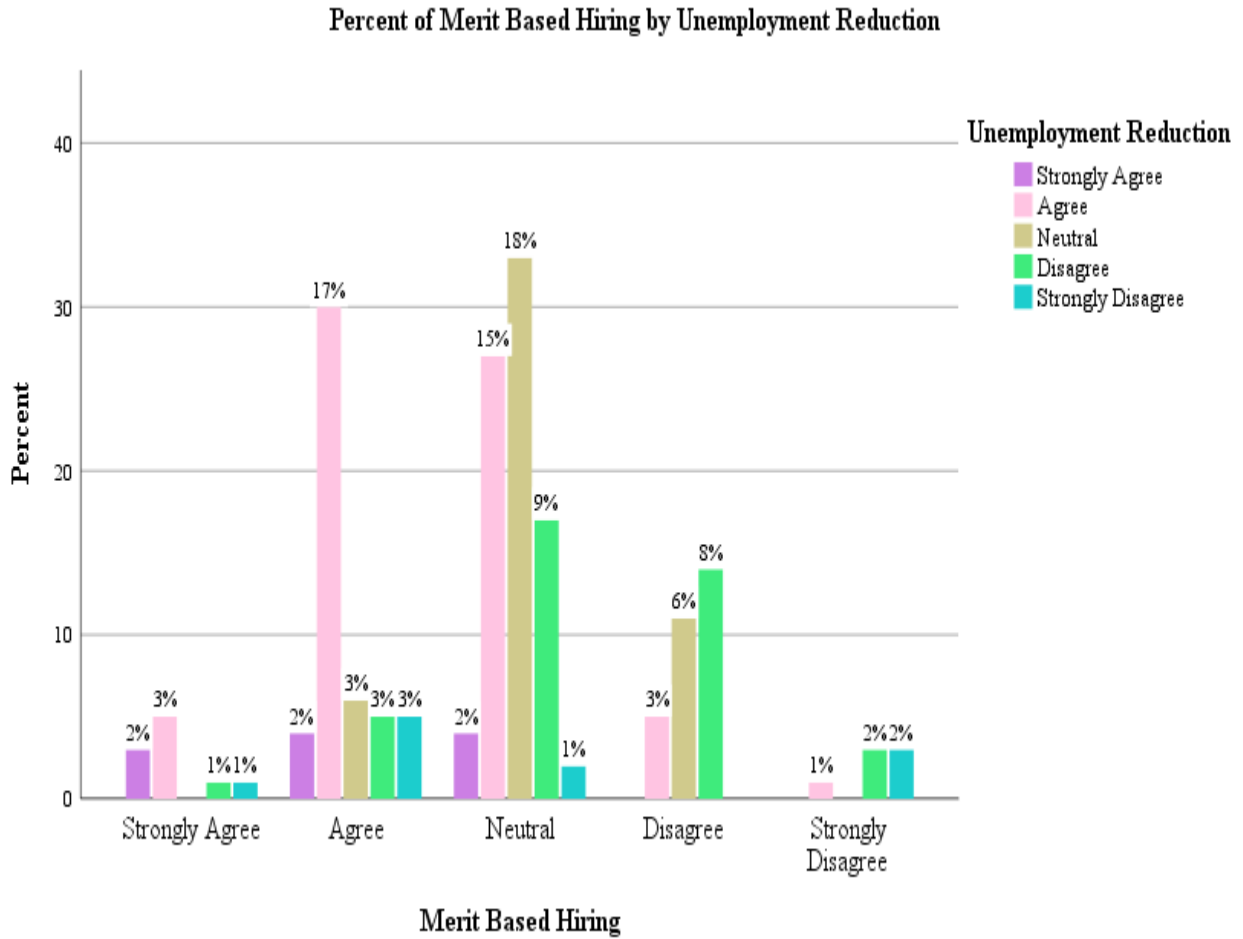
The graph shows the relation between Graduates Empowerment and CPEC Project Experience. It shows that 39% of the people who do not have any experience in CPEC agrees that graduates are empowering through CPEC.



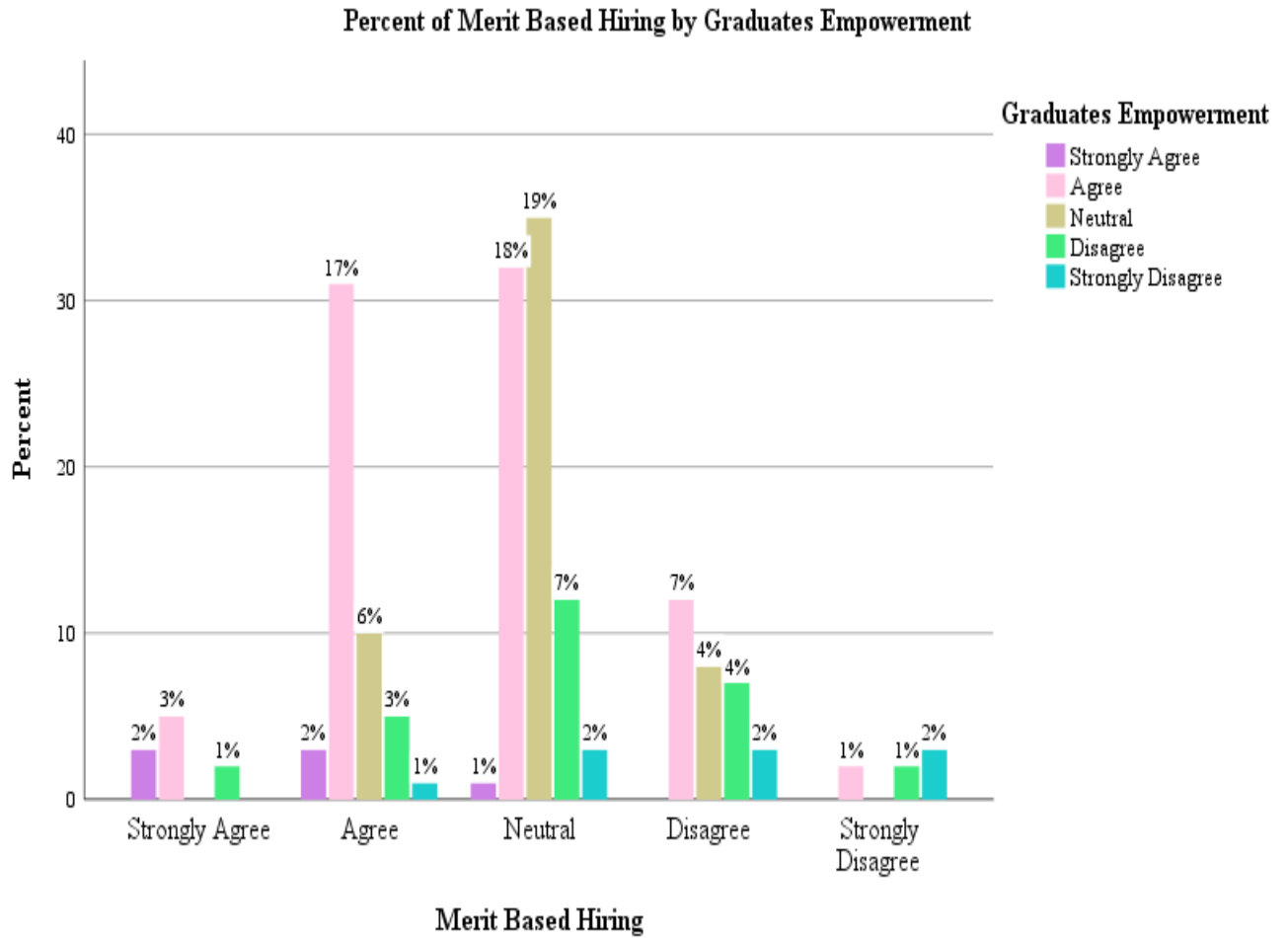
The graph shows the relation between Unemployment Reduction and CPEC project Experience. It shows that 32% of the people with no experience in CPEC project agrees that unemployment of graduates is reducing through CPEC.



The graph shows the relation between Unemployment Reduction and Graduates Empowerment. It shows that 24% of the people agrees that through CPEC, graduates are empowering and unemployment of graduates is reducing.



The graph shows the relation between Merit based Hiring and Unemployment Reduction. It shows that 18% of the people neither agrees nor disagrees that unemployment is reducing by the merit based hiring of graduates.



The graph shows the relation between Merit Based Hiring and Graduates Empowerment. It shows 19% of the people neither agrees nor disagrees with the statement that in CPEC, graduates are empowering through merit based hiring.

3.1 Survey findings:

The aim of this study is to explore the perceptions of young graduates towards the most talked about collaboration between Pakistan and China, CPEC and its development projects. The study discusses how CPEC is contributing to the socio-economic growth of Pakistan. The chapter is divided in two sections: the first section concentrates on the main empirical findings based on the evaluation of research hypotheses and objectives that are already addressed in the study. The second section concentrates on the responses of the respondents, interviewed for this study. The themes discussed in the first section are the effects of CPEC on:

- 1) Pakistan's economic position
- 2) Empowering graduates
- 3) Skill development of graduates
- 4) Socio-economic stability of the country
- 5) Employment of Chinese or Pakistani graduates in CPEC projects
- 6) Merit based hiring of graduates in CPEC projects
- 7) Reduction of unemployment through CPEC and learning of Chinese language.

The survey data was gathered from 254 respondents; young graduates residing in the twin cities of Rawalpindi and Islamabad. Among the respondents, there were 52.22 per cent females and 47.78 per cent males. The main purpose of the study was to determine the perspectives of young graduates towards CPEC.

The survey revealed that not everyone knows what is the CPEC's mandate and only 39.1 per cent respondents had clear knowledge of CPEC. This lack of knowledge may or may not limit their chances to find a CPEC related job. According to the findings of the survey, nearly one

third of the respondents preferred government jobs i-e, 28 per cent females and 22 per cent males university graduates consider government job as a secure employment opportunity. Government jobs are considered a safe option, because they provide attractive salaries besides conveniences at the entry level (Muralidharan, 2015). A government servant is entitled to loans from his/her Benevolent and Provident funds, transportation and medical privileges and a decent pension upon retirement (Subohi, 2017). Pakistan spends 3 percent of the disbursement from its annual budget on the wages of government employees. Government sector also has a quota for marginalized or disadvantaged groups for employment by system. (Din, 2020)) Government jobs also provide post retirement benefits such as pension. It is quite evident that respondents do not consider the private sector highly for providing job security and essential perks.

To measure the graduates empowerment through CPEC, survey findings substantiated the argument (24 per cent female and 22 per cent males) that graduates would be empowered through CPEC.

The existing literature informs us that Pakistani graduates have been hired on CPEC projects e.g. 200 Pakistani engineers have found employment Sahiwal Coal-Fired Power Plant (Xin, 2018). In the Coal-fired Power Plant at Port Qasim, 46 Pakistani university graduates were hired, where they now have stable jobs. (Congqin and Yongsheng, 2019) These statistics do not indicate a very high employment rate. It is a moot point, whether our graduates have the necessary skills to get employment in CPEC related jobs. Available literature suggests that countries invest a lot of their GDP in preparing their human resource in finding skill related jobs. Notable examples are Turkey (Cecen and Dugrual, 1994), The Kyrgyz Republic (Asian Development Bank, 2020), Cambodia (Asian Development Bank, 2019), Thailand (The World

Bank, 2018), Bhutan (Wees, 2019), India (The World Bank, 2018) and Vietnam (Asian Development Bank, 2016) From 2007 – 2018, CDIA has offered 116 courses across 95 countries including 19 countries in Asia and Pacific. 2870 graduates have benefited from the program in planning, financing, construction and maintenance of the development projects in cities of Asia and Pacific. (Cities Development Initiative for Asia, 2017) The courses helped in poverty reduction and contributed to the growth of the economy. (GIZ) Clearly, job specific skill development is not robust in Pakistan. (Ahmad, 2016) The respondents agreed that youth were acquiring job skills on CPEC projects and as such this was a life changing experience. However, whether they land a CPEC job or not, 23 per cent female and 19 per cent males have doubts if CPEC will usher in economic stability for Pakistan. Their doubts are substantiated by the fact that the 2020-2021 budget does not show any focus on changing economic priorities. The economy has exponentially contracted COVID-19. Businesses have closed down and left many people jobless. As it is, the Pakistani economy is heavily reliant on foreign aid and is heavily indebted to IMF and other international donors. The dominant official policy is designed for these loans. (Dawn, 2020) Chinese officials reassure Pakistan that are doing their best to remove procedural obstacles, to enhance development, shares mutual peace, harmony and create job opportunities. (Shahid, 2020) They agreed on maintaining thrust at a higher level in strengthening the social and economic situation of both the countries. Both the focal persons hoped to share the sense of community to defeat COVID-19 and to continue their efforts in making maximum benefit for the people of both the countries through CPEC. (Yousaf, 2020) The reason for skepticism among the respondents is that they are not sure whether CPEC will contribute towards socio-economic stability of the country because the current economic

indicators are not encouraging. In the energy sector alone, Pakistan is losing \$8-10 billion per year due to power shortage but now the situation (Junaidi, 2019). This bleak economic outlook may not change overnight and hopes of Gwadar replacing Dubai as the regional hub will take time.

Everyone has not lost hope. At least 20 percent of the female and 18 percent male respondents agree that through CPEC unemployment will be reduced. According to Chinese Embassy, CPEC has provided 75,000 direct job opportunities to Pakistanis. Due to the development of local Pakistani companies, the employment rate has increased and unemployment has reduced (APP, 2019).

To become eligible for CPEC jobs, young people are showing interest in learning Chinese language CPEC projects. Although 19 percent female and 12 percent male respondents believed that it is not necessary to learn Chinese language to get a CPEC job. However, it cannot be ignored that people who have fluency in Mandarin have better chances to land a highly paid CPEC job (Dawn, 2018). Two students from NUST Institute of Civil Engineering (NICE), Shahzaib Farooq and Khizar Nazir, who worked on the western route and KKH-II; Thakot to Havelian Motorway as a civil engineer on a contract basis did not know Chinese language. In their estimation, language skills are not important to get a job on a CPEC project.

Clearly, however, a high percentage of the university graduates i.e. 39 per cent of the respondents are convinced that a job in a CPEC project will be financially rewarding. As per available information, CPEC has opened up job opportunities for both unskilled labour, as well as young university graduates. A job experience in a CPEC related job has also enhanced the

capacity of human resource (Zia & Waqar, 2018). The primary data gathered through survey form negates the positive approach of young graduates towards CPEC.

3.2 Interview findings:

The second section presents an analysis of the responses given by the 5 respondents interviewed for the study. The respondents were Research Associates at the Institute of Strategic Studies, Islamabad (ISSI), lecturer in National University of Modern Languages (NUML) and a Civil Servant. This research was conducted to explore present and future job opportunities for young graduates in CPEC. The themes discussed in the second section are:

- 1) Benefits of CPEC for Pakistan and young graduates
- 2) Specific goals of Pakistan
- 3) Criteria of hiring of young graduates in CPEC projects
- 4) Prospects of Economic Growth through CPEC
- 5) Graduates Empowerment in CPEC
- 6) Private Business under the pivot of CPEC.

The respondents were candid about the “Benefits of CPEC for Pakistan” in answering the questions. Most of the respondents started off the discussion by talking about four major goals of CPEC as Energy, Industrialization, Agriculture and Transportation.

One of the respondents from ISSI (Interviewee no. 1) believed that existing Pakistani industries will be revived, and it will require a lot of resources to establish a new economic zone within the next five to eight years. The respondent emphasized that self-sufficiency in energy had been achieved during the first phase of CPEC. The Sahiwal Coal-Fired Power Plant generates 1320 MW of energy which is sufficient to meet the needs of the country. (Abubakar, 2019) The

second respondent from the ISSI (Interviewee no. 2) skipped the answer to the question. The third respondent from the ISSI (Interview no. 3) argued that CPEC was proposed at a time when no foreign investors were ready to invest in Pakistan. The interviewee emphasized that the CPEC mega project would stimulate Pakistan's economy. Through this initiative, young graduates especially from engineering and social sciences have been locally hired. More than 3000 locals including engineers were hired during the construction phase. (IEA, 2018) The respondent from NUML (Interviewee no. 4) focused on 1+4 formula and socio economic development. 1 represents CPEC and 4 represents Gwadar port, energy, transportation and infrastructure. (Hali, 2019) By socio economic development she meant development in industry, energy, power, agriculture and tourism. The respondent from the government sector (Interviewee no. 5) paid attention to the CPEC SEZs. His argument was that after the establishment of SEZs, foreign companies will work without any hassle in Pakistan and it will be a win-win situation. He brought to light that China wants at least \$1 bn of agricultural exports from Pakistan. The agriculture sector has the probability to consummate not only domestic supplies but also has the capacity to meet surplus export demand. Locust attack has vandalized 115,000 hectares of crops of wheat, rice, cotton, seed, vegetables and fruits. The livestock growth dwindled from 3.82% to 2.58%. (Afridi, 2020)

On enquiring about "Opportunities for young graduates in CPEC", interviewees gave various responses. Interviewee no. 1 believed that if graduates have technical skills, only then Pakistan can be benefited from CPEC. He further mentioned the quality of education will help in getting a sizable market share of employment in CPEC jobs. Interviewee no. 2 believed university graduates from the engineering sector were more likely to get jobs in CPEC projects.

Business graduates can get managerial jobs in Chinese and Pakistani firms. The graduates from Media Studies and other similar fields can get hired in CPEC Think-Tanks, Research centers and Media and Non-Governmental Organizations (NGO). Interviewee no. 3 argued that there were limited opportunities for Pakistani graduates in CPEC projects. According to him, the ratio of unskilled graduates is more than skilled graduates. Interviewee no. 4 identified loopholes at Pakistan's end by quoting apathy and reluctance on the part of industrialists, officials of government, private and public sector. A collective effort by them can revive the existing Pakistani industries to create job opportunities for graduates. The interviewee emphasized that industry needs to be revived in cities like Gujranwala, Faisalabad and Sialkot, where textiles, fans and sports goods are produced to reduce unemployment of young graduates. Interviewee no. 5 talked about Service Industry and young graduates. His opinion was that a large number of graduates can benefit from getting jobs in the local industry. These trained hands can then be used to operate foreign machinery on CPEC projects. The interviewee was assertive that generation of job opportunities through service industry will increase per capita income and improve living standards. He was of the view that social menaces and social problems can be eradicated by improving literacy rate and creating jobs. No data is unfortunately available to show a connection between youth employment and social problems. This needs to be investigated.

On the question regarding the "Specific goals of CPEC for Pakistan," interviewees focused on regional harmony, connectivity and industrialization as the major goals of CPEC. Interviewee no.1 threw light on the territorial dispute of China and India and 87ueling87ed former US Under Secretary of State Alice Wells' opposition to CPEC. He opposed Well's criticism and did not

accept her logic of Chinese investment being a debt trap. The Pakistani Foreign Office has also clarified that the loans were on concessional terms and were payable after 2030. (Syed, 2020) The interviewee also emphasized that regional hegemony was also a goal which can only be achieved by Pakistan without getting involved in a clash with India. According to interviewee no.2, both Pakistan and China have their own interests and ideas on what they stand to gain from the CPEC. The Long-Term Plan (TLP) is based on strong international economic and technological cooperation, industrialization and urbanization. According to interviewee no. 3, the primary goal is to provide China the shortest route for its energy imports and industrial exports. Interviewee no. 4 talked about youth empowerment and skill learning with emphasis as the specific goal of CPEC for Pakistan. She further stated the government is responsible for providing a platform to youth for skill learning. Youth can only be empowered if they have skills beside professional degrees. Interviewee no.5 focused on improving the economy as the major goal of Pakistani expectation of CPEC. There is no doubt that the country has a huge potential for economic growth. It only needs a clear strategy.

To find out the employment of youth in CPEC, the respondents were asked about the criteria of hiring young graduates. All of them gave the same answer. Interviewee no. 1 stated to get hired in a CPEC project, graduates must have some technical skill. In Sahiwal Coal-Fired Power Plant, technical training was provided to the hired locals and graduates. (International Energy Agency, 2018) Interviewee no. 2 answered that it differs for each project. It depends on the type of human resource required and the nature of the project. Interviewee no. 3 supported interviewee no.2 stance that young graduates were hired depending on the nature of project. 690 jobs in Hattar, 400 jobs in Gadoon and 690 jobs in Nowshera SEZs were created with a total of 2450 jobs.

(Abbas and Ali, 2017) 75,000 jobs were created through 22 projects under CPEC. (BR Research, 2018) Interviewee no. 4 argued that according to the Ministry of Planning and Development, only 18 percent of youth were involved in CPEC projects. Interviewee no.5 said hiring of young graduates depended on the private and public sector organizations and the rules of businesses they followed. He further said that private organizations can provide internships and short term jobs and organizations in the public sector can provide long term jobs. Thus, it solely depends on the nature of organization and nature of the project. Civil engineering graduates were hired on contract basis on KKH-II; Thakot to Havelian Motorway. In Port Qasim Coal-Fired Power Plant, 104 engineering graduates were hired and 5000 direct jobs were created for the locals. (Shiyu, 2018)

Respondents were asked about the prospects of economic growth. Most of the respondents considered SEZs to be a key factor in economic prospects. Interviewee no. 1 talked about concessional loans, infrastructural development, power generation through energy sector, road and railway's construction. He declared post COVID-19 as the best time to avail concessional loans in trade rather than aid. China has provided Pakistan plenty of projects and it is now on Pakistanis from the \$62 billion CPEC investment. (TRT World, 2020) Interviewee no. 2 answered the question in detail. He said that the prospects of CPEC boosting economic growth were promising, provided the projects were executed and implemented based on long-term planning in all aspects. The first phase of CPEC has already addressed Pakistan's chronic energy shortages experienced during 2008-2015. Meanwhile, on-going infrastructure projects are improving north-south and east-west connectivity across Pakistan. This will reduce travel time. And movement of commercial cargoes. Agriculture production will increase through the CPEC

agricultural projects. The SEZs will enhance industrialization. The way SEZs will be implemented, will actually become the basis of CPEC-linked economic growth in Pakistan. Interviewee no. 3 highlighted the prospects in comparison to the outbreak of COVID-19. He stated CPEC is based on three levels; short-term, medium term and long-term plan. Short term plan was constructing roads and energy projects. In that way, Pakistan's import increased and an improvement was observed in its economy. In the medium term, SEZs come, industries will be established in various economic zones throughout the country. Groundbreaking of two SEZs has been delayed due to the pandemic. According to interviewee no. 4, CPEC is a golden opportunity because of economic growth through establishment of SEZs. The industrialization of the SEZs will create 300,000 jobs. (Haider, 2019)

One respondent was of the view that skilled youth will be employed in the projects. She was quite satisfied with the progress made by the present government. She also threw light on the connectivity of Pakistan with the Middle East. The interviewee was of the view that ultimately Afghanistan and India may want to be a part of CPEC. Iran is already showing interest in connectivity through CPEC. The strategic importance of Pakistan can not be ignored. Interviewee no.5 stated that with the increase in exports the economy will improve.

Industrialization and FDI are the main prospects of economic growth. It is hoped that the completion of SEZs will attract FDI. (Hussain, 2016)

Responding to the graduates empowerment through CPEC, the respondents gave varied responses. The answer of an interviewee no.1 was if Pakistani graduates have technical skills, only then they would get CPEC jobs, otherwise these will go to the Chinese engineers and workers. Interviewee no. 2 argued CPEC had the potential to create new employment

opportunities for youth. CPEC projects and its various plans will require skilled manpower and proficient human resources from Pakistan. There is where youth has the opportunity to contribute to the economic growth of the country. Interviewee no. 3 said empowerment through CPEC is a slow and long process. Youth will get opportunities in the CPEC but they will have to work hard for it. Generally, they lose out because they are neither part of policy-making nor do they have the required skill set. At the moment the employment rate in the CPEC projects is not very promising. Interviewee no.4 stated that current government policies like Kamyab Jawan Program, Punjab Skills Development Fund (PSDF), E-Rozgaar Program and Digi Skills are initiatives that will provide the youth the skills and resources to benefit from CPEC jobs. It is hoped that if these government initiatives work in a transparent fashion they will yield positive results e.g. Kamyab Jawan Program will provide loans to skilled and unskilled youth for business startups to gain economic momentum. (Ghilzai, 2019) The E-Rozgaar program has been enrolled in technical, non-technical and designing courses. More than 10,000 youth among 25 districts of Punjab (Jamal, 2017) In this digital age, youth must possess digital skills; is one way to get empowered. Private- public partnership can create job opportunities for youth in joint ventures with countries like Turkey (Express Tribune, 2019), Saudi Arabia (Dawn, 2019), Australia (Daily Times, 2019) and Japan (BR, 2019). In these joint ventures, people-people and business-business connections can create opportunities for youth to contribute to the economic development of the country. The interviewee also stated that youth can only be empowered through SEZs. Interviewee no. 5 argued that youth cannot be empowered until and unless CPEC reaches its full potential.

3.3 Analysis:

The purpose of the study was to identify employment rate of university graduates through CPEC and to measure the involvement of youth as a guarantor of national peace and stability. In this section, the main findings of the survey and interviews have been summarized . It includes findings related to the possibility of youth employment in CPEC projects. It also contains discussion and future research possibilities to help answer the research questions:

R1: How does CPEC create opportunities for the youth?

R2: How youth/ university graduates will benefit through CPEC?

R3: What is the success rate in job creation through CPEC?

The research questions discussed in the chapter were investigated using a mixed method approach. Survey findings verifies the hypothesis that socio-economic growth and stability in Pakistan is related to the operationalization of CPEC projects by inculcating social integration and creating employment for youth in Pakistan. Many of the respondents believe that Pakistan's economic position is strengthened due to CPEC and the SEZs established within this mega project. So far CPEC has the backing and consensus of all national leaders. It is hoped that the successful completion of CPEC projects will enhance FDI equivalent to 17 percent of Pakistan's 2015 GDP. The planned projects have already added up to 2.5 per cent to the country's economy. (Deloitte) Establishment of Gwadar deep seaport has added to the employment opportunities and boosted Pakistan's economy. The development of Pak-China Technical and Vocational Training Institute will attract national and international investors which in turn will add value to the economy. (CPIC, 2020)

GDP has steadily increased after the inauguration of CPEC. In 2016, Pakistan's GDP growth increased to 5.4 per cent and in 2017, GDP rose to 5.79 percent . However, in 2018, GDP growth was 5.2 percent and in 2019, GDP declined to 3.3 per cent. (World Economics) In 2016, energy generation was 117, 326 GW/h and energy provision in the rural areas was 98.8 percent. (CPEC, 2019) According to one of the interviewees, Pakistan is self-sufficient in the energy sector and demand of electricity has been fulfilled to an extent. The existing data does not support his argument. Karachi has been experiencing load shedding of 10 – 12 hours in the sweltering heat. (The News, 2020) Due to the current scenario; the outbreak of COVID-19, 'a global pandemic' has adversely affected the economies of all the countries. Pakistan has also been adversely hit. The electricity rates have also gone up. Due to the Coronavirus-fuelled economic recession, a hike in electricity rates is observed. Pakistan is now again on the road of facing an unusual situation. (Bhutta, 2020)

Notwithstanding the advent of the novel coronavirus, 30,000 direct jobs have been created for Pakistanis. (CPEC, 2019) More than 75,000 direct and 200,000 indirect jobs have been created for Pakistanis with an increase of 23 percent in economic growth. (Global Times, 2020) The study mainly focused on employment of young graduates and found that in three main projects: Sahiwal Coal-Fired Power Plant and Coal-Fired Power Plant at Port Qasim, 3000 and 3500 local workers were hired during the construction phase. The study mainly focused on employment of young graduates and found that in three main projects: Sahiwal Coal-Fired Power Plant, Coal-Fired Power Plant at Port Qasim and KKH-II; Thakot to Havelian Motorway, mere 200, 46 and less than 50 young civil engineers were employed on the contract basis respectively. (Abubakar, 2019 & Congqin and Yongsheng, 2019) 690 jobs in Hattar, 400 jobs in Gadoon and 690 jobs in

Nowshera SEZs were created with a total of 2450 jobs. (Abbas and Ali, 2017) This is in stark contrast to the graduates produced by Pakistani universities each year. According to the HEC statistics of 2014 – 2015, annually approximately 228617 graduates were produced by Pakistani universities. (Higher Education Commission, 2016) Out of these, Pakistan has produced 20,000 IT and engineering graduates in the past three years. (The News, 2019) Pakistan has a manpower of about 200 million people, out of which 8.88 percent youth needs long term job opportunities. (Weijia, 2019) It is quite disturbing to know, CPEC is not generating jobs in hundreds even, for young graduates and jobs are only provided to engineering students. Despite FDI, CPEC is lacking in attracting foreign and local investment resulting in shortage of jobs. In 2010, 568 million jobs were generated in South Asia excluding Afghanistan and Bhutan. 800,000 new jobs were offered in a month. (Haq, 2015) Pakistan has a huge bulge of youth comprising 64 per cent and estimated 4.5 million new jobs are needed to utilize youth for the socio-economic growth of the country. (APP, 2018) In Nigeria (Amadi, 2012), Southwestern Ontario (Valaitis, 2005), United States (Wang, 2003), Africa (Kang'ethe, 2017) and Zimbabwe (Mukuhlani, 2014), more comprehensive measures have been taken to empower the youth and thereby reduce poverty, social imbalance and create sustainable peace and stability. They were empowered at community levels and contributed to the economy.

In Pakistan, by the combined efforts of the public and private sector, short-term and long-term job opportunities should be created. Government is taking measures to provide skills to the youth so they have more chances of employment in CPEC. It has initiated Kamyab Jawan Program, E-Rozgaar program, PSDF and Digi Skills programs to provide skill learning to the graduates as Pakistan is among the top 5 freelancing markets in the world. Freelancing has

greater potential for higher job opportunities and income. (Jahangir, 2020) Moreover, CPEC Authority has offered a three month internship with a monthly stipend to 100 graduates. (The News, 2020) It is a good initiative but in the second phase of CPEC, these vacancies are not sufficient to meet the needs of 64 percent of youth bulge.

The results suggest that CPEC is creating job opportunities for young graduates especially for engineering and IT graduates. Graduates have fewer opportunities in research centers, think-tanks, media channels, governmental and non-governmental organizations. No official projections are available to show how CPEC after its completion in 2030, will enhance the employment rate of young graduates. Jobs created in Gwadar, energy, infrastructural, agricultural and transportational projects should not only be for engineering students but also for the graduates of Business Administration, Social Sciences, Information Technology (IT), Health, Architecture, Agriculture and Environmental Studies. The ongoing CPEC projects: East-Bay Expressway, CPEC Support Unit (CSU), IT infrastructure (Urdupoint, 2020), Suki Kinari Hydropower Project (APP, 2020), MainLine-1 Railway Project (ML-1) (Rana, 2020) and SEZs should create thousands of job opportunities to get a win-win situation. Good leadership and involvement of the youth can result in better job opportunities. A serious long term planning for youth empowerment should be formulated or else there are chances of social turmoil on the lines of an Arab Spring in a decade or two. (Shaikh, 2018) 8.88 percent of Pakistani youth is unemployed. (Macrotrends) Youth development is a serious issue for Pakistan, which needs to be addressed as the top priority. CPEC needs to shift its focus towards creating more jobs for the young graduates and not just fill the coffers of the government and rich industrialists.

Conclusion

In this study that set out to make an argument based on the analysis of interview and survey findings, the study has shown:

- 1) CPEC is not a game changer, rather it is proving to be a game-over, in case of Pakistan.
- 2) CPEC is not contributing to the peace and economic stability of Pakistan because of decline in GDP.
- 3) CPEC is providing unclear job opportunities for the Pakistani young graduates.
- 4) Completed CPEC projects are not generating sufficient energy to meet the needs of 212.2 million of Pakistan.
- 5) CPEC is for the skilled youth.

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Appendices

Appendix A

Interview questions

- 1) How Pakistan would be benefited from CPEC? Particularly young graduates?
- 2) What are the specific goals of CPEC?
- 3) What is the criterion of hiring employees in CPEC projects?
- 4) What are the prospects of economic growth through CPEC?
- 5) Do you think CPEC is empowering youth? If so then how youth empowerment is contributing to the economic growth of the country?
- 6) Is there any private business started in Pakistan through CPEC?

Appendix B

Survey

China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) and youth employment.

This survey is based on Masters level research in Peace and Conflict Studies. These research questions are selected as a research instrument to analyze your general understanding of CPEC.

1) Gender

- Female
- Male

2) Age

- 18 – 24
- 25 – 34
- 35 – 44
- More than 44

3) Field

- Policy Management
- Science and Technology
- Business Administration
- Engineering
- Other

4) Work experience (years)

- 0 – 2

- 3 – 5
- 6 – 10
- 11 – 15
- More than 15 years

5) What do you prefer after graduation?

- Government job
- Private job
- Business
- Higher Studies

6) Do you have knowledge about CPEC?

- Extremely clear
- Very clear
- Somewhat clear
- Not so clear
- Not at all clear

7) Is Pakistan benefiting economically from CPEC?

- Strongly agree
- Agree
- Neutral
- Disagree
- Strongly disagree

8) Is CPEC empowering graduates?

- Strongly agree
- Agree
- Neutral
- Disagree
- Strongly disagree

9) Are graduates acquiring skill learning through CPEC?

- Strongly agree
- Agree
- Neutral
- Disagree
- Strongly disagree

10) Is CPEC stabilizing the socio-economic situation of the country?

- Strongly agree
- Agree
- Neutral
- Disagree
- Strongly disagree

11) Are Chinese graduates more employed in CPEC projects?

- Strongly agree
- Agree
- Neutral
- Disagree

- Strongly disagree

12) Is hiring of graduates in CPEC projects, merit based?

- Strongly agree
- Agree
- Neutral
- Disagree
- Strongly disagree

13) Is learning Chinese language is necessary to get a job in CPEC projects?

- Strongly agree
- Agree
- Neutral
- Disagree
- Strongly disagree

14) Is CPEC reducing unemployment in the country?

- Strongly agree
- Agree
- Neutral
- Disagree
- Strongly disagree

15) Are you working on/ have you worked in any CPEC project?

- No
- Yes

