



Graduate Institute of Development Studies
Lahore School of Economics
Lahore

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Preface

This paper explores the socio-economic implications of four economic corridors that are being developed across different parts of Pakistan. The study argues that economic corridors can generate important socio-economic benefits in terms of improved regional connectivity, agglomeration economies, integration of value chains, and improved access to social services. The corridors will be instrumental in enhancing productivity thus boosting the overall competitiveness of private businesses and enabling robust and sustainable growth. By drawing on detailed socio-economic profiles of the proposed corridors along with future projections, the paper demonstrates how public investment will improve the regional economies along the corridors through providing better economic opportunities to the local citizens. In addition, based on indices of revealed comparative advantage, the paper spells out the specific products that can benefit from improved logistics and access to international markets.

This paper makes a very important contribution to the existing literature on infrastructure development by establishing a quantitative link between human development indicators and the development of infrastructure. It provides concrete evidence of the feasibility, viability, and profitability of economic corridors in developing countries such as Pakistan.

Rashid Amjad

Director

Graduate Institute of Development Studies

Lahore School of Economics

The Graduate Institute of Development Studies (GIDS) was established in 2012 by the Lahore School of Economics to stimulate an interdisciplinary approach to development policy and practice that would promote equitable, sustainable development in a period of rapid globalization and technological change. It aims to address the pressing concerns that have arisen as the development process has unfolded in the developing world, including Pakistan.

The Institute aims to provide, through research and teaching, a comprehensive understanding of development as structural change, and the policy challenges it faces in the developing world in general and Pakistan in particular.

The programme at the Institute is designed to equip its students with the analytical skills necessary to engage with development-related activity and to work across the broad areas of sustainable development as policymakers, administrators, researchers, teachers, and activists.



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