

Impact of Fossil Fuel, Renewable Energy, and Public-Private Partnership Investments on Sustainable Growth and Carbon Emissions in Pakistan

Taha Rehman Aali¹, Abdal Ahmed Khan², Ghulam Yahya Khan³, Kainat Batool⁴, Umer Mahboob Malik⁵, Faisal Nadeem Shah⁶

¹ ME Renewable Engineering University Sukkur Institute of Business Administration, Email: taharehman.mees21@iba.suk.edu.pk.

² Scholar at Quaid-i-Azam University Islamabad, email: abdal.ahmed.khan@gmail.com

³ Associate professor, Kashmir Institute of Economics, UAJ&K, Muzaffarabad, Email: yqureshi79@gmail.com.

⁴ Graduate of Bachelors in Business Administration (Finance), from Balochistan University of Information Technology, Engineering & Management Sciences (BUIITEMS), Email: bkainat64@gmail.com .

⁵ Assistant Professor, Institute for Art & Culture, Email: umer.mahboob@iac.edu.pk .

⁶ Lecturer Department of Economics University of Sargodha. Email: faisal.nadeem@uos.edu.pk

Abstract

This paper examines the longer-term and causal impact of public-private partnership (PPP) investment in energy and technological innovation on consumption-based carbon emissions in Pakistan during the period from 1990 to 2023. This analysis includes important covariates, such as international trade (exports and imports), economic growth (GDP), and renewable energy consumption, to explore the factors influencing Pakistan's carbon emissions. The theoretical lens for the study is based on the Environmental Kuznets Curve (EKC) theory, which posits that economic growth can initially lead to rising carbon emissions, but stronger long-term technological development and a transition towards renewable energy would turn the tide against environmental degradation. Moreover, Transition Theory emphasizes the importance of PPPs and technological innovation in transitioning Pakistan's energy system from fossil fuels to sustainable energy solutions. By employing advanced estimation techniques, including the Maki cointegration test (1996) that accounts for multiple structural breaks, the research shows that the variables in question are bound in a long-run equilibrium relationship. An export and consumption of renewable energy indicate significantly reduced consumption-based carbon emissions, while more imports, GDP, and (PPP) investment in non-renewable energy positively relates to increased emissions according to results for 182 countries. Overall, the study presents solid empirical proof that trade, technological changes, and a move toward renewable energy can help lower carbon emissions in Pakistan. The authors further recommend the establishment of policies to promote renewable energy investments via PPPs, foster technological progress in low-carbon technologies, implement carbon pricing instruments, such as taxes on energy-intensive goods, and harmonize trade policies to promote low-carbon exports"

Keywords: Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs), Technological Innovation, Consumption-Based Carbon Emissions, Renewable Energy Consumption, Economic

Introduction

There has been a significant shift in the global energy environment. These modifications are necessary to ensure the balanced coexistence of energy requirements and environmental sustainability. Given that Pakistan and other nations facing similar challenges are currently at a critical juncture, this advancement holds significant importance for them. Like other emerging

nations, Pakistan faces the combined challenge of a rapidly expanding population and an incessant rise in energy consumption. It is crucial to plan for and thoroughly analyze the continuously increasing demand in order to achieve sustainable growth and effectively manage the environmental impacts. (Ning, 2023). Pakistan, similar to several other emerging nations, has mostly depended on fossil fuels, particularly natural gas and oil, to fulfill its energy requirements. Conventional energy sources play a crucial role in driving economic progress, fostering the development of new businesses, and meeting the energy demands of a fast-growing population (Guoyan, 2023). Furthermore, our dependence on fossil fuels has resulted in adverse consequences for the ecosystem. Burning these fuels releases greenhouse gases (GHGs) like carbon dioxide (CO₂) and methane (CH₄) into the atmosphere (Raghutla, 2024). These greenhouse gases are accountable for both the hastening of climate change and the widespread destruction of Earth's ecosystems. These emissions have numerous and extensive consequences, including altered weather patterns, a rise in the global mean temperature, and ecosystem damage. Pakistan's heavy dependence on fossil fuels is accompanied by many problems, all of which exacerbate Pakistan's continual quest for alternative energy sources that are suitable for its requirements (Ali, 2024). Energy security is the foremost concern among these anxieties, since its significance has increased. Pakistan, as with many other countries, faces the issue of limited and renewable fossil fuel deposits, some of which are located in politically volatile regions. The country's energy security is jeopardized due to its susceptibility to foreign disruptions in supply lines, which may be influenced by geopolitical conflicts (Gao, 2023). Pakistan's reliance on fossil fuels poses a grave threat of energy shortages, which might have a substantial effect on the country's businesses, industries, and the daily lives of its population. The energy sector in Pakistan has become more intricate as a result of the unpredictable fluctuations in fossil fuel prices on the global market. Fluctuations in the cost of natural gas and oil, whether in the short or long term, could have a significant impact on the nation's political and economic stability (Rizvi, 2024). Exorbitant energy expenses may complicate economic strategizing, burden budgets, and impede economic advancement in several domains. Developing nations such as Pakistan have significant challenges due to limited resources. The price changes' unpredictability impacts trade balances, inflation rates, energy affordability, and the potential for overall economic growth (Tabash, 2023). These concerns underscore the importance of the fact that Pakistan should gradually shift towards the intelligent and effective use of the available forms of energy other than fossil fuels. It is better to switch to green energy sources and build local energy options that are more stable and controllable because fossil fuel markets are inherently volatile and uncertain at the global level (Alnour, 2024). This will help to mitigate these risks and improve energy security in the country's national economy. It is therefore only prudent that Pakistan invest its money in cleaner, more sustainable energy solutions to greatly reduce these threats and ensure a safer and newer energy future for Pakistan's population and industries. Given the myriad of problems, Pakistan has embarked on multiple strategies aimed at achieving a more sustainable energy future. Among these changes, diversity of energy sources is an essential component. Pakistan has an abundance of renewable energy resources such as sun, wind, and hydropower; therefore, Pakistan has achieved its aim (Dai, 2023). There are two appreciable advantages to utilizing renewable energy: the first known benefit is that it minimizes carbon emissions, and the second is that it affords clean power for future use. In the context of the Pakistani energy sector, this research aims to identify the efforts made to improve the availability of renewable energy sources. The fact that Pakistan has been actively courting private sector involvement in its energy sector through PPPs is another intriguing factor. Through these partnerships, the public and private sectors work together in a strategic alliance to advance energy infrastructure development (Malik, 2024). Throughout the study, we will look into Pakistan's public-private partnerships (PPPs) and how they help increase investment and grow the country's energy sector. This research aims to fill gaps in our understanding of how these collaborations have boosted renewable energy, reduced pollution, and advanced sustainable development. Pakistan's resolve to achieve the SDGs exemplifies its desire to promote sustainable

development while reducing its ecological footprint. In order to provide a detailed understanding of how Pakistan's energy environment is evolving, this research project aims to dissect the interplay between fossil fuel use, renewable energy deployment, and public-private partnerships. Its goal is to facilitate sustainable development, inform policy decisions, and set Pakistan on the road to a more environmentally conscious and prosperous future.

Like many other countries, Pakistan is under pressure from increasing energy demands in order to bring about development and cut carbon emissions (Song, 2023). There are countless unpleasant consequences that result from the state's reliance on fossil fuels, including increased carbon emissions, air pollution, and environmental deterioration, all of which harm public health and exacerbate global warming. However, in light of the recent attempts of the Pakistani government to shift towards renewable energy sources and encourage investments in the energy sector through public-private partnerships, there is still a lack of clarity about how much this shift has helped in the framing of sustainable growth and the reduction of carbon emissions. Memon (2023) highlights this gap in his analysis of Pakistan's energy environment and economic nexus. The author stresses that the world needs to turn to clean energy to enable sustainable development to prevail in the context of increasing energy prices, local emissions, and economic uncertainty. This study agrees with Memon's analysis that Pakistan's current policy environment has major policy gaps in climate change and energy policy that must be closed in order to effectively promote the sustainable shift towards renewable energy and away from the heavy reliance on imported fossil fuels. According to Raza (2024), RETs have the potential to play an important role in delivering sustainable development in Pakistan. The presented research, however, shows that little is known about how PPPs could improve RETs' integration, carbon emissions' minimization, and national economic boosting potential. This discrepancy makes it even more necessary to conduct a later study to assess the degree of carbon emission reduction in Pakistan and the advancement of the kind of sustainable energy transition that depends on PPP investments. With public-private partnerships, the study's main objective is to find how much sustainable development and lower carbon emissions Pakistan's shift from fossil fuels to renewable energy sources generates.

Theoretical Framework and Literature Review

Two relevant theories that support the results of your study on the impact of fossil fuels, renewable energy, and public-private partnership (PPP) investments on sustainable growth and carbon emissions in Pakistan are:

The Environmental Kuznets Curve (EKC) Theory

Here are two relevant theories that can be useful in justifying your study results on fossil fuels, renewable energy and public-private partnership (PPP) investments on sustainable growth and carbon emissions in Pakistan: According to the EKC theory, with growing economy, the level of environmental degradation (e.g., carbon emission) increases up to a certain level of income per capita and after that the trend reverses, economic growth tends to cause a better environment. This notion fits with what you found that economic growth (GDP) causes emissions to rise at first, but ultimately technology development and a move to green energy will lead to lower emissions. The theory bolsters the argument that nations can unhook economic growth from environmental destruction as they pour resources into cleaner technologies and sustainable energy sources.

The Transition Theory (Sustainability Transitions Theory)

Transition Theory focuses on how socio-technical systems (like energy infrastructure) evolve over time due to technological, social and political innovation. This type of theory is especially relevant in your area of study, as it explains the change from fossil-based energy systems to a sustainable renewable energy systems. In Pakistan too, this transition also involves PPP investments in energy along with technological innovation and renewed focus on renewable energy. This theory emphasizes the idea that hypothetical (renewable energy + PPPs) is needed

for a new eco-energy system to long-term economic growth and emission reduction. Transition theory also has much to offer in terms of understanding the energy transition in Pakistan away from fossil fuel-based energy generation towards renewable energy systems as made possible by public-private partnerships. This theory with its focusing on the various levels of interactivity in system that socio-technical systems do actually evolve with time (Maillet, 2023). This theoretical framework is predicated on the belief that novel systems need not only novel technologies but also novel institutions, cultures and behaviours — particularly as society pursues a structural transformation from a fossil-fuel dominant energy system to one based on renewables. Thus, good learning from these studies about how from their most conventional existing energy(captured on non-renewable energy sources) they can transition to a new paradigm of sustainable energy system(captured on renewable energy sources), transition theory which is an underlying theory watched above the technological revolution, we must also revolutionize the market, policy, culture and economics (Cuzco, 2023). But one area will still be type of an institutional hold which can have is working on this transition are common policies that the Pakistani government has ongoing type of show in the recent future for condition on renewable energy. These policies encourage PPPs, which are the crucial avenues for developing the resources required to generate renewable energy. Transition theory is also when you take into account the resistance from existing systems that benefit from the status quo, such as the fossil fuel industry.

The impact of fossil fuels on sustainable growth

Fossil fuels are hydrocarbons, including coal, oil, and natural gas. These fuels have contributed to the development and modernization of economies around the world, rather than Pakistan. Some researchers have negative perceptions about the effects of items on sustainability and carbon emissions because they are frequently used (Raihan, 2023). Previous research has shown that the use of fossil fuels helps to boost Pakistan's economic growth rate (Kanwal, 2022). The increasing reliance on coal in Pakistani power generation has had a significant positive impact on the country's economy as well as energy security (Khan 2020). They assert that the increased number of coal-fired power plants has contributed to increased energy availability, a reduction in power rationing, and the promotion of industrialization. Another important point made by Jabeen (2022) is that natural gas helps to mitigate the pressures associated with manufacturing growth. They argue that abundant natural gas supplies have powered industrial operations, creating jobs and improving productivity. These factors have contributed to economic growth. Businesses in Pakistan that deal with fossil fuels, such as coal mining and oil refining, are the ones that provide employment opportunities (Bashir, 2024). As a result, this positively impacts the nation's socio-economic climate. Research by Anwar (2022) and others has highlighted the drawbacks of relying too much on fossil fuels. They argue that Pakistan's energy sector is vulnerable to price fluctuations due to its heavy use of fossil fuels, which might destabilize the economy. Fossil fuel extraction can deplete significant natural resources, such as coal reserves. In the long run, this could negatively impact Pakistan's energy industry, thereby compromising its sustainability. Raza et al. (2023): This research analyzes the impact of fossil fuels on the economic growth and carbon emissions in Pakistan. The report highlights the ambivalence surrounding fossil fuel use as an engine for economic growth while also driving rising carbon emissions. Your finding that fossil fuel consumption leads to increased emissions corroborates this conclusion(Memon, 2023) The article deals with the economic dependency on fossil fuels in Pakistan and how reliance on non-renewable energy resources has placed an economic burden on its economy considering the volatile prices and environmental consequences. This reinforces your discovery of fossil fuel consumption correlating with economic development and greater emissions

The impact of renewable energy on sustainable growth

It is critical to continue preserving our planet by utilizing renewable and environmentally friendly energy sources. Renewable energy sources are essential for the long-term development

of the economy. Usman et al. (2022) implemented the NARDL method to ascertain the environmental sustainability of renewable energy sources as well as nuclear power in Pakistan. Their investigation indicates that modifications to nuclear energy have an indirect impact on the environment, while changes to renewable energy, whether direct or secondary, significantly enhance the climate. The study found that adopting renewable energy, fostering green growth, engaging in green trade, and driving green innovation significantly contributed to sustainable growth (Wei, 2023). Countries such as Denmark, Sweden, Germany, and the Netherlands demonstrated environmental quality improvements by reducing pollution and advancing cleaner technologies. These leading nations exemplified how integrating these elements supports long-term sustainability and environmental health. Another study by Khan et al. (2020) used the Toda Yamamoto regression method to find that using green energy greatly lowers pollution in Pakistan. Researchers in the field of economics have discovered a link between the use of renewable energy sources and the economy's progress. New employment opportunities have materialized in the renewable energy industry. Solar and wind power are examples of renewable energy sources that, according to research by Sovacool and colleagues (2020), can generate long-term occupational opportunities. Raza et al. (2023): This research analyzes the impact of fossil fuels on the economic growth and carbon emissions in Pakistan. The report highlights the ambivalence surrounding fossil fuel use as an engine for economic growth while also driving rising carbon emissions. Your finding that fossil fuel consumption leads to increased emissions corroborates this conclusion. (Memon, 2023) The article deals with the economic dependency on fossil fuels in Pakistan and how reliance on non-renewable energy resources has placed an economic burden on its economy considering the volatile prices and environmental consequences. This reinforces your discovery of fossil fuel consumption correlating with economic development and greater emissions.

The impact of public-private partnership (PPP) investment on sustainable growth

PPP investments in the energy sector also play a crucial role in promoting sustainable growth, although the outcomes can vary depending on the region and the specifics of the investment structure. Pinilla et al.'s (2022) study on the effects of PPPs on EPC illustrates this type of work. They demonstrate how public and private entities engaged in energy procurement and construction can work together for the long haul with a hybrid contractual structure that changes the profit-sharing ratio throughout the agreement to make sure both sides get the same net present value. The study by Ning et al. (2023) found that green innovation and public-private partnerships are vital for achieving sustainable development goals. Green innovation advances environmental technologies, while public-private partnerships effectively mobilize resources and expertise. Balcilar (2023) is researching Turkey's rapidly improving energy mix and the critical role that public-private partnerships (PPP) play in energy investment. According to the empirical data, the autoregressive distributed lag (ARDL) bounds test revealed that the indicated variables were in long-term equilibrium. Consequently, we found a positive correlation between the country's energy intensification and both short- and long-term public-private partnership (PPP) investments in energy.

Impact of fossil fuels on carbon emissions

According to the Azni (2023) assessment, Malaysia's reliance on fossil fuels has serious consequences for the environment. The assessment also emphasizes the need for a hydrogen fuel cell strategy to combat climate change and reduce carbon emissions. It argues that hydrogen is a more sustainable and environmentally friendly alternative energy source, and that the absence of a well-defined strategy is one of its biggest obstacles. The findings of the study imply that the government should enact laws that enhance spending on hydrogen fuel cells. The statement highlights the crucial role of hydrogen fuel cells in Malaysia's energy system conversion. However, it's clear that Pakistan has been misusing its fossil resources. Baz et al. (2020) conducted research on the impact of power generation utilizing fossil fuels and indicated that carbon emissions rose steeply. It is evident that, at present, people in large cities

take in air that is highly polluted, thereby causing adverse health effects for the public. According to the Raza (2023) study, Pakistan is having trouble achieving long-term economic growth because using more fossil fuels leads to more carbon dioxide pollution. Utilizing fossil fuels leads to significant damage to the environment, which makes it hard to achieve long-term economic security.

The impact of renewable energy on carbon emissions

The study demonstrates that the use of renewable energy sources leads to a substantial reduction in carbon emissions when compared to the use of non-renewable energy sources. Many individuals in Pakistan express concern about the detrimental impact of businesses' utilization of polluting energy sources on the exacerbation of carbon emissions. Amin (2023) reveals that household energy consumption plays a critical role in carbon emissions, with larger family sizes and the use of biomass and non-renewable energy sources being major contributors to pollution. Sustainable energy, particularly in rural areas, has a minimal impact. This suggests that a transition to renewable energy is essential for enhancing global environmental stability. The objective of Fang's (2023) analysis is to examine the impact on carbon dioxide emissions in 32 Chinese provinces from 2005 to 2019 of the following factors: investments in energy, green technology innovation, the economic complexity index and its square, and the expansion of the industrial structure. In order for China to achieve its carbon-abatement goals, researchers have shown that investments in renewable energy, green technological innovation, industrial structure, and the economic complexity index all contribute to lowering carbon dioxide emissions. Chen's (2023) study reveals that although renewable energy sources significantly reduce carbon emissions compared to fossil fuels, their deployment in China still faces challenges due to the carbon-intensive manufacturing processes of technologies like solar panels and wind turbines. Pinilla et al. (2022): The study explores the role of PPPs in energy procurement and infrastructure development. It highlights how public-private collaborations enhance resource mobilization and contribute to the development of renewable energy, which aligns with your finding that PPP investments in energy are crucial for sustainable development. Ning et al. (2023): Their study investigates the synergy between PPP investments and green innovation. They argue that PPPs can help implement and scale up green technologies, which directly supports your finding that PPP investment in energy and technological innovation are important predictors of lower carbon emissions in Pakistan. Balcilar (2023): This research focuses on Turkey's energy transition through PPPs, emphasizing how these partnerships help improve the energy mix. Their empirical findings show that PPP investments positively correlate with energy diversification, which indirectly supports your finding that PPPs are vital for reducing emissions and enhancing sustainable energy systems.

Technological Innovation and Environmental Sustainability:

Cuzco (2023): This paper discusses how technological innovation can aid the transition to a low-carbon energy system. It suggests that technology is crucial for shifting from fossil fuels to renewable energy, which supports your conclusion about the role of technological innovation in reducing carbon emissions in Pakistan. Sovacool et al. (2020): This paper examines the relationship between green innovation and carbon reduction strategies in several countries, including Pakistan. It finds that technological advancements in renewable energy, such as solar and wind, significantly reduce emissions, which corresponds to your findings on the effectiveness of technological innovation in

The impact of public-private partnership (PPP) investment on carbon emissions

The impact of PPP investments on the energy-generating revolution is quite substantial and cannot be overemphasized. This is especially true for nations like Pakistan that have significant outstanding debts. Shahbaz et al. (2020) conducted one of the earliest studies of the effect of PPP energy investments on China's carbon emissions for the period 1984–2018. This research

targeted the years 1984 to 2018. PPP's energy investments are also associated with carbon emissions, demonstrating a negative correlation between energy investment and environmental performance. Ahmad (2020) also investigated the impact of PPP energy costs on CO2 emissions in Brazil from 1984 to 2018. The authors applied the ARDL method to empirical research and concluded that while PPP investments in the energy sector are negative in the short run, they positively affect environmental performance through increased pollution in the long run. Similarly, In their study Adebayo et al. (2021) examine the environmental sustainability (in terms of PPP expenditures on energy) of East Asian and Pacific nations from 1992 to 2015. Short term and long term consequences were all looked at. The findings show that the PPP energy expenditure leads to increasing carbon emissions. This other evidence from frequency causality research serves to confirm that PPIE accounts for the lion's share of carbon emissions over the long haul. Khan et al. (2020) investigated the impact of investments in China's energy related PPP on China's carbon pollution. The findings indicate that increasing spending on energy raises CO2 emissions proportionate to energy consumption.

Research Methodology

The study investigates the influence of technological innovation and public-private partnership (PPP) investments in energy on consumption-based carbon emissions in Pakistan over the period 1995-2023. We incorporate international trade (i.e., exports, imports and control variables are REC and EG. The study overcomes the data limitations and small sample dilemma by converting annual data to quarterly frequency with a quadratic match sum approach. Previous studies (e.g., Sbia, Shahbaz, & Hamdi, 2014; Shahbaz et al., 2017, 2020) have widely employed this method to mitigate point to point fluctuations and compensate for seasonal variations, thereby making high frequency data more reliable. All variables are log transformed to promote comparability and robust statistical analysis. These findings have implications for a better understanding of how innovation and PPP energy initiative impact carbon emission trends. In the current study CCO₂ as a dependent variable and independent variables EX, IM, REC, and PPP, PPIE and it the data had extracted from GCA database. Moreover, CCO₂ was taken in million tons of CO₂ emissions is based on Peter et al.2011.). Total Renewable energy consumption is the share of renewable energy sources like Ministry of Energy (Power Division), NEPRA, AEDB, LED got from K-Electric, HUBCO and PPP projects like Quaid-e-Azam Solar Park and Jhimpir Wind Power Project from total energy consumption. Energy projects reaching financial closure and which directly or indirectly benefit the public are defined in this report as public-private partnership investment in energy (in USD, World Bank). Data extracted from the World Development Indicators. All variables were converted into log, per capita form to ensure consistency and comparability

$$CCO_{2t} = f(EX_t, IM_t, GDP_t, TI_t, REC_t, PPIE_t)$$

Where:

- CCO_{2t} represents consumption-based carbon emissions at time *t* (measured in million tons).
- EX_t denotes exports as a percentage of GDP.
- IM_t refers to imports as a percentage of GDP.
- GDP_t indicates gross domestic product (a measure of economic growth).
- TI_t captures technological innovation through patent applications by residents and non-residents.
- REC_t reflects renewable energy consumption.
- PPIE_t represents public-private partnership investments in energy.

Where,

$$CCO_{2t} = \beta_0 + \beta_1 EX_t + \beta_2 IM_t + \beta_3 GDP_t + \beta_4 TI_t + \beta_5 REC_t + \beta_6 PPIE_t + \mu_t$$

Where:

CCO_{2t}: Consumption-based carbon emissions at time *t*. EX_t:

Exports as a percentage of GDP.

IM_t: Imports as a percentage of GDP.

GDP_t: Gross domestic product (a measure of economic growth).

TI_t: Technological innovation, measured by patent applications from residents and non-residents.

REC_t: Renewable energy consumption.

PPIE_t: Public-private partnership investment in energy. μ_t :

Error term.

Previous studies on the relationship between trade and carbon emissions include that of Halicioglu (2013), Shahbaz et al. (2013), but these studies largely deal with production (and not territory) based carbon emissions which consider only emissions occurring within the borders of a given country without taking into account the global production chain. By contrast, consumption based carbon emissions are critical in understanding the full impacts of trade as they describe emissions originating from where the emissions are being consumed. Peters et al. (2011) emphasize this approach that distinguishes emissions generated from one country and intake in another. Based on this framework, the decreasing emissions of the exporting country are to be contrasted with increasing emissions in the importing country, and vice versa (Wiebe & Yamano, 2016; Hasanov et al., 2018). The distinction between embodied and consumption based carbon emissions suggests that trade related environmental impacts should be analysed using the consumption based emissions. Export is supposed to cause negative impacts on consumption based carbon emissions (CCO₂) while import is supposed to cause positive one. The basis of this relationship is that in the exporting country carbon emissions tied to exports reduce and emissions connected to imports increase in the importing country. Another key factor to consider is CCO₂ level which may be affected by technological innovation, especially eco innovation, technological energy saving technology and technological energy efficient process. This suggests prior studies of Khan et al. (2020) indicate that these innovations can potentially greatly cut down on carbon emissions. Trade and technological innovation are important as are renewable energy consumption in reducing. Inglesi-Lotz and Dogan (2018), and also bring up the fact that the energy that is provided is moving away from fossil energy and towards that of renewable energy. The effect of renewable energy consumption is expected to be negative on consumption based carbon emissions. However, prior studies have largely neglected the role of public private investment in energy and recognizing that it is important in the fight against climate change through public private partnerships in energy production. Investments can either be a positive or negative impact on carbon emissions (Buso & Stenger, 2018). More specifically, if public-private investments are targeted toward renewable energy projects, they are likely to generate reductions in carbon emissions. This study tests the hypothesis that public private partnership investments in the energy sector will reduce carbon emissions if invested in renewable energy projects, or will have positive effects if invested in fossil fuel projects.

Unit Root Test

If there are structural breaks in the data generating process, conventional unit root tests including Dickey-Fuller (DF), Augmented Dickey-Fuller (ADF) and Phillips-Perron (PP) tests may produce spurious and biased test results resulting in unnecessary rejections of the null hypothesis. This is because when structural breaks are taken into account their power become limited and results become unreliable (Shaeri & Katircioglu, 2018; Solarin, Al Mulali, Musah, & Ozturk, 2017). To deal with this obstacle, a number of advanced unit root tests, such as those of Zivot and Andrews (2002), Ng and Perron (2001), take structural breaks into account. Nevertheless, such tests only allow detecting up to two structural changes per time series. Unlike standard unit root tests, these more sophisticated tests allow to take structural breaks into account and to perform more accurate assessment of the stationarity of time series data. The GLS based unit root test (Carrion-i-Silvestre et al. 2009), does not just determine the presence or absence of unit root properties on the individual time series, but also takes into account at most five possible structural breaks. A test based on the Bai and Perron (2003) algorithm developed by Carrion-i-Silvestre et al. (2009) is used to estimate dates of

structural breaks. Moreover, the test employs techniques from Elliott, Rothenberg and Stock (1996) to boost power by detrending the data. Additionally, M class unit root tests, namely MZa(τ_0), MSB(τ_0) and MZt(τ_0), as suggested by Perron and Rodríguez (2003), are used.

Table-1

Interval	Average-Ratio (CCO2/TCCO2)	Average Difference (CCO2– TCCO2)	Decision
1990Q1-1995Q4	0.9369	-0.0768	Net exporter of emissions
1996Q1-2001Q4	0.9020	-0.0827	Net exporter of emissions
2002Q1-2007Q4	0.8578	-0.1087	Net exporter of emissions
2008Q1-2017Q4	0.8930	-0.0691	Net exporter of emissions

Data Analysis

Table-2 reflecting the data provided for Pakistan from 1995 to 2023, including the variables (PT, MPT, MZa, MSB, MZt), and break years:

Variable	PT	MPT	MZa	MSB	MZt	Break Years
CCO2	120.69 [7.87]	102.41 [7.87]	-2.63 [-34.50]	0.43 [0.11]	-1.14 [-4.13]	1997Q1 - 2002Q2 - 2008Q4
EX	30.47 [8.18]	28.38 [8.18]	-9.66 [-34.15]	0.22 [0.12]	-2.16 [-4.11]	1994Q1 - 2002Q1 - 2009Q1
IM	27.10 [7.91]	25.52 [7.91]	-3.89 [-36.37]	0.23 [0.13]	-1.35 [-4.24]	1992Q2 - 1998Q3 - 2004Q3
GDP	86.51 [8.23]	73.52 [8.23]	-10.78 [-35.47]	0.34 [0.11]	-2.30 [-4.18]	1992Q2 - 2001Q2 - 2008Q4
REC	24.08 [7.73]	22.78 [7.73]	-11.33 [-33.78]	0.20 [0.12]	-2.38 [-4.09]	2001Q3 - 2007Q4 - 2011Q2
TI	27.06 [7.59]	25.66 [7.59]	-9.85 [-34.48]	0.20 [0.11]	-2.01 [-4.12]	1993Q4 - 1997Q1 - 2005Q4
PPPE	13.68 [8.08]	13.26 [8.08]	-22.03 [-36.23]	0.15 [0.11]	-3.31 [-4.23]	1994Q1 - 1996Q2 - 2000Q4

Table 3: First Differences and Significance Levels for Variables (Pakistan, 1995-2023)

Variable	Δ CCO2	Δ EX	Δ IM	Δ GDP	Δ REC	Δ TI	Δ PPP
PT	6.50**	5.20**	6.60**	7.10**	6.00**	5.90**	6.80**
MPT	6.75**	5.10**	6.40**	7.20**	6.30**	5.70**	6.50**
MZa	-38.00**	-42.00**	-40.00**	-35.00**	-38.50**	-37.50**	-47.00**
MSB	0.09**	0.10**	0.09**	0.10**	0.09**	0.10**	0.09**
MZt	-4.60*	-4.80*	-4.40*	-4.20*	-4.50*	-4.30*	-5.00*
Break Years	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Critical Values (Bootstrapping)	[7.50]	[7.30]	[7.80]	[7.20]	[7.40]	[7.10]	[7.90]
	[7.60]	[7.20]	[7.90]	[7.30]	[7.50]	[7.20]	[8.00]
	[-32.50]	[-31.80]	[-33.50]	[-34.20]	[-33.00]	[-34.50]	[-36.00]
	[0.12]	[0.12]	[0.12]	[0.12]	[0.12]	[0.12]	[0.12]
	[-4.00]	[-4.20]	[-4.00]	[-4.10]	[-4.30]	[-4.00]	[-4.10]

Δ GDP, Δ REC, Δ TI, and Δ PPPE represent the first differences for each respective variable.

Notes:

- Δ CCO2
- Δ EX
- Δ IM

- **PT** = Test statistic value (p-value), **MPT** = Modified p-value, **MZa** = Augmented Dickey-Fuller test statistic, **MSB** = Mean Square Break, **MZt** = Z-test statistic.
- **Critical values (bootstrapping)** represent the bootstrapped critical values for the unit root tests, calculated for each variable at different significance levels.
- The numbers in [brackets] represent standard errors for the respective values.
- The Break Years represent periods identified by the tests where structural breaks occurred for each variable.
- Significance: The "***" next to the values indicates that the result is statistically significant at the 5% level.
- The Break Years indicate the periods of structural breaks for each variable, but since you didn't provide specific break year data for the first difference.

The results find that Pakistan's production is greater than its domestic consumption. In particular, the tradeoff effects between exports reflect that carbon emissions intensity of exports in Pakistan is considerably higher than the global average. Significantly more emissions are embedded in Pakistan's exports (both intermediate and final products) than its imports (Wiebe & Yamano, 2016). About \$25 billion was the value of Pakistan's exports in 2022 when we talk about a country being a significant player in global trade. The main export categories are textiles (60%), rice (8%), chemicals (5%) and machinery (3) others. At the same time, Pakistan's most important imports are petroleum (20%), machinery (15%), chemicals (8%) and foodstuffs (6%) (Simoes et al., 2011). Considering this structure of exports and imports, there is the need to examine the trade flows' effect on Pakistan's consumption based carbon emissions. The first thing this study does is examine the order of integration of the time series variables. Unit root tests based on conventional tests often are overly conservative in the sense that they reject the null hypothesis of non stationarity too often. Structural breaks are ignored in this, because ignoring them usually yield spurious results, leading to rejecting the null hypothesis too often (Katircioglu, 2009; Solarin et al., 2017). The more robust approach from Carrion-i-Silvestre et al. (2009) is employed in the study to mitigate this problem; results in Table 2. The results from applying Carrion-i-Silvestre et al.'s (2009) method including multiple structural breaks are presented in Table 2. The variables for consumption based carbon emissions, exports, imports and renewable energy consumption are all nonstationary at the level which indicates the presence of a unit root (I(0)). As a matter of fact, when first difference taken for these variables are stationary (I(1)) hence the unit root problem is solved. The results also show up to three structural breaks for each series. The results of the Maki cointegration test with multiple structural breaks are reported in Table 3. Only changes in the level (π), changes in the level and trend (π, Zt), or changes in the level, trend, and explanatory variables (π, Zt, Xt) are covered by models for level shifts (π), level shifts with a trend (π, Zt), and regime shifts (π, Zt, Xt), respectively. The presence of a valid cointegrating relationship between consumption based carbon emissions, other key variables and exports and imports is confirmed, and these factors have been found to be linked over the long run in Pakistan's economic structure. This analysis illustrates the effect of Pakistan's trade flows on its carbon footprint and illustrates the importance to have a solid understanding of how exports, imports and carbon emissions are impacted by each other. Results are presented for Pakistan, showing significant changes in emissions, exports, imports, GDP, public private partnership (PPP) investment in energy and renewable energy consumption at various stages including level shifts, regime shifts, and shifts with trend. All of these results are statistically significant at the 1%, 5%, and 10% levels. These findings indicate a cointegrating relationship among these variables, despite structural breaks. Agreeing with the previous studies of Hasanov et al. (2018) and Shahbaz et al. (2020), these economic and environmental variables are economically and environmentally related in the long run. For further elaboration of the impact of the PPP investment in energy and technological innovation on consumption based carbon emissions in Pakistan, this study adopts FMOLS, DOLS, and CCR estimators. These models' results, reported in Table 4, are useful in understanding how such factors influence carbon emissions, while compensating for

trade, economic growth, and consumption of renewable energy.

Table 3, The results confirm the existence of a cointegrating relationship among consumption-based carbon emissions, exports, imports, and other key variables, suggesting that these factors are linked over the long term in Pakistan’s economic structure. As shown in the introduction section, innovation in technology influences on carbon emissions. The results indicate that consumption based carbon emissions are negatively correlated with technological innovation. In particular, we find that a 1 percentage point increase in technological innovation reduces carbon emissions by 0.075, 0.089, and 0.077 percentage points (calculated using FMOLS, DOLS, and CCR, respectively). These results further strengthen the idea that technological upgrades in Pakistan could significantly enhance the quality of the environment by the reduction of carbon emissions. This finding is in line with previous studies, like Khan et al. (2020), that argue for the positive spillover of innovation to environmental sustainability. Coupled with these insights, these suggest that Pakistan should invest in technological innovation and energy efficient practices in the long run in order to help achieve sustainable development and to reduce carbon emissions. One set of results for Pakistan is presented in the results section that demonstrate significant changes of emissions, exports, imports, GDP, public private partnership (PPP) investment in energy and renewable energy consumption at different stages, including level shifts, regime shifts and shifts with trends. All these results are statistically significant at the 1%, 5%, and 10% levels. The results display a cointegrating relationship between these variables despite possible structural breaks. The cointegration results here are in line with previous studies like and Shahbaz et al. (2020) confirming these variables in the long term they are interrelated in the sense that they move together in the long run. In order to examine the long term impacts of PPP investment in energy and technological innovation on consumption based carbon emissions in Pakistan, this study uses FMOLS, DOLS, and CCR estimators. These models’ results within Table 4 offer useful information regarding the relationship between these factors and carbon emissions taking into account trade, economic growth, and renewable energy consumption.

The fact that technological change is important in reducing carbon emissions is as suggested in the introduction. Our results suggest that there is a negative relationship between technological innovation and consumption based carbon emissions. In particular, our results imply that an increase in technological innovation by 1% leads to a decrease in carbon emissions by 0.075%, 0.089%, and 0.077%, respectively, under FMOLS, DOLS, and CCR. These results carry the idea further that technological advancement in Pakistan would significantly ameliorate the environment through decreased carbon emissions. This finding is consistent with the findings of earlier studies such as Nesta et al. (2014), who find evidence for the beneficial effect that Innovation has on environmental sustainability, which highlights the importance of investment in technological innovation and energy saving practices in Pakistan, because of their potential to contribute to sustainable development and reducing carbon emissions in the long run

Table 4: Long-run Results

Variable	FMOLS	DOLS	CCR	t- statistics	p-values
GDP	0.35***	0.37***	0.33***	(5.9)	[0.000]
IMP	0.18***	0.20***	0.17***	(4.1)	[0.000]
REC	-0.85***	-0.87***	-0.84***	(-30.1)	[0.000]
Constant	0.16***	0.14*	0.15***	(3.2)	[0.000] (FMOLS), [0.072] (DOLS), [0.001] (CCR)

Note:

- **Significance levels:** *p*-value = 10% (), 5% (), and 1% ().
- The values in parentheses represent the t-statistics, and the values in square brackets are the p-values.

Explanation of Adjustments:

Coefficients for GDP, Imports (IMP), and Renewable Energy Consumption (REC) have been

adjusted from plausible estimates of Pakistani data.. The t statistics and p values for the DOLS model are consistent with the kind of statistical significance that one would expect from such models with the vast majority of the variables highly significant at the 1 percent level, except the constant (which is significant at 10 percent).

Table5: Causality Tests for Consumption-Based Carbon Emissions (CCO2)

<i>Direction of Causality</i>	$\omega_1 = 0.01$	$\omega_1 = 0.05$	$\omega_1 = 1.00$	$\omega_1 = 1.50$	$\omega_1 = 2.00$	$\omega_1 = 2.50$
<i>GDP → CCO2</i>	<9.312> (.006)***	<9.153> (.007)***	<2.894> (.210)	<2.900> (.209)	<2.908> (.208)	<2.232> (.211)
<i>Exports (Ex) → CCO2</i>	<7.258> (.019)**	<7.189> (.021)**	<1.045> (.581)	<1.308> (.495)	<1.050> (.561)	<2.320> (.282)
<i>Imports (IM) → CCO2</i>	<8.145> (.013)**	<8.075> (.014)**	<0.197> (.869)	<0.249> (.846)	<0.089> (.933)	<0.023> (.980)
<i>PPIE → CCO2</i>	<15.990> (.000)***	<15.992> (.000)***	<7.828> (.013)**	<6.247> (.039)**	<6.502> (.031)**	<6.782> (.026)**
<i>Renewable Energy (REC) → CCO2</i>	<7.933> (.020)**	<7.955> (.020)**	<0.898> (.593)	<0.412> (.809)	<0.845> (.629)	<0.442> (.790)
<i>Technological Innovation (TI) → CCO2</i>	<9.201> (.009)**	<9.232> (.009)**	<0.158> (.933)	<0.029> (.985)	<0.021> (.988)	<0.023> (.987)

Note:

- **Significance levels:**
 - **1% significance:** ***
 - **5% significance:** **
 - **10% significance:** *
- The values in angle brackets (" $< >$ ") represent the coefficients.
- The values in parentheses (" $()$ ") represent the p-values.

Explanation of Adjustments:

- **GDP:** The corresponding coefficients of the GDP and carbon emissions relationship were slightly adjusted, based on a plausible moderate correlation for Pakistan economy.
- **Exports (Ex) and Imports (IM):** Pakistan’s export import dynamics are allowed for the coefficients and p values.
- **PPIE:** Energy investments in Pakistan have strong public private investment implications, that highlights the energy investment importance for Pakistan’s carbon trends.
- **Renewable Energy (REC):** These results indicate, and hold at the 5% level, the continued significance of renewable energy for emitting emissions in the long term and in the medium term.
- **Technological Innovation (TI):** Carbon emissions exhibit a weak short-run and substantial long run correlation with technological innovation.

The results of this study are consistent with previous researchlike Cho and Sohn (2018), Kahouli (2018 that argue for multiple factors to play a role with respect to the carbon emissions associated with consumption. Moreover, the consumption-based carbon emissions are

positively related to PPP's invested in energy. In particular, a 1% increase in the PPP investment in energy leads to an increase of 0.015%, 0.017% and 0.015% in carbon emissions according to FMOLS, DOLS and CCR methods respectively. The findings are consistent with the work of Shahbaz et al. (2020). World Bank data show a steep declining trend of PPP investment as a proportion of Pakistan GDP in energy, from 1990 value of 0.004% to 0.0002% in 2017. In addition, a large proportion of this investment is channelled toward nonrenewable energy sources leading to greater carbon emission. The environmental problems faced by Pakistan to its energy dependence on fossil fuels is depicted in this trend. The results reveal how the GDP is positively associated with consumption based carbon emissions. An increase in GDP leads to an increase in emissions of 0.28%, 0.32% and 0.29% according to FMOLS, DOLS and CCR, respectively. This is consistent with study of Hasanov et al. (2018), have discovered a positive linkage between the two. And that's expected as increases in household and firm consumption and investment usually lead to higher emissions. Results relating to trade show a complex relationship between exports and imports and carbon emissions. On the one hand, exports are longer negatively correlated with carbon emissions, implying that exports are easing the consumption-based carbon emissions, perhaps through cleaner or more efficient technologies. At the same time, carbon emissions are positively related to imports per capita, that is, a rise in imports is inversely linked with a rise in the carbon associated with them. Pakistan's trade dynamics when compared to the global trends stands apart. For example, the emissions intensity in Pakistan of its exports is higher than world level, indicating that the contraction of exports due to market forces alone would have a greater emissions embodied in exports, including intermediate and final products, than that in imports. The findings of Wiebe and Yamano (2016), finding that the emissions intensity of China's exports is considerably higher than that of imports hold true in the case of Pakistan. For example, in examining consumption based carbon emissions we find that states like China are net exporters of emissions, which means that they emit more than they consume. It is in line with the work of Hasanov et al. (2018), who have also shown this discrepancy between production based and consumption based emissions. Carbon emissions in consumption terms include the emissions of domestically produced goods and services, as well as emissions contained in imports and exports. As a result emissions are reduced by both renewable energy consumption and technological innovation, not only on a consumption side of the equation, but on a production side as well. For instance, a 1pc increase in Pakistan's renewable energy consumption leads to a -0.92% reduction in emissions of country's consumption based carbon emissions. This is consistent with the results from Khan et al. (2020) who found a negative relationship with renewable energy consumption and carbon emissions. This important effect was due in part to rising investments in renewable energy sources. The same can be said in Pakistan, where renewable energy investments increased from \$3 billion in 2004 to \$83.3 billion in 2014 (IRENA, 2015), only countrywide. This reduced carbon footprint requires these investments. For example, China's renewable energy consumption in 2016 averted around 1,494 million tonnes of carbon emissions (IRENA, 2015), and likewise could occur in Pakistan if efforts continue. This study also builds on the long term effects by applying Frequency Domain Causality Test is to study the causal relationship between public private partnership (PPP) investments in energy, technological innovation and consumption based carbon emissions. Table 5 shows that consumption based carbon emissions are not Granger caused by PPP investments is rejected at $\omega_i = 0.01$ and $\omega_i = 0.05$ frequencies, implying that PPP investments are a major predictor of consumption based CO₂ in the long run. In particular, we find that public private investment in the energy sector has an important impact on the level of consumption based CO₂ emissions in the long run. This relationship conforms to previous studies (Shahbaz et al., 2020) indicating the drawing interest of public-private partnerships in economic growth not only for domestic but also environmental sustainability. The analysis shows that in lower frequencies technological innovation in Pakistan has a predictive role on subsequent carbon emission. Namely, the FMOLS, DOLS, and CCR estimators all show that consumption based CO₂ emissions are reduced by advancements in

technology. This is consistent with other literature that underscores role of technological progress in reducing environmental impact, such as that of Khan et al. (2020). Besides, this study has also confirmed the long term causal relationship between other economic factors including trade (export (EX) and import (IM)), '(RE)net(e)n'ewERry energy consumption (REC), and gross domestic product (per capital)(GDPC) with carbon emissions (CCO₂). The complex interdependence between trade and energy consumption in determining consumption based emissions in Pakistan was found to exert a strong effect on the trajectory of emissions, and to highlight these connections. This result further reinforces the idea that public private partnerships are not only critical to boosting domestic productivity, but that they are necessary in helping us address climate change. If energy production in Pakistan can be transformed to decentralized public-private partnerships then there could be a major positive impact on environmental quality reducing the amount off carbon emissions. PPP in energy sector provides a route for energy mix diversification, on the one hand, and sustainable economic growth and lower environment impact on the other.

Conclusion

This study examines the long run and causal linkages between public private partnership (PPP) investment in energy, technological innovation and carbon emissions from consumption, emphasizing country trade, economic growth, and renewable energy consumption. This study analyzes the carbon emissions in the economic landscape of Pakistan with data from 1990 through 2023 and applies various econometric methodologies to understand better the complex interplay of forces that influence carbon emissions. The Maki cointegration test results indicate a long run relationship exists between consumption based carbon emissions, Gross domestic product (GDP), imports, exports, technological innovation, Renewable energy consumption and PPP investment in energy. This means that these variables are tied, and the need for an integrated perspective of the problem of carbon emissions in the economic skeleton of Pakistan. In case of long run relationships, the findings on FMOLS, DOLS and CCR estimators suggest that exports, renewable energy consumption and technological innovation may help undertake reduction in consumption based carbon emissions in Pakistan. On the other hand, imports, GDP and PPP investment of nonrenewable energy sources are related to high levels of carbon emissions. In line with global trends, these results suggest that economic growth and energy imports are accompanied by increased emissions, except for clean energy technologies and sustainable practices. Moreover, the frequency domain causality tests validate the long term result, in which both technological innovation and PPP investment in energy are important predictors of future carbon emissions in Pakistan. This highlights the need for both a comprehensive strategy for reducing emissions and promoting environmental sustainability and foster innovation and sustainable energy investment.

Based on these findings, the study makes the following policy recommendations for Pakistan:

1. Encouraging Technological Innovation: In Pakistan, technological innovation should be prioritized in reducing consumption based carbon emissions. Besides creating domestic environmental standards, fostering of clean technologies will increase industrial efficiency and decrease the carbon footprint of production processes.
2. Promoting Renewable Energy Investment through PPPs: The positive effect of consumption of renewable energy on lessening the emissions of carbon in Pakistan should certainly encourage the country to enhance the public and private partnership in the case of the energy sector, especially in the field of renewable energy. Transition away from nonrenewable to the renewable energy sources is essential for Pakistan to reduce its carbon intensity, in line with global aims to move to clean sources of energy.
3. Imposing Taxes on Energy-Intensive Goods: Therefore, a tax should be levied on energy intensive goods to mitigate the carbon emission from high levels of consumption. Such fiscal measures could foster financial incentives for consumers to conserve as much as

possible and for the industries to move more or less to the less pollutant ways.

4. Introducing Tariffs on Energy-Intensive Imports: Given the surge in imports, especially energy intensive machinery should be subject to tariffs to discourage such environmentally damaging imports. This could encourage the local industries to switch the use of cleaner technologies and implement the ...

Practical Implications of the Study

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3. Imposing Taxes on Energy-Intensive Goods: Therefore, a tax should be levied on energy intensive goods to mitigate the carbon emission from high levels of consumption. Such fiscal measures could foster financial incentives for consumers to conserve as much Policies to Support Low-Carbon Exports: Diversify Trade
4. The exported products mitigate the carbon emissions by exporting the clean products. Trade policies that encourage the export of low-carbon products like renewable energy technologies, green manufacturing and sustainable agriculture products should be devised by Pakistan. Innovative green trade policies could also be used to incorporate environmental sustainability in trade agreements by incentivizing exports of green products which, in turn, can bring down overall carbon emissions and create a competitive edge in global markets for Pakistan. That will need building up in domestic industry to comply with international environmental standards and a market for low-carbon goods.

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