



**UNIVERSITY OF NAIROBI**  
**DEPARTMENT OF DIPLOMACY AND INTERNATIONAL STUDIES**

**ASSESSMENT OF THE EFFECT OF INTERNATIONAL  
PARTNERSHIPS ON INFRASTRUCTURAL DEVELOPMENT  
A CASE STUDY OF KENYA/CHINA RELATIONS**

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I dedicate this study to my late dad, who believed and always encouraged me to strive to greater heights academically, my mum for her financial, emotional and moral support, and to my 2 daughters, for their understanding, love and support. This study could not have been a success without the support of my entire family.

**DECLARATION**

I, Fridah Nyamu hereby declare that this research is my original work and has not been presented for a degree in any other University.

  
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SIGNATURE

16/11/2023  
DATE

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This project has been submitted for examination with my approval as University Supervisor;

  
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## ABSTRACT

Development is inevitable in the world today, and countries are striving to achieve their various developmental goals in order to provide and ensure better livelihoods for their people. This study aims to explore the impact and how effective international partnerships have contributed to the growth of developing countries with much emphasis laid on Kenya, and how its international partnership with China has impacted Kenya as a country and its people. Since Kenya/China partnerships started being signed by the former late President Mwai Kibaki between the two governments, Kenya has experienced notable developmental advancement especially on the infrastructural front. The Chinese have mainly carried out various infrastructural projects in different sectors that include energy, transport and real estate as relations between Kenya and China soar. Among the noticeable projects that have been so far developed by the Chinese include the Thika Superhighway that connects downtown Nairobi and Thika town in the city's northeast, so far the most acclaimed project, the \$26million University of Nairobi Towers which has transformed operations at Kenya's biggest university and changed the city's skyline and the \$14.1-billion Standard Gauge Railway that runs from Mombasa, at the Kenyan coast, through Nairobi, and is expected to extend to Malaba on the Kenya-Uganda border, ultimately improving movement of goods and people across the East Africa region. This study is key to establish how effective this partnership between Kenya and China has benefited or affected the Kenyan people and their livelihood. The study will assess how effective Foreign Direct Investments (FDI) have been to Kenya and how they have helped in growing Kenya's economy without leaving out the challenges that have been experienced out of the partnership. Various theories were referred to in this study and the scope targeted experts in international relations matters, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, construction industry and the general public. The study used a descriptive research design and was based on primary data that was collected through interviews and questionnaires that were later analyzed. The data was presented also in frequency of tables. This study has been able to establish that a significant majority of the public possess awareness on the initiatives that the Kenyan government has undertaken and which have been executed through the funding of the Chinese government. A substantial number of the public agrees that the influence of China in Kenya has manifested positively on Kenya's economic expansion more so through employment. In conclusion, the research findings offer valuable insights into the awareness, perceptions, and challenges surrounding various aspects of the Kenya-China relationship. These conclusions provide a foundation for informed policy decisions, strategic planning, and further research to address the identified gaps and opportunities.

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## **ABBREVIATIONS**

ADF - Augmented Dickey–Fuller  
BRI - Belt and Road Initiative  
CFK – Consumer Federation of Kenya  
ECM – Electronic Content Management  
FDI - Foreign Direct Investment  
FOCAC – Forum On China Africa Cooperation  
GDP – Gross Domestic Product  
JKUAT – Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology  
KNBS – Kenya National Bureau of Statistics  
KOT – Kipevu Oil Terminal  
MFA – Ministry of Foreign Affairs  
NCA – National Construction Authority  
PPP – Public Private Partnership  
R&D – Research and Development  
SAP – Structural Adjustment Programmes  
SGR - Standard Gauge Railway  
TD – Technical Diversity  
TNC – Transnational Corporation  
UoN – University of Nairobi  
UNCTAD – United Nations Conference on Trade and Development  
USIU – United States International University



## CHAPTER ONE

Assessment of the effectiveness of international partnerships on infrastructural development:  
A case study of Kenya/ China relations.

### 1.0 INTRODUCTION

Development is a key agenda in many developing countries and in order to achieve it, it is imperative for countries to forge partnerships that will help in driving and achieving this agenda. China has become one of Africa's major economic and developmental influences as its prime trading partner and creditor. Over a million Chinese have migrated to Africa over the last decade loyal to expansion and growth.<sup>1</sup> This bilateral relations between Kenya and China date back to 14<sup>th</sup> December 1963, two days after the formal establishment of Kenyan independence, when China became the fourth country to open an embassy in Nairobi.<sup>2</sup> Over the years, Kenya and China have maintained the cordial relations which continue to grow and continue to benefit the two countries. The impact of this partnership has been felt far and wide and this study aims to assess how this international partnership has benefitted Kenya in terms of infrastructural growth. China's fast-growing presence can be felt all over the world as well as the noticeable economic impact and the surprising opportunities it is bringing to enhance technology, employment, and infrastructure.<sup>3</sup> Africa is a continent that is considered to have so much potential and major developed economies are scrambling for a piece of the continent in order to advance their interests, hence the influence of China to most of the continent's countries has been met with so much criticism.

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1. Pere, G., China in Africa: mercantilist predator, or partner in development? Institute for Global Dialogue Midrand, South Africa, (2006).
  2. "Kenya, China Mark 40-year Diplomatic Ties". Xinhua News Agency. 2003-12-11. Retrieved 2007-11-06.
  3. Power, M., & Mohan, G. New African Choices? The Politics of Chinese Engagement (Review of African Political Economy Journal, March 2008, Vol. 35, 115. P. 23-42)

However, this criticism has not hindered anything as countries like Kenya has continued to pursue partnerships with China, which has led to so much development in terms of infrastructure, through the construction of the railway, roads and as well as major buildings within the city of Nairobi. The road and railway networks that have been undertaken by China within the country have helped its people tremendously.

## **1.1 BACKGROUND OF THE STUDY**

Foreign investments are valued by developing countries for the bundle vast assets that Multinational Enterprises (MNEs) deploy with their investments. Most of these assets are intangible in nature and are particularly scarce in developing countries which mostly include technology. In assessing the impact of international partnerships that are aimed at bringing development, we look at whether these partnerships crowd in domestic investments or whether they have the opposite effect of displacing domestic producers or pre-empting their investment opportunities.<sup>4</sup> On the other hand, developing countries especially those in the African continent are known to have so much potential and resources that have not yet been fully tapped and explored, and in order to take advantage of these resources, well-known and emerging powers for instance the US, UK, Brazil, China, India, and France continue vying for power in the continent. China is on the lead in building relations with African countries. Over the last few years, the of Chinese has increased markedly in the continent. The nation has come up as Africa's largest trading partner.<sup>5</sup> The degree to which China is involved in Africa, and more specifically in Kenya, is rapidly growing. As part of the continuance of Kenya's "Look East" policy, the government of Kenya has to design tactics that will ensure relationships with China that are beneficial to both sides of the relationship.

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4. Agosin, M. R. and Mayer, R. Foreign Investment in Developing Countries: Does it Crowd in Domestic Investment? (2000). No. 146, Pg1.

5 Power, M., & Mohan, G., (. New African Choices? The Politics of Chinese Engagement (Review of African Political Economy Journal, March 2008, Vol. 35, 115. P. 23-42)

These contacts should be mutually beneficial. There is no doubt that the countries of Africa will face significant difficulties as a result of these partnerships; yet, it is also certain that they will bring with them a number of advantageous benefits. In the past ten years, there has been a discernible increase in the quantity of building work carried out by Chinese companies in African countries.

This growth may be ascribed to China's "going out" national strategy, as well as the coordination and help offered by the Chinese government, business groups, and banks.

Additionally, this rise can be linked to China's "going out" national strategy.<sup>6</sup> The importance of the People's Republic of China and Kenya's economic and commercial ties is the focus of this research, which investigates the connection between the two countries. At this moment, the major focus of interest is on the outcomes of this partnership in terms of the construction of various types of physical infrastructure. It is necessary for the government of Kenya to be conscious of the need to guarantee that it continues to open its door to China, in particular to assist it with the implementation of its plan for the development of its infrastructure. This will ensure that Kenyan and indigenous firms do not benefit at the expense of Chinese firms and that the socio-economic relationship between China and Kenya is seen as a win-win outcome with equitable bilateral trade and a positive societal perception. It will also ensure that Chinese firms do not benefit at the expense of Kenyan firms. In addition, this would guarantee that the socio-economic link between China and Kenya is perceived as a positive consequence for both countries. The purpose of this research is to analyze the outcomes of greater collaboration between China and Kenya in the field of infrastructure development and to offer a report on the findings of that investigation. The study will be able to establish to the extent which this collaboration has had an effect on Kenya as a country.

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6. Xue Gong, *The Belt and Road Initiative is still China's "Gala" but without as much Luster*. Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, (2023).

In addition, the research will identify infrastructure development projects in which China is actively participating and will analyze the advantages and downsides connected with China's contribution to the successful completion of these projects. Specifically, the research will focus on the following: This study will examine the existing facts and data to determine the causes and consequences of China's economic involvement in Kenya, including the social, economic, and political effects of this involvement. This study will examine the facts and data to determine the causes and consequences of China's economic involvement in Kenya.

When it comes to being able to provide for its inhabitants, Kenya faces a great deal of difficulty, whether we're talking about the provision of food security, healthcare, or any of the other essentials. Countries sometimes turn to bilateralism in their relations with other nations because it is impossible for them to get financing for the development of infrastructure and other types of support through multilateral means.<sup>7</sup> They ultimately become fiscally dependent on the donor nation or organization, which may be bad since it inhibits people's capacity to select for themselves what to do with their life. Eventually, they become financially dependent on the donor country or organization. The link between Kenya and China during the building of the Standard Gauge Railway, which serves as the principal topic of this research study, turned into a problematic issue in future years. Before fully handing over administration of the railway to the Kenyan government, the Chinese operator of the Standard Gauge Railway (SGR) in Kenya sought payment of billions of shillings in unpaid debts.<sup>8</sup> China is one of Africa's key commercial partners and creditors, and as a result, China has emerged as one of the most significant economic and development impacts on the African continent.

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7. Ayse Kaya & Byungwon Woo. China and the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB): Chinese Influence Over Membership Shares. (Springer Link, The Review of International Organizations, 2021)

8. Daoping Wang. Influence of technology transfer on performance and sustainability of standard gauge railway in developing countries. (Science Direct, Technology in Society, 2019)

This is owing to the fact that China is one of the world's largest economies. The People's Republic of China became the fourth nation to establish an embassy in the city of Nairobi, which serves as the capital of Kenya, on the 14th of December 1963, just two days after the formal proclamation of Kenya's independence from colonial rule.<sup>9</sup> This study's objective is to investigate the extent to which international collaboration has helped improve Kenya's physical infrastructure. The findings of this investigation will be presented and discussed. Countries all over the world are feeling the effects of China's rapid economic expansion, as well as the surprising potential it has for improving global technology, jobs, and infrastructure. These effects are being felt in a variety of sectors, including manufacturing, technology, and infrastructure. All of these spheres are being profoundly influenced as a result of this.

Developed economies are competing with one another to establish a foothold in Africa, which is generally seen as a continent with great potential for the advancement of their own interests due to the presence of China on the continent. China's presence on the continent has caused Africa to be viewed as a continent with great potential for the advancement of their own interests. China continues to investigate the prospect of making major investments in countries such as Kenya, despite the fact that the country has been subjected to a significant amount of criticism. In contrast, China has maintained the building of key infrastructure in Nairobi, including roads, trains, and skyscrapers, despite the economic slowdown in the region. This includes the construction of roads, railroads, and skyscrapers.

The building of roads and railroads across China has been of immense service to the Chinese people. These improvements can be found all across the country.

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9. "Kenya, China Mark 40-year Diplomatic Ties". Xinhua News Agency. 2003-12-11. Retrieved 2007-11-06.

## 1.2 STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

Over the course of the last several years, there has been a growing interest in China's infrastructure-led strategy in terms of the country's engagement in the international economic system and South-South Cooperation.<sup>10</sup> Since the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) places an emphasis on infrastructural links and industrial capacity sharing, China's plan for the development of its overseas territories is now much more focused on infrastructure than it was in the past. This is in contrast to how the plan was previously structured. This is in contrast to the condition that prevailed before the BRI was put into effect.<sup>11</sup> Megaprojects are characterized as "large-scale, complicated businesses with a cost of more than one billion dollars, involving multiple public and private players, and having the power to affect millions of people," according to one definition. Both the BRI cooperation framework and China's overseas financing policy place a significant amount of emphasis on the successful completion of megaprojects.<sup>12</sup> The importance of megaprojects is shown by the fact that a sizeable fraction of China's overseas investments and projects funded under the Belt and Road Initiative have a value of more than one billion dollars. Megaprojects make up 18% of the total Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) projects and 56% of the total BRI investments, according to the results of China's Global Funding Tracker (China Global Investment Tracker, 2021).

Several of Africa's current and former leaders have singled out the contribution made by the Chinese government as a major step forward in the struggle against colonialism.<sup>13</sup>

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10. Schindler S, Kanai J M Getting the territory right: Infrastructure-led development and the re-emergence of spatial planning strategies. (2021) *Regional Studies* 55(1): 40–51.

11. Jan P. Voon & Xinpeng Xu. Impact of the Belt and Road Initiative on China's soft power: Volume 27, 2020

12. Flyvbjerg, B. "Introduction: the iron law of megaproject management", *The Oxford Handbook of Megaproject Management*, (2017) pp. 1-18, doi:

13. China in Africa: The New Colonialism? House of Representatives, Subcommittee on Africa, Global Health, Global Human Rights, and International Organizations, Committee on Foreign Affairs, 2018.

A counterweight to the Western powers, which have controlled the continent ever since the Soviet Union collapsed, provides African leaders with a great degree of comfort. Western powers have dominated the continent ever since the Soviet Union collapsed. Since the fall of the Soviet Union, countries from the West have had a dominant position on this continent. Since the country's attainment of its independence, Kenya has been willing to accept a sizeable portion of the influence that the West has to offer. The pursuit by China of a wide and deep engagement with Africa, in particular in the field of infrastructure development, is proving to be a difficult undertaking, despite the fact that the country seems to be making headway in this area. Indifference to workers' rights, a lack of knowledge transfer, local corruption, and support for and collaboration with corrupt and/or dictatorial regimes are just a few examples of how Chinese economic policies are contributing to the emergence of grassroots resentment, which may in the future jeopardize China's ability to conduct business in Africa.<sup>14</sup> Other factors that contribute to the emergence of grassroots resentment include corruption at the local level and a lack of knowledge transfer. In addition to this, the hostility being shown is helping to create an environment in which local governments are more likely to because it is essential for the socioeconomic connection between China and Kenya to be perceived as a win-win scenario with equal bilateral commerce and a positive social perception, the Kenyan government must be aware of the need to prevent it from closing its doors to China. This is essential if the socioeconomic relationship between China and Kenya is to be seen as a situation in which both countries may benefit from fair and balanced trade.

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14. Farooq, Muhammad Sabil, Tongkai Yuan, Jiangang Zhu, and Nazia Feroze. "Kenya and the 21st Century maritime silk road: implications for china-africa relations." *China Quarterly of International Strategic Studies* 4, no. 03, 2018

This will not only ensure that Chinese companies do not benefit at the expense of Kenyan and indigenous businesses, but it will also give the appearance that the collaboration is one in which both sides may benefit, which is a significant step toward achieving the goal of mutually beneficial cooperation.

This paper focuses on the infrastructural development that the country has experienced as a result of Kenya-China relation. The projects that have been undertaken since this establishment, the challenges and benefits that have accrued due to the looking out notion of the Chinese.

### **1.3 RESEARCH QUESTIONS**

- 1) What is the economic effect of international partnerships on Infrastructural development?
- 2) What is the effect of Foreign Direct Investment from China on Kenya's economic growth?
- 3) What are some of the limitations on the Kenya's economy since Kenya/China International partnerships?

### **1.4 OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY**

#### **1.4.1 GENERAL OBJECTIVE**

To examine the effect of China and Kenya partnership on infrastructural development.

The study will be guided by the following specific objectives:

- 1) To assess the effectiveness of international partnerships on infrastructural development.
- 2) To examine the effect of Foreign Direct Investment from China to Kenya's economic growth.
- 3) To establish the challenges that have come about from the international partnership.

### **1.5 SIGNIFICANCE OF THE STUDY**



This study has had positive effects on both international relations theory and economic development theory. The study has also built a framework linking bilateral ties to international economic growth. The literature suggests more investigation into the subordination of bilateral interactions.

### **IMPORTERS AND EXPORTERS**

This initiative, which takes use of the friendly connection between the governments of Kenya and China, will be helpful for importers and exporters, especially those who are headquartered in underdeveloped countries, as they decide how to move their businesses forward.

### **THE GOVERNMENT**

The most successful methods for addressing and, consequently, fostering their economic growth are discussed in light of the findings of this study. This study is a priceless resource for government decision-makers looking for assessment and guidance on the most economical types of financing (long term & short term loans). For researchers: prospective areas for future study, theoretical contributions, and reviews supported by empirical data.

### **ACADEMICS**

The study is expected to contribute to the existing literature in the field of international relations and infrastructural developments. Future scholars can use this research as a basis for further research.

### **1.6 SCOPE OF THE STUDY**

The study will be conducted in Nairobi, where all the respondents of the study will be accessed.

## **1.7 JUSTIFICATION OF STUDY**

It is crucial to widen and deepen one's awareness of China's foreign policy as well as the business activities of Chinese companies in Kenya for the benefit of the country's future economic progress. With an emphasis on China's initiatives to increase its participation in Kenya's infrastructure, this study will strive to explore and assess China's soft power strategy toward that nation. Utilizing the available data, projects, and data analysis, the aim of this research is to examine the motivations and strategies underlying China's considerable economic participation in Kenya as well as to assess the socioeconomic and political consequences that Chinese activities have had on Kenya. This study's main hypothesis is that China's present policies toward the continent are mostly driven by the country's demand for natural resources and desire to foster commerce in order to fund its rapid domestic economic expansion. The main premise of this study is that China's participation in Africa is pure and unselfish, despite how China portrays its presence in that continent as being. Although China's investments in Kenya's infrastructure have helped the nation's economy, Chinese policies and practices have also caused significant social problems in Kenya. Kenya should be cautious to ensure that it does not allow foreign companies to profit at the expense of the local population as it works to further open its doors to China.

## **SUMMARY**

This chapter introduces the study topic and the various aspects that will be covered in chapter one. China has been a major playing partner in various aspects of growing the Kenyan economy, and in this study, we explore one major area of the partnership between Kenya and China, which is infrastructural development.

## **CHAPTER TWO: LITERATURE REVIEW**

### **2.0 INTRODUCTION**

This chapter presents a review of the literature on the topic; Assessment of the impact of international partnerships on infrastructural development: case study of Kenya/China relations. The chapter is structured on the basis of the objectives. This section covers all aspects of the review, including the theoretical review, the empirical review, and the conceptual framework. In the researches that have been done, the various impacts that are evident on the international partnerships in the field of study have been exposed and various theories used to explain and shed light on the matter.

### **2.1 THEORITICAL REVIEW**

The foundation upon which this field's breadth is constructed is the study of international relations. Marxism, liberalism, and realism are the three most common points of view when it comes to issues affecting the global society. If we put these ideas into practice, perhaps we can see why some governments act in particular ways when it comes to international relations. However, it will be shown that realist perspectives on international relations might help explain China's attitude in Kenya. This is due to the fact that this explanation most accurately captures China's foreign policy toward Kenya. The best resource for explaining and comprehending the role that China plays in Kenya's political economy is the notion of economic nationalism, which has its roots in the study of international political economy.

### 2.1.1 Neo-classical realism

Realists are those who believe that under the system of international relations, nations are always competing with one another for money and power, and each state is committed to pursuing its own interests at the expense of those of other states.<sup>15</sup>

Realists argue that this struggle will go on as long as there is some form of pre-existing international order. It is generally agreed that the conceptual groundwork for this argument was laid by the Italian academic Niccolò Machiavelli as well as the English philosopher Thomas Hobbes. They argue that the acquisition, expansion, projection, and use of power to affect others is the most essential component of international politics and that it should be the primary focus. It is necessary to have a solid understanding of neorealism if one wants to have a complete comprehension of the complexities of the connection that exists between China and Kenya. This theory, which provides a comprehensive analysis of the fundamental principles underlying realism, was developed by Kenneth Waltz. He maintains that the only thing that differentiates nations (and, by extension, their administrations) in international politics is their comparative levels of power.<sup>16</sup> This theory is predicated on the idea that it is not feasible to differentiate between the functional duties of the various components individually. Achieving military dominance and having the ability to exert influence and pressure over other member states, as neorealists argue, is merely the beginning of power. Neorealists argue that power is determined by a variety of different variables outside the traditional ones. The term "power" is used by Waltz and other members of the neo-realist school to refer to the entirety of a state's capabilities.<sup>17</sup>

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15. Lomia, E. Political Realism in International Relations: Classical Realism, Neo-realism, and Neo-Classical Realism. *International Journal of Social, Political and Economic Research*, 7(3), 591-600.2020.

16. Waltz, Kenneth. *Realism and International Politics*. New York: Routledge 2008

17. Ogunbanjo, Martin Abimbola. Neo-Realism and Neo-Liberalism in Global Politics: Towards Assessing the Intellectual Siblings. *KIU Journal of Social Sciences*, [S.l.], v. 7, n. 2, p. 57-76, July 2021.

The degree of power that a state possesses, which is in turn impacted by the activities of other states, is what dictates how that state acts within the framework of the international system.

In China, an increasing number of people are coming around to the idea that this stance is valid. It does this in order to bolster its position in the area and move on with its professed foreign policy goal of enhancing the current economic ties and friendship ties it has with the nations of Africa. As a direct consequence of the worsening in the business environment in the West, China expects to see a favourable reaction and an increase in the amount of commercial engagement with Africa. China's goal is to strengthen its influence and, by extension, its standing in the international system by growing the market for its domestic products inside the countries of Africa. This will be accomplished through expanding the market in Africa. In order to accomplish this goal, it will provide much greater free commerce as well as cheap interest rates on loans for development. This will lend support to China's rise in the hierarchy of international powers.

### **2.1.2 Dependency theory**

The American sociologist Immanuel Wallerstein is credited with developing the Marxist component of dependency theory and coining the term "world-system" to refer to it. In order to do this, he conceived up the reliance hypothesis. The core, the semi-periphery, and the periphery are the three basic categories that nations are placed into when categorized according to their position in the global economic system.<sup>18</sup> The core nations can be identified by the fact that their economies are highly diversified, that they produce manufactured goods rather than raw materials for export, that they are wealthy and powerful (both economically and militarily), that they have strong central governments that control

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18. Nadine Reis&Felipe Antunes de Oliveira. Peripheral financialization and the transformation of dependency: a view from Latin AmericaPages 511-534 | Published online: Dec 2021.

Extensive bureaucracies and powerful militaries, that they have more complex and potent state institutions that help manage economic affairs both internally and externally, that they have a higher level of political stability, and that they produce manufactured goods rather than raw materials for export. Those are the characteristics that define (Halsall, 2017). When the aspects of the relationship between China and Kenya that are of the utmost significance are evaluated, it is abundantly evident that China occupies a central position, while Kenya is situated on the connection's perimeter. This is the case regardless of whatever perspective one adopts. The "world-system" dependency theory can be used to demonstrate, in the context of China's relations with Kenya, how China might be using its financial clout to support infrastructure projects in Kenya and other African nations in order to keep those nations more economically, technologically, and mechanically dependent on China than their more developed Western counterparts. This can be done by showing how China may be using its financial clout to support infrastructure projects in Kenya and other African nations in order to keep those nations economically, technologically, and mechanically the "world-system" reliance hypothesis can provide some evidence in favour of this notion. This is an illustration of a phenomenon known as "the second scramble for Africa," which is now taking place.<sup>20</sup>

## **2.2 EMPIRICAL REVIEW**

### **2.2.1 The effect of international partnerships on infrastructural development**

China was able to make a contribution to Kenya's economic and development progress by providing financial assistance to modern infrastructure projects in Kenya under the auspices of the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI).<sup>21</sup>

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20. Will Todman. The Gulf's scramble for Africa. Global Perspectives, 2020.

21. Hoong Chen Teo, Alex Mark Lechner, Grant W. Walton, Faith Ka Shun Chan, Ali Cheshmehzangi, May Tan-Mullins, Hing Kai Chan, Troy Sternberg, Ahimsa Campos-Arcei. Environmental impacts of infrastructure development under the Belt and Road Initiative, 2019.

Some of these projects include trains, roads, ports, dams, industries, digital connections, and airports.

For example, the Mombasa-Nairobi stretch of the standard gauge railway, which served as the centrepiece of Kenya's Vision 2030, cost something in the neighbourhood of \$3.8 billion.<sup>22</sup> The Export-Import Bank of China provided money equal to ninety percent of the total for this project, while the government of Kenya contributed the remaining ten percent. Because 14 wildlife corridors were constructed along the 120 kilometres of the railway line that runs through Kenya's Tsavo National Park, the construction of this 472-kilometer-long railroad adheres to the generally accepted principle of creating an ecological civilization that strikes a healthy balance between development and environmental protection. This principle is central to the goal of creating an ecological civilization. It has been very influential, to say the least. The construction of the railway line between China and Kenya has not only resulted in the establishment of a transportation network across East Africa, but it has also contributed to the expansion of bilateral commercial and trade relations. Additionally, it has resulted in the creation of around 46,000 jobs for local residents.<sup>23</sup>

According to the State Department of Transport and Infrastructure in Kenya, the Nairobi-Naivasha rail link will contribute to the industrialization of Africa as well as the economic growth of the municipalities that are located along the route. The cost of construction was 1.48 billion dollars, and the length of the road is 120 kilometres.<sup>24</sup> The total distance travelled is one hundred twenty kilometres.

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22. Nancy Muthoni Githaiga & Wang Bing. *Belt and Road Initiative in Africa: The Impact of Standard Gauge Railway in Kenya*. (Sage Publications Los Angeles/London/New Delhi/Singapore/Washington DC/ Melbourne, 2019).

23. Keren Zhu, Ben Mwangi, Lynn Hu. *Socio-economic impact of China's infrastructure-led growth model in Africa: A case study of the Kenyan Standard Gauge Railway*. (Journal of International Development, 2022).

24. Nancy Muthoni Githaiga & Wang Bing. *Belt and Road Initiative in Africa: The Impact of Standard Gauge Railway in Kenya*. (Sage Publications Los Angeles/London/New Delhi/Singapore/Washington DC/ Melbourne, 2019).

The BRI was responsible for the construction of a further 115 kilometres of road bypasses in Nairobi, as well as 27.1 kilometres of the Nairobi Expressway, 453 kilometres of the Lamu-Garissa Road, and more than 300 kilometres of roads in Nairobi's informal settlements. The construction of these roads has significantly reduced the frequency and severity of traffic congestion across the country while simultaneously increasing regional economic growth. This is a direct result of the roads' ability to facilitate the transportation of goods and services across the country. Both the Mombasa Port berth and storage yard projects and the Kipevu Oil Terminal will increase the amount of traffic that passes through the port, while the Kipevu Oil Terminal (KOT) will improve Kenya's ability to transport oil. In addition, the Likoni Floating Bridge and the Makupa Bridge, which together cost a total of sixty million dollars, improved the flow of traffic for walkers and bikers while also making certain that they are secure. Kenya is committed to supporting a free trading system within an open global economy in accordance with the agreements that were reached about the BRI. Kenya, on the other hand, is a proponent of multipolarity at the international level, economic globalization, and cultural diversity. The Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) has resulted in Kenya and China coming to the conclusion that they wish to expand their collaboration in accordance with the guiding principles of comprehensive consultation, cooperative engagement, and outcomes that are advantageous to both parties.

### **2.2.2 Effects of Foreign Direct Investment from China to Kenya's economic growth.**

Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) has a positive and significant influence on the pace of economic growth in countries that are still in the under-development stage. Foreign direct investment raised productivity, which under some circumstances encouraged development. A competent work force and well-developed infrastructure are only two of the circumstances



that might increase productivity. This discovery furthered the existing body of knowledge. Additionally, it is noted that the funds collected to support development activities provide additional advantages.<sup>25</sup> These advantages include increased employment brought about by foreign direct investment (FDI), support for the growth of capital markets, the transfer of new technology, enhanced management skills, and help for domestic businesses to expand into global markets. The results of a study on the topic of empirical analysis of FDI on economic growth using a case study of Kenya show that resources sought for FDI had no discernible impact on economic growth; however, markets that sought FDI had a discernible impact on economic growth, leading to good infrastructure and political stability in the country.<sup>26</sup> Abala used a case study of 22 companies to conduct a research on the issue of empirical analysis of FDI on economic growth. 2014 saw the publication of a study by which was conducted and an investigation of the Impact of Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) by Chinese Companies in Kenya.<sup>27</sup> They used the ordinary least squares method to analyze the primary data collected from people working for a variety of different firms. The study's conclusions indicated that foreign direct investment (FDI) influenced economic growth in a positive way. This effect was brought about by FDI and may be connected to enhancements in human capital, capital supply, and employment. On the other hand, the use of primary data with a survey research methodology in the study increases the likelihood that the findings were biased. A study undertaken in Nigeria to investigate how foreign direct investment affects the overall speed of economic growth in the nation.<sup>28</sup>

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25. Moyo, T. The Impact of Foreign Direct Investment on Economic growth: A case study of Zimbabwe. (Zimbabwe: International Journal of Economic Finance and Management, 2013).

26. Daniel O. Abala, Phd. Foreign Direct Investment and Economic Growth: An Empirical Analysis of Kenyan Data. (UoN Portal: Vol 4, No.1, 2014)

27. Robert Njagi Gathaiya, John Kinyua, Philip Machuki, Victor Keraro. The Impact of Foreign Direct Investments by Chinese Companies in Kenya. (JKUAT), 2014.

28. Lawal Muhammad, Victor Ushahembal Jirshar. Empirical Analysis of the relationship between Foreign Direct Investment and economic growth in developing countries. (Nigeria: International Journal of Business Administration and Management Research, 2015).

ADF unit of roots, pairwise granger causality test, Johansen-co-integration (to test for stationarity), and ECM were used in the empirical study for this work (for correction of non-stationarity errors). According to the study's findings, the link between GDP and FDI can only go in one direction. In research on FDI, International Trade, and Economic Development, real GDP was regressed on FDI over a 43-year period using an autoregressive distribution lag technique (from 1970-2013). Kenya served as the main subject of the investigation as a case study. After finding that imports, the lagging value of tax revenue, and the stock of foreign debt all of which are factors in GDP had a negative and significant impact on economic growth, researchers came to the conclusion that foreign direct investment had a positive and significant impact on the expansion of the economy. They came to the conclusion that foreign direct investment had a favorable effect on economic growth as a result.

Foreign direct investment (FDI) boosts capital per capita and quickens economic growth, say neoclassical economists. Due to the poor rates of return on investment, it cannot support long-term economic growth. Host countries require human capital, economic stability, and liberalized markets in order to profit from long-term FDI inflows.<sup>29</sup> Despite the Philippines and Thailand being less developed than Japan and Taiwan, foreign direct investment (FDI) had a beneficial impact on output in these nations.<sup>30</sup> It's probable that increased FDI isn't primarily driven by growing living standards. According to endogenous theories, global foreign direct investment (FDI) has an impact on long-term sectors including human capital and research and development (R&D). While foreign direct investment (FDI) can temporarily strengthen an economy, it is ultimately harmful.

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29. Bengos & Sanchez. *Foreign Direct Investment and Endogenous growth*, Working Paper No. 103: (Department of Economics, University of Kent, UK. 2003).

30. Bende-Nabende, A., J. Ford. B. Santoso and S. Sen. *The Interaction between FDI, output and the spillover variables: Co-integration and VAR analyses for APEC, 1965-99*. (Applied Economic Letters, 10(3): 165-72. 2003).

Rather than demonstrating a link between FDI and growth, the advantages of FDI are dependent on the "absorptive ability" of host nations.<sup>31</sup> Kenya's capacity to draw foreign direct investment (FDI) depends on the level of political and economic stability in the nation as well as the dependability of government policies. A small amount of foreign direct investment (FDI) stimulates economic growth. Factors influencing foreign direct investment (FDI) into Nigeria include the country's political environment, GDP per capita, inflation rate, global interest rate, credit rating, and debt repayment. For FDI other than oil, Nigeria's credit rating is significant. The influence of education on domestic investment productivity may have an impact on the labour market.<sup>32</sup> Raghutla contends that through technology transfer to their affiliates and technological spillovers to unaffiliated businesses in the host economy, TNCs can support the introduction of new types of human capital, improve product quality, support international R&D collaboration, and facilitate the development of new intermediate product varieties. Technology transfer through foreign direct investment (FDI) is advantageous for economic growth. Companies having a global presence can transfer technology to their FOEs directly or indirectly.<sup>33</sup> The four primary ways that foreign-owned companies transfer cutting-edge technology to domestically-owned companies are internationalization of research and development, vertical links with domestic suppliers and consumers, horizontal links with businesses in the same industry in the host country, and labour turnover from affiliates to domestic firms. The pace of technological advancement in the economy will be determined by the creative and social capacities of the host nation as well as the adaptability of other organizations.

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31. Durham, J. B. Absorptive capacity and the effects of foreign direct investment and equity foreign portfolio investment on economic growth. (European Economic Review, 2004).

32. Raghutla, C. The effect of trade openness on economic growth: Some empirical evidence from emerging economies. (Journal of Public Affairs, 20(3), 2020).

33. Blomstrom, M. & Wang, J-Y. Foreign Investment and Technology transfer: A simple model. (European Economic Review, 36, 137-55. 1992).

They can stifle local innovation by providing its affiliate with insufficient technical skills, providing the wrong sort of technological capabilities, or even restricting access to the technology owned by the parent business. The positive consequences include improvements in labour, management and marketing abilities and knowledge, as well as worldwide best business practices. Other positive benefits include technical innovation, higher capital per person in the country, and improved labour conditions.

### **2.2.3 Challenges that have come about from the international partnership: A case study of Kenya/China relations.**

Since 2002, the value of goods and services traded between China and Kenya has climbed from 186.37 million US dollars to 5.3 billion US dollars in 2018. This represents a significant increase over the previous decade. Despite the fact that Chinese customers have a rising demand for Kenyan products such as tea, coffee, herbs, and avocados, Kenya's trade imbalance with China has now breached the \$7 billion mark.<sup>34</sup> This is despite the fact that Kenya sells these goods to China. This is due to the fact that China has made substantial investments, successfully negotiated trade agreements, and contributed financially to the expansion of the economy. Some of the reasons why commerce with China has been criticized include the proliferation of counterfeit Chinese products, unfair bidding procedures for construction companies, the incapacity to protect local businesses, and the discriminatory attitudes of Chinese people against Kenyans.

#### **Production of fake items**

Kenya's \$368 million yearly trade imbalance is due to fake goods. The vast majority of these knockoffs are made in China.

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34. Murero, Mercy Senewa. The Role of Domestic Politics in Influencing Foreign Policy Formulation: A Case of Kenya's 'Look East' Economic Diplomacy 2002–2016." (PhD diss., United States International University-Africa, 2019).

The Kenyan government reportedly devotes between \$84 and \$490 million each year to the fight against fake goods. According to surveys, the vast majority of residents are concerned about the consistency of imported Chinese food and medicines (Cha, et al., 2023). This belief persists despite the fact that it is generally accepted that purchasing Chinese goods benefits both consumers and small and medium-sized businesses. However, rather than being a referendum against Chinese imports, this was seen as a failure of local legislation. To deflect attention away from the inquiry into Chinese imports, it was done.

The Kenyan government has been given broad authority to combat the spread of counterfeit goods and educate the public on how to distinguish them since the Anti-Counterfeit Act was passed in 2008. However, a 2010 research by the Consumer Federation of Kenya (CFK) indicated that the majority of Kenyan businesses did not think the government's response was effective. The legislative structure has been fully adopted, but it has been constrained by a staffing shortage and other practical issues.

### **Construction disputes**

There have been several reactions to the rise of Chinese construction businesses. Kenya's domestic construction industry collapsed in the 1970s as a result of inefficiency, which led to an increase in the number of foreign businesses primarily Chinese enterprises entering the country's construction market. Among these international firms were a few Chinese companies. Since then, the city of Nairobi has applauded the Chinese companies for the improvements to the city's affordability, effectiveness, and competitiveness, and the general public appears to favour the Chinese companies' upgrades to the public infrastructure to a great extent.<sup>35</sup>

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35. Taylor, I. Kenya's New Lunatic Express: The Standard Gauge Railway. (African Studies Quarterly, vol. 19, no. 3, pp. 29-52. 2020).

Due to their perception that doing business with foreign enterprises, who are typically wealthy, creates an unequal playing field, Kenyan contractors have strengthened their support for protectionist policies. The fact that Chinese projects' procurement processes are opaque is one of the most common critiques thrown against them. There are also accusations that the Kenyan government meddled in the background to harm regional contractors. The Kenyan government enacted the National Construction Authority (NCA) Act in 2010, which incorporated new regulations addressing contractor registration and the fairness of the tendering process. The law is known as the National Construction Authority Act (NCA).<sup>36</sup>

### **Rivalry with local establishments**

As previously mentioned, the enormous trade deficit and the increased accessibility of cheaper goods produced in China have both led to a decline in the market share held by local businesses. As a result, domestic companies now hold a reduced overall market share. Companies in the area routinely criticize Chinese products since Chinese producers frequently struggle to compete with more capable competitors from other countries. This is one of the key arguments against Chinese products.<sup>37</sup> Some people challenge this premise on the grounds that it cannot be compared to anything else and instead focus on the significant cost reductions that Chinese programs provide to consumers. A number of critics have made the criticism that China is involved in a systematic practice of dumping low-cost items at the disadvantage of indigenous industries. Others have argued that this claim does not make an apples-to-apples comparison.

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36. Onchagwa, M. C. An Investigation of the Effectiveness of the National Construction Authority (NCA) in Curbing Malpractices in the Kenyan Construction Industry (Doctoral dissertation, University of Nairobi, 2021).

37. Taylor, I. Kenya's New Lunatic Express: The Standard Gauge Railway. (African Studies Quarterly, vol. 19, no. 3, pp. 29-52. 2020).

## **Racism**

Recent discussions have focused on claims of racist actions carried out by Chinese expats residing in Kenya as part of Chinese business interests in that nation. These expatriates are said to be involved in Chinese commercial activities in Kenya. The perpetrators of these atrocities targeted Kenyans who were of African heritage as their victims. The results of this have been deterioration in the friendly relations that exist between the two nations.<sup>38</sup>

## **2.3 KNOWLEDGE GAP**

There has been a lot of research done on the effect that economic growth has on international relations, and the findings have produced a lot of different opinions. A study that was conducted in 2020 by Hassan and colleagues found that there is a marginal but negative effect on economic growth. Research conducted by Mageto (2015) found that as a direct result of China and Kenya's diplomatic relations, there has been a rise in the amount of money being invested, as well as overall economic growth. The effect that these linkages have on the expansion of the economy has been the subject of a great deal of study and debate among academics and researchers. According to Pradhan, et al (2020), foreign assistance has a beneficial effect on economic growth over the long run, while having less of an immediate influence on that growth.<sup>39</sup> Despite this, it was also discovered that the relationship was negative.<sup>40</sup>

Even though the partnerships have very positive results on the development of Kenya in terms of infrastructure and political stability, it is evident out of done researches that the negative effects are also experienced in the country.

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38. Meo, Matilde Marlene. "Chinese Soft Power: The Case of Kenya. (2021).

39. Pradhan, C., & Phuyal, R. K. Impact of foreign aid on economic growth of Nepal: An empirical evidence. (International Journal of Finance and Banking Research, 6(3), 44-50, 2020.

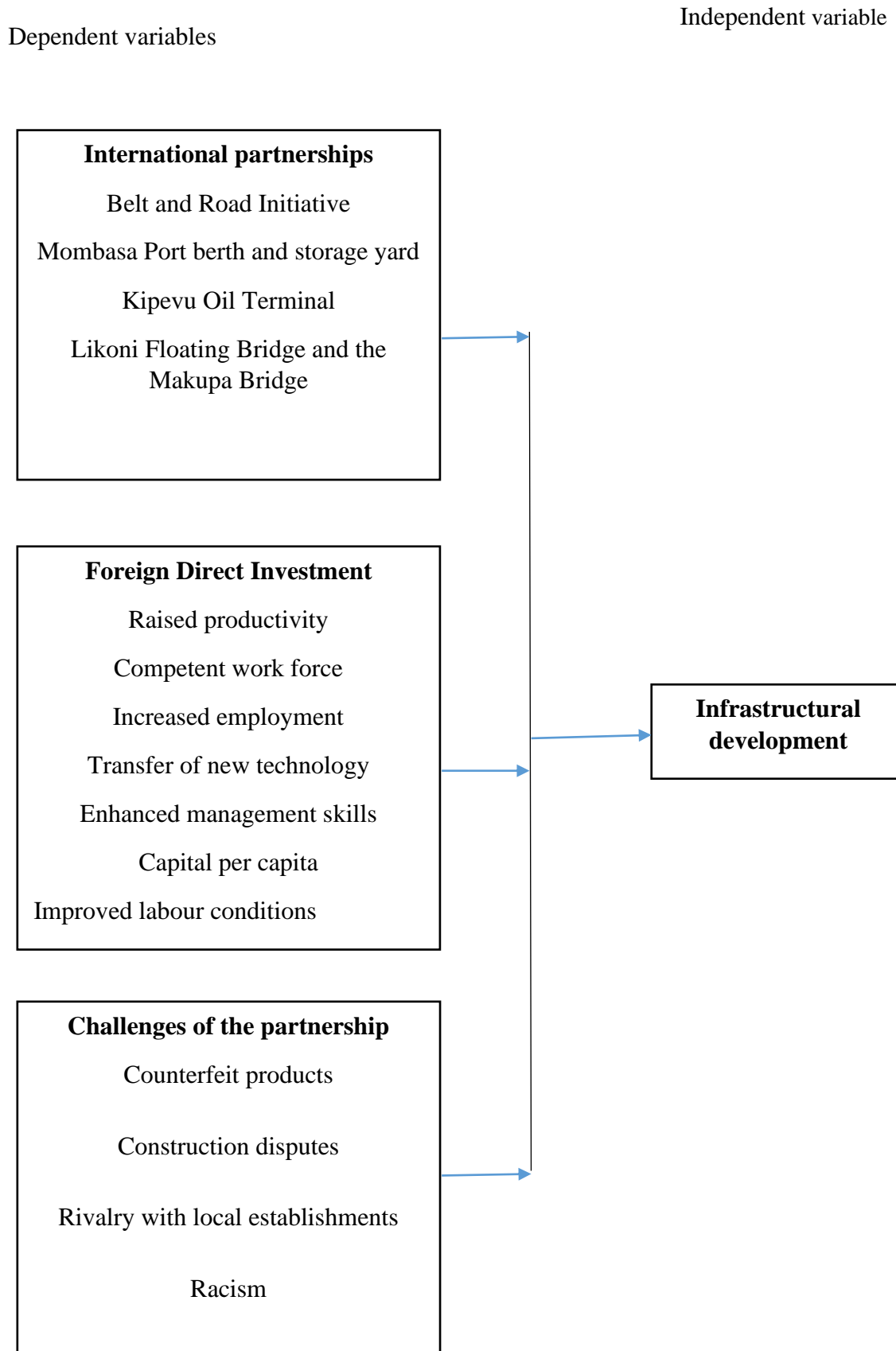
40. Kamau, Paul, Dorothy McCormick and Nicolas Pinaud. The developmental impact of Asian drivers on Kenya with emphasis on textiles and clothing manufacturing. (World Economy 32: No.11, 2009.

It is therefore the duty of the Kenyan government to take charge to protect the local businesses and people from exploitation so as to achieve fairness in the country. Racism and segregation of the citizens is a dominant side effect of the China-Kenya partnership.

This study is aimed at identifying the gap that has not been delved into by other researchers, most of whom have handled the positive effects that have been brought about by the China – Kenya partnership. This study focuses on both negative and positive effects, but its key to note that from this study, we identify that there are actually negative effects of the partnership.



## 2.4 Conceptual framework



## **SUMMARY**

Chapter two has looked at what various scholars and theorists have done before in the area of international partnerships. These scholars and theorists explore how China has been able to partner with various countries in their developmental goals. This study however is focussed on a case study of China and Kenya by looking at the effects that have come about from their partnership in ensuring infrastructural development. Most studies have focussed on the positive gains of these partnerships, which has led to the identification of a knowledge gap of looking into the negative effects.

## **CHAPTER THREE**

### **3.0 RESEARCH METHODOLOGY**

#### **3.1 Introduction**

This chapter labels the processes that were followed in steering the study. It plans the research design, target population, sampling design, sample size, data collection instruments and data analysis methods.

#### **3.2 Research Design**

The primary objective of this research project is to ascertain the degree to which Kenya's diplomatic connections with China have contributed, if at all, to the acceleration of the country's rate of infrastructural development. In order to conduct this inquiry, a descriptive research technique, or, to be more specific, a research strategy that does not include experimentation was used. According to Open-book methodology, a descriptive research design is one that does not include the manipulation of an independent variable, the control of extraneous factors by random assignment, or all of these (Murray, et al. 2010). Because the researcher wants to understand the link between the variables of study and clearly depict the nature of the relationship they have, this design is the perfect fit for the research because it allows for those goals to be accomplished. This design is the ideal match for the research because it clearly depicts the nature of the relationship that they have. The way the research was designed also had an impact, albeit to a lesser extent, on the way the data from the study was presented. As a consequence of this, a descriptive research design will be capable of providing solutions to the important questions that are connected to the study questions.

### 3.3 Study Area

This study is focussed on two countries which include Kenya and China and here below are the countries geographical maps.

Fig 1: Map of Kenya



Source: Nations Online Project



**Fig 2: Map of China**



Source: Nations Online Project

### 3.4 Target Population

A "universe" or "population" might be thought of as consisting of everything that is being investigated in a certain area of study. There will be an investigation into every area of the Kenyan economy, including the people, in order to gather information on the progress of

infrastructure development and Chinese investment inflows. The two most important aspects of this research are the development of infrastructure and connections with China. As a surrogate measure for growth, the country of Kenya's actual Gross Domestic Product (GDP) is utilized. There were a total of 95 persons that participated in the research as respondents out of the 150 that were targeted, all of these participants were directly and indirectly involved in the development of infrastructure or building operations.

The study targets to gather information from the general public, construction Industry and experts in International Relations. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs will also be able to give detailed information out the partnerships, and the policies that have been put in place in getting into the bilateral relations between the two countries. The construction industry will be able to expound more on the advantages and disadvantages of the Chinese contractors compared to those of Kenya, the technologies applied by the Chinese and how they differ to those being used by Kenyans. Experts in international relations will be able to give information on how these partnerships enhance relations between states while the general public will be able to give their honest opinion and views on how the infrastructural developments have been able to benefit them. These were all gathered in Nairobi, Kenya.,

### **3.5 Sampling Design and Procedure**

The accuracy of the study's conclusions is directly impacted by the sample selection.<sup>41</sup>The sample will come from the population of 95 respondents out of the 150 that were earlier targeted. The study will undertake a sample size to gather information as follows with a sample of respondents from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, experts of International Relations, representatives from the Construction Industry and a bigger number from the general public.

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41. Yin, R. K. Design and methods. Case study research, 3(9.2), 84, 2018).

The design that will be applied in this study is the mixed method where both qualitative and quantitative designs will be employed in order to ensure a comprehensive data collection through a broad spectrum. Deliberate sampling, often known as intentional or non-probability sampling, will be the method we employ. In order to produce a sample that is typical of the universe, this sampling approach necessitates the purposeful or intentional selection of particular cosmological units. The relationship between the study's findings and its goals will be examined using data from a time series with 12 annual observations that spans the years 2010 to 2022. The study's option period, which covers the years 2010 to 2022, accounts for changes to the Kenyan economy throughout that time. Due to changes in public policy, the federal government has started implementing Structural Adjustment Programmes (SAPs). One of SAP's primary objectives was to restore the balances on both a national and international level. This was achieved by developing a strong export promotion program, drastically cutting back on government spending, and shifting spending priorities. A large institutional reform proposal has also been made with the intention of improving Kenya's relations with other countries.

### **3.6 Data Collection**

Secondary data was the type of information that would be most useful for the study. Data that is gathered by a user other than the main user is referred to as secondary data. Census data, information gathered by government agencies, company records, and data that was initially gathered for other research goals are all common sources of secondary data for social science. Contrarily, primary data are gathered by the researcher who is performing the study. Data would then be retrieved from the UNCTAD 2020 and the KNBS website readings that were targeting to measure the impact of Chinese investment on the infrastructure development in Kenya in the period covered in the research.

### **3.7 Validity and Reliability of Instruments**

The validity may be thought of as an accurate evaluation of the veracity of any claim, conclusion, or inference made by the research.<sup>42</sup> For its part, reliability is the examination of the quality of the data produced in any research; it ensures the data is consistent with the research background and is suitable for analysis. To rephrase: dependability is the evaluation of how well the data collected matches expectations. In order to establish the level of validity that may be asserted to infer any conclusion based on the data, tests of significance will be used to any correlations or differences found in this research that either support or contradict original or new hypotheses. In particular, the hypotheses will be tested to see whether the links or differences in question lend credence to or discredit those assumptions. By doing so, we can assess the reliability of any conclusions drawn from the data. Furthermore, the obtained data will be subjected to a status check, which will determine whether or not the information sources utilized to generate the data are genuine and reliable. The historical quantitative study's key sources were corporate and governmental papers and websites. Experts in the field also vetted these resources to ensure their quality. This was done so that the validity and accuracy of the data used in the literature review could be shown.

### **3.8 Data Analysis and Presentation**

In this particular piece of research, the researcher made use of multiple regression analysis, which is a well-known method for analysing the chain of processes that leads to economic outcomes.

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42. Trochim, W. M., and J. P. Donnelly. *The Research Methods Knowledge Base*. (Cincinnati, OH: Atomic Dog, 3<sup>rd</sup> ed, 2006).



In the study, multiple regressions were utilized to accomplish both the discovery of the link that exists between the independent factors and the dependent variable, as well as the estimation of the existence of that relationship. An examination of the data, in which the rate of inflation in Kenya and the amount of money spent by the Kenyan government served as independent variables, sheds light on the effect that the international partnership that is the subject of this conversation has had on the expansion of infrastructure, more specifically, the partnership that exists between Kenya and China.

## **CHAPTER 4**

### **4.0 RESEARCH FINDINGS**

Discussion and interpretation of data features are included in this chapter. Methods such as descriptive statistics, model estimate, and analytical findings are utilized. The presentation of the empirical findings is in accordance with the study objectives.

#### **4.1 QUESTIONNAIRE RETURN RATIO**

The questionnaire was distributed to the respondents successfully. The following was gathered from various respondents. From 195 respondents, 150 were fully filled and returned to the researcher and this provided enough data for the purpose of the research as the response rate was more than 60%.

#### **4.2 SOCIAL DEMOGRAPHIC ATTRIBUTES OF THE RESPONDENTS**

The respondent's distribution and education level were captured in the table below

##### **4.2.1 GENDER AND AGE ANALYSIS**

Age bracket	16-25	26-35	36-45	46 and above	Total
Gender					
Male	25	20	18	15	78
Female	18	20	14	20	72
Total	43	40	32	35	150
Ratio	38%	24%	22%	16%	100%

Source: Researcher's data calculation 2022

Table 4.2.1 shows that that 55% of the respondents are male while 45% are female. There are more male respondents than the female respondents.

#### 4.2.2 MARITAL STATUS DISTRIBUTION OF THE RESPONDENTS

Table 4.2.2 shows the marital status of the respondents

	<b>MARRIED</b>	<b>SINGLE</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>
16-25	20	36	56
26-35	30	2	32
36-45	30	10	40
46 and above	15	7	22
Total	95	55	150

Source: Research data 2022

From the data the most respondents are single 60% while married are 40%

#### 4.2.3 EDUCATION LEVEL AND FAMILY SIZE

The data below is collected on the respondents' levels of education and their family sizes as shown in the table 4.2.3

Education level	Frequency	Ratio
Illiterate	5	5%
Primary	10	10%

Secondary	45	45%
College	20	20%
University	20	20%
Totals	150	100

Source: Research data, 2022

From the table 4.2.3 above the study shows that most respondents have completed their secondary education level 45% which is 45 in number college and university 20% while 5% had not gone to school due to different reasons. This made it easier to reach valid conclusions since the topic of study required some insight on the vital matter.

#### 4.2.4 OCCUPATION DISTRIBUTION

The data below shows the occupation distribution of the respondents

Age group	Employed	Self employed	Unemployed	Total
16-25	30	10	25	65
26-35	14	8	20	42
36-45	10	10	5	22
46 and above	3	10	5	16
Totals	57	38	55	150
Ratio %	57%	10%	33%	100%

Source: Research data 2022

From figure 4.2.4 above, 57% are employed, 10% are self-employed while the remaining 33% out of the total population of the respondents are unemployed.

### 4.3 RESEARCH RESPONSE

#### 4.3.1 The impact of international partnerships on infrastructural development

Infrastructure development	Opinion /respondents view	Strongly agree	Agree	Not sure	Strongly disagree	Disagree
SGR		55%	15%	15%	0%	15%
Nairobi Expressway		45%	50%	5%	0	0
Kipevu Oil Terminal		25%	30%	5%	40%	0%
Likoni Floating & Makupa Bridge		45%	16%	0%	20%	9%

Table 4.3.1 Source: Research data 2022

Based on the results of the research, the most population of the respondents are aware of the projects that have been undertaken by the Kenyan government funded by the Chinese government. The significant project being the standard gauge railway (SGR) as most respondents strongly agreed with none strongly disagreeing to this fact.

Among the significant projects include the Nairobi express way and Likoni and Nyali bridges where 45% strongly agree they are major development projects attributed to by Kenya- China relations.

Some responds were not sure the rate of Chinese involvement in the various infrastructure development projects.

#### **4.3.2 Effects of Foreign Direct Investment from China to Kenya’s economic growth.**

<b>STATEMENTS/EFFECTS</b>	<b>SA</b>	<b>A</b>	<b>NS</b>	<b>D</b>	<b>SD</b>
Increased employment	25%	20%	10%	35%	10%
Transfer of new technology	50%	30%	10%	5%	5%
Political stability	35%	20%	15%	30%	0%
Good infrastructure	28%	30%	20%	11%	11%

Source: Research data, 2022

The tables 4.3.2 above show the analysis of Effects of Foreign Direct Investment from China to Kenya’s economic growth. It has increased employment effect which 25% of the respondents strongly agreed, 20% agreed, 10% of the respondents strongly agreed and the rest did not agree. This rate of employment is considerably lower as the relations should provide better employment opportunities to the local people.

Transfer of new technology was strongly agreed by 50% of the respondents, 30% agreed while 5% of the respondents strongly disagreed. This is due to the adaptation effect by the local people as they tend to learn new things from the Chinese people and companies that undertake projects in the country.

It has led to Political stability, where 28% of the respondents strongly agreed, 30% agreed 11% disagreed while 11% of the respondents strongly disagreed.

**4.3.3 Challenges that have come about from the international partnership: A case study of Kenya/China relations.**

<b>STATEMENTS/CHALLENGES</b>	<b>SA</b>	<b>A</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>D</b>	<b>SAD</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>
Production of fake items	40%	20%	15%	14%	11%	100%
Construction disputes	45%	15%	25%	9%	6%	100%
Rivalry with local establishments	35%	20%	15%	18%	12%	100%

Source: Research data, 2022.

The table 4.3.3 above shows challenges faced in Kenya-China relations where 40% of the respondents strongly agreed, 20% of the respondents agreed and while 11% strongly disagreed with Production of fake items as a major challenge in upholding this relationship.

Construction disputes which were strongly agreed 45% of the respondents, 15% of the respondents agreed while 9% strongly disagreed.

Rivalry with local establishments which 35% of the respondents strongly agreed, 20% agreed while 12% strongly disagree and the rest were neutral and did not agree.

## **CHAPTER FIVE**

### **RESEARCH SUMMARY, CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

#### **5.1 Introduction**

Presented in this chapter is a summary of the research findings, discussion of the results, conclusion and the recommendations that are made in the study. The summary of the findings provides the major results that were derived from the study and also offers a discussion of these key findings. The discussion is also provided in relation to the theories and previous empirical studies.

#### **5.2 Summary of the Study**

The research findings reveal that a significant majority of participants from the general public, who engaged in the survey, possess awareness regarding the government of Kenya's initiatives, which have been executed through funding provided by the government of China. The consensus among most respondents either strongly leans towards agreement or leans away from strong disagreement in relation to the contention that the standard gauge railway (SGR) stands as the foremost substantial undertaking. This culmination leads to the deduction that prioritizing the SGR is warranted.

As per the study's discoveries, the influence of Chinese foreign direct investment on Kenya's economic expansion manifests positively in terms of employment, as indicated by 25% of respondents in agreement, 20% of respondents in agreement, 10% of respondents in strong agreement, and the remaining respondents in disagreement. Despite the anticipation that these associations should yield a rise in local employment opportunities, the employment rate in this domain conspicuously lags behind the average.



The study findings substantiate a correlation between heightened levels of technical diversity (TD) within corporate boards and enhanced financial performance for commercial banks (coefficient = 73.6486;  $p < 0.05$ ). This deduction emerges subsequent to a comprehensive analysis of data encompassing diverse financial institutions. Empirical evidence lends support to these research conclusions, underscoring that commercial banks equipped with boards characterized by balanced representation are better positioned to surmount challenges inherent in the Kenya-China relations. A substantial 40% of respondents are firmly aligned in strongly agreeing that the proliferation of counterfeit entities poses a substantial threat to the preservation of this partnership, while a corresponding 20% agree, and an additional 11% express vehement disagreement.

Regarding the intricacies of construction, an overwhelming 45% of respondents wholeheartedly concur, another 15% concur, and 9% adamantly oppose the notion.

When queried about their alignment or divergence concerning the assertion of competition with local firms, the respondents exhibit a spectrum of views, with 35% strongly concurring, 20% concurring, 12% strongly dissenting, and the remaining participants adopting a neutral stance or withholding agreement with the statement.

### **5.3 Conclusions of the Study**

Based on the comprehensive analysis of the research findings, the following conclusions can be drawn:

**Public Awareness of Government Initiatives and SGR Prioritization:** The study demonstrates a substantial level of public awareness regarding the initiatives executed by the Kenyan government through funding provided by China. The majority of survey participants are well-informed about these initiatives. Furthermore, a consensus among respondents suggests that the standard gauge railway (SGR) is recognized as a significant and substantial undertaking.

This alignment of opinions indicates that prioritizing the SGR is justified, given its perceived importance and potential impact on the nation's development.

**Positive Influence of Chinese Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) on Employment:** The research reveals a positive association between Chinese foreign direct investment (FDI) and employment in Kenya's economy. While a significant portion of respondents acknowledge this positive influence, it is noteworthy that the actual employment rate resulting from FDI falls short of expectations. Despite the anticipation that FDI-associated activities should lead to increased local employment opportunities, the employment rate in this sector remains lower than the average. This suggests a need for further investigation into the factors limiting the translation of FDI benefits into substantial employment gains.

**Technical Diversity and Financial Performance in Commercial Banks:** The study findings substantiate a correlation between heightened levels of Technical Diversity (TD) within corporate boards and enhanced financial performance for commercial banks. This correlation, as indicated by a calculated coefficient, underscores the importance of balanced representation on boards for effective financial outcomes. Empirical evidence from a wide range of financial institutions supports the conclusion that commercial banks with diverse and balanced boards are better equipped to navigate challenges in the Kenya-China relationship. This finding has implications for promoting effective governance and strategic decision-making within these institutions.

**Threat of Counterfeit Entities to the Kenya-China Partnership:** A substantial proportion of respondents express concern about the proliferation of counterfeit entities and its potential to pose a substantial threat to the preservation of the Kenya-China partnership. A significant number of participants strongly agree with this sentiment, emphasizing the need to address counterfeit-related challenges that could undermine the partnership's integrity. This finding

highlights the importance of effective measures to combat counterfeit activities, protect intellectual property, and ensure the sustainability of the bilateral relationship.

**Perceptions of Construction and Competition with Local Firms:** Survey participants' exhibit varied perspectives on the intricacies of construction and competition with local firms. A substantial majority of respondents express agreement with the notion related to construction intricacies, suggesting a shared understanding of the complexities involved. When queried about competition with local firms, respondents' views span a spectrum, with differing levels of agreement and dissent. This spectrum underscores the nuanced nature of perceptions surrounding competition and the need for tailored strategies to address concerns and promote collaboration between foreign and local enterprises.

In conclusion, the research findings offer valuable insights into the awareness, perceptions, and challenges surrounding various aspects of the Kenya-China relationship. These conclusions provide a foundation for informed policy decisions, strategic planning, and further research to address the identified gaps and opportunities.

#### **5.4 Recommendations of the Study**

**Assessment of Employment Discrepancies in Chinese-Funded Projects:** Since the study indicates that despite positive indicators of employment from Chinese foreign direct investment (FDI), the actual employment rate lags behind expectations, it would be valuable to conduct a more in-depth analysis of the factors contributing to this discrepancy. Research could focus on identifying the specific challenges that hinder the translation of FDI into significant local employment opportunities. This could involve exploring issues related to skills mismatches, job quality, wage levels, labour market dynamics, and the impact of automation and technology adoption in the context of these projects.

Exploration of Technical Diversity and Financial Performance in Various Sectors: The study suggests a positive correlation between technical diversity within corporate boards and enhanced financial performance for commercial banks. To extend this insight, researchers could investigate whether this correlation holds true across various industries beyond commercial banking. A comparative study could be conducted across different sectors to determine the extent to which technical diversity within leadership positions influences financial outcomes. This research could shed light on whether the observed relationship is sector-specific or applicable more broadly.

Analysis of Counterfeit Entities' Impact on Bilateral Partnerships: The study highlights concerns about the proliferation of counterfeit entities and their potential threat to the partnership between Kenya and China. To delve deeper into this issue, researchers could undertake a study that explores the specific ways in which counterfeit products or entities impact the partnership. This could involve examining cases of counterfeit goods, intellectual property violations, and other forms of economic misconduct that undermine the integrity of the partnership. By understanding the nature and magnitude of this threat, policymakers and stakeholders could develop more targeted strategies for preserving the partnership's integrity.

### **5.5 Suggestions for Further Research**

An Examination of the Socioeconomic Impact over the Long Term There is a need for an in-depth research that is longitudinal in nature to be carried out in order to examine the long-term socioeconomic effect of the infrastructure projects that have been brought about as a direct result of the partnership between Kenya and China. To reach this objective, it may be necessary to spend a significant amount of time over an extended period of time monitoring economic indicators, job rates, income distribution, and the general quality of life in the areas that would be touched by the initiatives. An examination of this type would give important

information into the long-term advantages of these relationships as well as the potential issues that they may create in the future.

Investigate the myriad of different finance methods that have been used to construct infrastructure projects as part of the Kenya-China partnership, and then carry out a comparative study of the various techniques that have been utilized. Investigate the outcomes of projects that received assistance from a variety of sources, such as grants, loans, public-private partnerships (PPPs), and other sorts of agreements, and see what happened. Evaluate the benefits, downsides, and long-term consequences that each type of funding will have on the viability of the project, the degree to which it will be owned by the community, and economic growth. Also consider the degree to which it will affect economic expansion.

Community Involvement and Participation at the Local Level: Carry out studies to ascertain the level of engagement and participation of the local community in the design, execution, and monitoring of infrastructure projects, as well as the efficiency of such engagement and participation. Investigate the systems that are already in place to collect feedback from the community, address concerns, and ensure that projects are in accordance with the requirements and goals of the population in the area they will affect. It would be good if you could give ideas to encourage community engagement in order to foster a feeling of ownership and shared advantages. This would be beneficial since it would be helpful.

Investigate the degree to which Chinese and Kenyan participants in the infrastructure projects share technical know-how and communicate with one another in order to share information. Transfer of technologies; the sharing of information are some of the key concepts here. Determine the extent to which local capacity has been built in terms of engineering, project management, and a variety of other technical capabilities. Determine the challenges that must

be surmounted in addition to the possibilities that may be taken advantage of in order to enhance the transfer of technology and the development of skills.

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**APPENDICES**  
**APPENDIX I: RESEARCH QUESTIONNAIRE**

I am a student at the University of Nairobi pursuing a Master of Arts Degree in International Studies. For the successful completion of my course, I am required to conduct research. My research topic is, “Assessment of the effect of international partnerships on infrastructural development: A case study of Kenya/China relations.” Please fill in the below questionnaire. This is only an academic exercise and you are assured of anonymity and confidentiality.

Thank you.

**Section A. Socio-demographic characteristics of respondents.**

1. Gender

Male    Female

2. Age

Below 30    31 – 40    41-50    above 51 years

3. Educational qualification

High School    Diploma    Undergraduate    Post Graduate

Department .....

4. Working experience in the company

Less than 5 years

5-10 years

10- 15 years

15-20 years

More than 25 years

**Section B**

1. Please indicate the extent to which you agree to the following statements by ticking (☐) the appropriate response.

No.	Statement	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Agree	Strongly agree
1.	Has international partnership on infrastructure impacted on our economy					
2.	The developed infrastructure such as SGR, Nairobi Express way are as a result of international partnership.					
3.	The developed infrastructure such as SGR, Nairobi Express suggest the need for more international partnerships.					
4.	The building of Likoni Floating and Makupa Bridge was achieved as a result of international partnership.					
5.	International partnerships are helpful for the developing countries					

2. Please indicate the extent to which you agree to the following statements by ticking (□) the appropriate response.

No.	Statement	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Agree	Strongly agree
1	Foreign direct involvement from china to Kenya's economic growth has led to increased employment.					
2.	Foreign direct involvement from china to Kenya's economic growth has led the transfer of new technology					

3.	There are better career and learning opportunities in this organization as compared to others.					
5.	Foreign direct involvement from china to Kenya's economic growth has led political stability.					
6.	Foreign direct involvement from china to Kenya's economic growth has led to good infrastructure.					

1. Please indicate the extent to which you agree to the following statements by ticking (□) the appropriate response.

No.	Statement	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Agree	Strongly agree
1	International partnership of Kenya/China relations has led to the production of fake items.					
2.	International partnership of Kenya/China relations has led to more construction disputes.					
3.	International partnership of Kenya/China relations has brought rivalry with local establishments					

**Thank you for your cooperation.**

## APPENDIX II: INTRODUCTION LETTER



**UNIVERSITY OF NAIROBI**  
Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences  
**Department of Diplomacy and International Studies**

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P.O. Box 30197  
Nairobi  
Kenya

October 24, 2023

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

RE: FRIDAH NYAMU - R50/34221/2019

This is to confirm that the above-mentioned person is a bona fide student at the Department of Diplomacy and International Studies (DDIS), University of Nairobi pursuing MA in **International Studies**. She is working on a research project titled, "ASSESSMENT OF THE EFFECT OF INTERNATIONAL PARTNERSHIPS ON INFRASTRUCTURAL DEVELOPMENT: CASE STUDY OF KENYA/CHINA RELATIONS."

The research project is a requirement for students undertaking MA programme at the University of Nairobi, whose results will inform policy and learning.

Any assistance given to her to facilitate data collection for her research project will be highly appreciated.

Thank you in advance for your consideration.

A circular stamp of the University of Nairobi, Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, Department of Diplomacy and International Studies. The stamp contains the text "UNIVERSITY OF NAIROBI", "FACULTY OF ARTS AND SOCIAL SCIENCES", "DEPARTMENT OF DIPLOMACY AND INTERNATIONAL STUDIES", and "DATE: .....". A signature is written over the stamp.

**Dr. Martin Ouma**  
Ag. Chair, Department of Diplomacy and International Studies (DDIS)



### APPENDIX III: BUDGET

<b>S/NO</b>	<b>ITEM</b>	<b>AMOUNT</b>
1.	Printing	1,500
2.	Travelling	1,500
3.	Photocopying	1,000
4.	Internet cost	1,500
5.	Binding	300
6.	Miscellaneous	1,000
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>6,800</b>

**APPENDIX IV: TIME SCHEDULE 2023**

	Feb - May	June	July	October
Proposal writing				
Data collection				
Data analysis				
Report writing				
Report submission				