

China Aid Impact on Africa Capacity Building: the Case of the Gambia

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Abstract:- For decades, China has provided aid to Africa, which has greatly aided the continent's growth. The aid's main goal is to help African countries become more self-sufficient, but it has drawn a lot of international interest and sparked discussion. While some African leaders, politicians, and academics see these numerous aids as lucrative opportunities for both sides, critics of the relationship question China's willingness to help recipients improve their self-reliance capabilities. Concerns about the use of Chinese labor, input, and tied aid during the execution of such projects have contributed to skepticism about the aim of fostering mutual benefit and self-reliance in these recipient countries.

Regardless of the ongoing debate among this partnership's allies and rivals, there is very little current literature that examines the efficacy of China's aid in terms of capacity building with a focus on employment creation and infrastructure development. There is a scarcity of literature dedicated to capacity-building indicators such as employment creation and infrastructure development.

Despite the paucity of literature, this study aims to contribute to the limited existing literature on the impact of Chinese aid on capacity building in Africa by focusing on the Gambia. To do so, the study looks into China's aid impact on Gambia's capacity building in terms of employment creation and infrastructure development. The study was analyzed using primary data from semi-structured email interviews with open-ended questions and secondary data from previous research papers, the China White Paper, and news outlets.

Similar to previous research results from the cases of Angola, Sudan, and Uganda, which all experienced some capacity building, The Gambia has experienced the same. The results obtained in the case of The Gambia indicate that the China aid project has had a *significant* effect on capacity building in The Gambia.

Keywords: - Africa; Aid; China; the Gambia; Impact

I. INTRODUCTION

The People's Republic of China (PRC) and African countries have had diplomatic ties for over five decades, and Africa has consistently backed China in different areas. On the other hand, despite criticism from the developed world, China has been assisting African countries for a long time.

The relationship's primary goal was to help one another politically and financially in the war against colonial rule at the time(Chege 2014).

China's diplomatic relations with Africa began in 1956 with the Sino-Egyptian agreement, and Egypt was the first African nation to receive Chinese assistance(Han Yi 2018). Over time, more African countries have developed diplomatic ties with China to improve trade, politics, and mutual support to promote economic growth. China views Africa as an ally because both countries have similar development strategies, which has prompted China to maintain diplomatic relations with African countries. In the 26th Session of the United Nations (UN) General Assembly Resolution in 1971, the majority of African countries voted in favor of China (26 African countries), resulting in China being recognized as "the only legitimate representative of China to the United Nations" with a two-thirds majority vote(Cheng 2016). At first, the relationship between China and Africa was primarily focused on gaining mutual support, with little attention paid to economic ties. During the Cold War, when African countries needed assistance from China, China offered approximately \$ 2.5 billion in aid and dispatched Chinese staff to finance development projects. Furthermore, in the 1970s, China sponsored the Tanzania-Zambia Railway (Tazara), the largest construction project at the time, to minimize Zambia's economic dependency on South Africa and Rhodesia and ensure large-scale skill transfer to local Zambians and Tanzanian workers(Dunfjäll 2018).

1.1 Differing Definitions of Aid: OECD and China

Two forms of development aid programs, OECD defines:

1. Official Development Assistance (ODA) consists of official grants or loans with concessionary terms that promote economic development and welfare, with a grant component of at least 25%. Besides, technical aid is included and grants, loans, and credits for military purposes are not.
2. Official Development Finance (ODF) is made up of "non-concessional development funding by multilateral financial institutions" and "other official flows for development purposes (including refinancing loans) that have a grant component that is too low to qualify as ODA."(OECD 2021).

The definition of the Information Official white paper on China's foreign aid differs from that used by the OECD, making comparisons difficult. It demonstrates that its foreign aid is "mutual assistance between developing countries,

focuses on practical effects, accommodates recipient countries' needs, and aims to foster friendly bilateral ties and mutual gain through economic and technical cooperation with other developing countries(the state council 2011)". Since it started providing international assistance in 1950, it has explicitly distanced itself from the traditional donors.

1.2 Dimension and effectiveness of foreign aid

Foreign aid as a means of fostering global growth has been a contentious subject. Over the past four decades, there has been a huge outflow of research on the efficacy of foreign aid. This has been and continues to be a very important subject, with many academics arguing for various paradigms of development thought. However, it is important to demonstrate that the international financial architecture contains a wide range of aid flows, as seen in the diagram below.



Source: Global development finance by Deborah Brautigam (2011)

The diagram above shows that global development financing is channeled to recipient countries through two major channels and numerous flows. However, I will concentrate my research on official development finance platforms such as Official Development Assistance (ODA). ODA is a type of aid that is provided to developing countries to help them boost their welfare and economies. It is believed that ODA is subsidized by the government.

According to other researchers, the effectiveness of foreign aid shows that most Chinese development and financial assistance are tied. Financial assistance is provided to fund contracts that are executed by Chinese firms, while development assistance is normally given in kind. Debt relief is the only component of Chinese assistance that is untied. Tying reduces the effectiveness of aid and reduces opportunities for domestic producers(Berthelemy and John 2011).

China's loans have been seen as jeopardizing concerted attempts in poor African countries to boost debt sustainability. Those countries are still heavily in debt, but they are requesting loans from China, causing aid to be ineffective(Berthelemy and John 2011). Another problem is that most African countries mismanage aid or invest in activities that are unrelated to the fund's intent. These wasteful expenditures would raise their debts, and the aim of the aid, which is to promote economic growth, will be thwarted.

1.3 Literature on Chinese aid: Forms, Scale and Scope

Writing about Chinese aid is difficult because some researchers have difficulty obtaining data for their studies, but data has recently become much easier to obtain. The previous scholars were unclear about the types of Chinese aid and how it is funded. According to (Lynch, Andersen, and Zhu 2020) and the Chinese Government, China’s aid is provided in eight different forms. 1. Complete sets of projects (also known as “turnkey” or infrastructure-based projects) 2. Commodity aid (i.e., equipment, goods, and materials exported to other countries) 3. Technical cooperation projects 4. Cooperation on human resources 5. Sending Chinese medical teams 6. Emergency humanitarian aid 7. Volunteers programs and 8. Debt forgiveness. They’re financed in three different ways (1. Grant or a donation 2. Interest-free loan, and 3. Concessional loan). The first two are included in China's state budgets, while the Export-Import Bank of China, as designated by the Chinese government, provides concessional loans(Charles Wolf, Jr., Xiao Wang 2013). Grants from the Chinese government are favorable, but loan terms are complicated and need more information.

The grants are granted to assist the recipient country's government in the construction of social welfare programs such as schools, hospitals, and housing. When recipient countries wish to develop turn-key projects, they are granted loans that can be forgiven. Their interest is typically low, with at least a two-year grace period, and loan repayments can be stretch over ten or even twenty years(Lynch, Andersen, and Zhu 2020).

As I previously said, official Chinese sources have limited data on Chinese foreign aid in terms of scale and scope. Africa is the largest recipient of Chinese assistance,

receiving 44 percent of annual aid flows, according to (Lönqvist 2008). China invested 44.4 billion yuan (approximately US\$5.6 billion) assisting African countries between 1949 and 2006 (P. Davies 2007). By the end of 2009, China had provided foreign countries a total of 256.29 billion yuan in assistance, with grants totaling 106.2 billion yuan, interest-free loans totaling 76.54 billion yuan, and concessional loans totaling 73.55 billion yuan (Charles Wolf, Jr., Xiao Wang 2013). According to (Carter 2017), the Chinese government, banks, and contractors lent USD 94.4 billion in commercial and concessional loans to African governments and state-owned enterprises (SOEs) between 2000 and 2015.

The case of Uganda, Sudan, and Angola which are an example of African that could best portray and determine their aid with China as having been largely successful, when it comes to infrastructure development and other types of Chinese aids to these countries but what was not put into research was Chinese aid to the Gambia towards capacity building of the Gambia. This made a research gap that motivated me in taking this research and add to the literature on Chinese aid to the Gambia.

China has been pursuing its "Going Global" strategy since the 1990s. China's relationship with Africa at the time was more economic than political. China's manufacturing industry was expanding to Africa for new markets, and raw materials to feed its rising industry, which the African continent can provide (Mccarthy 2011; Carslake 2018). China founded the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation (FOCAC) in 2000 to strengthen its economic and political links with Africa and use it as a platform to dialogue, exchange ideas, and coordinate its foreign policy toward the continent (M. Davies et al. 2008). This was the time when their relations began to become more interesting and pleasant, attracting the attention of the rest of the world, especially the west. China provided Africa with a large number of development projects/aids in a short period, something that the west/traditional donors could not do, resulting in debates and criticism from the west. Chinese aid to Africa is tied-aid, according to (Bräutigam 2010; Doppgima 2013), and the use of Chinese labor and inputs to carry out their grandiose aid ventures jeopardizes China's economic prospects with the recipient countries. As a result, they began to doubt China's assistance as a capacity builder for these aid recipients. They began to doubt China's assistance as a capacity builder for these aid recipients. With that in mind, this paper aims to conduct a detailed case study of the impact of China's assistance on Gambia's capacity building.

I have proposed the following research questions, which I will try to answer in this article:-

-How does China's aid impact Gambia's capacity building concerning employment creation and infrastructure development?

The importance of this research project is to gain a better understanding of China's aid to Africa, especially in The Gambia, gain an empirical understanding of China's aid, and supplement existing literature on China's aid to Africa.

When it comes to the controversy surrounding China's aid to these recipient countries, this paper could serve as a learning model for both students and actors.

The paper's objectives are as follows:

The study aims to add to the existing aid literature by reviewing China's aid in the sense of a single country, thus providing additional literature that can be compared to other recipient countries as well as the key OECD development assistance. Although there is a large body of literature on China's aid to Africa, few publications on China-Gambia ties.

furthermore, the study will present original empirical data (from interviews) and compare and contrast the perspectives of the various respondents to the China-Gambia relationship. It is hoped that by completing this study, all of the odd questions, debates, and other issues concerning the China-Africa relationship will be addressed and that it will be of interest to other stakeholders such as African and Chinese academics, officials, and traditional donors to both Africa and China who are thinking about and actively interested in China's position in Africa.

The following is the layout of the paper. Following this introduction, section two provides a background and context of research on Chinese aid to Africa and an overview of cooperation between Gambia and China. The theoretical framework and methodology are provided in section three. Section four analysis data collected concerning China's aid to the Gambia concerning employment creation and infrastructure development. Section five conclusion and, policy recommendations.

II. BACKGROUND AND THE CONTEXT OF THE RESEARCH

This section of the research constitutes Chinese aid to Africa and an Overview of Sino-Gambia cooperation.

2.1 Chinese aid to Africa

October 1, 1949 chairman Mao Zedong (Chinese communist leader) declared the formation of the People Republic of China, by that time China had a close economy until 1950 when china starts to give support to developing countries and Egypt was the first African country to receive aid from china in 1956 (Han Yi 2018). During those years china still had a close economy, trying to self-develop and planning for the future development and opening up.

In the 1970s, African countries voted for China to have a seat in the UN which supported China's joining the UN at that time. During those eras most of the African countries were struggling to gain independence from the west, influencing China to support back Africa in the liberation of the continent from the west, to strengthening global forces against imperialism, and colonialism; to help African countries achieve self-reliance (Cheng 2016). 1978 is another important year for the People's Republic of China, as it marks China's Reforms and Opening-up policy, during that year's China's development towards Africa declined. Nonetheless, some Chinese enterprises had the opportunity to expand their

businesses to the outside world and Africa was not an exception (Han Yi 2018). Despite China's high poverty rate at that time, China never hesitates in giving support to Africa and other developing countries, yet China is being criticized for its assistance to Africa. Since then China and Africa find different ways to be on good terms or improve their South-South Cooperation.

In 2000, the two partners (China-Africa) when on establishing Forum for China-Africa Cooperation (FOCAC) to strengthen the diplomatic relations between them. Since the initiative of such a great forum, it helps China and African countries to have a platform where they can discuss, coordinate and share ideas in support of one and another. The FOCAC organizes conferences or summits every three years and it is held either in China or Africa based on the scheduled agree upon them. China has been the leader of the developing countries, every FOCAC meeting, China pledge African countries billions of US dollars for the continent's economic development.

China's opening up and extending its diplomatic relationships with Africa is being criticism by the west on three grounds. First, China is searching for raw materials to fuel its growing industries. Secondly, as China's enterprises are expanding to Africa in search of new markets, and thirdly, is China's One China Policy is being supported by all the African countries that have diplomatic ties with China (Naidu and Davies 2006). China has the financial resources while Africa has the natural resources, both are in search of development, it is normal for China to support Africa

financially and Africa, in turn, offers its natural resources for the betterment of China and Africa.

2.2 An Overview of cooperation between Gambia and China

This sub-section, concerns the Gambia-China Relationship, Trade, Scope, and Nature of China's aid to the Gambia.

2.2.1 Gambia-China Relationship

The Gambia formed diplomatic ties with China on December 14, 1974. On July 13, 1995, the Gambia resumed diplomatic ties with Taiwan after twenty-one years of diplomatic relations with China. As a result, China suspended diplomatic ties with The Gambia on July 25, 1995 (China 2021). The 18th of March 2016 After more than two decades of suspension, the Gambia and China have re-established diplomatic ties, and the two countries' relations are currently very good (China 2018).

2.2.2 Trade

China and Gambia signed a trade agreement in November 1975 to promote business transactions between the two countries, and a new agreement was recently signed to reduce the 95 percent tax-free status of all products imported from Gambia (The Gambia: Ministry of Trade, Industry 2010).

2.2.2a Gambia exports to China

According to the United Nations COMTRADE database on foreign trade, Gambia exports US\$1.02 million to China in 2020.

TABLE 1-Gambia exports to China

Items	Value	Year
fruits, grain, oleaginous fruits, Oilseed, and seed	\$581.63K	2020
Lime, cement, earth, plaster, salt, sulphur and, stone	\$212.53K	2020
vegetable fats, animal, cleavage products, and oils vegetable	\$167.35K	2020
Antiques, works of art, and collectors' pieces	\$58.45K	2020
Wood charcoal, articles of wood, and wood	\$2.66M	2019
Pulp of wood, fibrous cellulosic material, waste	\$90.60K	2019
Vegetable products ,and vegetable plaiting materials	\$18.88K	2019
Miscellaneous manufactured articles	\$8.23K	2019

Source: <https://tradingeconomics.com/gambia/exports/china>

From the above table, Gambia's export to China is very minimal. All the other items are valued in thousands except Wood charcoal, articles of wood, and wood which is in millions. This is a very small portion compared to what China exports to the Gambia, therefore increasing the trade imbalance between the two countries.

2.2.2b China exports to the Gambia

According to the United Nations COMTRADE database on foreign trade, China's exports to the Gambia totaled US\$512.67 million in 2019.

TABLE 2-China exports to the Gambia

Items	Value	Year
Cotton	\$155.17M	2018
Gaiters, bike, and footwear	\$26.04M	2018
electronic equipment, and electrical	\$24.10M	2018
Steel or Articles of Iron	\$18.95M	2018

Manmade Filaments	\$17.84M	2018
Coffee, tea, mate, and Spices	\$14.32M	2018
Iron and Steel	\$14.03M	2018
Boilers, , Nuclear tractors and, Machinery	\$12.33M	2018
Manmade staple fibers	\$11.20M	2018
Soaps, lubricants, waxes, candles, modeling pastes	\$11.01M	2018

Source: <https://tradingeconomics.com/china/exports/gambia>

The table above provides china's exports to the Gambia in millions of dollars. This is a large share compared to what Gambia export to china. Therefore, China has a significant trade surplus with the Gambia, which leads to a trade imbalance. The International Trade between China and The Gambia is trade imbalance, as indicated above, The Gambia has a huge trade deficit with China and recently is increasing every year. For that of China, It has the opposite (huge trade surplus) with the Gambia.

According to the Chinese government, China's aid comes in eight different ways: 1. Complete sets of projects (also known as "turnkey" or infrastructure-based projects) 2. Commodity aid (i.e., equipment, goods, and materials exported to other countries) 3. Technical cooperation projects 4. Cooperation on human resources 5. Sending Chinese medical teams 6. Emergency humanitarian aid 7. Volunteers programs 8. Debt forgiveness. China's aid is financed in three ways: 1. Grant or a donation 2. Interest-free loan 3. Concessional loan (Lynch et al., 2020).

2.2.3 Scope and Nature of China's aid to the Gambia

TABLE 3-Chinese aid to The Gambia from 1974 to 2021

No	Type	Projects	Value	Year
1	Complete sets of projects	Independence Stadium, the Friendship Hostel, Health Centers, and other projects		1974-1995
		National Broadband Network	\$3.4M	2019
		International Conference Centre	\$50M	2019
		Basse-Fatoto-Koina roads and two new bridges (Basse-Wuli and Fatoto-Parsimus bridges)	\$82M	2018-2021
2	Commodity aid	parboiled rice	1,308 metric tons	2017
		Rice	2,568 tons	2017
		solar street lamps, freezers, and refrigerators	12	2017
		medical equipment and medicines	2.1 Million RMB(US\$320635.14)	2019
		Gynecology Endoscopy equipment	GMD7 million (US\$140,000)	2019
		medicines, medical equipment, and vehicles	GMD10 million (US\$195121.95)	2020
3	Technical cooperation projects	Medical equipment	25500 Pairs	2020
		technical assistance to the Royal Victoria Hospital in Banjul, Bansang Hospital, irrigated rice cultivation in Sapo	-	1975-1995
		Training Professionals Gambians on development subjects	100	2017
		Professionals, technicians, and officials trained in 190 different training courses and seminars in China	450	2018
4	Cooperation on human resources	Establishment of Confucius Institute in the University of the Gambia	-	2019
		Scholarship package to Gambian students to study in China	161	1984-2020
5	Sending Chinese medical teams	Sending medical personals and health experts to the Gambia	228	1977-2020
6	Emergency humanitarian aid	Rice	7734 metric tons	2017-2020
7	Volunteers programs	Establishment of Confucius Institute at Nusrat Senior Secondary School	-	2019
8	Debt forgiveness	Loans	US\$12 Million	2017

Sources: Interviews, various articles, and social media platforms

From the table above of china's aid to the Gambia. The Gambia started receiving aid from china in 1974, which was infrastructure-based projects such as the construction of the Gambia first independent stadium, friendship hotels, and health centers from 1974 to 1995 that was during the first diplomatic tie with China. From 1995 to 2016 Gambia has not received any aid from china due to the suspension of diplomatic relations between the two countries. In 2016, China and the Gambia resume diplomatic relations. Therefore, in 2017 China continues its aid to the Gambia till presently (2021).

III. THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK AND METHODOLOGY

The theoretical framework, hypothesis, and methodology are all discussed in this chapter. Moreover, keep in mind that the study aims to see whether China's aid is a capacity builder to the Gambia. I would attempt to focus on Interdependency theory and Political Realism as two of the key ideologies in which main actors position their claims to resolve the ongoing situation fixed within this expression of China aid as a capacity builder within its relationship with The Gambia.

3.1 Theoretical framework

The Interdependence Theory and Political Realism will be used in this study, which are two contrasting theoretical viewpoints often used by actors to describe the complexities of China-Africa relations.

Interdependence theory, according to many academics, is a broad and nuanced theory that emerged in the 1970s when Political Realist views on international relations were not widely accepted as new aspects of interstate relations emerged (Wallsten, T. S., Erev, I., & Budescu 2000). Though the ideology has evolved, the fundamental concepts of this theory have not changed. Interdependence is a concept that refers to two parties' shared support and reliance on one another. According to scholars such as Benson, Niou, and Masterson, the interdependence principle is linked to peace-making or an increase in a trade conflict (Dopgima 2013). Interdependence, on the other hand, was described by Robert Keohane and Joseph Nye as a situation in which states or actors are constrained in their freedom by external events in a reciprocal relationship with other states or actors.

The China-Africa relationship, according to researchers and supporters of the relationship, is a mutual relationship in which both sides are reliant on one another. Some contend that the scope of the partnership is not the same, and the discussion continues. According to (Naidu and Davies 2006) China searching for a market for its products and raw material, and Africa looking for aid, indicating both parties are at the same time dependent on each other. China is looking for a market for its goods and raw materials, while Africa is looking for assistance, meaning that both parties are mutually dependent. It's a win-win situation because both partners have what the other requires. China, on the one hand, has sufficient financial resources that Africa requires, while

Africa, on the other hand, has ample natural resources and the demand that China requires.

The Political Realist, in contrast to the Independence theorist, views foreign aid as a reflection of the donor's state's national interest. It assumes that all nation-states are guided by national interests, or at the very least, that national interests take precedence. They reduce the political ethical concept of "might is right" to a mere "might". The Political Realism philosophy has a long history, which is rooted in works of *Thucydides' Peloponnesian War*, *Machiavelli's The Prince*, and others such as *Thomas Hobbes*, *Spinoza*, and *Jean-Jacques Rousseau*, accompanied by a great dramatic portrayal of this theory in *Shakespeare's Richard III*. Under this theory, the various duration theories have all established different themes, but all themes appear to share some resemblance in origin (Dopgima 2013).

Political realists, who are mainly academics of the China-Africa relationship, have a different outlook on foreign aid than their Interdependence counterparts from this perspective. Political realists, according to Robert Keohane and Joseph Nye (1977), see foreign aid as a national interest because they believe the international policy is a fight for power and control (Chidiebere 2019). Furthermore, McKinley and Little (2006: p 237) reaffirmed this perspective by presenting international aid as a tool of foreign policy aimed at advancing the donors' interests rather than those of the recipients. In this regard, the aim of assistance appears to be a combination of donors' political and economic interests (Chidiebere 2019). Finally, this means that, regardless of the assistance they provide, they do not prioritize self-sufficiency and economic growth in these recipient countries, but rather aim to promote their national interests.

3.2 Hypothesis

As stated above, current China-Africa aid ties cannot be fully explained by a single theoretical model. With this in mind, the following two hypotheses are formulated to guide the research:-

H1: China's aid to the Gambia will lead to an increase in employment creation for Gambians.

H2: China's aid to the Gambia will lead to an increase in infrastructural development for Gambians.

3.3 Methodology

I will use a qualitative case study process. I assume that a qualitative case study would facilitate my investigation of the impact of Chinese aid by allowing for the use of a variety of data sources, ensuring that the key problem under investigation is assessed through a variety of lenses, allowing for different perspectives on the case to be disclosed and understood. This would also help to improve the trustworthiness of the study results.

3.4 Research Design

With the above brief description, the analysis would certainly take a Case Study approach. When the purpose of the research is to address *how*, when it involves real-life

behaviors that cannot be manipulated, when the contextual state of the phenomenon study is important, and when the boundaries between this phenomenon and the context are unclear, a Case study design should be considered, according to (Yin, 2003). These characteristics are very important to my research because I'm trying to figure out how China's aid has impacted economic growth in the Gambia, which is a very interesting phenomenon to investigate. With this in mind, I will use a *Single Case Study* research design, with China as the recognizable single case and the Gambia as the fixed unit in my study.

3.5 Data Collection, Processing, and Sources

The use of multiple data sources, which is a technique that improves analysis reliability, is a hallmark of a case study (Yin 2003). However, to determine my possible data collection method and sources, and in light of how difficult it is to find reliable data on China's aid to Africa, I must restrict the reach of the research's dependable Variable, *Capacity Building*. Though a contentious concept, with various stakeholders disagreeing on what it means, Capacity Building is more commonly understood as a deliberate, external intervention to help build capacity over time. For this study, Capacity Building will be described as an external activity or support aimed at hastening or achieving economic growth. As a result, to thoroughly investigate China's assistance in capacity building in The Gambia, detailed methods that allow effective analysis must be developed.

Indicators are often used to assess the impact and efficacy of aid programs, which is something I want to change in China's Gambia assistance. Indicators, as (T.Bastia 2000) so eloquently puts it, are useful instruments for tracking and assessing that also have the added advantage of encapsulating vast quantities of data in a single number or statistic, allowing for comparisons across geographical regions or various institutions over time. They are sometimes used as proxies for the changes that are taking place. Indicators, on the other hand, have little utility when used on their own and can be deceptive and reductionist (T.Bastia 2000). As a result, when using indicators to explain a straightforward portrayal of the impact of China's aid, it is best to perform a qualitative analysis concurrently with the use of indicators. This reaffirms my decision to conduct this study using qualitative case studies.

Although a comprehensive overview of all the indicators required for evaluating China's aid as a capacity builder is beyond the reach of this study, it is useful to highlight briefly the indicators I plan to use. In terms of the study's scope, I intend to focus on employment creation and infrastructure development. In terms of employment creation, I will look into whether these magnificent Chinese projects are creating meaningful jobs to improve the lives of locals, and in terms of infrastructural development, I will look into whether infrastructural development is taking place in The Gambia. However, due to the scope of the study, time constraints, and practical difficulties in obtaining detailed and reliable data, I will limit myself to the above-mentioned indicators, as they are far more useful in guiding my

investigation into the role of Chinese aid as a capacity builder in the Gambia.

As a result, both secondary and primary data sources have been used to direct my investigation of the aforementioned indicators. since secondary data on China's capacity building aid is scarce, my primary secondary sources will be the websites of the Chinese embassy in the Gambia, the world bank, the foreign affairs ministry of china, the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), different ministries websites of the Gambia, just to name a few. The accuracy and reliability of the data/information obtained from these sources are extremely high, and they are mostly official and scholarly sources, which prompted me to put my faith in them.

In terms of primary sources, which will be the primary data source for this study, I interviewed fifteen prominent actors from various sectors or ministries in The Gambia via email and other social media platforms, including students on Chinese government scholarships in China. The Gambia is a culturally diverse country and with the personals, I interview represent most of the Gambians. This is because the interviewees came from a variety of backgrounds, including the government, academia, business, international organizations, an opposition group, a government regulatory authority, and civil society, among others. To demonstrate the respondent's cooperation, the sectors in which the interviewees are involved include government, academia, industry, an opposition group, an international organization, and civil society.

3.6 Data Analysis

One of the least developed and most challenging aspects of conducting case studies is proof analysis (Yin 2003). The process of adding order, structure, and interpretation to a mass of collected data is complicated, uncertain, time-consuming, imaginative, interesting, and does not follow a linear path, according to (Marshall and Rossman 2015). However, to provide linear and ordered analyses for the data obtained, I will primarily use the *Categorical Aggregation technique*. (Stake 1995) proposed it as a case analysis method in which the researcher attempts to gather samples from the data to interpret specific significance from these samples. Furthermore, (John W Creswell and Cheryl N. Poth 2017) describe it as an informative technique for drawing definitions from multiple samples of data.

To continue with the data analysis, I will create four categories to reflect four key themes, and then code the information from the interview against the indicators. These four definitions would be focused on how a Political Realist and an Interdependency theorist see the possible outcome of China's capacity-building assistance. Based on the assumption that Political Realists view China's aid to Africa as geared toward China's interests, the likelihood of China's aid rising employment creation and infrastructure development in the Gambia would be *insignificant*. On the other hand, based on the idea that Interdependency theorists see China's aid to Africa as a win-win situation for both

parties, the likelihood of China's aid increasing employment creation and infrastructure development would be *significant*.

Nonetheless, the meanings of *insignificant* and *significant*, as used above, must be kept in mind. It is self-evident that establishing such magnificent aid projects in The Gambia would inevitably result in the creation of employment opportunities and infrastructure development for Gambians. But the major question is whether these

developments are *significant* enough to warrant consideration in terms of their effect on economic growth. Relevant, as used in the Interdependency theorist's potential result, will reflect sufficient in these two indicators that are sufficiently worthy of attention. Although *insufficient* will reflect changes within these two indicators that are *insufficient* to be worth considering, as used in representing the potential outcome of the Political Realist theorist. More information is given in the table below.

TABLE 4: Framework of data analysis

Capacity Building Indicators	Ideologies that form stakeholders' perceptions of the impact of China's aid to the Gambia	
	ideology of Political Realism	Ideology of Interdependency
Employment Creation	Will result in an insignificant increase <i>Theme 1</i>	will result in a significant increase <i>Theme 2</i>
Infrastructure Development	will result in an insignificant increase <i>Theme 3</i>	will result in a significant increase <i>Theme 4</i>

There are four themes, as seen in the diagram above. The first theme looks for proof in the data that China's aid hasn't provided enough job opportunities for Gambians, which is worthy of consideration. As previously mentioned, Political Realist ideology forms this perspective. Theme 2 is the opposite of Theme 1. Theme 2 is based on an interdependency ideology, and it seeks to find confirmation in the data that China's aid has created enough jobs for Gambians, which is a worthy consideration. The third theme, which is based on a Political Realist ideology, looks for confirmation in data that shows China's aid hasn't resulted in enough infrastructure development, which is worthy of consideration. Although Theme 4, which is based on an Interdependency theorist ideology, looks for confirmation in data that shows China's aid has resulted in enough infrastructure development, it is worth considering.

These themes are intended to determine the impact of Chinese aid on employment creation and infrastructure development in The Gambia, as described above. I have extract samples from the data that I can analyze using the indicators that guide my research. This will require the triangulation of these data from the interviewee to interpret relevant context. It is one of the most common methods for researchers to validate their data analysis. It will go a long way toward establishing a consistent line of evidence that will make my conclusions as solid as possible. As a result, samples from the interview data will be triangulated and coded according to these themes, allowing for the testing of the hypothesis H1 and H2. The results of this test will eventually assist us in answering the research question- *How does China's aid impact Gambia capacity building in respect to employment creation and infrastructure development?*

IV. FINDINGS AND ANALYTICAL DISCUSSIONS

This section of the research gives the empirical analysis and assessment of the impact of China's aid towards capacity building concerning employment creation and infrastructure development. This first section will discuss and present the multiplicity of findings by the themes. The general concerns and viewpoints raised in respect to Theme 1 and Theme 2 as

regards the employment creation indicator and that of Theme 3 and Theme 4 as regards the infrastructure development indicator, will be emphasized. And, the second part of these sections will focus on the analytical discussion of the findings.

4.1 Findings and discussion on Employment Creation

The persistent poverty rate in Africa, increase income inequality, and slow job growth further aggravated by the continuing Covid-19 pandemic faced by the traditional donors, is a critical hindrance to the socio-economic development of most Sub-Saharan African (SSA) countries. Fostering job growth has and continues to be the main challenge for most SSA countries. As the traditional donors faced the Covid-19 crises, hindering their financial status, yet China's aid is increasing yearly by providing significant project aid to most of the SSA countries. Nevertheless, with such magnificent projects, one will strongly anticipate a job booster within the recipient SSA countries, but that is not the case. However, in some cases such as the case of Sudan, these magnificent projects have booster employment creation according to Satti Nour. The Case of Uganda and Cameroon are kind of opposed to this general perception. In the case of Uganda and Cameroon based on the research conducted by Global et al and Gadinga Amstrong Doggima, it was found out that local citizens were only provided labor on a small proportion while a significant portion of the workforce are Chinese. However, what thus the case of the Gambia presents?

4.1.1 Theme 1

In progress to answer the research question and certify the research hypothesis H1, Theme 1 as stated above, looking to find affirmation within the data depicts China's aid as haven't created sufficient employment opportunities for Gambians which needs consideration. However, viewed from different perspectives, six interviewees admitted that there is an insignificant increase in employment creation, and the remaining nine from the academic sector, business sector, international organization, and government sector disagreed with Theme 1. The arguments and quotes that support the

interviewee's perceptions concerning Theme 1 are as followed:

Recently, with the rising labor costs in China and East Asia, Africa with the youngest and fastest-growing population in the world holds the potentials with low labor costs. Nevertheless, even with these potentials and the huge aid assistances to Africa countries, one of the interviewees **Mr. Ceessay** acknowledge that *“obstacles such as corruption, lack of institutions and infrastructure have to hinder job creation in Africa. In the case of the Gambia, corruption, and lack of infrastructure are the obstacles”*. Implying that, although the main reason for this aid assistance was employment creation, the Gambia in a state of uncertainty with corruption and lack of infrastructure will hamper the channels that allow such aid to create employment possibility.

Mr. Ceessay has a similar line of argument with **Mr. Sulayman Darboe**. He views China and Africa relations as serving only the interest of the Chinese people and the African government officials. By **Mr. Sulayman Darboe**, the government of the Gambia is responsible for this lack of employment creation. He argues *“that because of high corruption and laissez-faire attitude among the Gambia government officials, no measures have been taken to ensure Chinese companies employ more locals as the rule for foreigners when executing such projects”*. This he assumes is the main problem behind the lack of employment creation. *“With the misleading government system existing in the Gambia, the Chinese take that as an advantage to bring in the workforce from China”*, according to **Mr. Sulayman Darboe**.

In defending Theme 1, other interviewees such as Mr. Dibasey and Mr. Bittaye made their arguments from another perspective. They argued that the Chinese government is creating jobs for its citizens outside of China. **Mr. Dibasey** argued that *“China is very populated, making the Chinese government ensure its citizens to immigrate to Africa as workers for Chinese companies”*. *“The Chinese government will make sure that the Chinese companies in foreign countries effectuating their grand projects aid to employ Chinese workers”*. To further support this viewpoint, **Mr. Bittaye**, argued that *“the unemployment rate in China is high, therefore will reduce unemployment in china”*. **Mr. Bittaye** continues arguing that *“in most of the African countries the Chinese companies employ Chinese workers with marginal unskilled locals, unless when the Africa governments force them to employ the locals”*. According to **Mr. Bittaye**, China construction companies import their workforce from China instead of recruit locals, except when pressurize for better conduct. This deed hinders economic expectation of china's relation with the recipient country.

To further support Chinese companies importing workforce from china, **Mr. Ann** argued indirectly to support Theme 1. He argues that *“Chinese companies work under strict guidelines to finish their projects on time and within fix budgetary limits. Therefore this pushes them to employ Chinese workers for them to be able to control their work performance for the duration of the contract”*. According to

Mr. Ann, the Chinese believe that *“Gambians and most of Africans are lazy, therefore if they include Africans in their work they will not be able to finish their tasks on time and eventually incurred more cost”*, thereby explaining the reason for importing labor force from china during the effectuation of their projects.

Nevertheless, they were not able to give strong evidence for their arguments during the interviews. Additionally, they couldn't provide specific data concerning importing Chinese workforce from china and Gambians employed as compared to their Chinese counterparts in the Gambia.

The above findings, show the inadequacy of information on the part of the interviewees from the government sector, academic sectors, business sector, civil society, and opposition party to defend Theme 1. Briefly, data acquired for this research does not find sufficient support to defend these 6 interviewees' argument that China's aid to the Gambia leads to an insignificant increase in employment creation. These grandiose aid projects may certainly impact some changes in the employment creation in the Gambia. Their evidence presented neither support Theme 1 nor nullify Hypothesis H1.

4.1.2 Theme 2

In progress to answer the research question and certify the research hypothesis H1, Theme 2 as stated above, looking to find affirmation within the data depicts China's aid as having created sufficient employment opportunities for Gambians which needs consideration. However, Viewed from almost the same perspectives, all 9 interviewees from the government sector, academic sector, business sector, and international organization admitted that there is a significant increase in employment creation. They raise strong evidence for their arguments during the interviews and the arguments and quotes that support their perceptions concerning Theme 2 are as followed:

In defending Theme 2, **Mr. Njie** argued that *“these magnificent china's aid projects, immensely boost employment for Gambians especially the youths who were just graduated from the university looking for jobs”*. According to **Mr. Njie**, *“the International Conference Centre (ICC), bridges and roads construction employed 70% to 85% Gambians during the effectuation of these grandiose china's aid projects by the Chinese companies”*. His arguments show that these Chinese aid projects have employed many Gambians which have greatly contributed to employment creation in the Gambia.

With a similar line of argument to that of Mr. Njie, **Mr. Mendy** argues that *“Yes indeed, it does employ Gambians because, in all these projects implemented by the Chinese, the technical know-how is done by the Chinese and the unskilled labor is done by our Gambian brothers and sisters. The wages and salaries paid to them will boost the economy”*, which I couldn't agree with more.

In further support of Theme 2, **Mrs. Jaiteh** added a similar argument that *“the Gambia national stadium,*

friendship hotels and other constructions projects which were built through the china aid projects in the Gambia have employed 80% to 90% of Gambia, reducing the pressure on the government. According to **Mrs. Jaiteh**, “scholarship awards given to Gambian students and professionals in different field of study, upon their graduation, some create enterprises and other employment opportunities in the Gambia”. These indicate that china’s aids to the Gambia in the areas of infrastructure and scholarship packages have greatly assisted in creating employment in the Gambia.

Still, in support of theme 2, similar arguments were added, **Mr. Kanteh** and **Mrs. Mendy** argue that “Yes,

China’s aid projects have employed many people, one example is the construction of the sir. Dawda Kairaba Jawara international conference Centre. The state-of-the-art conference center is employing many Gambians. The Basse road and the bridge projects are also employing so many Gambians”. According to them the aim of these projects, to boost the infrastructure of the Gambia and offer job opportunities to the Gambians is been fulfilled.

To further defend theme 2, only qualitative data is not sufficient. The table below is extra quantitative data to provide adequate proves for theme 2.

TABLE 5: Data on China’s aid Employment Creation in the Gambia

Year	Type	Number of Employees
1974-1995	Construction of Independence Stadium, the Friendship Hostel, Health Centers, and other projects	1400
1980	Irrigated rice and vegetable projects	3600
2017-2021	Gambian port upgrade project	400
2017-2019	Construction of International Conference Center	1000 including, 500 permanent jobs and another 20 for the management
2019	Launched of National broadband Network	200
2017-2021	Basse-Fatoto-Koina Roads and Fatoto-Passamass Bridges	1700

Sources: Interviews, various articles, and social media platforms

The findings above indicate very clear that data obtained for this research does find adequate support to defend Theme 2 as well as Hypothesis H1. However, the result of previous researches and general viewpoint is that such magnificent aid projects will lead to employment creation, which does seem to be the case of the Gambia. Data obtained from this theme portrays strong evidence of a significant increase in employment opportunities, which partially answers, our research question.

4.2 Findings and discussion on Infrastructure Development

The importance of infrastructure development for economic growth can barely be exaggerated. The acquisition of infrastructure skills and its establishment within recipient countries foster economic production growth. This could be seen in the case of Uganda, Sudan, and Angola which are an example of African that could best portray and determine their aid with China as having been largely successful, when it comes to infrastructure development. With the execution of China’s aid projects, there has been increased availability of physical capital (such as machines and equipment, etc.) and raw materials. Moreover, one significant implication for infrastructure development is the rise of Chinese best construction companies and magnificent buildings in these countries. Most of the nationals working in these China’s aid projects are being well trained simultaneously, during the execution process of these Chinese aid projects, which assisted most of the recipient countries to be able to promote infrastructure base projects with the locals. However, what thus the case of Gambia presents?

4.2.1 Theme 3

In progress to answer the research question and certify the research hypothesis H2, Theme 3 as stated above, looking

to find affirmation within the data that depicts China’s aid as hasn’t led to a significant increase of infrastructure development in The Gambia, which needs consideration. However, viewed from different perspectives, three interviewees (**Mr. Dibbasey, Mr. Bittaye, and Mr. Ceesay**) admitted that the impact of China’s aid leading to infrastructure development is inefficient, and the rest disagreed with Theme 3. China has made significant changes and economic development within 30 years which contributed immensely in terms of infrastructure development. Currently, china’s infrastructure sector is one of the best globally, as they are well recommended when it comes to buildings that can last for many years without renovation. Africa’s infrastructure is not standardized, especially roads, bridges, railways, airports just to name a few. These are the infrastructure areas china is best at, and can greatly render support in the infrastructure development of African countries. Despite this recognition, not everyone agrees that China’s development experience is appropriate for sustainable economic development in Africa. With slightly similar views, **Mr. Dibbasey, Mr. Bittaye, and Mr. Ceesay** don’t think Chinese infrastructure is appropriate for Africa’s benefit. All three see China as “not very well infrastructure oriented, and thus can’t assist Africa in infrastructure development”.

Mr. Dibbasey further noted that “China infrastructure sector is still not up to standard, as we can notice, previously the Americans, Europeans, and Asians such as Japan are those countries helped China to acquire more knowledge on infrastructure, therefore China is still developing, for that been the case China’s infrastructure is not appropriate for Africa”. Implying that China’s infrastructure assistance is not appropriate for Africa. He when on saying that” in China, the quality of infrastructure projects built are of a high standard

but when the Chinese companies build the same projects in Africa is of very low quality”.

To further support Theme 3, in similar line with Mr. Dibbasey, **Mr. Bittaye** argues that “ *China’s infrastructure aid projects to Africa involved some corruption between the African Governments and their Chinese counterpart, because we hardly get the correct details about these projects and at the end, they are not well constructed*”. This indicates the high rate of corruption in Africa will certainly hinder Africa’s infrastructure development.

Mr. Ceesay also argues in a different direction, stated that “ *these Chinese companies in Africa, Are not here to helped in the construction of our infrastructure, but to mine our natural resources because we can notice in some African countries like Angola, Zambia and Sudan are a very good example*. Implying that there is no infrastructure but mining Africa’s natural resources.

The above findings indicate the lack of information on the part of the interviewees from the government sector, academic sector, and civil society to defend theme 3. However, China has pledged to encourage cooperation with Africa according to the Chinese White Paper. Data gotten from the interviewees do not provide strong evidence that shows an insignificant increase in infrastructure development. Their evidence presented neither support Theme 3 nor nullify Hypothesis H 2.

4.2.2 Theme 4

In progress to answer the research question and certify the research hypothesis H2, Theme 4 as stated above, looking to find affirmation within the data that depicts China’s aid as having lead to a significant increase of infrastructure development in The Gambia, which needs consideration. However, twelve of the interviewees from the government sector, academic sector, business sector, international organization, and opposition party admitted that the impact of

China’s aid leading to infrastructure development is significant.

In support of theme 4, **Mr. Babou** argues that “*Although the rebirth of our friendship with China is still young, I believe that the cooperation between China and The Gambia have promoted infrastructural development since our national stadium was built by them when we were friends with them during our first republic. A conference center was also recently built by Chinese in The Gambia*”. Implying that china is contributing to the infrastructure sector of the Gambia.

Mr. Mendy further stated a similar argument with Mr. Babou. Argued that “*China has been helping since our first republic in building, the Gambia independent stadium, friendship hotels, health centers and currently the International Conference Centre is built and the ongoing roads and bridges infrastructure projects in the Upper River Region (URR)*. I couldn’t agree more.

Additionally, **Mrs. Jaiteh** argues similarly to the above two interviewees (**Mr. Babou and Mr. Mendy**). Mentioned that “*yes, China is currently helping in the infrastructure development in terms of roads, international conference center, among other things*”.

In support of Theme 4, **Mr. Darboe, Mr. Kanteh, and Mrs. Mendy** also argue in the same line with the above interviewees, “*China’s aid is helping in the infrastructure notably the international conference center, which is first of its kind to be built in the Gambia and it does contribute a lot in the development of the country*. It shows that china’s aid in terms of infrastructure is yielding a positive impact in the Gambia.

To further defend theme 4, only qualitative data is not sufficient. The table below is extra quantitative data to provide adequate proves for theme 4.

TABLE 6: Data on China’s aid Infrastructure development in the Gambia

Year	Type	Amount
1974-1995	Construction of Independence Stadium, the Friendship Hostel, Health Centers, and other projects	-
1980	Irrigated rice and vegetable projects	-
2017-2021	Gambian port upgrade project	\$159.91 million
2017-2019	Construction of International Conference Center	\$50 million
2019	Launched of National broadband Network	\$3.4 million
2017-2021	Basse-Fatoto-Koina Roads and Fatoto-Passamass Bridges	\$82 million

Sources: Interviews, various articles, and social media platforms

The findings above indicate very clear that data obtained for this research does find sufficient support to defend Theme 4 as well as Hypothesis H2. However, the result of previous researches and general viewpoint is that such magnificent aid projects will lead to infrastructure development, which does seem to be the case of the Gambia. Data obtained from this theme portrays strong evidence of a significant increase in infrastructure development, which partially answers, my research question.

SUMMARY

The above findings and analytical discussion concerning China’s aid towards Capacity building in The Gambia are positive. And other African countries boost the positive impact of China’s aid towards Capacity building in their respective countries as anticipated by the Interdependency theorist, except the case of Cameroon. The following table provides a summary of findings for the various Themes.

TABLE7: Summary of results from the four Themes

Capacity Building Indicators	Widespread ideologies that define stakeholders viewpoint of the impact of China’s aid to the Gambia	
	Political Realist Ideology	Interdependency Ideology
Employment Creation	Weak arguments to support Theme 1	Strong arguments to support Theme 2
Infrastructure Development	Weak arguments to support Theme 3	Strong arguments to support Theme 4

From the table above, one would agree that according to the evidence obtained from the data, that the impact of China’s aid towards capacity building in the Gambia within the lights of employment creation and infrastructure development has been, significant. This finding greatly corroborates with the Interdependency ideology of the possible effect of China’s aid to the Gambia.

As shown in the table above, the interviews indicated weak arguments to support Theme 1 and 3. While on the other hand, the arguments brought by the interviewees who felt that this aid has to lead to a significant increase in employment creation and infrastructure development, as stated in Theme 2 and 4, were very strong. These findings defended both hypotheses guiding the research. Mindful that both hypotheses speculated China’s aid to the Gambia will lead to employment creation and infrastructure development, which seemed to be the case. Moreover, these findings do not only defended our hypothesis, but also provide us with a very comprehensible answer to the research question on *how does China’s aid impacts Gambia capacity building concerning employment creation and infrastructure development?*

V. CONCLUSION AND POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS

5.1 Conclusion

The paper seeks to answer the research questions, how does China’s aid impact Gambia capacity building concerning employment creation and infrastructure development? The results got from Theme 2 and 4, which indicate significant contributions of china’s aid towards employment creation and infrastructure development immensely helped in answering our research questions.

China’s aid has positively impacted the Gambia’s capacity building, and the study will add to the existing literature on Chinese aid to the Gambia and serve as a reference to academicians, government officials, and international organizations who has an interest in Chinese aid to the Gambia.

The study is limited to a single country (the Gambia) and, due to the time limit of the research, lack of financial assistance, and availability of data the study was not able to acquire much data to provide more support to the study.

To find more relevant details of Chinese aid to the Gambia, further study should be made on Chinese aid to the Gambia in respect to the different ministries and its impact on the GDP of the Gambia.

5.2. Policy Recommendations

Based on the findings of the research, the major policy recommendations include a full agreement of projects by both GOTG and China before implementation. This will ensure the proper effectuation of projects promptly and within the budget of the two governments.

The Government of the Gambia (GOTG) should gain an understanding of the Chinese approach to aid because china’s aid towards Africa is different from the west. This will enable GOTG to better coordinate its agendas.

Improve the effectiveness of China’s aid to the Gambia and boost the benefits from China’s aid by allocating it to more sustainable development projects and avoid allocating to unproductive projects. Also, more local workers should be well trained, provide an opportunity to learn new skills in China so that they can maintain the imported machinery and equipment, preserve activities at the end of the projects and technical assistance and augment the value-added for Gambia’s economy.

Data concerning China’s grandiose aid projects, loans, and other agreements between China and the Gambia should be published to the general public. By so doing, it will improve the understanding of the multiple objectives of Chinese aid, assist the researchers to access data for their various research, and reduce critics from the opposition and the west.

China’s aid to the Gambia should be diversified to other sectors like aquaculture and fishing, manufacturing, etc. it seems that a greater portion of China’s aid to the Gambia is center on infrastructure, agriculture, health, and education.

Reduce reliance on Chinese tied aid to the Gambia. Procurement for the Chinese aid projects should be localized because the local entrepreneurs will lose business opportunities, augment the unemployment rate as the local workers would have been employ, and lead to cost incur.

Establishment of a special organization to be only in charge of coordinating, management, monitoring, and evaluation of foreign aid to the Gambia. This body can make platforms where China and Gambia can have dialogue and share viewpoints on improving the cooperation between China and the Gambia.

The Gambia should be capitalized on Chinese-sponsored scholarships. GOTG must review the management of the Chinese government scholarship to allocate packages on the most important studies for its national strategic plan. The graduates should return to the Gambia and employ in strategic positions where their newly-acquired professional expertise could be used and their know-how in Chinese.

APPENDIX

Example of Questionnaire and Responses:

Questionnaire

1. I will like us to start by you telling me about yourself?
2. What comes to mind when asked about China's aid to The Gambia? Which of the Chinese aid project(s) could you identify in the Gambia?
3. What sector(s) of the Gambian population do you think benefit(s) from such projects? Why and how do the sector benefit from such projects?
4. Does this China's aid lead to employment creation and infrastructure development which could result in an increase in economic development in the Gambia?
5. Finally, how will you characterize the impact of China's aid on economic development in the Gambia

Responses to Questionnaire:

1. I will like us to start by you telling me about yourself?

I'm a Gambian studying in China. Bachelor's degree, electrical engineering.

2. What comes to mind when asked about China's aid to The Gambia? Which of the Chinese aid project(s) could you identify in the Gambia?

I believe since we regained our friendship in 2016 there's a strong bond and cooperation between The Gambia and China. The project I can identify is the Chinese government scholarship for Gambian students to come and study in China.

3. What sector(s) of the Gambian population do you think benefit(s) from such projects? Why and how do the sector benefit from such projects?

Students benefit from it. They come to China and study.

4. Does these China's aid leads to infrastructure development and employment creation which could result in an increase in economic development in the Gambia?

Although the rebirth of our friendship with China is still young, I believe that the cooperation between China and The Gambia can promote infrastructural development since our national stadium was built by them when we were friends with them during our first republic. A conference center was

also recently built by the Chinese in The Gambia. Chinese companies in The Gambia also mean more employment.

5. Finally, how will you characterize the impact of China's aid on economic development in the Gambia?

All the initiatives I mentioned above comes with the idea that cooperation between China and the Gambian will bring about more economic development through trade and also the Chinese companies being built. This is quite true.

However every pro has its cons, some issues are caused by new Chinese companies in The Gambia. For example, the Chinese fishing company in the Gambian caused pollution on our beaches. They caused a rise in the prices of fish since the fishermen prefer selling their fish to the Chinese company instead of the markets where people buy their groceries.

As for the Chinese government scholarship I mentioned, for masters and Ph.D. students, I believe it's alright for the students since their language of instruction is English, but for the bachelor's students, they only have one year to learn Chinese and study their program in Chinese. Some of these students became half-baked graduates that occupy some of the jobs available back home, this may affect the productivity of the nation.

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