



PEN, POLITICS, AND POWER:

**HOW CHINA AND INDIA WIELD SOFT POWER
THROUGH EDUCATION DIPLOMACY IN SOUTH ASIA**

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SOFT POWER AND EDUCATION DIPLOMACY

- ❑ Education is one of several soft power tools
- ❑ A win-win strategy (development & diplomacy)
 - *Strengthening capacity of recipients*
 - *Influencing without coercion*
 - *Big business*

International education is estimated to be a USD 250 billion industry and is expected to reach a trillion dollars within the next decade

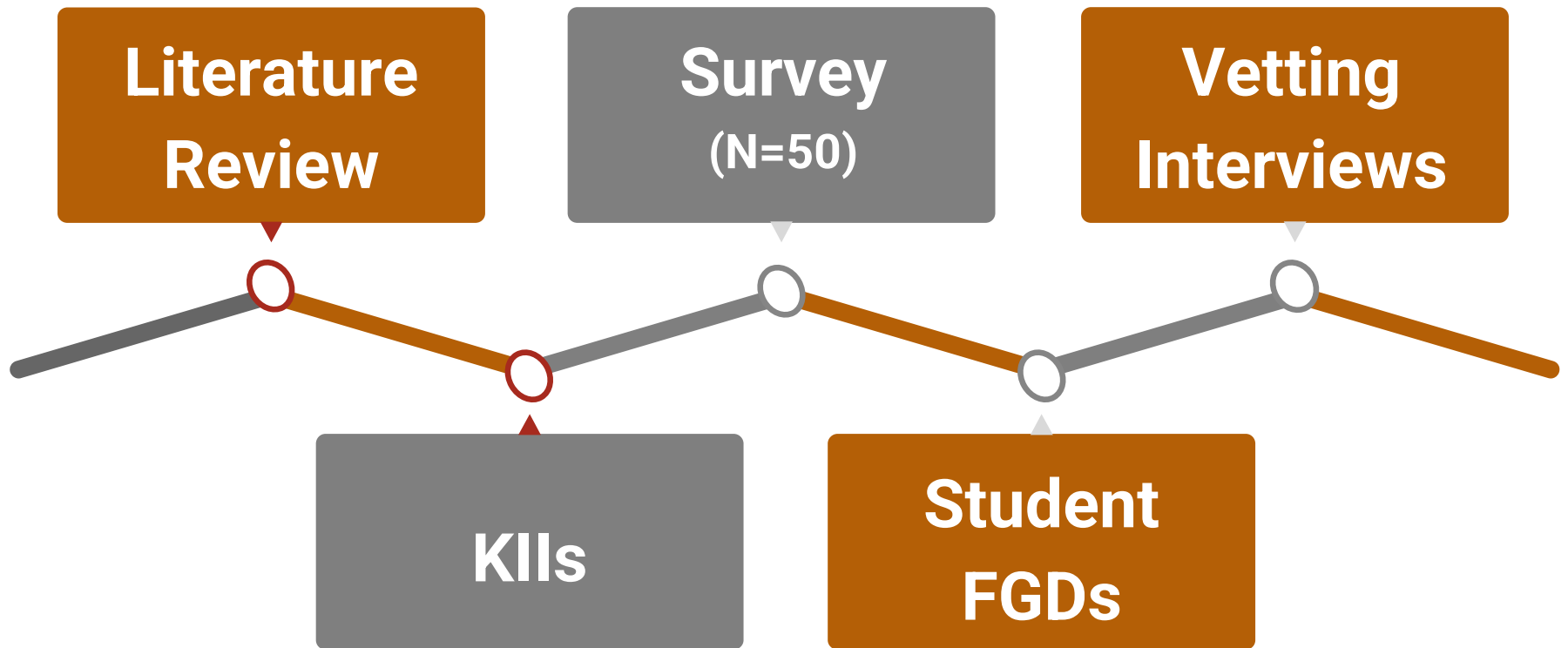
CONTEXT AND CASE IN SOUTH ASIA

- ❑ Geopolitical competition, regional nuances
- ❑ Soft power central global “staging” of India and China
- ❑ Education Diplomacy
 - *India: Traditional sphere of influence; engagement as early as 1949 (ICCR, Colombo Plan, ITEC,..), Civilizational reframing*
 - *China: New entrant benefiting from stage of growth benefits in education; policies pursuing excellence (Project 211, Project 985, Double First Class Initiative)*

OBJECTIVE AND SCOPE

- ❑ Document, comprehend, and elucidate the complexities and evolution of the respective strategies of India and China.
- ❑ Nepal, Bangladesh, and Sri Lanka:
Scholarships, Short-term training programs, Language study, Others (education exchanges for cultural purposes, military study exchanges, and online education)

METHODOLOGY



INDIA'S EDUCATION DIPLOMACY: OBSERVATIONS

- ❑ The neighborhood is still first, but expanding to Africa and Southeast Asia

South Asians half of all international students in India; Nepal 28.26 percent of all students.

- ❑ What Attracts Students?
 - *Language and cultural convenience*
 - *Reputation of institution and price*
 - *Prospects of post study employment*

CHINA'S EDUCATION DIPLOMACY: OBSERVATIONS

- ❑ Prioritizing and internationalizing higher education
- ❑ What Attracts Students?
 - *Connecting with China's current and future prospects*
 - *Quality of education and specialization (modern degrees)*
- ❑ Investments in bridging language barrier

OVERARCHING OBSERVATIONS

Projections and Perceptions

- ❑ Different posturing but a political endeavour with similar motives.
- ❑ Perceptions around high politicization; opportunities as transactional rewards

OVERARCHING OBSERVATIONS

Dynamics of Education Diplomacy In South Asia

- Growing preference for China over India - shift in power
- *Favourable perceptions*
- *Recognition and quality of Chinese institutions*

China receives almost double the number of South Asian students as India does - 50% from Pakistan; even discounting Pakistan numbers are similar

QS World University Ranking: Top Chinese and Indian Universities

Country	Name of University	2022	2018
China	Peking University	12	30
China	Tsinghua University	14	17
China	Fudan University	34	44
China	Zhejiang University	42	68
China	Shanghai Jiao Tong University	46	59
India	Indian Institute of Science	155	170
India	IIT Bombay	172	162
India	IIT Delhi	174	172

OVERARCHING OBSERVATIONS

Versus Western Education Diplomacy

- ❑ Striking resemblances in Chinese and Indian approaches vs west.
- ❑ Perceptions on political motivation higher vs west
- ❑ Integration and assimilation: China and India stepping stones

CONCLUSION

- ❑ China: late entrant but fairly successful
- ❑ India: continuing preference, but attraction waning
- ❑ Indian strategy may not resonate with the coming generation, promote local to global standards
- ❑ Increasing competition will benefit recipient countries
- ❑ Donor countries will advance their interests, recipient countries must have capacity and knowledge to safeguard theirs.

END OF PRESENTATION

THANK YOU!