

Effectiveness of Environment Management Plans: Case of Construction Projects in India

Sirat Toor¹ and Neeru Bansal²

^{1,2}Faculty of Planning CEPT, Ahmedabad

E-mail: ¹sirat.toor.mplan15@cept.ac.in, ²bansal.neeru@cept.ac.in

Abstract—*Environment Impact Assessment (EIA) is a globally accepted management tool for environmental governance, which has raised global awareness and has mandated the development projects to be scrutinized for their impacts. In EIA process, the Environment Management Plan (EMP) is the most proactive tool to reduce/ minimize the negative externalities of a project, after the identification of the issues. In the Indian scenario however, in practice, the major issue lies in the implementation of the EMP and the post-project monitoring related to the EMPs proposed. Normally the monitoring is limited to the six monthly compliance reports, to be submitted by the project proponent, making it a system of self-regulation. The main objectives of the EIA get defeated if the implementation factors of the same are ignored by the proponents and the consultants. The rapid industrialization and urbanization have led to the construction boom in India, making the construction sector an emerging dominating economic activity. This has generated certain impacts on the environment, rendering EMPs to be an important tool to address environmental concerns associated with this development. This research paper focuses on the assessment of effectiveness of the EMPs in addressing the environmental concerns in terms of the construction projects. The aim is to identify the key indicators and analyze their effectiveness in practice. Two large scale projects have been studied in detail and the analysis includes the provisions made in the EIA reports of the projects and their Environmental Clearance (EC) orders with respect to the selected indicators and how these have actually been implemented on ground. The analysis has led to conclude on the effectiveness of EMPs in case of construction projects.*