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ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT FOR BUILDING CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS

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ABSTRACT

Rapid industrialization and population explosion in India has led to the migration of peoples from villages to cities which increase human settlement in world's growing cities and towns. This generates several issues with regard to the environment. Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) is becoming a very important study before commissioning of any project plan or development in our country. In order to study either its beneficial or harmful effect; evaluation of any project through EIA has become a must; Indian construction industry is rapidly growing at a rate of 9.2% as against the world average of 5.5%. Undertaking EIA for construction industry and improving site management can reduce environmental impacts both on and off site. Several agencies use procedures for EIA of construction projects which might result in significant environmental impacts. The EIA study is necessary to prepare a detailed account of environmental impact of the proposed activity so that appropriate interventions could be taken. An attempt has been made in this paper to study environmental impact of building construction project using checklist analysis methodology. The study focuses on various parameters such as total area, parking area, rainwater harvesting system, basement area, sewage treatment plant, water quality, solid waste, source of water, depth of ground water, distance from the city centre, nearest sensitive zones and overall settlement density. The plan seeks to define the project in a holistic manner and suggest possible mitigation measures for development. The paper argues that through early planning before the start of the project as well as through all phases of the project's development, if environmental concerns are considered simultaneously with other technical and economic criteria, it may be possible to develop the housing projects with the protection of natural resources of that area.

KEYWORDS: Environmental Impact Assessment, Building Construction, Checklist Method