

Projects and Their Impact on Environment

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ABSTRACT

A project is an action oriented enterprise. It is a commitment of last or tasks to be performed within well defined objectives. It is an investment project carried out according to a plan in order to achieve a definite objectives with in a certain time and which will cease when the objective is achieved. Today is the age of projects. Some projects are big and some are small, limited or comprehensive in nature and scope. Some may be indigenous which can be prepared and performed with the help of bilateral and multilateral technical assistance. Some projects division can be made on the basis of national income criteria and some income and output criteria. Projects are made for economic and social development. It is thought that the impact of project will positive but always it does not become so. There are industrial projects, thermal power projects, transport sector projects, nuclear power projects, river-valley projects and mining projects etc. These projects affect to Environment. Air, water, land, forest, accidentals, Noises, dust, radio activity pollution created. These are harmful for humanbeing, animal and plants. So to remove pollution, safety plans should be made, preventive measures should be adopted before dangerous position creat. with the projects and their impacts deep research is necessary for the fair and safe life.

Introduction

A project is an action oriented enterprise. It is a commitment of task or tasks to be performed within well defined objectives. It is an investment project carried out according to a plan in order to achieve a definite objectives with in a certain time and which will cease when the objective is achieved.

Project management institute of U.S.A. has defined project - "as a system involving the co-ordination of a number of separate department entities throughout the organization and which must be completed within prescribed schedules and time constraints." Encyclo paedia of management defined that "in project is an organized unit dedicated to the attainment of a goal the successful completion with pre-determined programme specifications."

Today is the age of projects. Some projects are big and some are small limited or comprehensive in nature and scope. Some may be indigenous which can be prepared and performed with the help of bilateral and multilateral technical assistance. Some projects division can be made on the basis of national income criteria and some income and output criteria. Projects are made for economic development as well as for the social service. It is expected with every project, for their positive impact but it expectation does not always fulfill projects effect negatively on environment.

Effect on Environment

For efficient environmental management environmental impact assessment may be conducted for a wide range of projects, which may have inadvertent (overlooked) environmental intrusions (like highways, canals, airport etc.) or intentional environmental ma-

nipulations (like dams, river, valley projects, clearing of forests, pesticide application etc.) The Environmental impacts of some important projects are briefly discussed

Industrial Projects :

The major environmental impacts of the industrial projects include.

- * Air pollution.
- * Water pollution.
- * Disposal and utilization of solid waste.

The environmental impact assessment of development projects ensures that the natural resources are optionally utilized to achieve sustainable development. Concept of recycling reuse and adoption of clean technologies is increasingly becoming predominant.

Thermal power projects :

The major environmental impacts of thermal power projects include :

- * Air Pollution.
- * Water pollution.
- * Deforestation.
- * Rehabilitation.
- * Land degradation

The flue gases emerging from stacks contain sulphur dioxide, oxides of nitrogen, carbon monoxide etc. which are detrimental both to humans as well as plants. Water pollution can be due to the release of slurry which is essentially a mixture of fly ash and water. Thermal pollution is due to the release of cooling water which can affect the aquatic life of water bodies.

Transport sector :

The environmental parameters affected by transport projects include :

- * Natural Physical Resources.
- * Natural Ecological Resources.

* Human / Economic Development Resources.

* Quality of life values including questioned.

Environmental parameters are to be identified and then mitigation measures are to be provided to offset such impacts.

Nuclear power projects :

In nuclear power plants, the prime concern is the safety from radiations during the operation of the plants and after disposal of nuclear wastes. The major environmental impacts of nuclear power projects which need consideration are :

* Radio-active contamination of air, water and soil.

* Thermal pollution due to discharge of cooling water.

* Deforestation and loss of fauna and flora.

* Rehabilitation.

* Radio-active waste disposal.

Explosure to radio-active radiations in excess of the prescribed limits are detrimental to human beings, aquatic life, flora and fauna. The long half life periods for radio active decay require sealing of record vessel and components for a document period of about 30 years after decommissioning of the nuclear plant.

River valley projects :-

The major environmental impacts of river valley projects which need consideration include :

* Degradation of catchment areas.

* Command area development.

* Rehabilitation of those affected.

* Increased incidence of water borne diseases.

* Reservoir induced seismicity.

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* Deforestation and loss of fauna and flora including loss of genepool reserves.

Most of the rivers valley projects resulting submergence of large tracks of forest and thereby destroying fauna and flora as well as rich biological wealth.

Mining projects :

The major environmental impacts of mining operations are :

* Degradation of land.

* Pollution of surface and ground water resources.

* Air pollution.

* Deforestation including loss of fauna and flora.

* Rehabilitation of affected population including tribals.

* Impact on historical monuments and religious places.

The major component of the mining operations in India is opencast which severly affects the land use pattern.

Removal of Environmental impacts

In order to removal of environmental impacts of projects, safety plans should be made before starting the projects. Major impacts due to projects should be identified. Some impacts which are not seen or felt but they are more affecting and damagerous for human being as well as plants. Some projects way change natural balance and be the causes for future changes so all aspects of projects effects should be counted.

For fair development and welfare of the society projects should be planned carefully and sencetivity.

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