

ENVIRONMENTAL AUDITING AND ROLE OF ADMINISTRATION IN RAJASTHAN

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ABSTRACT

Environmental auditing is essentially an environmental management tool for measuring the effects of certain activities on the environment against set criteria or standards. Depending on the types of standards and the focus of the audit, there are different types of environmental audit. Environmental auditing should not be confused with environmental impact assessment (EIA). Environmental impact assessment is an anticipatory tool, that is, it takes place before an action is carried out. Environmental auditing is carried out when a development is already in place, and is used to check on existing practices, assessing the environmental effects of current activities. The study concluded that administration should become more participatory. In the participatory decision making, administration should include role of general public, Non-Government organisations, public and private institutions. Integration of socio-economic development with environmental issue is a big challenge before administration. This problem can be solved by participatory management.

KEYWORDS: Environmental Auditing, Participatory Decision Making & Management, Socio-Economic Development.

Introduction

National Environment Policy 2006 has been made to establish balance between sustainable development and environmental pollution. There is a need for balance and harmony between economic, social and environmental needs of the country. It is recognized that maintaining a healthy environment is not the state's responsibility alone, but also that of every citizen. A spirit of co-operation and partnership should thus be realized throughout the spectrum of environmental management in the country. "Environmental auditing is essentially an environmental management tool for measuring the effects of certain activities on the environment against set criteria or standards. Depending on the types of standards and the focus of the audit, there are different types of environmental audit". An environmental auditor will study an organization's environmental effects in a systematic and documented manner and will produce an environmental audit report. "A management tool comprising systematic, documented, periodic and objective evaluation of how well environmental organisation, management and equipment are performing with the aim of helping to safeguard the environment by facilitating management control of practices and assessing compliance with company policies, which would include regulatory requirements and standards applicable". Environmental auditing is a systematic, documented, periodic and objective process in assessing an organization's activities and services in relation to assessing compliance with relevant statutory and internal requirements, facilitating management control of environmental practices, promoting good environmental management, maintaining credibility with the public, raising staff awareness and enforcing commitment to departmental environmental policy, exploring improvement opportunities, establishing the performance baseline for developing an Environmental Management System (EMS).

Objectives

The key objectives of an environmental audit are:

- To determine how well the environmental management systems and equipment are performing

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