

## **Abstract**

Environmental Impact Assessment is a tool which ensures the sustainable development of a country. It was introduced in Pakistan through the promulgation of Pakistan Environmental Protection Ordinance and declared mandatory in 1994. EIA involves different stakeholders making it a collaborative platform and has an important component of learning throughout the procedure which enhances its effectiveness. The centralized procedure of EIA in the provinces has resulted into a greater workload on the consultants and the Environmental Protection Department. Moreover, it may lead to overlook some of the important points which should be considered in the procedure. To enhance the effectiveness of EPD Punjab has delegated its powers to division to focus on mega projects of the provinces by reducing the workload of environmental reports. This study aims to understand the scope of effectiveness and outcomes of decentralization. A questionnaire survey was carried out targeting consultants. Responses of consultants are analyzed to gain insights of the current decentralized approach. For a better understanding of the proposed projects, primary data was collected which included the number of meetings and projects. The results of the study suggest that the decentralized approach has resulted in better implementation of the IEE procedure.