

ABSTRACT

The devolution of authority from the federal to the provincial government, authority that made possible by Pakistan's 2010 enactment of the 18th Constitutional Amendment. To study the impact of the devolution upon environmental governance; this research attempts to explore the devolution regarding environmental management and its effectiveness both before and after the devolution. Using qualitative methodologies, such as content analysis and thematic analysis of semi-structured interviews with Pakistan Environmental Protection Agency representatives and environmental experts, the research compares Pakistani provinces' environmental laws and practices with their sustainable development goals. The outcomes have demonstrated that while there is a likelihood of having a specific customized local government in effect, environmental laws can be implemented; various disparities continue to exist in enforcement and compliance with this law, mainly in waste administration, pollution, and climate change. This research adds to the literature by uncovering the impact of decentralization on environmental governance and providing strategic suggestions to revamp the legal and administrative frameworks. Given the intensity of the problems and constraints because of the shortage of resources, the research underscores the necessity of effective implementation mechanisms and more investigation into the concealed roles that civil society and corporations may perform. This paper explores that routine regulatory inspection and principal stakeholder participation are necessary to promote environmental sustainability. Moreover, this research seeks to close the prevailing gap in the literature concerning decentralized environmental governance for sustainable development in Pakistan.