

CULTURE HERITAGE MANAGEMENT

Assignment 7

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Question 1 Select a cultural site and discuss the impacts of a proposed measure on this site within the framework of conducting a Cultural Heritage impact Assignment.

Answer: Cultural Site : Golden Temple (Sri Harmandir Sahib), is one of the most important cultural and religious heritage site in India. It is located in Amritsar, Punjab, and is an important center of worship, community life, architecture and cultural identity . A Cultural Heritage Impact Assignment (CHIA). Can help identify how a proposed development or management measure could affect the site's heritage value.

For this assessment, the proposed measure could be the consideration of a new large visitor and commercial complex near the Golden Temple. The purpose of the development could be improve facilities for tourists and pilgrims, provide accommodation and support local economic activity. However, such development could also create negative impact on the heritage site.

1. Establishing the Baseline Condition

The first step of a CHIA would be establish the baseline condition of the site. This would include documenting the architecture , religious significance, historic surroundings, important views, traditional activities, visitor pattern and the relationship between the Golden Temple and the surrounding urban area. The assignment should also identify the values that make the site important to the local community and visitors.

2. Visual and Landscape impacts

The proposed development could have visual impact if a new building charges important view of the Golden temple or dominates its historic surroundings. The height, design, materials, lightings and location of the building should therefore be carefully considered. UNESCO 's approach to historic urban landscape emphasises the importance of managing heritage places in relation to their wider surroundings and urban context (UNESCO , 2011).

3. Social and cultural impacts

There could also be social and cultural impacts . Increased tourism may create employment opportunities and support local businesses. However, excessive visitor numbers could result in overcrowding, traffic, noise and pressure on local facilities. Construction activities could also disturb religious practices and affect the experience of pilgrims . Local residents , religious authorities and community representatives should therefore be consulted before the project is approved.

4. Physical and environmental impact

Physical and heritage impacts must also be considered . Construction activities may cause vibration, dust, pollution or damage to historic structures and possible archaeological remains. Changes to drainage and the surroundings environment could create additional risks. The CHIA should identify these risks and recommend measures to avoid or minimise potential damage.

5. Mitigation Measures

Appropriate mitigation measures should be introduced before and during the development. These may include reducing the height of the proposed building, selecting compatible materials and designs, protecting important views, controlling construction activities, managing visitor numbers and continuously monitoring the Heritage site. Where possible, alternative locations or designs that have less impact on the Heritage values should also be considered.

Conclusion

In conclusion, a cultural heritage impact assessment would help balance development needs with the protection of the Golden temple's cultural, religious and historical values. The assessment should consider visual, physical, environmental, social and cultural impact and involve relevant state holders in the decision making process. Development should only proceed when it can be they know status that the Heritage significance of the Golden Temple and its wider setting will be protected for present and future generation.

Reference

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