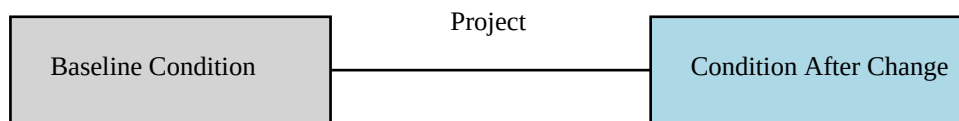


Impact Assessment and Heritage Conservation Assignment

1. Impact is not simply the result of a project, but a change in the baseline condition.

Impact assessment assesses the changes that a project causes to pre-existing environmental, social, economic, or cultural conditions. The pre-project condition refers to the condition of an area prior to the implementation of any project. In this regard, impact cannot just be taken to mean the result of a project but rather what results from a change in its conditions prior to its implementation. If, for instance, there is a project on a highway, the impact of such will be determined by comparing traffic flow, air pollution, and noise prior and post-project. If there was no baseline, then it would be impossible to tell if there has been any improvement or deterioration. The same project can have varying impacts in different settings, depending on the baseline. The visual impact of a wind farm in an industrial setting might not be great, but if the same project is set up in a scenic area, then the impact is different. Environmental, Social, and Heritage Impact Assessments all use baseline information in order to measure impact. In summary, impact must be seen as a change from the baseline condition, not necessarily the presence of the project. The creation of reliable baseline data is important in making sound decisions and developing sustainability.



References

1. Glasson, J., Therivel, R., & Chadwick, A. (2012). Introduction to Environmental Impact Assessment.
2. IAIA. Principles of Impact Assessment.
3. Morris, P., & Therivel, R. (2009). Methods of Environmental Impact Assessment.

2. A City Plans to Construct a High-Rise Building Near a World Heritage Site

Visual Effects: A tall building could create dominance, obstructing significant views and compromising the visual compatibility of the heritage area. Differing in scale and design, buildings could change the historic character of the landscape.

Social Effects: This development may lead to job creation and investment opportunities, thus contributing to economic development. Nevertheless, factors like increased traffic, noise, congestion, and property value increases may pose negative effects on the community. There might also be concerns regarding the weakening of the historical significance of the area.

Heritage Effects: World Heritage Sites have Outstanding Universal Value (OUV). Therefore, there might be adverse impacts on the OUV of the site due to construction of the high-rise, such as changes to its historic setting. Construction vibrations and pollution may pose a risk to heritage structures. To mitigate risks, planners may consider conducting a Heritage Impact Assessment.



References

1. UNESCO (2023). Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context.
2. ICOMOS (2011). Guidance on Heritage Impact Assessments for Cultural World Heritage Properties.
3. UNESCO World Heritage Centre. Operational Guidelines for the Implementation of the World Heritage Convention.