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A Study on the Effectiveness of Environmental Laws and Regulations in Addressing Industrial Pollution in India

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Abstract: *This study evaluates the effectiveness of environmental laws and regulations in mitigating industrial pollution in India. Industrial activities have been a significant contributor to environmental degradation, affecting air, water, and soil quality across the country. India has implemented various laws, such as the Environment Protection Act (1986), the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act (1974), and the Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act (1981), to address these issues. However, enforcement challenges, regulatory gaps, and compliance issues often undermine the efficacy of these laws. This research uses a mixed-method approach, combining quantitative data on pollution levels with qualitative insights from policy analysis. The data was collected from the public in and around Chennai with a sample size of 205. The tool used for the study was a structured questionnaire. The independent variables included in the study are age, gender, locality, marital status and occupation. The dependent variables are the major factors contributing to industrial pollution, whether existing environmental laws are effective, the major challenges in implementing environmental laws and the best measure for implementation and the rating scale on how high the industrial pollution has contributed to environmental degradation. The findings highlight the need for stronger enforcement mechanisms, increased public participation, and the integration of modern technologies to enhance regulatory effectiveness. This study aims to provide recommendations to ensure sustainable industrial growth while safeguarding the environment in India.*

Keywords: Environmental law, Pollution, Industrialization, Urbanization, Degradation

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