**CORPORATE SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY IMPACTS ON SUSTAINABLE HUMAN DEVELOPMENT**

**RECENT FINDINGS AND CONSEQUENCES**

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**Abstract**

The goal of this article is to critically analyze the findings of the first, recently published, studies about Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) impacts on Sustainable Human Development (SHD). We aim at deriving conclusions for effective CSR strategies and at identifying consequences for management and research. As CSR claims to create value for corporations and for society, we argue that the people-centered Capability Approach is promising to provide neglected and much needed insights how corporate activities affect individuals and communities. Based on a survey of recent literature addressing CSR impacts on SHD, we highlight CSR potentials to improve average well-being in multiple dimensions of SHD. Moreover, we critically assess challenges and limitations of CSR as a strategy to preserve and foster SHD. For instance, studies have shown that, despite CSR-driven well-being increases, social capital, relational capabilities and collective agency may become challenged by corporate strategies. Moreover, corporate environmental impacts have been found to be less often addressed by both, companies and SHD researchers. Resulting inequality and fairness issues have been identified as causes of violence against corporations even in the presence of total well-being improvements. We conclude that companies should strategically take into account a comprehensive range of factors driving and hampering SHD to account for their whole port-folio of corporate opportunities and risks. This requires evaluating CSR impacts instead of only focusing on CSR inputs and outputs. Thereby, corporations can mitigate their risks, improve their stakeholder trust and strengthen their competitiveness. (241 words)

**Keywords:** *Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR), CSR impact evaluation, Sustainable Human Development, Base of the Pyramid (BoP), Capability Approach*

**Biography:**

**Kerstin Anstätt** studied Business Administration at Offenburg University and Social Economics at Hamburger University for Economics and Politics. From 2003 – 2008 she worked as Research Associate at the environmental state institute LUBW in the field of sustainable regional development. Since 2009 she is Research Associate at Pforzheim University. From 2009-2012 she was responsible for the implementation of the Principles for Responsible Management Education at Business School. Since 2012 she is assistant of the study programs Resource Efficiency Management and Life Cycle & Sustainability at Institute for Industrial Ecology. Her research is focused on CSR and education for sustainable development. (99 words)

**Jürgen Volkert**

Jürgen Volkert is Professor of Economics at Pforzheim University (Germany) since 2000. He is member of the scientific advisory board of the German government for official poverty and wealth reporting. He was Scientific Managing Director of the Institute of Applied Economic Research Tübingen after having worked in the department of Economic Theory at the University of Tübingen. Since more than two decades, his research and publications focus on the capability approach, poverty, ethics as well as on sustainable human development and its main actors and determinants. (86 words)