A global strategic plan for corporate philanthropy

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Abstract-

Purpose

Criticisms of corporate philanthropy (CP) are different across cultures. In essence, opponents of CP fear the lack of economic returns or the lack of social efficacy of corporate donations. The purpose of this paper is to propose a theoretical model that may overcome both set of criticisms, so that CP plans can be globally designed and implemented.

Design/methodology/approach

Two theories have been used to ground the model: corporate social responsibility theory and moral capital theory. The first one sets the constraints that will ensure the plan increases social welfare. Constraints stemming from moral capital theory set the conditions for CP to increase economic performance.

Findings

On the basis of these constraints, the model stresses the need for ongoing dialogue with internal and external stakeholders, and the continuous monitoring and reporting of the economic and social impact of implemented projects, as the means of overcoming opponents' criticisms of CP.

Originality/value

After analysing the main criticisms posed to CP in different cultural settings, a globally acceptable model is offered, which draws on and completes existing managerial and theoretical guidelines for strategic CP.

Index Terms- Corporate social responsibility; Philanthropy; Ethics; Strategic planning;

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Citation:

Valor, C. "A global strategic plan for corporate philanthropy", Corporate Communications, vol.12, no.3, pp.280-297, August, 2007.