

Abstract

Social-Impact Assessment: a systematic literature review

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Social-Impact Assessment (SIA) is an interdisciplinary social science that incorporates various fields and is regarded as a technique for predicting social impacts as part of an environmental impact assessment (EIA) or as a stand-alone process. The origins of social impact assessment began in the early 1970s in response to the formal requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act 1969 of the USA. Over time there was demand to develop international guidelines and principles and it became obvious that there was a wider purpose for SIA (Vanclay, 2006). SIA is practiced internationally mainly as a predictive study that is part of the regulatory approval process for infrastructure and resource extraction projects (Esteves, 2012) but recently has been applied in many different settings such as social enterprises (Grieco, Michellini and Iasevoli, 2014) or CSR (Bice, 2015).

The aim of this paper is to contribute to the knowledge base of SIA providing an updated theoretical framework about the state of art through a systematic literature review. Articles will be selected using the keyword “Social-Impact Assessment” in a wide range of academic databases. After a screening process a total list of about 274 articles will be reviewed. Each article will be analyzed using content analysis technique. The analytic grid assesses the following categories:

- reference data: year, journal, country
- content issues: aim, keywords
- context issues: industry
- methodology: type (theoretical vs. empirical), sampling procedures and case studies selection criteria (quantitative vs. qualitative), new models/approaches

We plan to develop knowledge based on a critical analysis of dimensions of interest and content analysis. In doing so, the final section will provide an updated literature review which contributes to the SIA core literature and its relationship with CSR.

References

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Grieco, C., Michellini, L., & Iasevoli, G. (2015). Measuring value creation in social enterprises a cluster analysis of social impact assessment models. *Nonprofit and voluntary sector quarterly*, 44(6), 1173-1193.

Keywords: Social Impact Assessment (SIA), Systematic Literature Review, Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR)