ASERS

Journal of Environmental Management and Tourism

Quarterly
Volume XIII
Issue 5(61)
Fall 2022
ISSN 2068 – 7729
Journal DOI
https://doi.org/10.14505/jemt

ASERS Publishing

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Volume XIII
Issue 5(61)

ASERS Publishing
http://www.asers.eu/asers-publishing
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Volume XIII
Issue 5(61)

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DOI: https://doi.org/10.14505/jemt.v13.5(61).03

Corporate Social Responsibility and Socio-Environmental Conflicts in Peruvian Mining Company

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Suggested Citation:

Pérez Falcón, J., Ramirez Asis, E., Vizcarra Arana, J., Espinoza Muñoz, E., Raza, M. (2022). Corporate Social Responsibility and Socio-Environmental Conflicts in Peruvian Mining Company. *Journal of Environmental Management and Tourism*, (Volume XIII, Fall), 5(61): 1251 - 1258. DOI:10.14505/jemt.v13.5(61).03

Article's History:

Received 20th of June 2022; Received in revised form 14th of July 2022; Accepted 5th of August 2022; Published 2nd of September 2022.

Abstract:

Corporate social responsibility is an extremely important aspect that every organization should give the proper importance; on the other hand, socio-environmental conflicts should be considered by every company to have an optimal development, which is why the present study proposes the relationship between these two aspects.

The objective of this research study was to determine the relationship between corporate social responsibility of the mining company Lincuna S.A. and the socio-environmental conflicts of the inhabitants of the province of Ticapampa, Ancash Region, Peru. The present study is a non-experimental, descriptive correlational study where the statistically determined sample was 332 subjects who answered a questionnaire of 30 questions, 15 about corporate social responsibility and 15 about socio-environmental conflicts.

Keywords: socio-environmental conflicts; contamination; mining company; corporate social responsibility.

JEL Classification: Q56; M14; O13.

Introduction

Currently, many mining companies are not complying with their corporate social responsibility and as a result, socio-environmental problems are being generated, which lead to major stoppages of mining activities and generate major conflicts, often due to the lack of compliance with commitments made during the presentation of their EIA when starting operations, as well as the lack of continuous dialogue between company representatives and the communities in the area where the mining activity is located.

While it is true that mining companies cannot replace the responsibility of the Peruvian State, however, all companies are aware that they must comply with their corporate social responsibility, in order to improve the needs of the population, such as education, health, employment for the local population: education, health, employment of the inhabitants of the surrounding area, improve the management of natural resources such as water, soil, air, flora, fauna, the acquisition of products and services of micro enterprises and others, as well as proper management of their solid waste and proper treatment of their effluents before being discharged into the receiving body and affecting the areas of direct and indirect influence.

Once determined the socio-environmental problems and corporate social responsibility of the Lincuna SAC mining company, we will analyze the degree of compliance with its commitments made when determining the expansion of production from 350 to 3000 MTD and its positive and negative impacts on the inhabitants of the District of Ticapampa, so they are committed to: sustainable development approach, excellence in the environmental and social areas, compliance with agreements, responsible relationships, local employment, economic growth and continuation of dialogue. It is worth mentioning that formal mining in the country is subject to the current legal regulations of the Peruvian state and therefore must comply with all requirements, mining, environmental, social, labor, and tax permits established according to category and must avoid generating social conflicts with the surrounding communities where their mining operations are located.

1. Literature Review

Corporate social responsibility is a tool to benefit the quality of life of the entire community (Campos 2017) and improve social capital in the environment of a mining business activity; it also aims to protect the environment, improve the working conditions of employees and contribute to humanitarian causes through the active and voluntary contributions of companies. It also enables the establishment of positive work climate links between the communities surrounding the mining activity and the company, thus improving production processes, employee motivation and loyalty, the company's public image, a stronger positioning in the labor market, and cost savings and higher profitability as a result of greater efficiency (Pérez and Topa 2018, Rubio *et al.* 2018, Alarcón 2017).

The relationship between mining companies and the surrounding environment is fundamental to achieve socially acceptable operations (Muñoz 2019); those working in the mining industry should be aware that greater social acceptance in mining projects increases the likelihood of long-term sustainability, so they could conceptualize that corporate social responsibility (Aguilar and Hirsch 2017). It is so that mining companies are evaluated based on their efforts, related to socio-economic concerns and based on this develop programs and be a leading company, through the support of providing health services by building hospitals, infrastructure development by building roads, education, support to microenterprises in order to consider as their local suppliers and reduce economic costs, also create sources of employment and with everything proposed the company has a remarkable impact towards the community and therefore meets the timely social responsibility (Xia *et al.* 2018).

The mining activity promotes social and economic development, improving the position of the members of the communities, through the purchase of computer equipment and the training of the members where the mining activity is located, thus resulting in a strong positive impact in favor of the communities (Quispe *et al.* 2018, Khalid *et al.* 2021). Corporate social responsibility projects do not resolve the conflicts produced between the company and the community due to lack of understanding, which threatens peace, security, life and property of the community, therefore it is necessary to reach an understanding between the company and community and thus minimize possible conflicts in the future, for such reason it is necessary to identify community stakeholders and involve them in corporate social responsibility programs; In mining, companies must pay more attention to community members by involving them in projects that favor both parties, managing expectations before, during and after and making mining a shared responsibility (Laufer 2020).

Social conflicts are a challenge for all those involved in the mining activity, representatives of the State, business, civil society and the population in general, the instability generated presents problems of governance, economic and social consequences that can seriously undermine the prospects for sustainable development of Peru. Here we can state that the possibilities of management and resolution at local, national and global levels in the extractive and non-renewable industries are at stake. Social conflicts are very broad and have their diverse points of origin, starting from the use of resources, distribution of benefits, environmental pollution, cultural conceptions and other cases that are related to the development of communities, therefore social conflicts are not resolved in their entirety, only transformed. In another case mining social conflicts arise from multiple incompatibilities between production systems and different modes of uses of natural resources water, air and soil (Serna and Laos 2017).

The analysis of environmental conflicts is a key factor for the viability of projects and welfare of affected communities. Here it is seen from an integrated gray approach in order to evaluate the data under study what was located in Peru where it was identified in three groups of stakeholders and seven criteria, whose data were obtained in field interview for the urban population, rural and specialists, have a positive, negative and normal social impact respectively; but it is presumed that this generates socio-economic and environmental conflicts, since access to basic drinking water services, poverty, GDP per capita and employment were verified, in the end the results can serve the central governments in order to prevent environmental conflicts in the area (Merlinsky 2017). Also, with a help of an expert system for a sustainable environment management, with so many kinds of data and information in various terms for different problems could be really useful to determine some constraints prompting in the time of dealing with the issues of reliability, effectiveness and so on (Ștefănescu *et al.* 2011).

Social responsibility and mining are synonymous terms that refer to developing horizontal interaction with communities, sharing duties and problems and incorporating companies and communities in strategic alliances with the objective of sustainable growth (De la Puente *et al.* 2019). We must consider this connection as something that must continue to provide value well beyond the life of the mining activity. It must be taken into account that mining activities are usually developed above 3,500 m.a.s.l., in isolated locations with several deficiencies. As a result, the implementation of mining activities results in a cascade of services and infrastructure improvements in neighboring localities that would otherwise take years to complete. However, it is vital that the community is involved in the processes, educated and familiarized with the programs so that the mining activity and the communities in the mining company's environment coexist in order to safeguard the environment and their social surroundings. Current mining activity demonstrates that companies are serious not only about social responsibility and environmental stewardship, but also about promoting sustainable development (Salas and Diez 2018).

The study in reference will be a guide to be carried out in other companies and if non-compliances are found on the part of the company regarding its corporate social responsibility, corrective measures will be proposed and a continuous dialogue for a coordinated work between the company and the inhabitants of the area where mining activities are developed and, in this way, not reach social conflicts and on the contrary work with the vision of sustainable mining. As a social value, the knowledge of the relationship that may exist between corporate social responsibility and socio-environmental conflicts is a great contribution, since in this way it would be possible to improve some of these aspects for the benefit of both variables, which are important for the development of any society, Within the current reality where there is a great problem of social and environmental problems, it is essential to find contributions that improve the condition of these aspects in order to improve the reality in our society, from the specific aspect of the work of the mining companies, even more that our country is a fundamental work, it is important to contribute in some way that this type of organizations can improve their processes. The theoretical contribution can also be considered, since this research can be used as a background for future research that deals with these variables.

Based on the above, the main objective of this study is to determine the relationship between corporate social responsibility of the mining company Lincuna S.A. and the socio-environmental conflicts of the inhabitants of the district of Ticapampa, Ancash Region, Peru. Our hypothesis is that there is a significant relationship between the corporate social responsibility of the mining company Lincuna S.A. and the socio-environmental conflicts of the inhabitants of the district of Ticapampa, Ancash Region, Peru. One of the limitations found in the development of this study is that the results can be generalized to a regional level but not to a national level because the context where the organization develops can be very variable in our country according to the reality that is lived in each region.

2. Materials and Methods Used for Research

The present study is non-experimental, descriptive and correlational; since the variables were not manipulated and each one of them was described, determining the existing relationship; the socio-environmental problems impacted on the natural resources (water, air and soil) and the fulfillment of the social responsibility of Compañía Minera Lincuna S.A., which is developing its mining activities of exploration, exploitation and benefit, in the district of Ticapampa, were described.

The population is confirmed by a total of 2007 inhabitants and the sample was statistically determined obtaining 332 inhabitants to whom a questionnaire of 30 questions was applied, 15 questions were of corporate social responsibility which has a confidence level through Cronbach's alpha of 0.72 and the other 15 questions corresponded to socio-environmental problems which has a confidence level through Cronbach's alpha of 0.72; it

is worth mentioning that the participation was voluntary maintaining the ethical parameters that correspond to this type of research.

3. Results and Discussion

Table 1 shows the normality test through the Kolmovorov Smirnov Index, where at a confidence level of 95% it can be seen that the values found are not significant, so the analysis of the contrast of the hypothesis proposed was carried out using parametric statistics.

Table 1. Normality test of the data

Variables	Kolmogorov-Smirnov		
	Statistics	gl	p
Corporate Social Responsibility	0.06	332	0.20
Socio-environmental conflicts	0.08	332	0.13

Source: own elaboration

Table 2 shows that 53% of the population of Ticapampa considers the level of social responsibility to be poor, 25% moderate and 22% consider it good. The other 50% consider the level of socio-environmental conflicts to be high, 28% medium and 22% as low.

Table 2. Socio-environmental conflicts according to corporate social responsibility

Corporate Social Responsibility	Socio-environmental conflicts			Total
	Low	Medium	High	
Poor	5%	6%	42%	53%
Moderate	7%	15%	3%	25%
Good	10%	7%	5%	22%
Total	22%	28%	50%	100%

Source: own elaboration

Table 3 shows the Pearson correlation index and at a confidence level of 99% it can be seen that there is a significant and negative relationship ($p=0.00$; $p<0.01$; $rp=-0.61$) between socio-environmental conflicts and corporate social responsibility, thus approving the hypothesis proposed in this study.

Table 3. Correlation of corporate social responsibility with socio-environmental conflicts.

Socio-environmental conflicts		
Corporate Social Responsibility	Pearson	-0.61**
	P	0.00

Note: ** - The correlation is significant at the 0.01 level (bilateral).
Source: own elaboration

The Lincuna mining company, when requesting EIA approval for its mining activities of exploitation and/or beneficiation of the Expansion Project from 350 TMD to 3000 TMD of the Huancapetí A.E.U., carried out in November 2010 before the Ministry of Energy and Mines-Lima, established 5 sworn statements of commitments in order to comply with the districts of Aija in the Province of Aija and Ticapampa in the Province of Recuay, which were established as follows.

Regarding the sustainable development approach, they committed to contribute to it by strengthening local institutions through the articulation of productive development initiatives that result in economic diversification and sustainability. In terms of environmental and social excellence, they committed to the performance of the mining activity, pursuing excellence in social and environmental management and the responsible use and management of natural resources. In terms of compliance with the agreements, it was necessary to comply with the social obligations indicated in agreements, minutes, contracts and environmental studies. In terms of responsible partnerships, it was necessary to respect people, institutions, authority, culture and local customs, as well as to involve the communities and manage disputes between them and the company. In the case of local employment, they committed to hire local workers to perform the various tasks associated with mining, ideally from the region of influence. In terms of economic development, the objective was to contribute to local and/or regional economic growth through the acquisition of local and/or regional goods and services at a reasonable price, thus encouraging the promotion of ventures. In terms of ongoing dialogue, they maintained a continuous and timely dialogue with regional and local authorities, as well as with the population in their area of influence, providing

transparent, timely and accessible information on their mining activities in order to exchange opinions, statements, and participation of all stakeholders.

In respect to these points, in this investigation it was determined that 94.30% of the inhabitants' state that the Lincuna S.A. mining company does not invest in educational infrastructure, health, basic sanitation, soup kitchens or roads, while only 5.70% state that it does. In addition, 80.10% of the inhabitants say that the mining company does not donate educational and health equipment to the community, while 19.90% say that it does. 87.00% of the inhabitants' state that the company does not carry out community social programs in educational, health and sports activities for the community, while 13.00% state that it does. 95.50% of the inhabitants' state that they do not support training programs and implementation of micro-businesses in favor of the community, while only 4.50% state that they do. 91.30% of the villagers believe that they do not have access to the company's production chain for the community, while only 8.70% say that they do. 96.40% of the villagers believe that the mining company has not incorporated people with disabilities into its production chain, while only 3.60% say it has. 92.80% of the inhabitants stated that the mining company does not make fair payments for community lands and other natural resources in favor of the community, while 7.20% stated that it does. 87.30% of the residents believe that Lincuna S.A. does not have adequate environmental management to avoid contaminating the community's air, water, and soil, while 12.70% say it does. A total of 89.50% of the inhabitants say that the mining company does not adequately manage the environment so as not to contaminate the community's flora and fauna, while only 10.50% say that it does.

Thus, in general terms, the perception of Lincuana S.A.'s work is not favorable for society. reinforcing this aspect, the analysis of the general hypothesis of this study was carried out, where it was determined that there is a significant and negative relationship between socio-environmental problems with corporate social responsibility, this indicates that the lower the social responsibility, the greater the socio-environmental problems that arise in a specific context; in the same way it is understood that the higher the level of social responsibility, the lower the levels of socio-environmental problems. That is why social responsibility within the operation of any organization has an important impact for the development of its activities, it is essential that an adequate management process can be carried out where each necessary aspect can be covered according to the context where such organization develops (Río *et al.* 2017, Echeverría *et al.* 2018, Ahmed *et al.* 2021).

For the analysis of our hypothesis, we correlated the results through Pearson's correlation index through which we were able to determine that, if there is a significant relationship between corporate social responsibility and socio-environmental conflicts, the existing relationship is significant, negative and moderate (according to the classification of Alanís *et al.* 2017) which indicates that the lower the levels of corporate social responsibility, the higher the levels of socio-environmental conflicts.

Thus, it is understood that social responsibility is an aspect of utmost importance for an adequate development of companies in which benefits can be identified in the processes they develop in addition to showing a different image in front of society, since by being concerned about external factors and contributing to the improvement of their environment, will generate impact on how the organization can be perceived and mainly the benefit that has the beneficiary factor of the development of the responsibility of the organization has to be important in the improvement of some problematic of society, it is clear that if the company lacks such responsibility not only some benefit is lost but the activity of the organization itself could generate some conflict that threatens the development of society (Parginos 2021, He and Harris 2020, Adnan *et al.* 2018, Maqbool and Zameer 2018, Jacóme-Lara *et al.* 2017); within the aspects, especially of mining organizations, that have much relevance are the socio-environmental conflicts, even more so that it has been shown the existing relationship of corporate social responsibility with this variable, that is why it is very important to be able to attribute the value it deserves since these aspects link fundamental social aspects for the healthy growth of people and the environment that, It is therefore of utmost importance for every organization to take care of these aspects from the point of view that their work does not generate negative impact on the development or operation of these aspects as well as to find or develop activities that can generate some improvement on the socio-environmental factors in the context where they operate (Quispe *et al.* 2021, Carranza *et al.* 2020, Weber and Cabras 2017).

There is a diversity of studies that found similar results in which there is a significant relationship between corporate social responsibility and socio-environmental conflicts (Parginos 2021, Alva 2019, Arvizu and Velázquez 2019, Massa *et al.* 2018, Romero 2017). There was no evidence of adverse outcomes to those found in this study.

Conclusion

It was determined that, if there is a relationship between socio-environmental problems with corporate social responsibility, this relationship is strong and negative*, i.e.,* the higher the levels of one variable, the lower the levels of the other variable. In the context where the study was carried out, it was shown that there are high levels of socio-environmental problems and corporate social responsibility is considered poor to a greater extent; this has repercussions on the population's perspective on the work of the mining company in aspects such as education, health, food, housing, basic services, water, soil and air pollution, and damage to the ecosystem.

It is evident that the socio-environmental problems are 80.73% and only 19.27% considered that they do not exist, while 83.94% stated that there is non-compliance with corporate social responsibility and only 16.06% indicated that Company Minera Lincuna SAC complies with its commitments. There is a moderate negative relationship between corporate social responsibility and the socio-environmental conflicts of the inhabitants of the district of Ticapampa.

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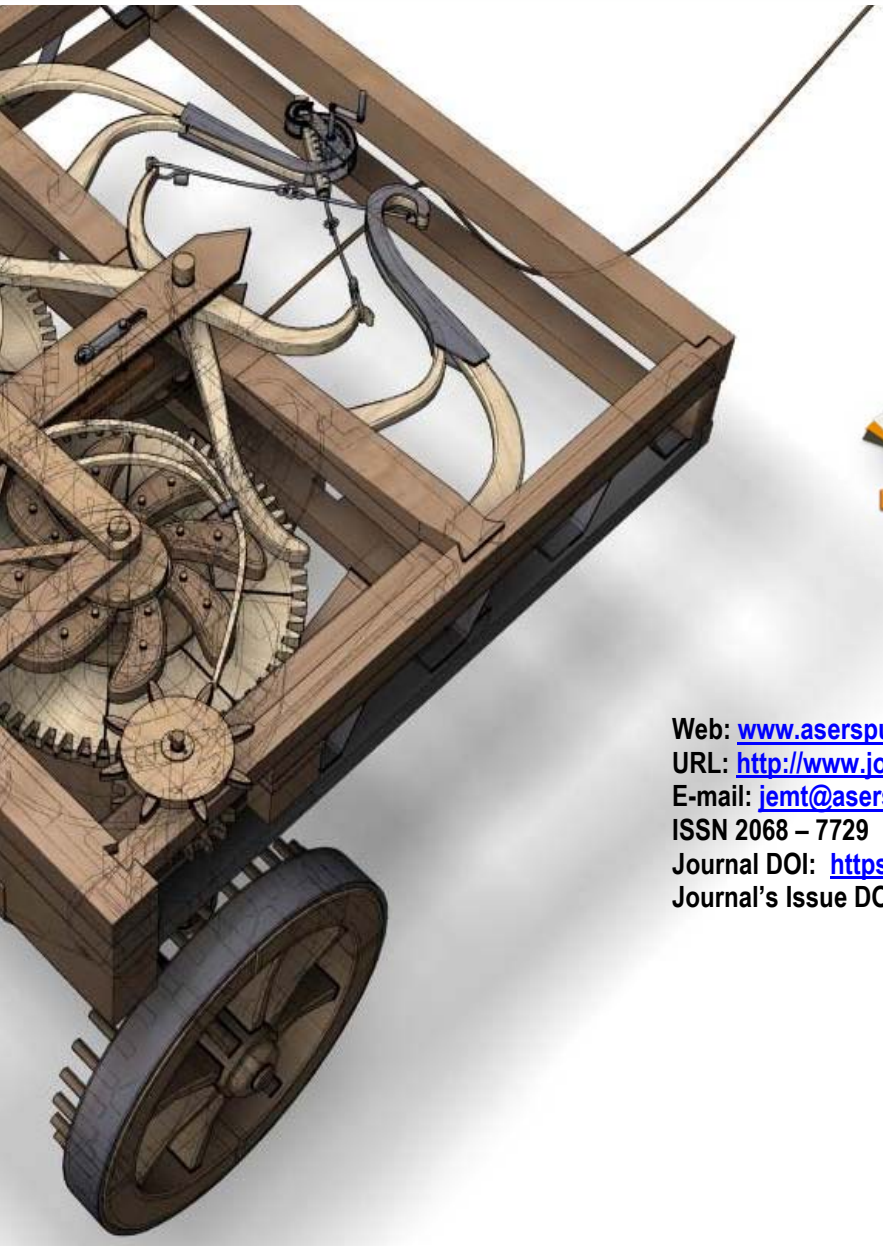

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