**BBSI011: Week 1 Introduction to Business and Social Impacts**

**Tutorial A worksheet**

**Activity 3: Concept Check for Week 1: Introduction to Business & Social Impacts**

Answer the following questions when instructed by your tutor.

1. What is the definition of a business?  What is the definition of social impact?

The term business refers to an organisation or enterprising entity engaged in commercial, industrial, or professional activities. The purpose of a business is to organize some sort of economic production of goods or services. Businesses can be for-profit entities or non-profit organisations fulfilling a charitable mission or furthering a social cause. (Investopedia, 2023)

The definition of social impact means any significant or positive changes that solve or at least address social injustice and challenges. Businesses or organisations achieve these goals through conscious and deliberate efforts or activities in their operations and administrations. (Duke, 2021)

1. What are some examples of positive social impacts that a business might focus on?  What are some negative social impacts that a business might create?

Positive social impact examples

Providing access to clean drinking water in a community that does not have it

Building a school in a society that does not have on

Providing job training to unemployed people

Planting trees in a community to improve air quality and reduce pollution

Supporting local businesses and farmers by purchasing their goods and services

Providing access to education for underprivileged children

Developing and implementing sustainable energy solutions

Creating programs and initiatives to address homelessness and poverty

Promoting equal rights and opportunities for marginalised groups

Advocating for policies that protect the environment and combat climate change

Supporting mental health services and reducing stigma around mental illness

Providing access to healthcare for underserved populations

Developing technologies and innovations that improve people's lives and well-being.

Negative social impact examples

Building a factory that pollutes the air and water in a community

Cutting down trees in a society without replanting them

Failing to provide safe working conditions for employees

Discriminating against certain groups of people, such as based on race or gender

Not paying employees a fair wage or providing them with adequate benefits.

1. Your tutor will assign you to a group and allocate one of the businesses from the list below.  Conduct research and outline whether this business contributes positively or negatively to social impacts.  Provide a summary of your findings.  Be prepared to share the group's summary with the class.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Business** | **Positive or Negative?** |
| Apple | Apple has made significant strides in contributing positively to social impacts through its extensive environmental, social, and governance (ESG) initiatives. Apple has been proactive in its social responsibility programs, focusing on empowering people with accessible technology, creating an inclusive and diverse work environment, and upholding human rights. Apple also actively supports environmental innovation through its Impact Accelerator program, part of the REJI. In summary, Apple's contributions to social impacts are largely positive, with comprehensive efforts across environmental sustainability, social equity, and corporate governance. |
| Ben & Jerry's Ice-cream |  |
| Starbucks |  |
| University of Technology, Sydney (UTS) |  |
| IKEA |  |

1. Why is social impact important to learn as a student studying at UTS College?

For UTS College students, understanding and engaging with these concepts is not only part of their academic journey but also essential preparation for their future roles as informed, responsible, and proactive members of society.

**Activity 4: BHP Case Study**

Let's get into small groups and discuss the questions relating to BHPs sustainability statement below. Be prepared to share your ideas with the class.

1. Watch the short video, then use the BHP Sustainability resource below to outline the six positive social impact changes that BHP has focused on.

The company emphasizes several key areas including climate change, biodiversity and land management, partnerships with Indigenous peoples, safety and health in operations, supporting the wellbeing of their global workforce, and respecting human rights.

1. Can you identify any instances where BHP’s operations have had a negative effect on the environment or communities? How did BHP address these issues?

BHP has been involved in several incidents that negatively impacted the environment and communities, with the most notable being the Samarco mine disaster in Brazil in 2015. This catastrophe was caused by the collapse of a tailings dam, releasing 60 million cubic meters of iron ore waste into the Doce River. This disaster led to the deaths of 21 people, destroyed entire towns, displaced thousands, and caused extensive pollution and environmental damage. In response to this incident, BHP and its joint venture partner Vale initially provided financial assistance to 7,000 impacted families and agreed to a US$4.8 billion fine. However, a year after the disaster, many affected towns and rivers remained in dire conditions, prompting the establishment of The Renova Foundation to manage compensation and remediation efforts. Despite these measures, there has been criticism regarding the adequacy of the healthcare provided to the victims and the overall transparency and effectiveness of the remediation efforts

1. In groups, discuss how you might improve BHP’s social impact strategies to benefit communities and the environment.

Community Development Projects: Invest in community development projects that provide long-term benefits to the local population, such as education, healthcare, and infrastructure development. These projects should be developed in consultation with the communities to ensure they meet their needs and priorities.

Renewable Energy and Sustainable Practices: Invest in renewable energy sources and sustainable practices to reduce the environmental footprint of operations. This could include reducing water use, minimizing land disturbance, and rehabilitating mining sites post-closure.

**Tutorial B worksheet: Sustainable Development Goals (SDG’s) and Assessment 1**

Activity 1: Sustainable Development Goals (SDG's)

1. What are the SDG's and why are they important?

The SDGs are important because they represent a global consensus on the key challenges facing humanity and our planet, and they set out a comprehensive agenda for addressing these challenges. The goals acknowledge that ending poverty and other deprivations must go hand-in-hand with strategies that improve health and education, reduce inequality, and spur economic growth, all while tackling climate change and working to preserve our oceans and forests. Each goal has specific targets to be achieved over the next decade, and they call for action by all countries, rich and poor, to promote prosperity while protecting the planet.

1. Your tutor will assign each student one of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG).  You will be given time to write a short summary on your SDG, and outline any interesting points or facts.

Sustainable Development Goal 3 (SDG 3) aims to ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages. This goal encompasses a wide range of objectives, including reducing maternal mortality, ending preventable deaths of newborns and children under 5, combating epidemics like AIDS, tuberculosis, malaria, and noncommunicable diseases such as heart disease and cancer, and ensuring universal access to sexual and reproductive healthcare.

An interesting point about SDG 3 is its ambitious target to achieve universal health coverage, which includes access to quality essential healthcare services and access to safe, effective, quality, and affordable essential medicines and vaccines for all. This goal recognizes the essential role of good health in sustainable development, as it is interconnected with other SDGs such as poverty reduction, education, and gender equality.

A significant challenge highlighted within SDG 3 is the vast inequality in health access and outcomes both between and within countries. For example, there's a 31-year gap between countries with the shortest and longest life expectancies. Despite global efforts, at least 400 million people still have no basic healthcare, and health emergencies continue to pose major challenges to health systems worldwide.

1. Students will be randomly selected to read out their SDG summary to the class.