

Corporate Social Responsibility challenges in contexts of vulnerability the Samarco and Brumadinho dam collapses and social impacts on community

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Models of Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) in mining have increasingly used sustainability reports and practices linked to the Social License to Operate (SLO) model as a way to guarantee the legitimacy of its operations. The Samarco and Brumadinho dam collapses, considered two of the greatest socio-environmental tragedies in mining, challenge the CSR models implemented by both companies. Through the analysis of the causes that lie behind these dam bursts, this research aims to highlight the contradictions of both companies' CSR models that contributed to the emerging of the tragedies. In the first case, data collection held company sustainability reports, documents from public agencies, and interviews with the company's stakeholders affected by the tragedy. In the second case, we have carried out a literature review on recent papers and documents related to the Brumadinho dam burst. Content analysis was the strategy chosen to analyze the data collection. The results indicate the contradictions between the information provided by both companies and the community's perception of risks. The CSR model adopted by the companies prioritized monitoring the perception of the companies' image and reputation with their different stakeholders, favoring the construction of bonds of trust with the population. Also, the documental analysis shows the priority of the companies' strategies in assuring their shareholders a short-time revenue. However, these strategies, combined with the municipality's economic dependence, shrouded the operational risks of both dam operations, contributing to increasing the social vulnerability of the local community.