The New Competitive Advantage: Creating Shared Value

Professor Michael E. Porter Harvard Business School

HBS Earth Week Faculty Presentation April 20, 2011

This presentation draws on ideas from Professor Porter's books and articles, in particular, *Competitive Strategy* (The Free Press, 1980); *Competitive Advantage* (The Free Press, 1985); "What is Strategy?" (*Harvard Business Review*, Nov/Dec 1996); and On Competition (*Harvard Business Review*, 2008). No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted in any form or by any means—electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording, or otherwise—without the permission of Michael E. Porter. Additional information may be found at the website of the Institute for Strategy and Competitiveness, www.isc.hbs.edu.

The Role of Business in Prosperity

Only business can create prosperity

BUT

- Companies are often perceived to be prospering at the expense of the broader community
- Business increasingly is seen as a major cause of social, environmental, and economic problems
- Government and civil society often attempt to address societal issues at the expense of business



The legitimacy of business has fallen

Business and Society: Why the Disconnect?

Company Profitability and Growth

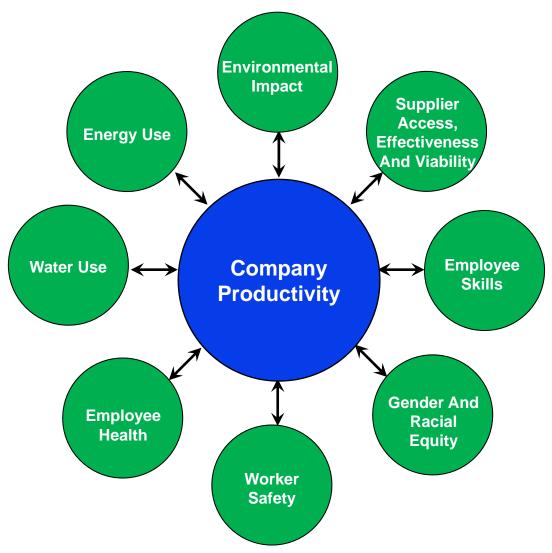
Social and Economic Development

- Companies have adopted a narrow model of economic value creation
 - Meeting conventional needs of conventional customers
 - Driving revenue through acquisitions instead of new expansion
 - Profit improvement through downsizing, outsourcing, relocating, and globalizing
 - Short time horizons
 - Societal issues treated as outside the scope of business



- Huge societal needs go unmet
- Growth and innovation have suffered

Creating Economic Value and Societal Needs



- Social deficits create economic cost
- External conditions shape internal company productivity
- There is a growing congruence between economic value creation and societal objectives

The Concept of Shared Value

Shared Value: Corporate policies and practices that enhance competitiveness of a company while simultaneously advancing social and economic conditions in the communities in which it operates

- Create economic value by creating societal value
 - What is good for the community is good for business
- All profit is not equal. Profit involving shared value enables society to advance more rapidly which allows companies to grow faster
- Shared value represents the next evolution of capitalism
- Concern with societal issues will be a defining characteristic of the post-crisis era
- Incorporating societal issues into strategy and operations is the next major transformation in management thinking

Levels of Shared Value

Reconceiving customer needs, products, and markets

Redefining productivity in the value chain

Enabling local cluster development

Reconceiving Products and Markets

- Design products and services to address societal needs
 - E.g., environmental impact, safety, health, education, living with disability, housing, financial security
- Open new markets by serving unmet needs in underserved communities
 - Often requires redesigned products or different distribution methods



- New opportunities for innovation, differentiation, and growth
- A new generation of social entrepreneurs is capturing these opportunities, often faster than existing businesses

Finding Product and Market Opportunities to Create Shared Value

- Redefine the business around unsolved customer problems, not traditional product definitions
- Think in terms of improving lives, not just meeting consumer needs
- Identify customer groups that have been poorly served or ignored by the industry's products
- Start with no preconceived constraints about product / channel configuration and the economic model of the business (e.g., small loans are unprofitable)

Creating Shared Value in Products <u>Intuit</u>

- Intuit Health Debit Card allows small employers who cannot afford health insurance to provide pre-tax healthcare support to their employees
 - Card automatically recognizes healthcare expenditures vs. other kinds of spending
 - Unspent funds roll over year to year
- SnapTax provides low-income consumers with access to tax preparation services over the phone and rapid refunds
 - 15 minutes for \$15, electronic filing included
 - Data extracted from phone photos of W-2s via optical character recognition
 - Debit card option for direct deposit of refunds for unbanked households
 - Simple IRA option to enable use of refund for saving for retirement

Creating Shared Value in Products and Markets Novo Nordisk in China

Physician Training

- Diabetes training programs with governments, NGOs, and opinion leaders to promote the latest thinking among physicians on diabetes prevention, screening, treatment, and patient communication
- Targeting smaller cities
- 220,000 sessions to date

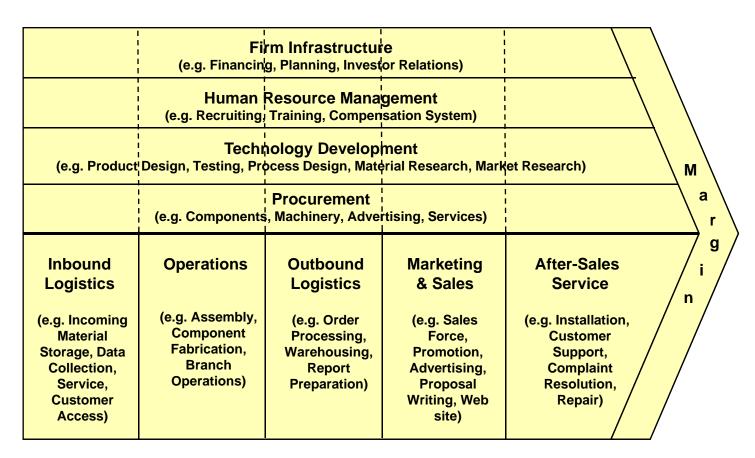
Patient Education

- "Diabetes bus" program to raise awareness and provide on-site advice, NovoCare telephone hotline allows patients to reach specialists with questions. NovoCare Club provides ongoing updates to members.
- Patient education focuses on prevention, lifestyle changes, and effective use of insulin products
- 280,000 patients educated to date



- Since 1997, this program is estimated to have reduced healthcare costs in China by \$700 million by reducing diabetes related complications
- Novo Nordisk sales have increased by an estimated \$114 million

Redefining Productivity in the Value Chain



- Resource use
- Energy use
- Logistical efficiency
- Employee productivity
- Location of facilities and the supply chain

Local Cluster Development

- A strong local cluster with capable local suppliers and local institutions improves company productivity
 - e.g., greater supply chain efficiency, lower environmental impact, and better access to skills
- Companies, working collaboratively, can catalyze major improvements in the local cluster and business environment
- Local cluster development strengthens the link between a company's success and community success



- What suppliers are inefficient or missing locally?
- What local deficits or institutional weaknesses create internal costs for the firm?

Moving to Shared Value

CSR



CSV

- Values: "doing good"
- Good citizenship, philanthropy, and sustainability
- Discretionary
- Separate from profit maximization
- Agenda externally determined
- Impact is limited by the corporate footprint and CSR budget
- Example: Fair trade purchasing

- Value: economic and societal benefits relative to cost
- Joint company and community value creation
- Part of competing
- Essential to profit maximization
- Agenda is business specific
- Mobilizes the entire company budget
- Example: Transforming procurement to increase quality and yield

In both cases, **compliance** with laws and ethical standards and reducing harm for corporate activities are **assumed**

Moving to Shared Value Novartis





CSV

- Donate drugs to lower-income populations
- Same products, but free or at discounted price
- Product access for affected individuals

- Arogya Parivar: Implementing a new drug distribution channel for low-income populations
- New quantity, packaging, patient education, and distribution
- Improvement in local healthcare delivery infrastructure
- Learning about customer behavior and new business models

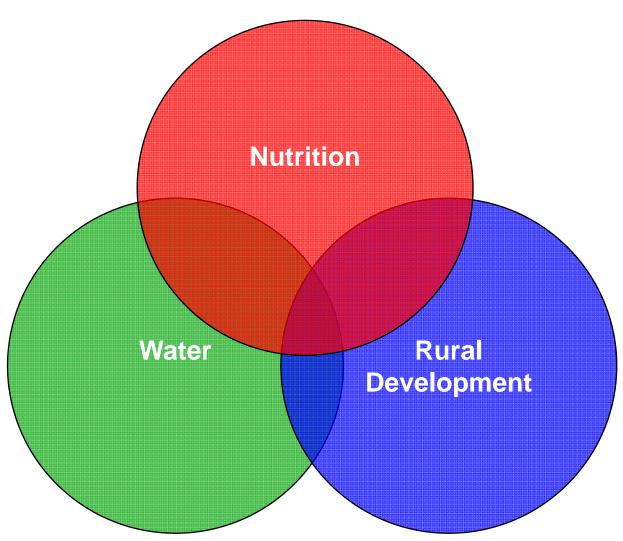


 Expanded revenue and profitable business model



Reduced revenue at the same cost

Creating Shared Value: Deciding Where to Concentrate Nestlé



 Opportunities to create shared value are inevitably tied closely to a company's particular businesses

Creating Shared Value Nestle Nespresso

Implementing shared value in sourcing premium coffees from farmers in Costa Rica, Guatemala, Colombia, and Ghana

- Reconfiguring the value chain
 - Reconceiving procurement
- Upgrading the cluster
 - Supporting local cluster development in coffee growing regions, including establishment of cluster institutions
 - Partnering with stakeholders

	Shared Value	
<u>Farmers</u>	<u>Community</u>	<u>Nespresso</u>
 → Better yields → Better prices → Better processing 	 → Environmental sustainability → Economic development 	 → Stable supply → Better quality → Reinforces strategic positioning

Adding a Social Dimension to Strategy

- Shared value opens up new needs, new markets, and new value chain configurations
- This creates new strategic positions, and new opportunities for extending existing positioning



- Companies should incorporate a social dimension to their value proposition
- Shared value can reinforce and even anchor a company's strategy
- The social dimension of strategy can be more sustainable vs.
 competitors than conventional cost and quality advantages

Shared Value and Strategic Positioning Whole Foods Markets

Value Proposition

- Natural, fresh, organic, and prepared foods and health items with excellent service at premium prices
- Cater to specialized nutritional requirements (gluten allergies, vegan, etc.)
- Educated, middle class, and affluent customers who are passionate about food and a healthy lifestyle

Distinctive Activities

- Well-lit, inviting supermarket store formats with appealing displays and extensive prepared foods sections
- Produce section as "theater"
- Café-style seating areas with wireless internet for meals and meetings
- Each store carries local produce and has the authority to contract with the local farmers. Company provides low-interest loans and microcredit if needed
- Information and education provided to shoppers along with products
- High touch in-store customer service via knowledgeable, flexible, and highly motivated personnel
- Flat compensation structure
- Own seafood procurement and processing facilities to control quality (and price) from the boat to the counter
- Heavy emphasis on environmental sustainability in all activities.
- Emphasis on supporting community development



Successful strategies in the future will embody a significant shared value dimension

The Purpose of Business

- There is an opportunity to transform thinking and practice about the role of the corporation in society
- Shared value gives rise to far broader approaches to economic value creation
- Shared value thinking will drive the next wave of innovation, productivity enhancement, and economic growth
- Businesses acting as businesses, not as charitable givers, are arguably the most powerful force for addressing many of the pressing issues facing our society
- A transformation of business practice around shared value will give purpose to the corporation and represents our best chance to legitimize business again