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Corporate Social Responsibility for Sustainable Development: A Systematic Review of Business Contributions to Address Global Challenges

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ABSTRACT

This systematic review aims to analyze the contributions of Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) to sustainable development by examining how businesses address critical global challenges such as zero hunger, health and well-being, gender equality, clean water and sanitation, sustainable cities, life on land, and peace and justice.

Purpose: The study seeks to identify gaps in the existing literature and propose future research directions. **Method:** A comprehensive literature search was conducted across multiple bibliometric databases, yielding 2,520 studies. After applying stringent inclusion and exclusion criteria, 100 relevant studies were selected for analysis. The review synthesized empirical and theoretical findings, focusing on the effectiveness of CSR initiatives and their alignment with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). **Results:** The findings reveal that while CSR initiatives significantly contribute to addressing global challenges, there are critical gaps in their long-term sustainability and effectiveness, particularly in developing regions. The review highlights the importance of integrating stakeholder engagement, addressing systemic inequalities, and measuring the impact of CSR practices to enhance their effectiveness. **Contributions:** This study provides valuable insights into the role of CSR in fostering sustainable development, contributing to existing theories and offering practical applications for industry and policymakers. It identifies underexplored areas for future research, emphasizing the need for robust frameworks that ensure CSR initiatives are equitable, inclusive, and sustainable.

Keywords: corporate social responsibility; CSR; sustainable development goals; SDG; sustainability; zero hunger; gender equality; clean water; health and well-being; sustainable cities; life on land; peace and justice; stakeholder engagement

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ОРИГИНАЛЬНАЯ СТАТЬЯ

Корпоративная социальная ответственность в интересах устойчивого развития: систематический обзор вклада бизнеса в решение глобальных проблем

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АННОТАЦИЯ

Данный систематический обзор направлен на анализ вклада корпоративной социальной ответственности (КСО) в устойчивое развитие с помощью изучения того, как компании решают важнейшие глобаль-

ные проблемы, такие как борьба с голодом, здоровье и благополучие, гендерное равенство, чистая вода и санитария, устойчивое развитие городов, экосистемы суши, мир и справедливость. **Цель:** исследование направлено на выявление пробелов в существующей литературе и предложение направлений будущих исследований. **Метод:** был проведен комплексный поиск литературы по нескольким библиометрическим базам данных, что позволило выявить 2520 исследований, относящихся к теме обзора. После применения строгих критериев включения и исключения для анализа было отобрано 100 релевантных исследований. В обзоре были синтезированы эмпирические и теоретические выводы, с акцентом на эффективность инициатив КСО и их соответствие целям устойчивого развития (ЦУР) Организации Объединенных Наций. **Полученные результаты** показывают, что, хотя инициативы КСО вносят значительный вклад в решение глобальных проблем, существуют критические пробелы в их долгосрочной устойчивости и эффективности, особенно в развивающихся регионах. В обзоре подчеркивается важность интеграции взаимодействия с заинтересованными сторонами, устранения системного неравенства и измерения воздействия практик КСО для повышения их эффективности. **Научный вклад:** в данном исследовании получена ценная информация о роли КСО в содействии устойчивому развитию, которая вносит вклад в существующие теории и предлагает практические приложения для промышленности и политиков. В обзоре определены недостаточно изученные области для будущих исследований, а также подчеркивается необходимость создания надежных структур, обеспечивающих равноправный, инклюзивный и устойчивый характер инициатив в области КСО.

Ключевые слова: корпоративная социальная ответственность; КСО; цели устойчивого развития; ЦУР; устойчивость; отсутствие голода; гендерное равенство; чистая вода; здоровье и благополучие; устойчивые города; экосистемы суши; мир и справедливость; взаимодействие с заинтересованными сторонами

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1. Introduction

Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) has become an essential strategy for firms to foster sustainable development while preserving revenue and reputation. CSR beyond mere charity, including ethical labor practices, environmental sustainability, stakeholder participation, and company governance [1]. The escalating significance of CSR is propelled by heightened public expectations, regulatory demands, and the acknowledgment that enterprises are pivotal in tackling global issues such as poverty, climate change, and social disparities [2]. The United Nations' (UN) Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) have emphasized the need for corporations to include CSR in their plans to achieve enduring economic, social, and environmental sustainability [1]. Sustainable development entails fulfilling current need without jeopardizing the capacity of future generations to satisfy their own needs. The business sector significantly contributes to sustainability by implementing responsible practices in resource management, urban development, environmental preservation, and social equity [2]. Global organizations have started the implementation of sustainability-oriented CSR efforts, including carbon footprint reduction, fair

pay promotion, ethical sourcing assurance, and community development engagement. Despite the increasing recognition of CSR's role in sustainable development, agreement remains elusive about its efficacy, impact assessment, and optimal practices across many sectors and geographies [1].

1.1. Aim of the paper

CSR has garnered heightened attention as enterprises encounter increasing demand to synchronize their operations with sustainable development objectives. The incorporation of CSR into company plans has transitioned from a voluntary activity to a fundamental element of corporate governance and sustained competitiveness. Considering escalating global difficulties like climate change, resource depletion, wealth disparity, and rapid urbanization, corporations are anticipated to actively engage in mitigating social and environmental concerns. Despite the expanding literature on CSR and sustainability, a complete synthesis that systematically assesses the efficacy of CSR programs in addressing significant global concerns remains absent. This study seeks to perform a comprehensive analysis of the contributions of CSR to sustainable development by

critically examining how companies tackle essential global issues, such as well-being, equality, resource management, urban development, environmental conservation, and social justice. This study synthesizes previous empirical and theoretical studies to provide a comprehensive view on the role of CSR in promoting sustainable development, while also noting research gaps and methodological limitations in the current literature. The study examines the degree to which CSR initiatives correspond with global sustainability agendas, including the UN SDGs, and assesses their effects on diverse stakeholders, such as employees, consumers, local communities, and policymakers. This study analyzes historical and contemporary CSR contributions while emphasizing upcoming themes in corporate sustainability, such as digital transformation in CSR practices, stakeholder-driven sustainability models, and legislative changes affecting CSR adoption. The study seeks to delineate explicit research trajectories for future researchers, concentrating on domains such as industry-specific CSR initiatives, longitudinal impact evaluation, and the influence of legislative frameworks in enhancing CSR efficacy. This study provides a systematic and evidence-based assessment of CSR's contribution to sustainable development, enhancing the dialogue on corporate responsibility and ethical business practices.

1.2. Background

1.2.1. Evolution of CSR and sustainability

The notion of CSR has significantly transformed over the decades, shifting from a charitable approach to an integrated strategy that aligns company objectives with SDGs. In the early 20th century, CSR was mostly voluntary and centered on corporate philanthropy, with enterprises participating in charity endeavors to assist local communities [3]. As industrialization progressed and firms increasingly influenced society, expectations for corporate responsibility changed. In the mid-20th century, CSR was seen as an ethical imperative rather than a voluntary option. The rise of stakeholder capitalism, influenced by Freeman's Stakeholder Theory (1984), underscored the need for firms to consider the interests of many stakeholders, including workers, customers, suppliers, governments, and communities. The expanding impact of globalization and tech-

nical progress has expedited the implementation of CSR initiatives, as multinational corporations encounter heightened scrutiny regarding their social and environmental effects [2, 3].

1.2.2. Business engagement in sustainable development

Businesses significantly contribute to sustainable development via many CSR efforts, such as the adoption of renewable energy, ethical labor standards, sustainable supply chain management, and inclusive economic growth [3]. As global focus on sustainability intensifies, companies are incorporating green technologies, circular economy principles, and carbon neutrality objectives into their strategic frameworks to minimize environmental impacts and promote long-term economic and social welfare [2]. A major aspect of business involvement in sustainability is the deployment of renewable energy. Numerous enterprises have adopted solar, wind, and hydroelectric energy sources to decrease their dependence on fossil fuels and mitigate greenhouse gas emissions [4, 5]. Corporations such as Tesla, Apple, and Unilever have pledged to use 100% renewable energy in their operations, exemplifying how enterprises may spearhead the worldwide transition to sustainable energy solutions [5]. Ethical labor practices are a vital component of corporate involvement in sustainable development. This includes the provision of equitable remuneration, secure work environments, diversity and inclusion initiatives, and anti-discrimination regulations [2]. Companies that emphasize ethical labor standards not only adhere to international labor legislation but also improve employee happiness and productivity. By using circular economy models, enterprises may minimize waste, recycle resources, and enhance resource efficiency, thereby promoting sustainability across sectors.

1.2.3. CSR and the fight against zero hunger

CSR is pivotal in combating global hunger and food insecurity, in accordance with UN SDG 2. Businesses, especially in the food, agricultural, and retail industries, have progressively integrated sustainable food production, waste minimization, and nutrition-oriented community programs into their CSR plans [6]. These initia-

tives are essential for guaranteeing fair access to healthy food and fostering long-term food security. Businesses primarily contribute to Zero Hunger via sustainable agriculture and food production. Corporations like Nestlé and Unilever have used regenerative agricultural techniques that boost soil vitality, promote biodiversity, and guarantee sustainable food production in the long run [2]. Moreover, several multinational food firms have engaged with smallholder farmers by offering training, financial resources, and technological access to improve production and uphold fair trade norms. A crucial CSR program is the decrease of food waste. The Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) estimates that over one-third of all food produced worldwide is squandered, intensifying food insecurity and environmental deterioration [7].

1.2.4. CSR and the promotion of good health and well-being

CSR has emerged as a significant tool for advancing health and well-being, in accordance with UN SDG 3. Companies in many sectors are allocating resources towards healthcare accessibility, workplace wellness initiatives, illness prevention, and mental health assistance to improve public health outcomes and foster healthier communities [8]. Companies primarily enhance global health by bolstering healthcare infrastructure and accessibility. Numerous multinational firms, especially in the pharmaceutical and healthcare industries, undertake efforts that provide medical supplies, vaccinations, and healthcare services to marginalized people. Johnson & Johnson and Pfizer have developed CSR initiatives concentrating on vaccine distribution and maternity health care in economically disadvantaged areas [9]. These initiatives facilitate the elimination of disparities in healthcare access and decrease death rates from avoidable illnesses. Workplace wellness initiatives constitute a notable CSR effort.

1.2.5. CSR and the advancement of gender equality

CSR is essential in advancing gender equality, in accordance with UN SDG 5. Global enterprises have acknowledged the significance of cultivating inclusive environments, promoting female leadership, guaranteeing equitable compensa-

tion, and tackling gender-based discrimination. Corporations are implementing targeted CSR programs to provide fair opportunities for women and disadvantaged gender groups, both in the workplace and beyond. A primary CSR strategy for gender equality is the development of diverse and inclusive work environments. Numerous firms have instituted gender diversity policies, anti-discrimination initiatives, and leadership development programs to facilitate women's professional progression. Corporations like Unilever and IBM have pledged to enhance female participation in senior positions via the establishment of mentoring initiatives and the enforcement of impartial hiring and promotion protocols. A vital component of CSR regarding gender equality is the elimination of the gender wage gap. Consequently, several firms have performed pay equality audits and implemented transparent wage frameworks to eradicate discrepancies [10]. Salesforce and Starbucks have pledged to attain equitable compensation across all job tiers, establishing a benchmark for other firms to emulate [11].

1.2.6. CSR and the commitment to clean water and sanitation

Access to clean water and sanitation is a basic human right and an essential element of sustainable development, in accordance with UN SDG 6. CSR programs have increasingly concentrated on tackling global water issues by advocating water conservation, enhancing sanitary infrastructure, and guaranteeing equal access to clean drinking water. Companies, especially in the beverage, agricultural, and manufacturing industries, have acknowledged their responsibility in effective water management and have included sustainable water-use policies in their CSR plans. Corporations significantly contribute to clean water projects via water stewardship programs. Numerous multinational firms have initiated programs aimed at diminishing water usage, mitigating pollution, and rehabilitating freshwater habitats [12].

1.2.7. CSR and the development of sustainable cities and communities

The rapid growth of metropolitan regions has generated considerable issues concerning infrastructure, pollution, housing, and resource management. Resolving these difficulties re-

quires collaborative efforts from governments, enterprises, and civil society. CSR has become an essential catalyst for advancing sustainable urban development via investments in environmentally sustainable infrastructure, affordable housing, intelligent technology, and community development initiatives [13]. Companies, via CSR activities, aid in fulfilling UN SDG 11 by promoting inclusivity, resilience, and environmental sustainability in urban areas. A principal CSR strategy for urban sustainability is the development of green infrastructure and smart city technology. Numerous firms have invested in energy-efficient structures, renewable energy integration, and waste management strategies to reduce the environmental impact of urban growth. Siemens and Tesla have led the development of sustainable urban solutions, including electric mobility, smart grids, and energy-efficient transportation systems to enhance urban sustainability [14].

1.2.8. CSR and the protection of life on land

The deterioration of terrestrial ecosystems presents a substantial risk to biodiversity, climatic stability, and human livelihoods. CSR has emerged as an essential mechanism for enterprises to alleviate deforestation, save endangered species, and advocate for sustainable land-use practices [15]. In accordance with the UN SDG 15, several firms are allocating resources to reforestation, sustainable agriculture, and wildlife conservation initiatives to reduce their ecological impact. Businesses significantly contribute to terrestrial ecosystems via forest protection and replanting efforts. Numerous major firms, like Microsoft and Nestlé, have pledged to achieve net-zero deforestation by implementing sustainable sourcing practices and financing extensive tree-planting initiatives [16].

1.2.9. CSR and the promotion of peace, justice, and strong institutions

The significance of CSR in advancing peace, justice, and robust institutions has garnered heightened focus in recent years, in accordance with UN SDG 16. Businesses are acknowledging the need to function within ethical frameworks that enhance transparency, combat corruption, safeguard human rights, and ensure legal compliance

to cultivate stable and equitable communities [17]. CSR programs in this domain emphasize corporate governance, legal responsibility, and community participation to foster trust and institutional resilience. A significant contribution of CSR to peace and justice is the implementation of ethical corporate practices and anti-corruption initiatives. Numerous global firms have implemented anti-bribery procedures, open financial reporting, and independent audits to guarantee adherence to legal and ethical norms. Organizations such as Microsoft, Unilever, and IBM have established whistleblower protection initiatives and anti-corruption training to foster ethical corporate practices [18].

1.2.10. CSR and global challenges

CSR activities have increasingly concentrated on tackling urgent global issues, such as climate change, social justice, poverty reduction, and urban development. The pressing nature of these concerns has compelled corporations to implement more sustainable practices and establish ambitious objectives that correspond with global sustainability initiatives, like the UN SDGs. A major concern for corporations is climate change, which endangers the environment, economy, and global societies. In response, several firms have pledged to attain net-zero carbon emissions by certain deadlines, adopt renewable energy sources, and improve energy efficiency in their operations [19]. For example, Microsoft intends to attain carbon negativity by 2030, while Unilever aspires to net-zero emissions across its value chain by 2039 [20]. These ambitious objectives not only advance global climate initiatives but also establish corporations as leaders in sustainability, promoting innovation in green technology and practices. A critical domain for CSR projects is social justice. Businesses are increasingly acknowledging the significance of fostering equality and diversity within their operations and the communities they serve. Numerous firms have implemented diversity and inclusion policies to establish equal workplaces and empower marginalized groups [19]. Moreover, firms are participating in community outreach projects that assist vulnerable groups via education, healthcare, and economic empowerment activities.

2. Method

This study employs a systematic review methodology to examine the role of CSR in advancing sustainable development, concentrating on critical global challenges including zero hunger, health and well-being, gender equality, clean water and sanitation, sustainable cities, life on land, and robust institutions. The methodological approach aims to guarantee extensive literature coverage, transparency, and replicability in the review process. The research procedure includes the selection of relevant bibliometric databases, the implementation of a systematic search strategy, and the application of stringent inclusion and exclusion criteria to guarantee the capture of high-quality data. The research adheres to PRISMA principles to evaluate and filter methodological rigor, ensuring the inclusion of only empirical and theoretical works that significantly contribute to CSR and sustainability. Data extraction emphasizes essential CSR activities, theoretical frameworks, and industry-specific contributions, succeeded by qualitative content analysis to discern trends, research deficiencies, and prospective trajectories.

2.1. Selection of bibliometric databases

This research utilizes several bibliometric databases to provide a thorough and high-quality evaluation of peer-reviewed journal articles, conference proceedings, and gray literature pertaining to CSR and sustainable development. The choice of databases is determined by their reliability, multidisciplinary scope, and comprehensive citation monitoring, guaranteeing a wide and well-rounded dataset for the research [21, 22]. Scopus was chosen for its comprehensive multidisciplinary scope, providing a wide collection of high-quality journal articles and citations across business, social sciences, and environmental studies. The inclusion of Web of Science (WoS) provides access to high-impact, peer-reviewed research, facilitating a more thorough evaluation of CSR's contribution to sustainability. Google Scholar was used to get company reports, conference papers, and institutional studies, since it provides access to gray literature sometimes neglected in conventional bibliometric analysis. Furthermore, ScienceDirect was selected for its robust emphasis on CSR-related research, especially studies tackling sustainabil-

ity issues across several industries. Emerald Insight was established for its extensive collection of research papers on CSR and sustainability, especially those analyzing business initiatives for environmental and social accountability. This research integrates data from many high-impact sources to provide a complete literature assessment, including a holistic picture of CSR's contributions to sustainable development across diverse sectors, geographic locations, and theoretical frameworks.

2.2. Search strategy

A systematic search method was used to obtain pertinent papers on CSR and its impact on sustainable development. The search procedure included Boolean operators (AND/OR) to narrow results and guarantee a thorough selection of literature. Keyword combinations were used across several bibliometric databases, including Scopus, Web of Science, Google Scholar, ScienceDirect, and Emerald Insight. The search parameters were formulated to include research pertaining to CSR's function in tackling global issues, including zero hunger, health and well-being, gender equality, clean water and sanitation, sustainable cities, terrestrial ecosystems, and robust institutions.

The search identified 229 articles related to "Zero Hunger" AND "CSR", while 388 studies explored the intersection of CSR and Good Health and Well-being. Additionally, 577 articles examined CSR's impact on Gender Equality, and 424 studies investigated CSR and Clean Water and Sanitation. The topic of Sustainable Cities and Communities in the context of CSR yielded 372 articles, whereas Life on Land had 294 relevant studies. Finally, CSR and Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions were covered in 281 articles. The initial database search yielded a substantial number of articles that were further subjected to a screening process based on relevance, methodological rigor, and alignment with the study's objectives. The results were filtered to remove duplicates and non-peer-reviewed sources, ensuring a robust dataset for the subsequent stages of analysis.

2.3. Inclusion and exclusion criteria

A stringent inclusion and exclusion strategy was used to create a focused and high-quality dataset for systematic review. This phase was cru-

cial for preserving the reliability, validity, and relevance of the study outcomes. The inclusion criteria included research published from 2015 to 2025, guaranteeing the contemporaneity of findings about CSR and its contributions to sustainable development. Only peer-reviewed journal papers, book chapters, and conference proceedings were included to guarantee legitimacy. The chosen papers either experimentally or conceptually investigated the role of CSR in advancing sustainability. Furthermore, research focusing on CSR activities related to significant global challenges such as eradicating hunger, promoting health and well-being, advancing gender equality, ensuring clean water and sanitation, developing sustainable cities, protecting the environment, and strengthening institutions was emphasized. Conversely, papers were omitted if they were non-English publications, since linguistic hurdles might impede accessibility and comprehension. Articles devoid of empirical or theoretical contributions, including opinion pieces, editorials, or commentary articles, were also removed. Furthermore, duplicate entries from several databases were eliminated to prevent duplication. Upon applying the specified inclusion and exclusion criteria, a final compilation of 100 articles was chosen for comprehensive examination, guaranteeing that the research is found on reliable, varied, and methodologically robust literature.

2.4. Methodological quality assessment

A systematic quality evaluation was performed in accordance with the Preferred Reporting Items for Systematic Reviews and Meta-Analyses (PRISMA) criteria [23] to guarantee the rigor, reliability, and validity of the chosen studies. PRISMA offers a systematic framework for assessing the methodological quality of studies included in systematic reviews, guaranteeing that only rigorous and significant research informs the final evaluation [6, 24]. A key quality evaluation criterion was the relevance of study aims, particularly assessing the alignment of the research with CSR and SDGs. Research specifically investigated the role of CSR in tackling global issues such as eradicating poverty, promoting health, advancing gender equality, and ensuring environmental sustainability was emphasized. A significant compo-

nent was the research technique, evaluating whether the studies used qualitative, quantitative, or mixed-method methods. Preference was given to research using rigorous statistical approaches, case studies, or theoretical frameworks, since these methodologies guarantee dependability and depth in analysis. Moreover, the trustworthiness of the data was a crucial factor. Research was evaluated according to its publication in peer-reviewed, indexed journals such as Scopus, Web of Science, and ScienceDirect, therefore assuring high-impact and reputable sources. Articles demonstrating robust theoretical contributions, empirical rigor, and significant citation effect were favored over those relying on anecdotal evidence or possessing weak empirical support. The findings and contributions of each study were assessed, especially regarding their implications for sustainable business practices, corporate policies, and strategic CSR initiatives. Studies providing policy recommendations, innovative CSR frameworks, or industry-specific sustainability strategies were considered more influential. This study employs stringent methodological evaluation criteria to guarantee that the final dataset comprises high-quality, evidence-based research that offers significant insights into the role of CSR in sustainable development.

2.5. Selection of studies

The selection of papers for this systematic review was executed using a systematic methodology to guarantee the inclusion of relevant and high-caliber research. The procedure included many screening phases, according to PRISMA recommendations. The preliminary search produced 2,520 papers from several academic databases. Following the identification of 834 relevant studies using titles and abstracts, the elimination of duplicates removed 251 records, resulting in a total of 583 studies. A title and abstract screening were thereafter performed to evaluate the pertinence of the papers concerning the study goals. This phase led to the classification of 258 studies as pertinent, while 325 were considered non-pertinent and consequently eliminated. The subsequent step included a comprehensive review of the 258 pertinent papers. This evaluation emphasized methodological rigor, data reliability, and coherence with the study's topic emphasis.

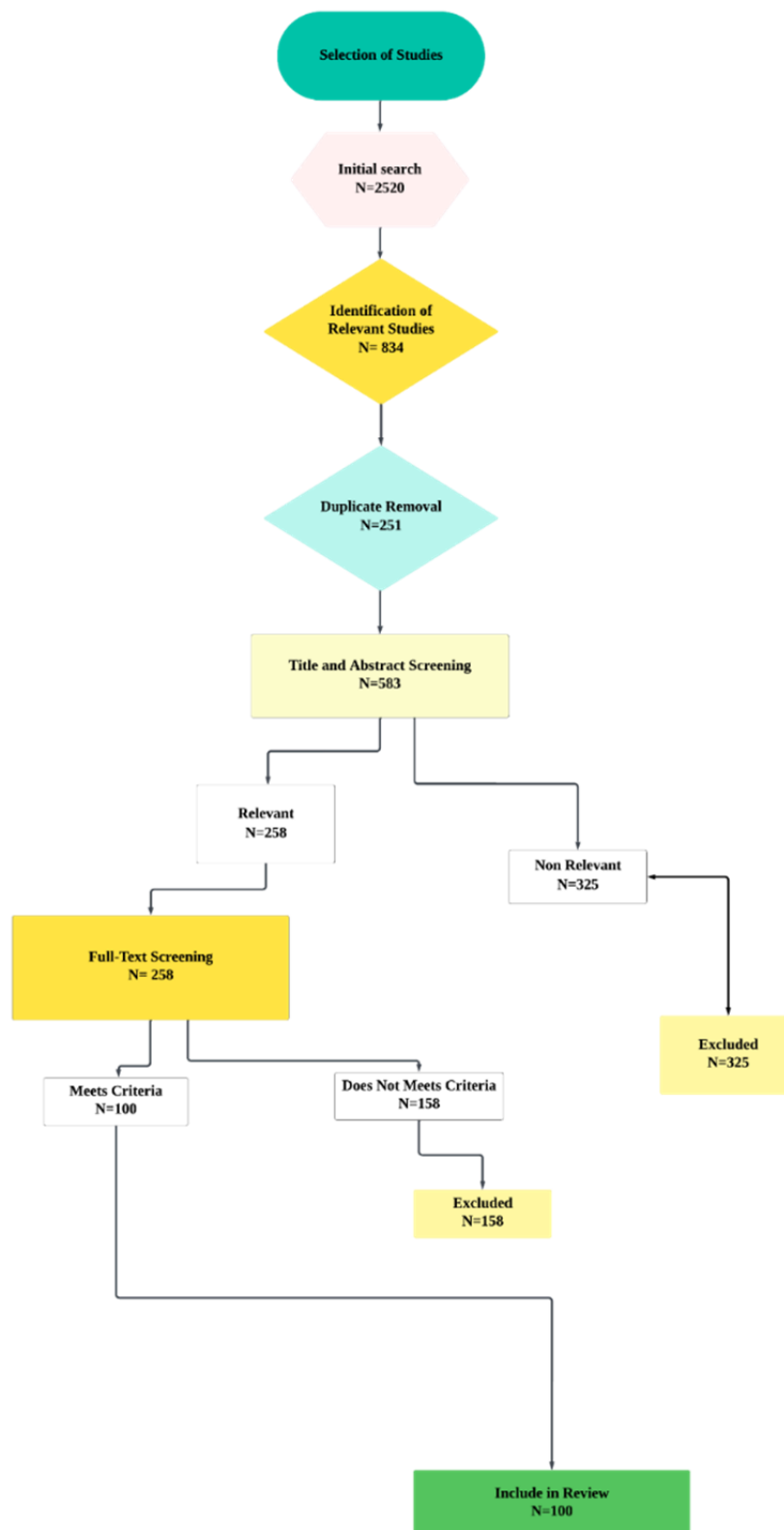


Fig. 1. Search strategy, outlining the subsequent identification and screening of appropriate sources

Source: Developed by the authors.

At this stage, 158 research failed to satisfy the established inclusion criteria and were eliminated, resulting in the inclusion of 100 high-quality studies in the final evaluation. This systematic screening methodology guaranteed a thorough

and transparent method for finding research that substantially enhances the knowledge of CSR and sustainable development. *Figure 1* delineates the search approach, including the following discovery and evaluation of suitable sources.

2.6. Data extraction and analysis

The data extraction procedure was rigorously executed to classify the principal results from the final selection of 100 research, guaranteeing a systematic and thorough examination of CSR activities in sustainable development (see *Table* at the end of the Discussion section). The extracted data concentrated on several essential aspects, including the influence of CSR on diverse sustainable development themes such as zero hunger, good health and well-being, gender equality, clean water and sanitation, sustainable cities and communities, life on land, and peace, justice, and robust institutions. Each research was evaluated for the distinct methods by which CSR activities impact different domains, revealing patterns and trends in corporate involvement with sustainability efforts. The categories of CSR efforts were delineated, differentiating between corporate philanthropy, sustainable business models, ethical labor practices, and community development programs. This categorization offered insights into the various tactics used by organizations to attain sustainability objectives. A geographical analysis was undertaken to identify the nation or continent of each research, providing a comparative view on the variation of CSR's involvement in sustainable development across diverse economic and cultural situations. Additionally, sector-specific accomplishments were recognized, with a focus on CSR projects in industries like energy, healthcare, finance, manufacturing, and technology.

2.7. Rationale for selecting the SDGs in this study

This study examines SDGs 2, 3, 5, 6, 11, 15, and 16 because of their essential importance to CSR and their urgent worldwide relevance. These Sustainable Development Goals comprise fundamental domains where enterprises can exert quantifiable social and environmental influence. SDG 2 (Zero Hunger) and SDG 3 (Good Health and Well-being) pertain to essential human requirements, with studies indicating that CSR-driven innovations and initiatives in food systems and mental health help mitigate hunger and enhance well-being. SDG 5 (Gender Equality) is essential due to ongoing gender-based inequalities in workplaces and communities, where CSR may enhance women's empowerment through inclusive poli-

cies and transparency. SDG 6 (Clean Water and Sanitation) is emphasized because of the business responsibility in sustainable water utilization and pollution management, particularly in sectors with significant ecological impacts. SDG 11 (Sustainable Cities and Communities) corresponds with corporate initiatives in urban planning, housing, and social inclusion, whereas SDG 15 (Life on Land) illustrates the effects of corporate land utilization, deforestation, and biodiversity practices. Ultimately, SDG 16 (Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions) is essential to Corporate Social Responsibility in conflict areas and government transformation. Collectively, these SDGs signify critical areas where corporate activities significantly align with sustainable development results.

2.8. Identification of research gaps and future research directions

The literature study on CSR and its correlation with sustainable development identifies significant gaps and prospects for further investigation. A significant constraint in contemporary study is the excessive emphasis on CSR activities in rich countries, resulting in the insufficient exploration of the contextual realities in developing nations. This regional bias impedes a thorough understanding of how CSR functions across varied socio-economic and cultural situations. Considering the distinct developmental constraints and institutional frameworks in developing nations, forthcoming research should investigate the role of CSR in these contexts to identify distinctive dynamics and obstacles to implementation. Literature indicates a deficiency in transdisciplinary approaches to analyzing CSR impacts. Current research often analyses CSR through singular disciplinary lenses, including business ethics, environmental science, or social development, neglecting the interrelatedness of various fields. Future research should employ integrative frameworks that amalgamate sociology, economics, environmental studies, and information systems to accurately represent the intricacies of sustainable development challenges. A notable deficiency exists in the insufficient examination of technical advancements in CSR procedures. Despite the discourse surrounding emerging technologies such as blockchain, artificial intelligence, and big data in individual

studies, their strategic capacity to improve transparency, stakeholder involvement, and social accountability has not been adequately explored. Future research may concentrate on how these technologies might be utilized across other sectors to address sustainability concerns more efficiently. A significant amount of the literature is cross-sectional, providing only snapshots of CSR impacts. Longitudinal study is essential to evaluate the sustainability and enduring effects of CSR projects, especially in domains such as community development, resource management, and employee welfare. This temporal depth will allow researchers to assess how prolonged CSR actions facilitate the attainment of SDGs over time.

This study highlighted specific SDGs where CSR research has been concentrated, justifying their inclusion considering these gaps. For instance, SDG 2 is examined in research pertaining to technical innovations in food supply chains, including blockchain and AI for traceability and transparency. Nonetheless, whereas environmental issues are extensively documented, the social and economic dimensions of food security are inadequately addressed, highlighting the necessity for a more comprehensive study focus. SDG 3 has garnered increasing focus, especially concerning mental health and occupational stress. Nonetheless, emerging pressures from virtual work environments and socio-demographic factors affecting well-being necessitate a more thorough contextual examination, especially in low-income or rural areas. SDG 5 is a significant focus, with research indicating systemic obstacles in employment and corporate social responsibility; however, feminist theories and gender mainstreaming are insufficiently employed. Future studies should examine how corporate social responsibility might facilitate structural transformation, particularly for marginalized and intersectional communities. The literature highlights the significance of circular economy innovations and corporate social responsibility in water governance related to SDG 6, especially within the mining and tourism industries. However, the integration of policies and the involvement of local stakeholders require additional empirical validation. SDG 11 underscores the disjointed character of urban corporate social responsibility programs, especially concerning housing, infrastructure, and community interactions. Research may further explore inclusive urban design and

the contribution of corporate social responsibility to promoting social integration in fast urbanizing areas. SDG 15 examines the relationship between land use, biodiversity, and economic development, although frequently neglects the long-term ecological trade-offs associated with policies such as forest-to-farm conversions. Further efforts are necessary to establish integrated frameworks that reconcile environmental conservation with community livelihoods. Research highlights the shortcomings of corporate social responsibility in conflict-affected regions, particularly within the extractive sector, in relation to SDG 16. Inadequate governance, insufficient stakeholder involvement, and the co-optation of corporate social responsibility by elites are persistent issues. Research must emphasize ethical accountability, culturally attuned CSR frameworks, and systems for institutional legitimacy in vulnerable areas. Common elements appear across these SDGs that underscore the identified research needs. A paradigm changes from corporate to human social responsibility is advocated, emphasizing enhanced integration of social components into circular economy models and a more profound engagement of cultural and community viewpoints in CSR planning. Interdisciplinary techniques and hybrid methods are widely acknowledged as vital for elucidating the complexity of CSR's contribution to sustainable development. The forthcoming research agenda should concentrate on geographical inclusion, longitudinal effect evaluation, theoretical advancement beyond conventional frameworks such as Stakeholder Theory, and the strategic incorporation of emerging technology. This congruence between recognized research deficiencies and prospective trajectories guarantees that CSR research can more efficiently aid in the attainment of the SDGs and the promotion of global sustainability initiatives.

3. Results

This section delineates the results of a systematic review of 100 selected papers that examine the impact of CSR on sustainable development across diverse themes, including zero hunger, health and well-being, gender equality, clean water and sanitation, sustainable cities, life on land, and peace and justice. The report examines the alignment of CSR programs with global sustainability goals and their effects on diverse stakeholders.

3.1. Corporate Social Responsibility and Its Alignment with Sustainable Development Goals: A Keyword Co-Occurrence Analysis

Figure 2 illustrates a term co-occurrence network visualization of research pertaining to CSR and its correlation with several SDGs, highlighting the multidisciplinary character of sustainability studies. The study reveals a profound connection between CSR initiatives and SDG 2 (Zero Hunger), especially in relation to research on food security, malnutrition, sustainable agriculture, and hunger elimination. These themes underscore the responsibility of companies in mitigating global food shortages, enhancing agricultural methods, and aiding communities in attaining sustainable nutritional stability. Moreover, SDG 3 (Good Health and Well-being) is widely represented throughout the network, including essential ideas like healthcare access, illness prevention, mental health, and universal health coverage. This relationship highlights how CSR programs improve public health systems, guarantee fair healthcare services, and foster workplace well-being as a fundamental component of corporate responsibility. A notable area of study is SDG 5, which examines gender discrimination, women's empowerment, gender-based violence, and equitable compensation. These themes underscore the significance of CSR in advancing gender-inclusive policies, enhancing diversity in business leadership, and tackling structural disparities within the workforce. Moreover, SDG 6 represents a vital domain of CSR involvement, highlighting water quality, sanitation, hygiene, and wastewater management. Corporations are progressively allocating resources to sustainable water management, pollution mitigation, and sanitation initiatives, exemplifying their corporate duty towards environmental preservation and public health. The graphic demonstrates significant links to SDG 11, highlighting studies on urbanization, smart cities, housing affordability, and climate resilience. CSR initiatives in this sector foster sustainable urban development, infrastructure planning, and the establishment of resilient communities via eco-friendly policies and social investment programs. SDG 15 is a crucial subject, emphasizing biodiversity protection, deforestation, land degradation, and ecosystem restoration within the context of CSR-driven environmental sus-

tainability. Organizations involved in conservation initiatives, reforestation projects, and sustainable resource management synchronize their activities with enduring ecological stability. Furthermore, SDG 16 is reflected in studies concerning human rights, governance, corruption, and conflict resolution, illustrating how CSR initiatives foster ethical corporate practices, transparent governance, and institutional accountability. The emergence of governance-related topics in the keyword network indicates the growing significance of CSR in promoting regulatory compliance, anti-corruption initiatives, and corporate ethics across both private and public sectors. These observations demonstrate that CSR research encompasses not just business ethics but is also intricately linked to the overarching sustainability goal, highlighting the need for ongoing corporate involvement in realizing the SDGs.

3.2. Key insights from the systematic review of CSR initiatives

The systematic assessment revealed numerous CSR activities associated with specific SDGs, including addressing SDG 2, SDG 3, SDG 5, SDG 6, SDG 11, SDG 15, SDG 16. Although their beneficial contributions, numerous shortcomings in existing CSR methods and studies have constantly surfaced. SDG 2, CSR efforts often emphasize the promotion of sustainable agriculture, enhancement of food supply chains, and provision of technology resources to farmers. Research underscores the advantages of corporate partnerships with local farmers to improve productivity and food security [29]. Nevertheless, there is scant research evaluating the long-term effects of these activities. Although they may provide temporary relief from hunger, many do not tackle fundamental structural concerns such as poverty, disparities in land ownership, and policy obstacles. This suggests that CSR initiatives often emphasize immediate, quantifiable results rather than enduring, systemic transformation. Future studies should concentrate on amalgamating agricultural assistance with comprehensive socio-economic reforms to attain enduring food security. Concerning SDG 3, CSR initiatives typically focus on employee wellness, community health outreach, and mental health assistance. These activities can augment public health out-

serve more as instruments for reputation control rather than authentic endeavors to enhance institutional resilience [102]. The lack of multi-stakeholder governance diminishes credibility and efficacy. Whereas CSR programs increasingly correspond with several SDGs, their efficacy is frequently hindered by a short-term perspective, insufficient systemic integration, and inadequate participatory methods. Future study must employ critical and interdisciplinary methodologies to more effectively assess the long-term effects and inclusivity of CSR contributions to sustainable development.

3.3. Global barriers to effective CSR implementation

Comprehensive studies underscore the essential function of CSR in promoting sustainable development, yet various international obstacles hinder the successful execution of CSR efforts. Identifying these obstacles is essential for augmenting CSR's influence on vital global concerns, including hunger elimination, health advancement, gender equity, access to potable water, sustainable urban development, environment conservation, and social justice. A primary difficulty is the dearth of robust legislative frameworks and institutional support in most places, especially in developing nations. Inadequate regulatory frameworks frequently compel firms to prioritize legal compliance above authentic corporate social responsibility commitments, yielding cosmetic initiatives that fail to tackle essential social and environmental issues. Moreover, inadequate governance frameworks diminish the capacity of stakeholders such as local communities, regulators, and civil society to ensure corporate accountability for their CSR commitments. Economic constraints present further obstacles, particularly for SMEs that may be deficient in the financial resources required to initiate and maintain extensive CSR initiatives. During periods of economic instability, companies frequently emphasize immediate financial gains at the expense of long-term sustainability objectives, thereby jeopardizing the prospects for significant and lasting CSR results. Cultural considerations significantly impact the uptake and efficacy of CSR. In many communities, CSR initiatives may be viewed with skepticism, seen primarily as marketing strategies rather than genuine efforts to enhance social welfare. Cultural conventions and cultural views can further con-

strain the popularity or efficacy of CSR projects; for instance, programs promoting gender equality may face opposition in communities with entrenched gender roles. Effective corporate social responsibility necessitates substantial contact with a diverse array of stakeholders, encompassing employees, local communities, and civil organizations. Nevertheless, numerous CSR programs inadequately integrate stakeholder viewpoints, resulting in projects that fail to comprehensively meet community needs or expectations. The absence of authentic conversation can cultivate distrust and undermine the validity and efficacy of CSR initiatives. An additional obstacle is the inadequate knowledge and skills within organizations to formulate and execute effective CSR programs. Numerous organizations, especially SMEs, lack the expertise or understanding of CSR's potential advantages, leading to insufficient investment in responsible activities. The lack of standardized measurements and evaluation methods obstructs proper measurement of CSR performance, hence constraining evidence-based decision-making and ongoing stakeholder support.

4. Discussion

This systematic review of 100 meticulously chosen studies provides significant insights into the complex function of CSR in promoting sustainable development (see *Table*). The findings highlight CSR's essential role in tackling significant global issues, such as hunger elimination, health enhancement, gender parity, access to clean water and sanitation, sustainable urban development, terrestrial ecosystem conservation, and the promotion of peace and justice. A recurring topic in the literature is the acknowledgement that CSR programs are vital instruments for promoting sustainable practices and strengthening community resilience. Although, despite this widespread recognition, the research uncovers significant deficiencies in the efficacy and long-term viability of numerous CSR initiatives. Although many firms officially endorse CSR values, their practical implementation frequently fails owing to financial limitations, cultural obstacles, and insufficient governmental backing. This disconnection underscores the intricacy of converting CSR objectives into significant, enduring effects. The study findings validate the study questions outlined in the methodology, illustrating CSR's capacity as a mechanism for sustainable

Table
Characteristics of the studies included in the review

Sl.	Authors	Methodology	Country / Continent	Findings	SDGs Addressed in the Study	SDGs Matched with This Review's Focus
1	[6]	Systematic review, bibliometric analysis, topical analysis, SAFA approach	Italy; Germany; Qatar	Environmental aspects in AFS are well addressed, but social, economic, and political dimensions are often neglected. Suggests a 4P holistic framework	2, 8, 12, 17	2
2	[25]	Survey, Decision Matrix Analysis, Pearson's Correlation	Thailand	SEP shows strong consistency with SDGs across environmental, economic, and social dimensions, supporting sustainable development. A 42.33% positive correlation with SDGs was found	2, 8, 12, 17	2
3	[26]	IoT integration, LEACH protocol, App-based monitoring, Blockchain	Pakistan; China	Blockchain and IoT improve transparency and sustainability in agriculture. Enhance food security through traceability and informed consumer choices	2, 9, 12, 13	2
4	[27]	Literature review, Case study	New Zealand; Canada	ISO standards potentially support SDG 2 goals, especially targets 2.3 and 2.4. However, challenges include limited smallholder adoption and governance issues	2, 8, 12	2
5	[28]	Case study, Secondary data, Technological assessment	Australia	Uses tech-based logistics (AI, blockchain) to deliver meals efficiently. Aims to combat child malnutrition via large-scale school lunch programs	2, 8, 12, 17	2
6	[7]	Literature review, Policy analysis	Saudi Arabia; Bahrain; Pakistan; Sudan	Identifies major food waste issues and suggests zero hunger strategies and circular bioeconomy approaches to improve food waste management	2, 12	2

Table (continued)

Sl.	Authors	Methodology	Country / Continent	Findings	SDGs Addressed in the Study	SDGs Matched with This Review's Focus
7	[29]	Systematic literature review, Thematic analysis	India; United States	Nutraceuticals can address hunger and malnutrition but operational challenges in developing countries limit accessibility and affordability	2, 9, 12, 17	2
8	[30]	Empirical analysis, Sustainability reporting review	Italy	Companies with inclusive reporting contribute more to SDG 2. Advocates dialogic sustainability reporting for corporate social impact	2, 8, 9, 10, 12	2
9	[31]	Institutional theory, Sociological analysis, Policy framework	Colombia	Calls for CSR and institutional change in the food industry to combat obesity and promote healthy diets. Emphasizes responsible practices and nutrition policy alignment	2, 3, 9, 17	2, 3
10	[32]	Participatory demonstrations, scaling-up, multi-country initiatives	India; Asia	Demonstrated that "seeing is believing" approach improved technology adoption; over 10 million farmers benefited in Asia	2, 11, 13	2, 11
11	[33]	Comparative analysis, benchmarking, SDG analysis	Czech Republic; Ukraine	Found inequality in financial access; proposed responsible investment as a key tool to improve SDG outcomes	2, 9, 12, 17	2
12	[10]	Survey, Healthy Workplaces Tool, quantitative analysis	Portugal; Spain	Organizational culture was linked to stress management and healthy environments during the pandemic	5, 8, 10, 17	5
13	[34]	Online survey, conservation of resources theory	Belgium	Virtual meetings increased stress and fatigue but also enhanced perceived work influence	3, 8	3
14	[35]	Longitudinal survey, JD-R model	Netherlands	Wellbeing declined over six months; job demands harmed wellbeing while autonomy and support helped	3, 8	3

Table (continued)

SL.	Authors	Methodology	Country / Continent	Findings	SDGs Addressed in the Study	SDGs Matched with This Review's Focus
15	[36]	Systematic literature review, thematic analysis	United States	Civic engagement's impact on mental health is mixed; further study is needed on marginalized youth	16	16
16	[11]	Qualitative survey, feminist analysis	Australia	Unpaid placements create significant financial and mental health stress, disproportionately impacting women	5, 10	5
17	[37]	Program evaluation, qualitative insights	New Zealand	NLH improved holistic well-being by integrating adaptable goals in stress, nutrition, and self-care	3, 4	3
18	[38]	Cross-sectional, hierarchical regression, PISA data	Turkey	SES had a stronger impact than wellbeing on academic achievement; demographic factors had weak predictive power	3, 4, 10	3
19	[39]	Descriptive design, multistage sampling, interviews	India	Marital quality and life satisfaction varied across urban and rural groups; socio-demographics influenced wellbeing	3, 5	3, 5
20	[9]	Survey, Moderator model, Cross-cultural	Pakistan; UK	Stronger links between gender role beliefs and wellbeing in Pakistan vs UK. Patterns differ by gender and country	3, 5, 10	3, 5
21	[40]	Systematic review, Thematic analysis	Italy	Coworking spaces enhance quality of working life and wellbeing by offering flexible, collaborative environments	3, 8	3
22	[41]	Qualitative, Interviews, Ethnography	UK	Religious communities provide vital wellbeing resources in deprived areas; wellbeing paradox and multi-level factors identified	16	16
23	[42]	Longitudinal, Survey, Mental health	UK	Females without prior mental health issues showed similar or worse wellbeing decline, highlighting new vulnerable	3, 5	3, 5

Table (continued)

SL	Authors	Methodology	Country / Continent	Findings	SDGs Addressed in the Study	SDGs Matched with This Review's Focus
24	[43]	Qualitative, Thematic analysis, Focus groups	Mexico	IPV-exposed women face intrapersonal, structural, and social barriers; empowerment and community support are key facilitators	3, 5, 16	3, 5, 16
25	[44]	Quantitative, Survey, Regression	Belgium; Spain	Adolescents in youth care show high QOL in self-determination but low in emotional well-being; female and residential care linked to lower QOL	5, 10	5
26	[45]	Quantitative, Multilevel path analysis	Hong Kong; China	Teacher well-being positively influences student life satisfaction and affects, controlling for SES and gender	3	3
27	[46]	Qualitative, Thematic analysis	Finland	Mindfulness and character strengths training improve parental wellbeing and family dynamics, though some stress reported	3	3
28	[47]	Meta-analysis, Correlational	China	Moderate positive correlation between trust and wellbeing; social wellbeing is strongest linked to trust	3	3
29	[48]	Qualitative, Thematic analysis	United Kingdom	Personal academic tutors experience wellbeing challenges related to burden, mental health, and resilience	3	3
30	[49]	Quantitative, Predictive analysis	Italy; Spain	Social support predicts life satisfaction, sense of community, and resilience. Different support sources vary in impact	3, 10	3
31	[50]	Quantitative, Survey, Regression	Malaysia	Family-to-work conflict significantly reduces job and life satisfaction. Practical implications for organizations	3, 8	3

Table (continued)

Sl.	Authors	Methodology	Country / Continent	Findings	SDGs Addressed in the Study	SDGs Matched with This Review's Focus
32	[51]	Cross-sectional, SEM, Path analysis	Ghana	Social participation predicts health literacy, influencing health and well-being. Volunteer activities can have negative effects	3, 10	3
33	[52]	Quantitative, Survey, Moderation	UK	Ethnic identity centrality intensifies negative effects of harassment on well-being; gender identity centrality buffers impact	3, 5, 10	3, 5
34	[8]	Longitudinal, Quantitative	Ireland	Lower parental expectations partly explain poorer self-concept and academic outcomes in disabled children	1, 3, 10	3
35	[53]	Systematic review, Bibliometric	Global	Studies lack diversity in methods; focus mainly on governance body gender diversity; gaps in reporting identified	5, 8, 10	5
36	[54]	Quantitative, Propensity score matching, Logit	Nigeria; South Africa	CSR by oil companies positively affects gender equality and social equity in coastal communities; promotes women's empowerment	5, 10, 14	5
37	[55]	Qualitative, Theoretical analysis	Australia	NGOs face barriers in CSR governance; inclusion is vital for equality	5, 10, 16	5, 16
38	[56]	Bibliometric, Systematic review	Global	Research focused on board diversity, financial performance, women on boards	5, 10, 12	5
39	[57]	Qualitative, Case study, Interviews	Sweden	Corporations find unpaid care work difficult to justify economically; governance techniques repurposed for political aims	5, 10	5
40	[58]	Mixed methods, Case study	Nigeria	CSR initiatives impact capacity building for women entrepreneurs; GMoU plays a critical role in empowerment efforts	1, 4, 5, 8, 10, 12	5

Table (continued)

Sl.	Authors	Methodology	Country / Continent	Findings	SDGs Addressed in the Study	SDGs Matched with This Review's Focus
41	[59]	Experiment, Survey, Reactance theory	Switzerland	CSA messages with call to action harmed corporate reputation due to reactance. Effects persisted after controlling for alignment and politics	5, 10	5
42	[60]	Bibliographic analysis, Literature review	Global	Feminist theory integration in BE/ CSR is limited; better integration suggested to strengthen research and propose new directions	5	5
43	[61]	Qualitative, In-depth interviews (20)	Australia	Female leaders face challenges in board power dynamics; use rhetorical strategies to influence CSR decisions	5	5
44	[62]	Content analysis, Exploratory study	Spain	Gender equality standards lack uniformity and gender mainstreaming; mainly driven by business case; need for common terminology and indicators	5, 8, 10, 12, 17	5
45	[63]	Quantitative, Legal reforms analysis	France; China; UK	Gender quota reforms increased board diversity and improved CSR, stronger effects with legislation-based regulations and in high-equality countries	5, 10	5
46	[64]	Content analysis, Interpretivist approach	Saudi Arabia	Gender disclosures driven by legislation and international frameworks; disclosures increased but lack systematic adoption	5, 9, 10, 12, 17	5
47	[65]	Literature review, Conceptual analysis	Global	Identifies problem areas in gender equality education; proposes strategies aligned with UN 2030 goals to improve gender equality in education	4, 5, 10	5

Table (continued)

Sl.	Authors	Methodology	Country / Continent	Findings	SDGs Addressed in the Study	SDGs Matched with This Review's Focus
48	[66]	Case study, Semi-structured interviews	Japan	Formal and cultural management control systems support gender equality; cultural MCS foster norms enhancing formal MCS effectiveness	5, 10	5
49	[67]	Managerial approach, Regulatory analysis	Italy	Low female board representation linked to social background and culture; CSR commitment needed beyond regulations for true gender balance	5, 10, 12	5
50	[68]	Literature review, Policy analysis	United Arab Emirates	CSR linked to gender equality and HRM policies; calls for organizational and government policies promoting equality recognizing women's agency	5, 10	5
51	[69]	Qualitative research, Case study	Bangladesh	Banks focus gender commitments more on economic and political gains rather than societal or ethical demands	5, 10, 16	5, 16
52	[70]	Conceptual	China; United Kingdom; Ireland	Gender strategies differ by CSR orientation; models propose 4 strategies linking doing/undoing gender and CSR	5, 10, 12	5
53	[71]	Case study	United Kingdom	CSR frames gender equality as synergistic with profit, promoting corporate-led development without challenging corporate power	5, 10	5
54	[72]	Quantitative, logit model, survey	Nigeria	CSR supports education but lacks female-specific targeting; without gender focus, CSR may delay women's economic and social progress	4, 5, 8, 9, 10, 12	5

Table (continued)

Sl.	Authors	Methodology	Country / Continent	Findings	SDGs Addressed in the Study	SDGs Matched with This Review's Focus
55	[73]	Case study	United States	Evidence is necessary but insufficient for SDG 5; recommends public-private partnerships and new tools for corporate CSR strategy	5, 10, 12, 17	5
56	[74]	Conceptual, feminist theory, human rights	Australia	Extends CSR to sexual violence issues; radical feminist and human rights approaches offer more effective solutions than prior strategies.	5, 10, 12, 16	5, 16
57	[75]	Theoretical	United States	Proposes mandatory gender education integrating feminist and sustainability studies to equip students for equitable workplaces	4, 5, 10	5
58	[76]	Qualitative, content analysis, survey	Turkey	CSR efforts include women as stakeholders but remain limited, mostly in private sector; findings not generalizable beyond context	5, 10	5
59	[77]	Mixed methods, DEA, survey	Colombia	Combines qualitative and quantitative data; identifies drivers of sustainable perceptions, guiding balanced sustainability policies	7, 9, 11, 17	11
60	[12]	Semi-systematic review, qualitative	Latin America	Highlights circular economy pathways and policy gaps in the water sector; calls for integrating CE innovations to support SDG 6	6	6
61	[13]	Framework development, integrative model	Iran; United States	Proposes integrating CSR with SDGs for a strategic and measurable approach, especially crucial post-COVID-19 for sustainable impact	8, 12, 11, 17	11

Table (continued)

Sl.	Authors	Methodology	Country / Continent	Findings	SDGs Addressed in the Study	SDGs Matched with This Review's Focus
62	[78]	Conceptual, CSR, sustainability	Pakistan	Argues CSR alone is insufficient; human social responsibility by individuals and firms is essential for sustainability goals	9, 12, 16, 17	16
63	[79]	Content analysis, Sustainability and Annual reports	Indonesia	CSR activities align mostly with SDGs like good health and education. Annual reports show limited disclosure on other SDGs	4, 5, 6, 8, 9, 10	5, 6
64	[14]	Case analysis, Conceptual exploration, Stakeholder engagement	Global	Partnerships amplify SDG efforts by combining diverse strengths. Success depends on aligned objectives and transparent collaboration	8, 10, 11, 12, 13, 17	11
65	[80]	Mixed methods, Chi-square, Multivariate analysis	Uganda	A strong link was found between housing quality and social integration. Infrastructure and social interaction jointly enhance sustainability	11, 10	11
66	[81]	Quantitative, Structured survey, Case study	Turkey	Park excels in identity and cohesion but lacks safety and comfort. Low-income users feel higher satisfaction and identification	11	11
67	[82]	Content analysis, VOSviewer text analysis	India	Social concerns like worker welfare are underrepresented in plans. Community is most salient stakeholder; delivery type affects SS focus	9, 11	11
68	[83]	Mixed methods, Composite indicators, Key informant interviews	Zambia	Social sustainability ranges from weak to moderate in mining areas. Proposed indicators can realign CSR and governance strategies	8, 9, 11, 12, 16	11, 16

Table (continued)

SL.	Authors	Methodology	Country / Continent	Findings	SDGs Addressed in the Study	SDGs Matched with This Review's Focus
69	[84]	SLCA, Multi-stakeholder, Inventory analysis	Afghanistan	Scavenger overwork and poor local engagement weaken the system. Improved infrastructure and communication can enhance social outcomes	9, 11, 12	11
70	[85]	TISM, MICMAC, Literature review	India	Equal employment is key to sustainable HRM. Social trust highly depends on other SS factors, offering improvement pathways	5, 8, 9, 10, 11	5, 11
71	[86]	Online survey	Egypt	Residents of gated communities in Cairo rarely value social interaction, preferring isolation. Enhancing shared spaces can improve social sustainability	11	11
72	[87]	Structured interviews, Gap analysis, Attribute ranking	Malaysia	A notable gap exists between perceived and actual practices in social sustainability. Stakeholder engagement and education require immediate focus	4, 16	16
73	[88]	Policy analysis, Historical contextualization	Sweden	The shift from centralized governance to fragmented networks weakened coordinated social sustainability outcomes. Government still steers via indirect mechanisms	7, 10, 11, 16	11, 16
74	[89]	Theoretical discussion, Case-based insights	United Kingdom	Stakeholder inclusion is vital for achieving social sustainability in projects. Aligning interests fosters sustainable and cohesive organizational impact	8, 9, 16, 17	16
75	[15]	Field survey, Statistical modeling, multi-scale analysis	China	Biodiversity in urban green spaces is shaped more by surrounding landscapes than local conditions. Multi-scale filtering enhances ecosystem service understanding	11, 15	11, 15

Table (continued)

Sl.	Authors	Methodology	Country / Continent	Findings	SDGs Addressed in the Study	SDGs Matched with This Review's Focus
76	[16]	Field data collection, Soil analysis, Species mapping	Brazil	Species diversity varies greatly across watershed sectors, demanding localized restoration models. Avoiding homogenization ensures biodiversity and ecological resilience	6, 11, 15	6, 11, 15
77	[17]	Document analysis, Interviews, Workshop with stakeholders	Brazil	Using an ecosystem services framework aligned community and corporate interests in mine closure. This approach supports inclusive and sustainable land use outcomes	11, 16	11, 16
78	[90]	Semi-systematic literature review, topic modeling, qualitative analysis	Global	Circular economy contributes to social well-being but literature inconsistencies persist. Suggests rethinking economic models and integrating social dimensions into CE strategies	8, 11	11
79	[91]	In-depth interviews, qualitative perception study	Botswana	Land acquisitions shaped by tourism and subsistence agriculture. Power dynamics influence access and governance of resources	6, 7, 8, 11, 15	6, 11, 15
80	[92]	Content analysis, semi-structured interviews	Vietnam	Mining boosts jobs and infrastructure but leads to environmental degradation and social problems. Economic resilience is stronger in non-mining communities	1, 3, 6, 8, 9, 10	3, 6
81	[18]	Econometric analysis, nonlinear cointegration	Developing Economies	Resource rent has mixed effects: negative in some countries, positive in others. Findings support the 'resource curse' in certain contexts	8, 16	16
82	[93]	Ecological-economic valuation, soil value analysis	Russia	Societal land value captures environmental benefits. Soil components significantly contribute to ecological-economic damage estimates	11, 12, 15	11, 15

Table (continued)

SL.	Authors	Methodology	Country / Continent	Findings	SDGs Addressed in the Study	SDGs Matched with This Review's Focus
83	[94]	Directional distance function, shadow price analysis	Spain	Positive shadow prices show high value of social outputs. Farm efficiency improves under better crop conditions	2, 17	2
84	[95]	Panel data analysis, marginal effect estimation	Brazil	Forest-to-farm conversion yields small short-term income gains but boosts long-term asset accumulation. Opportunity costs of forest conservation must consider long-term effects	2, 8, 13, 15	2, 15
85	[96]	Survey, institutional analysis, stakeholder theory	South Asia	Social sustainability depends on GVC governance and local institutional alignment. Cultural and institutional factors shape suppliers' adoption	11, 17	11
86	[97]	Case study, historical analysis, qualitative comparison	Brazil	Changing CSR strategies have influenced community conflict dynamics. Failure to address past legacies undermines trust and CSR effectiveness.	8, 12, 16	16
87	[98]	Qualitative research, case analysis	Nigeria	CSR can mitigate harder-farmer conflicts, but effectiveness hinges on community involvement and local context sensitivity	9, 10, 16	16
88	[99]	Mixed methods, survey, key informant interview, logit model, propensity score matching	Nigeria	CSR reduces inter-communal violence by addressing poverty, land and resource access. Expanded CSR can deter violence through improved livelihoods	1, 10, 16	16
89	[100]	Case study analysis, literature review	Global	Nationalization is often driven by state interest in welfare and sovereignty. State ownership aligns with social responsibility during crises or nationalist waves	11, 16, 17	11, 16

Table (continued)

Sl.	Authors	Methodology	Country / Continent	Findings	SDGs Addressed in the Study	SDGs Matched with This Review's Focus
90	[101]	Thematic literature analysis, case-based discussion	Papua New Guinea	CSR in PNG has largely failed due to poor compensation, weak state regulation, and local resistance. Deeper frameworks are needed for peace and development	4, 15, 16	15, 16
91	[102]	Empirical evaluation, qualitative analysis	Nigeria	CSR based on Western models fails in regions with weak state control. Pro-West approaches hinder sustainable development in local contexts	1, 9, 11, 12, 16	11, 16
92	[103]	AI data mining, Bayesian correlation, root cause analysis	USA, Australia, Albania	ESG ratings lack correlation with real misconduct. Legal violations often go reflected in ESG scores, indicating flawed index design	8, 9, 10, 13, 16, 17	16
93	[104]	Critical discourse analysis, case study	Canada, Guatemala	Canadian CSR policy promotes «dialogue» that legitimizes elite repression. It undermines indigenous rights and stifles opposition	10, 16	16
94	[105]	Document analysis, case study, counter-insurgency theory	Canada, Guatemala	Internal documents expose corporate coordination in violent land evictions. Corporate and elite collusion enables human rights abuses	5, 16	5, 16
95	[106]	Multi-method comparative analysis, case studies	USA	Private regulations often fail due to weak domestic governance. Global norms are reshaped by local politics, limiting CSR impact	8, 9, 12, 15, 17	15
96	[107]	Theoretical analysis, secondary data, environmental peacebuilding theory	Nigeria	Unregulated oil activities drive degradation and conflict. Lack of genuine dialogue and poor stakeholder engagement fuel insecurity	10, 16, 17	16

Table (continued)

SL.	Authors	Methodology	Country / Continent	Findings	SDGs Addressed in the Study	SDGs Matched with This Review's Focus
97	[108]	Critical review, conceptual analysis	Global	Neoliberal ideology undermines effective CSR. Shareholder value orientation conflicts with developmental goals in CSR	8, 11, 13, 15	11, 15
98	[109]	Qualitative, Semi-structured interviews, Expert opinions	Canada, Spain	Employee involvement and tacit knowledge are crucial for internalizing biodiversity practices. Key barriers include lack of training, corporate commitment, and externalization of initiatives	12, 15, 16	15, 16
99	[110]	Case study, Stakeholder perception analysis, Comparative analysis	China	Managers and village leaders share similar perceptions due to local knowledge. The study reveals gaps between expert and local views on sustainability and ecosystem services	9, 12, 15, 17	15
100	[111]	Delphi method, Remote sensing, Benefit transfer approach	Iran	Cultural services ranked highest in national parks, while regulating services dominated by wildlife refugees. Provisioning services have the highest estimated economic value	11, 15	11, 15

Source: Developed by the authors.

development while also revealing substantial barriers that hinder its wider effectiveness. An examination of the literature indicates both agreement and disagreement among experts over the efficacy of CSR programs. Studies [97] and [101] highlight the beneficial societal effects of CSR, especially in advancing gender equality and public health. Conversely, several studies criticize CSR initiatives as superficial marketing strategies rather than genuine endeavors to effect social change. Moreover, the strength of evidence is inconsistent, with numerous studies advocating for longitudinal study to enhance comprehension of the enduring effects of CSR initiatives. Despite the frequent documentation of immediate advantages, there exists a nota-

ble absence of comprehensive frameworks to assess the long-term efficacy of CSR, highlighting a significant gap for future research.

This review's insights bolster and expand upon established theoretical frameworks, including Stakeholder Theory and the Triple Bottom Line. They emphasize the significance of embracing a comprehensive approach to CSR that equally values social, environmental, and economic sustainability. The practical ramifications of these discoveries are extensive. Businesses must design CSR plans that transcend mere regulatory compliance to actively engage stakeholders and tackle the fundamental socio-economic concerns underlying global issues. Governments can utilize these insights to build regu-

latory frameworks that promote authentic corporate responsibility and transparency. Furthermore, the incorporation of digital technology in CSR projects presents a great opportunity to enhance data collection, transparency, and stakeholder interaction. These technical improvements can improve monitoring and reporting systems, promoting more accountable and effective CSR operations. Notwithstanding these advancements, numerous inadequately invested domains necessitate additional inquiry. There is an imperative to examine the contextual efficacy of CSR in emerging economies, where distinct socio-economic and cultural factors affect results. Future study enquiries may encompass: How may CSR programs be customized to address the specific requirements of local communities within varied cultural contexts? What are the enduring effects of CSR initiatives on community development and environmental sustainability? Furthermore, investigating how emerging digital technologies might enhance stakeholder engagement and refine effect evaluation is a vital area of inquiry for CSR research.

5. Conclusion

This comprehensive review has shown that Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) is essential in tack-

ling several sustainable development issues, such as hunger, health, gender equality, conservation of the environment, and social justice. Although CSR initiatives have demonstrated encouraging short-term advantages and have proven essential to company governance and competitiveness, substantial deficiencies persist, especially about the long-term impact and efficacy of these programs across various cultural and economic situations. The results highlight the necessity for more stringent, longitudinal studies and the creation of comprehensive frameworks to assess CSR's enduring impact on sustainable development. Moreover, the incorporation of digital technology and the promotion of inclusive stakeholder interaction are essential measures for improving transparency and accountability in CSR operations. Policymakers and corporations must transcend mere compliance to adopt comprehensive and contextually aware CSR policies that adequately tackle socio-economic and environmental intricacies. This study essentially establishes a core comprehension of CSR's present accomplishments and shortcomings, delineating explicit pathways for future research to enhance the congruence between corporate responsibility and global sustainability objectives.

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