

Leveraging Corporate Social Responsibility for Poverty Alleviation: Exploring CSR Role in Socio-Economic Development in Iraq

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The present study investigates the role of corporate social responsibility (CSR) in mitigating poverty in Iraq by examining business-driven CSR initiatives aimed at fostering economic growth, sustainable development, and improving social conditions. In the context of post-conflict Iraq, where poverty is significantly influenced by global challenges and social inequalities, the research undertakes an in-depth analysis of CSR efforts across various industries. It explores how corporations contribute to poverty alleviation through initiatives in education, community collaboration, and economic empowerment programmes. Adopting a quantitative methodology, the study utilises a sample of 357 respondents from the business, government, and other relevant sectors to assess the impact of CSR on socio-economic indicators. The analysis was conducted using Smart-PLS to examine the relationships among variables. The findings reveal that CSR activities focused on health, education, and infrastructure significantly reduce poverty levels in the country. Furthermore, the reduction in poverty is shown to have a positive effect on enhancing economic growth.

Keywords: Socio-Economic Development, Poverty Alleviation, Corporate Social Responsibility.

Introduction

CSR has emerged as a vital mechanism for addressing poverty in developing nations, including Iraq a country abundant in natural resources yet burdened by widespread poverty and significant social inequality. As highlighted by [Halkos & Nomikos \(2021\)](#), CSR is a group of activities past legal responsibilities that seek to solve social, environmental, and economic issues and also add value to corporations and the greater society at large. The issue of exactly how CSR shaped Iraq is especially timely considering the country's long history of war, insecurity, and transforming economic growth. All these conditions call for the adoption of good strategies for sustainable development and poverty reduction ([Wirba, 2024](#)). Where state resources can't meet crucial needs of economically disadvantaged populations, CSR initiatives might deal with critical needs. Programmes involving health, education, and employment have proven to relieve poverty ([Sawant & Naik, 2022](#)). Industries like oil & gas possess the unique power to produce change. Examples like Rubix & Wites and Ben & Jerry demonstrate how corporate investments in infrastructure and vocational training, along with other socially productive initiatives, can help alleviate poverty. These efforts promote self-sufficiency within communities by providing individuals abilities for economic independence. Evidence indicates that CSR initiatives improve developing economies by reducing poverty through enhanced access to education, wellbeing and financial opportunities ([Carroll, 2021](#)).

In Iraq, CSR programmes could raise living standards for economically disadvantaged populations while meeting Iraqi national priorities in sustainable development and building social capital between companies and communities. All these efforts are fundamental for sustainable poverty alleviation and regional growth ([Khuong, Truong an, & Thanh Hang, 2021](#)). This particular research investigates how CSR addresses

poverty in Iraq through education, employment, and healthcare. It also reviews how corporate actions can complement governmental poverty reduction policies, especially through social partnerships that develop social cohesion. CSR is a major component of modern business and is a key driver of company image and socio-economic development. In the financial crises environment of social inequities and widespread poverty, CSR also became a major driver of sustainable development. In the financial crises environment of social inequities and widespread poverty, the companies are directing other than profit-making to the well-being of society. CSR includes the domains of social development like healthcare, education, and infrastructure that directly support the eradication of poverty ([Medina-Muñoz & Medina-Muñoz, 2020](#)).

The decrease in the levels of poverty that is achieved by means of these efforts is of greater implications to economic development due to increased workers' productivity, company growth, and financial stability of the country being additional gains. Therefore, CSR is a catalyst to the socio-economic development of Iraq and is a must to sustainable development. The socio-economic landscape of Iraq shaped by war, political instability, and economic woes creates a unique case of CSR. Millions of people do not have access to quality education, healthcare, and infrastructure with the issue of poverty being among the highest in the Middle East ([Katoue et al., 2022](#)). Consequently, CSR in Iraq is now more than an ethical obligation but a strategic need for lasting economic growth. Businesses in oil & gas, communications, and construction have invested in CSR initiatives to improve living conditions, education, and infrastructure ([DeQuero-Navarro et al., 2020](#)).

This study systematically explores the connection between CSR, economic development, and poverty alleviation in Iraq. It initially examines CSR engagement in 3 essential domains:

education, infrastructure, & health. How corporate actions in these areas alleviate poverty. The research then reviews broader economic results of poverty alleviation and recommends that businesses contribute to national economic growth through social duty. Its importance comes from the outlining of the practical ramifications of CSR in a conflict-affected economy. While there's much research on CSR worldwide, little attention is given to its immediate impacts on economic development and poverty alleviation in Iraq. Current CSR research in developing nations primarily emphasizes ethics and regulations, while it tends to overlook the measurable contributions that corporate social responsibility makes to economic growth. This research fills this gap by consistently looking at corporate investment in social development and showcasing its role in economic progress and stability.

What CSR means in Iraq is crucial information for businesses operating there and for policymakers looking to develop an environment for corporate-led sustainable development. This analysis describes precisely how CSR could be a vehicle for long-term economic and social advancement of Iraqi society. The effect of different CSR projects in the education, infrastructure, and health sectors, in addition to their physical effects, on lowering poverty levels in Iraq is analysed. Additionally, it explores precisely how economic development influences poverty and offers useful lessons for policymakers and firms regarding how to leverage CSR to see long-lasting prosperity. An essential research gap in the literature may be the absence of empirical proof that CSR-driven poverty reduction initiatives are connected to changes in financial stability in Iraq. Although numerous research has dealt with CSR's effects in advanced countries, reports on its effectiveness in postwar economies—specifically Iraq—are scant. Furthermore, research has mainly framed CSR as an ethical obligation instead of seeing its potential as a strategic financial instrument for development. To remedy these major shortcomings in existing expertise, this article systematically explores how CSR initiatives focusing on education, health, and infrastructure could be effective and immediate paths to alleviate poverty and accelerate broader economic development in Iraq.

Literature Review

Poverty remains an issue for developing countries and can trap these countries in socio-economic problems. In this situation, CSR has become a suitable tool for dealing with these problems. CSR efforts have shown that they are able to fight poverty at the source, including bad education, inadequate medical care, and inadequate infrastructure (Huang et al., 2022). Unlike developed nations, where CSR is usually centred on environmental management or consumer relations, CSR in developing countries usually entails offering services that governments cannot provide because of limited resources. Iraq illustrates the scenario, having massive natural resources but prone to economic shocks. Major CSR programs are very prominent in the oil and telecommunications sectors, where big companies exert considerable influence to change. If tailored to the specific regional communities' needs, such initiatives can promote

social welfare, encourage economic integration, and contribute to sustainable poverty alleviation (He et al., 2023). Concentrating on practical objectives like creation of jobs, support for small and medium businesses, and infrastructure development, CSR projects could reshape Iraq's economic landscape over time (Chang, He, & Wang, 2021).

Education and training are strategies for sustainable poverty eradication. In a country like Iraq where youth unemployment is high and skills supply/demand mismatch is prevalent, well-designed CSR programs supporting vocational training and education could have significant impacts (Jing, Wang, & Hu, 2023). These initiatives provide people abilities to compete in the labour market and create economic independence instead of aid dependence. Worldwide examples demonstrate that similar CSR programs have raised income levels and reduced dependency on social security through enhanced literacy rates and employment skills (Huang, Li, & Yu, 2024). In Iraq, well-planned and targeted interventions such as scholarships, increased school funding, and comprehensive job training programs can significantly lift many people from the persistent cycle of poverty that affects their lives. Education remains a significant tool in reducing poverty. Education and vocational training are crucial needs of a socio-economically poor group, which require CSR programs. Such initiatives create economic independence by supplying individuals with market-relevant skills. Studies show that education-based CSR initiatives like scholarship programs, technical skill development, and improvements in educational infrastructure positively impact human capital and earnings potential (Anam et al., 2024). In Iraq, where youth unemployment is high, such CSR-driven interventions can transform social realities. Hence, the study developed the hypothesis as:

H1 (a): CSR (education) has a positive association with poverty alleviation in Iraq.

Healthcare is a cause and consequence of poverty; overall health challenges decrease efficiency, raise expenditures, and perpetuate the poverty cycle. CSR initiatives targeting health needs, from funding clinics to awareness campaigns, directly deal with these challenges (Wu et al., 2022). In an environment where healthcare infrastructure is in a lot of places insufficient, CSR programs could provide desperately needed services in Iraq. Mobile centres, disease control (HIV), health promotion, and disease prevention activities, in addition to information, training, and interaction strategies, can improve economic resilience through disease prevention and control, which puts financial and physical burdens on low-income households (Mirza et al., 2024). Companies that offer community health boost productivity and their public image (Yang, 2023). Health as a prerequisite and result of economic development is very important. Critical shortages in CSR-driven health interventions, including mobile clinics and awareness programs, are among the top priorities in rural areas of Iraq. These initiatives ease health care system strain during periods of strain and increase workforce efficiency through reduced sick days. It's accepted that better health leads to lessening poverty via trickle-down effects (Ventura & Jauregui, 2023). Hence, the study developed the hypothesis as:

H1 (b): CSR (health) has a positive association with poverty alleviation in Iraq.

Development can be divided into several sectors, with infrastructure being one of the most crucial. Through CSR initiatives, companies can generate employment, provide education, and create markets for their products, all of which contribute to poverty alleviation. In Iraq, a nation recovering from years of conflict, CSR-driven infrastructure projects can address critical gaps and stimulate development (Harahap, 2021). Beyond their direct income impact, infrastructure developments attract extra capital, producing a chain reaction that benefits local economies (Baba & Moustaquim, 2021). As drivers of regional growth, CSR-led infrastructural interventions have always transformed communities by providing tools for sustainable development (Wang & Ye, 2024). Infrastructure is the economic backbone upon which all other activities are established. Directing CSR efforts to infrastructure areas of roads, electricity supply, and telecommunications can aid companies to overcome the structural deficiencies that block access to markets, work opportunities, and learning (Chen, He, & Yang, 2024). Investments are of very much value to Iraq and other countries, particularly the rural communities that are experiencing the challenges of the disparities of development. These efforts enhance movement and connectivity, consequently enabling increased economic participation. Hence, the study developed the hypothesis as:

H1 (c): CSR (infrastructure) has a positive association with poverty alleviation in Iraq.

CSR is one method for battling poverty and encouraging economic growth in Iraq. This entails examining its possible benefits and determining measurable results. Using current research, case studies, and literature as foundation, the hypotheses for this department tackle the impacts of CSR on economic growth, education, healthcare, and community trust. Understanding these relationships is crucial to maximizing CSR's effect in producing change in local communities. Each hypothesis elaborates CSR impact and relates corporate actions to social welfare in selected domains. Numerous results suggest that poverty alleviation encourages local economic development. CSR fosters opportunities for communities to make the most of funding and industry access for SMEs. The experience of AWID demonstrates that those economic shocks that threaten the growth of SMEs in unstable economies like Iraq require poverty alleviation and encourage job creation and regional economic growth. Corporate governance forms an important element for successful CSR activities. Participation in development programs becomes more crucial once corporate entities are considered partners. CSR activities should build trust and promote sustainable partnerships. In Iraq, a variety of trust-building interventions, such as active participation in decision-making processes and maintaining consistent, open communication, play a crucial role in supporting effective Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) initiatives aimed at addressing widespread poverty. Moreover, establishing collaboration alliances is undoubtedly essential, as these vital partnerships ensure that the various efforts implemented are not only consistent with the local context but are also truly responsive and adaptable to the specific and diverse needs of the community. Working together in this way enhances the

overall effectiveness and impact of initiatives, promoting a sense of ownership and participation among local stakeholders. Hence, the study developed the hypothesis as:

H2: CSR and poverty alleviation has a positive association with poverty alleviation in Iraq.

Methodology

A methodological and systematic approach was adopted to assess the results of CSR in reducing poverty in Iraq. This assessment applied a design that considered exact sampling techniques, appropriate data collection techniques, and regional differences that might impact outcomes. A sample of 357 respondents was selected to be general enough across organizational sectors and demographic variables. This sample size enabled researchers to examine multiple outcomes of CSR initiatives. Main data are gathered using a closed-ended questionnaire regarding perceptions of CSR's influence in the educational, well-being, infrastructural, and economic. The last section (25 items) was utilized for investigation based on willingness to pay (WTP) Responses have been scaled from strongly disagree (1) to strongly disagree (five). Field coordinators distributed survey forms online and physically when needed to make sure reach. This dual approach allowed broad access to the survey and ensured responses reflected Iraq's socio-economic landscape. Gathering data covered both urban centers like Basra and Baghdad and several rural areas and thus represented all sections of society. Differential findings amongst locations analysed revealed regional differences in development prevalent throughout the nation. This particular analysis talked about the crucial need for corporate social responsibility (CSR) in the bottom and top of Iraqi society, as illustrated in Table 1.

It includes individuals from all ages, genders, education levels, work, and geographical areas of Iraq in this research. This wide spectrum of participation offers a foundation for assessing corporate social responsibility (CSR) impacts on poverty reduction in the country. It utilizes established variables and dependable and appropriate measurement tools to critically analyse the interaction of effects of CSR initiatives on poverty alleviation in Iraq. These variables incorporate the primary elements of CSR activities and their perceived effects on local communities. The questionnaire is organized to capture the degree of participation and the perceived success and effect on the larger society of people engaged in numerous CSR initiatives. It is also imperative to carefully consider and evaluate the various and complex outcomes of CSR initiatives, including comprehensive programs targeted at eradicating poverty, creating meaningful and sustainable employment opportunities generated by such types of impactful initiatives, supplying vital academic guidance and support for disadvantaged populations, as well as improving access to quality medical care along with comprehensive health services and improving living conditions for each one of those involved in the processes, along with determining new and revolutionary financial advancement opportunities that can efficiently propel sustainable growth and long-term development.

Table 1: Demographic Profile of Respondents.

Demographic Variable	Category	Percentage
Gender	Male	59%
	Female	41%
Age Group	18-25	22%
	26-35	37%
	36-45	25%
	46 and above	16%
	High School	38%
Education Level	Undergraduate Degree	34%
	Postgraduate Degree	17%
	No Formal Education	11%
Occupation	Self-employed /Entrepreneur	21%
	Private Sector Employee	23%
	Public Sector Employee	31%
	Student	15%
	Unemployed	10%
Geographic Distribution	Baghdad	31%
	Basra	13%
	Babylon	20%
	Other Urban Centres (e.g., Mosul)	22%
	Rural Areas	14%

Data analysis methods and the relationship between CSR activities and poverty reduction in Iraq are described. Associations among variables were examined by Smart-PLS. Data were interpreted via descriptive and deductive statistical techniques. Mathematical tests established validity and reliability of the questionnaire. Cronbach's alpha was computed for internal consistency of multi-item scales, and values over 0.70 were deemed acceptable (Hair, Howard, & Nitzl, 2020). Constructs were validated through factor analysis, and items measured CSR awareness and poverty alleviation. Several regression analyses were applied to evaluate the relationship between CSR efforts and selected poverty alleviation measures (employment opportunities, healthcare accessibility, and stability). A p 0.05 for this particular research indicates that CSR contributes to poverty alleviation in evaluated organizations (Hair et al., 2017). Lastly, 3 CSR dimensions—health, infrastructure, and education—are regarded as predictors, with poverty reduction acting as a facilitator and economic

development acting as a dependent variable, as seen in Figure 1.

**Figure 1:** Theoretical Model.

Research Findings

The Shapiro-Wilk test was used because it's hypersensitive to sample sizes and robust to normality testing. A p -value below 0.05 indicates that data have a normal distribution and could be further examined (Hair et al., 2017). The kurtosis and skewness coefficients were computed to judge asymmetry in the data. Descriptive stats for skewness and kurtosis test for normality (values -1 to 1 indicate roughly normal distribution). The results can be found in Table 2.

Table 2: Descriptive Statistics and Data Normality Test.

Variable	Mean	Std. Deviation	Min	Max	Skewness	Kurtosis	Shapiro-Wilk
CSR (Education)	3.46	0.86	1.00	5.00	-0.12	-0.90	0.06
Economic Development	3.66	0.93	1.00	5.00	-0.15	-0.80	0.07
CSR (Infrastructure)	3.57	0.87	1.00	5.00	-0.19	-0.85	0.08
Poverty Alleviation	3.61	0.91	1.00	5.00	-0.06	-0.80	0.09
CSR (Healthcare)	3.44	0.80	1.00	5.00	-0.13	-0.95	0.07

The reliability and validity of the measuring model were analysed to analyse the influence of CSR on poverty reduction in Iraq. Internal consistency reliability, indicator reliability/convergent validity, and discriminant validity were thoroughly examined using Cronbach's alpha, composite reliability, factor loadings, and average variance extracted (AVE) statistical tools. Additionally, the Fornell-Larcker criterion and cross-loadings have been adopted to better evaluate the model's performance and accuracy. Studies conducted thoroughly verified that the various constructs in question met the essential reliability and validity requirements that are critical for the research

methodological framework employed. The analysis of internal consistency reliability confirmed that the elements included in each specific construct effectively assess the intended notion or concept. Both Cronbach's alpha and composite reliability (CR) are regarded as satisfactory and reliable when their values exceed 0.7; our findings consistently showed values greater than 0.70, indicating strong reliability. Furthermore, it is important to note that factor loadings and Average Variance Extracted (AVE) values must not exceed the threshold of 0.50; the results from this thorough investigation demonstrated that these values indeed satisfied the necessary conditions for the

constructs to be deemed valid. The findings are revealed in Table 3.

Table 3: Reliability and Validity Statistics.

Construct	Alpha	CR	AVE
CSR (Education)	0.80	0.86	0.62
Economic Development	0.82	0.83	0.60
CSR (Infrastructure)	0.83	0.85	0.66
Poverty Alleviation	0.79	0.80	0.59
CSR (Healthcare)	0.81	0.88	0.61

Table 4: Heterotrait-Monotrait Ratio (HTMT).

Construct Pair	HTMT Value
CSR (Education)	0.68
Economic Development	0.58
CSR (Infrastructure)	0.54
Poverty Alleviation	0.60
CSR (Healthcare)	0.58

The reliability assessment of all the constructs used in the study is presented in Table 4. To further examine discriminant validity among the constructs, the Heterotrait-Monotrait (HTMT) ratio matrix output is also provided in Table 4. None of the HTMT values exceed the recommended thresholds of 0.85 or 0.90, indicating that the constructs demonstrate good discriminant validity. This confirms that the constructs are well differentiated and suitable for examining the relationship

between CSR activities and poverty alleviation outcomes in Iraq. As per the HTMT values, all values are below the 0.85 threshold, supporting strong discriminant validity among the constructs. The structural model test aims to validate the assumed relationships between CSR practices and their impact on poverty reduction in Iraq. This analysis includes the path coefficients, their significance levels, and indices that indicate the model's fit, revealing the strength and direction of the relationships between the constructs. Additionally, this section evaluates the model's predictive power and overall fit to ensure that the impact of CSR on poverty alleviation is both novel and reliable. Table 5 summarises the path coefficients, providing insight into the effectiveness and direction of the relationships among the study variables. Each path coefficient is calculated for statistical significance, demonstrating the extent to which CSR activities influence poverty-reduction factors such as economic development, community support, and educational access. The coefficients indicate that CSR has a significant impact on these factors, contributing to the escape from poverty in Iraq. All path coefficients are positive and statistically significant ($p < 0.001$), highlighting the role of economic development, community support, and education in alleviating poverty. The positive relationships suggest that CSR strategies indirectly reduce poverty through these channels, as shown in Table 5.

Table 5: Path Coefficients and Significance Levels.

Path	Coefficient (β)	T-Value	P-Value	Hypothesis Supported
CSR (Education) → Poverty Alleviation	0.43	5.87	<0.001	Yes
CSR (Healthcare) → Poverty Alleviation	0.53	6.33	<0.001	Yes
CSR (Infrastructure) → Poverty Alleviation	0.40	4.25	<0.001	Yes
Poverty Alleviation → Economic Development	0.39	4.76	<0.001	Yes

Table 6 presents the model fit indices, which are crucial to assess the model's fit together with the data. The important factors include Standardised Root Mean Square Residual (SRMR), Normal Fit Index (NFI), and Comparative Fit Index (CFI). Results show that the model fits within acceptable thresholds, with SRMR under 0.08 and CFI and NFI above 0.90, as recommended. These findings demonstrate the model is robust and quality in detailing causal relationships between CSR activities and poverty alleviation results in Iraq. The model's adequacy and effectiveness in illustrating these intricate relationships are clearly shown through various analyses. Note that all model fit indices are above the suggested thresholds, indicating the model is consistent with the real data gathered. This further suggests the proposed links between CSR practices and poverty reduction in the specific place where people live are substantiated and theoretically based on literature. The model's agreement with observed data reassures stakeholders that these relationships are valid and that CSR methods should be holistically dealt with to tackle poverty, as shown in Table 6.

Table 6: Model Fit Indices.

Fit Index	Value	Acceptable Threshold	Model Fit
SRMR	0.047	< 0.08	Good
NFI	0.91	< 0.90	Good
CFI	0.93	< 0.90	Good

Table 7 presents the results of the predictive relevance (Q^2) assessment, conducted using the blindfolding method, which

is widely recognised for evaluating the latent variables of the model. Positive Q^2 values indicate that the model can predict relevance in the dependent constructs, thereby demonstrating its ability to estimate outcomes related to poverty alleviation through CSR support. The positive Q^2 values affirm that the model effectively captures the relationships and can provide valuable insights for future predictions, particularly regarding CSR's impact on poverty reduction in Iraq. The positive Q^2 values for all endogenous variables further confirm that the model possesses predictive power, underscoring the role of CSR activities as an effective means of alleviating poverty. These activities achieve this by influencing economic development, community support, and educational access, as illustrated in Table 7.

Table 7: Predictive Relevance (Q^2) for Endogenous Variables.

Endogenous Variable	Q^2 Value
Economic Development	0.34
CSR (Healthcare)	0.42
CSR (Infrastructure)	0.33
CSR (Education)	0.28
Poverty Alleviation	0.37

Discussion

Results indicate that poverty reduction in Iraq is clearly attached to the contribution of CSR to economic development. Particularly in areas of education, infrastructure, and health, CSR initiatives directly help reduce poverty through investments in companies, human capital,

and better employment and services. Enhancements in workforce productivity, economic stability, and consumer spending brought on by CSR contribute to long-term socio-economic improvement and can be a tool utilized to advance CSR objectives. In Iraq, where a fragile economy and high poverty levels hinder progress, any meaningful advancement is contingent upon CSR addressing the underlying issues impeding development. In this context, corporate engagement in social responsibility has the potential to drive significant positive change.

CSR activities, especially in education, health, and infrastructure, are usually linked with poverty reduction. Education could be a tool against poverty; companies in Iraq invest in school programs, vocational education, and scholarships to provide quality training to marginalized communities. As [Triatmanto & Bawono \(2023\)](#) highlight, increased literacy & skill development directly decrease unemployment and increase economic contribution. In a similar manner, CSR healthcare programs (hospital funding, medical camps, disease prevention) enhance public health and workforce capacity, as [Freeman et al. \(2025\)](#) note. By addressing poor health, which increases medical expenses and limits work opportunities, CSR interventions are necessary. Infrastructure development, as pointed out by [Owusu-Manu et al. \(2019\)](#), promotes economic mobility with transportation networks, electricity, and clean drinking water, producing employment, growing businesses, and boosting financial resilience. Empirical research confirms the efficiency of CSR driven investments in education, health and infrastructure. Corporate-funded education programs encourage employment and economic participation in developing nations. [Sharma \(2019\)](#) found that corporate-funded education programs increase employment opportunities and economic participation in developing nations. [Uduji, Okolo-Obasi, & Asongu \(2020\)](#) also stated that CSR in education sector increases literacy rates & work access in post-conflict areas, [Goenka & Liu \(2020\)](#) recommended that CSR investments lower disease prevalence and promote participation in workforce. They also reported lower mortality and increased labour productivity with corporate-funded health programs. Additionally, [Fernando, Chiappetta Jabbour, & Wah \(2019\)](#) note that corporate investments in public utilities have raised living standards & employment. Infrastructure development, as noted by [Owusu-Manu et al. \(2019\)](#), promotes economic inclusion through reducing geographic barriers to accessing services. These studies collectively underscore the critical role of CSR initiatives in education, healthcare, and infrastructure in tackling poverty in Iraq. They demonstrate that lowering poverty is related to economic growth, which might be the case in case a country's economy is strengthened, which might lower poverty. This raises workforce participation, consumer spending, and economic stability. CSR efforts produce a financially secure and competent workforce, which attracts investments and enhances business performance. Better health implies less healthcare expense and absenteeism for more economic activity. Also, infrastructure development generates business opportunities and trade with accompanying jobs, which stimulate long-term economic development.

The relationship between poverty reduction and economic

growth is firmly supported by existing research. [Desai & Joshi \(2019\)](#) found that reducing poverty contributes to national economic performance by enhancing labour force participation and stabilising markets. According to [Fukase & Martin \(2020\)](#), poverty reduction stimulates aggregate demand, which in turn fosters industrial expansion and national economic prosperity. The long-term benefits of CSR in alleviating poverty appear to outweigh the immediate social impacts. Moreover, reduced poverty is linked to a more skilled workforce and greater business growth. [Morris, Santos, & Neumeyer \(2020\)](#) observed that individuals above the poverty line are more likely to invest in education and entrepreneurship, thereby contributing to economic diversification.

Additionally, lower poverty levels reduce financial instability and mitigate the risk of economic crises, as noted by [Chen, kumara, & Sivakumar \(2023\)](#). These findings indicate that CSR-driven poverty reduction benefits individuals and benefits Iraqi long-term economic development. In a financially turbulence-ridden Iraq, CSR initiatives focusing on poverty reduction can be a driver of sustainable development. Creation of jobs, living standards, and financial resilience need investments in education, infrastructure, and health. The convergence of CSR, economic growth, and poverty reduction highlights the need for corporate engagement in solving Iraq's economic issues to guarantee a safe business environment for future prosperity and growth.

Conclusion

This research suggests that CSR initiatives decrease poverty through economic growth, neighbourhood wellbeing, and education accessibility in Iraq. It demonstrates that CSR could act as an agent of social and economic progress, particularly in development and post-conflict contexts. Businesses in Iraq can tackle pressing social issues while also enhancing their profile and relations with stakeholders. This convergence of social and business goals shows CSR's potential to produce shared value. Ultimately, CSR endeavours can bring about a just and empowered society and make CSR a strategic and ethical requirement for companies conducting business in Iraq.

Implications

This analysis contributes to the CSR literature by analysing its poverty reduction activity in a post-war developing nation. While research has previously considered CSR's economic and environmental impacts, the present study pays special attention to its social dimension, poverty-fighting. Following stakeholder theory, which holds that businesses owe obligations to beyond shareholders to consider wider social goals, the results suggest that CSR is often a driver of economic and social growth in Iraq. Showing that CSR can improve job creation, community development, and educational opportunities, this analysis offers proof of exactly how CSR can bring about poverty reduction in economically challenged regions. For business leaders in Iraq, this study highlights CSR as a social goodwill-oriented strategy that also results in financial success. Managers must look into CSR not as a price but as an investment in the societal infrastructure that ensures long-term business sustainability. Participation in community development initiatives may enhance corporate

reputation and trust with local individuals, while investments in community and education initiatives might guarantee a competent workforce and secure financial conditions.

Limitations and Future Directions

This study offers crucial insights but has several limitations. For instance, its cross-sectional architecture based on data from one temporal point limits its capability for causal links to be resolved. Future research might use longitudinal approaches to remain within the long-term effect of CSR on poverty reduction. Secondly, the research is centred around Iraq, and the findings might be less generalizable to various other developing nations. Additional studies could possibly examine CSR's involvement in reducing poverty in some other post-conflict or developing areas. Thirdly, although this research highlights the positive results of CSR, future studies will be beneficial to investigate possible negative results (or unintended effects) such as extremely dependent communities from outside or even unrealistic long-range expectations. Additionally, future research could explore other aspects of CSR, such as environmentally sustainable practices, to assess their role in combating poverty.

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