CSR, Sustainability, Ethics & Governance
Series Editors: Samuel O. Idowu · René Schmidpeter

Samuel O. Idowu Stephen Vertigans *Editors* 

# Stages of Corporate Social Responsibility

From Ideas to Impacts



# CSR, Sustainability, Ethics & Governance

### **Series editors**

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# Stages of Corporate Social Responsibility

From Ideas to Impacts



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### **Foreword**

Companies around the world can no longer ignore the importance of an integrated CSR and sustainability strategy. The topic is a key focus of the United Nations, which aims to foster the transition to a sustainable world by 2030. Seventeen ambitious Sustainable Development Goals were published, which should remain at the centre of the global political and economic agenda. While these targets point us in the right direction, proper implementation requires a thorough understanding of how ideas can be turned into reality to create real impacts. Therefore, this editorial piece comes at the perfect time to help organisations realise their goals and the potential of a sound CSR strategy. In this book, Samuel O. Idowu and Stephen Vertigans share with us a collection of international literature from academia and practice, demonstrating the various stages of CSR as well as examples of its integration in companies worldwide. The editors capture the interrelated essence of sustainability through an intellectual discussion on critical components at professional, conceptual and strategic levels. As revealed here and in the editors' numerous prior publications, successful business and a deeply rooted CSR strategy go hand in hand. Companies today must shift their focus to the long-term prosperity of the organisation as well as the complex and interrelated ecosystems (environmental, social, economic and political) within which it functions. Without this holistic management perspective, businesses run the risk of basing important decisions on mere narrow and short-term economic gains—which will only lead to the further collapse of the global economic system rather than the achievement of the above-mentioned United Nations Sustainable Development Goals. Still, after the decision is made to focus on CSR and sustainability at the core of business operations, managers must determine which steps will be most effective and efficient. It is not only about dreaming of a better world—but about making it happen by combining entrepreneurial drive, innovation and the vision of a sustainable future. The issue remains that CSR is a multifaceted discipline requiring managers to assimilate concepts, which may be completely different from the areas in which they are trained. This should, however, not be seen as a barrier to sustainable development but rather an opportunity to broaden the talents of the vi Foreword

workforce by encouraging new ways of think out-of-the-box ideas. The articles in this book were selected from experts spanning a wide array of industries from different countries around the world. The authors offer unique perspectives on stimulating topics such as awareness amongst female entrepreneurs in Nigeria, perspectives of upper management in Polish firms, Japanese CSR strategies and the social relevance of corporate initiatives, pragmatic approaches of CSR design principles in Scandinavia and many more. Not only are different countries and global regions represented, but the examples also draw from a diverse range of globally relevant industries. This book offers a clear deliberation on the past, present and future of CSR and how companies should be thinking to strive towards the achievement of the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals. No matter how big or small your entrepreneurial dreams are, this publication offers wisdom that can help turn them to into realities that have positive impacts on your bottom line and the world around you.

Cologne Business School Koln, Germany April 2016 René Schmidpeter

### **Preface**

Within governments, industries, organisations and communities around the world, CSR continues to grow in prominence. Large, medium and small businesses increasingly develop CSR policies, national governments now expect more than revenue from companies operating in their countries, different industries are keen to adopt CSR rhetoric and approaches and communities look to CSR initiatives as a way to overcome localised and widespread, historical and contemporary problems that may or may not be connected to particular business activities.

Although the intentions and impacts of CSR crosscut domains and multi- and interdisciplinary approaches are acknowledged, ideas surrounding CSR and organisational practices continue to be compartmentalised. These factors contribute to CSR policies and activities being developed in specialised blocks which often fail to connect business planning with financial controls, legal advice with shareholder demands, community expectations with government sovereignty, supply chains with social value, environmental targets with different stakeholder demands and CSR goals with longer term strategic goals. Within organisations, the separation of CSR as a distinct set of ideas often dominates, isolated within detached programmes and rigid departmental boundaries. Governments and companies develop unconnected CSR programmes which Non-Government Organisations (NGOs) often deliver without robust, consistent corporate guidance and support. Hence, despite the growth in the field of CSR and enhanced ways of understanding about the concept and practices, fundamental weaknesses in both knowledge and practice remain. Considerable human and financial investments are being underutilised and frequently wasted. Consequently, instead of focusing upon disparate and disconnected projects, CSR needs to be positioned as interconnected processes of development and delivery. In short, there is a lack of joined-up thinking across organisations, government departments, NGOs and academics about how CSR programmes should be developed, implemented and measured.

Within academic literature, similar approaches can be noticed. Texts will tend to focus on distinct components that isolate CSR within business spheres or develop strategic approaches that detach CSR from wider corporate objectives and

viii Preface

collaborative partners; governance becomes the primary function of monitoring and reporting while conversely explorations of stakeholders over-concentrate upon either shareholders or community demands. Hence, attempts to view and outline CSR as processes which interlink the corporate and community with a beginning, middle and end are lacking. The intention of this book is to build upon some of the existing strengths within the literature and to propose multidisciplinary insights into how processes of CSR can be more extensive, coordinated and outcome focused. The insights provided in this collection are expected to enable the phases of CSR to be outlined from ideas to impacts. In this collection, papers in the eleven chapters that comprise the book can help identify and explain what needs to be happening at the different stages of CSR incorporating the development, implementation and monitoring of strategies, policies and ideas.

It is hoped that the attempts made by these authors help to crystallise many of the impactful ideas CSR has brought on to the twenty-first century corporate scene. Many of the chapters in the book have pointed out that CSR has now moved on from ideas to demonstrable impacts which will help not only this generation but also future generations; we all need to continue to innovate in the area to make this happen.

London, UK Aberdeen, UK April 2016 Samuel O. Idowu Stephen Vertigans

### Acknowledgements

We wish to take this opportunity to express our gratitude to a number of people who have contributed to another successful addition to the literature on corporate social responsibility. We are grateful to all our contributors, fifteen of them, who have provided us with first-class research papers on the theme of the book.

We are also grateful to a number of our friends and colleagues who have either directly or indirectly contributed to successfully completing this edition of the book on *Corporate Social Responsibility: From Ideas to Impacts*.

We are grateful to our respective families for their forbearance during the process of ensuring the smooth coordination of all the activities that culminated into getting the book to a finished product.

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We apologise for any error or omission that may appear anywhere in the book; no harm or disrespect was intended to anyone.

# Contents

Par	t I Professional Corporate Social Responsibility	
1	The Rationales of Lawyers, Accountants and Financial Analysts in Shaping the EU Agenda on CSR	3
2	Corporate Social Responsibility in Nigeria: Drivers and Barriers Experienced by Female Entrepreneurs When Undertaking CSR Adebimpe Lincoln	25
3	From Ideas to Impacts: CSR in the Eyes of Top Managers in Poland	47
Par	t II Conceptual Corporate Social Responsibility	
4	Solutions or Legitimations? How the Conceptualization of Organizational Identity Shapes the Social Relevance of CSR Initiatives in Two Japanese Corporations	67
5	Corporate Social Responsibility: Theoretical Underpinnings and Conceptual Developments	99
6	Relationships Between Corporate Social Responsibility and Strategic Planning	121
7	Walking the Second Mile before the First: A Corporate Social Responsibility Conundrum?	139

xii Contents

Part	III Strategic Corporate Social Responsibility	
8	Balancing Organisational Design Principles: A Pragmatic Scandinavian Approach to CSR	163
9	Authentic CSR and Leadership: Towards a Virtues-Based Model of Stakeholder Dialogue and Engagement. The Loccioni Group Experience	179
10	Corporate Social Responsibility and Farm Animal Welfare: Towards Sustainable Development in the Food Industry?	205
11	The Implementation of CSR Management and Stakeholder Relations in Japan	223
Inda	v	243

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xiv List of Contributors

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List of Contributors xv

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xvi List of Contributors

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Farm animal welfare, FAW, sustainability, sustainable development, BBFAW, business case, benchmark, triple bottom line, supermarket, corporate retailers, environment, corporate social responsibility and moral case.

List of Contributors xvii

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xviii List of Contributors

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xx About the Editors

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# **Stages of Corporate Social Responsibility: An Introduction**

The need for corporate entities to act and behave responsibly has been widely discussed in the literature for more than fifty years (see, for example, Bowen (1953), Heald (1957), Carroll (1979, 1991, 2003), etc.) A lot has been done with regard to mainstreaming CSR in what both corporate and individual citizens of the world do. Not only that, many of the operational practices of both corporate and individual citizens of our world have been positively transformed and reoriented as a result of those CSR actions we are all expected to take. Corporate leaders are at the hub of many of these actions, which means that for an entity to be CSR conscious and effective in its drive to be socially responsible it must have a good system of governance in place. Three key aspects of corporate social responsibility often discussed in the literature in terms of governance are abbreviated ESG-Environment, Social and Governance. Many corporate entities which operate in different industries place a lot of emphasis on these three key areas of responsibility (see, for example, the Equator Principle in the Banking and Financial Services sector which corporations that operate in this industry must take cognizance of if they are based in North America and Europe). There are several other examples. Good governance has now been recognised as an essential requirement for any organisation that aspires to survive and prosper in whatever industry they operate in. This has become the case since a lot of weak governance-related corporate collapses and failures due to bad governance and scandals which have occurred in recent years in many countries around the world. Not only that, the recent global financial meltdowns which occurred between 2008 and 2012 have equally made governance an important issue in CSR.

Halal (2000) in his contribution to the—*Evolution of corporate governance* posits that over a period which spans more than a century, three models of corporate governance have evolved between 1900 and present date. Halal (2000) argues that Corporate Governance originally evolved from the traditional "profit-centred model (PCM)" during a period which he called the "industrial age—1900–1950", it metamorphosed into another model he called the "social responsibility model

(SRM)" during the "Neo-industrial age—1950–1980" and now the model is moving towards what Halal (2000) refers to as collaborative working relations phase—the "corporate community model (CCM)"—the information age—1980—? Let us quickly explore Halal's (2000) three stages in the evolution of corporate governance as depicted in Idowu (2010).

### The Profit-Centred Model (PCM)

Halal (2000) argues that the profit-centred model (PCM) was prevalent over a fifty-year period 1900-1950 when those at the helm of the governance of corporate entities, that is, managers, were expected only to focus on maximising the returns due to the providers of capital—shareholders with little or no regard for the adverse impact of their entities' actions on other stakeholders including the environment, ironically whilst working in collaboration with some of these stakeholders—Employees, Customers, Suppliers, the local Community, etc., in order to achieve this single objective of profit maximisation. The interests of these other stakeholders were subordinated to that of the shareholders; in fact, the law in some parts of the world assisted this to happen. Lee (2008) recounts how Henry Ford in 1917 stood in a Michigan courtroom (having been sued by the Dodge brothers who were shareholders in Ford Motor Company) defending his decision to reinvest Ford Motor company's accumulated profits on plant expansion whilst slashing the price of Model T vehicles in an attempt to demonstrate that corporations should encourage and build within their systems of governance some responsibility towards their other stakeholders. Lee (2008) argues that Ford's idea of business as a service to society was not only derided by the company's shareholders, but the court also granted the Dodge brothers' request for maximum dividends with no regard even to the strategy the company was intending to embark on for the benefits of the company's other stakeholders. The court's decision in this case supports Halal's (2000) conclusion of the profitcentred model which suggests that other stakeholders may probably benefit from the approach encouraged by the model, but their interests are considered as "a means to an end of profitability rather than goals in their own right". It is also interesting to note that the PCM appears to be in agreement with Friedman's (1962, 1970) argument that "business managers are only employed by shareholders to pursue only those strategies which maximise owners' profits anything other than that is pure socialism; after all businesses are not established for eleemosynary purposes".

### The Social Responsibility Model (SRM)

The second period—the SRM period—falls within Bowen's (1953) Social Responsibilities of the Businessman book. It was during the time that Bowen (1953) attempted to theorise the relationship that should exist between business and society in terms of social responsibility. Halal (2000) suggests that the SRM was introduced in an attempt to correct some of the anomalies of the profit-centred model (PCM). Following Bowen's book, several corporations had opted to follow a different route from the PCM's period; they had identified the support and popularity the SRM was generating amongst some of the primary stakeholders, notably their customers and employees. The SRM according to Halal (2000) was basically about "doing good" if the entity aspires to simultaneously do well. Even though the SRM was an improvement on the ethos and doctrines propagated by the PCM, Halal (2000) argues that the two were mutually exclusive despite the interrelationship which should coexist between the two of them in order to bring about good governance. Each of them was focusing in opposite directions of the spectrum, thus preventing the enormous benefits which could ensue if they were linked in some way. This made their goals to conflict and being at odds with each other. Profit was important for the corporation to survive but doing good would inevitably reduce profit, as such the desire to want to pursue and see the model through was lacking. The model failed to pass the test of time. It was, therefore, inevitable and no surprise that a replacement to the model was sooner or later going to be necessary.

### The Corporate Community Model (CCM)

By 1980, the missing link between corporation and society had become apparent. The role corporate governance was expected to play in linking corporations and society together had also become apparent to business and society. Halal (2000) calls the period beginning in 1980 the "Information Age" and describes the period as one which heralds a shift in focus from "capital" to "knowledge", since capital refers to tangible fixed assets which somehow wear out whether they are used or unused; knowledge, on the other hand, refers to intangible fixed asset which does not depreciate in value but appreciates in value over time when shared with others. It is this quality of "knowledge" that propels corporate managers to seek the sharing of information with their stakeholders since this course of action would contribute positively in meeting corporate strategies. The advent of the social media and information and communications technology (ICT) systems has made things better in this regard. Managers provide information to these stakeholders, and in return, they receive valuable information from them. The result of which would only bring about a better understanding, a decrease in the level of mistrust of management's actions by these stakeholders and a better opportunity to jointly collaborate in order to solve both our economic and societal problems. The CCM has continued to thrive since 1980 up until the present moment, and there appears to be an unwritten memorandum of understanding between the two sides—the community and corporations. The level of understanding has increased and a noticeable reduction in conflicts and frictions between the two sides now prevails. This perhaps explains why corporations are voluntarily following different strategies which are designed to help the environment and activate sustainable development actions. Taking similar actions to these some forty or fifty years ago would have been perceived as creating unnecessary increase in costs, thus reducing corporate profits and consequently shareholders' dividends.

Corporate Social Responsibility originally started as an idea with a seminal paper by Bowen (1948); it developed to a series of ideas through research and a series of debates and conferences. It has now transformed into a series of measurable impacts globally through concerted actions by all. Since 2000, the United Nations has put forward two sets of 15-year development goals—Millennium Development Goals 2015 and Sustainable Development Goals 2030. They are both designed to reshape our world in terms of social responsibility. The chapters in this book have successfully explored CSR from professional, conceptual and strategic dimensions and we hope you will increase your understanding of the field of CSR through your interaction with the volume.

A number of innovative impactful ideas have stemmed from CSR in different economies around the world. The literature is full of discussions about social entrepreneurship, social innovation, social intrapreneurship, microfinance, sustainable development and several other terms which have been coined in order to make our world socially responsible and at the same time sustainable for all inhabitants of this planet either now or in the future.

The eleven chapters which make up this book have successfully explored many of these issues. There are three Parts to the book. Part I on *Professional Corporate Social Responsibility* is made up of three chapters. Part II on *Conceptual Corporate Social Responsibility* is made up of four chapters. The final part on *Strategic Corporate Social Responsibility* is also made up of four chapters. Each chapter has addressed different issues that relate to the theme of the book. It is hoped that they meet your requirements with regard to how corporate social responsibility has transformed from what initially started as a series of *ideas* into a number of noticeable *impacts* globally.

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# Part I Professional Corporate Social Responsibility

Lawyers, Accountants and Financial Analysts
Female Entrepreneurs
Senior Polish Managers

# Chapter 1 The Rationales of Lawyers, Accountants and Financial Analysts in Shaping the EU Agenda on CSR

David Monciardini

# 1.1 Introduction: European CSR Policies and the Role of Transnational Professional Communities

Entering the field of CSR reporting, anyone could feel understandably lost in a 'forest' of alternative formulas, which are often used as synonymous: sustainability reporting; social and environmental accounting; ESG (Environmental Social and Governance) data; non-financial information; etc. Going deeper into this issue, differences arise between those who talk about transparency, disclosure or corporate accountability. For each of these 'entry points' into CSR reporting, multiple choices are available to law- and policy-makers, which would radically change the mode and content of CSR reporting regulation (cf. Bebbington & Gray, 2001; Buhr, 2007; Crouch, 2010; Everett, 2004; Mason, 2005; Morgera, 2009). Disclosure should be left to companies' discretion or mandated by law? What should a company report on? Which companies should be required to provide information? To whom managers should be held accountable for their decisions? How non-financial information can be verified? Adopting a depoliticised and undersocialised approach to this problem, until recently, most of the literature and the policy debate was taking for granted that we already know what this reporting entails. It was conventionally treated as a technical issue, However, more recently, the debate has become more explicitly 'political', particularly as law- and policymakers have become increasingly active on this issue. There is a growing literature that goes beyond managerial and normative approaches and has revealed the co-existence of different, often competing, instances and interests (De Schutter, 2008; Dingwerth & Eichinger, 2010; Fairbrass, 2011; Kinderman, 2013). The study aims to contribute to this strand of studies on changes in CSR policies and politics,

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