# Article information:

Meta-analyses on Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR): a literature review | SpringerLink
<https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s11301-021-00211-2>

# Article summary:

1. The article discusses the importance of meta-analyses in Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) research and highlights the need for a literature review on prior CSR meta-analyses.

2. The literature review reveals that corporate governance-related determinants such as board independence, board gender diversity, and board size have a positive impact on CSR performance.

3. The review also shows that CSR (environmental) performance is connected to increased financial performance, indicating that successful CSR strategies can lead to improved firm value.

# Article rating:

Appears moderately imbalanced: The article provides some useful information, but is missing several important points or pieces of evidence that would be required to present the discussed topics in a balanced and reliable way. You are encouraged to seek a more balanced perspective on the presented issues by exploring the provided research topics and looking at different information sources.

# Article analysis:

The article titled "Meta-analyses on Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR): a literature review" provides an overview of the existing research on CSR meta-analyses and aims to address key research questions related to corporate governance, financial consequences of CSR, and moderator and mediator variables. While the article offers valuable insights into the topic, there are several areas that require critical analysis.

One potential bias in the article is its focus on the positive impact of corporate governance on CSR. The authors argue that board independence, board gender diversity, and board size have a positive impact on CSR performance. However, they do not explore potential negative effects or limitations of these factors. For example, while board independence may enhance accountability and transparency, it can also lead to conflicts of interest or lack of industry expertise. Similarly, while board gender diversity is often associated with better decision-making and innovation, it does not guarantee improved CSR performance.

Another bias in the article is its emphasis on the business case argument for CSR. The authors suggest that successful CSR strategies lead to better financial performance and increased firm value. While this argument has been widely discussed in the literature, it is important to acknowledge that there are alternative perspectives that question the direct link between CSR and financial outcomes. Some scholars argue that CSR should be seen as a moral obligation rather than a means to maximize profits.

The article also lacks a comprehensive discussion of potential risks and challenges associated with CSR reporting and performance measures. While it briefly mentions greenwashing policy and information overload as risks in business practice, it does not delve into specific examples or provide evidence for these claims. Additionally, there is no exploration of potential counterarguments against the use of meta-analyses in CSR research or limitations of existing studies.

Furthermore, the article does not present both sides equally when discussing the role of corporate governance in strengthening CSR efforts. It primarily focuses on how corporate governance can incentivize top managers to engage in substantive CSR strategies but does not adequately address potential limitations or criticisms of this approach. For example, some scholars argue that relying solely on corporate governance mechanisms may not be sufficient to drive meaningful CSR change and that broader systemic changes are needed.

Overall, while the article provides a useful overview of CSR meta-analyses and raises important research questions, it exhibits biases in its focus on positive outcomes, lack of consideration for alternative perspectives, and limited discussion of potential risks and challenges. A more balanced and critical analysis would have strengthened the article's credibility and provided a more comprehensive understanding of the topic.

# Topics for further research:

* Limitations of board independence in corporate governance and CSR performance
* Critiques of the business case argument for CSR and its financial outcomes
* Risks and challenges of CSR reporting and performance measures
* including greenwashing and information overload
* Counterarguments against the use of meta-analyses in CSR research and limitations of existing studies
* Criticisms of relying solely on corporate governance mechanisms for driving meaningful CSR change
* Alternative perspectives on CSR as a moral obligation rather than a means to maximize profits

# Report location:

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