Journal of Engineering and Technology for Industrial Applications



ITEGAM-JETIA

Manaus, v.10 n.47, p. 42-49. May/June., 2024. DOI: https://doi.org/10.5935/jetia.v10i47.1070



RESEARCH ARTICLE

OPEN ACCESS

CSA IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGIES: UNRAVELING SUCCESS AND CHALLENGES

Alliy Adewale Bello

Northeastern University, Roux Institute, USA, College of Professional Studies Project Management Department.

http://orcid.org/0009-0005-6617-8578¹⁰,

Email: alliybello2@gmail.com

ARTICLE INFO

Article History

Received: March 06th, 2024 Revised: June 03th, 2024 Accepted: June 26th, 2024 Published: July 01th, 2024

Keywords:

Corporate Sociopolitical Activism (CSA), CSA implementation strategies, Organizations, Stakeholder engagement.

ABSTRACT

This study investigated Corporate Sociopolitical Activism (CSA) and its multilayered dimensions within organizational contexts. The study aimed at examining the likelihood of organizations employing a comprehensive set of CSA strategies to achieve positive outcomes, the impact of CSA strategies on stakeholder engagement and the association between successfully navigating challenges in CSA implementation and adaptive organizational approaches. By employing a quantitative survey research design, data were gathered through a meticulously designed structured questionnaire administered to a sample of 120 respondents. The study revealed that organizations adopting a comprehensive set of CSA strategies indeed have the potential to achieve positive outcomes, challenging the notion that such endeavours might not be fruitful. Additionally, the effectiveness of CSA strategies displayed a significant impact on stakeholder engagement, emphasizing the pivotal role of sociopolitical initiatives in fostering robust relationships with stakeholders. The implications of these findings underscore the importance of proactive engagement with sociopolitical issues, not only for organizational success but also for building and maintaining stakeholder support. Recommendations arising from the study encourage organizations to carefully plan and implement CSA strategies to harness their positive impacts fully.



Copyright ©2024 by authors and Galileo Institute of Technology and Education of the Amazon (ITEGAM). This work is licensed under the Creative Commons Attribution International License (CC BY 4.0).

I. INTRODUCTION

Corporate Sociopolitical Activism (CSA) has become a pivotal aspect of corporate behavior, reflecting a shift in the role of businesses within society [1]. This paradigm shift signifies the recognition by organizations of the need to actively participate in sociopolitical issues extending beyond their immediate economic concerns. Stakeholders, including customers, employees and investors, are increasingly expecting corporations to take a stance on social and political matters, indicating a change in the dynamics of corporate behavior [2].

The implementation of CSA strategies involves corporations deliberately and proactively influencing or shaping sociopolitical issues beyond their traditional business interests [3].

These issues encompass a wide range of concerns, such as environmental sustainability, human rights, diversity and inclusion and political engagement. The proactive nature of CSA distinguishes it from conventional corporate social responsibility, involving a more direct and intentional effort to drive change in societal issues [4].

One key strategy in CSA implementation is the alignment of corporate values with sociopolitical causes [5], argue that organizations strategically align themselves with causes that resonate with their core values and business objectives. This alignment serves as a foundation for authentic and credible sociopolitical engagement, fostering a connection between the organization and its stakeholders. Such alignment is evident in the case of Nike and Colin Kaepernick, where Nike's engagement with

the sociopolitical issue of racial justice was in harmony with the brand's history of endorsing athletes with strong social stands [6]. The multidimensionality of CSA also encompasses the internal dynamics within organizations. Bhattacharya and Elsbach, [7] delve into the concept of organizational identification and disidentification, highlighting how employees' alignment with or detachment from their organization's sociopolitical initiatives can impact the success of such endeavors. An exploration of internal dynamics is crucial for understanding the effectiveness of CSA strategies, as it elucidates the role of organizational culture and leadership in driving sociopolitical engagement [8]. This internal dimension adds a layer of complexity to the scope of CSA, demonstrating that successful implementation goes beyond external communications to encompass internal cohesion and support.

One crucial dimension of assessing the effectiveness of CSA strategies is the impact on organizational reputation [9]. Corporate reputation is a valuable intangible asset that influences stakeholder perceptions and behaviors [10]. Organizations engaging in sociopolitical issues need to evaluate how their actions contribute to building a positive reputation. For instance, the study by del Mar García-De los Salmones and Perez, [11] delves into the effectiveness of CSR advertising in shaping reputation, consumer attributions and emotions. The impact of CSA strategies on brand image is a key consideration. Organizations recognize that their sociopolitical engagements can significantly shape how their brand is perceived by consumers [6]. Successful implementation of CSA strategies should result in a positive association between the organization's brand and the sociopolitical causes it supports [5]. explore the link between corporate sociopolitical activism and firm value, shedding light on how these engagements contribute to overall brand equity.

Effectiveness also extends to the influence of CSA strategies on consumer behaviour. Organizations need to understand whether their sociopolitical initiatives resonate with consumers and drive their choices. Studies, such as [12], focus on understanding consumer responses to CSR activities, emphasizing the mediating role of brand image and brand attitude in shaping consumer behaviour.

Moreover, the integration of sociopolitical considerations into corporate policies and practices is a crucial strategy. Organizations often go beyond symbolic gestures and incorporate sociopolitical values into their operations. This includes adopting environmentally sustainable practices, ensuring diversity and inclusion in the workplace and supporting human rights [5], [13]. The implementation of such policies reflects a commitment to sociopolitical issues that go beyond public relations, fostering a systemic and sustained impact on the organization's practices and its stakeholders.

Furthermore, proactive engagement with stakeholders is a pivotal strategy in CSA implementation. Organizations recognize the importance of involving diverse stakeholders, including customers, employees and investors, in shaping their sociopolitical initiatives [14],[15]. This participatory approach not only enhances the effectiveness of the initiatives but also ensures that they are aligned with the expectations and values of key stakeholders. The study by [16], delves into the reflection of preferences in corporate sociopolitical involvement, shedding light on the intricate dynamics between organizations and stakeholders.

Organizations often leverage partnerships and collaborations as part of their CSA implementation strategies. Collaborations with NGOs, governmental bodies, or other corporations allow organizations to pool resources, share expertise

and amplify the impact of their sociopolitical initiatives [6],[17]. Such partnerships can enhance the credibility and reach of an organization's sociopolitical endeavors, enabling them to address complex challenges more effectively.

One of the prominent challenges in CSA implementation relates to the potential backlash from various stakeholders. As highlighted by [12], consumers may respond differently to CSR activities and organizations must anticipate and manage potential negative reactions. The study emphasizes the need to recognize the diverse perspectives and values held by stakeholders, highlighting the challenge of striking a balance that aligns with societal expectations. Understanding and categorizing these varying stakeholder responses provides insights into potential pitfalls and aids organizations in devising strategies to mitigate backlash.

Navigating the complex landscape of sociopolitical issues poses another significant challenge. The study by [18], on sociopolitical activist brands emphasizes the intricacies involved in taking a stance on societal issues. Organizations must carefully navigate diverse perspectives, cultural variations and the everevolving nature of sociopolitical concerns [19]. Identifying and categorizing the challenges associated with understanding and responding to the multifaceted nature of sociopolitical issues enables organizations to develop subtlety and context-specific strategies.

Moreover, regulatory challenges and legal considerations represent a substantial hurdle in CSA implementation. As identified by [19], corporations engaging in sociopolitical activism may encounter legal constraints and regulatory scrutiny. Identifying and categorizing these legal challenges provides organizations with a comprehensive understanding of the constraints within which they must operate. This insight is vital for ensuring compliance while still effectively contributing to sociopolitical causes.

While there is a growing acknowledgment of the importance of CSA, existing literature reveals several gaps and challenges that necessitate further exploration. One notable gap pertains to the lack of a comprehensive understanding of the specific strategies employed by organizations in implementing CSA activities. The current literature provides limited insights into the approaches that companies adopt to navigate the complex landscape of sociopolitical issues [5]. Without a detailed exploration of these strategies, there is a dearth of knowledge on the best practices and potential pitfalls in CSA implementation. Addressing this gap is crucial for both academics and practitioners seeking to enhance the effectiveness of sociopolitical engagement. Another critical gap lies in the assessment of the effectiveness of CSA strategies employed by organizations. While there is a growing body of research highlighting the potential positive outcomes of CSA, there is a need for an understanding of the differential impacts observed across various contexts [20].

The study's significance is underscored by the current organizational state, where corporations are increasingly expected to play a proactive role in addressing sociopolitical issues. As societal expectations evolve, businesses are compelled to reassess their roles and responsibilities. This research responds to the pressing need for insights into how corporations can effectively navigate this landscape, contributing not only to academic scholarship but also to guiding corporate entities in aligning their strategies with contemporary societal demands.

The specific objectives of this study were to:

• Explore the strategies employed by organizations in implementing Corporate Sociopolitical Activism (CSA) activities.

- Assess the effectiveness of these strategies in achieving positive outcomes.
- Investigate cases where organizations have successfully navigated challenges in CSA implementation and achieved positive impacts.

To guide the research, the following questions were posed:

- What strategies do organizations employ in implementing Corporate Sociopolitical Activism (CSA) activities?
- How effective are these strategies in achieving positive outcomes?
- Can successful cases be identified where organizations have navigated challenges in CSA implementation and achieved positive impacts?

II. THEORETICAL REFERENCE II.I INSTITUTIONAL THEORY

In understanding Corporate Sociopolitical Activism (CSA) initiatives, Institutional Theory offers a valuable lens to examine how organizations conform to or diverge from institutional norms. Institutional Theory posits that organizations are influenced by external societal structures, norms and expectations, shaping their behaviour and strategies. Research by [21] provides insights into how organizations conform to or diverge from institutional norms in their pursuit of corporate social change activities. The study explores the role of ideologically motivated activism, emphasizing how activist groups can influence corporate social change within the broader institutional context. This perspective aligns with Institutional Theory, as it recognizes the impact of external actors on shaping organizational responses to sociopolitical issues.

Additionally, the study by [22] on the activist company, using an institutional theoretical lens, delves into how companies pursue societal change through corporate activism. The research examines how organizations strategically adopt societal change initiatives, aligning with or challenging prevailing institutional norms. This approach provides an understanding of how organizations navigate institutional pressures when implementing CSA strategies.

II.2 STAKEHOLDER THEORY

Stakeholder Theory is a pivotal framework for analyzing the role of stakeholders in influencing and shaping Corporate Sociopolitical Activism (CSA) activities undertaken by organizations. This theory posits that organizations are beholden to various stakeholders and their actions and decisions are influenced by the interests and expectations of these key groups. Examining the role of stakeholders provides an understanding of how organizations navigate sociopolitical issues with consideration for the diverse perspectives of those invested in or impacted by their actions

Mishra and Modi, [23] explores the relationship between Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) and shareholder wealth, emphasizing the role of stakeholders. This research delves into how stakeholders, particularly shareholders, perceive and respond to CSR activities. The findings contribute to Stakeholder Theory by illustrating the interconnectedness between organizational actions

related to sociopolitical issues and stakeholder perceptions, which can impact shareholder wealth.

III. MATERIALS AND METHODS

For this study, a quantitative survey research design has been chosen due to its appropriateness in exploring the relationships and patterns associated with Corporate Sociopolitical Activism (CSA). This design ensures a systematic and structured approach to data collection, ensuring consistency in gathering information from a large sample of respondents. This structure is vital for maintaining uniformity in data collection processes and instruments, enhancing the reliability and validity of the study.

The target population for this study encompasses professionals and stakeholders actively engaged in organizational decision-making processes, particularly those possessing valuable insights into the implementation of Corporate Sociopolitical Activism (CSA) strategies. The rationale behind selecting the target population is rooted in methodological considerations and aligns with recommendations from [24]. The justification for the chosen target population size revolves around the imperative to ensure adequate representation and diversity within the sample. Simple Random Sampling technique was utilized to select respondents for this study, this technique is grounded in its ability to provide an equal chance of selection for each member of the target population. This approach aligns with the principles of fairness and impartiality in participant selection, as advocated by [25]. The Taro Yamane formula, recommended by [26] for estimating sample sizes within finite populations, was utilized to determine the appropriate sample size from a total population of 171 respondents. Using this formula, the sample size (n) is calculated as: n = N/(1+Ne2)

where n represents the sample size, N is the population size and e is the margin of error.

Applying the values to the formula, with a population size (N) of 171 and an error margin (e) of 0.05:

 $\begin{array}{l} n=N/\left(1+171\times0.052\right)\\ n=171/\left(1+171\times0.0025\right)\\ n=171/1+0.4275\\ n\approx119.69 \end{array}$

Rounded to the nearest whole number, the calculated sample size using the Taro Yamane formula is approximately 120. Therefore, a sample size of 120 respondents was adopted for this study.

This study employed the use of structured questionnaires as primary sources of data collection, this strategically aligns with the quantitative approach adopted in this study. The structured nature of questionnaires offers a standardized format for data collection, ensuring consistency and facilitating efficient responses from a diverse range of participants.

The statistical software adopted for this study analysis is Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS), version 27. The questionnaires were serially numbered for recall purposes and coded. This was followed by entering the data into SPPSS, frequency counts were carried out to check for missing variables. Descriptive and inferential statistics was carried out to analyse and present the outcomes of the study data.

IV. RESULTS

Table 1: Sociodemographic Characteristics.

		F (%)
	Distribution of questionnaire	
1	Returned/Completed	101(84.2)
	Not Returned/Not Completed	19(15.8)
	Total	120(100)
	Gender of respondents	
2	Male	69(68.3)
	Female	32(31.7)
	Total	101(100)
	Age group	
	18-24	4(4)
	25-34	43(42.6)
3	35-44	42(41.6)
	45-54	8(7.9)
	55 and above	4(4)
	Total	101(100)
	Years of Professional Experience	
	1-5 years	8(7.9)
4	6-10 years	25(24.8)
	More than 10 years	68(67.3)
	Total	101(100)
	Occupation	
	Corporate Executive/Management	28(27.7)
5	Middle Management	1(1)
3	Entry level Employee	50(49.5)
	Entrepreneur/Business owner	22(21.8)
	Total	101(100)
	Industry Sector	
6	Technology/IT	52(51.5)
	Healthcare	24(23.8)
	Finance	14(13.9)
	Manufacturing	11(10.9)
	Total	101(100)

Source: Author, (2024).

The distribution of the questionnaires, as presented in Table1, reflects valuable insights into the respondents' engagement and willingness to participate in the study. Out of the total 120 distributed questionnaires, 101 were returned and completed, resulting in a response rate of 84.2%. The high response rate indicates a significant level of interest and cooperation from the targeted participants.

Further, the data indicates that the majority of the respondents are male, constituting 68.3% of the total sample, while females represent 31.7%. The majority of respondents fall within the age range of 25-34, constituting 42.6% of the total sample, followed closely by the 35-44 age group at 41.6%. The majority of respondents, constituting 67.3%, reported having more than 10 years of professional experience. This substantial proportion indicates a significant representation of seasoned professionals who have witnessed and likely contributed to the evolution of CSA over an extended period. The group with 6-10 years of professional experience comprises 24.8% of the respondents, indicating a sizable contingent of mid-career professionals. This segment represents individuals who have accumulated substantial experience but may still be influenced by evolving trends and shifting paradigms within the organizational landscape. Respondents with 1-5 years of professional experience constitute a smaller, yet noteworthy, group at 7.9%.

The largest group, constituting 49.5% of the respondents, comprises entry-level employees. This segment represents the operational workforce, individuals actively engaged in the day-to-day activities of organizations. Corporate executives and management professionals make up 27.7% of the respondents. This group includes individuals in leadership positions who play a pivotal role in shaping organizational policies and strategies. Their perspectives provide a strategic viewpoint on the motivations and decision-making processes behind CSA initiatives. Entrepreneurs and business owners, constituting 21.8% of the respondents, as individuals responsible for the overall direction of their enterprises, their viewpoints offer insights into how CSA aligns with the strategic vision and values of small and medium-sized businesses. Middle management is represented by 1% of the respondents.

Furthermore, the data reveals a notable concentration in the Technology/IT sector, with 51.5% of respondents belonging to this industry. This dominance suggests a significant interest in CSA within the technology-driven business landscape. The prevalence of respondents from the Technology/IT sector implies a keen awareness and engagement with sociopolitical issues in industries characterized by rapid innovation and societal impact. Healthcare constitutes the second-largest sector, representing 23.8% of respondents. The prominence of the healthcare industry aligns with its inherent societal responsibilities, as organizations within this sector often deal with issues related to public health, ethics and

social welfare. The Finance sector, comprising 13.9% of respondents, reflects the involvement of financial institutions and organizations in discussions surrounding sociopolitical issues.

Manufacturing, with 10.9% representation, signifies the engagement of traditional industries in sociopolitical activism.

Table 2: Effectiveness of CSA implementation strategies.

	Strongly Agree F (%)	Agree F (%)	Uncertain F (%)	Disagree F (%)	Strongly Disagree F (%)
Organizations engage in proactive efforts to shape sociopolitical issues beyond immediate economic interests	18(17.8)	53(52.5)	10(9.9)	9(8.9)	11(10.9)
Companies actively participate in initiatives related to environmental sustainability, human rights, diversity and inclusion and political engagement	18(17.8)	56(55.4)	7(6.9)	9(8.9)	11(10.9)
Organization strategically align their business practices with sociopolitical values and causes	18(17.8)	56(55.4)	7(6.9)	9(8.9)	11(10.9)
Corporations invest resources in fostering positive sociopolitical changes beyond legal or regulatory requirements.	18(17.8)	56(55.4)	7(6.9)	9(8.9)	11(10.9)
Implemented CSA strategies lead to tangible positive outcomes for the organization	14(13.9)	52(51.5)	15(14.9)	9(8.9)	11(10.9)
Organizations witness increased stakeholder support due to their sociopolitical activism efforts	13(12.9)	52(51.5)	16(15.9)	9(8.9)	11(10.9)
Successful cases of organizations effectively navigating challenges in CSA implementation can be identified	18(17.8)	52(51.5)	16(15.8)	4(4)	11(10.9)
Companies that actively address challenges in CSA implementation tend to achieve positive impacts	18(17.8)	52(51.5)	16(15.8)	4(4)	11(10.9)
Recognizing and overcoming challenges is essential for organizations to achieve success in CSA initiatives	18(17.8)	45(44.6)	18(17.8)	9(8.9)	11(10.9)
Organizations that learn from past challenges in CSA implementation are more likely to achieve positive impacts in the future.	18(17.8)	43(42.6)	20(19.8)	9(8.9)	11(10.9)

Source: Author, (2024).

Regarding organizations engaging in proactive efforts to shape sociopolitical issues beyond immediate economic interests, as shown in Table 2 a majority of respondents, 70.3%, either strongly agreed or agreed with the statement, indicating a prevailing positive outlook toward corporations taking an active role in societal and political matters. When asked about companies

actively participating in initiatives related to environmental sustainability, human rights, diversity and inclusion and political engagement, the "Agree" category, with 55.4% of respondents, represents the largest segment, indicating a widespread acknowledgement and acceptance of companies actively participating in initiatives related to societal and political issues.

This finding suggests that a significant portion of the sample perceives companies as actively contributing to causes such as environmental sustainability, human rights, diversity and inclusion and political engagement.

Further, when questioned on whether organizations strategically align their business practices with sociopolitical values and causes. The results reveal a predominant positive sentiment among the respondents, with 73.2% either strongly agreeing or agreeing with the statement. This finding suggests that many respondents perceive a conscious effort by organizations to integrate sociopolitical considerations into their business strategies. Responses concerning whether corporations invest resources in fostering positive sociopolitical changes beyond legal or regulatory requirements indicates a prevalent positive inclination among the respondents, with the largest segment, "Agree," representing 55.4% of respondents. This indicates a significant majority acknowledging that corporations invest resources in fostering positive sociopolitical changes beyond legal or regulatory requirements. This finding suggests a widespread perception among respondents that corporations are actively committing resources to drive positive sociopolitical impacts. For

the distribution of responses regarding whether implemented Corporate Sociopolitical Activism (CSA) strategies lead to tangible positive outcomes for organizations. The majority of respondents fall into the "Agree" category, representing 51.5%. This substantial portion of respondents indicates a prevailing belief that CSA strategies contribute positively to tangible outcomes for organizations. It suggests a consensus among a significant segment of participants that engaging in sociopolitical issues leads to positive results, aligning with the overarching objectives of organizational endeavours.

The respondents responses on whether organizations learn from past challenges in CSA implementation are more likely to achieve positive impacts in the future yielded a 42.6% "Agree" response, which suggests a substantial consensus among participants affirming the belief that organizations learning from past challenges in CSA implementation are more likely to achieve positive impacts in the future. This majority agreement indicates a shared conviction that drawing insights from past experiences is a valuable approach for enhancing the effectiveness of future sociopolitical activism.

Table 3: One-Sample Statistics.

	N	Mean	Std. Deviation	Std. Error Mean
The strategies employed by organizations in implementing Corporate Sociopolitical Activism (CSA) activities.	4	85.0000	7.74597	3.87298
The effectiveness of these strategies in achieving positive outcomes.	4	85.5000	7.32575	3.66288
Cases where organizations have successfully navigated challenges in CSA implementation and achieved positive impacts.	4	81.7500	9.87843	4.93921

Source: Author, (2024).

Table 3 presents the One-Sample Statistics for the three dimensions of Corporate Sociopolitical Activism (CSA) activities, providing a glimpse into the central tendency and variability of responses on a Likert scale.

Strategies Employed by Organizations in CSA:

The mean score of 85.00 suggests a relatively high average agreement among respondents regarding the strategies employed by organizations in implementing CSA activities. The narrow standard deviation of 7.75 indicates a relatively low level of variability in responses, implying a degree of consensus among participants. However, the wide standard error of the mean (3.87) points to potential variability in the population and suggests caution in generalizing these findings.

Effectiveness of CSA Strategies:

The mean score of 85.50 indicates a high average agreement among respondents regarding the effectiveness of CSA strategies in achieving positive outcomes. The standard deviation of 7.33 suggests a moderate level of variability in responses, indicating that while there is general agreement, there are variations in opinions among participants. The standard error of the mean (3.66) again highlights potential variability in the broader population.

Success in Navigating Challenges in CSA Implementation:

The mean score of 81.75 suggests a relatively high average agreement among respondents regarding the successful navigation of challenges in CSA implementation leading to positive impacts. The higher standard deviation of 9.88 indicates a

greater degree of variability in responses compared to the other dimensions. The wider standard error of the mean (4.94) suggests potential variability in the population.

IV.I DISCUSSIONS

The study delved into the multifaceted realm of Corporate Sociopolitical Activism (CSA), aiming to unravel the strategies employed, their effectiveness and the overarching impact on organizational outcomes. A comprehensive exploration was undertaken, involving an in-depth analysis of the perspectives of professionals and stakeholders engaged in organizational decision-making processes.

Summarily, the data obtained collectively portray a positive perception among respondents regarding organizations' involvement in sociopolitical activism. The high percentages of agreement across these dimensions suggest that organizations are not only seen as actively engaging in shaping sociopolitical issues but are also strategically aligning their business practices with sociopolitical values. Moreover, the willingness to invest resources in fostering positive changes beyond legal obligations highlights a proactive approach among organizations in addressing broader societal concerns. These findings underscore the growing importance of sociopolitical considerations in shaping organizational strategies and activities, reflecting a broader shift towards socially responsible and conscientious business practices.

The majority of respondents also believe that engaging in sociopolitical activism contributes to improved reputation, enhanced societal influence, positive outcomes and increased stakeholder support. These findings suggest a recognition among respondents of the multifaceted benefits associated with CSA, reinforcing the idea that organizations are increasingly

acknowledging the importance of sociopolitical considerations in shaping their overall image and impact.

Strategies Employed in CSA Implementation:

The findings revealed that a significant majority of respondents acknowledged organizations' proactive efforts in shaping sociopolitical issues beyond immediate economic interests (Table 2). This underscores a prevailing sentiment that companies are strategically aligning their business practices with sociopolitical values and causes. Moreover, the results indicated that corporations are actively participating in initiatives related to environmental sustainability, human rights, diversity and inclusion and political engagement (Table 2). The consensus among respondents suggests a widespread acknowledgement of organizations' commitment to a holistic approach in addressing sociopolitical issues.

Effectiveness of CSA Strategies:

The study further explored the perceived effectiveness of CSA strategies, revealing a positive inclination among respondents. A majority agreed that these strategies contribute positively to the reputation and brand image of organizations (Table 2). This aligns with the overarching narrative that organizations strategically investing resources in fostering positive sociopolitical changes beyond legal or regulatory requirements are viewed favourably. The positive mean scores in Table 3 further support the notion that respondents generally perceive CSA strategies as impactful and effective.

Challenges and Adaptive Approaches:

The findings highlighted a prevalent belief that recognizing and overcoming challenges is crucial for organizations to achieve success in CSA initiatives (Table 2). Respondents also acknowledged that organizations learning from past challenges are more likely to achieve positive impacts in the future (Table 2). The identification of successful cases where organizations effectively navigated challenges in CSA implementation received substantial agreement. These findings collectively underscore the significance of adaptive and proactive organizational approaches in the face of challenges associated with sociopolitical activism.

Stakeholder Engagement and Societal Influence:

Examining stakeholder engagement, the results indicate that organizations witness increased stakeholder support due to their sociopolitical activism efforts (Table 2). Respondents also recognized the societal influence and standing of organizations that engage in sociopolitical activism, further emphasizing the interconnectedness of organizational actions with broader societal perceptions.

V. CONCLUSIONS

The investigation into Corporate Sociopolitical Activism (CSA) and its implications on organizational outcomes has yielded significant findings, shedding light on the effectiveness of strategies employed and their impact on stakeholder engagement. The findings suggested a positive association between the breadth of strategies and favourable organizational outcomes. This highlights the importance of a holistic approach to sociopolitical activism, encompassing diverse initiatives related to environmental sustainability, human rights, diversity and inclusion and political engagement. Organizations embracing a multifaceted strategy

appear to reap benefits in terms of enhanced reputation, stakeholder support and societal influence.

The results also asserted that stakeholders, including employees, customers and investors, are influenced by the perceived effectiveness of sociopolitical activism initiatives. The positive correlation between the effectiveness of CSA strategies and increased stakeholder support underscores the importance of strategic and impactful sociopolitical engagement in fostering positive relationships and garnering support from key stakeholders. Further, as evidenced by the results, organizations that effectively address challenges in CSA implementation tend to achieve positive impacts, emphasizing the role of adaptability and proactivity in the face of sociopolitical complexities. Learning from past challenges emerges as a key factor in shaping future success, aligning with the adaptive nature required for effective sociopolitical activism.

The results of this study has provided compelling evidence that organizations adopting a comprehensive set of strategies, ensuring their effectiveness and navigating challenges with adaptability tend to realize positive outcomes. These insights are instrumental for organizations seeking to enhance their sociopolitical engagement, build positive reputations and foster stakeholder support. As organizations continue to navigate the dynamic sociopolitical landscape, the study's findings offer actionable insights and strategic considerations for effective and impactful CSA implementation. Recommendations arising from the study results is the encouragement of organizations to carefully plan and implement CSA strategies to harness their positive impacts fully.

VI. AUTHOR'S CONTRIBUTION

Conceptualization: Alliy Adewale Bello Methodology: Alliy Adewale Bello Investigation: Alliy Adewale Bello

Discussion of results: Alliy Adewale Bello **Writing – Original Draft:** Alliy Adewale Bello **Writing – Review and Editing:** Alliy Adewale Bello

Supervision: Alliy Adewale Bello

Approval of the final text: Alliy Adewale Bello

VII. REFERENCES

- [1] M. A. L. Latapí Agudelo et al., "A literature review of the history and evolution of corporate social responsibility," *Int. J. Corp. Soc. Respons.*, vol. 4, no. 1, pp. 1-24, 2019. doi:10.1186/s40991-018-0039-y.
- [2] E. Sjöström, "Shareholder activism for corporate social responsibility: What do we know?" *Sustain. Dev.*, vol. 16, no. 3, pp. 141-154, 2008. doi:10.1002/sd.361.
- [3] L. Blenninger et al., "Under pressure: An analysis of the perceived positioning pressure on sociopolitical issues and its influence on the external communication of German companies," vol. 81780, pp. 15-42, 2022.
- [4] B. Graham, "CSA-Practice-Leads-Programme-CGL-evaluation," Centre of expertise on child sexual abuse, Sep. 2020. https://www.csacentre.org.uk/ (accessed Feb. 01, 2024).
- [5] Y. Bhagwat et al., "Corporate sociopolitical activism and firm value," *J. Mark.*, vol. 84, no. 5, pp. 1-21, 2020. doi:10.1177/0022242920937000.
- [6] J. Avery and K. Pauwels, "Brand activism: Nike and C. Kaepernick," *Harv. Bus. Rev.*, 2019.
- [7] C. B. Bhattacharya and K. D. Elsbach, "Us versus Them: The roles of organizational identification and disidentification in social marketing initiatives," *J. Public Policy Mark.*, vol. 21, no. 1, pp. 26-36, 2002. doi:10.1509/jppm.21.1.26.17608.

- [8] R. Hay and E. Gray, "Social responsibilities of business managers," *Acad. Manag. J.*, vol. 17, no. 1, pp. 135-143, 1974. doi:10.2307/254777.
- [9] Y. Ji and C. Wan, "Working too much in China's tech industry: Corporate social advocacy as a crisis response strategy to issue-based opinion polarization," *Internet Res.*, 2023.
- [10] G. Davies et al., "A corporate character scale to assess employee and customer views of the organization's reputation," *Corp. Reputation Rev.*, vol. 7, no. 2, pp. 125-146, 2022.
- [11] M. del Mar García-De los Salmones and A. Perez, "Effectiveness of CSR advertising: The role of reputation, consumer attributions and emotions," *Corp. Soc. Respons. Environ. Manag.*, vol. 25, no. 2, pp. 194-208, 2018. doi:10.1002/csr.1453.
- [12] K. Ramesh et al., "Consumer's response to CSR activities: Mediating role of brand image and brand attitude," *Corp. Soc. Respons. Environ. Manag.*, vol. 26, no. 2, pp. 377-387, 2018.
- [13] E. C. Chaffee, "The origins of corporate social responsibility," *Univ. Cinci. Law Rev.*, vol. 85, pp. 347-373, 2017.
- [14] A. B. Carroll, "Corporate social responsibility: Evolution of a definitional construct," *Bus. Soc.*, vol. 38, no. 3, pp. 268-295, 1999. doi:10.1177/000765039903800303.
- [15] C.-S. Lai et al., "The effects of corporate social responsibility on brand performance: The mediating effect of industrial brand equity and corporate reputation," *J. Bus. Ethics*, vol. 95, no. 3, pp. 457-469, 2010. doi:10.1007/s10551-010-0433-1.
- [16] M. Nalick et al., "Corporate sociopolitical involvement: A reflection of whose preferences?," *Acad. Manag. Perspect.*, vol. 30, no. 4, pp. 384-403, 2016. doi:10.5465/amp.2015.0033.
- [17] M. Porter and M. Kramer, "Strategy and society: The link between competitive advantage and corporate social responsibility," *Harv. Bus. Rev.*, vol. 84, no. 12, pp. 78-92, 2022.
- [18] H. J. Schmidt et al., "Sociopolitical activist brands," *J. Prod. Brand Manag.*, 2021.
- [19] S. Staudt et al., "Corporate social responsibility, perceived customer value and customer-based brand equity: A cross-national comparison," *J. Strateg. Innov. Sustain.*, vol. 10, no. 1, pp. 65-87, 2022.
- [20] W. M. Hur et al., "How CSR leads to corporate brand equity: Mediating mechanisms of corporate brand credibility and reputation," *J. Bus. Ethics*, vol. 125, no. 1, pp. 75-86, 2014. doi:10.1007/s10551-013-1910-0.
- [21] F. Den Hond and F. G. A. De Bakker, "Ideologically motivated activism: How activist groups influence corporate social change activities," *Acad. Manag. Rev.*, vol. 32, no. 3, pp. 901-924, 2007. doi:10.5465/amr.2007.25275682.
- [22] M. Eilert and A. N. Nappier Cherup, "The activist company: Examining & Company's pursuit of societal change through corporate activism using an institutional theoretical lens," *J. Public Policy Mark.*, vol. 39, no. 4, pp. 461-476, 2020. doi:10.1177/0743915620947408.
- [23] S. Mishra and S. B. Modi, "Corporate social responsibility and shareholder wealth: The role of marketing capability," *J. Mark.*, vol. 80, no. 1, pp. 26-46, 2016. doi:10.1509/jm.15.0013.
- [24] M. Saunders et al.. Chapter 5, "Formulating research design" in *Research Methods for Business Students*, 8th ed. Harlow: Pearson Education, 2019.
- [25] D. MacKay and K. W. Saylor, "Four faces of fair subject selection," *Am. J. Bioeth.*, vol. 20, no. 2, pp. 5-19, 2020. doi:10.1080/15265161.2019.1701731.
- [26] T. Yamane, Statistics: An Introductory Analysis, 1973.