

Article

The contributions of corporate social responsibility in textile and apparel industry toward consumers' purchase intention: Perceived quality and corporate image as mediators

Yan Cheng¹, Yan Zhao², Yu Zhao^{1,*}

- ¹ College of Sericulture, Textile and Biomass Sciences, Southwest University, Chongqing 400715, People's Republic of China
- ² School of Business Administration, Chongqing Vocational and Technical University of Mechatronics, Chongqing 400067, People's Republic of China
- * Corresponding author: Yu Zhao, yuzhao@swu.edu.cn

CITATION

Cheng Y, Zhao Y, Zhao Y. The contributions of corporate social responsibility in textile and apparel industry toward consumers' purchase intention: Perceived quality and corporate image as mediators.

Sustainable Economies. 2024; 2(1): 37.

https://doi.org/10.62617/se.v2i1.37

ARTICLE INFO

Received: 11 January 2024 Accepted: 21 February 2024 Available online: 5 March 2024

COPYRIGHT



Copyright © 2024 by author(s). Sustainable Economies is published by Sin-Chn Scientific Press Pte. Ltd. This work is licensed under the Creative Commons Attribution (CC BY) license.

https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/

Abstract: Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) plays a pivotal role in the development of enterprises and entire industries, serving as a communication bridge between business organizations and consumers. Grounded in the Theory of Reasoned Action (TRA), this study aims to investigate the contribution of CSR in the textile and apparel industry to consumers' purchase intentions, with perceived quality and corporate image as mediators. To achieve this objective, the study first formulates hypotheses and a theoretical model based on relevant works. Subsequently, through an extensive review of literature and interview surveys, key indicators for CSR, perceived quality, corporate image, and purchase intention are identified, along with their corresponding scales. These scales are then distributed to consumers to collect questionnaire data, which is further integrated into a stepwise regression model and mediating model to test the theoretical model. The results provide insights into the contribution of various dimensions of CSR to consumers' purchase intentions and validate the role of perceived quality and corporate image as mediators. There are two contributions to this work: (1) unveiling the important role of perceived quality and corporate image in connecting CSR and consumers' purchase intention, offering a novel theoretical framework for the study of sustainable development in the textile and apparel industry and other industries or settings. (2) furnishing the textile and apparel industry with insights to better comprehend and respond to the relationship between CSR, perceived quality, and purchase intention, thereby achieving more substantial economic and social benefits.

Keywords: corporate social responsibility; perceived quality; corporate image; purchase intention; textile and apparel industry

1. Introduction

Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) remains a topic of intense debate within both corporations and academic literature, reflecting an ongoing problem in reaching a unanimous consensus on a precise definition [1]. However, one thing that is grounded is that CSR is becoming crucial in the management strategies of all industries [2]. Especially nowadays, the globalization of the economy requires proper management methods from businesses, mainly those that can benefit the interdependence between political, social, and economic elements of the world as well as establish a great corporate image for consumers [3,4]. Thus, corporations must look for new ways of managing their CSR, including social, ethical, and environmental aspects, to better compete for consumers with others and achieve both economic and social interests. The textile and apparel industry, one of the largest industries in the

world, employs nearly 50% of the world's population [5]. It is also one of the industries with severe industrial pollution that seriously affects the ecological environment, leading to many social problems [6]. Therefore, it is urgent for the textile and apparel industries to pay due attention to CSR practices and reform the management to generate consumers and reach both economic and social benefits. To address this issue, it is important to understand the relationship between CSR and consumers' purchase intention, which is exactly what this study intends to do, and quite a few studies in different domains have been conducted to study CSR.

In academic fields, CSR definitions proliferate within different contexts [7], and there is no consensus, neither in academia nor in the corporate world, as to the definition of CSR [8]. In 1953, American scholar Bowen [9] defined CSR in his book Corporate Social Responsibility in Business as the obligation of stakeholders in a business organization to approach relevant policies based on social values and goals, make corresponding decisions, and take ideal actions. The definition of CSR by the European Commission is that companies voluntarily integrate social and public concerns into their business operations, as well as interact with stakeholders [10]. However, the consensus conclusion that CSR is not just an economic goal of maximizing profits was ultimately reached in theory [8]. For instance, Carroll [11] proposed the widely recognized pyramid model of CSR, which believed that CSR is composed of four dimensions, including economy, law, ethics, and charity, and many studies have introduced this theory into their empirical research [12-16]. The Committee for Economic Development (CED) [17] proposed a three-layer concentric circle model standardizing CSR, with the core layer representing the basic economic responsibilities of the enterprise, the middle layer representing stakeholder responsibilities, and the outermost layer representing emerging yet unformed responsibilities. Elkington [18] proposed a triple bottom line model, pointing out that CSR includes three aspects: economy, environment, and society, and these three aspects should be emphasized equally without any order of priority. Maignan and Ralston [19] conducted research on CSR and identified five dimensions of CSR based on stakeholders (shareholders, customers, employees, suppliers, and society). In order to ensure the practicality and recognition of the research, this study selects the most widely used and recognized pyramid model of CSR as a reference and defines CSR with three indicators: economy, law, ethics, and charity.

The Theory of Reasoned Action (TRA) was proposed by Fishbein and Ajzen [20] in 1975 to predict the relationship between human behavioral intentions and volitional behavior [20]. It emerged in the field of social psychology and has since been widely applied in various fields. Especially in the research concerning CSR, the TRA theory has been widely applied and confirmed [21–24]. The basic principle of TRA is that behavioral attitudes and subjective norms determine behavioral intention, and behavioral intention determines volitional behavior [25]. Behavioral attitudes refer to the emotions that an individual holds when doing something. These emotions are subjective cognitions that value variations in their behavior. Subjective norms are a sense of group pressure on individuals and influence one's behavior evaluation, usually presented by comments or an overall image. This theory proves that an individual's behavioral intentions are influenced by the behavior evaluation made by surrounding groups and their own judgment [26]. Based on the widespread recognition

of TRA theory in predicting behavior and the solid confirmation in CSR research, this study discusses how CSR affects consumers' purchase intention and behavior through perceived quality (behavioral attitude) and corporate image (subjective norm) [21,22].

Olson [27] first proposed product perceived quality and defined it as the evaluation of product quality. Holbrook and Corfman [28] argued that the definition of perceived quality includes three key points: subjective evaluation, productconsumer interaction outcomes, and relevance to the consumer experience. Zeithaml et al. [29] believed that perceived quality is a subjective evaluation by consumers that is based on product price, objective product quality, and product value. Kirmani and Baumgartner [30] believed that perceived quality is a subjective evaluation of product excellence by consumers using both internal and external cues. It can be seen that perceived quality is largely a behavioral attitude of consumers, which is an evaluation of products based on their own value orientation. In addition, previous studies have proved that CSR has a positive influence on perceived quality through empirical research [31–34], and a few of them have proved that perceived quality can further impact consumers' purchase intentions [35,36]. Based on this, this study defines perceived quality as a behavioral attitude toward product quality posed by consumers using various internal and external information they obtain and investigates it as a mediator between CSR and purchase intention.

Corporate image is the overall evaluation of a company's image by the public [37]. Companies use various methods to promote and increase their visibility, which helps more consumers understand the company's products and services, stimulates their purchase intentions, and cultivates loyal customers [21]. Gotsi and Wilson [38] argued that corporate image is the overall evaluation of a company's past by stakeholders based on their own direct experience and other forms of communication and symbols that contain any information about the corporation. Herbohn et al. [39] defined corporate image as a relatively stable, comprehensive, and perceived evaluation of a company's past behavior and future prospects by comparing a series of standards. Thus, corporate image can be understood as a subjective norm generated by most consumers' comments toward a corporation, and previous studies have found that the CSR has a positive influence on the corporate image through empirical research and continues to promote consumers' purchase intentions [40–44]. According to this, this study defines corporate image as a subjective norm of a company made by stakeholders based on its past behavior, future prospects, and various information that can be obtained by comparing it with their own expected standards and investigates it as a mediator between CSR and purchase intention.

By reviewing the above relevant works, it is noted that perceived quality is largely a consumer's behavior and attitude, while corporate reputation is more of a subjective norm. Besides, CSR can positively influence customers' purchase intentions, and in this process, it includes the role of perceived quality and corporate image as mediators. In this regard, this study constructs a theoretical model based on TRA on the relationship between CSR and perceived quality, corporate image, and consumers' purchase intention (**Figure 1**) and proposes the following research hypotheses:

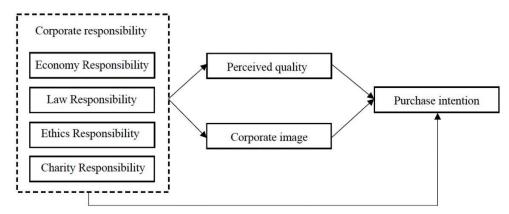


Figure 1. Theorical model of CSR and perceived quality, corporate image, consumers' purchase intention.

H1: CSR (economy responsibility, law responsibility, ethics responsibility, charity responsibility) has a positive impact on consumers' purchase intention.

H2: CSR (economy responsibility, law responsibility, ethics responsibility, charity responsibility) has a positive impact on perceived quality.

H3: CSR (economy responsibility, law responsibility, ethics responsibility, charity responsibility) has a positive impact on corporate image.

H4: Perceived quality has a positive impact on consumers' purchase intention.

H5: Corporate image has a positive impact on consumers' purchase intention.

H6: Perceived quality plays a mediating role in the impact of CSR (economy responsibility, law responsibility, ethics responsibility, charity responsibility) on consumers' purchase intention.

H7: Corporate image plays a mediating role in the impact of CSR (economy responsibility, law responsibility, ethics responsibility, charity responsibility) on consumer purchase intention.

2. Data and methods

2.1. Scale development and data collection

In order to ensure the validity and reliability of the scales, the selection and development of measurement indicators went through several stages. In the first stage, measurement indicators for each scale were obtained from existing literature. In the second stage, conduct a trial investigation and interview to discuss and analyze the indicators determined in the first stage. In the third stage, according to the analysis, the original scale indicators were revised. Among them, the measurement indicators of CSR draw on the research of Maignan and Ralston [45] and Jin [46]. The measurement indicators of perceived quality draw on the research of Jiang and Guo [47] and Dodds et al. [48], and the measurement indicators of corporate image draw on the research of Paul et al. [14] and Fombrun et al. [49]. The measurement indicators of consumers' purchase intention are based on the research of Boulding et al. [50], Martin and Bush [51], and Zeithaml [52]. The scales consist of 28 measurement indicators, among which the CSR scale consists of four measurement indicators of economy responsibility (CSR1-CSR4), four measurement indicators of ethics responsibility responsibility (CSR5-CSR8), four measurement indicators of ethics responsibility

(CSR9-CSR12), and four measurement indicators of charity responsibility (CSR13-CSR16), totaling 16 measurement indicators: (1) I believe the corporation has good business performance in the industry. (2) I believe the corporation can continuously create value for shareholders and protect their rights and interests. (3) I believe the organizational management structure of the corporation is relatively complete. (4) I believe the financial management of the corporation is relatively sound and can reasonably and legally improve the efficiency of resource utilization. (5) I believe the daily operations of the corporation are within the scope prescribed by law. (6) I believe the corporation can adhere to the principle of fair competition. (7) I believe the corporation can abide by the contract and fulfill certain obligations in accordance with the law. (8) I believe the corporation is able to hire employees and protect their legitimate rights and interests in accordance with the law. (9) I believe corporations can reliably convey products and corporate information to consumers. (10) I think the company can quickly handle consumer complaints and return requests for its textile and apparel products. (11) I believe the corporation treats its employees equally and provides them with better development opportunities. (12) I believe the corporation is committed to producing environmentally friendly products and actively participates in environmental governance and protection. (13) I believe the corporation actively carries out and participates in public welfare and charity activities. (14) I believe the corporation pays attention to vulnerable groups in society and provides assistance to them. (15) I believe corporations can actively carry out activities that contribute to society. (16) I believe the corporation actively supports the development of scientific research, environmental protection, and cultural undertakings. The perceived quality scale includes four measurement indicators (PO1-PO4): (1) I believe the quality of the textile and apparel products from the corporation is very good. (2) I believe the textile and apparel products from this company make me feel at ease. (3) I believe the textile and apparel products from this company have strong reliability. (4) I believe the durability of the textile and apparel products from this company is excellent. The corporate image scale includes four measurement indicators (CI1-CI4): (1) I believe the corporation has strength and is a major competitor in the industry. (2) I believe the textile and apparel industry has a nice image in the market. (3) Compared to other corporations, I love this textile and apparel company. (4) I believe this is a trustworthy textile and apparel company. The consumers' purchase intention scale includes four measurement indicators (P1-PI4): (1) I am very willing to purchase textile and apparel products from this corporation. (2) I think buying textile and apparel products from this company is the best choice. (3) I am very willing to accept the new textile and apparel products from the corporation. (4) If I were to purchase textile and apparel products again, I would continue to choose a certain brand of the corporation. The scales are presented in Table 1, and all 28 measurement indicators were measured using a 7-level Likert scale (1 indicates strongly disagree; 7 indicates strongly agree).

This study uses textile and apparel products as the research object because the textile and apparel industry is closely related to CSR as it is one of the largest industries to do with all aspects of people's lives, and there is a huge number of consumers who consider price, energy consumption, safety, after-sales service, brand, etc. when purchasing the products. The data collection adopts online questionnaires (https://www.wjx.cn/vm/evfN8j5.aspx#) and involves social groups such as students,

workers, teachers, retirees, and so on who are aged 18–60 years old and come from different regions in China, including Jiangsu, Zhejiang, Sichuan, etc., expanding the applicability to the greatest extent possible. Finally, a total of 244 questionnaires were distributed and collected to ensure the sufficiency of the research [53].

Table 1. The scales of CSR, perceived quality, corporate image and purchase intention.

| Variable | Dimension | Indicator | | | | | |
|--------------------|-----------|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| | | CSR 1: I believe the corporate has a good business performance in the industry. | | | | | |
| | Economy | CSR 2: I believe the corporate can continuously create value for shareholders and protect their rights and interests. | | | | | |
| | | CSR 3: I believe the organizational management structure of corporate is relatively complete. | | | | | |
| | | CSR4: I believe the financial management of the corporate is relatively sound and can reasonably and legally improve the efficiency of resource utilization. | | | | | |
| | | CSR 5: I believe the daily operations of the corporate are within the scope prescribed by law. | | | | | |
| | | CSR 6: I believe the corporate can adhere to the principle of fair competition. | | | | | |
| | Law | CSR 7: I believe the corporate can abide by the contract and fulfill certain obligations in accordance with the law. | | | | | |
| | | CSR 8: I believe the corporate is able to hire employees and protect their legitimate rights and interests in accordance with the law. | | | | | |
| CSR | | CSR 9: I believe the corporate can reliably convey products and information to consumers. | | | | | |
| | Ethics | CSR 10: I believe the corporate can quickly handle consumers' complaints and return requests for its textile and apparel products. | | | | | |
| | | CSR 11: I believe the corporate treats its employees equally and provides them with great development opportunities. | | | | | |
| | | CSR 12: I believe that the corporate is committed to producing environmentally friendly products and actively participates in environmental governance and protection. | | | | | |
| | Charity | CSR 13: I believe the corporate actively carries out and participates in public welfare and charity activities. | | | | | |
| | | CSR 14: I believe the corporate pays attention to vulnerable groups in society and provides assistance to them. | | | | | |
| | | CSR 15: I believe the corporate can actively carry out activities that contribute to society. | | | | | |
| | | CSR 16: I believe the corporate actively supports the development of scientific research, environmental protection, and cultural undertakings. | | | | | |
| | | PQ 1: I believe t the quality of the textile and apparel products from the corporate is very good. | | | | | |
| D : 1 | 11. | PQ 2: I believe the textile and apparel products from this corporate make me feel at ease. | | | | | |
| Perceived | quality | PQ 3: I believe the textile and apparel products from this corporate have strong reliability. | | | | | |
| | | PQ 4: I believe the durability of the textile and apparel products from this corporate is excellent. | | | | | |
| | | CI 1: I believe the corporate has strength and is a major competitor in the industry. | | | | | |
| ~ | | CI 2: I believe the textile and apparel corporate has a nice image in the market. | | | | | |
| Corporate image | | CI 3: Compared to other corporates, I love this textile and apparel corporate. | | | | | |
| | | CI 4: I believe this is a trustworthy textile and apparel corporate. | | | | | |
| Purchase intention | | PI 1: I am very willing to purchase textile and apparel products from this corporate. | | | | | |
| | | PI 2: I think buying a textile and apparel products from this corporate is the best choice. | | | | | |
| | | PI 3: I am very willing to accept the new textile and apparel products form the corporate. | | | | | |
| | | PI 4: If I were to purchase textile and apparel products again, I would continue to choose a certain brand of the corporate. | | | | | |

2.2. Data analysis and hypotheses testing

In the data analysis and hypotheses testing phase, this study employed a rigorous approach to unravel the complex relationships embedded in the theoretical model. Utilizing stepwise regression analysis, the study examined the relationship between independent variables such as various dimensions of CSR, perceived quality, and corporate image and the dependent variable, namely consumers' purchase intention. The stepwise regression model, known for its ability to handle multiple independent variables, automatically identified the most influential factors impacting the dependent variable, enhancing the precision of the analysis. Significance was determined through p values, with variables attaining values below 0.05 considered statistically meaningful.

Additionally, a mediating model was constructed to delve into the mediating effects of perceived quality and corporate image on the relationship between independent and dependent variables. The study employed the product coefficient test, a widely recognized method for assessing mediating effects. This method evaluates whether an independent variable significantly influences the dependent variable through the mediation of other variables. The product coefficient test, known for its high efficacy, utilizes the Bootstrap sampling method for robust testing. Importantly, this approach imposes no restrictions on the sampling distribution of mediating effects, allowing for a nuanced exploration of the interplay between CSR, perceived quality, and corporate image.

The combination of stepwise regression and mediating model analyses ensures a comprehensive understanding of the multifaceted dynamics within the theoretical model. This approach enhances the robustness and validity of the study's findings, shedding light on the nuanced relationships that underpin consumers' purchase intentions in the textile and apparel industries.

3. Results

3.1. Scale reliability and validity testing

SPSS was applied for analysis, mainly using methods such as factor analysis, correlation analysis, regression analysis, etc. to test the reliability and validity of variables, the degree of correlation, and hypotheses.

To test the reliability of the scale, the most commonly used Cronbach's coefficient is applied. The Cronbach's coefficients for each scale are as follows: the Cronbach's coefficients of CSR, including economy responsibility, law responsibility, ethics responsibility, and charity responsibility, are 0.940, 0.939, 0.939, 0.939, respectively, which are both greater than 0.9, indicating good internal consistency. The Cronbach's value of the perceived product quality is 0.939. The Cronbach's value of corporate reputation is 0.938. The Cronbach's value of consumer purchase intention is 0.939, greater than 0.9, indicating that all the scales have high internal consistency overall.

Additionally, factor analysis was applied to verify the validity of the scale. Before conducting factor analysis, a suitability test on the data was implemented. The test shows that the KMO value of the CSR scale is 0.943, way greater than 0.8, indicating

factor analysis can be performed. The Bartlett sphere test shows that the p value is 0.000, less than 0.05, indicating that the data is suitable for factor analysis, too. By conducting factor analysis on the measurement indicators of the CSR scale, all indicators have eigenvalues greater than 0.04. Therefore, it is reasonable and highly effective to divide CSR into four dimensions: economic responsibility, legal responsibility, ethical responsibility, and charity responsibility. Besides, the validity test of variables such as perceived quality, corporate image, and consumer purchase intention shows that the KMO values of these variables are 0.743, 0.738, and 0.758, respectively, which are close to 0.8, indicating factor analysis can be performed, and the Bartlett sphere test shows that the p values of these three variables are all 0.000, less than 0.05, indicating that the data is suitable for factor analysis, too. Due to the fact that perceived quality, corporate image, and consumers' purchase intention are all unidimensional variables, they have eigenvalues greater than 0.04, indicating that the data for each variable has good structural validity.

3.2. Correlation analysis

This study uses the commonly used Pearson matrix correlation coefficient method as a statistical measure to measure the relationship between variables. The SPSS statistical results show that the Pearson correlation coefficients between economy responsibility, law responsibility, ethics responsibility, charity responsibility, perceived quality, corporate image, and consumers' purchase intention are 0.415, 0.309, 0.421, 0.389, 0.390, and 0.378, all greater than 0.3, indicating there is a significant positive correlation between the above variables and consumers' purchase intention at a significant level. (**Table 2**).

Table 2. Correlation analysis of the variables.

| | Economy | Law | Ethics | Charity | Perceived quality | Corporation image |
|--------------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|-------------------|-------------------|
| Purchase intention | 0.415** | 0.309** | 0.389** | 0.378** | 0.390** | 0.421** |

Notes: p < 0.05 ** p < 0.01.

3.3. Stepwise regression analysis

To further explore the complex linear correlation between the variables, this study presents five regression analyses. As shown in **Table 3**, all dimensions of CSR (economy responsibility, law responsibility, ethics responsibility, and charity responsibility) have a positive effect on consumers' purchase intention, with regression coefficients β entitled 0.258, 0.072, 0.195, and 0.198 (among which the impact of economy responsibility is relatively significant), and p values are all less than 0.0001 except one, which is law responsibility; however, the majority of dimensions' relationship with purchase intention is significant, indicating H1 has been validated. In addition, all dimensions of CSR are positively correlated with perceived quality, with regression coefficients β as 0.252, 0.182, 0.305, and 0.185, and p is less than 0.0001, indicating the relationship is significant and H2 has been validated. Besides, all dimensions of CSR (economy responsibility, law responsibility, ethics responsibility, and charity responsibility) are positively correlated with corporate image, with regression coefficients β as 0.255, 0.159, 0.205, and 0.295 (economy,

ethics, and charity responsibilities have a relatively significant impact on corporate image), and both p values are less than 0.0001, indicating the relationship is significant, and H3 has been validated. Additionally, there is a positive correlation between consumers' purchase intention and perceived quality, with a regression coefficient β of 0.319 and p less than 0.0001, indicating the relationship is significant, and H4 has been validated. Last, there is a positive correlation between consumers' purchase intention and corporate image, with a regression coefficient β value of 0.421 and p value less than 0.0001, indicating the relationship is significant, and H5 has been validated.

Table 3. Stepwise regression results of the variables.

| Model | Dependent variable | Independent variable | β value | p value |
|-------|--------------------|----------------------|---------|---------|
| | Purchase intention | Economy | 0.258 | 0.000** |
| 1 | | Law | 0.072 | 0.028** |
| 1 | | Ethics | 0.195 | 0.000** |
| | | Charity | 0.198 | 0.000** |
| 2 | Perceived quality | Ethics | 0.305 | 0.000** |
| 2 | | Economy | 0.252 | 0.000** |
| 2 | Corporate image | Charity | 0.295 | 0.000** |
| 3 | | Economy | 0.255 | 0.000** |
| 4 | Purchase intention | Law | 0.187 | 0.000** |
| 4 | rurchase intention | Perceived quality | 0.319 | 0.000** |
| 5 | Purchase intention | Corporate image | 0.421 | 0.000** |

Notes: p < 0.05 ** p < 0.01.

3.4. Mediation model analysis

Table 4 shows the mediation effect results for perceived quality. It can be seen that the level of perceived quality mediates the relationship between law responsibility and purchase intention at 100%, indicating that perceived quality plays a completely mediating role in the impact of law responsibility on consumers' purchase intention. At the same time, the level of perceived quality mediating the relationship between purchase intention and charity responsibility, ethics responsibility, and economy responsibility is 15.188%, 16.357%, and 10.796%, respectively, indicating that perceived quality partially mediates the impact of these three factors on consumers' purchase intention. H6 has been validated.

Table 4. The mediation effect of perceived quality.

| Item | Test result | c | a*b | c' | Level |
|-------------------------------------|---------------------|-------|-------|-------|---------|
| $CR \Rightarrow PQ \Rightarrow PI$ | Party mediates | 0.194 | 0.029 | 0.164 | 15.188% |
| $ER1 \Rightarrow PQ \Rightarrow PI$ | Party mediates | 0.186 | 0.030 | 0.156 | 16.357% |
| $LR \Rightarrow PQ \Rightarrow PI$ | Completely mediates | 0.069 | 0.029 | 0.041 | 100% |
| $ER2 \Rightarrow PQ \Rightarrow PI$ | Party mediates | 0.248 | 0.027 | 0.221 | 10.796% |

Notes: CR refers to charity responsibility. ER1 refers to ethics responsibility. ER2 refers to economy responsibility. LR refers to Law responsibility. PQ refers to perceived quality. PI refers to purchase intention. c refers to total effect. a*b refers to mediation effect. c' refers to direct effect.

It can be seen from **Table 5** that the level of corporate image mediating the relationship between law responsibility and purchase intention is 100%, indicating that corporate image plays a completely mediating role in the impact of law responsibility on consumers' purchase intention. At the same time, the level of corporate image mediating the relationship between purchase intention and charity responsibility, ethics responsibility, and economy responsibility is 15.721%, 21.916%, and 15.962%, respectively, indicating that perceived quality partially mediates the impact of these three factors on consumers' purchase intention. H7 has been validated.

Table 5. The mediation effect of corporate image.

| Item | Test result | c | a*b | c' | Level |
|-------------------------------------|---------------------|-------|-------|-------|---------|
| ER2 => CI => PI | Party mediates | 0.248 | 0.040 | 0.208 | 15.962% |
| $LR \Rightarrow CI \Rightarrow PI$ | Completely mediates | 0.069 | 0.032 | 0.037 | 100% |
| $ER1 \Rightarrow CI \Rightarrow PI$ | Party mediates | 0.186 | 0.041 | 0.146 | 21.916% |
| $CR \Rightarrow CI \Rightarrow PI$ | Party mediates | 0.194 | 0.030 | 0.163 | 15.721% |

Notes: CR refers to charity responsibility. ER1 refers to ethics responsibility. ER2 refers to economy responsibility. LR refers to Law responsibility. PQ refers to perceived quality. PI refers to purchase intention. c refers to total effect. a*b refers to mediation effect. c' refers to direct effect.

4. Conclusions and discussion

This study proposes hypotheses and a theoretical model on the effects of CSR in the textile and apparel industries on consumers' purchase intentions, corporate image, and perceived quality, as well as hypotheses on the mediating role of corporate image and perceived quality. Subsequently, empirical data was obtained through a questionnaire survey to validate the proposed hypothesis. The results show that when the CSR is sufficient, consumers' purchase intentions will be positively promoted. Besides, consumers have a higher perception of the quality of textile and apparel corporations that perform better in fulfilling their CSR. Further, the improvement of perceived quality and corporate image helps to promote purchase intention; that is, the fulfillment of CSR by textile and apparel corporations helps them establish a good social impact and differentiated competitiveness, thereby improving perceived quality, corporate reputation, driving purchase intention, and ultimately obtaining favorable economic returns. From the perspective of consumers, a high level of CSR indicates that the corporations have good credibility and trustworthy behavior patterns, thus making them more willing to purchase products from such corporations.

Based on the results of the study, several suggestions can be made accordingly to improve the management of the corporations in the textile and apparel industries and help them to stand out in the trend of globalization. First, since CSR has a positive impact on consumers' purchase intentions, corporations should develop CSR practice strategies, actively take on the obligation, and disclose information about CSR timely, officially, and completely. Second, there are differences in the positive impact of various dimensions of CSR on consumers' purchase intention, with the order of influence being economy responsibility, charity responsibility, ethics responsibility, and law responsibility. Therefore, companies should arrange resources reasonably according to the degree of importance consumers attach to different CSR dimensions in order to achieve the best effect of corporate social responsibility behavior. Third,

the perceived quality of products as behavioral attitudes and the subjective norms of corporate image play a mediating role in the impact of CSR on consumers' purchase intentions. Therefore, corporations should maximize the positive impact of CSR on perceived quality and corporate image, and they should implement related strategies to promote product quality and corporate image to improve consumers' perceiving scores of quality and corporate image, thereby enhancing the market output effect of CSR.

Author contributions: Conceptualization, YC, YZ (Yu Zhao) and YZ (Yan Zhao); investigation, YC and YZ (Yan Zhao); methodology, YC and YZ (Yu Zhao); formal analysis, YC; writing—original draft, YC; writing—review & editing, YZ (Yu Zhao), YZ (Yan Zhao). All authors have read and agreed to the published version of the manuscript.

Conflict of interest: The authors declare no conflict of interest.

References

- 1. Kozlowski A. Corporate Social Responsibility in the Apparel Industry: A Multiple Case Study Analysis. Ryerson University; 2012.
- 2. Dixit P, Lal RC. A critical analysis of Indian textile industry: an insight into inclusive growth and social responsibility. Russian Journal of Agricultural and Socio-Economic Sciences. 2019; 88(4): 53-61.
- 3. Fomburn CJ. Reputation: Realizing Value from the Corporate Image. Boston: Harvard Business School Press; 1996.
- 4. Szewczyk M. Corporate Social Responsibility in the Textile and Apparel Industry: Barriers and Challenges. Journal of Corporate Responsibility and Leadership. 2017; 3(4): 67. doi: 10.12775/jcrl.2016.024
- 5. Thorisdottir TS, Johannsdottir L. Corporate Social Responsibility Influencing Sustainability within the Fashion Industry. A Systematic Review. Sustainability. 2020; 12(21): 9167. doi: 10.3390/su12219167
- 6. Leonas KK. Textile and apparel industry addresses emerging issue of microfiber pollution. Journal of Textile and Apparel, Technology and Management. 2018; 10(4).
- 7. Carroll AB, Shabana KM. The Business Case for Corporate Social Responsibility: A Review of Concepts, Research and Practice. International Journal of Management Reviews. 2010; 12(1): 85-105. doi: 10.1111/j.1468-2370.2009.00275.x
- 8. Yadlapalli A, Rahman S. Developing a consensus definition of CSR. In: Proceedings of the 27th Australian and New Zealand Academy of Management (ANZAM) Conference "Managing on the Edge"; 4–6 December 2013; Hobart, Australia. p. 28.
- 9. Bowen HR. Social Responsibilities of the Businessman. University of Iowa Press; 2013. doi: 10.1353/book29080
- 10. Contrafatto M, Ferguson J, Power D, et al. Understanding power-related strategies and initiatives. Accounting, Auditing & Accountability Journal. 2019; 33(3): 559-587. doi: 10.1108/aaaj-06-2018-3529
- 11. Carroll AB. A Three-Dimensional Conceptual Model of Corporate Performance. The Academy of Management Review. 1979; 4(4): 497. doi: 10.2307/257850
- 12. Zhang MH, Li SY. The Theory and Practice of Corporate Social Responsibility in China. Journal of Beijing Normal University (Social Sciences Edition). 2009; 5: 94-102. doi: 10.3969/j.issn.1002-0209.2009.05.013
- 13. Zhang TH, Wu MG. The Impact of Corporate Social Responsibility on Consumer Purchase Intention. Business Research. 2012; 12: 33-39. doi: 10.3969/j.issn.1001-148X.2012.12.006
- 14. Paul E, Gibson J, Smith P. Influential Article Review-The Global Pyramid Model of CSR-What is the Best Way to Perform Corporate Social Responsibility. Journal of Leadership, Accountability and Ethics. 2019; 16(6): 1-27.
- 15. Ben Noamene T, Elouadi S. The Pyramid of Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR): An Empirical Examination in the Tunisian Context. International Business Research. 2015; 8(10). doi: 10.5539/ibr.v8n10p117
- 16. Lee SS, Kim Y, Roh T. Modified Pyramid of CSR for Corporate Image and Customer Loyalty: Focusing on the Moderating Role of the CSR Experience. Sustainability. 2019; 11(17): 4745. doi: 10.3390/su11174745

- 17. Committee for Economic Development. Social responsibilities of business corporations. Committee for Economic Development; 1971.
- 18. Elkington J. The triple bottom line. Environmental management: Readings and cases. 1997; 2: 49-66.
- 19. Maignan I, Ralston D. Corporate Social Responsibility in Europe and the U.S.: Insights from Businesses' Self-presentations. Journal of International Business Studies. 2002; 33: 497–514. doi: 10.1057/palgrave.jibs.8491028
- 20. Fishbein M, Ajzen I. Belief, attitude, intention, and behavior: An introduction to theory and research. Philosophy and Rhetoric. 1977; 10(2): 130–132.
- Wu DY, Xin YJ. Research on the Impact of Corporate Consumer Social Responsibility on Consumer Purchase Intention: Based on the Perspective of Rational Behavior Theory. Consumer Economy. 2018; 34(3): 8. doi: CNKI:SUN:XFJY.0.2018-03-008
- 22. Wu MG. Analysis of the Impact of Corporate Social Responsibility on Consumer Purchase Intention from the Perspective of TRA Theory. Modern Commerce and Industry. 2011; 23(9): 20-21. doi: 10.3969/j.issn.1672-3198.2011.09.011
- 23. He T. Analysis of the Impact of Corporate Social Responsibility on Consumer Purchase Intention: Based on the Electronics Industry. Southwest Jiaotong University; 2023.
- 24. Chao WP. Empirical Study on Factors Influencing Consumer Social Responsibility Consumption Behavior. Huazhong Agricultural University; 2014.
- 25. Hale JL, Householder BJ, Greene KL. The theory of reasoned action. In: The Persuasion Handbook: Developments in Theory and Practice. Sage Publications; 2002. pp. 259-286. doi: 10.4135/9781412976046.n14
- 26. Breckler SJ, Wiggins EC. Affect versus evaluation in the structure of attitudes. Journal of experimental social psychology. 1989; 25(3): 253-271. doi: 10.1016/0022-1031(89)90022-X
- 27. Olson JC. Research of perceiving quality. Emerging Concepts in Marketing. 1972; 9: 220-226.
- 28. Holbrook M, Corfman K. Quality and value in the efficiency of markets for consumer products. Journal of Consumer Research. 1985; 11(2): 708-718.
- 29. Zeithaml VA, Berry LL, Parasuraman A. The Behavioral Consequences of Service Quality. Journal of Marketing. 1996; 60(2): 31-46. doi: 10.1177/002224299606000203
- 30. Kirmani A, Baumgartner H. Reference points used in quality and value judgements. Marketing Letters. 2000; 11: 299-310. doi: 10.1023/A:1008129011202
- Wang CY, Yu WP. The Boundary of the Role of Food Corporate Social Responsibility Redemption Scandal Brands: The Moderating Effect of Perceived Quality and Scandal Scope. Journal of Finance and Economics. 2018; 8: 12. doi: CNKI:SUN:CJLC.0.2018-08-009
- 32. Xin J. On the Impact of Corporate Social Responsibility on Brand Equity: A Perspective Based on Consumer CSR Perception. Journal of Shenzhen University (Humanities and Social Sciences Edition). 2012; 29(6): 93-99. doi: CNKI:SUN:SZDS.0.2012-06-016
- 33. Han N, Li J. The impact of corporate social responsibility on consumer brand awareness: an analysis using information transmission as a moderating variable. Technology and Economics. 2014; 33(2): 9. doi: 10.3969/j.issn.1002-980X.2014.02.017
- 34. Lu D, Samart P, Kou Y. Attribution of Corporate Social Responsibility from a Consumer Perspective. Journal of Management. 2010; 2010(6): 7. doi: 10.3969/j.issn.1672-884X.2010.06.012
- 35. Zhang HB, Li CL, Wei S. The Impact of Perceived Quality and Perceived Value of Online Customers on Purchase Intention: Based on the Perspective of Consumer Heterogeneity. Enterprise Economics. 2020; 39(5): 9.
- 36. Calvo-Porral C, Lévy-Mangin JP. Store brands' purchase intention: Examining the role of perceived quality. European Research on Management and Business Economics. 2017; 23(2): 90-95. doi: 10.1016/j.iedeen.2016.10.001
- 37. Avotra AARN, Chengang Y, Wei X, et al. Struggling with Business Corporate Cynical Impression? Powerful Methods of CSR to Enhance Corporate Image and Consumer Purchase Intention. Frontiers in Public Health. 2021; 9. doi: 10.3389/fpubh.2021.726727
- 38. Gotsi M, Wilson AM. Corporate reputation: seeking a definition. Corporate Communications: An International Journal. 2001; 6(1): 24-30. doi: 10.1108/13563280110381189
- 39. Herbohn K, Walker J, Loo HYM. Corporate social responsibility: The link between sustainability disclosure and sustainability performance. Abacus. 2014; 50(4): 422-459. https://doi.org/10.1111/abac.12036

- 40. Huang CC, Yen SW, Liu CY, Huang PC. The relationship among corporate social responsibility, service quality, corporate image and purchase intention. International Journal of Organizational Innovation. 2014; 6(3).
- 41. Bataineh AQ. The Impact of Perceived e-WOM on Purchase Intention: The Mediating Role of Corporate Image. International Journal of Marketing Studies. 2015; 7(1). doi: 10.5539/ijms.v7n1p126
- 42. Lin L, Lu C. The influence of corporate image, relationship marketing, and trust on purchase intention: the moderating effects of word-of-mouth. Tourism Review. 2010; 65(3): 16-34. doi: 10.1108/16605371011083503
- 43. Jeon JH. The Effect of Corporate Social Responsibility on the Corporate Image and Purchase Intention. Journal of the Korean Society of Clothing and Textiles. 2011; 35(5): 547-560. doi: 10.5850/jksct.2011.35.5.547
- 44. Lee J, Lee Y. Effects of multi-brand company's CSR activities on purchase intention through a mediating role of corporate image and brand image. Journal of Fashion Marketing and Management: An International Journal. 2018; 22(3): 387-403. doi: 10.1108/jfmm-08-2017-0087
- 45. Maignan I, Ralston DA. Corporate Social Responsibility in Europe and the U.S.: Insights from Businesses' Self-presentations. Journal of International Business Studies. 2002; 33(3): 497-514. doi: 10.1057/palgrave.jibs.8491028
- 46. Jin LY. Empirical Study on the Evaluation Index System of Corporate Social Responsibility Movement Consumer Perspective. China Industrial Economy. 2006; (6): 7. doi: 10.3969/j.issn.1006-480X.2006.06.015
- 47. Jiang MH, Guo L. Empirical Study on Store Image and Perceived Quality of Private Brands. Economic Science. 2003; 4: 10. doi: CNKI:SUN:JJKX.0-2003-04-012
- 48. Dodds WB, Monroe KB, Grewal D. Effects of Price, Brand, and Store Information on Buyers' Product Evaluations. Journal of Marketing Research. 1991; 28(3): 307-319. doi: 10.1177/002224379102800305
- 49. Fombrun CJ, Gardberg NA, Sever JM. The Reputation QuotientSM: A multi-stakeholder measure of corporate reputation. Journal of Brand Management. 2000; 7(4): 241-255. doi: 10.1057/bm.2000.10
- 50. Boulding W, Kalra A, Staelin R, et al. A Dynamic Process Model of Service Quality: From Expectations to Behavioral Intentions. Journal of Marketing Research. 1993; 30(1): 7-27. doi: 10.1177/002224379303000102
- 51. Martin CA, Bush AJ. Do role models influence teenagers' purchase intentions and behavior? Journal of Consumer Marketing. 2000; 17(5): 441-453. doi: 10.1108/07363760010341081
- 52. Zeithaml VA. Consumer Perceptions of Price, Quality, and Value: A Means-End Model and Synthesis of Evidence. Journal of Marketing. 1988; 52(3): 2-22. doi: 10.1177/002224298805200302
- 53. Shi T. Scientific determination of sample size in sampling surveys. Journal of Mount Taishan Medical College. 2010.