

# Corporate social responsibility research in accounting: Evidence from Turkey

Ümmühan Aslan<sup>a</sup> and Seçil Sigalı<sup>b,1</sup>

<sup>a</sup> *Bilecik Şeyh Edebali University, Turkey*

<sup>b</sup> *Dokuz Eylül University, Turkey*

**Abstract:** The aim of this study is to examine the corporate social responsibility (CSR) practices and reporting in Turkey, as reflected by the accounting research. Research findings are examined and classified in two main approaches, which are “CSR Awareness” and “Determinants and Impacts of CSR Practices and Reporting”. The findings show that the external incentives are insufficient in promoting CSR practices in Turkey. Research calls for more enforcement, specifically related to the environmental disclosures. Although the findings on the bidirectional relationship between CSR practices and the financial performance variables are contradictory, company size and growth, sound corporate governance practices as board independency is found as significant determinants of the extent of the CSR disclosures.

**Keywords:** Corporate Social Responsibility, Accounting Research, Turkey

**JEL Codes:** M41, M14

## 1. Introduction

Although CSR practices are examined across different business research disciplines, in this study, we analyze the CSR research in accounting over the past decade, focusing on the studies that published Turkish evidence. The link between CSR and accounting can be explained by the general responsibility and the experience the accounting profession has on the measurement, disclosure, and assurance of information, including CSR related information; thus accounting

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<sup>1</sup> *Correspondence Address:* Assist. Prof. Dr. Seçil Sigalı, Dokuz Eylül University, Maritime Faculty, Department of Logistics Management, Tinaztepe Campus, 35390, Buca, Izmir, Turkey, Tel: +90 232 301 88 16, secil.varan@deu.edu.tr

professionals have the opportunity to participate in the creation, assurance, issuance, and the analysis of CSR reports (Huang & Watson, 2015).

The aim of this study is to examine corporate social responsibility (CSR) practices and reporting in Turkey as reflected by the accounting research. A review approach is adopted using the classifications of Buckley *et al.* (1976) for the methodologies in accounting research. The research findings are examined and classified as their methodologies as well as two main approaches, which are “CSR Awareness” and “Determinants and Impacts of CSR Practices and Reporting”.

Buckley *et al.* (1976) classifies accounting research in four main groups. These approaches are summarized by Vasarhelyi (1981: 48) as:

- ✓ *Analytical Research*: This line of research analyzes the accounting phenomena by internal logic or simulation, and uses observation or mathematical modeling as research techniques.
- ✓ *Archival Research*: Variations of empirical research that works with data already recorded from the outside sources that are gathered by the researcher. Content analysis, sampling, and scanning techniques are used.
- ✓ *Opinion Research*: Uses Surveys or Delphi techniques to analyze the opinions of individuals or groups.
- ✓ *Empirical Research*: These are field research, case studies, or laboratory studies that apply observation instruments, time, motion, and simulation.

It can be said that the concept of CSR and sustainability issues are still rather new in Turkish business environment (Cozannet *et al.*, 2007), and the rise of the local and the international demands in terms of CSR in the country is mainly accelerated by the European Union (EU) accession negotiations in 2005, and the efforts of EU-Turkey legislation harmonization, additionally by being a part of Kyoto protocol in 2009 (Ararat *et al.*, 2011; Çakar & Alakavuklar, 2014).

Since it is commonly recognized that the rise of CSR is an important element for the internalization and growth efforts of Turkish corporate sector, also for Turkey’s sustainable future (Cozannet *et al.*, 2007); academic research on Turkish CSR practices contributes to these efforts. The early studies are generally normative, and designed in Turkish language to *create and develop* the CSR awareness in Turkey mainly until 2008. This aim can be defined as “*to describe CSR conceptually, and present the positive roles of CSR in firm-level and country-level sustainable development to Turkish business society*” that would act as an incentive of CSR practices for corporate business. Mainly after 2009, academic research explores and observes the corporate-level CSR practices in Turkey by analytical, archival, and opinion studies to *increase and measure* CSR awareness. The number of empirical studies on CSR increased in recent years that analyze the *determinants and impacts* of best CSR Practices and Reporting in Turkey. The next section shows the data used in detail, the third section presents the findings of the study, and the fourth section discusses the implications and provides directions for the future research.

## 2. Data

The studies published in the last decade (2005 through 2016- March) in 4 prominent accounting journals in Turkey are reviewed as *The Journal of Accounting and Finance*, *World of Accounting Science*, *Financial Analyze*, *Accounting and Auditing Review*, and *Journal of Accounting & Taxation*; additionally the studies that presented Turkish evidence in other national and international journals are included. Table 1 shows the statistics of the articles that are used as data. In total, 52 studies are determined and analyzed, and according to Panel A, 14 of these studies are published in *The Journal of Accounting and Finance*. Normative studies are also included in Table 1, since it is observed that mostly normative articles were published until 2008-2009 on CSR. It can be observed 39 of these articles are published in Turkey, and 13 articles are published in international journals in other countries. *The Journal of Accounting and Finance* and *World of Accounting Science* journals are observed as the leading accounting research journals in Turkey in publishing CSR-related studies.

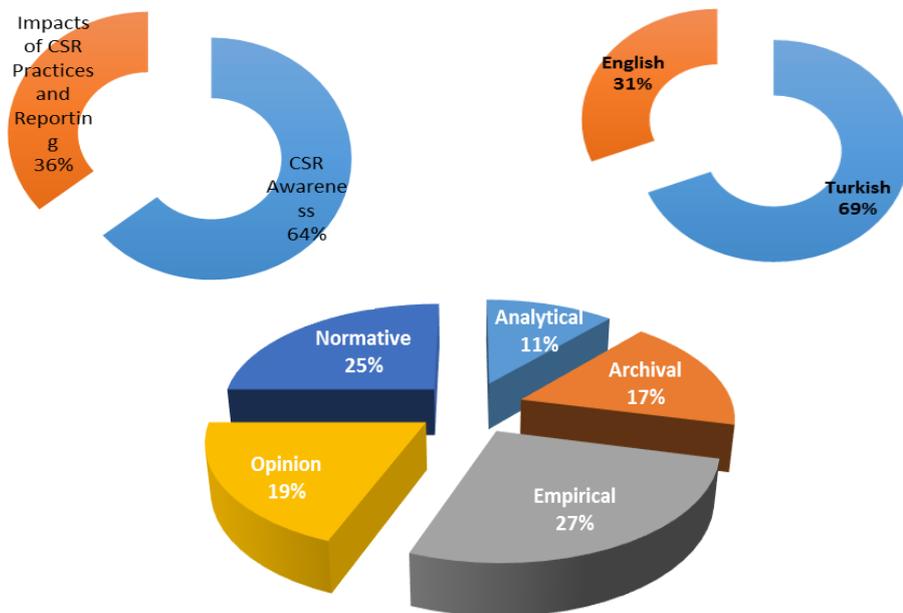
Accordingly, Panel B presents that 69% of the articles are published in Turkish, and 31% in English. Panel B also shows the classifications of the methodologies of the articles reviewed according to Buckley (1976)'s classifications, additionally the number of normative articles. 27% of the articles are classified as empirical studies, whereas %19 presents the opinions of Turkish corporate business. 64% of the articles that are mostly the analytical, archival, and opinion studies, aim to measure and increase *CSR awareness* in Turkey; whereas 36% focus on the analysis of the *Determinants and Impacts of CSR Practices and Reporting*.

**Table 1. Data**  
**Panel A. Journals Reviewed**

Published in Turkey	Number
The Journal of Accounting and Finance (MUFAD-Muhasebe ve Finansman Dergisi)	14
World of Accounting Science (MÖDAV- Muhasebe Bilim Dünyası Dergisi)	4
Financial Analyze (Mali Çözüm)	3
Business and Economics Research Journal	2
Management Journal (Yönetim Dergisi)	2
Accounting and Auditing Review (Muhasebe ve Denetime Bakış)	1
Journal of Faculty of Political Science, IstanbulUniversity	1
Journal of Accounting &Taxation (Muhasebe ve Vergi Uygulamaları Dergisi)	1
Journal of Business, Economics & Finance	1
Atatürk University Journal of Economics and Administrative Sciences	1
Ege Strategic Research Journal	1
Business, Economics, and Finance	1
Celal Bayar University Journal of Management andEconomics	1
Anadolu University Social Sciences Journal	1

<b>Published in Turkey</b>	<b>Number</b>
Journal of Selçuk Communication	1
Int. Journal of Management Economics and Business	1
Dokuz Eylul University Journal of Graduate School of Social Sciences	1
Journal of Management Marketing and Logistics	1
Journal of Yasar University	1
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>39</b>
<b>Published in Other Countries</b>	
Procedia – Social and Behavioral Sciences	1
International Journal of Productivity and Performance Management	1
African Journal Of Business Management	1
Social Responsibility Journal	1
International Journal of Economics and Finance	1
Corporate Governance: The International Journal of Effective Board Performance	1
Journal of Management Research	1
International Journal of Business and Social Science	1
European Journal of Research on Education	1
Corporate Governance	1
Economic and Environmental Studies	1
Journal of Modern Accounting and Auditing	1
International Journal of Business and Management	1
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>13</b>

**Panel B. Language and methodological classifications**



Panel C. Yearly Distributions

	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	TOTAL
Analytical	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	1	0	2	6
Archival	0	0	1	0	1	2	0	1	1	1	1	1	9
Opinion	0	1	0	2	0	2	0	2	1	1	1	0	10
Empirical	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	1	6	4	0	14
Normative	2	2	4	0	0	1	3	0	0	0	1	0	13
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>52</b>

Panel C shows the yearly distributions of the articles analyzed according to their methodologies. The normative articles are published mostly until 2008, designed in Turkish language to *create and develop* the CSR awareness in Turkey until 2008. Mainly after 2009, the number of analytical, archival, and opinion studies rise that aim to *increase and measure* CSR awareness. The empirical studies on CSR are mostly published in 2014 and 2015 to explore the *determinants and impacts* of best CSR Practices and Reporting in Turkey. In Summary, Table 1 presents the accounting academic efforts of supporting the local and international efforts of first creating, and then increasing CSR awareness in Turkey.

### 3. Findings

#### 3.1 CSR awareness

This section presents the findings of the articles on *CSR awareness* in Turkey. Mainly the analytical, archival, and opinion studies are focused on *CSR awareness*.

##### 3.1.1 Analytical and archival studies

The aims of these studies are two-fold as to *measure* and *increase* the awareness degrees of CSR practices and reporting amongst Turkish companies. Accordingly, these studies are 85% published in Turkish language; emphasizing the roles of CSR practices and reporting in firm level, country-level, and global-level sustainable development. The positive effects of CSR practices as an indicator of firm social performance and on long-term firm value and competitiveness are mostly underlined. The main limitation of these studies is that the samples analyzed include solely the listed non-financial or financial companies due to the lack of sufficient data of SMEs in Turkey.

Although, CSR awareness is measured via various tools in these studies, it can be said that mostly content analysis method is used to measure the extent of CSR disclosures as the total words or sentences related to the constructed environmental,

social, and economic disclosures of CSR. The content analysis method is commonly applied to annual reports, and CSR/Sustainability reports if available. Mostly using Global Reporting Initiative (GRI) guidelines and Borsa Istanbul (BIST) Corporate Governance Index, the compliance levels are measured. Using GRI and BIST Corporate Governance guidelines are stated as a second major limitation in these studies. These studies report that the CSR awareness amongst Turkish listed companies is growing in a yearly basis, however the disclosures on CSR are not at a desirable level in respect of the best practices. The companies generally meet the minimum requirements of the GRI standards based on their application level. However there are differences between firms' scores even though they are in the same application levels according to GRI guidelines. Some firms reveal more information than others, but in general firms do not disclose CSR information voluntarily. The companies disclose the practices of stakeholder management extensively; however disclosures regarding stakeholder engagement are insufficient. The results reveal the significance of stakeholder engagement in determining the material information to be disclosed in CSR reporting (Karataş Çetin *et al.*, 2015).

Ertuna and Tükel (2009) report that the CSR practices are mostly society oriented charitable contributions, and since family ownership structure is common in Turkey, these practices are performed via charity foundations of the family owners. Thus, traditional effects on CSR practices are observed, and international effects are limited, as other stakeholders oriented practices such as suppliers and customers (Ertuna & Tükel, 2009). Consistently, Süher (2010) points out that, companies in Turkey engage in CSR activities more in religious and official holidays.

In summary, results of these studies suggest that Turkish companies should give more weight to CSR reporting, specifically on environmental and social issues, and the CSR awareness in Turkey is interrupted by the lack of “*CSR/sustainability index*”. It is important to note here that in accordance with these suggestions, Borsa Istanbul (BIST) Sustainability Index project has been launched on November 2014; BIST 30 companies are included in 2014 and BIST 50 companies in 2015. Starting from 2016, volunteer companies from BIST 100 are added to the list of companies to be assessed. However, the authors highlight enforcement on CSR disclosures as a suggestion to increase the CSR awareness since voluntary disclosures are limited and insufficient.

### *3.1.2 Opinion studies*

The opinion studies of CSR practices in Turkey are mostly focused on SMEs since the analytical, archival and empirical research lacks data on these companies. The questionnaires are applied to managers, clients, and Turkish CPAs aiming to measure and increase the CSR *awareness* in the country.

It is found that in Turkey, CSR/sustainability reporting is most commonly practiced by the enterprises operating in the field of health products, followed by holdings and enterprises operating in the energy sector (Özçelik *et al.*, 2015). Wastes and refining costs are increasing throughout SMEs in Turkey, thus mandatory environmental regulations are needed (Lazol *et al.*, 2008).

These studies point out that certified public accountants (CPAs) in Turkey have significant roles in CSR Reporting such as reporting the current condition of companies, and the processes for strategic targets (Caliskan, 2012), as well as mandatory requirements, clients, managers, and competitors act as the main incentives to increase the CSR awareness of SMEs (Erolvd, 2010). According to Ergüden and Kaya (2014), efficiently functioning reporting and accounting system, effective organizational structure in addition to effective politics and procedures would contribute to the sustainable life spans of Turkish SMEs, and the SMEs should focus on their internal information systems.

The opinions of the SME managers reflect that investments in CSR have had a positive effect, in particular in long-term company performance and activities carried out on sustainability is crucial in potential competitive advantage (Erdirencelebi & Dundar, 2012). Managers also agree that the subject of sustainability has become increasingly important in their primary activities, however solely 28.89% indicated that CSR/Sustainability is related to their conduct of business. It can be said that although SME managers point out that CSR is becoming increasingly important in long term company performance, the necessary conditions in undertaking activities or investments in CSR has been limited (Erdirencelebi & Dundar, 2012). Additionally, managers view CSR/sustainability practices as an important element of corporate reputation; CSR practices that are regulated by law are among priorities of enterprises; however CSR practices that cause additional costs are not among the priorities of enterprises (Ozcelik *et al.*, 2015).

Findings indicate that companies use economic factors as the main performance indicators and they fail to collect data relating to social and environmental factors. This indicates insufficient data is one of the important obstacles facing sustainable practices in SMEs (Erdirencelebi & Dundar, 2012).

In summary, the opinion studies determine that the external incentives are insufficient in promoting CSR practices of SMEs in Turkey. Studies also report the significant roles of CPAs in Turkey in CSR Reporting and sustainability issues. This line of research also calls for enforcement specifically on environmental regulations.

### 3.2 Impacts of CSR practices and reporting

The empirical studies analyze the *determinants* and *impacts* of CSR disclosures on the firm-level financial performances, aiming to provide evidence from a developing country and contribute to this line of global CSR research. Thus 93% of empirical studies are written in English language and examine listed non-financial and financial companies in Turkey.

The dominance of content analysis as well as regression analysis can be observed in these studies. The *extent of CSR disclosures* is used as the dependent variable to examine the determinants; and as an independent variable to search for the impacts of CSR practices on various financial performance indicators. Consistent with the analytical and archival studies, empirical studies underline the limitations of the CSR measurement in Turkey. Since Borsa Istanbul Sustainability Index is established recently, most studies use *Istanbul Stock Exchange Corporate Governance Index (CGI)* listed companies (28 companies) which are ranked according to their corporate governance rating scores as companies that have high social responsibility scores.

Özçelik *et al.* (2014) analysed the bank sustainability performance, and report that in Turkey lack of legal arrangements and lack of public awareness on sustainable issues act as barriers on CSR reporting; the CSR/sustainability reports are difficult to understand and compare. The results of these studies reveal that in Turkey, company size and growth measured by total assets and sales are significant determinants of the extent of CSR disclosures, however the findings on the financial performance variables as dependent and independent variables are contradictory. The lack of dynamic regression models applied in these studies is a major methodological limitation, and the differences in industrial and time effects may explain the conflicting findings. Exceptions to this argument are the studies of Aras *et al.* (2010) and Karasioğlu and Demirel Arıcı (2012). According to the results of Aras *et al.* (2010), some causality is related to the lagging of periods between firm size, profitability, risk level and CSR, nevertheless solely size variables are linked to CSR. Karasioğlu and Demirel Arıcı (2012) suggest that CSR causes better financial performance with solely on a one-year lag, and argue that although majority of the companies limit CSR activities because of costs, economic benefits of the CSR exceed the costs.

These findings are summarized and explained in Table 2 in detail. Aras *et al.* (2010) found a positive relationship between firm size and corporate social responsibility, and no significant relationship between corporate social responsibility and financial performance/profitability. However, Akbaş (2014) found that the profitability and the extent of environmental disclosures are negatively related.

Erdur and Kara (2014) found a positive relationship between CSR level and return to assets (ROE) ratio, and reported that as the companies that have a high level of corporate social responsibility have a high activity level in using its assets, and as a result the potential for making profit is increasing in that companies.

**Table 2. Some of the results of the empirical studies on the impacts of CSR practices and reporting\***

<i>Authors</i>	<i>Year</i>	<i>Sample</i>	<i>Determinants</i>		<i>Impacts</i>	
Aras <i>et al.</i>	2010	BIST 100	ROA	NA	ROA	NA
			ROE	NA	ROE	NA
			ROS	NA	ROS	NA
			FIRM SIZE	+		
Arsoy <i>et al.</i>	2012	CGI	FPI	+	FPI	NA
Akbas	2014	BIST 100	ROA	-		
			LEV	NA		
			FIRM SIZE	+		
Karasioglu and Demirel Arıcı	2012	CGI	ROA	NA	ROA	+
Taşkın	2015	Banks	ROE	NA	ROE	-
			ROA	NA	ROA	-
			ROE	NA	NIM	+
Şahin <i>et al.</i>	2011	BIST 100	Board Ind.	+		
Kılıç <i>et al.</i>	2015	Banks	Board Ind.	+		
			FEMALE	+		
Erdur and Kara	2014	CGI			ROE	+
					ROA	+
					MV/BV	+

\* *BIST 100= Borsa Istanbul 100 Index, CGI= Borsa Istanbul Corporate Governance Index, ROA= Return on Total Assets, ROE= Return on Total Equity, ROS= Return on Total Sales, FPI= Financial Performance Index(Constructed by Arsoy et al., 2012), NIM= Net Interest Margin, Board Ind.= Board Independence, Female=Female Directors on Board, MV/BV= Market to Book Value, NA= No Relation is found*

Erdur and Kara (2014) also found that there is a positive relationship between CSR rating score and market to book ratio. This result is interpreted as Erdur and Kara (2014) as CSR disclosures are relevant in investment decisions in Turkey. Consistently, Altuner *et al.* (2015) found that intellectual capital, corporate governance and CSR disclosures are interrelated in Turkey for listed firms.

Taşkın (2015) found that CSR scores decreased return to assets ratio (ROA) and ROE, and stated that banks with more CSR practices have lower profitability. Taşkın (2015) also report that banks with higher CSR scores tend to charge higher net interest margins (NIM) from their customers, which can be interpreted as that

the banks with more CSR practices or disclosures are more costly to the customers, additionally customers are more likely to prefer banks with more CSR practices even if they charge more.

Şahin et al. (2011) report that independent directors lead to better CSR. Consistently, Kılıç et al. (2015) found that female directors on board have a significant positive impact on CSR reporting, and board size plays a positive role on the CSR reporting and that this effect is reversed after a certain point has been reached pointing out that a board can lose its efficiency when it is too large.

Additionally, Kaynar (2011) PhD thesis reports positive relationship with CSR practices and financial performance. In this thesis, it is found that the dollar amounts of CSR practices that are disclosed in the annual reports, positively and significantly affect ROA and earnings per share.

In summary, it can be said that the findings of the empirical studies present contradictory findings on the bidirectional relationship between CSR practices and the financial performance variables, however the sound corporate governance practices, specifically board independency are found as significant determinants of the extent of the CSR disclosures in Turkey. The findings highlight the need for more research evidence on corporate governance variables are needed since these studies are limited.

#### **4. Conclusion**

This study adopts a review approach and analyzes the findings on CSR practices and reporting in Turkey as reflected by the accounting research. The findings show that although CSR awareness is increasing at a yearly basis, the external incentives are insufficient in promoting CSR practices in Turkey, specifically for SMEs. Research calls for more enforcement specifically related to the environmental disclosures.

The main findings of the research show that the listed companies and financial institutions currently guide CSR practices and reporting in Turkey those are under more enforcement compared to other companies. However, when the compliance levels of these companies are analyzed, it is reported that the disclosures on CSR are not at a desirable level in respect of the best internationally recognized practices.

These results are in line with Ararat et al. (2011:10)'s argument that: "*Without the demand for sustainability and sustainable investments, the emerging interest in Environmental, Social, and Corporate Governance (ESG) disclosure in Turkey will*

*not be materially instrumental in improving the ESG performance of Turkish firms; and the current upsurge in voluntary disclosure may remain an inefficient practice”.*

Therefore, as Caymaz *et al.* (2014) point out, it is crucial to spread CSR awareness *in all levels of society* via corporate businesses and NGOs to create this demand from the society in Turkey, as managers view CSR/sustainability practices as an important element of corporate reputation (Özcelik *et al.*, 2015). Accordingly, Taşkın (2015) report that customers are more likely to prefer banks with more CSR practices even if they charge more. Thus the creation of public awareness is crucial is improving the social performance of the Turkish companies.

Research presents proof that sound corporate governance and CSR are positively related, and the efforts of promoting sound corporate governance practices specifically for SMEs would contribute positively to CSR practices and the extent of disclosures. Hence, as the *scope* and the *extent* of corporate governance related enforcement increases in Turkey, it is expected that CSR practices would lead to the rise of country-level sustainable development. Therefore, more research in Turkey is needed on the corporate governance mechanisms that best deal and promote CSR practices to be used as guidance on regulatory developments.

Additionally, the studies that reflect the opinions of SMEs’ managers report the significant roles of CPAs in Turkey in CSR Reporting and sustainability issues, therefore future SME oriented studies on the engagement of the CPAs in CSR practices and reporting would contribute to the increase in SMEs social performance.

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## APPENDIX

The studies reviewed can be found below with the following key findings (*normative studies are excluded*):

Methodology	Author(s)	Key Issues	Key Findings
<i>Analytical</i>	Basar and Basar (2006)	Current practices in social reporting	The voluntary disclosures on social reporting are limited and shallow due to the lack of mandatory requirements; that is problematic to investors and the other stakeholders since these disclosures may not be relevant to their economic decisions.
	Çiftçioğlu and Poroy (2010)	CSR and Segment Reporting Relationship	Solely two firms in BIST 100 index as also in BIST Corporate Governance index did not prepared segment reporting. Consequently, social responsible firms due their obligation to society, give correct information about their activities.
	Caymaz et. al. (2014)	The Relationship Between Sustainability and CSR	It is crucial to spread social responsibility awareness in all levels of society via businesses and NGOs and being attentive in reporting in this process. CSR awareness is increasing in Turkey, however following the current global trends in CSR is insufficient, Turkish businesses are accountable to contribute to these trends.
	Parlakkaya et. al. (2016)	CSR reporting in banking industry	Solely 20% of Turkish banks report CSR practices in compliance with the global standards.
	Akmeşe and Aras (2016)	CSR activities of Borsa Istanbul Tourism Index	Most tourism companies do not have/disclose CSR policies, however CSR awareness in increasing in a yearly basis.
	Yelkikalan and Köse (2012)	The Effects of the Financial Crisis on CSR	Businesses adopting CSR concept and executing it at the level of philanthropy with a sense of continuity carried on their CSR activities without interruption in times of crisis.

<b>Methodology</b>	<b>Author(s)</b>	<b>Key Issues</b>	<b>Key Findings</b>
<i>Archival</i>	Altıntaş et al (2007)	CSR Reporting of listed companies	Listed companies' disclosures on CSR are not at a desirable level in respect of the best practices. Turkish companies should give more weight to CSR reporting, especially on environmental and social issues.
	Ertuna and Tükel (2009)	CSR practices of listed companies	CSR practices are mostly charitable contributions and society oriented. Since family ownership structure is common in Turkey, these practices are performed via charity foundations of the family owners. Traditional effects on CSR practices are observed, and international effects are limited as other stakeholders oriented practices.
	Süher (2010)	Web site CSR disclosures	It is observed that companies in Turkey engage in CSR activities more in religious and official holidays. This is interpreted as traditional effects on CSR practices.
	Kavut (2010)	Environmental disclosures	The volume of environmental disclosures of Turkish companies increase over time. However, the extent of disclosures is insufficient in compliance with the global practices.
	Altuntaş and Türker (2012)	Sustainability reports	Compliance levels of the sustainability reports to GRI guidelines are reported as beginner level, and the extent of the disclosures are limited.
	Aktaş et. al. (2013)	CSR Reporting in Turkey	CSR and Sustainability reports usually meet the minimum requirements of the GRI standards based on their application level. However there are differences between firms' scores even though they are in the same application level. Some firms reveal more information than others, but in general firms do not disclose many indicators voluntarily.
	Altuntaş and Türker (2012)	Sustainability reporting	Compliance levels of the sustainability reports to GRI guidelines are reported as beginner level, and the extent of the disclosures are limited.
	KarataşÇetin et. al. (2015)	Stakeholder Engagement in Sustainability Reporting	Companies disclose the practices of stakeholder management extensively; however disclosures regarding stakeholder engagement are insufficient. The results reveal the significance of stakeholder engagement in determining the material information to be disclosed in sustainability reporting.
	Öztürk (2016)	Environmental Disclosures	Diversity of the information presented in environmental reports, gradually, decreases due to the adoption of GRI Guidelines compared to the findings of prior research.

<b>Methodology</b>	<b>Author(s)</b>	<b>Key Issues</b>	<b>Key Findings</b>
<i>Archival (cont.)</i>	Hoştutand Van Het Hof (2014)	CSR practices of transnational corporations	CSR practices in Turkey and Italy focus on issues such as renewable energy, waste, responsible use of global resources, recycling, education, fostering entrepreneurship and healthy nutrition. CSR policies are determined by a number of factors such as the sector of the company, the industry's environmental impact, the country's economic, environmental and social development, legislation, education, working conditions and culture.
<i>Opinion</i>	Çelik and Özdemir (2006)	CSR for sustainability	Compatibility between EU and Turkish Environment Issues will not be possible with the current Environment Law, which only includes general terms therefore more enforcement is needed.
	Lazolet. al. (2008)	Environmental costs of SMEs	Wastes and refining costs are increasing throughout SMEs in Turkey
	Erol et. al. (2010)	Perception levels of CSR in SMEs	Mandatory requirements, clients, managers, and competitors act as incentives to increase CSR awareness.
	Karacaer and Bozkurt (2010)	CSR activities and reporting in Turkey	CSR reports are perceived as society oriented. CSR awareness is not at a desirable level.
	Çalışkan (2012)	CSR and the accounting profession	CPAs in Turkey have significant roles in CSR Reporting such as reporting the current condition of companies, and the processes for strategic targets.
	Erdirençelebi and Dündar (2012)	Corporate view on sustainability	Investments in the area of sustainability have had a positive effect, in particular in long-term company performance. Companies agree that sustainability has become increasingly important in their primary activities but in practice only 28.89% indicated that sustainability is related to their conduct of business.

<b>Methodology</b>	<b>Author(s)</b>	<b>Key Issues</b>	<b>Key Findings</b>
<i>Opinion (cont.)</i>	Ergüden and Kaya (2014)	Deficiencies of SMEs and propose remedies to cure these areas	If Turkish SMEs wish to have sustainable life spans, they need to allocate the most extent of emphasis on the variables that make up the internal information systems factor some of which are efficiently functioning reporting and accounting system, effective organizational structure in addition to effective politics and procedures.
	Özçelik et al (2015)	Examine the issues that lead enterprises to sustainable activities	In Turkey, sustainability reporting is most commonly practiced by the enterprises operating in the field of health products, which are followed by holdings and enterprises operating in the energy sector. 16% of the enterprises that responded to the questionnaire operate in the energy sector, 13% in the health/drug sector, and 9% are holdings. Sustainability practices have been seen as an important element of corporate reputation.
	Aksoylu (2013)	CSR and Accounting Information Systems	Business and environmental policies of CSR together had approximately a 17.5% effect on the accounting information system. The effects of the market and social policies of CSR on the accounting information system were at significantly low levels.
	KüçükYılmaz (2008)	CSR Practice in the Turkish Automotive Distribution Companies	Environmental protection is weak, and corruption remains a problem. Within the framework of meeting European standards, Turkish companies must make the demonstration of their capacity to build more sustainable modes of production, which is an essential stake to optimize their contribution to the improvement of the quality of employment and to the sustainable development of Turkey. Companies should promote CSR as part of its mandate to create the foundation for a more productive, competitive, knowledge-based economy.

<b>Methodology</b>	<b>Author(s)</b>	<b>Key Issues</b>	<b>Key Findings</b>
<i>Empirical</i>	Aras et. al. (2010)	CSR and financial performance relationship	The authors found a significant relationship between firm size and CSR. However found no significant relationship between CSR and financial performance/profitability for Turkish listed companies. CSR is perhaps not sufficiently related with firm financial and economic performance in developing countries yet.
	Şahin et. al. (2011)	Impact of board composition on CSR and financial performance	Inside directors and CEO duality lead to worse financial performance. On the other hand, independent directors lead to better CSR in Turkish listed companies.
	Arsoy et. al. (2012)	CSR and financial performance	In Turkey, financial performances of listed firms determine the CSR Performance of the companies.
	Akbaş (2014)	Determinants of the environmental disclosure	Leverage and age have no relation environmental disclosure, however size and industrial effects are significant. Profitability and the extent of environmental disclosures are negatively related for nonfinancial firms.
	Özçelik and Öztürk (2014)	Evaluation of bank sustainability performance	TSKB ranks first in sustainability performance. In Turkey lack of legal arrangements and lack of public awareness on sustainable issues stand out as the factors preventing the sustainable reporting are widespread. Firms report sustainability in ways that are difficult to understand and compare. There is a need to establish clear, user-friendly methodologies and tools to measure the progress that companies are making towards sustainability.
	Özçelik et. al. (2014)	CSR and financial performance	Significant relationship between company size and CSR. No significant relationship between financial performance, risk, type of ownership and CSR.
	Başar (2014)	CSR and financial performance	Financial performance and CSR is negatively related for BIST Chemical, Petroleum and Plastic Index Companies.
	Akbaş (2014)	Determinants of the environmental disclosure	Company size and industry membership are positively related to the extent of environmental disclosure, while profitability is negatively related. However, neither leverage nor age has a statistically significant relationship with the extent of disclosure.

<b>Methodology</b>	<b>Author(s)</b>	<b>Key Issues</b>	<b>Key Findings</b>
<i>Empirical</i>	Erdur and Kara (2014)	CSR and financial performance relationship	Positive relationship between CSR and market value/book value ratio, return on equity ratio, return on assets ratio, leverage ratio and net profit. No relation between corporate social responsibility and companies' total sales and return on sales ratio.
	Adalessosi et al (2015)	2013 sustainability reports of Brazil, Germany, India and Turkey	In sustainability information presentation, Indian companies were more likely to produce an 'integrated report' than others. Brazilian sample indicated the lowest GRI scores with the lowest median of the 4 countries.
	Kılıçet. al. (2015)	Impact of corporate governance on CSR reporting	Female directors on board have a significant positive impact on CSR reporting in banks. The number of branches is an important driver of CSR reporting. Board size plays a positive role (even if insignificant) on the CSR reporting and that this effect is reversed after a certain point has been reached. This might mean that a board can lose its efficiency when it is too large.
	Altuner et. al. (2015)	Corporate Governance and CSR	Positive linkages among corporate governance, intellectual capital and CSR is found for listed manufacturing firms.
	Karasioğlu and DemirelArıcı(2012)	CSR and financial performance	CSR causes better financial performance with only a one-year lag. Most of the companies hesitate to do socially responsible activities because of costs. But according to the study, economic benefits of the CSR exceed the costs of it.
	Taşkın (2015)	CSR and financial performance	Banks with more CSR practices have lower profitability. Banks with higher CSR scores tend to charge higher net interest margins (NIM) from their customers, as that the banks with more CSR practices or disclosures are more costly to the customers; additionally customers are more likely to prefer banks with more CSR practices even if they charge more.