

Article

Do CSR Perceptions Influence Work Outcomes in the Health Care Sector? The Mediating Role of Organizational Identification and Employee Attachment

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Abstract: A limited number of studies have emphasized the importance of corporate social responsibility (CSR) implementation in the health care sector. Based on social exchange theory and social identity theory, this paper examines the relationships between employees' CSR perceptions, employee attachment, organizational identification, corporate reputation, employee organization relationship, and extra-role performance utilizing structural equation modeling. Data were obtained from Lebanese health care workers in private hospitals in two questionnaires. The results indicate that CSR perceptions positively affect employee attachment and organizational identification. Moreover, employees' CSR perceptions positively affect work outcomes directly and indirectly via employee attachment. On the other hand, although organizational identification has a negative but significant relationship with employee organization relationships, it does not significantly influence corporate reputation and extra-role performance. Examining the two intervening variables that link CSR to work outcomes provides theoretical and practical implications. Contributions to health care management literature, as well as future research recommendations, are also presented.

Keywords: corporate social responsibility; organizational identification; employee attachment; work outcomes; health care



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1. Introduction

Recent emerging diseases, diverse technological innovations and fierce competition are challenges facing the service industry, especially the health care sector, which are leading to a surge in corporate social responsibility (CSR) implementation. To enhance stakeholder social, environmental, and economic status while improving competitiveness and performance, researchers assessed the impact of CSR on the service industries' performance. In Lebanon, a limited number of studies have investigated the impact of CSR on the health care sector. Those that have, recommended a future assessment on the impact of health care workers' (HCWs) CSR perceptions on work outcomes [1,2]. Although CSR impact was interpreted from the employee perspective, many researchers (who investigated the micro-foundations of CSR) argued that these perceptions are insufficient [3]. Research indicates that CSR has a significant impact on employees' attitudes and behaviors related to identification [4], organizational citizenship behavior (OCB) [5], and attachment [6], which improve corporate reputation (CoRe) [7], trigger employees' extra role performance (ERP) [8], and maintain a high-quality employee-organization relationship (EOR) [9]. As a result, researchers called for urgent research due to the importance that CSR has on employee attitudes and work outcomes. This study develops a model that examines organizational identification (OI) and employee attachment (EA) as mediators on the effect of CSR on CoRe, EOR, and ERP. The proposed relationships are underpinned

by social exchange theory (SET) and social identity theory (SIT), representing a gateway that regulates employees' behaviors according to the goal pursued in a given workplace with data being collected by HCWs in Lebanon in a two-wave survey.

Several empirical studies were conducted to determine the impact of CSR initiatives on work outcomes from a stakeholders' (including employees) perspective [3–8]. Employees are considered a fundamental group of stakeholders, able to transform CSR initiatives implemented by an organization into valuable work outcomes [4]. Therefore, employee CSR perceptions shape the community's opinion toward organizations [3]. Furthermore, valuable work outcomes can be enhanced and fostered as organizations implement CSR activities that promote the well-being and welfare of all stakeholders, including employees [4]. This study intends to determine the extent to which employees understand their organizations' CSR initiatives and how employees' CSR perceptions influence work outcomes.

The current study adapts Turker's (2009) CSR dimensions related to the environment, customers, society, government, and employees. The CSR dimensions proposed by Turker (2009) comprise all dimensions presented by Carroll (1991), including all legal, ethical, and discretionary obligations within and beyond an organization. In particular, if an organization implements CSR initiatives effectively, this would significantly influence employees' CSR perceptions and, consequently, enhance work outcomes (4).

This study provides the following contributions to the literature. Firstly, CSR in the Middle East (ME) does not reflect the same frame of analysis as in Western countries. Studies examined the impact of CSR on various industries in ME and Lebanon [10,11]. A current literature review indicates that several countries in ME suffer from institutional gaps [10], so some encourage CSR, while others demonstrate irresponsible actions due to governmental and religious restrictions [11]. Similarly, Amos (2018) indicated that CSR research is primarily conducted in developed countries rather than developing countries [12]. It is thus important to examine the relationship between CSR and employees' outcomes to clarify how CSR initiatives stimulate beneficial work outcomes in Lebanon.

Secondly, CSR initiatives influence employees' behaviors and attitudes. For instance, evidence indicates that CSR initiatives enhance employees' performance and identification [4]. When organizations care about employees' comfort, security, and social concerns, EA is enhanced [6]. On the one hand, researchers argued that the impact of CSR on employee identification is insufficient and recommended studying the relationship between these two constructs [13,14]. Likewise, assessing the level of EA among HCWs indicates that EA was highest among physicians and lowest among nurses and paramedics [15]. Exploring variations in OI and EA levels among nurses, physicians, and other healthcare providers, including laboratory technologists and radiology technicians, is needed.

Third, stakeholders evaluate the signals they perceive from their firms' CSR, especially when their social interest outweighs the firms' self-interest [7]. Researchers did not investigate the underlying mechanisms that show how the firms' reputation is affected. They did recommend research to identify the antecedents and outcomes of CoRe from a bottom-line employees' perspective [16]. Recent studies examined the relationship between CSR and employees' commitment to their organization but failed to indicate how CSR activities influence EOR through OI [17]. Hence, evidence is needed to broaden our current knowledge. Many empirical papers investigated CSR impact on several organizational behaviors from the employees' perspective, satisfaction, and commitment [18]. However, few studies examined the nexus between CSR and employees' ERP; they recommended future research to investigate the underlying mechanism [18]. Hence, this study provides more understanding of employees' societal concerns and their underlying influences.

Finally, researchers examined various moderating and mediating constructs in the relationship between CSR and valuable employees' outcomes in order to clarify how firms being engaged in CSR initiatives can stimulate beneficial outcomes [19]. Recent researchers investigated the mediating role of either OI or EA separately in different contexts and cultures, and their results were consistent with one another [6,9,20]. However, simultaneous

investigation of OI and EA as mediators between CSR and work outcomes from employees' perspectives would add to the literature.

2. Theoretical Foundation

The conceptual framework is underpinned by two social theories: SET and SIT. They are used extensively in empirical studies to address CSR activities on the micro-level of organization, particularly employees.

SET reflects the social interactions generating reciprocity of benefits and obligations between organizations and employees [21]. For instance, evidence indicates that organizations that care about the wellness of their employees obtain workers who reciprocate by developing high-quality relationships [22] and demonstrating ERP and OCB [23]. Therefore, socially responsible organizations that care for their employees' welfare motivate employee reciprocity in the form of OI [24], extra role behavior [25], high work performance, and organizational commitment [26].

Meanwhile, SIT reflects the extent to which employees identify with their organization and the degree to which they consider the success or failure of one's organization as their own [27]. Employees who identify with prestigious firms will feel distinctive and possess positive behavior in the workplace [14,17,24,25]. According to SIT, CSR initiatives enhance a positive perception of one's workplace [24]. When employees participate in activities consistent with their identities, they provide support for their organization, thus, maintaining its reputation [28].

3. Hypotheses Development

3.1. CSR Relationship with Organizational Identification and Employee Attachment

CSR is an important tool that helps hospitals understand the societal needs of their community, resulting in higher performance and a better social image [1]. OI, a specific form of social identification, refers to the extent of belonging to different social groups [27]. CSR activities can induce OI since employees identify with organizations sharing their same values as a resource to increase their self-esteem [29]. SET suggests that employees develop feelings of obligation and reciprocate what they receive in the form of OI. EA is the extent to which employees bond to their firm, transforming the workplace into a personal one [30], based on the ability of their organization to fulfill social obligations [21,31]. Through SIT, CSR creates synergy between employees and firms, enhancing the emotional link between the two [27,29]. In the health care industry, research indicates that HCWs exhibit different levels of attachment to their workplace [15].

Accordingly, in line with SET, SIT, and previous empirical studies, CSR would positively influence EA and OI, leading to the following hypothesis:

Hypothesis 1 (H1). *Employees' CSR perceptions are positively associated with EA (a) and OI (b).*

3.2. CSR and Work Outcomes

CoRe consists of the collective perceptions of various stakeholders regarding the firm's ability to enhance societal welfare [7]. Various stakeholders highly appreciate CSR programs oriented toward social and environmental concerns. Several studies investigated the relationship between CSR and CoRe, assessed their underlying mechanisms, and suggest that managers can run CoRe as they integrate social and ethical principles into their work processes [20]. Furthermore, CSR initiatives help firms send signals about reliability that builds a strong CoRe [7,20].

EOR refers to a specific dimension of organization-public relationship management [32]. Hon and Grunig (1999) identified four components of this relationship: commitment, trust, satisfaction, and control mutuality. Empirical studies investigated the impact of CSR on this relationship, in general, and on EOR in specific, and their results have been consistent with one another, where CSR activities have a significant impact on EOR [9].

ERP is an individual-directed OCB, demonstrated by employees to enhance organizational effectiveness [8]. A literature review showed that CSR has a significant impact on ERP [33]. Employees who experience OI demonstrated discretionary behaviors as ERP [13]. Based on SET, firms implementing CSR activities nurture employees' desires to reciprocate in ERP, improving effectiveness, performance, job satisfaction, and interpersonal interactions.

It is expected that CSR would positively influence CoRe, EOR, and ERP, providing the following hypothesis:

Hypothesis 2 (H2). *Employees' CSR perceptions positively influence CoRe (a), EOR (b), and ERP (c).*

3.3. Organizational Identification and Work Outcomes

Empirical studies examined the impact of OI on employees' behaviors and indicated a positive impact on different work outcomes [8,22]. Based on SIT, and due to the synergy between employees' identities and their organizations, employees witness more satisfaction and higher OI [29]. Several papers determined the positive impact of OI on ERP and OCB [13,14,29]. Furthermore, employees who identify with their organizations help maintain their positive reputation [17]. Chen et al. (2019) argued that employees' positive perceptions of company activities would create positive relational outcomes, resulting in a valuable EOR.

Based on these examinations, it is expected that OI would positively influence CoRe, EOR, and ERP, leading to the following hypothesis:

Hypothesis 3 (H3). *OI influences CoRe (a), EOR (b), and ERP (c).*

3.4. Employee Attachment and Work Outcomes

Previous studies showed that EA has a positive impact on employee attitudes such as high satisfaction, low turnover rates [31,34,35], OCB [5,36], and comfort at work [37]. Similarly, Luke et al. (2020) showed that EA is highly correlated with beneficial organizational outcomes; hence, employees identify with their workplace and maintain their organizations' reputation [28]. Based on the above, EA positively influences CoRe, EOR, and ERP, leading to the following hypothesis:

Hypothesis 4 (H4). *EA influences CoRe (a), EOR (b), and ERP (c).*

3.5. Organizational Identification and Employee Attachment as Mediators

The mediating role of OI between CSR and work outcomes is outlined by various empirical studies and was explained using SIT and SET. Carmeli et al. (2007) used OI to mediate CSR and employee performance [38]. In a study conducted by Brammer et al. (2015), OI mediated the relationship between CSR and innovative work practices [39]; OI was used to mediate the relation between CSR and ERP [8], OCB for the environment [40], and employee desire to have a significant impact [24]. When employees' needs were satisfied, the organizations were considered attractive [26], and they tended to identify with their firms, showing a higher OI, and demonstrating different work outcomes [24]. Firms that integrate responsible programs into their processes trigger OI, enhancing CoRe [20], ERP [14,29], and EOR [9]. The following hypothesis is advanced:

Hypothesis 5 (H5). *OI mediates the relationship between employees' CSR perceptions and CoRe (a), EOR (b), and ERP (c).*

In previous studies, research indicated that EA mediated the relationship between employees' perceptions of CSR activities and corporate performance. Kim et al. (2017) proposed a conceptual model investigating the impact of employees' CSR perceptions

on work outcomes mediated by EA and OCB. As employees' needs were satisfied, they developed positive perceptions toward their firm's CSR, influencing attachment, OCB, and beneficial work outcomes. CSR activities enhance employees' perceptions [40] and their attachment to the workplace [6]. Many empirical studies show the positive impact of EA on work outcomes such as OCB and ERP [5,34], commitment, satisfaction [36], and CoRe [17]. Thus, the following hypothesis was developed:

Hypothesis 6 (H6). *EA mediates the relationship between employees' CSR perceptions and CoRe (a), EOR (b), and ERP (c).*

4. Materials and Methods

4.1. Sampling and Procedures

This study collected data from HCWs who had direct contact with patients like nurses, physicians, laboratory technologists, and radiology technicians. Data were collected over two weeks in two waves. According to the Syndicate of Hospitals in Lebanon, most hospitals (133) are private, providing 88% of health care services. However, 54 hospitals out of 133 agreed to participate in this study.

Human resource (HR) managers coordinated the data collection process. Prone to selection bias, researchers requested the human resource manager to distribute the questionnaires to HCWs in different departments. The HR managers provided supervisors with survey packs relevant to the number of HCWs in their departments with a cover letter including information about anonymity and confidentiality. The cover page indicated there are no right or wrong answers [41]. The questionnaires were returned in sealed envelopes. Items related to CSR and respondents' profiles, including age, gender, marital status, level of education, number of children, and work tenure, were included in the Time 1 questionnaire. The Time 2 questionnaire was comprised of EOR, CoRe, and ERP items. Five hundred and eighty-two (582) questionnaires were returned out of six hundred and nineteen (619) questionnaires, constituting a 94% response rate [42]. Questionnaires can be found in Supplementary Material.

4.2. Measurement Items

The study adapted Turker's (2009) scale to measure CSR dimensions [43]. There are 17 items in Turker's (2009) scale used to measure employees' perceptions regarding their hospital's responsible actions towards stakeholders, including the environment, customers, society, government, and employees. The items mainly reflect the extent to which employees value CSR initiatives that address stakeholder welfare. EA was measured using the Workplace Attachment Scale (WAS) [44]. WAS is a unidimensional construct consisting of seven items and validated by Rioux (2006). WPA measures the degree to which employees are attached to their workplace based on their CSR perceptions. A six-item scale was used to measure the construct OI adapted from the Mael and Ashforth (1992) study. These items intend to determine the degree to which employees identify with their organizations in accordance with their CSR perceptions. Moreover, this paper adapted Eisenberger et al.'s (2010) scale, composed of eight items, to measure ERP [45]. The items investigate an employee's ability to provide constructive suggestions, share knowledge and skills, protect organizational interests, and encourage responses to CSR initiatives implemented by organizations. Items related to CSR, EA, OI, and ERP were measured using a five-point Likert scale (1 = strongly disagree to 5 = strongly agree).

To measure CoRe from an employee perspective, the study used a three-item scale from Lai et al., (2010) [46]. The questions reflect the accumulated perceptions of all stakeholders, including employees, regarding the organization's ability to meet employees' expectations. EOR was measured using the Hon and Grunig (1999) scale. EOR consists of four dimensions: control mutuality, trust, commitment, and satisfaction with five items each. Only four items are negatively worded. All items related to CoRe and EOR were measured using a seven-point Likert scale (1 = strongly disagree to 7 = strongly agree).

Gender, age, educational degree, organizational tenure, marital status, and number of children were treated as control variables.

All items in the questionnaires were prepared based on the back-translation method. The original version of the questionnaire was prepared in English. Then, it was translated from English to Arabic by a professional translator and translated back to the English language by another professional translator. Respondents were instructed to fill the questionnaires in a private place and return them in sealed envelopes. The questionnaire was tested with pilot samples of 20 HCWs to confirm the understandability of the items. As a result, no changes in the wording of the questions were deemed necessary.

5. Results

5.1. Sample Characteristics

The participants' demographic characteristics, including age, gender, educational level, organizational tenure, marital status, and the number of children, are shown in Table 1. The study sample of 582 HCWs in Lebanon included (37.8%) 236 males and 362 (62.2%) females. Participants were between 28–47 years of age (60.5%) and married (51.5%). Most respondents had 1 to 4 children (69.8%), a university degree (80.1%), and worked for >5 years (82.4%) in their organizations.

Table 1. Descriptive profile of the respondents.

Demographic Variables	Categories	Frequency (n = 582)	Percentage
Gender	Male	220	37.8
	Female	362	62.2
Age	18–27 years	50	8.6
	28–37 years	146	25.1
	38–47 years	206	35.4
	48–57 years	121	20.8
	58 and over	59	10.1
Education	Vocational school	116	19.9
	First degree	256	44.0
	Master degree	139	23.9
	PhD degree	71	12.2
Marital Status	Single or divorced	179	43.8
	Married	210	51.5
Organizational Tenure	1–5 years	103	17.7
	6–10 years	140	24.1
	11–15 years	140	24.1
	16–20 years	141	24.2
	More than 20 years	58	10.0
Children	None	127	21.8
	1–2	188	32.3
	3–4	218	37.5
	5–6	45	7.7
	7 and above	4	0.7

Source: Questionnaire Data, 2020.

5.2. Measurement Model

The outcomes of the measurement model are shown in Table 2. The convergent and discriminant validity of all items utilized in the research instrument is examined and interpreted. Outer loadings (λ) of all observed items were above the threshold of 0.5 [42]. Rho_A values, composite reliability, and Cronbach's alpha were above the 0.7 thresholds [42]. The average variance extracted (AVE) recorded values above the 0.5 threshold, as recommended by Hair et al. (2015). These results confirmed the convergent validity of our measurement model.

Table 2. Measurement model.

Constructs and Indicators	Loadings (λ)	Mean	Std. Deviation	Skewness	Kurtosis
CSR Perception					
CSRq01T1	0.906 ***	4.003	1.034	−0.98	0.454
CSRq02T1	0.913 ***	4.268	0.906	−1.11	0.458
CSRq03T1	0.898 ***	4.122	0.949	−1.031	0.631
CSRq04T1	0.881 ***	4.131	0.942	−0.87	−0.086
CSRq05T1	0.901 ***	3.818	1.07	−0.77	0.055
CSRq06T1	0.926 ***	4.132	0.962	−0.929	0.071
CSRq07T1	0.814 ***	3.699	1.000	−0.423	−0.242
CSRq08T1	0.904 ***	4.101	1.066	−1.219	0.888
CSRq09T1	0.819 ***	3.388	1.076	−0.339	−0.36
CSRq10T1	0.785 ***	3.024	1.144	−0.006	−0.741
CSRq11T1	0.779 ***	3.072	1.164	−0.069	−0.838
CSRq12T1	0.838 ***	3.854	1.149	−0.87	−0.04
CSRq13T1	0.910 ***	4.271	0.853	−0.984	0.331
CSRq14T1	0.888 ***	4.234	0.858	−0.894	0.135
CSRq15T1	0.868 ***	4.323	0.814	−1.078	0.725
CSRq16T1	0.876 ***	4.198	0.891	−0.851	−0.071
CSRq17T1	0.900 ***	4.235	0.868	−0.917	0.142
Organizational Identification (OI)					
OIq1T1	0.976 ***	4.134	1.063	−1.251	0.841
OIq2T1	0.947 ***	4.170	0.947	−1.087	0.724
OIq3T1	0.984 ***	4.134	1.012	−1.11	0.538
OIq4T1	0.969 ***	4.113	0.985	−1.008	0.37
OIq5T1	0.969 ***	4.170	0.963	−1.097	0.651
OIq6T1	0.968 ***	4.170	1.017	−1.298	1.119
Employee Attachment (EA)					
EAq1T1	0.951 ***	4.067	1.057	−1.193	0.852
EAq2T1	0.934 ***	3.954	1.118	−1.032	0.297
EAq3T1	0.888 ***	4.361	0.923	−1.511	1.722
EAq4T1	0.944 ***	3.945	1.125	−0.981	0.123
EAq5T1	0.957 ***	3.990	1.114	−1.072	0.352
EAq6T1	0.889 ***	4.381	0.906	−1.551	1.934
EAq7T1	0.862 ***	3.242	1.222	−0.244	−0.753
Employee Organizational Relationship (EOR)					
EORq1T2	0.970 ***	5.108	1.598	−0.97	0.287
EORq2T2	0.967 ***	5.093	1.604	−0.943	0.218
EORq3T2	0.823 ***	3.708	1.742	0.029	−0.732
EORq4T2	0.954 ***	5.009	1.646	−0.906	0.126
EORq5T2	0.959 ***	5.009	1.661	−0.914	0.112
EORq6T2	0.946 ***	4.950	1.653	−0.779	−0.1
EORq7T2	0.974 ***	5.119	1.640	−1.033	0.343
EORq8T2	0.952 ***	5.012	1.651	−0.889	0.052
EORq9T2	0.972 ***	5.156	1.636	−1.068	0.444
EORq10T2	0.930 ***	5.153	1.819	−1.154	0.29
EORq11T2	0.971 ***	5.067	1.655	−0.955	0.087
EORq12T2	0.973 ***	5.067	1.646	−0.949	0.114
EORq13T2	0.945 ***	5.076	1.885	−1.081	0.014
EORq14T2	0.976 ***	5.246	1.670	−1.125	0.389
EORq15T2	0.975 ***	5.232	1.676	−1.109	0.339
EORq16T2	0.974 ***	5.261	1.702	−1.135	0.358
EORq17T2	0.933 ***	5.241	1.743	−1.137	0.285
EORq18T2	0.947 ***	5.387	2.062	−1.181	−0.045
EORq19T2	0.978 ***	5.380	1.944	−1.223	0.18
EORq20T2	0.975 ***	5.363	1.938	−1.215	0.168

Table 2. Cont.

Constructs and Indicators	Loadings (λ)	Mean	Std. Deviation	Skewness	Kurtosis
Extra Role Performance (ERP)					
ERPq1T2	0.971 ***	4.227	0.918	−1.24	1.345
ERPq2T2	0.967 ***	4.227	0.918	−1.24	1.345
ERPq3T2	0.959 ***	4.216	0.926	−1.198	1.172
ERPq4T2	0.920 ***	3.789	1.097	−0.59	−0.307
ERPq5T2	0.969 ***	4.237	0.919	−1.26	1.378
ERPq6T2	0.967 ***	4.234	0.920	−1.25	1.347
ERPq7T2	0.980 ***	4.220	0.945	−1.162	0.913
ERPq8T2	0.985 ***	4.237	0.941	−1.233	1.128
Corporate Reputation (CoRe)					
CoReq1T2	0.993 ***	5.663	1.442	−1.077	0.352
CoReq2T2	1.001	5.662	1.444	−1.079	0.351
CoReq3T2	0.998 ***	5.651	1.449	−1.055	0.286

Note: *** = $p < 0.01$.

In ascertaining the discriminant validity, the Fornell-Larcker (1981) criterion was initially applied. This entailed the comparison of the inter-construct correlation values with the AVE square root for each of the constructs in the study [47]. As shown in Table 3, the square roots of AVE presented in bold font in the diagonal recorded higher results than the inter-construct relationship for each construct, with the exception of CSR and EA. For the CSR construct, we observe that the AVE square root is 0.872; however, its inter-construct correlations with EA, EOR, and OI are 0.933, 0.907, and 0.903, respectively. For the EA construct, the AVE square root is 0.919; however, its inter-construct correlations with CSR, EOR, and OI are 0.935, 0.927, and 0.960, respectively.

Table 3. Inter-construct correlations and convergent and discriminant validity.

Constructs	CA	Rho	CR	AVE	CSR	CoRe	EA	EOR	ERP	OI
CSR	0.982	0.982	0.982	0.761	0.872	0.872	0.935	0.909	0.798	0.903
CoRe	0.998	0.998	0.998	0.995	0.872	0.997	0.863	0.896	0.807	0.833
EA	0.974	0.975	0.974	0.844	0.933	0.862	0.919	0.928	0.821	0.960
EOR	0.995	0.995	0.995	0.912	0.907	0.896	0.927	0.955	0.872	0.882
ERP	0.991	0.991	0.991	0.931	0.797	0.806	0.819	0.871	0.965	0.786
OI	0.989	0.989	0.989	0.939	0.903	0.833	0.960	0.882	0.786	0.969

Notes: CA, Cronbach's Alpha; CR, composite reliability; Rho, Rho_A reliability indices; AVE, average variance extracted; diagonal values in bold are the square root of AVE; italicized values above the square root of AVE are Heterotrait-Monotrait (HTMT) ratios.

There has been harsh criticism of Fornell-Larcker's (1981) reliability in ascertaining discriminant validity, primarily when a partial least square methodology is used in estimating structural equation models [48]. Alternatively, the authors proposed the Heterotrait-Monotrait (HTMT) method as a more vigorous procedure for determining discriminant validity when composite variables are involved [48]. After conducting a Monte-Carlo simulation, the authors indicated that the HTMT method is superior to the Fornell-Larcker (1981) criterion. HTMT test results were presented in italic font above the AVE square root in Table 3. In this study, the threshold of HTMT is < 1.0 , as recommended by Henseler et al. (2014). As observed in Table 3, on average, all constructs in the measurement model possess HTMT values < 1 , indicating discriminant validity among the constructs.

To assess collinearity, the variance inflation factor (VIF) is calculated for the independent construct. According to James et al., (2013), VIF values should be below the threshold of 10.0 [49]. Table 4 indicates the absence of collinearity and multi-collinearity between and among predictors.

Table 4. Structural model multi-collinearity (VIF values).

Construct	CSR	CoRe	EA	EOR	ERP	OI
CSR Perception	-	7.751	1	7.751	7.751	1

5.3. Assessing the Structural Model

In order to assess the proposed relationships between variables presented in the conceptual framework in Figure 1, R^2 values, effect sizes (f^2), beta coefficients (β), and t-values obtained from bootstrapping, utilizing 2000 subsamples, were examined as recommended by Hair et al., (2015).

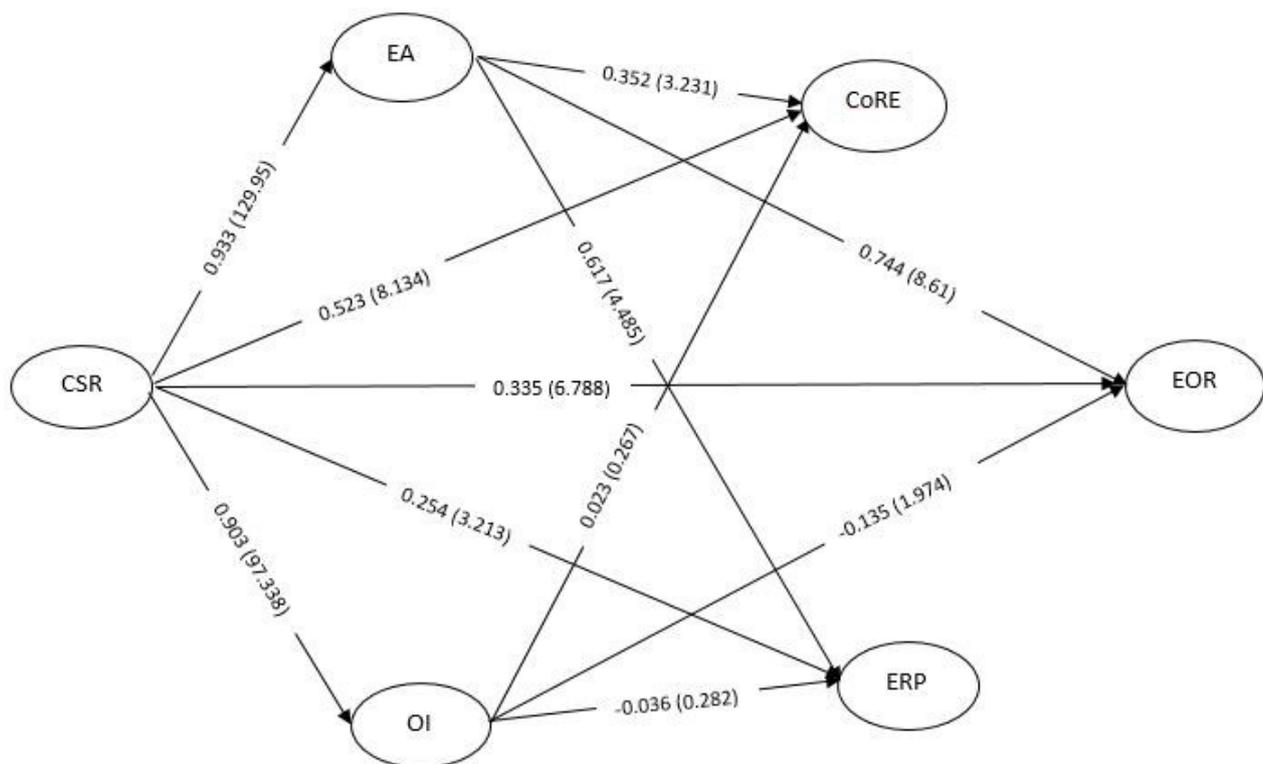


Figure 1. Structural model showing Beta Coefficients and t Statistics. Note: Brackets = t statistics.

The direct effect of independent variables on work outcome constructs were analyzed. From the results obtained, CSR perceptions had a positive and significant impact on EA ($\beta = 0.933$, $p < 0.05$) and OI ($\beta = 0.903$, $p < 0.05$), determining 87% ($R^2 = 0.87$) and approximately 82% ($R^2 = 0.816$) of its observed variance, respectively. CSR also positively and significantly influenced the outcome variables: CoRe ($\beta = 0.523$, $p < 0.05$), EOR ($\beta = 0.335$, $p < 0.05$), and ERP ($\beta = 0.254$, $p < 0.05$). In addition, EA had a positive significant influence on CoRe ($\beta = 0.352$, $p < 0.05$), EOR ($\beta = 0.744$, $p < 0.05$), and ERP ($\beta = 0.617$, $p < 0.05$). Meanwhile, OI was detected to have a negative yet significant relationship with EOR ($\beta = -0.135$, $p < 0.05$), while its effect was not statistically significant on other outcome variables, namely: CoRe ($\beta = 0.023$, $p = 0.789$) and ERP ($\beta = -0.036$, $p = 0.778$) respectively.

The indirect mediating effect of EA and OI between CSR and the outcome variables were also assessed and presented in Figure 1. EA significantly mediates the CSR—CoRe path ($\beta = 0.328$, $t = 3.224$, $p < 0.05$), CSR—EOR path ($\beta = 0.694$, $t = 8.476$, $p < 0.05$) and CSR—ERP path ($\beta = 0.575$, $t = 4.457$, $p < 0.05$). However, while OI significantly mediates the negative effect CSR has on EOR ($\beta = -0.122$, $t = 1.967$, $p < 0.05$); its mediation effect on the CSR—CoRe path ($\beta = 0.021$, $t = 0.268$, $p > 0.05$) and the CSR—ERP path ($\beta = -0.032$, $t = 0.281$, $p > 0.05$) are non-significant. Therefore, all direct paths hypothesized in the

conceptual model are supported, with the exceptions of the path between OI and CoRe, as well as OI and ERP, while the majority of the indirect effects were significant, except for the following, CSR—OI—CoRe and CSR—OI—ERP.

In order to indicate the actual magnitude of observed effects, Sullivan and Feinn (2012) suggested reporting the effect sizes (f^2) [50]. The effect sizes of the direct and indirect paths are recorded in Table 5. In this study, the effect sizes (f^2) were interpreted in accordance with Cohen (1988) [51]. For instance, f^2 values equal to 0.02, 0.15, and 0.35 correspond to small, medium, and large effects, respectively. From Table 5, it becomes evident that two paths, CSR—EA and CSR—OI, recorded very large effect sizes; CSR—CoRe and five other paths shown in the table had large effects. Meanwhile, three paths, OI—EOR ($f^2 = 0.011$), OI—CoRe ($f^2 = 0.000$), and OI—ERP ($f^2 = 0.000$) fell below the threshold revealing negligible effect magnitudes as displayed by their f^2 values. With regard to model fitness, the SRMR value was below the 0.08 threshold, indicating adequate model fit.

Table 5. Results of the path analysis.

Hypotheses		Model Fit Indices: SRMR = 0.029				
Direct Effects	B Values	t Statistics	p-Values	f^2	R ²	Decision
H1a: CSR—EA	0.933	129.915	0.000	6.708	0.870	Supported
H1b: CSR—OI	0.903	97.338	0.000	4.442	0.816	Supported
H2a: CSR—CoRe	0.523	8.134	0.000	0.159	0.779	Supported
H2b: CSR—EOR	0.335	6.788	0.000	0.115	0.875	Supported
H2c: CSR—ERP	0.254	3.213	0.001	0.026	0.679	Supported
H3a: OI—CoRe	0.023	0.267	0.789	0.000	0.779	Not Supported
H3b: OI—EOR	−0.135	1.974	0.049	0.011	0.875	Supported
H3c: OI—ERP	−0.036	0.282	0.778	0.000	0.679	Not Supported
H4a: EA—CoRe	0.352	3.231	0.001	0.031	0.779	Supported
H4b: EA—EOR	0.744	8.61	0.000	0.244	0.875	Supported
H4c: EA—ERP	0.617	4.485	0.000	0.065	0.679	Supported
Indirect Effects						
H5a: CSR—OI—CoRe	0.021	0.268	0.789			Not Supported
H5b: CSR—OI—EOR	−0.122	1.967	0.049			Supported
H5c: CSR—OI—ERP	−0.032	0.281	0.778			Not Supported
H6a: CSR—EA—CoRe	0.328	3.224	0.001			Supported
H6b: CSR—EA—EOR	0.694	8.476	0.000			Supported
H6c: CSR—EA—ERP	0.575	4.457	0.000			Supported

The predictive validity of the conceptual model was examined according to Shmueli et al. (2016) recommendations utilizing PLS to predict the analysis via SmartPLS. Shmueli et al. (2016) suggested carrying out cross-validation using hold-out samples [52]. The Q^2 values for each of the latent constructs are above zero, CoRe (0.745), EA (0.833), EOR (0.805), ERP (0.616), and OI (0.793); thus, indicating that the model has sufficient predictive validity. The error summary statistics, presented in Table 6, indicated that the root mean squared error (RMSE), mean absolute error (MAE), and mean absolute percentage error (MAPE) are all smaller (for most indicators) than those in the linear model (LM). However, a substantial number of indicators had their error summaries in the PLS model greater than those of the LM, indicating limited predictive power. Such a result can be interpreted in two ways; according to Shmueli et al., (2016), either the items assessing the constructs are insensitive to model changes, or the model aims to explain the items rather than predict them out-of-sample. However, in this model, the predictive relevance of the latent constructs contained in the model are more significant, thus ensuring its predictive validity. Therefore, it can be concluded that at the latent construct level, the predictive performance of the study model is sufficient.

Table 6. PLS predict analysis.

Latent Construct Prediction Summary												
Constructs	Q ²											
CoRe	0.745											
EA	0.833											
EOR	0.805											
ERP	0.616											
OI	0.793											
Measurement Indicator Prediction Summary												
	PLS				LM				PLS-LM			
	RMSE	MAE	MAPE	Q ²	RMSE	MAE	MAPE	Q ²	RMSE	MAE	MAPE	Q ²
CoReq1T2	0.748	0.567	12.736	0.732	0.713	0.535	12.079	0.756	0.035	0.032	0.657	−0.024
CoReq2T2	0.723	0.552	12.371	0.75	0.691	0.522	11.732	0.772	0.032	0.03	0.639	−0.022
CoReq3T2	0.734	0.561	12.551	0.744	0.7	0.53	11.886	0.768	0.034	0.031	0.665	−0.024
EAq1T1	0.527	0.386	13.106	0.752	0.526	0.382	13.029	0.753	0.001	0.004	0.077	−0.001
EAq2T1	0.557	0.407	14.419	0.753	0.553	0.413	14.312	0.757	0.004	−0.006	0.107	−0.004
EAq3T1	0.537	0.426	12.203	0.662	0.519	0.402	11.63	0.686	0.018	0.024	0.573	−0.024
EAq4T1	0.546	0.401	14.046	0.765	0.547	0.415	14.304	0.764	−0.001	−0.014	−0.258	0.001
EAq5T1	0.527	0.387	13.5	0.777	0.529	0.396	13.7	0.775	−0.002	−0.009	−0.2	0.002
EAq6T1	0.528	0.418	11.903	0.661	0.508	0.392	11.334	0.686	0.02	0.026	0.569	−0.025
EAq7T1	0.707	0.587	22.799	0.666	0.602	0.442	17.386	0.758	0.105	0.145	5.413	−0.092
EORq1T2	0.801	0.635	17.795	0.75	0.762	0.596	16.852	0.773	0.039	0.039	0.943	−0.023
EORq2T2	0.808	0.644	17.941	0.747	0.77	0.607	17.013	0.77	0.038	0.037	0.928	−0.023
EORq3T2	1.124	0.874	33.062	0.585	1.062	0.831	32.231	0.63	0.062	0.043	0.831	−0.045
EORq4T2	0.831	0.649	18.668	0.746	0.816	0.632	18.382	0.755	0.015	0.017	0.286	−0.009
EORq5T2	0.831	0.65	19.646	0.75	0.807	0.63	18.885	0.765	0.024	0.02	0.761	−0.015
EORq6T2	0.844	0.67	19.073	0.74	0.819	0.646	18.744	0.755	0.025	0.024	0.329	−0.015
EORq7T2	0.795	0.625	18.115	0.766	0.769	0.601	17.589	0.781	0.026	0.024	0.526	−0.015
EORq8T2	0.833	0.657	18.907	0.746	0.811	0.633	18.259	0.76	0.022	0.024	0.648	−0.014
EORq9T2	0.816	0.635	18.413	0.752	0.782	0.616	17.989	0.772	0.034	0.019	0.424	−0.02
EORq10T2	1.023	0.813	27.251	0.684	1.003	0.777	25.649	0.697	0.02	0.036	1.602	−0.013
EORq11T2	0.792	0.625	18.136	0.772	0.772	0.612	17.622	0.783	0.02	0.013	0.514	−0.011
EORq12T2	0.79	0.62	17.879	0.77	0.772	0.606	17.33	0.781	0.018	0.014	0.549	−0.011
EORq13T2	1.016	0.803	27.797	0.711	0.983	0.765	26.365	0.729	0.033	0.038	1.432	−0.018
EORq14T2	0.817	0.639	18.387	0.762	0.786	0.63	17.597	0.779	0.031	0.009	0.79	−0.017
EORq15T2	0.817	0.642	18.332	0.763	0.782	0.626	17.497	0.783	0.035	0.016	0.835	−0.02
EORq16T2	0.836	0.657	18.634	0.76	0.796	0.63	17.599	0.782	0.04	0.027	1.035	−0.022
EORq17T2	0.95	0.709	22.377	0.704	0.923	0.682	21.949	0.721	0.027	0.027	0.428	−0.017
EORq18T2	1.074	0.812	29.573	0.73	1.069	0.783	28.195	0.732	0.005	0.029	1.378	−0.002
EORq19T2	0.972	0.769	25.463	0.751	0.944	0.745	23.865	0.765	0.028	0.024	1.598	−0.014
EORq20T2	0.98	0.773	25.553	0.745	0.961	0.751	24.166	0.755	0.019	0.022	1.387	−0.01
ERPq1T2	0.593	0.439	13.682	0.584	0.579	0.439	13.228	0.603	0.014	0.000	0.454	−0.019
ERPq2T2	0.596	0.441	13.765	0.58	0.585	0.446	13.489	0.595	0.011	−0.005	0.276	−0.015
ERPq3T2	0.607	0.447	13.95	0.571	0.595	0.448	13.544	0.589	0.012	−0.001	0.406	−0.018
ERPq4T2	0.757	0.619	22.002	0.527	0.726	0.573	20.222	0.564	0.031	0.046	1.78	−0.037
ERPq5T2	0.593	0.44	13.711	0.585	0.58	0.438	13.332	0.602	0.013	0.002	0.379	−0.017
ERPq6T2	0.6	0.444	13.812	0.576	0.583	0.444	13.313	0.599	0.017	0.000	0.499	−0.023
ERPq7T2	0.604	0.452	14.032	0.593	0.576	0.437	12.973	0.63	0.028	0.015	1.059	−0.037
ERPq8T2	0.593	0.445	13.859	0.604	0.567	0.431	13.043	0.638	0.026	0.014	0.816	−0.034
OIQ1T1	0.528	0.406	12.819	0.754	0.516	0.382	11.686	0.765	0.012	0.024	1.133	−0.011
OIQ2T1	0.5	0.379	11.17	0.722	0.487	0.352	10.277	0.737	0.013	0.027	0.893	−0.015
OIQ3T1	0.482	0.365	10.673	0.774	0.484	0.36	10.467	0.772	−0.002	0.005	0.206	0.002
OIQ4T1	0.49	0.368	10.818	0.753	0.493	0.36	10.537	0.751	−0.003	0.008	0.281	0.002
OIQ5T1	0.478	0.362	10.513	0.755	0.482	0.353	10.223	0.751	−0.004	0.009	0.29	0.004
OIQ6T1	0.509	0.383	11.763	0.75	0.5	0.367	11.008	0.759	0.009	0.016	0.755	−0.009

6. Discussion and Conclusions

6.1. Summary of Results

This study examines the interrelations among CSR and work outcomes, such as CoRe, EOR, and ERP mediated by EA and OI. The constructs mentioned above were developed in line with SET and SIT. This paper shows associations between the investigated variables using data collected from HCWs in Lebanese private hospitals.

Results show that CSR initiatives have a significant impact on EA and OI. This finding is consistent with SET, SIT, and other studies, revealing that firms integrating CSR initiatives enhance employees' OI [28] and strengthen their attachment to the workplace [6]. This finding also displays a notable connotation for practitioners and academics in the health care sector as the significant association between CSR and each of OI and EA [17,31].

As proposed, results show a substantial relationship between HCWs' CSR perceptions and valuable work outcomes as in CoRe, EOR, and ERP. This proclaims CSR as an essential tool promoting valuable work outcomes. The more the organization demonstrates fairness,

the harder employees will work to improve CoRe. Recent empirical investigations support the positive impact of CSR on CoRe [7]. Furthermore, HCWs exhibit high commitment levels to their organizations, demonstrate satisfaction and trust, and recognize their authority and power to influence one another, thus developing a high-quality EOR. This is consistent with recent studies examining the impact of CSR activities on EOR [9]. Moreover, CSR influences employees' ERP positively, particularly in identifying with their socially responsible organization when reciprocating CSR activities in ERP [8,13].

The study shows the significant impact of EA on each of CoRe, EOR, and ERP. This is in line with our findings from previous studies [17,36,37]. As employees demonstrate high levels of EA, they show higher satisfaction and more commitment. Furthermore, employees who positively perceive CSR initiatives are attached to their workplace, exerting a lot of effort in ERP to promote their organization's reputation. Contrary to our previous findings [13,14], there is no significant relationship between OI and each of CoRe and ERP. Previous studies specified that the health care sector in Lebanon faces a shortage of HCWs due to bad work conditions and work-life conflict that leads to an unstable workplace [53]. According to Skudiene and Auruskeviciene (2012), socially responsible firms which provide equitable wages, involve employees in decision-making, enhance honest and adaptable communication systems, and encourage personal and career development would foster beneficial work outcomes [54]. Conversely, the findings indicate a significant relationship between OI and EOR, particularly with employees who identify with their organization. As a result, they will feel more satisfied and demonstrate a high-quality EOR. These findings are consistent with recent studies inspecting the impact of OI on EOR [9].

Results indicate that EA acts as a mediator between employees' CSR perceptions and work outcomes; OI does not have a significant mediating role between CSR and each of CoRe and ERP. Hospitals that offer safe work conditions to their employees and enhance stakeholder well-being drive positive perceptions and improve reputations, EOR, and employees' ERP. This is evidently consistent with SIT, SET, and other studies [17,36]. Similarly, positive CSR perceptions increase employees' identification with their organizations, thus developing OI and a high quality of EOR. On the other hand, the mediating role of OI between CSR and each of CoRe and ERP is not supported [14,20]. Such result is inconsistent with the results of previous studies since the above mentioned relationships are highly affected by permanent exposure of HCWs to hazardous infections, patient aggression, huge time pressure associated with complex tasks, and heavy workload, adversely affecting HCWs' behavior [55].

6.2. Theoretical Implications

This research provides theoretical implications with insightful correlations between CSR, OI, EA, and HCWs' outcomes which are essential for the health care sector.

First, CSR describes the relationship between an organization and its community; yet, evidence is scarce on the impact of HCWs' CSR perceptions in the health care sector. Accordingly, it is imperative to examine the impact of employees' CSR perceptions in countries such as Lebanon, where CSR knowledge is overcast [1,11,12].

Second, this study examined the impact of CSR on OI, EA, and work outcomes, selected based on relevant literature [13–15], as these associations have not yet been studied. Managers try to contribute ecologically to their communities while maintaining their organization's profitability [24]. The findings are consistent with previous research because positive perceptions of CSR enhance employees' identification [6,24] and improve work outcomes [7].

Third, studying the impact of EA and OI on work outcomes is essential [15,56], especially in the health care sector. As HCWs act as their organization's spokesperson, they will enhance CoRe. Moreover, they will become engaged in high-quality EOR and ERP. Furthermore, the findings of this study provide additional theoretical and empirical support regarding the impact of OI on EOR [18]. Scarce empirical evidence in the literature [13,14] led to this study's examination of the interrelation of OI and EOR. However, the relation

between OI and each of CoRe and ERP is not well-supported. Unlike in Lebanon, recent studies indicated a positive association between the variables mentioned above [13,14,29]. Therefore, this non-significant relation affirms that environment-related factors enable health care management to develop appropriate CSR strategies to meet the needs of HCWs.

Finally, the two mediating variables, OI and EA, thoroughly examined in this study, added further knowledge to the literature and revealed new outcomes of CSR in the health care sector. Previous studies indicated OI as a mediator; however, this study is the first to demonstrate that OI does not mediate the relationship between CSR and each of CoRe and ERP.

6.3. Practical Implications

Findings regarding the interrelationship of the investigated variables reveal significant managerial implications.

First, based on the results of Hypotheses 1 and 2, which indicate the positive impact of employees' CSR perceptions on OI, EA, and other work outcomes as CoRe, EOR, and ERP, top managers should reconsider CSR initiatives that appeal to employees' needs and desires while formulating and implementing CSR strategies.

Second, results show that EA significantly impacts CoRe, EOR, and ERP, unlike OI, which has no significant impact on CoRe and ERP. Therefore, managers must consider the different backgrounds of HCWs when designing and implementing CSR strategies. Moreover, managers should conduct internal marketing assessments regularly to determine the needs, values, and desires of HCWs while planning the organization's CSR strategies.

Third, results also indicate that the mediating role of OI between CSR and each of CoRe and ERP is not significant in the Lebanese health care sector. These findings drive managers to carefully determine which particular CSR initiatives are essential for different levels of HCWs. To accomplish this goal, managers should trigger employees' awareness of CSR initiatives after providing them with sufficient information related to CSR programs and engaging them in the CSR decision-making process to enhance work outcomes. Moreover, this study inspires human resource management to integrate CSR strategies in human resource management practices. Hospitals' top management and policymakers can restructure their strategic plans by incorporating long-term CSR policies and developing their core value based on social responsibility. For instance, it is essential for hospitals to hire workers who exhibit similar values.

Fourth, since results show that the mediating role of OI on the relationship between CSR and each of CoRe and ERP is insignificant in addition to its significant yet negative impact on the CSR-EOR pathway, marketers should utilize CSR as a powerful marketing tool to improve work outcomes through increasing employees' OI; thus, introducing new CSR research paradigms. Marketers should realize that the organization's CSR communication affects employees' CSR perceptions. Therefore, it would be meaningful to integrate effective communication channels to trigger HCWs' awareness regarding the ongoing CSR initiatives.

Finally, based on the results of the mediating EA role and on previous literature indicating that Lebanon's health care suffers from an HCW shortage (due to inadequate working conditions and bad working experiences [53]), implementation of CSR initiatives will assist hospitals to develop a positive image and an attractive profile for HCWs.

6.4. Limitations and Future Research Suggestions

This research contributes to the literature by examining the interrelationships of CSR, OI, EA, CoRe, EOR, and ERP. However, potential drawbacks and future research suggestions are identified.

First, this study adopts Turker's scale (2009) to assess HCWs' CSR perceptions. Turker's scale does not permit the researcher to determine which CSR activities strongly impact employees' perceptions. Assessing the four dimensions of CSR [57], as identified

in Carroll's model (1991), can add further understanding regarding the impact of CSR implementation in the health care sector.

Second, unlike OI, EA seems to mediate the relationship between CSR and work outcomes, which strictly mediates the relationship between CSR and EOR. Future research may investigate other mediators or moderators such as social media, patient aggression, workload, work-life balance satisfaction, and cultural fit between organizations' culture and CSR activities.

Third, the study's relationships were tested via a sample of HCWs in Lebanon, with a two-week interval, in two waves, in a cross-sectional design. Therefore, the causality between the study's constructs could not be precisely established. To overcome the limitations of cross-sectional data, longitudinal research is suggested.

Fourth, since the results are not as strong as expected for the scope of the research, researchers can adapt both qualitative and quantitative approaches to provide a more in-depth understanding of the results. Moreover, this study was conducted only in the health care sector, which limits the interpretation of the relationship among constructs. Therefore, more experimental examinations should be conducted to clarify the relationships highlighted in this paper.

Fifth, regarding the data collection process, the supervisors assisted the researchers in gathering the surveys from employees in various departments within private hospitals. To prevent the risk of selection bias in future studies, researchers should collect data directly from HCWs. Moreover, self-reported data include personal biases depending on participant likes and dislikes. To overcome this limitation, future studies should use human-to-system modern processes to assess employee CSR perceptions in health care settings. Lastly, the findings of the study can be replicated in developed countries with larger sample sizes and in other sectors (e.g., airline, banking).

Supplementary Materials: The following are available online at <https://www.mdpi.com/article/10.3390/su13179840/s1>, Questionnaire 1 and 2: A Field Study in The Healthcare Sector of Lebanon.

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