**Effects of perceived corporate social responsibility practices on customers’ satisfaction and perceived value – a study in the food industry in Vietnam**

Le Thi Thanh Xuan¹, Tran Tien Khoa², Nguyen Pham Nhu An¹

¹Ho Chi Minh City University of Technology, Vietnam National University HCMC
²International University, Vietnam National University HCMC

*Corresponding author: lttxuan@hcmut.edu.vn

(Received: April 24th, 2017; Revised: October 09th, 2017; Accepted: October 31st, 2017)

**ABSTRACT**

The main purpose of this study is to investigate the effects of perceived Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) practices on customers’ satisfaction and perceived value. According to the result of the literature review, the studied CSR practices include environmental protection, customer protection, community, HR policies, price, product quality, relationship selling, empathy, and fulfill expectations. To address the research objective, the present study proposed two following research questions: (1) What are factors of CSR practices impacting customers’ satisfaction?; and (2) How do these factors influence customer satisfaction and perceived value? The study approached 236 customers of the food industry to conduct a survey empirically and tested the proposed hypotheses using structural equation modeling. The research findings show that (1), in Vietnamese customers perceptions, Perceived price, Perceived quality and Empathy are three components of CSR practices; (2) these components have positive impacts on Customer satisfaction; and (3) Customer satisfaction has a positive relationship with customers’ perceived value. These findings help to enrich the CSR literature in developing countries like Vietnam, and to confirm the findings of previous studies. Moreover, from the research findings, the present study suggested some managerial implications for firms in the food industry relating to price, product quality and empathy.

**Keywords:** corporate social responsibility, customers satisfaction, food industry, perceived value, Vietnam

**1. Introduction**

Corporate social responsibility (CSR) is not a new concept in both the academic and practical field. It has been developed from the 1950s by the first definition documented by Bowen in 1953 (Carroll, 1999). Even though CSR was first introduced in Vietnam in 2003 (Hamm, 2012), Vietnamese business organizations have faced many difficulties in understanding this concept in practice and as a result, the implementation is still limited. There are many voices from the business that CSR is the government’s concerns, but firms’; and most firms have considered CSR is a type of cost, not benefit (Thoa Nguyen, 2010). Perhaps, that is the reason for many scandals of the environment and product quality, such as Formosa in 2016, Tan Hiep Phat in 2015 and many other scandals.

Empirically, researchers have found impacts of CSR on many aspects in firms (Shin & Thai, 2015), such as CSR and financial performance, CSR and marketing activities, or CSR and customer behaviors. In particular, there are studies exploring the relationship between CSR and socially responsible marketing activities (Quazi & O’Brien, 2000; Walsh & Bartikowski, 2013).
The findings of previous studies show that CSR practices can help to improve business performance if consumers positively evaluate CSR practices and this will lead them to choose to buy products/services (Loureiro, Dias Sardinha, & Reijnders, 2012). Moreover, scholars also found evidence of the role of customer satisfaction in this issue (Saeidi, Sofian, Saeidi, Saeidi, & Saaeidi, 2015). When customers are satisfied and loyal, they will buy more and are willing to pay more and recommend more (Martínez & Rodríguez del Bosque, 2013).

Even though many studies found positive effects of CSR on firm performance, other scholars also empirically found that the relations between CSR practices and firm performance are not positive as mentioned. One of these findings is about the weak influence of CSR on financial performance and stock returns (Nelling & Webb, 2008). Echoing with the findings of Nelling and Webb (2008), Surroca, Tribo, & Waddock (2010) also found there is no direct relationship between CSR and financial performance. Similarly, Demacarty (2009) concluded in his study that responsibility or irresponsibility will bring financial returns equally. Moreover, (Inoue & Lee 2011) disaggregated CSR into five dimensions, including employee relation, product quality, community relations, environmental issues and diversity issues, to evaluate the impact of these components on firm performance. In their findings, community attentions of firms, environmental and diversity issues have a negative effect or do not have a positive impact on financial performance.

From literature evidence, obviously, the influence of CSR practices on firm performance is still a question. Even though scholars have been tried to investigate the role of CSR in aspects of marketing activities, the result of reviewing literature shows that CSR and customer satisfaction is not adequately explored. Furthermore, the findings of previous studies are not convergent. Some studies reject the positive relations between CSR practices and customer loyalty and satisfaction (Carrigan and Attalla 2001, cited in Pérez & Bosque, 2015). Therefore, it is clear that more studies need to be conducted to clearly identify the importance of CSR practices and its effect on consumers’ satisfaction.

Based on this rationale, the purpose of the present study is to answer the following to research questions: (1) What are factors of CSR practices of food companies impacting customers’ satisfaction?; and (2) How do these factors influence customer satisfaction and their perceived value?

2. Literature review

2.1. Corporate social responsibility and its importance to firms

The concept of CSR has attracted researchers’ attention for a very long time. However, after the 1950s, the literature of CSR is rapidly enriched by many studies in theory and practice as well (Carroll, 1999; Dahlsrud, 2006). There are many studies which define the concept of CSR, and the controversy on how to define CSR is still continuing (Xuan & Teal, 2011). For example, CSRwire provides a CSR definition as follows “CSR is defined as the integration of business operations and values, whereby the interest of all stakeholders including investors, customers, employees and the environment are reflected in the company’s policies and actions.” (2003, cited in Dahlsrud, 2006). Or, Kotler & Lee (2005) define CSR as: “A commitment to improve community well-being through discretionary business practices and contributions of corporate resources”. Among CSR definitions, the one developed by Carroll (1979, 1991) is the most- widely accepted and employed in academic and practical studies (Nalband & Kelabi, 2014; Xuan & Teal, 2011) because it can integrate all existing aspects and cover other concepts of CSR (Ramasamy & Yeung, 2009).

In his paper, Carroll (1979, p. 500) documented a CSR definition consisting of four responsibilities categories: economic, legal, ethical and discretionary expectations.
the expectation in the study in 1991):

The social responsibility of business encompasses the economic, legal, ethical, and discretionary expectations that society has of organizations at a given point in time (Carroll 1979, p. 500).

According to Freeman (1984), CSR helps to enhance value not only for firms, customer, but also for employees and other stakeholders. The findings of many empirical studies affirmed this point. Many scholars found that practicing CSR has a positive impact not only on financial performance, corporate reputation but also on the ability to attract candidates, or improving employee loyalty and working behaviors (Bolton & Mattila, 2015; Mandhachitara & Poolthong, 2011; Nha & Xuan, 2014; Sen & Bhattacharya, 2001). Even though most of the studies conducted in advanced economies, ones undertook in emerging economies also found that CSR practices have a positive and significant impact on market valuation (Cheung, Tan, Ahn, & Zhang, 2010). Additionally, CSR practices towards employees, customers, suppliers become a complementary input to better financial performance (Cavaco & Crifo, 2014). Significantly, CSR plays an important role in satisfying customers’ demands and requirements. CSR implementation in marketing activities helps to enhance consumers’ evaluation of the company (Inoue & Kent, 2014). In short, CSR has a positive impact on aspects of business performance. In particular, engaging in CSR should be prioritized by managers and practitioners to attract customers.

2.2. The effects of CSR practices on customers’ satisfaction

Studies on CSR not only focus on how it impacts on business performance in general, but also on some specific aspects, such as human resource, marketing (Sen & Bhattacharya, 2001). Especially, researchers have focused explicitly on consumers’ reactions to CSR and the firm’s CSR record on consumers’ evaluation of that company and its products/services (Brown and Dacin, 1997, cited in Sen & Bhattacharya, 2001). Consumers’ evaluation is basic for their satisfaction. According to Anderson, Fornell and Mazvanchery (2004, cited in Luo & Bhattacharya, 2006), customer satisfaction is their evaluation when they buy and consume products or services. A number of studies have found that customer satisfaction, the value perceived by consumers and market value inter-relate with each other positively (Loureiro et al., 2012; Luo & Bhattacharya, 2006).

There are at least three streams to explain the reason CSR practices of a firm that lead to greater customer satisfaction (Luo & Bhattacharya, 2006). Firstly, based on stakeholder theory and institutional theory, actions of a firm are interesting to customers (Handelman and Arnold, 1999 cited in Luo & Bhattacharya, 2006). Therefore, firms have to consider carefully their expectations, and customers are likely to be more satisfied if the company is more socially responsible. Secondly, many scholars have found empirical evidence to illustrate that a strong CSR record helps to boost consumers’ evaluations of and attitudes towards the firm (Sen & Bhattacharya, 2001). In other words, consumers are likely to be satisfied with what a firm offers. The last one is about one antecedent of customer satisfaction – perceived value. Through practicing CSR, the firm can improve customer knowledge of the specific issue, and this drives to enhance customer satisfaction (Luo & Bhattacharya, 2006).

Previous scholars have found a direct relationship between CSR practice and customer satisfaction (Luo & Bhattacharya, 2006; Peters, 2005; Shin & Thai, 2015). By empirical evidence, these research findings showed that a firm’s CSR initiatives could increase customer satisfaction. Studies also found that consumers are considered as the most important stakeholder group affecting the ways CEOs manage social expectations (Loureiro et al., 2012). This point once confirms the importance of the need to study the link between CSR practice perceived by
customers and their satisfaction.

2.3. Components of consumers’ evaluation of CSR practices

Environmental responsibility is considered as “the duty to cover environmental implication of the company’s operations, products and facilities, eliminate waste and emissions, maximize the efficiency and productivity of its resources, and minimize practices that might adversely affect the enjoyment of the country’s resources by future generations” (Mazurkiewicz, 2004 in p2 cited in Rahman & Post, 2012). Due to the situation of unclear regulations, environmental responsibility is classified as both compliant and preventive activities. Even though firms’ roles in the environment are still debating, environmental aspect is a primary component of CSR (McDonald & Rundle-Thiele, 2008; Singh, 2009) and it is customers’ attention and has impact on customers’ satisfaction (Chung, Yu, Choi, & Shin, 2015; Loureiro et al., 2012; McDonald & Rundle-Thiele, 2008; Sen & Bhattacharya, 2001). Therefore, a positive relationship between environmental protection and customer satisfaction is proposed (H1a).

According to stakeholder theory (R. E. Freeman, 1984), customers are an important stakeholder impacting on the firm’s economic benefits. In their study, Murray and Vogel (1997, cited in McDonald & Rundle-Thiele, 2008) investigated that practices of CSR impacting consumers also include consumer protection. That is the reason used to explain why a company’s efforts in consumer protection have a direct and positive influence on company evaluation (McDonald & Rundle-Thiele, 2008; Pérez & Bosque, 2015; Sen & Bhattacharya, 2001). Obviously, therefore, consumer protection – one of CSR practices - has a positive impact on their satisfaction (H1b).

Philanthropic responsibility is one in four categories of responsibilities in the CSR pyramid which includes a company’s contribution to the community and to improve quality of life (Carroll, 1991). Plewa, Conduit, Quester, & Johnson (2015) empirically found that voluntary activities to serve the community of a firm is considered as a CSR initiative and importantly, there is a positive response to a company’s products/services from consumers who value these activities. Similarly, other studies also found the positive impact of philanthropic responsibility on consumer satisfaction (Chung et al., 2015; Loureiro et al., 2012). For these reasons, there is a positive impact of philanthropic responsibility on consumer satisfaction (H1c).

Freeman (1984) also identified employees as one significant stakeholder having a crucial impact on a firm’s performance. The way employees are treated significantly impacts their experiences, attitudes, behaviors, and satisfaction. Employees are ones who produce products/services, communicate with customers and deliver CSR values to customers. Studies have found that customers’ attitudes towards the firm and its products/services are affected by what employees experience and practice (Loureiro et al., 2012; Pérez & Bosque, 2015; Schneider & Bowen, 1985). Based on this review, the hypothesis about the positive impact of labour practices (or employee treatment) on customer satisfaction is proposed (H1d).

Perceived price is also a consideration of consumers when they are aware of CSR activities of a firm. According to Carroll (1979, 1991), a firm can make an acceptable profit based on its goods and service that customers need and want. It means that customers can accept a fair price as compared with products’ or services’ quality. Loureiro, et al. (2012) found a positive effect of perceived price on customer satisfaction. Based on previous studies, therefore, there is a positive impact of Perceived price on customer satisfaction (H1e).

Perceived quality is also mentioned and analyzed by Carroll (1979, 1991) as one responsibility in the CSR pyramid which is classified as “Economic responsibility”. In his paper, Carroll (1991) explained clearly that goods and services need to meet consumers’ needs and wants. Many previous studies have
found empirically the positive impact of Perceived quality of customer satisfaction (Chung et al., 2015; Loureiro et al., 2012; Luo & Bhattacharya, 2006; Mandhachitara & Poolthong, 2011). Obviously, the positive influence of Perceived quality on customer satisfaction is proposed (H1f).

The following CSR activity is Empathy. Parasuraman, Zeithaml, & Berry (1988, p. 23) explained Empathy as follows “Caring, individualized attention the firm provides its customers”. In their study, Loureiro, et al. (2012) empirically affirmed the positive effect of Empathy (Relationship selling) considered as one of CSR activities on customer satisfaction. Adopted from previous studies, the hypothesis of positive impact of Empathy on customer satisfaction is proposed (H1g).

Lastly, fulfilling the expectations of stakeholders is also a CSR activity that a firm needs to practice. As analysed by Carroll (1991), firms need to know who their stakeholders are, what their stakes are; and firms need to prepare strategies, actions or decisions to best deal with responding stakeholders’ expectations. Similarly, Loureiro, et al. (2012) found the evidence empirically in the automobile industry that fulfilling expectations have a positive relation to customer satisfaction. Therefore, in the present study, the hypothesis of the positive impact of Fulfilling expectations on customer satisfaction is proposed (H1h).

2.4. Customer satisfaction and perceived value

Most of the studies found the positives impact of perceived value on customer satisfaction. However, from another perspective, Loureiro, et al. (2012) hypothesized and empirically affirmed the effect of customer satisfaction on perceived value. In their study, perceived value is a consequence of customer satisfaction. Based on empirical data, Loureiro et al. (2012) concluded that the relationship between customer satisfaction and perceived value is two-way and both can contribute to each other.

The present study employs this research finding and proposes the hypothesis 2 (H2): There is a positive impact of customer satisfaction on perceived value.

The literature review results in the conceptual framework as presented in Figure 1.

![Components of CSR practices](image)

**Figure 1.** Proposed conceptual framework of the present study
3. Methodology

3.1. Measurement adjustment

The items to measure the constructs in the research model are adapted from the previous studies, such as Loureiro et al. (2012), Chung et al. (2015). Then, a preliminary study was undertaken to revise the scale to be appropriate for the present research context. There are two in-depth interviews with two experts in the food industry and 01 focus groups with 06 consumers conducted. The qualitative result shows that two over eight constructs of CSR components (Environmental protection and Labour practices) were eliminated due to lacking information. Participants in the focus group explained that they do not have information about how firms treat their employees and their environmental policies. What they know of these issues is via media only; therefore, they cannot evaluate items in these factors.

Finally, the measurement consists of 8 constructs with 29 items. The construct “Perceived value” based on Loureiro et al. (2012) is measured by three items, including (a) PV1 – Product of this firm is the best in the industry, (b) PV2 - Apparently, I am practicing CSR with this firm when purchasing and consuming its product, and (c) PV3 - I feel proud when purchasing and consuming the product of this firm.

There are four items to measure “Customer satisfaction” adapted from Chung et al. (2015), namely (a) CS1 – The CSR policies of this firm meets my expectations, (b) CS2 – Overall, I am satisfied with the CSR policies of this firm, (c) CS3 – Overall, I am satisfied with the product of this firm and (d) Overall, I am satisfied with the service of this firm.

The six components of CSR practices consist of 3 items (FE1, FE2, FE3) for Fulfilling expectations, 4 items (EMPA1, EMPA2, EMPA3, EMPA4) for Empathy, 3 items (P_QUAL1, P_QUAL2, P_QUAL3) for Perceived quality, 4 items (P_PRICE1, P_PRICE2, P_PRICE3, P_PRICE4) for the Perceived price, 4 items (PHILA1, PHILA2, PHILA3, PHILA4) for Philanthropic responsibility, 4 items (CUS1, CUS2, CUS3, CUS4) for Customer protection.

3.2. Sampling and data collection

A questionnaire is prepared to collect data. At first, the questionnaire is revised by a preliminary study with an in-depth interview and focus group as the main method to collect respondents’ opinions. Then, the final questionnaires were directly delivered to consumers of the food industry, who are over 18 at supermarkets, food stores like Vissan, Coop Food, … Emails and social networks are also used as a means to approach respondents. Therefore, convenient sampling is chosen.

3.3. Data analysis

The Principle component method with Promax rotation in exploratory factor analysis (EFA technique) are used. Before applying the EFA method, the reliability of the scales has been tested by using Cronbach’s alpha criteria, it should be at least 0.6 to be accepted (Nunnally, 1994). Then, the EFA technique is applied to data exploration and variable reduction steps. The EFA process is accepted with the threshold of KMO measure higher than 0.5 and Bartlett’s Test of Sphericity significant at 5%, Eigenvalues must be larger than 1, Factor loadings of each variable should be at least 0.5 and no any cross-loading that is different more than 0.3 (Hair, Tatham, Anderson, Black, & Babin, 2006). Finally, a structural equation model approach is employed to test the relationships in the present study.

4. Research findings

After cleaning and deleting missing cases, the final data of 236 respondents has been used for analysis. The percentage of men and women in a valid sample are 90 and 146. Most of the respondents are in the age of 25-34 with 45.3 percent, there are 26.7 and 22.5% percent for
the age of 18-25 and 35-44, respectively; and 5.5 percent for over 45. In terms of occupation, 36.9 ad 40.7 percent of respondents are staff-officer and engineers; 20 of them are teachers with 8.5 percent, and other occupations take account of 33 respondents with 14 percent. In respect of income, most of the participants earn less than 7 million VND (41.1 percent lower than 5 million, and 29.2 percent lower than 7 million VND). Among 30 percent of respondents earning over 7 million VND, there are 37 respondents (15.7 percent) who can earn over 10 million VND per month.

4.1. Validity and reliability of measures

Testing the reliability of the scales, all 6 factors – components of CSR practices – have the value of the Cronbach’s Alpha from 0.676 (for Customer protection) to 0.874 (for Fulfilling expectations), satisfy the condition mentioned in Methodology. Thanks to eliminating only one variable (CUS3=0.049) from Customer protection, its Cronbach’s Alpha reaches to 0.829. Cronbach’s Alpha of Customer satisfaction and Perceived value are 0.768 and 0.822, respectively.

Next, all items (except CUS3) were analyzed by confirmatory factor analysis (CFA) using AMOS to assess the measurement model representing relations among all constructs and their associated items. After twice of CFA analysis, 4 items (EMPA4, P_PRICE3, PHILA1, and CS1) were eliminated. Finally, CFA of the measurement model including 24 items yielded the following measures Chi-square $\chi^2$ (df = 224) = 420.769; $p =.000 (< 0.05)$; Normed chi-square $\chi^2$/df = 1.878; Goodness-of-fit index GFI = 0.880; Tucker-Lewis index TLI = 0.915; Comparative fit index CFI = 0.931; Root mean square error of approximation RMSEA = 0.061. It was also noted that no offending estimates were found (i.e., no negative error variances or Heywood cases) (Hair et al., 2010). All these statistics showed that the measurement model fits the data set in this empirical study.

In addition, all item loadings on their designate constructs range from 0.64 to 0.98 and AVE of scales ranged from 0.61 to 0.70, which were all above 0.5, indicating satisfactory convergent validity (Tho and Trang, 2011). Correlation coefficients between pairs of constructs ranged from 0.06 to 0.41. The squares of which were from 0.004 to 0.169, indicating the discriminant validity of scales. Composite reliabilities were from 0.823 to 0.880 (which should be minimum at 0.7, Thọ and Trang, 2011). Thus, convergent validity, discriminant validity and reliability of scales are satisfactory.

4.2. Structural model estimation and hypothesis testing

Given the satisfactory fit of the measurement model, the proposed hypotheses were then tested using structural equation modeling (see Figure 1). In this model, Perceived value was specified as multidimensional reflective constructs, while Customer satisfaction, Fulfilling expectations, Perceived price, Empathy, Customer protection, Philanthropic responsibility, Perceived quality were unidimensional constructs. The estimation of the proposed structural model using ML method resulted in a good fit: Chi-square = 426.281; df = 230; CFI = 0.931; GFI = 0.878; TLI = 0.917; RMSEA = 0.060.

Based on the standardized path coefficients and $p$-value, four over seven hypotheses H1c, H1d, H1e, and H2 were supported (at $p < 0.05$). Perceived price, Perceived quality and Empathy have significantly positive impacts on Customer satisfaction, and then, Customer satisfaction has a positive impact on Perceived value. However, other three hypotheses H1a, H1b, H1f were not supported. In this research model, three factors Perceived price, Perceived quality and Empathy have no direct impact on Perceived value. They only influence Customer satisfaction that leads to influence on Perceived value.
### Figure 2. Amos estimation results

### Table 1
Amos estimation results

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Hypothesis</th>
<th>Path</th>
<th>SE</th>
<th>P</th>
<th>Hypothesis test</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>H1a</td>
<td>CS &lt;--- CUS</td>
<td>0.066</td>
<td>0.606</td>
<td>Not supported</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>H1b</td>
<td>CS &lt;--- PHILA</td>
<td>0.052</td>
<td>0.634</td>
<td>Not supported</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>H1c</td>
<td>CS &lt;--- P_PRICE</td>
<td>0.061</td>
<td>***</td>
<td>Supported</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>H1d</td>
<td>CS &lt;--- P_QUAL</td>
<td>0.058</td>
<td>***</td>
<td>Supported</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>H1e</td>
<td>CS &lt;--- EMPA</td>
<td>0.065</td>
<td>0.019</td>
<td>Supported</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>H1f</td>
<td>CS &lt;--- FE</td>
<td>0.048</td>
<td>0.200</td>
<td>Not supported</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>H2</td>
<td>PV &lt;--- CS</td>
<td>0.080</td>
<td>***</td>
<td>Supported</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
5. Discussion

The research findings show that 4 over 7 proposed hypotheses are supported by the observed data in the food industry. Firstly, the present study empirically explains perceived value to be a consequence of customer satisfaction. As mentioned in the Literature Review, most of the studies found a positive impact on customer satisfaction; however, the study of Loureiro et al. (2012) is the only which proposed and empirically confirmed the opposite relation. The finding of the present study helps to re-confirm the Loureiro et al.’s findings by date in the Vietnamese food industry. This means the more customer feels satisfied, the more favourable perception of product value they have. Especially, in the chaotic market of food sector in Vietnam, in which consumers are looking for safe sources for food as the first priority, if food companies can provide them with safe, high quality and reasonable price for safe, green and types of foods, they can be satisfied better and better perceptions of food value.

Secondly, in this study, only consumers’ perceptions of 3 per 6 CSR practices have influences on their satisfactions. Meanwhile, Customer Protection, Philanthropic responsibility and Fulfilling Expectation do not have an impact or do have slight impacts on Customer Satisfaction. Among 3 CSR practices, Perceived Price, Perceived Quality and Empathy; Perceived Price has the greatest impact on Customer Satisfaction (25.5%), which is followed by Perceived Quality with 20%. Empathy has the lowest impact with 15.3%. These findings show that, to consumers of the Vietnamese food industry, price and quality - two important components of CSR – are two key factors that make them satisfied.

From the observed data, obviously, consumers do not think Customer protection affecting their satisfaction. One fact is that, even though there are many efforts of the government in promoting activities of customer protection, most of them do not know of or have any information about these activities. In an online survey with over 1,200 participants conducted by the Institute of Society, Economy and Environment, 90% of them do know any information about organizations protecting their rights (Trung-Nghia, 2015). It shows that Vietnamese consumers do lack knowledge of their rights in consumption. The finding of the present study also helps to explain this fact.

6. Conclusion

The present paper is conducted to investigate the effects of perceived Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) practices on customers’ satisfaction and perceived value. The research findings show that (1), in Vietnamese customers perceptions, Perceived price, Perceived quality and Empathy are three components of CSR practices; (2) these components have positive impacts on Customer satisfaction; and (3) Customer satisfaction has a positive relationship with customers’ perceived value.

Our findings have some significant contributions in implementing CSR in the food industry. Firstly, to supplement to previous studies on the importance of CSR such as its effects on financial performance (Inoue & Lee, 2011; Lin, Yang, & Liou, 2009) or brand equity (Wang, Chen, Yu, & Hsiao, 2015), or on employee satisfaction (Story, Castanheira, & Hartig, 2016), the present study found that CSR practices help to increase customer satisfaction and perceived value. This finding links managers to think of embedding CSR into their business strategies.

Secondly, as we found, Perceived price and Perceived quality are two CSR practices having crucial effects on Customer satisfaction. This finding again confirms the issues make consumer satisfied are quality and price and these are the aspects that firms always have to pay high attention to. In particular, Empathy is one of CSR practices having an impact on customer satisfaction.
Hence, managers should pay attention to sale and after sale service by training sellers and employees working in their distribution channels. These ones are important to provide good services and demonstrate their real concerns for consumers.

This study has some limitations. Firstly, two CSR practices — Environmental protection and Labour practices — were eliminated at the stage of preliminary research because participants do not have information to answer. The approaches to collect respondents are convenient, therefore they do not have information to participate in the survey. Secondly, this study has the limitation of data collection. The data is collected only within Ho Chi Minh city. With that, the managerial implications would not be well-explained for the whole sector. Lastly, the present study has not conducted a qualitative study (after data analysis) to get participants’ explanations about the elimination of Customer protection, Philanthropic Responsibility and Fulfilling expectations.

References


