

## EXAMINATION OF GRADUATE THESES PREPARED ON THE TOPIC OF SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY WITH CONTENT ANALYSIS METHOD

### SOSYAL SORUMLULUK KONUSU ÜZERİNE HAZIRLANAN LİSANSÜSTÜ TEZLERİN İÇERİK ANALİZİ YÖNTEMİYLE İNCELENMESİ

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**Abstract:** This study was conducted in order to reveal certain aspects of the studies conducted by examining certain characteristics of postgraduate theses written on social responsibility. “Qualitative research method” was used in the research, data were collected with the “document review” technique and the data were analyzed with the “content analysis” method. In the research, a scan was performed using the “YÖKTEZ (National Thesis Center)” database in data collection and as a result of the scan, a total of 182 “postgraduate theses”, 142 “master's” and 40 “doctoral theses”, were analyzed under 13 categories. In the research; A total of 182 theses, 142 “master's theses” (% 78.02) and 40 “doctoral theses” (% 21.98), were published on the subject of social responsibility between 2020-2024. It was observed that the theses studies showed a normal distribution over the years and the most theses were carried out in 2020 (% 21.98) and 2022 (% 21.98) with 40 theses. 62.09% of the theses were prepared by female authors (f=113) and 152 of the theses were prepared in Turkish (% 83.52). It was observed that 75.28% of the theses were carried out under the guidance of academicians with the title of Prof. Dr. (f=76; 41.76%) and Assoc. Prof. Dr. (f=61; 33.52%). It was determined that the theses were mostly prepared under the roof of Marmara University (f=13; 7.14%) and the Institute of Social Sciences (f=107; 58.79%). It was determined that quantitative research method (f=105; 57.69%) was used intensively in theses studies and survey/scale (52.74%) data collection tool was used in 106 of the studies. It was determined that convenience sampling (f=36), simple random sampling (f=26) and purposeful sampling (f=26) methods were used in 47.31% of the postgraduate theses and 40.09% of the theses consisted of sample sizes in the range of 301-400 (f=26), 201-300 (f=24) and 1-30 (f=23). In the studies, various documents (f = 38; 20.88%) and company managers, experts, professionals and employees (f = 32; 17.58%) came to the fore as the most preferred sample groups. It was concluded that 27 different data analysis programs/methods were used in the analysis of the data and SPSS (f=85) and content analysis (f=53) methods were used in 58.48% of the theses. Various suggestions were presented regarding the results obtained.

**Keywords:** *Social Responsibility, Higher Education Council, Postgraduate Theses, Document Review, Content Analysis.*

**Öz:** *Bu çalışma, sosyal sorumluluk konusunda yazılmış lisansüstü tezlerin belirli özelliklerini inceleyerek yapılan çalışmaların belirli yönlerini ortaya koymak amacıyla yapılmıştır. Araştırmada “nitel araştırma yöntemi” kullanılmış olup, araştırmada veriler “doküman incelemesi” tekniği ile toplanmış ve veriler “içerik analizi” yöntemi ile analiz edilmiştir. Araştırmada veri toplamada “YÖKTEZ (Ulusal Tez Merkezi)” veri tabanı kullanılarak tarama yapılmış ve tarama sonucunda 142 “yüksek lisans” ve 40 “doktora tezi” olmak üzere toplam 182 “lisansüstü tez”, 13 kategori altında analiz edilmiştir. Araştırmada; 2020-2024 yılları arasında sosyal sorumluluk konusu ile ilgili olarak 142 “yüksek lisans tezi” (% 78,02) ve 40 “doktora tezi” (% 21,98) olmak üzere toplam 182 tez yayınlanmıştır. Yapılan tez çalışmalarının yıllar itibarıyla normal dağılım gösterdiği ve en fazla tez çalışması, 40 tez çalışması ile 2020 (% 21.98) ve 2022 (% 21.98) yıllarında yapıldığı gözlemlenmiştir. Tez çalışmaların % 62.09'unun kadın yazarlar tarafından hazırlandığı (f=113) ve tezlerin 152'sinin Türkçe (% 83.52) olarak hazırlanmıştır. Tezlerin % 75.28'i Prof. Dr. (f=76; % 41.76) ve Doç. Dr. (f=61; %33,52) ünvanına sahip akademisyenlerin rehberliğinde gerçekleştirildiği gözlemlenmiştir. Tez çalışmaları en çok Marmara Üniversitesi (f=13; %7,14) ve Sosyal Bilimler Enstitüsü (f=107; %58,79) çatısı altında hazırlandığı belirlenmiştir. Tez çalışmalarında nicel araştırma yönteminin (f=105; 57.69)) yoğun olarak kullanıldığı ve araştırmaların 106'sında anket/ölçek (%52,74) veri toplama aracının kullanıldığı belirlenmiştir. Lisansüstü tezlerin %47,31'inde kolayda örnekleme (f=36), basit rastgele örnekleme (f=26) ve amaçlı örnekleme (f=26) yöntemlerinin kullanıldığı ve tezlerin %40,09'unun 301-400 (f=26), 201-300 (f=24) ve 1-30 (f=23) aralığındaki örneklem büyüklüklerinden oluştuğu belirlenmiştir. Çalışmalarda, çeşitli dokümanlar (f=38; %20.88) ve firma yöneticileri, uzmanlar, profesyoneller ve çalışanlar (f=32; %17.58) en çok tercih edilen örneklem grupları olarak öne çıkmıştır. Verilerin analizinde 27 farklı veri analiz programı/yönteminin kullanıldığı ve tezlerin %58,48'inde SPSS (f=85) ve içerik analizi (f=53) yöntemleri kullanılmış olup elde edilen sonuçlara ilişkin çeşitli öneriler sunulmuştur.*

**Anahtar Kelimeler:** *Sosyal Sorumluluk, Yükseköğretim Kurulu, Lisansüstü Tezler, Doküman İncelemesi, İçerik Analizi.*

## 1. INTRODUCTION

Globalization and technological developments, which have increased worldwide especially after the industrial revolution, have an extremely important effect on the development and progress of countries and the increase in the quality of life of the society. In addition to these positive effects, companies have caused serious difficulties in protecting the "social and environmental" dimensions by optimizing their production activities in order to meet the constantly and rapidly changing customer needs. At this point, it is emphasized that in ensuring sustainable success and development in global markets, businesses should not only meet economic conditions but also consider many dimensions such as social welfare and environmental sustainability (Surroca et al., 2020: 892; Cömert, 2024: 2; Türk, 2024: 2; Özkök, 2024:20; Erceğiz, 2024: 17).

Especially the problems experienced in the "social and environmental" dimensions cause the quality of life of the society to decrease, and the negativities experienced such as the decrease in natural resources or the destruction of resources, etc. cause the perspectives of the stakeholders who have a positive perspective on the companies to turn negative. "Corporate social responsibility" activities have a very important effect in order for companies to positively affect the expectations and perspectives of the stakeholders. Moreover, with global competition today, stakeholders' expectations are not only economically critical, but also ethical,

environmental, and social. In this context, shaping corporate strategies plays a crucial role for organizations. Therefore, CSR practices can be said to be central to the strategic management approach for businesses in today's business environment. If the companies positively affect the expectations and perspectives of the stakeholders, it is extremely important for the sustainable success of the companies to be achieved in the competitive markets and for the companies to reach the maximum profit rate. It has an extremely important effect on the companies to adopt corporate social responsibility activities and to meet the expectations of the stakeholders by ensuring that the employees participate in these activities and to achieve sustainable success of the company (Seyitoğulları and Bilen, 2020: 196). Companies ensure their survival in competitive markets not only through their financial performance, but also through their ethical, environmental, and social performance (Sulu, 2024: 59; Chu et al., 2020). In this context, social responsibility has shifted from a voluntary basis to a strategic element for businesses. This has a direct and significant impact on their corporate reputation, investor confidence, and employee loyalty.

The concept of responsibility is directly associated with the “decisions, activities and results” of companies today (Ay, 2003: 23). The concept of “social responsibility” is related to the way companies behave towards the social environment. It is extremely important for companies to continue their activities by taking into account the interests and benefits of society. These definitions suggest that CSR in the modern management approach in businesses is not limited to external perception management, but is also an extremely important asset for managers in making ethical decisions. The survival of companies in competitive markets is directly related to the profit rate they achieve. However, while companies are achieving their financial goals, they also have to take into account various factors such as the interests of employees, stakeholders, shareholders, society, etc. (Çelik, 2007: 43-44). In this context, CSR is a key corporate strategy for long-term sustainability and competitive advantage. It is increasingly used to support environmental sustainability, social justice, and corporate ethics (Türk, 2024: 15). Thus, CSR is not merely a reputation tool but a strategic management approach to enhance social welfare, reduce environmental impact, and ensure economic stability.

Bayrak (2001) expressed the concept of social responsibility as “the effective use of resources that are about to be depleted in order to produce products that meet the needs and expectations of the society without harming the economic activities of the company, employees, stakeholders, shareholders, or any individual in the society” or “the optimal use of resources to achieve the goals that the company has set by adhering to ethical values and to increase the quality of life of the society”. Akgemci et al. (2001) defined the concept of social responsibility for managers as "creating social values and expectations in the company, determining and implementing policies in line with company goals, in short, taking on responsibilities related to improving social life". Corporate social responsibility is “the activities of companies to act in accordance with legal regulations in line with their own interests while continuing their corporate activities in order to use natural resources more effectively for the society, the environment, individuals, and to leave a more livable environment for future generations” (McWilliams and Siegel, 2001: 117). Corporate social responsibility is a two-way interaction and benefit for both the company and the society (Akım, 2010: 2-3). At this point, Porter and Kramer (2006) stated that

"corporate social responsibility strategies are a win-win strategy that provides benefits to society, business and the environment by gaining competitive advantage by outperforming competitors in the market". Furthermore, it can be argued that the current digitalization has transformed the understanding of social responsibility in businesses, leading to the emergence of various new areas of responsibility, including "data ethics, digital inclusion, and sustainable technology use." Recent studies highlight that CSR drives "value-oriented transformation" in business strategies, integrating ethical leadership, stakeholder engagement, and digital sustainability. Its alignment with digitalization, transparency, and corporate accountability (Dirican, 2024: 27-28) enhances innovative sustainability paradigms, strengthens social impact, and supports environmental sustainability, corporate ethics, and active social participation (İşcan, 2024: 19).

Nowadays, companies should continue their activities by acting in accordance with both their own and society's expectations and interests, in accordance with business ethics and legal regulations (Çelik, 2007: 44). It is extremely important for companies, especially those that continue their production activities in local markets, to continue their activities by taking into account various criteria such as legal regulations, rules, customs and traditions of the society, etc. within the structure of the society they are located in. Recent research shows that social responsibility is increasingly seen not only as an ethical obligation but also as a strategic component of corporate sustainability. The growing diversity of CSR studies—including sustainability, business ethics, green innovation, and digital transformation—necessitates systematic examination of research trends. Consequently, content analysis of postgraduate theses has become important to track the evolution of CSR in academia (see Table 15). Theoretical frameworks in these theses were summarized to link empirical findings with the literature. Supporting this trend, Sheehy and Farneti (2021) distinguished CSR from corporate sustainability, Xiao et al. (2024) and Bhat et al. (2024) highlighted the strategic role of green innovation, and Bahar (2025) demonstrated the rising academic interest in CSR and business ethics, reinforcing the need for meta-analytical and content-based evaluations. Because the basis of the concept of "social responsibility" is that companies should act by protecting their own interests and interests, while also increasing the quality of life of the society and considering the expectations, needs and interests of each individual in the society. If companies take into account the socio-cultural characteristics of the social structure in which their target audience customers are located, they play an extremely important role in achieving the financial targets set by the company (Karabacak, 1993: 100; Çelik, 2007: 44). Companies are established to meet the needs of the society in a certain direction and continue their activities in this direction. When companies start their activities within a certain society, society causes them to impose certain social responsibilities on them. In short, when companies start their activities within a certain social structure, they accept the social responsibilities imposed by society. It is among the most important rules of business ethics that companies follow a balanced strategy while carrying out their social responsibility activities without harming the interests and expectations of society (Çelik, 2007: 45).

Eren (2000) listed some of the reasons why the concept of "social responsibility" is gaining importance day by day as "preventing pollution of environmental natural

resources, depletion of natural resources, difficulty of companies to create a positive reputation in the society, transformation of companies into multi-partner structures, development of professional managers, production of products or services in accordance with the constantly changing expectations and preferences of the society, acceleration of the globalization process and democratization process”.

In addition, Çelik (2007) stated that companies are in relationship with various "social responsibility" areas and that these areas constitute the "scope and limitations" of social responsibilities. According to Eren (2000), the main issues that can be evaluated within the scope of “social responsibility” are listed as follows:

- Business managers fulfill their obligations towards stakeholders or shareholders,
- Responsibilities for creating employment in the local area,
- "Gender, social class, race" etc. in the recruitment process. There should be no discrimination on issues,
- Protecting the interests and rights of consumers,
- Acting in accordance with business ethics, gaining unfair profits and disparaging, misleading, etc. rival businesses. Staying away from various unethical behaviors,
- Creating a more sustainable living environment by preserving the natural balance of the environment and preventing possible environmental pollution,

### **1.1 Purpose and Importance of the Research**

Many academicians who contribute to science state that one of the most effective ways to reveal developments in different branches of science and trends in the field is to examine various studies conducted in the relevant branch of science (Kozak, 2001: 26-27). With such studies, trends and changes in the branches of science are revealed. The most effective data sources in such studies consist of various documents such as theses (master's and doctoral), articles, notifications, etc. prepared for the relevant branch of science. Due to the reasons such as the fact that postgraduate theses take longer to prepare compared to other data sources, are carried out under the guidance of advisors, and are accepted with the approval of the jury members, it is thought that examining postgraduate theses will reveal the differences in the nature and development of the relevant branch of science more effectively (Kozak, 2001: 26-27).

Therefore, the aim of the study is to examine certain characteristics of “master's and doctoral theses” written on social responsibility and to reveal some aspects in the studies. In this study, it was planned to examine the theses written in the field of social responsibility between 2020-2024 in terms of "thesis type, years, author gender distribution, publication language, advisor titles, universities, institutes, research methods, sampling methods, sample sizes, data collection tools, sample groups, data analysis programs/methods, focal topic and theoretical framework ". It is thought that the research will contribute to the field with up-to-date and rich data and will make a significant contribution to the literature in terms of what methods are used in the methodological and analysis processes on social responsibility, in which areas more studies are carried out, revealing the deficiencies and guiding researchers or institutions/organizations who want to work in this field. In line with the purpose and importance of the research, the following questions will be answered;

- What is the distribution of postgraduate theses prepared on social responsibility according to thesis type (master's, doctorate)?
- What is the distribution of postgraduate theses prepared on the subject of social responsibility over the years?
- Which gender of the author is prominent in postgraduate theses prepared on social responsibility?
- Which publication language is prominent in postgraduate theses prepared on social responsibility?
- What is the distribution of the titles of the academicians who advise postgraduate theses prepared on social responsibility?
- What is the distribution of postgraduate theses on social responsibility in the universities where they are prepared?
- What is the distribution of postgraduate theses on social responsibility regarding the institutes where they were prepared?
- Which research methods are prominent in postgraduate theses prepared on social responsibility?
- What are the sampling methods prominent in postgraduate theses prepared on social responsibility?
- What is the distribution of sample sizes in postgraduate theses prepared on social responsibility?
- Which data collection tools are prominent in postgraduate theses prepared on social responsibility?
- What is the distribution of sample groups in postgraduate theses prepared on social responsibility?
- Which data analysis programs/methods are prominent in postgraduate theses prepared on social responsibility?
- What is the distribution of postgraduate theses on social responsibility according to their study focus areas and theoretical frameworks?

## **1.2 Limitations of the Research**

The research, the “YÖKTEZ (National Thesis Center)” database, the subject of “social responsibility” and “thesis studies conducted between 2020-2024” constitute the limitations of the research.

## **2. METHOD**

### **2.1 Research Method**

The aim of the research is to reveal certain features and aspects of the studies by examining certain characteristics of postgraduate theses “(master's and doctoral theses)” on “social responsibility”. In the context of this purpose, the “qualitative

research method” is used in the study. The "document review" technique, which is one of the "qualitative data collection" tools, was used in the collection of data, and the "content analysis" method was used in the analysis of the data. In “qualitative research methods”, “the process in which data collection tools such as observation, interview, document review are used and the phenomena, events and perceptions are revealed in a realistic and holistic way in a natural environment is expressed as qualitative research”. (Yıldırım and Şimşek, 2008: 39). Document review, is the acquisition of the desired data in line with the objectives of the research by examining various documents without requiring interviews and observations of the individuals conducting the research (Akman and Ökten, 2018: 5). Document review can be defined as “a method used to analyze the content of written documents (thesis, article, document, etc.) in a meticulous and systematic manner” (Wach, 2013: 1). The document review technique offers researchers the opportunity to save both time and finance (Akman and Ökten 2018: 5). The subject of the planned research has an extremely important effect in determining the data source and importance level of the documents (articles, theses, documents, etc.) obtained as a result of document review (Yıldırım and Şimşek, 2008: 188). In the analysis of the data obtained as a result of document review; “content analysis”, one of the “qualitative data analysis methods”, was used. In the content analysis method, the basic process is defined as "bringing together similar data around certain codes and created themes and organizing and interpreting them in a way that the reader can understand" (Yıldırım and Şimşek, 2013: 259).

With content analysis, postgraduate theses were analyzed under 14 categories: “thesis type, years, author gender distribution, publication language, advisor titles , universities, institutes, research methods, sampling methods, sample sizes, data collection tools, sample groups, data analysis programs/methods, focal topic and theoretical framework”.

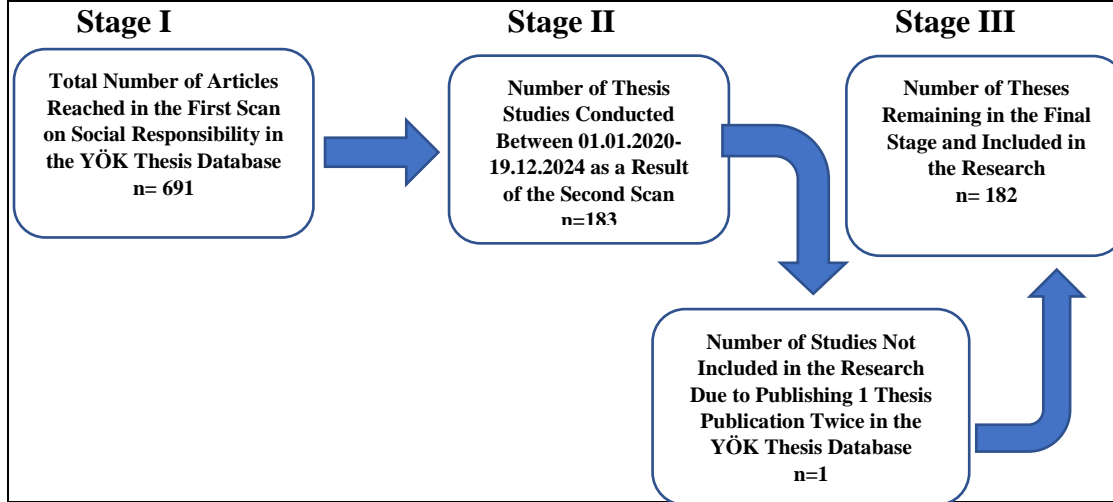
## **2.2 Main Mass and Working Group**

The main mass of the research consists of “master’s and doctoral theses” written on the subject of social responsibility. The working group of the research consists of postgraduate theses prepared on the subject of “social responsibility” that are open to access in the “YÖKTEZ (National Thesis Center)” database. In determining the working group of the research, the website (<https://tez.yok.gov.tr> ) was entered on 19.12.2024 and the concept of “Social Responsibility” was written in the “Enter Search Term” section and “All” was selected in the “Search Area” section. As a result of the search, it was determined that a total of 691 theses were published on the subject of social responsibility. A total of 183 theses publications, “142 of which were master’s and 41 of which were doctoral theses”, were reached between 01.12.2020 and 19.12.2024, which were planned to be examined in the research. “Purposive sampling”, one of the “probability-based sampling” methods, was preferred in determining the working group of the research. Criteria for selecting study groups are shown in Table 1.

**Table 1: Scanning Criteria**

Category	Selection Criteria
Database	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>YÖKTEZ (National Thesis Center)</li> </ul>
Subject	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Social Responsibility</li> </ul>
Screening Criteria	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>It includes the subject of Social Responsibility,</li> <li>Having a master's thesis,</li> <li>Having a doctoral thesis,</li> <li>Being open to access,</li> <li>Published between 01.01.2020-19.12.2024</li> </ul>

A total of 691 articles on the subject of "Social Responsibility" were reached through the database search of "YÖKTEZ (National Thesis Center)". A total of 183 articles were planned to be examined within the scope of the research between 01.01.2020-19.12.2024, but one article was not included in the study because it was published twice. After the search, a total of 182 postgraduate theses; "142 master's theses and 40 doctoral theses" were included in the study group of this study. Figure 1 shows a model for the inclusion or exclusion of thesis studies in the study in order to create the study group.

**Figure 1: The Process of Reaching the Sample in the Research**

### 2.3 Data Collection

Data were collected using the "document review" method, which is one of the "qualitative data collection" tools. Document review means "examination of written materials containing information about targeted facts and events" (Yıldırım and Şimşek, 2013: 259). Document review is carried out in order to reveal the specific characteristics of various document sources (books, articles, theses, documents, etc.) related to the subject discussed in line with the objectives determined in the study (Özenç and Özenç, 2013: 18). In this direction, the distributions of 182 theses

regarding “thesis type, years, gender distribution of authors, publication language, advisor titles , universities, institutes, research methods, sampling methods, sample sizes, data collection tools, sample groups, data analysis programs/methods” were examined one by one.

## 2.4 Data Analysis

The data were analyzed using the "content analysis" method, which is among the "qualitative research methods" and is frequently preferred in scientific research. Content analysis is "an analysis method that aims to associate the obtained data with concepts that can be explained" (Yıldırım and Şimşek, 2013: 259). Yaşar and Papatğa (2015: 116) also stated that the content analysis method is very important in terms of allowing scientific studies (e.g. theses, articles, etc.) to be examined in more depth and detail, revealing deficiencies in the field in which the study is conducted, and guiding scientific research planned for the future.

Postgraduate theses (master's and doctorate) analyzed with the content analysis method were examined under 13 categories as "thesis type, years, gender distribution of authors, publication language, advisor titles, universities, institutes, research methods, sampling methods, sample sizes, data collection tools, sample groups, data analysis programs/methods". With the "content analysis" performed, categories, descriptive statistics "(frequency (f) and percentage (%))" are included in the findings section.

## 3. FINDINGS

In this part of the research, 14 categories were prepared for postgraduate theses on social responsibility, including “thesis type, years, gender distribution of authors, publication language, advisor titles , universities, institutes, research methods, sampling methods, sample sizes, data collection tools, sample groups, data analysis programs/methods, focal topic and theoretical framework” and the obtained data were presented in tables.

Findings regarding the types of theses prepared on social responsibility are given in Table 2.

**Table 2: Distribution of Master's and Doctoral Theses Prepared Between 2020-2024 on Social Responsibility by Publication Type**

Thesis Type	Frequency	%
Master Thesis	142	78.02
PhD Thesis	40	21.98
Total	182	100

As seen in Table 2, a total of 182 postgraduate theses were written on the subject of "social responsibility" between 2020 and 2024, 142 of which consist of master's theses and 40 of which are doctoral theses (21.98%).

The findings of the theses prepared on “social responsibility” by year are given in Table 3.

**Table 3: Table 2. Distribution of Master's and Doctoral Theses on Social Responsibility Prepared Between 2020-2024**

Years	Master Thesis		PhD Thesis		Total	
	Frequency	%	Frequency	%	Frequency	%
<b>2020</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>21.83</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>22.5</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>21.98</b>
2021	25	17.60	9	22.5	34	18.68
<b>2022</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>21.13</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>25.0</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>21.98</b>
2023	26	18.31	6	15.0	32	17.58
<b>2024</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>21.13</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>15.0</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>19.78</b>
Total	142	100	40	100	182	100

According to Table 3, 142 master's thesis studies in the field of "Social Responsibility" showed a normal distribution over the years, the most thesis studies were conducted 31 theses in 2020 (21.83%), and 2020 is followed by 2022 (21.23%) and 2024 (21.23%) with 30 theses. 40 doctoral theses were prepared between 2020-2024, the most thesis studies were done in 2022 (25.0%) with 10 studies, 2022 is followed by 2020 (22.5%) and 2021 (22.5%) with 9 theses, respectively. It has been determined that the number of doctoral theses on "social responsibility" between 2020 and 2024 was less than the number of master's theses.

The findings regarding the gender of the authors of theses prepared on social responsibility are given in Table 4.

**Table 4: Distribution of Master's and Doctoral Theses Prepared on Social Responsibility Between 2020-2024, According to Author Gender**

Gender	Master Thesis		PhD Thesis		Total	
	Frequency	%	Frequency	%	Frequency	%
<b>Female</b>	<b>88</b>	<b>61.97</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>62.5</b>	<b>113</b>	<b>62.09</b>
Male	54	38.03	15	37.5	69	37.91
Total	142	100	40	100	182	100

Table 4 shows that of the 142 master's theses prepared on the subject of "social responsibility" between 2020-2024, 88 were prepared by female authors (61.97%) and 54 were prepared by male authors (38.03%). It is seen that of the 40 doctoral theses in question, 25 were prepared by female authors (62.5%) and the remaining 15 theses were prepared by male authors (37.5%). It was determined that 62.09% (f = 113) of the 182 theses prepared on the subject of "social responsibility" between 2020 and 2024 were written by female writers.

The findings regarding the publication languages of theses prepared on social responsibility are given in Table 5.

**Table 5: Distribution of Master's and Doctoral Theses on Social Responsibility Prepared Between 2020-2024 According to Publication Languages**

Publication Language	Master Thesis		PhD Thesis		Total	
	Frequency	%	Frequency	%	Frequency	%
<b>Turkish</b>	<b>121</b>	<b>85.21</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>77.5</b>	<b>152</b>	<b>83.52</b>
English	20	14.09	9	22.5	29	15.93
Arabic	1	0.70	-	-	1	0.55
Total	142	100	40	100	182	100

According to Table 5, it was determined that 142 master's theses prepared on the subject of "social responsibility" between 2020-2024 were prepared in three different languages, 121 of the theses were prepared in "Turkish" (85.21%), 20 in "English" (14.09%) and 1 in "Arabic" (0.70%). The 40 doctoral theses in question were prepared in two different languages, 31 in "Turkish" (83.52%) and 9 in "English" (22.5%). When the graduate theses prepared between 2020-2024 are evaluated together, it is striking that 152 of the 182 theses were prepared in "Turkish" (83.52%).

The findings regarding the titles of academicians who advised theses prepared on social responsibility are given in Table 6.

**Table 6: Distribution of Academicians Who Advised Master's and Doctoral Theses Prepared on Social Responsibility Between 2020-2024 According to Their Titles**

Advisor Titles	Master Thesis		PhD Thesis		Total	
	Frequency	%	Frequency	%	Frequency	%
<b>Prof. Dr.</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>35.21</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>65.0</b>	<b>76</b>	<b>41.76</b>
<b>Assoc. Prof. Dr.</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>35.92</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>25.0</b>	<b>61</b>	<b>33.52</b>
Dr. Lecturer	41	28.87	3	7.5	44	24.18
Prof. Dr./ Assoc.	--	--	1	2.5	1	0.54
Prof. Dr./ Dr. Lecturer*						
Total	142	100	40	100	182	100

When the titles of academicians who advised master's theses prepared on the subject of "social responsibility" are examined in Table 6, it is seen that the titles of academicians who advised master's theses are normally distributed, the master's theses studies are carried out under the guidance of academicians with the titles of Assoc. Prof. Dr. (f=51; 35.92%), Prof. Dr. (f=50; 35.21%) and Dr. Lecturer (f=41; 28.87%). While doctoral theses are mostly conducted by academicians with the title of Prof. Dr. (f=26; 65.0%). It is also noteworthy that 3 academicians (2.5%), namely Prof. Dr., Assoc. Prof. Dr. and Dr. Lecturer, provide guidance together in a doctoral

thesis study. In addition, when the master's and doctoral theses are evaluated together, the works mostly written by Prof. Dr. It is extremely noteworthy that it was conducted under the supervision of academics with the title (f = 76; 41.76%).

The findings regarding the universities where thesis studies on social responsibility were prepared are given in Table 7.

**Table 7: Distribution of Master's and Doctoral Theses Prepared on Social Responsibility Between 2020-2024 According to the Universities Where They Were Prepared**

Universities	Master Thesis		PhD Thesis		Total	
	Frequency	%	Frequency	%	Frequency	%
<b>Istanbul</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>2.11</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>7.5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>3.30</b>
Istanbul Arel	2	1.41	--	--	2	1.10
Istanbul Teknik	--	--	2	5.0	2	1.10
Istanbul Aydin	4	2.82	--	--	4	2.20
Istanbul Bilgi	2	1.41	--	--	2	1.10
Istanbul Gedik	1	0.70	--	--	1	0.55
Istanbul Gelişim	1	0.70	--	--	1	0.55
Istanbul Medeniyet	1	0.70	--	--	1	0.55
Istanbul Nisantasi	1	0.70	--	--	1	0.55
Istanbul Okan	1	0.70	3	7.5	4	2.20
<b>Istanbul Ticaret</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>3.52</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>5.0</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>3.85</b>
Istanbul Topkapi	1	0.70	--	--	1	0.55
Istanbul Sabahattin Zaim	1	0.70	--	--	1	0.55
Istinye	1	0.70	--	--	1	0.55
Ihsan Doğramacı Bilkent	1	0.70	--	--	1	0.55
Ege	1	0.70	--	--	1	0.55
Eskişehir Osman Gazi	2	1.41	--	--	2	1.10
Galatasaray	1	0.70	--	--	1	0.55
Giresun	4	2.82	--	--	4	2.20
Gümüşhane	1	0.70	--	--	1	0.55
Yaşar	2	1.41	1	2.5	3	1.65
Yeditepe	1	0.70	1	2.5	2	1.10
Yıldız Teknik	1	0.70	--	--	1	0.55
Karamanoğlu Mehmetbey	1	0.70	--	--	1	0.55
<b>Kocaeli</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>5.63</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>5.0</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>5.49</b>
Orta Doğu Teknik	1	0.70	--	--	1	0.55
Ondokuz Mayıs	1	0.70	--	--	1	0.55
OSTİM Teknik	1	0.70	--	--	1	0.55
Izmir Ekonomi	1	0.70	--	--	1	0.55

International Islamic (Malaysia)	1	0.70	--	--	1	0.55
Anadolu	2	1.41	2	5.0	4	2.20
Ankara	1	0.70	--	--	1	0.55
Atılım	1	0.70	--	--	1	0.55
Atatürk	1	0.70	--	--	1	0.55
Ankara Hacı Bayram Veli	3	2.11	--	--	3	1.65
Aydın Adnan Menderes	1	0.70	--	--	1	0.55
Ankara Yıldırım Beyazıt	1	0.70	--	--	1	0.55
Sanko	1	0.70	--	--	1	0.55
<b>Sakarya</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>4.23</b>	<b>--</b>	<b>--</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>3.30</b>
<b>Selçuk</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>2.82</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>5.0</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>3.30</b>
Başkent	4	2.82	--	--	4	2.20
Beykent	3	2.11	--	--	3	1.65
Akdeniz	2	1.41	--	--	2	1.10
Kastomonu	1	0.70	--	--	1	0.55
Kırıkkale	--	--	1	2.5	1	0.55
Kütahya Sağlık Bilimleri	1	0.70	--	--	1	0.55
Kütahya Dumlupınar	3	2.11	1	2.5	4	2.20
Fırat	2	1.41	1	2.5	3	1.65
Dokuz Eylül	3	2.11	1	2.5	4	2.20
Düzce	1	0.70	--	--	1	0.55
<b>Bahçeşehir</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>5.63</b>	<b>--</b>	<b>--</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>4.40</b>
Bolu Abant İzzet Baysal	--	--	1	2.5	1	0.55
Bursa Uludağ	3	2.11	1	2.5	4	2.20
Bursa Teknik	1	0.70	--	--	1	0.55
İbn Haldun	3	2.11	--	--	3	1.65
Sakarya Uygulamalı Bilimler	1	0.70	1	2.5	2	1.10
Çağ	3	2.11	--	--	3	1.65
Çankırı Karatekin	1	0.70	--	--	1	0.55
Çanakkale Onsekiz Mart	4	2.82	1	2.5	5	2.74
Kahramanmaraş Sütçü İmam	1	0.70	--	--	1	0.55
Afyon Kocatepe	2	1.41	--	--	2	1.10
KTO Karatay	1	0.70	--	--	1	0.55
Tokat Gazi Osman Paşa	1	0.70	--	--	1	0.55
Nevşehir Hacı Bektaş Veli	1	0.70	--	--	1	0.55
Uşak	2	1.41	--	--	2	1.10
Şırnak	1	0.70	--	--	1	0.55

<b>Marmara</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>4.23</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>17.5</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>7.14</b>
Pamukkale	2	1.41	--	--	2	1.10
Sivas Cumhuriyet	2	1.41	--	--	2	1.10
Inönü	1	0.70	--	--	1	0.55
Balıkesir	1	0.70	--	--	1	0.55
Recep Tayyip Erdogan	1	0.70	--	--	1	0.55
Kapodakya	1	0.70	--	--	1	0.55
Muğla Sıtkı Kocman	2	1.41	1	2.5	3	1.65
Dicle	--	--	1	2.5	1	0.55
Hacettepe	--	--	2	5.0	2	1.10
Mimar Sinan Güzel Sanatlar	--	--	2	5.0	2	1.10
Erciyes	--	--	1	2.5	1	0.55
<b>Total</b>	<b>142</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>182</b>	<b>100</b>

Table 7 shows that 182 postgraduate theses prepared on the subject of "social responsibility" were prepared in 78 different universities. The 142 master's theses in question were prepared in 71 different universities, and the 40 doctoral theses in question were prepared in 23 different universities. The most master's theses are; Bahçeşehir (f=8; 5.63%), Kocaeli (f=8; 5.63%), Marmara (f=6; 4.23%), Sakarya (f=6; 4.23%), Pamukkale (f= 4.23%), İstanbul Ticaret (f=5; 3.52%), İstanbul Aydın (f=4; 2.82%), Selçuk (f= 4; 2.82%), Başkent (f=4; 2.82%), Çanakkale Onsekiz Mart (f= 4; 2.82%), Giresun (f=4; 2.82%), İstanbul (f=3; 2.11%), Ankara Hacı Bayram Veli (f=3; 2.11%), Beykent (f=3; 2.11%), Bursa Uludağ (f=3; 2.11%), Kütahya Dumlupınar (f= 3; 2.11%), Dokuz Eylül (f=3; % 2.11), İbn Haldun (f=3; 2.11%), Çağ (f=3; 2.11%) were prepared universities. The rate of the universities where the remaining master's theses were prepared remained below 2%.

Doctoral theses were mostly in Marmara (f= 7; 17.5%), İstanbul (f=3; 7.50%), İstanbul Okan (f=3; 7.50%), İstanbul Technical (f=2; 5.0%), İstanbul Commerce (f=2; 5.0%), Kocaeli (f=2; 5.0%), Anatolia (f=2; 5.0%), Selçuk (f=2; 5.0%), Hacettepe. (f=2; 5.0%), Mimar Sinan Fine Arts (f=2; 5.0%) universities, and the universities where the remaining doctoral theses were prepared were below 3%. When the postgraduate theses (master's and doctoral) prepared on the subject of "social responsibility" are evaluated together within the framework of these rates, the most theses are Marmara (f=13; 7.17%), Kocaeli (f=10; 5.59%), Bahçeşehir (f=8; 4.40%), İstanbul Ticaret (f=7; 3.85%), Sakarya (f=6; 3.30%), Selçuk (f=6; 3.30%), İstanbul (f=6;). 3.30%) universities.

The findings regarding the institutes where theses on social responsibility were prepared are given in Table 8.

**Table 8: Distribution of Master's and Doctoral Theses Conducted in the Field of Social Responsibility Between 2020-2024 According to the Institutes Where They Were Prepared**

Institutes	Master Thesis		PhD Thesis		Total	
	Frequency	%	Frequency	%	Frequency	%
<b>Social Sciences</b>	<b>82</b>	<b>57.75</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>62.50</b>	<b>107</b>	<b>58.79</b>
Education	3	2.11	--	--	3	1.65
<b>Postgraduate Education</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>32.39</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>17.50</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>29.12</b>
Postgraduate Education and Research	1	0.70	--	--	1	0.55
Postgraduate Programs	2	1.41	--	--	2	1.10
Science Sciences	1	0.70	2	5.0	3	1.65
Communication Science and the Internet	--	--	2	5.0	2	1.10
Business	2	1.41	--	--	2	1.10
Fine Arts	2	1.41	2	5.0	4	2.20
Finance	1	0.70	--	--	1	0.55
Health Sciences	1	0.70	2	5.0	3	1.65
Abroad	1	0.70	--	--	1	0.55
<b>Total</b>	<b>142</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>182</b>	<b>100</b>

Table 8 shows that a total of 182 postgraduate theses (master's and doctoral) were prepared in 12 different institutes on the subject of "social responsibility". 142 master's theses were prepared in 11 different institutes, and 40 doctoral theses were prepared under the roof of 6 different institutes. Most master's theses were prepared in Social Sciences (f=82; 57.75%) and Postgraduate Education (f=46; 32.39%) institutes. These institutes were followed by Education (2.11%) with three theses, Graduate Programs (1.41%) with two theses each, Business Management (1.41%), Fine Arts (1.41%), Postgraduate Education, Training and Research (0.70%) with one theses each, Science (0.70%), Finance (0.70%), Health Sciences (0.70%) and International (0.70%) institutes.

The majority of doctoral theses were prepared at the "Institute of Social Sciences" (f=25; 62.50%), followed by the Institute of Graduate Education (17.50%) with seven theses, the Institute of Natural and Applied Sciences (5.0%) with two theses each, the Institute of Communication Sciences and Internet (5.0%), the Institute of Fine Arts (5.0%) and the Institute of Health Sciences (5.0%). When a total of 182 postgraduate theses are evaluated together, it is striking that 87.91% of the theses were prepared in the "Institute of Social Sciences" (f=107; 58.79%) and the Institute of Graduate Education (f=53; 29.12%). It was determined that the remaining master's theses remained below 2% in the institutes where they were prepared, while doctoral theses remained below 3%.

The findings regarding the research methods of theses prepared on social responsibility are given in Table 9.

**Table 9: Distribution of Master's and Doctoral Theses Conducted in the Field of Social Responsibility Between 2020-2024, Regarding Research Methods**

Research Methods	Master Thesis		PhD Thesis		Total	
	Frequency		Frequency		Frequency	
		%		%		%
<b>Quantitative</b>	<b>83</b>	<b>58.45</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>55.00</b>	<b>105</b>	<b>57.69</b>
Qualitative	27	19.01	7	17.50	34	18.68
Mixed(Quantitative and Qualitative Together)	4	2.82	3	7.50	7	3.85
Studies with Unspecified Method Selection	28	19.72	8	20.0	36	19.78
<b>Total</b>	<b>142</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>182</b>	<b>100</b>

According to Table 9, it is seen that quantitative research method (f=83; 58.45%) was used mostly in master's theses, and qualitative research method (f=27; 19.01%) was used the most after quantitative research method. Mixed research method (f=4; 2.82%) was preferred the least. In doctoral theses studies, as in master's theses studies, quantitative (f=22; 55.00%) was used the most, while qualitative (f=7; 17.50%) and mixed research (f=3, 7.50%) methods were preferred less than quantitative studies. When postgraduate theses are evaluated together, it is striking that “quantitative research method” (57.69%) was used in 105 studies. In addition, no information was given regarding the selection of the research method in a total of 36 theses (19.78%), 28 of which were “master's theses” (19.72%) and 8 of which were “doctoral theses” (20.0%).

The findings regarding the sampling methods of theses prepared on social responsibility are given in Table 10.

**Table 10: Distribution of Master's and Doctoral Theses on Social Responsibility between 2020-2024 According to Sampling Methods**

Sampling Methods	Master Thesis		PhD Thesis		Total	
	Frequency		Frequency		Frequency	
		%		%		%
<b>Simple Random Sample</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>12.5</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>19.05</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>13.98</b>
<b>Easy Sample</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>18.05</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>23.81</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>19.35</b>
<b>Purposive Sampling</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>11.27</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>16.67</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>13.98</b>
Snowball Sample	5	3.47	--	--	5	2.69
Quota Sample	1	0.69	1	2.38	2	1.08
Will Sample	1	0.69	--	--	1	0.54
Criterion Sample	2	1.38	--	--	2	1.08

Judicial Sample	1	0.69	--	--	1	0.54
Convenient Sample	1	0.69	--	--	1	0.54
Maximum Variety	1	0.69	--	--	1	0.54
Stratified Sampling	--	--	1	2.38	1	0.54
Creating a Universe Sample	1	0.69	--	--	1	0.54
Reaching the Entire Universe	1	0.69	--	--	1	0.54
Data Collection Based on Sample Skewness	1	0.69	--	--	1	0.54
Studies with Unspecified Sampling Method	66	45.83	15	35.71	81	43.54
Total	144	100	42	100	186	100

\* Two different sampling methods were used in 2 of the master's studies (f=142) and 10 of the doctoral studies (f=40). Therefore, the sampling methods exceeded the total of 182 theses covered in the research.

\*The main reason for the studies not specifying the sampling method is that the sample groups consist of various documents (websites, activity reports, posters, etc.)

When the data in Table 10 is examined, 13 different “sampling methods” were preferred in master's theses prepared on the subject of "social responsibility", and 5 different sampling methods were preferred in doctoral theses. It was observed that convenience sampling (f=26; 18.05%), purposive sampling (f=19; 11.27%), simple random sampling (f=18; 12.5%), and snowball sampling (f=5; 3.47%) were mostly used in master's theses, and two different “sampling methods” were used in two master's theses studies. In doctoral theses, convenience sampling (f=10; 23.81%), simple random sampling (f=8; 19.05%), purposive sampling (f=7; 16.65%) were mostly used, and two different sampling methods were used in one doctoral theses study.

Within the framework of this data, when postgraduate theses “(master's and doctoral)” are considered together, it was determined that convenience sampling (f=3.6; 19.35%), purposeful sampling (f=26; 13.98%), and simple random sampling (f=26; 13.98%) methods were used intensively in the theses. In addition, in a total of 81 theses (44.50%), 66 of which were master's theses (45.83%) and 15 of which were doctoral theses (35.71%), no information was provided regarding the sampling methods for various reasons (e.g. studies that do not require a sample selection method, etc.).

Table 11 shows the distribution of sample sizes of postgraduate theses prepared on social responsibility.

**Table 11: Distribution of Master's and Doctoral Theses on Social Responsibility between 2020-2024 by Sample Size**

Sample Sizes	Master Thesis		PhD Thesis		Total	
	Frequency	%	Frequency	%	Frequency	%
<b>1-30</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>13.38</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>10.0</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>12.64</b>
31-100	5	3.52	1	2.50	6	3.30
101-200	18	12.68	2	5.0	20	10.99
<b>201-300</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>14.08</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>10.0</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>13.19</b>
<b>301-400</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>12.68</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>20.0</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>14.29</b>
401-500	18	12.68	4	10.0	22	12.09
501-600	1	0.70	3	7.50	4	2.20
601-700	2	1.41	--	--	2	1.10
701-1000	--	--	2	5.0	2	1.10
1001+ and above	1	0.70	--	--	1	0.55
Studies With Unspecified Sample Sizes	40	28.17	12	30.0	52	28.57
<b>Total</b>	<b>142</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>182</b>	<b>100</b>

\* The main reason for the studies that do not specify the sample size is that the sample groups consist of various documents (websites, activity reports, posters, etc.). For this reason, theses studies whose sample size was not specified were included in "studies whose sample size was not specified".

When Table 11 is examined, it shows a normal distribution in terms of sample sizes in master's theses prepared on the subject of "social responsibility". It was determined that master's theses mostly consisted of ranges with a sample size of 201-300 (f=20; 14.08%). Sample sizes of 201-300 (f=20; 14.08%) are followed by sample sizes of 101-200 (f=18; 12.68%), 301-400 (f=18; 12.68%), 401-500 (f=18; 12.68%), 0-30 (f=19; 13.38%), 31-100 (f=5; 3.52%), 601-700 (f=2; 1.41%) and 501-600 (f=1; 0.70%), respectively. It is one noteworthy that a sample size of 1001+ (0.70) was reached in a master's thesis study.

In the doctoral theses in question, they mostly consist of the sample size ranges of 301-400 (f=8; 20.0%), the sample range of 301-400 (f=8; 20.0%) is followed by the sample sizes of 1-30 (f=4; 10.0%), 201-300 (f=4; 10.0%), 401-500 (f=4; 10.0%), 501-600 (f=3; 7.50%), 101-200 (f=2; 5.0%), 701-1000 (f=2; 5.0%) and 31-100 (f=1; 2.50%). When postgraduate theses are evaluated together in terms of sample sizes, it is observed that 86.05% of the theses consist of sample sizes of 301-400 (f=26), 201-300 (f=24), 1-30 (f=12.64) 401-500 (f=22) and 101 and 200 (f=20). In addition, in a total of 52 theses (28.57%), 40 of which are master's theses (28.17%) and 12 of which are doctoral theses (30.0%), no information is given about sample sizes.

Table 12 shows the distribution of data collection tools for postgraduate theses prepared on social responsibility.

**Table 12: Distribution of Master's and Doctoral Theses Conducted in the Field of Social Responsibility Between 2020-2024 According to Data Collection Tools**

Data Collection Tools	Master Thesis		PhD Thesis		Total	
	Frequency	%	Frequency	%	Frequency	%
<b>Survey/Scale</b>	<b>80</b>	<b>51.95</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>55.32</b>	<b>106</b>	<b>52.74</b>
Interview Form (Semi-Structured/Focus Group/Computer Aided (CAPI) Technique	23	14.93	8	17.02	31	15.42
<b>Document Review/Literature Review</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>31.82</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>27.66</b>	<b>62</b>	<b>30.85</b>
Record Keeping	1	0.65	--	--	1	0.50
Metaphor Survey	1	0.65	--	--	1	0.50
<b>Total</b>	<b>154</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>201</b>	<b>100</b>

\*Two different data collection tools were used in 12 of the master's (f=142) studies and two different data collection tools were used in 7 of the doctoral (f=40) studies. Therefore, the number of data collection tools exceeded the total of 182 theses examined within the scope of the research.

According to Table 12, it is seen that 5 different data collection tools were used in the theses, and since the “quantitative research” method was used in master's theses, mostly the survey/scale (f= 80; 51.95%) data collection tool was used, and the survey/scale (f= 80; 51.95%) data collection tool was followed by /document review/literature review (f= 49; 31.82%), interview forums (f= 23; 14.93%) data collection tools, respectively. It was also seen that two different data collection tools were used together in twelve master's theses. While survey/scale (f=26; 55.32%), document review/literature review (f=13; 27.66%), and interview forums (f=8; 17.02%) were used as data collection tools in doctoral theses, two different data collection tools were used together in seven doctoral theses. When postgraduate theses are evaluated together, it is noteworthy that survey/scale (52.74%) data collection tools were used in 106 of 182 theses.

The findings regarding the sample groups of theses prepared on social responsibility are given in Table 13.

**Table 13: Distribution of Master's and Doctoral Theses Conducted in the Field of Social Responsibility Between 2020-2024 According to Sample Groups**

Sample Groups	Master Thesis		PhD Thesis		Total	
	Frequency	%	Frequency	%	Frequency	%
Healthcare Workers	6	4.23	3	7.50	9	4.95
Various Advertisements	2	1.41	--	--	2	1.10
Various Videos	1	0.70	--	--	1	0.55
<b>Various Documents (Websites, Documents,</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>19.01</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>27.50</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>20.88</b>

<b>Legal Regulations, Sustainability and Activity Reports, Projects and Applications, Studies, Posters, Indexes, Theoretical Information)</b>						
Poster Designs	1	0.70	--	--	1	0.55
Animations	1	0.70	--	--	1	0.55
Award-Winning Project and Institution Officials (CSR Projects)	1	0.70	--	--	1	0.55
<b>Bank Employees</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>6.33</b>	<b>--</b>	<b>--</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>4.95</b>
Journal Databases/ Academic Studies	2	1.41	--	--	2	1.10
Digital Media Users	--	--	1	2.50	1	0.55
Disadvantaged Groups (Elderly, Disabled etc.)	--	--	1	2.50	1	0.55
Integrated Living Spaces Model and Design Approach						
GSM Users,	--	--	1	2.50	1	0.55
GSM users and in- house Customers and Employees	1	0.70	--	--	1	0.55
GSM Managers	1	0.70	--	--	1	0.55
Recreation Center Staff and Experts	--	--	1	2.50	1	0.55
Project and Women Participants (Gender Equality)	1	0.70	--	--	1	0.55
Women-Focused Advertisements and Female Participants	1	0.70	--	--	1	0.55
Online Shopping Platforms	1	0.70	--	--	1	0.55
<b>Students (Secondary school, University, Foreign University, Student Clubs)</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>5.63</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>10.0</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>6.59</b>
Teacher and Student Candidates (Education)	1	0.70	--	--	1	0.55
Faculty Members	--	--	1	2.50	1	0.55
Managers (Education)	1	0.70	--	--	1	0.55
Admins and Social Media Comments and Shares (Sports)	--	--	1	2.50	1	0.55
<b>Various Company/Business Managers, Experts, Professionals and</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>16.90</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>20.0</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>17.58</b>

<b>Employees (Logistics, Port, Manufacturing, Food, Ready-to-Wear, SMEs, Oil, Natural Gas, Production, Telecommunication, Natural Resources, International Trade, Information, Automotive, Industry, Metal, Contracting, Construction, Export</b>						
CSR Activities (Education)	1	0.70	--	--	1	0.55
People Receiving Healthcare Services	1	0.70	--	--	1	0.55
Social Media Posts	1	0.70	--	--	1	0.55
Social Media Users	2	1.41	--	--	2	1.10
Social Media Comments (CSO)	1	0.70	--	--	1	0.55
Athletes	1	0.70	--	--	1	0.55
Experts and Teachers (Graphic Design/Poster)	1	0.70	--	--	1	0.55
Various Organizations (Youth center, non-governmental organizations, Red Crescent employees and volunteers.)	3	2.11	--	--	3	1.65
Environmental Accounting and Sustainability	1	0.70	--	--	1	0.55
Application Example Agency and Theme Officials	1	0.70	--	--	1	0.55
NFT and Metaverse (Token)	--	--	1	2.50	1	0.55
Brand and Communication Representatives	1	0.70	--	--	1	0.55
Hotel/Accommodation Employees and Managers	6	4.23	--	--	6	3.30
Employees Participating or Not Participating in Recreational Activities	1	0.70	--	--	1	0.55
Individuals with CP, Family Members with CP, University Volunteers	1	0.70	--	--	1	0.55

<b>Customers (Bank, Airline, Hotel, White Goods, Telecommunication)</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>4.92</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>5.00</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>4.95</b>
Cabin Crew (Airline)	1	0.70	--	--	1	0.55
<b>Consumers (Millennials, Generation Z, Students, Academics, Mobile, App Users, 18+)</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>9.15</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>7.50</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>8.79</b>
Consumers and Company Officials	--	--	1	2.50	1	0.55
Various Social Media Posts and People with Information About Baykar (Defense Industry)	1	0.70	--	--	1	0.55
Retirees	1	0.70	--	--	1	0.55
Unofficial, Official Karz-I Hasen Structures	1	0.70	--	--	1	0.55
Public Company Officials, Auditing Firms, Regulatory Bodies, and Academicians (Business Greenhouse Gas Awareness)	--	--	1	2.50	1	0.55
Managers (E-Commerce)	1	0.70	--	--	1	0.55
Football Fans	1	0.70	--	--	1	0.55
News, Articles and Images (Media)	1	0.70	--	--	1	0.55
Politicians, Academicians, Bankers (Blockchain Technology)	1	0.70	--	--	1	0.55
TEGV Professionals, Young Beneficiaries, Reports and Documents	1	0.70	--	--	1	0.55
Job Seekers Generation Y	1	0.70	--	--	1	0.55
Quranic Verses, Quotations, Works and Resources Written on Quranic Sciences, etc.	1	0.70	--	--	1	0.55
<b>Total</b>	<b>142</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>182</b>	<b>100</b>

According to Table 13, it is seen that master's theses prepared on the subject of "social responsibility" are basically composed of 45 sample groups. It is observed that doctoral theses are basically composed of 15 different sample groups. In master's

theses studies, the sample groups are mostly various documents (f=27; 19.01%), various firm/business managers, experts, professionals and employees (f=24; 16.90%), consumers (f=13; 9.15%), bank employees (f=9; 6.33%), students (f=8; 5.63%), customers (f=7; 4.92%), healthcare professionals (f=6; 4.23%), hotel/accommodation employees and managers (f=6; 4.23%). The remaining sample groups are below the 2% slice.

In doctoral theses studies, the sample groups mostly consist of various documents (f=11; 27.50%), various firm/business managers, experts, professionals and employees (f=8; 20.0%), students (f=4; 10.0%), health workers (f=3; 7.50%), consumers (f=3; 7.50%), customers (f=2; 5.00%). The remaining sample groups were below the 3% slice.

Table 14 shows the distribution of data analysis programs/methods of postgraduate theses prepared on social responsibility.

**Table 14: Distribution of Postgraduate Theses Prepared in the Field of Social Responsibility Between 2020-2024 According to Data Analysis Programs/Methods**

Data Analysis Programs /Methods	Master Thesis		PhD Thesis		Total	
	Frequency	%	Frequency	%	Frequency	%
<b>SPSS</b> (29.0/28.0/27.0/26.0/25.0/22.0/21.0/ 20.0/v20.0/18.0/23.0)	<b>64</b>	<b>37.21</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>32.81</b>	<b>85</b>	<b>36.02</b>
SPSS Windows for (24.0/25)	2	1.16	--	--	2	0.84
IBM SPSS (26.0/25.0/24.0/23.0/22.0/v 21.0/22.0/20.0)	14	8.14	5	7.81	19	8.08
SPSS Process Macro v4.1	--	--	1	1.56	1	0.42
<b>Content Analysis</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>23.26</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>20.31</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>22.46</b>
Thematic Analysis	3	1.74	4	6.25	7	2.97
Maxqda (18)	3	1.74	1	1.56	4	1.70
Descriptive Analysis	15	8.72	6	9.38	21	8.90
Panel Data Analysis	3	1.74	--	--	3	1.27
Stata (18/12)	1	0.58	1	1.56	2	0.84
Discourse Analysis	2	1.16	1	1.56	3	1.27
Amos (26.0/23.0/24.0/16.0)	6	3.49	7	10.94	13	5.51
Graphics (26)						
Case Study	1	0.58	--	--	1	0.42
Theoretical Framing	3	1.74	--	--	3	1.27
Lisrel (8.7)	2	1.16	--	--	2	0.84
SmartPLS (3.0/4.0)	2	1.16	1	1.56	3	1.27
Semiotic Analysis	2	1.16	--	--	2	0.84
Plugined Process 4.0	--	--	1	1.56	1	0.42
Application Analysis	1	0.58	--	--	1	0.42
Systematic Analysis	1	0.58	--	--	1	0.42
Comparative Analysis	2	1.16	--	--	2	0.84

Inferential Method	1	0.58	--	--	1	0.42
Vosviewer 1.6.11	1	0.58	--	--	1	0.42
Excel	1	0.58	1	1.56	2	0.84
Conceptual Analysis	1	0.58	--	--	1	0.42
Interpretive Synthesis	1	0.58	--	--	1	0.42
Jasp	--	--	1	1.56	1	0.42
Total	172	100	64	100	236	100

\*In 28 of the examined master's theses (f=142), two different data analysis programs/methods, and 1 thesis study, three data analysis programs/methods were used together. In 14 of the doctoral studies (f=40) two different data analysis "programs/methods" were used together, and in 4 theses studies three data analysis "programs/methods" were used together. Therefore, the number of data analysis "programs/methods" exceeded the total of 182 theses examined within the scope of the research.

When the data in Table 14 is examined, it is seen that 27 different data analysis programs/methods were used in the postgraduate theses prepared on the subject of "social responsibility", master theses SPSS (f=64; 37.21%), content analysis (f=40; 23.26%) and descriptive analysis (f=15; 8.72%) were the most commonly used data analysis methods in the master's theses. also in twenty-eight master's theses two different data "programs/methods" were used together, and in one thesis study three data "programs/methods" were used together. The distribution of data analysis programs/methods in doctoral theses studies shows a similar distribution as in master's theses studies. It was observed that in doctoral theses studies, SPSS (f=21; 32.81%) and content analysis (f=13; 20.31%) data "programs/methods" were used most, also in fourteen doctoral theses studies two different data analysis/methods were used together, and in four theses studies three data analysis "programs/methods" were used together. When the postgraduate theses studies were evaluated together, SPSS (f=85) and content analysis (f=53) methods were preferred in 58.48% of the studies.

The findings regarding the study focus areas and theoretical frameworks of postgraduate theses on social responsibility are presented in Table 15.

**Table 15. Distribution of Postgraduate Theses on Social Responsibility by Study Focus Area and Theoretical Framework (2020–2024)**

Study Focus Area	Master's (f)	Doctorate (f)	Total (f)	Theoretical Framework
Socio-Cultural and Sociology	31	11	42	Social Responsibility Theory, Corporate Citizenship
Socio-Economic and Economic	24	9	33	Stakeholder Theory, Resource-Based View
Environmental (Ecological)	13	5	18	Sustainability Theory, Ecological Modernization Theory
Socio-Cultural and Cultural	1	0	1	Cultural Theories
Ethics and Management	1	0	1	Ethics Theories, Corporate Governance

Study Focus Area	Master's (f)	Doctorate (f)	Total (f)	Theoretical Framework
				Models
Educational and Cultural	3	0	3	Educational Theories, Cultural Approaches
Cultural and Brand Relationships	3	0	3	Brand and Culture Theories
Media and Communication	6	0	6	Media Effects and Communication Theories
Organizational Impacts and Reputation	2	0	2	Corporate Reputation and Organizational Theories
Organizational Behavior and Leadership	0	1	1	Leadership Theories, Organizational Behavior
Strategy and Management	2	0	2	Strategic Management Theories
Social Values and Ethics	1	0	1	Ethics and Social Values Theories
Consumer Behavior, Brand, and Reputation	6	2	8	Consumer Behavior Theories, Brand Relationships
Reputation, Brand, and Management	2	0	2	Brand and Reputation Theories
Reputation and Consumer Behavior	0	2	2	Consumer and Brand Theories
Consumer Behavior and Brand Relationships	2	0	2	Brand-Consumer Theories
Organizational Behavior and Human Resources	4	0	4	Organizational Behavior and HR Theories
Cultural and Educational Studies	1	0	1	Cultural and Educational Theories
Theoretical Framework and Corporate Approach	1	3	4	Corporate Theories, Corporate Approach
Social Responsibility and Health	2	1	3	Health and Social Responsibility Theories
Social and Public Policies	1	0	1	Public Policy Theories
Design and Visual Communication	3	2	5	Design and Communication Theories
Human and Health Focus	1	0	1	Health Theories
Communication-Based Studies	3	1	4	Communication and Media Theories
Business Management and	16	3	19	Business and

Study Focus Area	Master's (f)	Doctorate (f)	Total (f)	Theoretical Framework
Organizational Behavior				Organizational Behavior Theories
Organizational Behavior and Leadership	5	0	5	Leadership and Organizational Behavior Theories
Organizational Behavior and Management	3	0	3	Organizational Management Theories
Analysis Studies	3	1	4	Data Analysis and Methodological Framework
Cultural and Brand Relationships	0	1	1	Brand and Culture Theories
Social Reputation	2	0	2	Reputation and Social Value Theories
Recreation	1	0	1	Recreation and Social Theory

An examination of Table 15 shows that 142 master's theses focused mainly on Socio-Cultural and Sociology (f=31; 21.83%), Socio-Economic and Economics (f=24; 16.90%), and Business Management/Organizational Behavior (f=16; 11.27%). Doctoral theses were concentrated in Socio-Cultural and Sociology (f=11; 27.50%), Socio-Economic and Economics (f=9; 22.50%), and Theoretical/Institutional Approaches (f=3; 7.50%). Theoretical frameworks largely relied on Social Responsibility, Corporate Citizenship, Stakeholder, and Sustainability theories. These results indicate that graduate studies integrate sociocultural and economic perspectives, reinforcing the connection between theory and institutional practice.

## CONCLUSION, DISCUSSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

In the research, data were analyzed using the "content analysis" method of postgraduate theses on the subject of "Social Responsibility" in the "YÖK TEZ (National Thesis Center)" database between the years 2020-2024. 182 theses that met the criteria determined in the research constituted the study group of the research. The scans were carried out on 19.12.2024.

Thesis studies analyzed with content analysis were examined under 14 categories as "thesis type, years, author gender distribution, publication language, advisor titles, universities, institutes, research methods, sampling methods, sample sizes, data collection tools, sample groups, data analysis programs/methods, focal topic and theoretical framework".

When postgraduate theses on the subject of "social responsibility" are examined; It was concluded that a total of 182 theses were conducted on "social responsibility" between 2020-2024, 142 of which were master's theses (78.02%) and 40 of which were doctoral theses (21.98%). These results regarding the density of master's theses are similar to the studies conducted in different fields (Kavgaoğlu et al., 2021; Çiçek,

2019; Kendir, 2022; Kavut, 2022; Akmeşe et al., 2018; Bal and Karakuş, 2018; Gökemli and Küçükbiyık, 2021; Geçti, 2022; Erdemir and Özgür, 2023; Ertürk and Gökçe, 2019; Aktan, 2014; Özbey and Sarıkaya, 2019; Şekeroğlu and Kızıloğlu, 2021; İnce et al., 2017; Baş et al., 2014; Hoştut et al., 2022). Soyca and Babacan (2019), in their content analysis study in different fields, found that doctoral dissertations were dominant. While Canbulat et al., (2016) examined the postgraduate theses (doctoral and master's) in Canada and the USA in the field of social sciences and concluded that doctoral theses are studied more than master's theses. Since the number of doctoral theses on "social responsibility" was very few compared to master's theses between 2020-2024, the literature on social responsibility has not been sufficiently deep and therefore has remained limited both theoretically and methodologically. Therefore, it can be said that the number of doctoral theses on social responsibility should be increased. This indicates that social responsibility research in Turkey is still emerging, with limited doctoral studies providing deep theoretical contributions. While master's programs are abundant, the scarcity of doctoral research slows scientific maturation. Increasing doctoral production would enhance both theoretical and methodological diversity in the field.

It was concluded that the 142 master's thesis studies in the field of "Social Responsibility" showed a normal distribution over the years, the most thesis studies were conducted 31 theses in 2020 (21.83%), and 2020 is followed by 2022 (21.23%) and 2024 (21.23%) with 30 theses. 40 doctoral theses were prepared between 2020-2024, the most thesis studies were done in 2022 (25.0%) with 10 studies, 2022 is followed by 2020 (22.5%) and 2021 (22.5%) with 9 theses, respectively. Hoştut et al., (2022) examined the postgraduate theses on "social responsibility" between 1985-2020 and concluded that 3 postgraduate theses were prepared between 1985-1989, 3 between 1990-1994, 18 between 1995-1999, 29 between 2000-2004, 86 between 2005-2009, 125 between 2010-2014, and 268 between 2015-2020. When the results obtained by Hoştur et al., and the results obtained in this study (a total of 182 theses between the years 2020-2024) are evaluated together, it can be said that more importance has been given to the subject of social responsibility especially since 2020, and the most important reason for this importance has been the understanding of the importance of "social, economic and environmental" awareness in the society where the pandemic (Covid-19) process is taking place, and the importance felt towards the subject of social responsibility has increased.

This trend highlights the socioeconomic impacts of global crises and the pandemic, prompting more comprehensive examination of social responsibility (SR). Post-2020 increases in master's and doctoral theses indicate that SR research now extends beyond business perspectives to social solidarity, environmental sustainability, and ethical management. Growth in 2022 reflects heightened post-COVID-19 awareness and sustainability priorities. SR is increasingly institutionalized, moving from normative to applied, multidimensional approaches. Corporate social responsibility is considered at organizational, individual, societal, and environmental levels, supporting interdisciplinary expansion. Micro-level SR studies show that perceptions of SR influence personal commitment, organizational identification, job satisfaction, and employee behaviours (Ahmad et al., 2022; Turker, 2009). High employee SR perception positively impacts organizational identification,

commitment, and psychosocial outcomes, underscoring the integration of theory and practice.

When the distribution of theses by author gender is examined, 142 master's theses, 88 were prepared by female authors (61.97%) and 54 were prepared by male authors (38.03%), of the 40 doctoral theses, 25 were prepared by female authors (62.5%) and the remaining 15 theses were prepared by male authors (37.5%), as a result. It was revealed that 62.09% of the total 182 postgraduate theses prepared on the subject of "social responsibility" between the years 2020-2024 were written by female authors (f=113). Within the framework of these results, it can be said that female authors give more importance to the subject of "social responsibility" in postgraduate theses and that female authors make more academic contributions and lead in the subject of "social responsibility" in academic terms. This result reached regarding gender is parallel to the study conducted by Hoştut et al., (2022). In various studies, male authors (Şekeroğlu and Kızıloğlu 2021; Öğün et al., 2021; Aktan, 2014) are dominant, which is why it contradicts the result reached in the research, and the reason for these differences can be seen as the fact that the studies were carried out in different fields, subjects and disciplines. These findings indicate a notable transformation in terms of gender in social responsibility research. The increasing representation of women researchers reflects growing interest in topics such as social sensitivity, ethical awareness, and sustainable development. International bibliometric studies also show a rise in publications, thematic diversity, and researcher profiles, including women's contributions (Barreiro-Gen et al., 2022; Chu et al., 2022). At the corporate level, female representation in management or board positions has been linked to enhanced CSR performance (Kumar et al., 2022). The female-dominated author profile observed in Turkey between 2020–2024 suggests that women strongly shape thematic focus and social awareness in SR research. Future studies could extend this analysis using additional methods, such as text mining or author network analysis, to further explore gender-based trends in academic contributions (Demiray & Unluoglu, 2023).

It was concluded that master's (f=121; 85.2%) and doctoral (f=31; 83.52%) theses were mostly prepared in Turkish . It has been observed that similar results have been reached in different studies in the literature (Şemin, 2020; Allahverdiev, 2020; Görkemli and Küçükbiyık, 2021; Geçti, 2022; Kavut, 2022; Kayasandık et al., 2017; İnce et al., 2017). It is thought that the use of English and Arabic was limited in the study, theses were mostly prepared in Turkish, theses on social responsibility were handled at a local (national) level, but an increase in the number of theses prepared in English could allow theses to gain an international (general) dimension. These findings indicate that most social responsibility theses in Turkey are written in Turkish, which limits their international visibility and opportunities for interdisciplinary knowledge sharing. Increasing the proportion of studies prepared in English would enhance global integration, allow broader comparisons with international research, and strengthen the contribution of Turkish social responsibility research to global discussions.

The titles of the academicians who advised the master's theses showed a normal distribution and the theses were conducted under the guidance of academicians with the titles of Assoc. Prof. Dr. (f=51; 35.92%) and Prof. Dr. (f=50; 35.21%), while academicians with the titles of Prof. Dr. (f=26; 65.0%) were the most prominent in

doctoral theses. When the postgraduate theses were evaluated together, Prof. Dr. (f=76; 41.76%) and Assoc. Prof. Dr. (f=61; 33.52%) were the most prominent. When similar studies in the literature were examined (Çavaş et al., 2020; Kavgaoglu et al., 2021; Bal and Karakuş, 2018; Özkan and Şenyurt, 2017; Aktan, 2014), it was determined that similar results were obtained. While master's theses can be carried out under the guidance of academicians with different titles, it can be said that doctoral theses are more detailed and complex and therefore require the guidance of academicians with more advanced academic titles. This shows that academic guidance in social responsibility largely depends on advisor experience. Professors dominate, especially at the doctoral level, ensuring methodological rigor. Expanding mentorship by Associate and Assistant Professors could enhance academic diversity and introduce new research perspectives in the field.

It is determined that 182 postgraduate theses prepared on the subject of "social responsibility" were prepared in 78 different universities. As a result of the examinations, it was observed that 142 master's theses were prepared in 71 different universities and the 40 doctoral theses in question were prepared in 23 different universities. The most master's theses dissertation studies, it was determined that most of the theses were prepared Bahçeşehir (f=8; 5.63%), Kocaeli (f=8; 5.63%), Marmara (f=6; 4.23%), Sakarya (f=6; 4.23%), Pamukkale (f= 4.23%), Istanbul Ticaret (f=5; 3.52%), Istanbul Aydın (f=4; 2.82%), Selçuk (f= 4; 2.82%), Başkent (f=4; 2.82%), Çanakkale Onsekiz Mart (f= 4; 2.82%), Giresun (f=4; 2.82%) were prepared universities. In doctoral dissertation studies, it was determined that most of the theses were prepared in Marmara (f= 7; 17.5%), Istanbul (f=3; 7.50%), Istanbul Okan (f=3; 7.50%) universities. When the postgraduate theses (master's and doctorate) prepared on the subject of "social responsibility" are evaluated together within the framework of these rates, it is observed that the highest number of theses are prepared in Marmara (f=13; 7.17%), university. This result is supported by Hoştut et al. (2022) in their study examining the postgraduate theses written between 1985 and 2020 on the subject of "social responsibility" with the result that the most postgraduate theses were prepared at "Marmara University". The fact that Marmara University has come to the fore in postgraduate theses "(master's and doctorate)" on "social responsibility" since 1985 can be interpreted as the importance, value and interest that Marmara University gives to the subject of "social responsibility". It can be stated that the postgraduate theses are distributed to many different universities.

This distribution trend reflects universities' institutional research culture and academic staff density. The concentration of "social responsibility" theses at institutions such as Marmara, Kocaeli, and Bahçeşehir indicates strong awareness of sustainability, ethical management, and CSR practices. Conversely, the limited number of theses at many other universities shows that the topic remains concentrated in certain metropolitan academic centers. This pattern mirrors international trends, as post-COVID-19 bibliometric studies report quantitative and thematic expansion in CSR research, with growing focus on sustainability, innovation, and corporate practice (Chu et al., 2022; Fatima & Elbanna, 2023; Rupp et al., 2024). CSR clustering in Turkish universities parallels global patterns where institutions with robust interdisciplinary capacity lead research outputs (Joshi et al., 2025; Chu et al., 2022).

It was concluded that a total of 184 postgraduate theses “(master's and doctoral)” were prepared in 12 different institutes, most of the master's theses were prepared in the “Institute of Social Sciences” (f=82; 57.75%) and “Postgraduate Education” (f=46; 32.39%), while most of the doctoral theses were prepared in the “Institute of Social Sciences” (f=25; 62.50%), 87.91% of the postgraduate theses were prepared in the Institute of Social Sciences (f=107; 58.79%) and Postgraduate Education (f=53; 29.12%), when the postgraduate theses were evaluated together, it was concluded that the most theses studies on "social responsibility" were made in the “Institute of Social Sciences” (f=107; 58.79%). Hoştut et al., (2022) concluded in their study where they examined theses prepared on the subject of "social responsibility" that postgraduate theses were mostly prepared under the roof of the “Institute of Social Sciences”. This result reached by Hoştut et al. (2022) was parallel to the result obtained in the research. In addition, it is similar to the result of the Institute of Social Sciences obtained in various studies (Bal and Karakuş, 2018; Geçti, 2022; Baş et al., 2014; Şekeroğlu and Kızıloğlu, 2021; Görkemli and Küçükbiyık, 2021; Ertürk and Gökçe, 2019; Aktan, 2014). It can be stated that the majority of postgraduate theses on Social Responsibility have been prepared under the roof of the “Institute of Social Sciences”, the effects of studies on social responsibility on society, and the subject of social responsibility have an important position in the discipline of social sciences. Academic production in social responsibility is predominantly rooted in social sciences, with limited interdisciplinary diversity. Most studies originate from organizational behavior, management, sociology, and education fields, while science, health, and communication disciplines are underrepresented. This underscores the need for future research to adopt broader theoretical frameworks and diverse methodological approaches, promoting interdisciplinary integration and enriching the field's academic and practical contributions.

It was concluded that “quantitative research method” (f=83; 58.45%) was mostly used in master's thesis studies, and “quantitative research method” (f=22; 55.00%) was mostly used in doctoral theses studies, as in master's theses studies. These results obtained regarding the use of quantitative research methods in thesis studies are parallel to the studies conducted in different fields (Ince et al., 2017; Kahyaoğlu, 2016; Eyüp, 2020; Seçer et al., 2014; Geçti, 2022; Öğün et al., 2021; Kayasandık, 2017; Şemin, 2020; Varışoğlu et al., 2013; Özkara, 2019; Kendir, 2022; Doğan and Tok, 2018; Şahin and Kaya, 2020; Çiçek, 2019; Daşdemir et al., 2018; Çavaş et al., 2020; Bağ and Çalık, 2017; Ecevit et al., 2022; Herdem and Ünal, 2018). Some of the reasons why “quantitative research methods” are preferred more in research are; it provides easy, fast and comfortable access to the sample, offers various flexibilities in the collection and interpretation of data (Selçuk et al., 2014), provides the opportunity to reach a large sample, offers the opportunity to compare between different structures or groups, and offers the opportunity to examine the relationships between variables (Kahyaoğlu, 2016). It can be said that “qualitative research methods” are preferred less because they are more in-depth, detailed and require to be conducted in natural environments (Ekiz, 2009). If qualitative research methods are chosen, they are preferred less because they require more time and effort (Doğan and Tok, 2018). International bibliometric and systematic review studies show similar methodological trends. For example, Rivo-López et al. (2025) reported the dominance of quantitative methods alongside increasing methodological diversity and qualitative approaches. Samal and Dash (2024) observed rising female researcher

participation and combined use of quantitative and content/qualitative techniques. In Turkey, 19.78% of dissertations lacked a specified method, reflecting limited methodological transparency, as also seen internationally. This prevalence of quantitative approaches between 2020–2024 highlights the focus on measurable relationships and generalizable results in social responsibility research. However, the relative scarcity of qualitative and mixed methods may restrict in-depth, contextual insights. Future studies are recommended to adopt mixed designs integrating both quantitative and qualitative approaches.

It was concluded that 14 different sampling methods were used in the examined postgraduate theses, convenience sampling (f=26; 18.05%), purposeful sampling (f=19; 11.27%), simple random sampling (f=18; 12.5%) and snowball sampling (f=5; 3.47%) methods were mostly used in master's theses, and convenience sampling (f=10; 23.81%), simple random sampling (f=8; 19.05%) and purposeful sampling (f=7; 16.65%) were mostly used in doctoral theses. It was observed that similar results were obtained in the study regarding convenience sampling (Varışoğlu et al., 2013). A notable portion of the theses examined (43.54%) did not specify the sampling method, mainly because some relied on document-based or secondary data sources, such as institutional reports, websites, or media content. In these cases, direct data collection was not conducted, reducing the need to define sampling methods. Although this limits methodological transparency, treating data units as “units of analysis” maintains reliability. The absence of specified sampling highlights methodological diversity and flexible design preferences, reflecting a shift from traditional quantitative approaches toward content- and document-based analyses. Future studies should clearly define sample selection to strengthen replicability.

It was concluded that the sample sizes in master's theses showed a normal distribution and that they mostly consisted of the sample ranges of 201-300 (f=20; 14.08%), 101-200 (f=18; 12.68%), 301-400 (f=18; 12.68%) and 401-500 (f=18; 12.68%) in master's theses and mostly consisted of the sample ranges of 301-400 (f=8; 20.0%), 1-30 (f=4; 10.0%), 201-300 (f=4; 10.0%), 401-500 (f=4; 10.0%) in doctoral theses. Medium-sized sample groups (200–400 participants) are most commonly used in graduate theses on social responsibility, balancing sufficient data with manageability. The high proportion of studies without specified sample sizes (28.57%) reflects the use of document-based or qualitative datasets. This diversity underscores the need for more systematic and transparent reporting of sample sizes in future research.

It was concluded that in master's theses, the majority of the data collection tools were survey/scale (f= 80; 51.95%), survey/scale (f= 80; 51.095%) and document review/literature review (f=49; 31.82%), and in addition, two different data collection tools were used together in twelve theses studies, in doctoral theses studies, survey/scale (f=26; 55.32%) document review/literature review (f=13; 27.66%) were used, and in seven theses studies, two different data collection tools were used together, and in 106 of the 182 theses studies, the survey/scale (52.74%) data collection tool was used. These results obtained regarding the use of survey/scale data collection tools in thesis studies are similar to studies conducted in different fields (Bağ and Çalık, 2017; Herdem and Ünal, 2018; Çiçek et al., 2019; Ecevit et al., 2022; Çavaş et al., 2020; Doğa and Tok, 2018; Şahin and Kaya, 2020; Varışoğlu et al., al., 2013; Seçer et al., 2014; Kendir, 2022; Şemin, 2020; and Küçükbiyık 2021;

Eyüp, 2020; İnce et al., 2017; Şekeroğlu and Kızıloğlu, 2021; Kahyaoğlu, 2016). Some of the reasons why the survey/scale data collection tool is preferred more are; the economic advantage of surveys, the opportunity to reach large sample groups and to be valid and reliable, being practical, receiving feedback in a short time (Yazıcıoğlu and Erdoğan 2004), the possibility of being applied in different environments (e.g. face-to-face or on the internet) (Salı, 2018), being easily accessible, offering advantages in terms of time and flexibility (Baş, 2005). These reasons can be seen as a factor in the preference of the survey/scale data collection tool. These findings indicate that quantitative approaches are significantly dominant in graduate theses on social responsibility, while qualitative methods (e.g., interviews or document analysis) remain secondary. This suggests that research trends in the field are oriented toward measurable, generalizable results, while in-depth contextual analyses are less frequently included. The shift toward digitally supported applications (e.g., online surveys, computer-assisted interviews) in data collection tools, particularly in the post-2020 period, reflects the trend toward technology-based flexibility in social research. This trend is significant because it demonstrates that research methodologies in the field of social responsibility are evolving into a more systematic, numerical, and digitally compatible structure.

It has been concluded that master's theses studies basically consist of 45 sample groups, while doctoral theses basically consist of 15 different sample groups, and that the most sample groups in master's theses studies are various documents (f=27; 19.01%), various firm/business managers, experts, professionals and employees (f=24; 16.90%), consumers (f=13; 9.15%), bank employees (f=9; 6.33%), students (f=8; 5.63%), and that the most sample groups in doctoral theses studies are various documents (f=11; 27.50%), various firm/business managers, experts, professionals and employees (f=8; 20.0%), students (f=4; 10.0%). In postgraduate theses, 27 different data analysis “programs/methods” were used, in master's theses the most used data analysis “programs/methods” were SPSS (f=64; 37.21%), content analysis (f=40; 23.26%) and descriptive analysis (f=15; 8.72%), in addition, in twenty eight master's theses two different data analysis “programs/methods” were used together, in one thesis study three data analysis programs/methods were used together, in doctoral theses the most used data analysis programs/methods were SPSS (f=21; 32.81%) and content analysis (f=13; 20.31%), in addition, in fourteen doctoral theses two different data analysis programs/methods were used together, in four theses studies three data analysis programs/methods were used together, when postgraduate theses were evaluated together, SPSS (f=85) was used in 58.8% of the studies and content analysis (f=53) methods were preferred. Similar results were obtained in the study conducted in different fields regarding the result obtained for the SPSS data analysis program in the study (Özkan and Şenyurt, 2017). It was observed that the data analysis technique was not explicitly stated in some theses, largely because many social responsibility studies adopt qualitative or theoretical designs, using document or content analysis rather than statistical methods. In such cases, the analytical approach is embedded in the text, reflecting methodological flexibility rather than a lack of rigor. This trend, particularly post-2020, indicates a preference for interpretive, contextual methods. While not specifying techniques may limit transparency, it reflects a methodological transition. Future studies should clearly specify and justify their analytical methods to enhance reproducibility and scientific transparency.

The analysis of 182 postgraduate theses on social responsibility revealed a concentration in socio-cultural, socio-economic, and business management fields (f=16; 11.27%). Theoretical foundations were primarily based on Social Responsibility, Stakeholder, Corporate Citizenship, and Sustainability theories. Master's theses tended to focus on practice-oriented topics, whereas doctoral theses emphasized theoretical and institutional approaches. This distribution highlights the interdisciplinary nature of social responsibility research and reflects the field's evolving balance between practical application and theoretical development.

This study analyzed graduate theses on social responsibility by gender, title, method, and sample group to reveal research trends and gaps. Results indicate the strong contribution of female researchers and a concentration on socio-cultural, socio-economic, and business management themes. While quantitative methods dominate, the growing use of qualitative and mixed designs reflects increasing methodological diversity and theoretical depth. Future studies should focus more on social impacts, environmental sustainability, and ethical management to strengthen interdisciplinary perspectives and deepen the literature. In this context, emphasizing comparative, cross-sectoral, and longitudinal approaches will provide richer insights into the evolving nature of social responsibility research.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1- Research should be conducted in the field of social responsibility, focusing on understudied themes such as digitalization, micro-CSR, and various sectoral applications.
- 2- Emphasis should be placed on individual and employee-level CSR studies with a micro-scale social responsibility perspective.
- 3- New theoretical approaches addressing the relationship between CSR and digital transformation, ethical leadership, and psychological factors within organizations should be developed and researched.
- 4- The rate of publications in English can be increased to integrate social responsibility research in Turkey with the international literature.
- 5- It is recommended that the number and scope of doctoral dissertations on social responsibility be increased.
- 6- In future research, it is recommended to increase the scope of studies by comparing certain features (variables) of postgraduate theses and articles prepared on social responsibility.
- 7- Data analysis techniques should be clearly specified and justified in future research. This will increase scientific reliability and comparability in social responsibility studies.
- 8- Even when using secondary or document-based data, clearly defining sampling methods is crucial for methodological transparency and replicability.
- 9- Adopting mixed methods, combining quantitative and qualitative approaches, in future studies will provide a deeper and more holistic understanding of social responsibility issues.

- 10- Increasing interdisciplinary approaches by incorporating fields such as health, communication, and science will enrich the theoretical and practical contributions of social responsibility research.

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