



The Role Of Social Responsibility Of Iraqi Sports Clubs In Improving The Sustainable Development Of Society From The Perspective Of Some Employees In The Ministry Of Youth And Sports And Sports Clubs

¹Jassim Ali Mohammed*

*Corresponding Author, E-mail: jas76sim@gmail.com

¹University of Maysan - College of Physical Education and Sports Sciences- Iraq

Abstract

The study aimed to clarify the role of social responsibility as an effective tool in measuring the role of sports clubs and their contribution to achieving sustainable development in Iraq, through building two scientific scales that measure the level of social responsibility and the fields of sustainable development within sports institutions. The two research scales were built and applied to a sample of employees from the Ministry of Youth and Sports and some of its affiliated clubs, where the research sample consisted of (170) individuals distributed as (90) individuals for scale construction, (70) individuals for applying the two scales, and (10) employees from sports clubs for the exploratory sample, representing (34%) of (500) individuals comprising the original population of the study from employees at the Ministry of Youth and Sports and some affiliated sports clubs in Baghdad and the southern governorates (Maysan, Basra, Dhi Qar). The researcher used the descriptive method with a correlational approach as it suited the nature of the study problem and its objectives. After constructing the two scales and applying them to the study sample, and through what the research results showed after statistical treatments, analysis, and discussion, the researcher inferred the existence of a significant correlation between the level of social responsibility of sports clubs and their role in achieving sustainable development in Iraq. The levels of each of the dimensions (social, ethical, educational, and economic) appeared high, whereas the environmental performance dimension was relatively low. Through the study results, the researcher reached several recommendations, the most important of which are: the necessity to enhance the environmental aspect within the social responsibility plans of sports clubs in Iraq, and to adopt the results of the social responsibility and sustainable development scales as a reference when evaluating the performance of sports clubs and clarifying their social responsibility in developing and achieving

community development in Iraq.

Keywords: Social Responsibility; Sports Clubs; Sustainable Development; Community Development; Iraq

1-1 Introduction

Sports clubs are among the most prominent community institutions that have the ability to influence various segments of society due to their direct connection with the public and effective engagement with social, cultural, economic, and educational realities. These institutions have made their presence felt in general social life through their various activities, and today sports clubs are required to expand their roles beyond athletic competition to include active contribution to addressing societal issues and promoting development.

The importance of this role stems from the fact that clubs possess human and material resources that enable them to implement activities of a developmental and social nature, making them a suitable environment for applying the principles of social responsibility in a way that enhances their status in society and makes their activities more directed towards raising awareness among the Iraqi community about the importance of preserving environmental, social, economic, and cultural issues, which represent the cornerstone of sustainable development.

It has become necessary for sports clubs to direct some of their activities towards community development and focus on raising educational, environmental, social, and economic awareness, and to take their role in improving community development, especially in light of the crises facing Iraqi society, which require the concerted efforts of all to work on improving social life through practical initiatives and activities that contribute to building and developing the personality of the Iraqi individual.

Hence, the importance of this study emerges in revealing the real role that sports clubs can play by taking their role as purposeful social institutions working as a tool to activate sustainable development in society, according to a realistic vision that seeks to link sports work with developmental social work, and provide services that can advance the reality of developing the Iraqi individual toward betterment.

1-2 Research Problem

Despite the significant development witnessed by sports clubs in Iraq in terms of administrative and organizational structure, their role in the community field remains below the desired level. Their efforts are mostly directed towards achieving sports accomplishments only, without having effective programs in areas such as community awareness, public service, environmental protection, or supporting youth initiatives. Moreover, the absence of clear strategic plans to apply the concept of social responsibility has led to weak communication between clubs and the public, reducing their impact on social development.

The problem of the study emerges from the researcher's observation that most Iraqi clubs do not have a clear vision or specific policies to activate their community role in line with the goals of sustainable development. Additionally, weak coordination between sports institutions, government agencies, and civil society organizations contributes to reducing the social impact of the clubs. Therefore, the researcher undertook this study in an attempt to answer the following question:

To what extent does the social responsibility of sports clubs in Iraq contribute to achieving sustainable development?

To answer this question, the researcher in this study delved into examining the role of sports clubs as social institutions that contribute to achieving the development of Iraqi society. It also highlights their role in incorporating educational, environmental, and social activities into their programs.

1-3 Research Objectives

- 1- To build a measure of social responsibility for Iraqi sports clubs.
- 2- To build a measure of sustainable development for sports clubs in Iraq.
- 3- To identify the reality of social responsibility of sports clubs and the extent of their contribution to achieving sustainable development for Iraqi society.

1-4 Research Hypothesis

There is a statistically significant relationship between the level of social responsibility of sports clubs and their contribution to achieving sustainable development in Iraq.

1-5 Research Fields

- 1- Human Field: Some employees in the Ministry of Youth and Sports, and administrators in some sports clubs in Baghdad and southern Iraq.
- 2- Spatial Field: Headquarters of the Ministry of Youth and Sports and some sports clubs in Baghdad and southern Iraq.
- 3- Temporal Field: For the period from 2/5/2025 to 14/8/2025.

1-6 Research Terms

- 1- Social Responsibility: It is the commitment of sports clubs to perform their duties towards the local community, through implementing programs and initiatives aimed at improving quality of life, addressing environmental, social, and cultural issues, reflecting the awareness of these institutions of their role in comprehensive development (Mohammed Abdul Kareem Al-Eisawi, 2021, p.45).
- 2- Sustainable Development: A comprehensive process that seeks to meet the needs of the present without negatively affecting the capabilities of future generations, by achieving a balance between economic, social, and environmental dimensions, ensuring the continuity of resources and justice between generations (Ahmed Jaber Ali, 2023, p.33).

2-1 Research Method

The researcher used the descriptive method with a correlational approach, as it is the most suitable for the nature of this study, which aims to describe, analyze, and find the relationship between the phenomena of social responsibility and sustainable development in Iraqi sports clubs. The researcher relies on this method because it seeks to identify the relationships and conditions between phenomena and reality and to collect information from the sample to determine the current situation of society in many variables (Faiz Gharabah, 2002, p. 120).

2-2 Research Population and Sample

The research population consists of employees of the Iraqi Ministry of Youth and Sports and some employees in the sports clubs affiliated with it in the provinces of Baghdad, Maysan, Basra, and Dhi Qar. The total population consisted of 500 individuals. A research sample of 170 individuals was selected, representing 34% of the research population. The researcher selected 70 individuals from the ministry's headquarters using the purposive method (department and division managers, their assistants, and some administrative staff in the ministry's departments) as they are directly concerned with the study topic. As for the sample of sports clubs, it consisted of (100) individuals, including (the club president, the secretary, and some members of the administrative body) from (25) clubs administratively affiliated with the Ministry of Youth and Sports, where the researcher randomly selected clubs from the studied provinces. The researcher distributed his study sample into three sections: an exploratory sample of (10) individuals, a scale-building sample consisting of (90) individuals, and an application sample consisting of (70) individuals.

Table 1. Shows the distribution of research sample members by entity and type of sample

Sample Entity	Number of Clubs	Exploratory	Constructive	Application	Total
Ministry of Youth and Sports	-	-	40	30	70
Baghdad	16	10	38	16	64
Maysan	3	-	4	8	12
Basra	3	-	4	8	12
Dhi Qar	3	-	4	8	12
Total	25	10	90	70	170

A balanced geographical distribution was achieved between the locations of the provincial clubs and their districts to ensure realistic representation of the research community.

2-3 Research methods, devices, and tools used:

- Arabic sources and references.

- The World Wide Web (Internet).
- Personal interviews.
- Questionnaire.
- One timing watch.
- Handheld calculator (Casio).
- Computer, laptop (HP).

2-4 Procedures for Building the Scales of Social Responsibility and Sustainable Development

After reviewing the theoretical framework, research literature, and some previous studies related to the subject of the study, conducting some interviews with certain administrators as a research sample, and consulting a group of experts in sports management, the researcher identified the two variables required for the study (social responsibility, sustainable development) in a manner consistent with the research problem. After that, the researcher began the field procedures for constructing the study scales.

2-4-1 Determining the Validity of the Scales' Dimensions

After identifying the dimensions of the two scales, the researcher presented them to ten administrative management experts to obtain their agreement. The social responsibility scale consisted of five dimensions: social dimension, environmental dimension, ethical dimension, economic dimension, and educational dimension. As for the sustainable development scale, the researcher identified four dimensions to present to specialists: health dimension, environmental/climate dimension, economic support dimension, and social awareness dimension. After obtaining the experts' agreement on all the dimensions of both scales at a rate of 100%, the researcher proceeded to determine their items.

2-4-2 Determining the validity of the scale items

The researcher identified the items of the Corporate Social Responsibility scale in its initial form (Appendix 1) as (30) items distributed at a rate of (6) items for each of the five dimensions, and (20) items for the Sustainable Development scale, with (5) items for each of its four dimensions. After the ten experts provided their scientific observations, the researcher analyzed the results using percentages, and a rate of (75%) or more, according to Bloom's opinion, was adopted as the criterion for accepting the domains and items, meaning approval by (8) experts out of (10). In light of this, all domains and items of both scales were accepted.

Table 2. Shows the agreement of experts on the items of the Corporate Social Responsibility scale for sports clubs in Iraq

Paragraph sequence	Suita ble	Not suita ble	Agree ment rate	Paragr aph sequen ce	Suita ble	Not suita ble	Agree ment rate	Paragra ph sequenc e	Suita ble	Not Suita ble	Agree ment rate
Social	10	0	100%	Ethical	10	0	100%	Educational	10	0	100%

1	10	0	100%	13	9	1	90%	25	10	0	100%
2	9	1	90%	14	9	1	90%	26	10	0	100%
3	10	0	100%	15	10	0	100%	27	10	0	100%
4	10	0	100%	16	10	0	100%	28	9	1	90%
5	8	2	80%	17	9	1	90%	29	10	0	100%
6	10	0	100%	18	8	2	80%	30	9	1	90%
Environmental	10	10	100%	Economic	10	0	100%				
7	10	10	100%	19	10	0	100%				
8	10	10	100%	20	10	0	100%				
9	10	10	100%	21	10	0	100%				
10	9	9	90%	22	9	1	90%				
11	9	8	90%	23	8	2	80%				
12	8	9	80%	24	9	1	90%				

Table 3. Experts' Agreement on the Items of the Sustainable Development Scale for Sports Clubs in Iraq

Agreement rate	Not suitable	Suitable	Paragraph sequence	Agreement rate	Not suitable	Suitable	Paragraph sequence
Health	10	0	100%	Economic Support	10	0	100%
1	9	1	90%	11	10	0	100%
2	9	1	90%	12	9	1	90%
3	8	2	80%	13	9	1	90%
4	9	1	90%	14	8	2	80%
5	10	0	100%	15	9	1	90%
Environmental Climate	10	0	100%	Social Awareness	10	0	100%
6	8	2	80%	16	9	1	90%
7	10	0	100%	17	9	1	90%
8	8	2	80%	18	10	0	100%
9	9	1	90%	19	10	0	100%
10	10	0	100%	20	8	2	80%

2-4-3 Scale Correction Method

The researcher used the five-point Likert scale due to its suitability with the response requirements that the researcher aims to obtain from the sample, as shown in Table (4). The scale received 100% agreement from the experts. Thus, the Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) scale contains (30) items distributed across (5) separate domains, with the total scale score ranging between (30-150). As for the Sustainable Development scale, it contains (20) items distributed across (4) separate domains, with the total scale score ranging between (20-100).

Table 4. Shows the alternatives and the response weights for the Corporate Social Responsibility and Sustainable Development scales

Direction of the scale items	Strongly agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly disagreed
Weights	1	2	3	4	5

2-5 Pilot application of the two scales

The researcher applied the two scales on a pilot sample of (10) administrators from Al-Karkh and Al-Salikh clubs on (13-9-2025) to determine the adequate time for answering the questions of the two scales, which was set at an average of (25 minutes), and to identify any obstacles that might occur when applying the scale to the construction sample.

2-6 Application of the two scales on the construction sample

After completing the procedures for constructing the two scales with their domains and items, the researcher applied them to the construction sample, which consisted of (90) individuals, during the period from (17-9-2025 to 25-10-2025). The responses of the construction sample were recorded on special forms prepared for this purpose in order to statistically process their data.

2-7 Statistical analysis of the two scales

The statistical analysis of the items of the two scales aims to determine the ability of the proposed test to distinguish between individuals with high levels of the trait or ability and those with low levels of the same trait or ability (Mohamed Nasr Eldin Rizwan, 2006, p. 244). This was accomplished using the following two methods:

First: Discriminatory Power (Extreme Groups)

Halim Farag states: “To verify the discriminatory power of items in rating scales with multiple-choice alternatives, the criterion for accepting the discrimination is that the t-test value is significant between the scores of the highest and lowest extreme groups of the construction sample” (Halim Farag Abu Zaid, 2011, p. 84). Based on this, the researcher applied both forms of the scales to a statistical analysis sample of 90 individuals for their construction. Using the extreme groups method, the results of the two scale questionnaires were arranged in descending order, then 27% of the scores were extracted for both the highest and lowest groups, totaling 24 individuals In each group, their results were processed using the (t) test for independent samples for each scale separately, and all items of both scales appeared to be distinctive, and no item from the two scales was deleted in this procedure.

Second: Internal Consistency

The internal consistency method provides a homogeneous measure in its items, and it is calculated by computing the correlation coefficient between the item and the total score of the scale, as it provides evidence of the homogeneity of the items. The simple correlation coefficient (Pearson) was used to achieve this, as shown in Table (5) and Table (5).

Table 5. Internal consistency coefficient for the items of the Corporate Social Responsibility Scale for sports clubs

Paragraph	Correlation coefficient	Significance level sig	Paragraph	Correlation coefficient	Significance level sig
1	0.748	0.000	16	0.590	0.000
2	0.621	0.001	17	0.660	0.000
3	0.587	0.000	18	0.765	0.000
4	0.664	0.000	19	0.528	0.000
5	0.709	0.000	20	0.711	0.000
6	0.596	0.001	21	0.692	0.000
7	0.673	0.000	22	0.649	0.000
8	0.528	0.002	23	0.544	0.001
9	0.642	0.000	24	0.655	0.000
10	0.571	0.001	25	0.581	0.000
11	0.725	0.000	26	0.759	0.001
12	0.553	0.002	27	0.539	0.000
13	0.599	0.000	28	0.678	0.000
14	0.634	0.000	29	0.742	0.000
15	0.753	0.001	30	0.683	0.002

Table 6. Internal consistency coefficient for the items of the sustainable development scale for sports clubs

Paragraph	Correlation coefficient	Significance level sig	Paragraph	Correlation coefficient	Significance level sig
1	0.764	0.000	11	0.682	0.000
2	0.637	0.002	12	0.559	0.002
3	0.585	0.001	13	0.603	0.000
4	0.616	0.000	14	0.635	0.000
5	0.686	0.000	15	0.741	0.000
6	0.605	0.000	16	0.577	0.002
7	0.687	0.001	17	0.654	0.000
8	0.517	0.000	18	0.762	0.000
9	0.638	0.000	19	0.548	0.001
10	0.576	0.000	20	0.719	0.000

Table (6) shows the consistency of all the scale items as they were below the significance level (0.05).

The results of Tables (5) and (6) show that the items of the two scales are consistent with the total score for both scales, as they achieved a significant correlation at the significance level of (0.05) and there are no correlations less than (0.2). Wahib Majid

points out that "the Stanine and Hopkins criterion for accepting the consistency of an item is determined if the correlation coefficient between the item and the total score of the scale is significant and greater than (0.20)" (Wahib Majid Al-Kubaisi, 2010, p.47).

2-8 Psychometric Properties of the Two Scales

2-8-1 Validity of the Two Scales:

The validity of the two scales represents one of the important means for judging the suitability of the scales and includes two important factors (Zakaria Muhammad Al-Zaher et al., 1999, p. 132):

- 1- The purpose of the test.
- 2- The category or group to which the test is applied.

Content Validity

This type of validity depends on whether we are actually measuring the thing we intended to measure. It is defined as "the degree to which a test measures what it is designed to measure in society" (Aql, et al., 2009, p.44). The content validity of the two measures was verified by presenting their items to a group of experts and specialists in sports management to ensure the appropriateness of their items and their suitability for measurement.

2-8-2 Reliability

Fariq Majdoub mentions "that the indicator of internal consistency reliability is the alpha coefficient, which is also a correlation coefficient. The alpha coefficient indicates the extent to which the items are positively correlated with each other in the scale, and the higher the correlation between the items, the higher the alpha coefficient" (Farouk Majdoub, 2003, p.164).

Cronbach's alpha method is considered one of the most accurate methods for verifying the reliability of paper-and-pencil scales. In this procedure, the researcher relied on the scores of their application in the previous procedure on the construction sample of (90) individuals, processing them statistically using the Cronbach's alpha equation for each measure, as shown in Table (7).

Table 7. Shows the results of the study's scale reliability coefficient

No.	The two measures	Cronbach's alpha coefficient	score (Sig.)	Interpreted variance	observations
1	Corporate Social Responsibility	0.873	0.000	0.712	High and Acceptable
2	Sustainable Development	0.891	0.000	0.745	High and Acceptable

The results of Table (7) show that the two scales achieved high reliability coefficients with more than 50% of the variance explained.

2-9 Final application of the two scales

After completing all the procedures and scientific steps to construct the two scales, the researcher applied the two scales for the period from (9-12-2025 to 31-12-2025) to the application sample, which consisted of (70) administrative staff at their workplaces in the Ministry of Youth and Sports and among administrative staff of sports clubs. The respondents were assured that the information and data were solely for scientific research purposes and would be handled with complete confidentiality. Then the researcher collected the scales and processed them using special forms in preparation for statistical analysis with the aim of determining their overall level on each of the scales, in each field or dimension, and for each item, and then establishing the correlation relationship between the results of the two scales.

2-10 Statistical tools:

The study results were processed electronically using the Statistical Package for the Social Sciences (SPSS), version (24).

3- Presentation and Discussion of Results

Here, the researcher presents the results reached by the study, analyzes them, and discusses them in light of the approved study criterion, interpreting them based on similar theoretical literature and studies, and in a manner consistent with the sports environment in Iraq.

3-1 The Approved Study Criterion for Interpreting Results

The researcher relied on the five-point Likert scale as a criterion for measuring the responses of the study sample individuals, and the rating levels for the dimensions of the two scales were determined according to the following ranges:

Table 8. Criterion for Interpreting Arithmetic Means According to the Five-Point Likert Scale

No.	The arithmetic mean is the	Level of appreciation
1	3.40 and above	High
2	2.60 – 3.39	Average
3	Below 2.59	Low

The researcher adopted this criterion because it is the most common and widely used in educational and sports studies in Iraq, and because it provides an objective measure for judging the level of social responsibility and the level of achieving sustainable development in sports clubs.

3-2 Presentation of the results of the social responsibility scale

Table 9. Results of the social responsibility scale for sports clubs

No.	Arithmetic Mean	Dimensions	Standard Deviation	Criteria Level
1	Social	3.71	0.64	High
2	Environmental	3.12	0.71	Average
3	Ethical	3.83	0.58	High
4	Economic	2.94	0.76	Average
5	Educational and Cultural	3.68	0.62	High
Total	3.46	0.60	High	

3-2-1 Discussion of the results of the Corporate Social Responsibility scale

It appears from the results of Table (9) that the overall level of the Corporate Social Responsibility scale was high, which proves that sports clubs in Iraq have the capabilities to fulfill their social responsibility, and that these capabilities are among the priorities of work in their administrations. This is what the results of each of the following dimensions showed:

1- Social dimension: Considering the standard of the study used, the sample results showed that the social dimension scored at a high level, which indicates the clubs' attention to their role towards society. The researcher attributes this to the harmonious relationship between sports clubs and their audience in Iraq, as the audience views the club as a social institution that goes beyond its sports function. This was pointed out by Ahmed Al-Shammari (Ahmed Al-Shammari, 2022, p.78), stating that Iraqi sports institutions play a clear social role in supporting youth groups and strengthening national belonging. Additionally, Muhammad Abdullah (Muhammad Abdullah, 2021, p.112) affirms that mass clubs, in particular, have a direct social impact due to their daily interaction with the public. The researcher believes that this high level results from the high awareness of sports administrations regarding the importance of social responsibility in enhancing the institutional stability of the sports club.

2- The environmental dimension: The study's findings showed that the environmental dimension came at a Average level of appreciation, which confirms that sports clubs play their role in environmental preservation, but in a fluctuating and unorganized manner. The researcher believes that this is due to the fact that official instructions and laws related to environmental standards within clubs are limited. This level aligns with what Ali Hameed (Ali Hameed, 2022, p. 94) indicated, that environmental culture in Iraqi sports institutions is still developing and needs the integration of sustainability concepts into operational plans. From the researcher's perspective, the environmental dimension received a Average level because sports clubs' attention to the environmental aspect is often considered secondary compared to attention to the sports, technical, and financial aspects.

3- The ethical dimension: The results show that the ethical dimension obtained the highest arithmetic mean, which indicates that the study sample confirms the sports clubs' commitment to values of integrity, transparency, and respect for regulations and laws that would enhance equality and justice among their staff. This is confirmed by Karim Hussein (Karim Hussein, 2022, p. 56) The Iraqi sports environment has witnessed a noticeable improvement in behavioral aspects as a result of increased media and public supervision. The researcher believes that the high level of this dimension is due to the sports administrations' awareness that the ethical commitment of sports clubs represents a decisive factor in maintaining the trust of their fans.

4-The Economic Dimension: The results show that the economic dimension came at a Average level, reflecting the efforts of sports club administrations to utilize their economic resources, although these efforts do not reach the level of long-term strategic planning, with weak attention to investment aspects. This is confirmed by Salem Al-Obaidi (Salem Al-Obaidi, 2021, p.133), who stated that the limited government funding and weak investment partnerships represent an obstacle to developing the financial performance of clubs.

The researcher believes that the absence of investment planning and the weakness of the financial management strategy reduce the ability of sports clubs to expand their interests in the social aspect.

5- Educational and Cultural Dimension: The results of the study sample in the educational and cultural dimension achieved a high level, which indicates the contribution of sports clubs in spreading sports culture and promoting the values of sports education such as discipline, respect for the competitor, fair play culture, and other principles and values of sports education. This result was consistent with what Haider Jabbar affirmed (Haider Jabbar, 2022, p.101) that sports in Iraq perform an important educational function in building the personality of youth and developing the spirit of teamwork. The researcher believes that the educational and cultural dimension is a natural extension of the sports club's function and a fundamental focus of its work; therefore, its results came at a high level.

Presentation of the Results of the Sustainable Development Scale

Table 10. Results of the Sustainable Development Scale for Sports Clubs

Sequence	Arithmetic Mean	Dimensions	Standard Deviation	Criteria Level
1	Health	3.18	0.69	Average
2	Environmental Climate	3.05	0.74	Average
3	Economic Support	2.89	0.77	Average
4	Social Awareness	3.62	0.63	High
Total	3.19	0.68	Average	

3-3-1 Discussion of the Results of the Sustainable Development Scale
It appears from the results in Table (10) that the overall level of the Sustainable Development Scale came at a medium level, which indicates that the plans of sports clubs support positive aspects for achieving development, although these aspects have not yet reached the level of integrated strategic planning.

1- Health: The study results showed that the health dimension came at a medium level, which indicates that sports clubs are relatively concerned with health aspects related to sports activities, such as providing health awareness and primary medical follow-up. However, their interest does not reach the level of the ambitions of sustainable institutional programs. The researcher believes that Iraqi clubs generally focus on the competitive sports aspect and preparing teams for their various games, while not paying sufficient attention to community health programs, such as health awareness campaigns or sports-for-all programs.

This is what Muhammad Abdullah (Muhammad Abdullah, 2021, p.141) indicated, that health planning in Iraqi clubs is more linked to the sports season than to a long-term developmental vision. This is confirmed by Haidar Jabbar (Haidar Jabbar, 2022, p.118), who stated that the health role of sports clubs in Iraq is still practiced randomly, without being integrated into a clear developmental strategy.

The researcher believes that if sports clubs want to develop the health aspect, they must engage in partnerships with health institutions and organizations, and include continuous programs in their plans, rather than limiting them to competition periods only.

2- Environmental Climate: The results of the study sample in this dimension achieved an average level, which reflects the presence of some activities in sports clubs to preserve the environment and raise environmental awareness, such as caring for playgrounds and sports facilities, paying attention to cleanliness, or rationalizing consumption. However, these efforts lack being systematic work and are limited only to intermittent individual initiatives. These results are consistent with what Ali Hamid (Ali Hamid, 2022, p.102) concluded, that the concept of environmental sustainability in sports institutions is still new and requires actual integration into internal policies. From the researcher's perspective, and considering the results of this dimension and the environmental dimension in the social responsibility scale, it is confirmed that environmental awareness exists in sports clubs, but it needs to become a permanent work program and not be limited to temporary individual practices.

3- Economic Support: The results of the sample responses showed that after economic support, it was at a medium level closer to low, which reflects the existence of clear problems in sports clubs in achieving the required financial stability. The researcher believes that this result indicates that sports clubs rely heavily on government support for their financing, with few alternative financial sources, such as corporate sponsorship or sports investment in their facilities and players. This is confirmed by Salem Al-Obaidi (Salem Al-Obaidi, 2021, p.149), who states that the weakness of investment planning is one of the most prominent obstacles to sustainable development in the Iraqi sports sector. Karim Hussein (Karim Hussein, 2022, p.73) also confirms that the absence of professional financial management reduces the clubs' ability to implement long-term developmental projects.

This is why the researcher considers that the stability or instability of the economic aspect is the cornerstone for the stability or instability of the other dimensions of the study; sports clubs cannot effectively implement their health, environmental, or social programs without a stable financial situation.

4- Social Awareness : The responses of the research sample regarding social awareness reached a high level, showing the conscious contribution of sports clubs to both the sports and non-sports community through their organization and participation in various social activities. These activities are capable of strengthening positive social values and fostering their sense of belonging. From the researcher's perspective, the high results of social awareness in the responses of the study sample reflect that these activities are compatible with the customs, traditions, and values of Iraqi society and demonstrate the popular nature of sports clubs. The sports audience represents a tool for spreading social awareness, which aligns with what Muhammad Abdullah states (Muhammad Abdullah, 2021, p.126) that sports clubs in Iraq are among the most influential institutions in shaping the awareness of youth, and that sports activities represent an effective tool for enhancing social awareness.

3-4 Discussion of the results of the relationship between the two scales: social responsibility and sustainable development

Table 11. Shows the correlation coefficient (Pearson) between the two scales: social responsibility and sustainable development

No.	Scale	Correlation coefficient R	Degree (Sig)	Type of relationship
1	Social responsibility	0.68	0.000	Significant
2	Sustainable development			

The research results showed a high correlation (0.68) between the results of the Corporate Social Responsibility and Sustainable Development measures at a significance level of (0.05), which confirms that the two research variables are positively correlated. This proves the research hypothesis.

The researcher, through reviewing theoretical studies and literature related to the study phenomena, believes that corporate social responsibility is the natural extension toward sustainable development within institutions in general and sports clubs in particular. When the management of any institution adopts genuine social, ethical, and environmental practices in its activities, it lays the practical foundation for achieving sustainability. Ahmed Al-Shammari noted (Ahmed Al-Shammari, 2022, p. 171) that activating corporate social responsibility leads to enhancing institutional stability, which is one of the indicators of sustainable development. This is confirmed by Mohamed Abdullah (Mohamed Abdullah, 2021, p. 131), who stated that sports institutions involved in serving the community are more capable of continuity and achieving a balance between their sports and social objectives.

It appears from the study results, in comparison with the established benchmark, that the dimensions that achieved high levels on the corporate social responsibility scale (social, ethical, educational, and cultural) correspond to a high level in the social awareness dimension of the sustainable development scale. This indicates the existence of a real correlation between the community activities practiced by sports clubs and the high level of social sustainability. Meanwhile, the two dimensions (environmental, economic), which scored at a medium level on the corporate social responsibility scale, corresponded in their levels to the two dimensions of sustainable development (environmental climate, economic support). This confirms the research hypothesis regarding the direct relationship and the proportion of corporate social responsibility's contribution to community development.

The researcher believes that these results are logical, as sustainable development cannot be achieved with a weak role of corporate social responsibility. Developing corporate social responsibility programs within sports clubs enhances sustainability in the community. This is indeed what Karim Hussein (Karim Hussein, 2022, p. 81) pointed out: that institutions adopting a corporate social responsibility approach achieve a greater ability to adapt to economic and social changes, which is considered the essence of sustainable development.

4- Conclusions and Recommendations

Through the research results, statistical data analysis, and their discussion, the researcher reached the following conclusions and recommendations:

4-1 Conclusions

Through the research results, statistical data analysis, and discussion, the researcher reached the following conclusions:

- 1- Iraqi sports clubs have a good awareness of the concept of social responsibility, particularly in social and educational aspects.
- 2- There is a clear positive impact of social responsibility in achieving sustainable development, especially in the economic and social aspects.
- 3- Environmental aspects need broader activation within the plans of sports clubs, which indicates the weakness of environmental awareness within the sports environment.
- 4- Social responsibility of sports clubs contributes significantly to achieving sustainable development in Iraqi society.

4-2 Recommendations

- 1- The necessity of paying attention to the concept of social responsibility within the annual work plans of Iraqi sports clubs.
- 2- Activating the environmental aspect in sports clubs through awareness programs and cooperation with health and environmental organizations in Iraq.

- 3- Involving clubs in achieving sustainable development goals at the provincial level through community activities.
- 4- Adopting social responsibility and sustainable development as two tools to evaluate performance in sports institutions.
- 5- Conducting future studies addressing the relationship between social responsibility and other concepts in sports institutions.

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Appendix (1)

Definition of Social Responsibility: It is the commitment of sports clubs to perform their duties toward the local community through implementing programs and initiatives that aim to improve the quality of life, address environmental, social, and cultural issues, reflecting the awareness of these institutions of their role in comprehensive development.

The Measure of Social Responsibility of Sports Clubs in Iraq					
First dimension: Social		Valid	Invalid	Needs modification	Proposed modification
1	Sports clubs participate through their volunteer teams in community awareness campaigns.				
2	Sports clubs organize joint awareness events with civil society organizations to support youth and the local community.				
3	The clubs contribute through their sports and social activities to the integration of people with special needs with the community.				
4	Sports clubs urge their cadres and players to participate in volunteer and humanitarian campaigns.				
5	Sports clubs interact humanly and financially with national events. and religious.				
6	The club encourages its fans to actively participate in local and social activities.				
Second dimension: Environmental		Valid	Invalid	Needs modification	Proposed modification
7	Sports clubs take into account environmental standards in their sports activities.				
8	The clubs organize campaigns to afforest and provide green spaces within their facilities.				
9	Sports clubs contribute to waste reduction campaigns inside and outside their facilities.				
10	The club is working to rationalize energy consumption and raise awareness in this direction.				
11	Sports clubs participate in spreading the culture of environmental protection.				
12	The clubs provide all the requirements and service facilities for cleanliness in their headquarters.				
Third dimension: Ethical		Valid	Invalid	Needs modification	Proposed modification
13	The administrations of sports clubs adopt the principle of transparency and clarity in their dealings with their fans.				
14	Sports clubs are obliged to take into account the moral and educational aspects of society in their activities.				
15	The administrations of sports clubs seek to achieve justice and equality in dealing with their cadres.				
16	The employees of the sports club shall adhere to				

	objective professional conduct in accordance with ethical and behavioral standards.				
17	The decisions of the sports clubs' management are characterized by integrity and impartiality in order to ensure the achievement of job satisfaction for employees.				
18	The sports club promotes the values of belonging and citizenship for its employees by holding regular awareness courses.				
Fourth dimension: Economic		Valid	Invalid	Needs modification	Proposed modification
19	Sports clubs employ their financial and economic resources to improve community service.				
20	Sports clubs seek to develop their facilities economically in line with the welfare of their fans.				
21	Sports clubs adopt sustainable financial strategies to improve their vital services and facilities.				
22	Sports clubs open their facilities for volunteer campaigns and seminars that contribute to improving the economic projects of the community.				
23	Sports clubs provide free digital services and electronic broadcasting to their fans.				
24	Sports clubs conduct donation campaigns to support sports and social activities				
Fifth dimension: Educational and Cultural		Valid	Invalid	Needs modification	Proposed modification
25	Sports clubs organize educational workshops to spread sports behavior and fair play.				
26	Sports clubs encourage their players to adhere to the ethical values of the community.				
27	Sports clubs adopt sports awareness activities for school students.				
28	Sports clubs support the academic excellence of athletes financially and morally.				
29	Sports clubs promote the concepts of collaboration, discipline and a love of sharing for their staff.				
30	Sports clubs hold sports seminars to reject racism and respect the opponent.				

Definition of Sustainable Development: A comprehensive process that seeks to meet the needs of the present without negatively affecting the capabilities of future generations, by achieving a balance between economic, social, and environmental dimensions, and ensuring the continuity of resources and justice between generations.

The Measure of Social Responsibility of Sports Clubs in Iraq					
First dimension: Economic Support		Valid	Invalid	Needs modification	Proposed modification

1	Sports clubs include in their administrative plans the provision of job opportunities for young people.				
2	Clubs rely on diverse financial resources to ensure continuity in providing their services to the community.				
3	Sports clubs offer free professional training programs to those in need among their fans.				
4	Sports clubs encourage investment in sports through awareness campaigns.				
5	Sports clubs open their halls and fields for free or at symbolic prices to promote sports culture.				
Second dimension: Environmental Climate		Valid	Invalid	Needs modification	Proposed modification
6	Sports clubs preserve natural resource consumption in their activities.				
7	Sports clubs rely on a program and work plan to transition to renewable energy.				
8	Sports clubs participate in cleanliness campaigns and waste collection after holding their activities.				
9	Sports clubs commit to national environmental standards in their facilities.				
10	Sports clubs enhance proper environmental behavior and the preservation of natural resources for their members and the community.				
The third dimension: social awareness		Valid	Invalid	Needs modification	Proposed modification
11	Sports clubs contribute to enhancing and strengthening the social fabric of their members.				
12	Sports clubs carry out various activities to spread sports culture.				
13	The management of sports clubs operates on the principle of equal rights between genders among their players.				
14	Sports clubs seek to involve youth in participating in sports activities and reducing community violence.				
15	. Sports clubs emphasize in their activities adding events that enhance the sense of national belonging				
Fourth Dimension: Health		Valid	Invalid	Needs modification	Proposed modification
16	Sports clubs take into account providing health and safety guidance in their activities				
17	Sports clubs, in coordination with health centers, organize blood donation campaigns.				
18	Sports clubs adopt offering services and programs				

	for community physical fitness.				
19	Sports clubs regularly monitor the health status of players and provide financial and moral support for treatment.				
20	Sports clubs encourage their staff and audience to participate in disease prevention campaigns.				