

# The Impact of Supply Chain Disclosure on Supplier Sustainability: A Qualitative Analysis in the Textile Industry

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## Abstract

This study aims to investigate the impact of supply chain disclosure on supplier sustainability. After the unfortunate Rana Plaza event in Bangladesh and due to increasing stakeholder pressure, global textile and apparel retailers started to share more information about how they ensure sustainability in their supply chains. One of these practices is publicly sharing supplier lists, which include supplier information such as location, employee size and gender, product type and audit reports. Extant research has focused on understanding the impact of sharing supplier lists on customer buying behavior and buying firm profitability; however, the effect on supplier sustainability has not been investigated yet. This is surprising considering that the ultimate purpose of supply chain disclosure is improving supply chain sustainability. To investigate this research gap, in this study a qualitative approach is adopted, and interviews with Turkish textile firms listed in such lists are conducted. Exploratory analyses illustrate varying effects on supplier sustainability behavior as well as the barriers and enablers for these effects. Implications for theory and practice are discussed.

## Keywords

Supply chain disclosure, sustainability, textile, case study

## Biography

**Melek Akın Ateş, Ph.D.** is currently Assistant Professor of Purchasing & Supply Management at Sabanci Business School, Sabanci University. She holds undergraduate degrees in Business Administration and International Trade and Finance from Izmir University of Economics, Turkey where she graduated as the Valedictorian. Afterwards, she pursued a masters in Supply Chain Management at Rotterdam School of Management (RSM), Erasmus University, in the Netherlands. She got her PhD from RSM on the topic of "Purchasing and supply management at the purchase category level: Strategy, structure and performance". Her main research areas are strategic purchasing, buyer-supplier relationships, sustainable sourcing, purchasing and innovation, and supply chain complexity. She was awarded the Best Student Paper Prize at the Decision Sciences Conference in 2011, the Chris Voss Highly Commended Award at the EurOMA/POM World Conference in 2012, and was a finalist for Chan Hahn Best Paper Award at the Academy of Management Conference in 2014. Her work has appeared in Journal of Supply Chain Management (JSCM), Journal of Purchasing & Supply Management (JPSM), International Journal of Operations and Production Management (IJOPM), and International Journal of Production Research (IJPR). She was a recipient of the JPSM Best Reviewer Award in 2017 and she is currently one of the Guest Editors of the IPSERA 2021 Conference Special Issue of JPSM. Melek Akın Ateş currently is the Academic Director of the Undergraduate Program in Management at Sabanci Business School, Sabanci University, and is also the Secretary General at the European Decision Sciences Institute (EDSI) since 2021.