Good Governance and Levies Compliance: A Country Residents' Perception Paradigm

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DOI: 10.56201/ijssmr.v10.no10.2024.pg97.114

Abstract

The paper examined the effect of good governance on residents' levies compliance in Bayelsa State, Nigeria. Descriptive survey design was adopted to guide the research with a population of Nigerian Taxpayers resident in Bayelsa State, South-South Region. A sample size of 432 was purposively selected. Primary data were obtained through questionnaire and analyzed descriptively and inferentially. The analytical results of the hypotheses revealed the following findings. There is a weak significant influence of the exercise of rule of law on residents' levies compliance. Transparency and accountability; Responsiveness by the government; Equity and all-inclusive government; Consensus orientation; and Effectiveness and efficiency have significant influence on residents' levies compliance in Bayelsa State. The study concludes that good governance by government representatives at all level has significant influence on the pattern of residents' levies payment in Nigeria. Based on the findings of the survey, the following recommendations are made: Government should increase the practice of rule of law in order to encourage more residents' levies compliance or payment. Government should be: more transparent and accountable; Responsive in their representation; equitable and practice all-inclusive governance; effective and efficient in order to encourage more residents' levies compliance. There should be consensus orientation of the citizens and other residents by governance in order to upscale more voluntary levies payment or compliance in Nigeria.

Keywords: Transparency and accountability; Responsiveness; Equity and all-inclusive; Consensus orientation

1.1 Introduction

Levies encompass taxes, fines and penalties in government setting. The common objectives of the imposition of levies are to generate revenue that will enable the government to provide pure public goods which will be beneficial to the citizens of a local government or state or nation, redistribute income and wealth, promote social and economic welfare, economic stability and regulation (legislative and regulatory controls imposed on producers to protect customers, employees and the general public) (ICAN, 2009; Ojo, 2014; Adam, 2015; Ogoun & Atagboro, 2019, 2020, 2021).

These government responsibilities are effectively and efficiently carried out by generating revenue through the imposition of levies on individuals and corporations in order to ensure social, political and economic policies. Government's complete exercise of rule of law, transparency, responsiveness, consensus orientation, equity and inclusiveness, effectiveness and efficiency, accountability and participation are perceived to be components that may

trigger individuals' and corporations' levies compliance and are termed the pillars of successful good governance (Prince *et al,* 2013). Efficient and effective governance elevate business and organisational sustainability and profitability and build a positive reputation and healthy culture within and outside the organisation. Organizations reap the rewards of good governance when their leaders and managers are competent everywhere it matters for the company's and the economy's success and growth, investors have faith in the company's future, and the stock price rises (Kaufmann *et al* 2007; Akpo, 2009).

Statement of the Problem

There are a lot of research endeavour on good governance and tax compliance in Nigeria but few components of the concepts are researched. That is, some authors dwell on the different types of taxes without considering other classes of levies. Some focused-on transparency and accountability as the components of good governance as against tax compliance. Others included transparency, accountability, effectiveness and efficiency and responsibility as the main dimensions to proxy residents' tax compliance. Most of their works used different study target population, sample size, research design, sampling techniques, statistical tools for analysis of data, sources of data and model specification. For instance, Prince, Emmanuel and Famous (2013) examined the nexus between government accountability and voluntary tax compliance; Fakile and Uwuigbe (2013) investigated the effects of strategic tax behaviours on corporate governance; James, Zaimah and Kamil (2011) studied public governance quality and tax compliance behaviour in Nigeria: The present study investigates the moderating effects of financial situation and risk choice on the relationship between certain variables. In their study, Salawu and Adedeji (2017) investigated the influence of corporate governance on the tax planning strategies employed by non-financial listed firms in Nigeria over the period from 2004 to 2014. A study conducted by Arie (2017) examined the relationship between firm characteristics, corporate governance, and the practice of aggressive tax evasion.

This current study defers from others as it is premised on the apparent lack of consensus in the benchmarking of good governance between the governed and government. This is evidenced in citizens' countering of the good governance reporting indices from government as mere propaganda (which is indicative of the non-acceptance of the reported indices of good governance by the agencies of government), and also government's rejection of third-party reporting by both local and international agencies. This apparent divide is quite informative and significant, which necessitates the interrogation of perception of good governance matrix from residents' perspective. Further, residents are used as opposed to citizens because not all country residents are citizens, whereas all who are taxable age are expected to comply. The relevance of this study thus, is founded on the idea that government's optimal revenue production is a function of citizens' (residents') levies/tax compliance, where taxing is deployed as the principal source of public income given its rich timed- proven tradition. In order to contribute to the ongoing discussion on tax compliance and good governance, we conducted this study. In other words, this current study seeks to address the question of; what extent does a country's residents' perception of good governance determine the level of voluntary levies compliance?

Research Hypotheses

The research hypotheses of the study that are subject to test are stated in their null form as follows:

Ho1. Complete exercise of the rule of law by government in a country cannot trigger voluntary levies compliance

Ho2. There is no significant link between transparency and accountability and residents' levies compliance

Ho3. There is no significant nexus between responsiveness and levies compliance in a given country

Ho4. Equity and inclusiveness have no significant correlation with residents' levies compliance

Ho5. There is no imperative connection between consensus orientation of governance and residents' levies compliance

Ho6. Effectiveness and efficiency of corporate governance will not elicit residents' levies compliance

Aim and Objectives of the Study

The broad-spectrum of the study is to inquire whether effective and efficient governance of residents' representatives will ignite their voluntary levies compliance in a given country.

2.   Literature Review
2.1   Conceptual Review
2.1.1   Good Governance

Measures of good governance focus on whether or not governmental entities adhere to the rule of law, prevent and punish wrongdoing, and protect and advance individual liberties and fundamental freedoms. Responsibility, accountability, awareness, objectivity, and openness are the five pillars upon which the practise of good corporate governance rests. The administrative, political, and economic bases of authority. Economic governance refers to the systems put in place to regulate a country's economic activity and interconnections. The implications for concerns of equity, poverty, and quality of life are obvious. The efficacy and accountability of a government may be gauged by its level of public engagement, adherence to the rule of law, openness, responsiveness, consensus orientation, equity, and inclusion. Governance is a contentious issue in the business world since there are many perspectives on how corporations should handle governance (Rotberg, 2014).

2.1.1.1 Rule of Law

Good Governance relies on a system of law and order. To rule effectively, you need laws that are applied consistently and fairly. Both as a normative standard used by members of society to show their acceptance to this concept and as a collection of activities that facilitate the law's mediating function between different societal stakeholders, the rule of law may be defined in two ways (UNESCO, 2005). Indeed, the prevalence of arbitrariness and contempt for the rule of law is a clear indication of the absence of Good Governance. The rule of law is most effectively conceptualized as a utopian ideal in which rules are uniformly and fairly enforced throughout all societal domains. The media, once again, plays an important role in the enforcement of the rule of law, as it is the sector of society best able to promote vigilance towards the rule of law through encouraging investigative journalism and advocating for the openness of all the institutions that are important in making sure the rule of law is respected in the society. The rule of law, for example, is a system of checks and balances designed to limit the abuse of authority that citizens must be aware of (Dunu, 2013).

2.1.1.2 Transparency and Accountability

A common definition of transparency is the ease with which those on the outside may see and judge the decisions made by those on the inside of an organization. Transparency exists so that people, institutions, governments, and markets may all be held to account for their actions and results. According to Bellver and Kaufmann (2005), transparency is "the practice of conducting government so that information about its activities, both substantive and procedural, is made available to and generally understood by members of society, within reasonable bounds protecting security and privacy." Transparency is a fundamental tenet of Good Governance and is usually regarded as one of its most important components. We discovered that transparency is linked to accountability because it enables people to hold their government and institutions to account for their actions and policies, which in turn helps to lessen corruption. Since transparency entails information being shared openly, providing sufficient information is the foundation of transparency (Olutokun & Seteolu, 2001; Jibo, 2003; Olaiya et al, 2013).

Good governance necessitates accountability among its many requirements. Accountability to the public and to institutional stakeholders is a responsibility shared by not just government institutions but also the corporate sector and civil society groups. Whether a person's decisions and actions are internal or external to an institution determines to whom they are answerable. In most cases, citizens may expect their government to answer to them. The term "accountability" refers to the duty placed on citizens to evaluate the efficiency with which public officials carry out their duties. "Corporate social responsibility" (CSR) is "the process by which businesses, organizations, and individuals in the private sector, the government, and civil society accept responsibility for their decisions and actions" (Jobarteh, 2012). Accountability's strength lies in its capacity to limit State abuse of power, which in turn greatly diminishes the likelihood of corruption in the democracy. Internal and external mechanisms of control have a role in accountability (Dunu, 2013).

2.1.1.3 Responsiveness

Good governance requires that institutions and processes try to serve all stakeholders within a reasonable timeframe, by responding to the grievances, needs and aspirations of the citizens (Dunu, 2013).

2.1.1.4 Equity and Inclusiveness

Equity is commonly associated with equality in outcomes. Accessible, accountable, and responsive institutions, policies, procedures, and services that take into account gender and other aspects of personal identity are hallmarks of inclusive governance. The need to incorporate individuals and civil society in decision-making is only one example of the emphasis on governance concepts like participation, openness, and accountability that has emerged in recent years. The goal of inclusion is to create a group dynamic in which all members feel safe, respected, and appreciated. To promote equity, measures must be taken to guarantee that everyone, especially those who are disadvantaged, has equal access to the resources and policies that will help them succeed. Equity is the process of ensuring that methods and programs are unbiased, fair and deliver equal achievable outcomes for every individual. Making everyone feel like they belong at work is the goal of inclusion.

2.1.1.5 Consensus Orientation

In any given culture, several players play a role, and numerous perspectives are held. Good Governance needs mediation of the many interests in society to create a wide agreement in

society on what is in the best interest of the whole community and how this may be achieved. It also necessitates a wide and long-term view on what constitutes sustainable human development and the means by which its aims may be attained. Only familiarity with the social, cultural, and historical background of a group may lead to such an outcome (Ojete, 2008).

2.1.1.6 Effectiveness and Efficiency

Maintaining social harmony requires working to ensure that everyone in a society feels included and valued. This needs all groups, particularly the most vulnerable, to have opportunity to enhance and/or preserve their well-being. For governance to be considered "good," it must lead to outcomes that serve the public interest and make efficient use of available resources. Efficiency in the framework of Good Governance extends to the conservation and wise application of all natural resources. When state institutions are operating at their highest levels of efficiency and effectiveness in accordance with the rule of law, governmental efficacy is greatly increased. However, the media cannot guarantee the efficiency and efficacy of every social institution.

2.1.2 Levies Compliance

During times of economic hardship, countries may implement Voluntary Tax and Levies Compliance programs to increase tax collection, encourage tax transparency and compliance, and/or facilitate the repatriation of assets (Olakunle & Aimée, 2021). As Economists would say, opportunity cost is the benefit forgone when an alternative item is chosen. Therefore, the opportunity cost of paying taxes could be other expenses that may have been settled using the taxes paid or the extra dividend that could have been enjoyed by the shareholders. This then begs the question, why pay taxes when the money can be converted to "other good use"? Realistically, very few people may actually voluntarily be tax compliant except there are incentives or punitive measures attached. Even when there are penalties attached to non-compliance, individuals/companies may see no need to comply where such punitive measures are not enforced (OECD, 2023).

In attempt to provide more clarity with respect to tax compliance obligation of non-resident shipping companies in the Nigerian maritime sector, the Finance Bill 2022 introduced an amendment to Section 14 of the CITA by introducing a new subsection (4) which provides that "notwithstanding the provisions of any other section of this Act, where any company files tax returns under the provisions of subsection (3) of this section and does not provide a separate financial statement of the Nigerian operations, for the purpose of filing its tax returns, such company shall submit detailed gross revenue statements of its Nigerian operations, showing the amount of full sums receivable during the period, certified by one of the company's directors as well as their company's external auditor and supported with all invoices issued to the relevant customers (OECD, 2023).
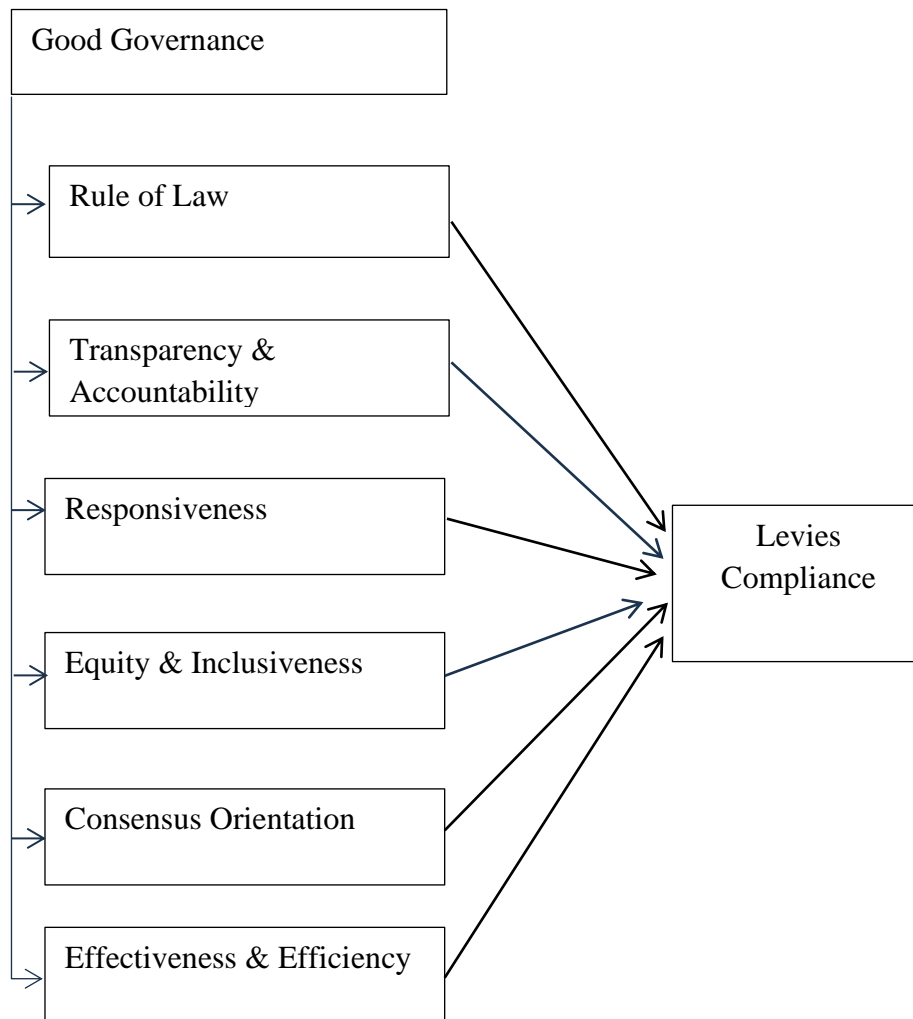
2.1.3 Conceptual Framework

Fig. 2.1: Conceptual Framework of the Study
Source: *Conceptualized by the Researcher*, 2023

2.2 Theoretical Framework

2.2.1 Theory of Perception

There are two main schools of thought when it comes to understanding perception: the self-perception school of thought and the cognitive dissonance school of thought. The field of perception is the topic of several hypotheses. You would believe that perception is only a person's viewpoint, however there are really illnesses that are related to perception. Max Wertheimer, Wolfgang Köhler, and Kurt Koffka, three German psychologists, established the Gestalt notion in the early 20th century (from the Latin perceptio, "gathering, receiving"). Many people consider direct realism to be the most sensible approach to perceiving the world. When someone asks you what you see, you should not describe how you interpret it but rather the actual thing itself. Past experiences, education, values, culture, preconceptions, and current

circumstances all have a role in shaping one's perspective. What you believe to be true is what you experience (Joseph, 2016; Lewis, 2016).

Having a clear picture of the world around you is impossible without a strong sense of perception. While sensation describes how information is received through the senses, perception describes how that information is interpreted by the brain.

2.3   Empirical Review

Using the theoretical framework of a relational fiscal/social contract between the state and its residents, Prince *et al* (2013) investigated the connection between government accountability and voluntary tax compliance. Specifically, the hypothesis that voluntary tax compliance is impacted by the citizens' view of government responsibility was established and evaluated. In this study, primary data was collected using a structured likert scale questionnaire, and Z-scores were calculated for use in hypothesis testing. The positive results show that tax morale, which leads to voluntary tax compliance, is influenced by citizens' views on government transparency and accountability.

Fakile and Uwuigbe (2013) looked at how strategic tax behaviours affected company governance. That there are two-way, multi-faceted interactions between corporate governance and taxation: on the one hand, the planning of tax designs (from the government's perspective) and related tax strategies (from the corporation's perspective) affect the dynamics of corporate governance. For instance, if businesses are permitted to maintain two sets of books (one for accounting and one for tax purposes), then tax administrators can more easily acquire tax savings and promising financial statements despite the presence of a critical financial position.

Adekoya *et al* (2019) studied tax compliance and government accountability in a few states in Nigeria's southwestern region. According to the research, taxation is critical to maintaining stable governments, expanding economies, and modernizing nations. Tax evasion and other forms of non-tax compliance on the part of individuals and government are widely believed to have hampered national progress and productivity. Although there have been many studies on taxpayer compliance, few have taken into account the impact of Government Accountability (ACT). This research looked at how ACT could affect taxpayers' willingness to voluntarily comply with tax regulations in a few South-Western Nigerian states. The research method employed in this study was a survey. A total of 5,216,422 individuals from taxpayer databases in three states were used. Using the Taro Yamane formula, a sample size of 1,200 was established. A response rate of 87.6 percent was attained through the use of a validated questionnaire in conjunction with Stratified and random sample approaches for data collection. Data were analyzed using both descriptive and inferential statistics at a 0.05 level of significance in this study. The results of the research indicated that citizens' trust in the government's transparency prompted them to voluntarily pay their taxes.

Stavroula (2016) looked at the data from Greece to draw conclusions about whether or not good company governance helps reduce tax dodging. The purpose of this research was to analyze the correlation between Greek listed firms' corporate governance policies and the degree to which they committed tax fraud while operating in an accounting environment with a high degree of book-tax compliance. According to the findings, tax evasion tends to decrease when the CEO is also the chairman of the board. Several studies have found a negative correlation between tax evasion and both (a) the ownership stake held by the owner and

immediate family members and (b) the number of shares owned by board members. In contrast to when board members are also workers of the firm, tax evasion is lower when board members are compensated through the distribution of profits.

Between 2004 and 2014, Salawu and Adedeji (2017) investigated how corporate governance affected the tax strategies of Nigeria's non-financial listed firms. Out of a total of 151 non-financial listed businesses covering 10 industries, a sample of 50 were chosen using a stratified random selection technique. The audited financial statements of the chosen non-financial listed firms in Nigeria and the Nigeria Stock Exchange Fact books provided the basis for the analysis, which made use of generalized method of moments (GMM) statistics. It was discovered that ETR correlates positively and strongly with Tobin Q, a measure of business value. Results showing a positive correlation between the two variables suggest that tax preparation efforts are not contributing to the success of businesses. A positive and statistically significant correlation between company value and characteristics including leverage (LEV), liquidity (LIQ), net working capital (NWC), growth opportunities (MTB), and capital intensity (CIN) was discovered. In order to increase their worth, businesses should use more effective tax planning strategies and hire expert tax experts.

Olufemi (2018) evaluated the extent to which SMEs in Nigeria complied with their tax obligations. This research looked at how well SME owners in Nigeria comply with their tax obligations. The country of Nigeria relies heavily on its small business sector. The study's sample size was set at 250, and 223 SME owners filled out the survey. The data was analyzed using a quantitative approach. Data analysis was performed in SPSS. Female small business owners were shown to be more tax compliant than their male counterparts. Educating business owners on their tax obligations is essential. There are several taxes to pay. Tax amnesty has the potential to boost compliance rates.

Danielle (2018) investigated tax reporting and compliance in the unofficial sector of Zambia's economy. Is there a correlation between informal workers' willingness to pay taxes and their desire for political participation? While these are not new concerns in political economy research, there has been a dearth of studies looking at these issues from the perspective of the informal workers who make up the vast majority of the population in the world's poorest countries. Workers in the informal economy are typically subject to a wide range of taxes imposed by federal, state, and municipal governments, contrary to popular belief. Support for the fiscal exchange theory is provided by the findings of this research, which show that compliance tends to be higher among workers operating in marketplaces with superior services. The data for this study come from an original survey of more than 800 informal labourers across 11 marketplaces in Zambia's capital, Lusaka, and interviews with key politicians. In addition, I use a vote choice experiment to show that tax payers, regardless of how much they pay, are more likely to support a hypothetical mayoral candidate interested in enhancing market services and lowering stall fees than one interested in enhancing Lusaka's broader social goods, such as its schools.

3.   Methodology
3.1   Research Design
The project adopted descriptive survey design to guide the subject matter titled "Good governance and levies compliance: a country residents' perception paradigm.
3.2   Population of the Study

The population of the study comprises business owners, state and federal civil servants, employees of private businesses resident in Bayelsa State, Landlords and students in the state who are involved in paying one form of levy to the other.

3.3 Sample and Sampling Procedure

The study adopted purposive sampling procedure in determining the sample size by administering questionnaire to Business owners, civil servants, private business employees residing in Yenagoa, Amassoma, Sagbama, Otueke and Kaiama (the selected areas of the study). That is, a total of 460 questionnaire were administered to the underlisted regions of the state.

Table 3.1 Sample of Primary Data

S/N	Name of Residential Area	No. Admin	No. Ret.
1	Yenagoa	200	194
2	Amassoma	100	92
3	Sagbama	60	58
4	Otueke	50	46
5	Kaiama	50	42
	Total	460	432

Source: Survey Data, 2023

This invariably means that, the sample size of the study is 432.

Data were collected through a structured research questionnaire (primary source) on a 5point Likert scale.The most often utilized internal consistency metric, Cronbach's Alpha (α), will be employed. It aids in indicating the extent to which items may be considered as measures of a single variable. A cut-off value of 0.7 was used as a baseline since this is the suggested threshold for reliability. Participants were randomly assigned to one of twenty questionnaires, which were then analyzed using the SPSS version 26. To eliminate bias, respondents who took part in the pretest were removed from the final research.

Table 3.2 Reliability Statistics

Variables	Cronbach's Alpha	N of Items
Voluntary Levy Compliance	.81	12
Rule of Law	.76	12
Transparency and Accountability	.78	12
Responsiveness	.82	12
Equity and Inclusiveness	.87	12
Consensus Orientation	.91	12
Effectiveness and Efficiency	.84	12
General Instrument	.83	12

This shows consistency and reliability.

The data gathered from the field survey of the study were analysed using descriptive (frequency counts, mean and standard deviation) and inferential statistical tools (Pearson Rank Order Correlation) via SPSS version 26 Microsoft windows software.

Model Specification

LEC = f (Good Governance)

LEC = f (rule of law + transparency and accountability + responsiveness + Equity and inclusiveness + consensus orientation + effectiveness and efficiency)

That is:

LEC = α + β_1 RULA$_1$; LEC = α + β_1 TRAC$_1$; LEC = α + β_1 RESP$_1$; LEC = α + β_1 EQIN$_1$; LEC = α + β_1 COOR$_1$; LEC = α + β_1 EFEF$_1$

Where:

LEC = Voluntary Levies Compliance; RULA = Rule of Law; TRAC = Transparency and Accountability; RESP = Government Responsiveness; EQIN = Equity and Inclusiveness; COOR = Consensus Orientation; EFEF = Effectiveness and Efficiency; α_1 + β_1 = regression coefficients.

4   Results and Discussion
4.1   Results
4.1.1   Descriptive Analysis of Data and Demographic Variables
Table 4.1:   Analysis of Questionnaire Administration and Retrieval

S/N	Name of Residential Area	No. Admin	No. Ret.	% Ret.	No. Not Ret.	% Not Ret.
1	Yenagoa	200	194	42.17	6	1.30
2	Amassoma	100	92	20.00	8	1.74
3	Sagbama	60	58	12.61	2	0.43
4	Otueke	50	46	10.00	4	0.87
5	Kaiama	50	42	9.13	8	1.74
	Total	460	432	93.91	28	6.08

Source: Survey Data, 2023

Table 4.1 highlighted the administration and retrieval of the structured questionnaire to collect data. A total of 460 questionnaire were administered to the target population and 432 representing 94% were returned and used for the analysis. Twenty-eight (28) questionnaires representing 6% were not retrieved. Therefore, the sample size for the project is 432.

4.1.2   Descriptive Analysis of Thematic Variables

Table 4.2:   Descriptive Statistics Showing Voluntary levies compliance by Residents in Bayelsa State, Nigeria

	N	Min	Max	Sum	Mean	Std. Dev.
Residents voluntarily and dutifully pay levies without revenue administrations' control	432	1.00	5.00	864.00	2.0000	1.10682
Residents are voluntarily paying levies because Government of the state is exercising the rule of law	432	1.00	5.00	984.00	2.2778	1.23996
Responsiveness by government is encouraging residents' voluntary levies payment in Bayelsa	432	1.00	4.00	816.00	1.8889	.65810

Equity and inclusiveness shown by government is influencing residents' voluntary levies payment	432	1.00	4.00	864.00	2.0000	.88294
Transparency and accountability of government is influencing residents' voluntary levies payment	432	1.00	5.00	984.00	2.2778	1.09700
Consensus orientation of government in Bayelsa is influencing residents' voluntary levies payment.	432	1.00	4.00	768.00	1.7778	.78659
Effective and efficient administration and management of Tax and Levies influence residents' voluntary payment	432	1.00	5.00	1080.00	2.5000	1.30322
Valid N (listwise)	432					

Source: *Survey Output, 2023*

Highlighted in Table 4.2 is the Descriptive Statistics Showing Voluntary levies compliance by Residents in Bayelsa State, Nigeria as a result of the exercise of rule of law, transparency and accountability, responsiveness, equity and inclusiveness, consensus orientation, and effectiveness and efficiency by the residents' representatives (government). From the outcome of the analysis, it is clear that all the question items fall below the benchmark of 3 mean score. That is, government's exercise of rule of law, transparency and accountability, responsiveness, equity and inclusiveness, consensus orientation and Effective and efficient administration and management of Tax are insignificantly but positively influencing residents' levies payment in Bayelsa State.

4.1.2 Inferential Analysis and Test of Hypotheses

Hypothesis One: Complete exercise of the rule of law by government in a country cannot trigger voluntary levies compliance

Table 4.3: Model Summary of Complete exercise of the rule of law by government in a country and residents' voluntary levies compliance

Model	R	R Square	Adj. R Square	Std. Error of the Est.	Change Statistics				Durbin-Watson
					R Square Change	df1	df2	Sig. F	
1	.701a	.492	.491	4.77420	.492	1	430	.000	.014

a. Predictors: (Constant), Rule of Law

b. Dependent Variable: Levies Compliance

Table 4.3 presented the influence of complete exercise of the rule of law by the government of Nigeria on residents' levies compliance. The computed R-value is 0.701 with an adjusted value of 0.491 implying that rule of law being the independent variable explained only 49.1% of the systematic variation in the dependent variable (residents' levies compliance). This invariably means the model did not provide a strong fit as the unexplained variation (50.9%) is greater than the explained. That is, the results showed that a moderate link exists since the *f-ratio 1, 430* = 416.166); the DW value (.014), suggests the absence of serial correlation in the model of the effect of rule of law by the government of Nigeria on residents' levies compliance.

Decision: The study rejects the null hypothesis and accept the alternate even though the effect not strong but significant. Meaning, residents' levies payment is moderately influenced by rule of law exercise by government (p-value = 0.000 <0.05).

Hypothesis Two: There is no significant effect of transparency and accountability on residents' levies compliance

Table 4.4: Model Summary of the effect of transparency and accountability on residents' levies compliance

Model	R	R Square	Adj. R Square	Std. Error of the Est.	Change Statistics				Durbin-Watson
					R Square Change	df1	df2	Sig. F	
1	.783 a	.612	.611	4.16992	.612	1	430	.000	.022
a. Predictors: (Constant), Transparency and Accountability									
b. Dependent Variable: Levies Compliance									

Table 4.4 presented the influence of transparency and accountability by the government of Nigeria on residents' levies compliance. The computed R-value is 0.783 with an adjusted value of 0.611 implying that transparency and accountability being the independent variable explained only 61.1% of the systematic variation in the dependent variable (residents' levies compliance). This invariably means the model provide a good fit as the unexplained variation (39.9%). That is, the results showed that a significant correlation exists since the *f-ratio 1, 430* = 679.177); the DW value (.022), suggests the absence of serial correlation in the model of the effect of transparency and accountability by the government of Nigeria on residents' levies compliance.

Decision: The study rejects the null hypothesis and accept the alternate. This Means that residents' levies payment is moderately influenced by transparency and accountability by government (p-value = 0.000 <0.05).
Hypothesis Three: There is no significant impact of responsiveness on levies compliance in a given country

Table 4.5: Model Summary of the impact of responsiveness on levies compliance in a given country

Model	R	R Square	Adj. R Square	Std. Error of the Est.	Change Statistics				Durbin-Watson
					R Square Change	df1	df2	Sig. F	
1	.867 a	.751	.751	3.340 94	.751	1	430	.000	.024
a. Predictors: (Constant), Responsiveness									
b. Dependent Variable: Levies Compliance									

Table 4.5 presented the influence of responsiveness by the government of Nigeria on residents' levies compliance. The computed R-value is 0.867 with an adjusted value of 0.751 implying that responsiveness being the independent variable explained only 75.1% of the systematic variation in the dependent variable (residents' levies compliance). This invariably means the model provide a good fit as the unexplained variation (24.9%). That is, the results showed that a significant correlation exists since the *f-ratio 1, 430* = 1297.91); the DW value (.024), suggests the absence of serial correlation in the model of the effect of responsiveness by the government of Nigeria on residents' levies compliance.

Decision: The study rejects the null hypothesis and accept the alternate. This Means that residents' levies payment is significantly influenced by responsiveness of the government (p-value = 0.000 <0.05).

Hypothesis Four: Equity and inclusiveness have no significant impact on residents' levies compliance

Table 4.6: Model Summary of the impact of Equity and inclusiveness on residents' levies compliance

Model	R	R Square	Adj. R Square	Std. Error of the Est.	Change Statistics				Durbin-Watson
					F Change	df1	df2	Sig. F	
1	.905 a	.820	.819	2.844 17	1954.2 12	1	430	.000	.037
a. Predictors: (Constant), Equity and Inclusiveness									
b. Dependent Variable: Levies Compliance									

Table 4.6 presented the influence of equity and inclusiveness by the government of Nigeria on residents' levies compliance. The computed R-value is 0.905 with an adjusted value of 0.819 implying that equity and inclusiveness being the independent variable explained only 81.90% of the systematic variation in the dependent variable (residents' levies compliance). This

invariably means the model provide a good fit as the unexplained variation (18.10%). That is, the results showed that a significant correlation exists since the *f-ratio 1, 430* = 1954.212); the DW value (.037), suggests the absence of serial correlation in the model of the effect of equity and inclusiveness by the government of Nigeria on residents' levies compliance.

Decision: The study rejects the null hypothesis and accept the alternate. This Means that residents' levies payment is significantly influenced by equity and inclusiveness of the government (p-value = 0.000 <0.05).

Hypothesis Five: There is no imperative effect of consensus orientation of governance on residents' levies compliance

Table 4.7: Model Summary of the effect of consensus orientation of governance on residents' levies compliance

Model	R	R Square	Adj. R Square	Std. Error of the Est.	Change Statistics				Durbin-Watson
					F Change	df1	df2	Sig. F	
1	.823 a	.678	.677	3.800 74	905.122	1	430	.000	.022
a. Predictors: (Constant), Consensus Orientation									
b. Dependent Variable: Levies Compliance									

Table 4.7 presented the influence of consensus orientation by the government of Nigeria on residents' levies compliance. The computed R-value is 0.823 with an adjusted value of 0.677 implying that consensus orientation being the independent variable explained only 67.70% of the systematic variation in the dependent variable (residents' levies compliance). This invariably means the model provide a good fit as the unexplained variation (32.30%). That is, the results showed that a significant correlation exists since the *f-ratio 1, 430* = 905.122); the DW value (.022), suggests the absence of serial correlation in the model of the effect of consensus orientation by the government of Nigeria on residents' levies compliance.

Decision: The study rejects the null hypothesis and accept the alternate. This Means that residents' levies payment is significantly influenced by consensus orientation of the government (p-value = 0.000 <0.05).

Hypothesis Six: Effectiveness and efficiency of corporate governance will not elicit residents' levies compliance

Table 4.8: Model Summary of Effectiveness and efficiency of corporate governance and residents' levies compliance

Model	R		Adj. R		Change Statistics		Durbin-

		R Square	Square	Std. Error of the Est.					Watson
					F Change	df1	df2	Sig. F	
1	.824 a	.678	.678	3.79822	906.891	1	430	.000	.019
a. Predictors: (Constant), Effectiveness and Efficiency									
b. Dependent Variable: Levies Compliance									

Table 4.8 presented the influence of effectiveness and efficiency of the government of Nigeria on residents' levies compliance. The computed R-value is 0.824 with an adjusted value of 0.678 implying that effectiveness and efficiency being the independent variable explained only 67.80% of the systematic variation in the dependent variable (residents' levies compliance). This invariably means the model provide a good fit as the unexplained variation (32.20%). That is, the results showed that a significant correlation exists since the *f-ratio 1, 430* = 906.891); the DW value (.019), suggests the absence of serial correlation in the model of the effect of effectiveness and efficiency by the government of Nigeria on residents' levies compliance.
Decision: The study rejects the null hypothesis and accept the alternate. This Means that residents' levies payment is significantly influenced by effectiveness and efficiency of the government (p-value = 0.000 <0.05).

4.2   Discussion of Findings
The study's central focus was the investigation of the effect or influence of good governance on residents' levies compliance in Nigeria within Bayelsa region. Good governance which serves as the independent variable was proxied by rule of law; transparency and accountability; responsiveness, equity and inclusiveness; consensus orientation and effectiveness and efficiency, while residents' levies compliance was the dependent variable of the study. The analytical results of the hypotheses are discussed in the following subsections.

4.2.1: Hypothesis I of the study analyzed the influence of the exercise of rule of law on residents' levies payment in Bayelsa state, South-South, Nigeria. The results have exposed that rule of law has a low but significant influence on levies compliance in the state. This finding corroborates with the results of

4.2.2: Hypothesis two of the study analyzed the influence of the government transparency and accountability on residents' levies payment in Bayelsa state, South-South, Nigeria. The results revealed that transparency and accountability have a significant influence on levies compliance in the state.

4.2.3: Hypothesis three of the study analyzed the influence of the government responsiveness on residents' levies payment in Bayelsa state, South-South, Nigeria. The results revealed that responsiveness have a significant influence on levies compliance in the state.

4.2.4: Hypothesis four of the study analyzed the influence of the government equity and inclusiveness on residents' levies payment in Bayelsa state, South-South, Nigeria. The results revealed that equity and inclusiveness have a significant influence on levies compliance in the state.

4.2.5: Hypothesis five of the study analyzed the influence of the government consensus orientation on residents' levies payment in Bayelsa state, South-South, Nigeria. The results revealed that consensus orientation have a significant influence on levies compliance in the state.

4.2.6: Hypothesis six of the study analyzed the influence of the government effectiveness and efficiency on residents' levies payment in Bayelsa state, South-South, Nigeria. The results revealed that effectiveness and efficiency have a significant influence on levies compliance in the state.

5   Summary, Conclusion and Recommendations
1.1   Summary of Findings
The project examined the effect of good governance on residents' levies compliance in Bayelsa State, Nigeria. Descriptive survey design was adopted to guide the research with a population Nigerian Taxpayers resident in Bayelsa State, South-South Region. A sample size of 432 was purposively determined. Primary data were obtained through questionnaire and analyzed descriptively and inferentially. The analytical results of the hypotheses revealed the following findings.
i.   There is a weak significant influence of the exercise of rule of law on residents' levies compliance in Bayelsa State.
ii.   Transparency and accountability by the government have a significant influence on residents' levies compliance in Bayelsa State.
iii. Responsiveness by the government has a significant influence on residents' levies compliance in Bayelsa State.
iv.   Equity and inclusiveness by the government have a significant influence on residents' levies compliance in Bayelsa State.
v.   Consensus orientation by the government have a significant influence on residents' levies compliance in Bayelsa State.
vi.   Effectiveness and efficiency of the government have a significant influence on residents' levies compliance in Bayelsa State.

1.2   Conclusion
Residents' levies compliance and good governance in Bayelsa State was investigated in this project. The findings of the analytical results have clearly shown that the components of good governance (rule of law, transparency and accountability, responsiveness, equity and inclusiveness, consensus orientation and effectiveness and efficiency) have significant influence on the level residents' levies compliance in Bayelsa State, South-South, Nigeria. The study therefore, concludes that good governance by government representatives at all level has significant influence on the pattern of residents' levies payment in Nigeria.

1.3   Recommendations
Based on the findings of the research project the following recommendations are made:
i.   Government should increase the practice of rule of law in order to encourage more residents' levies compliance or payment.
ii.   Government should be more transparent and accountable in their representation in order to encourage residents' levies compliance or payment.
iii. Government should be more responsive in their representation in order to encourage residents' levies compliance or payment.
iv.   Government should be more equitable and practice all-inclusive governance in order to encourage residents' levies compliance or payment.
v.   There should be consensus orientation of the citizens and other residents by governance in order to upscale more voluntary levies payment or compliance in Nigeria.

vi.   Government should be more effective and efficient in their representation in order to encourage residents' levies compliance or payment.

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