
Voluntary Assets and Income Declaration Scheme (VAIDS) Implementation in Nigeria: A Case of an ‘Executive Order’ with Many Faces.

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Abstract

Recently, Nigeria has been experiencing a plethora of mind-boggling economic challenges. These are not unconnected with the dwindling internally generated revenue, particularly tax revenue. To cushion this, the government came up with the idea of Tax Amnesty for tax evaders tagged ‘Voluntary Assets and Income Declaration Scheme (VAIDS), aimed at granting amnesty for all who voluntarily declare their tax liability during the allowed window of July 2017 to June 2018. This paper evaluates the challenges facing VAIDS implementation in Nigeria. It specifically examined the extent to which the problems of ‘Insufficient and unreliable data’, ‘Capacity Constraints facing the Revenue Authorities’, ‘Unusual Delays in the prosecution of tax offenders’, ‘Corruption of Some Revenue Authority Officials’ and ‘Politicization of the scheme’; will affect VAIDS implementation in Nigeria. The paper adopts the Survey Design approach. Through Purposive Sampling Procedures, data were collected by means of questionnaire (a total of 302 distributed to staff of Federal and State Revenue Authorities, Tax Consultants, Accountants, Auditors, Captains of Industries and Financial Analysts in Port Harcourt, Owerri and Yenagoa) and analyzed with Pearson Product Moment Correlation and Simple Regression. Findings revealed that: Insufficient data, corruption of some Revenue staff, Delay in our justice system, Capacity issues and Lack of Political Will on the part of the government, affect VAIDS implementation significantly negatively. The study recommended, among others, (i) the setting up of special Courts to quickly and fairly try and punish all tax offenders; (ii) employ, train/re-train Revenue Officials; (iii) putting in place a reliable database of all taxable persons and (iv) the amnesty should not time-bound rather it should be a continuous.

Keywords: VAIDS, Insufficient Data, Corruption, Politicization, Tax Amnesty, Capacity Constraints, VAIDS Implementation

1.0 Introduction

Recently the Nigerian economy has been experiencing a plethora of problems, which could be attributable to the challenge of dwindling revenue. It has therefore become pertinent for our economic managers to go back to the basics-tax revenue generation. Nigeria, being a mono-culturally dependent economy on oil revenue, fluctuations in oil prices in the international

market, which is obviously beyond the control of the government, naturally exposes the economy to risks and volatility. By implication, the revenue gap created by consistent budget deficits are often financed with borrowings and aids (external and internal) which makes the country's economy totally dependent on variables beyond its control. To cushion this, the government recently came up with the idea of Tax Amnesty for tax evaders tagged 'Voluntary Assets and Income Declaration Scheme (VAIDS)', aimed at granting amnesty for all who voluntarily declare their tax liability during the allowed window of July 2017 to June 2018.

Tax Amnesty (Nigeria's VAIDS equivalent) could be traced back to August 1st, 2006, when the World Bank formally approved a Voluntary Disclosure Program (VDU), which was a proactive anti-corruption investigative tool designed to uncover corrupt and fraudulent schemes that will strengthen the institution's capacity to prevent corruption in its operations. The VDP allows entities, which have engaged in past fraud and corruption, to avoid administrative sanctions. It grants such entities the window to disclose to the Bank, all such prior misconducts and in addition to the satisfaction of specified terms and conditions, are exempted from public debarment for disclosed past misconduct and are assured of the Bank's confidentiality.

In 2010, the government of the US government enacted the Foreign Account Tax Compliance Act (FATCA), to prevent and detect tax evasion and improve taxpayers' compliance. Under FATCA, all U.S. citizens who own offshore assets and foreign financial accounts were enjoined to voluntarily report these assets or accounts to the US IRS (Ede, 2017). Their foreign financial institutions were also advised to report their obligations to the U.S. Department of the Treasury. As a result of this law, many US taxpayers became aware of their US tax obligations and non-compliance as the case may be. Again in 2014, the US initiated an offshore voluntary disclosure program that allows US taxpayers to regularize their tax reporting and avoid criminal liability and civil penalties (Ede, 2017).

Similarly, the South African Minister of Finance on 24 February 2016 announced the introduction of a Special Voluntary Disclosure Programme ("SVDP"). Under the SVDP, non-compliant South African taxpayers and Exchange Control residents with undisclosed assets abroad have the opportunity to regularize those offshore assets as well as the income derived from the assets.

It is believed that those antecedents led the government of Nigeria to adopt VAIDS. Accordingly, in a bid to increase Nigeria's tax revenue and to raise non-oil tax to Gross Domestic ratio, Voluntary Assets and Income Declaration Scheme was introduced (Deloitte, 2017). VAIDS is a form of tax amnesty. It is a scheme that is expected to bring lots of benefits to Nigeria as a country on one hand, and to the tax payers on the other hand. On the benefits to Nigeria, VAIDS is expected to: provide an opportunity to increase the rate at which Nigerian Citizens will comply with tax by creating awareness of tax to more Nigeria citizens, especially citizens that are not registered under the tax authorities. It will lead to increase in tax contribution to not only revenue but the GDP. Observers believe that the scheme promises to increase Nigeria GDP from 6% to 15% providing a foreseeable benefit of better GDP and a better economy. Other benefits provided by the scheme to tax payers include, waiver of interest and penalty, immunity from prosecution on declaration. It also presents an opportunity to come clean and start complying (Deloitte, 2017).

Obara & Nangih (2017) studied 'Tax compliance barriers facing SMEs and Revenue Generation in Nigeria. They identified lack of data base and non-automation of tax payment

procedures as some of the banes of revenue generation in Nigeria. They further identified the prevalence of cash transactions amongst Nigerian SMEs, as another reason for the frequent tax evasion cases in Nigeria. Micah (2012), found from his study that there exists a significant relationship between corruption and decline in internally generated revenue. According to him as corruption increases the decline in internal generated revenue will also increase. Patrick & Bala (2013) found out from their study that there exists a significant relationship between corruption and decrease in internal generated revenue. Kiabel & Nwokah (2009) in their study discovered that there exists a significant relationship between lack of public awareness about various taxes to be collected by Internal Revenue Service and the decline in IGR.

1.1 Problem Statement

Tax evasion has attracted renewed global interests. The case of tax evasion in Nigeria is alarming and has become a serious a concern, as our nation's economy has been significantly endangered by the problem of 'no-enough' revenue to fund our budgets and provide the basic infrastructure for the citizenry. Nangih & Obara (2017) posits that 'oil booms are no more and many developing countries, who predominantly are dependent economies, now struggle financially'. In a bid to increase tax revenue, reduce overdependence on oil revenue and grow our GDP from about 6% currently to 15% by 2020, the government of Nigeria recently came up with the idea of Voluntary Assets and Income Declaration Scheme (VAIDS). The aim is to encourage individuals and corporate bodies to voluntarily declare their hidden assets and incomes and pay the correct tax to the government. In return the government will grant them amnesty. This is a laudable idea, in principle. However, there exists some perceived hitches, issues, challenges or problems that will affect its smooth and seamless implementation in Nigeria. The study sought to empirically examine the extent to which the perceived challenges will affect VAIDS implementation in Nigeria. To the best of our knowledge, there has been no study in this area, constitutes a knowledge gap. It is believed that the government and other stakeholders will significantly benefit from the recommendations of the study, to boost tax revenue and grow our GDP and the economy.

1.2 Study Objectives

The main objective of the study was to ascertain the implementation challenges of VAIDS by Revenue Authorities in Nigeria. Specifically, the study sought to:

- i.** Know the extent to which 'Lack of Reliable and Sufficient Data' affects the implementation of Voluntary Assets and Income Declaration Scheme in Nigeria
- ii.** To determine the extent to which 'Lack of Capacity' impacts the smooth implementation of Voluntary Assets and Income Declaration Scheme in Nigeria
- iii.** Discover the extent to which 'Corrupt practices of some Revenue Authority Officials hinders the implementation of Voluntary Asset and Income Declaration Scheme in Nigeria
- iv.** Determine the extent to which 'Inherent Delays in our Justice System' affects the implementation of VAIDS in the country
- v.** Discover how 'Politicization/Lack of 'Political Will' hinders the seamless implementation of VAIDS in our country.

1.3 Research Hypotheses

To achieve the objectives, the following hypotheses were formulated:

H01: Lack of Reliable/Sufficient Data does not significantly affect the implementation of VAIDS in Nigeria.

H02: There is no significant relationship between Capacity Constraints and VAIDS implementation in Nigeria.

H03: There is no significant relationship between Corruption and implementation of VAIDS in Nigeria.

H04: There is no significant relationship between Inherent Delays in the Prosecution of Tax Evaders and the implementation of VAIDS in Nigeria

H05: Politicization/Lack of ‘Political Will’ will not significantly affect VAIDS implementation in Nigeria

1.4 Conceptual Framework

Figure 1.1 below shows the study’s conceptual framework. It depicts diagrammatically the relationship between the dimensions of the independent variables used for the study (challenges affecting VAIDS implementation) and the dependent variable (being VAIDS Implementation).

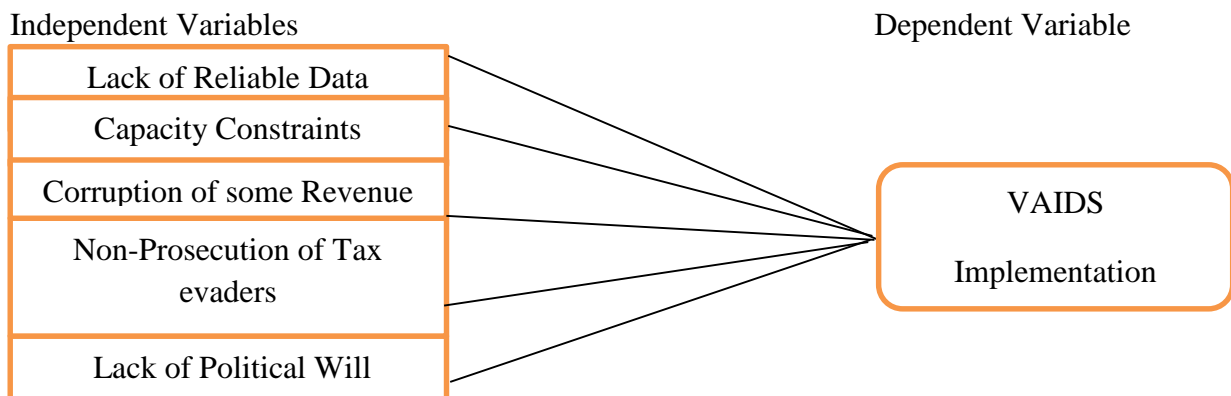


Fig 1.1 Showing the relationship between dimensions of the factors affecting VAIDS Implementation in Nigeria.

2.0 Literature Review

2.1 Conceptual and Empirical Review of VAIDS

Tax Amnesty or VAIDS (as called in Nigeria) is not totally a new concept. It has been adopted in more than 47 countries in the world including India, Indonesia, South Africa etc. and it has yielded positive benefits in all countries. Its primary objective was to encourage voluntary declaration of undisclosed incomes and assets with consequential payment of applicable tax liabilities over a defined period by companies and individuals. Taxes covered under the scheme include all taxes collectible by the Federal and State Inland Revenue Authorities; notably Companies Income Tax (CIT) Personal Income Tax (PIT), Petroleum Profits Tax (PPT), etc. Abiola (2017), posits that VAIDS is a manifestation of the new spirit of cooperative federalism in response to the economic crisis and the challenges of diversification of the economy. He further opined that it also provides an avenue to widen the tax net.

VAIDS provides an amnesty to tax payers who had earlier evaded taxes and had failed to comply with the relevant tax laws. VAIDS is for persons who engage in business, earn income and own assets but have failed to register with the relevant tax authorities, file returns, give full disclosure of their assets and income, persons underpaying taxes and has tax issues with the relevant tax authorities (issues which they are ready to settle out of court). Abiola (2017) defined Tax Amnesty ‘as a time-limited opportunity for specified group of tax payers who are in default of their tax obligations to voluntarily come forward and pay the tax due in consideration of certain promises (incentives/sweeteners) undertaken by the government usually; waiver of interest and penalty, immunity from prosecution for evasion and/or lowering of tax rate and an opportunity to come clean and start complying’. For the purpose of this study, VAIDS can be defined as ‘a scheme aimed at making ‘Tax Sinners’ to become ‘Tax Righteous’

by voluntarily declaring their tax sins and accepting amnesty in order to be forgiven'. It could be seen as a situation whereby tax evaders accept tax compliance as their personal and civic responsibility, promising 'to sin no more'.

VAIDS in Nigeria came by way of an Executive Order by the then Acting President Professor Yemi Osinbajo. VAIDS was mid-wived by the Ministry of Finance working together with several tax authorities in Nigeria (both at the State and Federal level) meant to provide succor to tax evaders by granting them tax amnesty. As the name suggests, VAIDS is a scheme that allows tax defaulters to voluntarily declare their incomes and assets and also pay the required sum of the tax due. Accepting to partake in the scheme entitles tax defaulters a waiver of penalties, interests on the taxes due and benefit of making payments installmentally or instantly for a period not more than 3 years or as specified by the relevant tax authorities. The amnesty period was open for one year starting from the 1st of July 2017 to the 30th June 2018.

2.2 Factors Affecting VAIDS Implementation in Nigeria.

2.2.1 Insufficient and Unreliable Data

The availability of sustainable tax database and reliable tax statistics is a prerequisite for seamless VAIDS implementation in Nigeria. A standard Master Register of all tax payers is needed for effective tax administration and collection by all relevant tax authorities. Ironically, this is not the case with most tax authorities in Nigeria and this has continuously encouraged tax evasion by the tax payers, hence denying the government of huge revenue. Experts had warned that the availability of data from various sources makes it difficult for 'tax dodgers' to evade tax unnoticed. They noted tax information had always been available, but not as integrated as they now are because of VAIDS. Shaura (2010) summed up that data is a national issue and have their challenges ranging from no data, obsolete data, missing data and politicized data. He further argued that these challenges lead to the problem of "good policies that never seem to work". Okoye & Ezejafor (2014) argued that "there are no efforts to have limited data that are available collated or analyzed on a routine basis, not to mention, having it stored, or made more easily assessable or retrievable." This has made policy formulation and compliance inefficient and ineffective. Udoh (2015) argued that one major problem of revenue generation in Nigeria is that no proper attention is given to database of nearly all factors of our development. He further argued that where data exists, it is mainly and highly politically influenced for personal gains of individuals and groups in political authority. Cooperation among government agencies and tax authorities at federal and state levels has ensured a profusion of data on incomes and assets, which would be matched with lifestyle to yield a full picture of the tax status of an individual or corporate entity (Thisday Newspaper; June 18, 2018).

2.2.2 Capacity Constraints Facing Revenue Authorities

Aside non-availability of reliable data, the challenge of capacity is also a serious hinderance to VAIDS implementation in Nigeria. Most of the tax authorities lack the institutional capacity to ensure effective tax administration and revenue collection. This is very peculiar to some States Internal Revenue Services that are poorly staffed and not well-equipped. Up till now, the tax process of some States are not computerized, making it possible for tax evaders to have a feel day. The staff themselves are not trained and lack the skills to effectively fish out tax evaders. Also, of note is the fact some states Internal Revenue Services are headed by politicians, who are mostly corrupt and after what they can get, rather than going about the job professionally. As a result, companies and interests of certain 'political bigwigs' are usually protected and exempted from paying relevant taxes, thereby leading to revenue leakages in the system. According to Ekpo & Ndebbio (1998) the problem of tax administration bothers on inadequate

personnel in terms of quantity and quality. They argued that the shortage of qualified tax personnel is partly responsible for the poor enforcement. The way out is to ensure the staff are regularly trained to know the new techniques of tax administration and revenue drive. Not only that, but the tax authorities should be well staffed with qualified personnel as well as well-equipped to ensure service delivery.

2.2.3 Corruption of Revenue Authority Officials

Alleged massive corruption among some tax officials and administrators could cause serious setbacks in the implementation of VAIDS. Frequent collusions between the tax officials and the tax payers (evaders) impede tax administration which constitute a significant setback on government revenue. For VAIDS to be efficiently and seamlessly implemented, all the ‘bad eggs’ working in the various Revenue Boards must be identified and flushed-out; to ensure the actualization of the scheme in Nigeria.

2.2.4 Inherent Delays in Prosecution of Tax Offenders

VAIDS implementation inherently throws up some legal issues. Firstly, according to some observers, VAIDS potentially alters the legal framework for submission of tax returns in Nigeria while it lasts. Currently, under Companies Income Tax Act and Personal Income Tax Act, taxpayers are required to undertake a self-assessment and remit the tax due (Delloite 2017). Ironically, VAIDS appears to return the country to the previous framework requiring the tax authority to issue a direct assessment after a declaration of income is received. This will likely result in significant administrative challenges during implementation, besides the risk of overwhelming the tax authority, if the Scheme receives popular adoption. Secondly, it is not clear that taxpayers will be able to challenge assessments issued under the Scheme or any discretion exercised by the tax authority on receipt of a taxpayer’s declaration. What will be the process for settling such disputes, and will initiating that process invalidate the ability of the taxpayer to benefit from VAIDS relief? And lastly, there is also the issue of how documents submitted by taxpayers would be verified.

These and many more issues require that our judiciary must live up to its billing. For VAIDS implementation to succeed, our judiciary must be proactive and supportive. Cases of evasion, when brought before the courts, must be given accelerated hearing and discharged as quickly as possible. When such “sinners” against the state are prosecuted and made to face the consequences, others will voluntarily comply. Ironically, what happens is a situation where tax cases are unnecessarily delayed and sometimes tax laws wrongly interpreted, to advantage of tax evaders. This has led to the continuous menace of tax evasion in our society (Abayomi, 2017).

2.2.5 Politicization and Lack of Political Will by the Government

Lack of Political Will has been identified as one of the banes of tax administration in Nigeria. Certain taxable persons and their businesses are seen as “touch-nots” tax-wise, due to their political affiliations. More often, companies belonging to certain government officials either cut corners or don’t pay tax at all. If not checked, this will continue to reduce tax compliance in Nigeria. In her remarks during one of the advocacy sessions, the Minister for Finance Mrs Adeosun stated that the government would name, shame and prosecute tax evaders that failed to take advantage of the tax amnesty programme under VAIDS to regularize their tax profiles. She emphasized that the Federal Government has the political will and data to go after tax evaders who fail to take advantage of the tax amnesty programme.

2.3 Theoretical Undertones

The researcher based the study on the two notable theories of taxation- The Equal Sacrifice Theory and the Benefit Theory of Taxation.

Firstly, the 'Equal sacrifice' doctrine can be traced back to J. S. Mill, who argued for it as a principle of distributive justice: The theory emphasizes fairness, which is the hall mark of a good tax system or policy. The principle of equity and fairness in tax states that tax payers with different amounts of resources and different amount of income should pay taxes at different rates to the government. It stresses that governments ought to make no distinction between persons or classes in the strength of their claims on it, whatever sacrifices it requires from them should be made to bear as nearly as possible with the same pressure upon all. Wartick (1994) summarized "that there is a greater tendency for tax evasion when the tax system is perceived to be inequitable, and that it is often said that if there is widespread tax evasion, then it is the system of taxation that is at fault and not the tax payer.

The Benefit Theory of taxation theory, on the other hand, presupposes that the state should levy taxes on individuals according to the benefits conferred on them. The more benefits a person derives from the activities of the state, the more he should pay to the government. The theory emphasizes that citizens should pay taxes in proportion to the benefits received from the state (Elmi et al, 2015). It assumes that there is an exchange relationship between the tax payer and the government (Feinstein, 1998). Under the benefit theory, the levels of taxes are determined automatically since taxes are levies quid pro quo between or proportionately to the benefits the citizens receive from the state or the government. What it means is that the more the individuals or tax payers benefit from the government the more tax they pay to the government, all things being equal. However, this may not be true in reality; thereby necessitating several criticisms leveled against the theory.

3.0 Research Methodology

The study adopted the cross-sectional survey research design. Survey design was adopted in order to sample the opinion of large number of respondents at the same time. 302 respondents, consisting of Tax Professionals (in the State and Federal Inland Revenues Services), Accountants, Auditors, Tax Consultants and Business owners and analysts. The choice of these persons was because of their knowledge on tax matters and the choice of the different sectors was due to how these sectors were faced with tax challenges. They constituted the population of the study. Using Purposive Sampling Procedures, data were collected mainly through well-structured and validated questionnaire. Formulated hypotheses were analyzed by means of Pearson Product Moment Correlation and simple regression. All these were done with the aid of SPSS.

To achieve the objective of the study, a Regression model was formulated thus;

$$VIM = \beta_0 + \beta_1IDT + \beta_2CCT + \beta_3CRP + \beta_4DJJ + \beta_5PPW + \mu$$

Where,

VIM= Voluntary Assets and Income Declaration Scheme Implementation.

IDT = Insufficient and Unreliable Data.

CCT = Capacity Constraints Facing Revenue Authorities

CRP = Corruption of Some Tax Officials

DJJ = Delays in the Prosecution of Tax Offenders

PPW = Politicization and Lack of Political Will

β_0 = Intercept

β_1 and β_2 = The parameters that were estimated

μ = Error or random term

4.0 Presentation of Data/Data Analysis

4.1 Descriptive of Factors Affecting VAIDS Implementation in Nigeria

Table 4.2: Descriptive Statistics

	N	Minimum	Maximum	Mean	Std. Deviation
IDT	302	2.33	4.33	3.9801	.49626
CCT	302	2.33	4.67	4.0640	.52875
CRP	302	2.00	4.67	4.0684	.55687
DJJ	302	2.33	4.67	3.8808	.51832
PPW	302	2.67	4.67	4.0817	.46820
Valid N (list wise)	302				

The outcomes of the descriptive statistics of the mean and the standard deviation for each of the explanatory variables are shown in Table 4.1. The table indicates that Insufficient and Unreliable Data (IDT) had a mean and standard deviation of 3.9801 and 0.49626 respectively. Furthermore, Insufficient and Unreliable Data (IDT) figures range from a maximum of 4.33 to a minimum of 2.33 for the various categories of respondents. Capacity Constraints of Revenue Authorities (CCT) reported a mean of 4.0640 and a standard deviation of 0.52875. It has a maximum and minimum figure ranging from 4.67 to 2.33. In the same vein, the mean and standard deviation of Corruption of Tax Officials (CRP) are 4.0684 and 0.55687 respectively with figures ranging from 4.67 maximum to 2.00 minimum. Delayed Prosecution of Tax Matters (DJJ) has a mean of 3.8808 and a standard deviation of 0.51832. The figure spread ranges from a maximum of 4.67 to a minimum of 2.33. Politicization and Lack of Political Will (PPW) reported a mean of 4.0817 and a standard deviation of 0.46820 with figures ranging from 4.67 to 2.67.

4.2 Test of Hypotheses

Hypotheses 1: *Lack of Reliable and Sufficient Data will not significantly affect the implementation of VAIDS in Nigeria.*

Table 4.2: Correlation between Insufficient and Unreliable Data and VAIDS implementation

		IDT	VIM
IDT	Pearson Correlation	1	-.622**
	Sig. (2-tailed)		.000
	N	302	302
VIM	Pearson Correlation	-.622**	1
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.000	
	N	302	302

** . Correlation is significant at the 0.01 level (2tailed).

The results of Pearson product moment correlation as shown on table 4.2 above indicates that the coefficient of correlation is -0.622** at a significant or probability value of less than 0.05 (pv = 0.000 < 0.05). This indicates a significant but inverse relationship between Insufficient and Unreliable Data and VAIDS implementation in Nigeria. The significant relationship implies that most of the variables used in the model are supported and that the more reliable and sufficient data of tax evaders, the smoother the implementation of VAIDS. In the same vein, the absence of reliable data will affect the smooth implementation of the policy.

Hypotheses 2: *There is no significant relationship between Capacity Constraints and VAIDS implementation in Nigeria.*

Table 4.3: Correlations between Capacity Constraints of Revenue Authorities and VAIDS Implementation

		CCT	VIM
CCT	Pearson Correlation	1	-.767**
	Sig. (2-tailed)		.000
	N	302	302
VIM	Pearson Correlation	-.767**	1
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.000	
	N	302	302

** . Correlation is significant at the 0.01 level (2-tailed).

The results of Pearson product moment correlation as shown on the table above is -0.767** and a significant value of less than 0.05 i.e $p_v=0.000 < 0.05$, indicating an inverse or negative and strong significant relationship between Capacity Constraints of Revenue Authorities and VAIDS Implementation in Nigeria. The strong but inverse relationship implies that most of the variables used in the model are supported. The implication is that an increase in capacity or resources available at the disposal of the revenue authorities the more enhanced and proactive will be the reduction of tax evasion.

Regression Analysis

Table 4.4: Model Summary of Insufficient and Unreliable Data, Capacity Constraints and VAIDS implementation

Model	R	R Square	Adjusted Square	RStd. Error of the Estimate
1	.860 ^a	.840	.735	.33647

. Predictors: (Constant), IDT, CCT

The regression outcome of the table above shows the impact of the independent variables (Insufficient/Unreliable Data and Capacity Constraints) on VAIDS implementation. The coefficient of determination R^2 indicates that 84.0% of changes or variations in the criterion or dependent variable (VAIDS implementation) are attributable to changes or variations in the predictor or independent variables (Lack of reliable data and Capacity Constraints). The theoretical implication of this result is that 24.0% of variations in implementation of VAIDS are explained by other factors outside the model. The adjusted R^2 value of 73.5% is a little below R^2 of 84.0%.

This finding is in agreement with the finding obtained by Micah (2012) who found from his study that there exists a significant relationship between corruption and decline in internally generated revenue. According to him, as corruption increases the decline in internal generated revenue will also increase.

Hypotheses 3: *There is no significant relationship between Corruption of Some Revenue Authority Officials and smooth implementation of VAIDS in Nigeria.*

Table 4.5: Correlations between Corrupt Practices and VAIDS implementation

		CRP	VIM
CRP	Pearson Correlation	1	-.523**
	Sig. (2-tailed)		.000
	N	302	302
VIM	Pearson Correlation	-.523**	1
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.000	
	N	302	302

** . Correlation is significant at the 0.01 level (2-tailed).

Table 4.5 shows the relationship corruption by officials of Revenue Authorities and VAIDS implementation in Nigeria. The table shows a correlation coefficient of -0.523** and a p-value of less than 0.05 (p=0.000) indicating an inverse but moderately significant relationship between the independent variable (Corruption by Revenue Authorities) and the dependent variable (VAIDS implementation). The implication is that the less corrupt the tax officials are, the more efficient the implementation of VAIDS will be in Nigeria.

Hypotheses 4: *There is no significant relationship between Inherent Delays in our Justice System and the implementation of VAIDS in Nigeria*

		DJJ	VIM
DJJ	Pearson Correlation	1	-.536**
	Sig. (2-tailed)		.004
	N	302	302
VIM	Pearson Correlation	-.536**	1
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.004	
	N	302	302

** . Correlation is significant at the 0.01 level (2-tailed).

Table 4.6 shows the association between usual delays in the prosecution of tax offenders or Delays in our Justice System and the implementation of Voluntary Assets and Income Declaration Scheme in Nigeria. The table reveals that the coefficient of correlation is -0.536** while the p value is 0.004; indicating a moderately significant relationship between the predictor and criterion variables. The relationship being inverse indicates that delay in justice delivery for tax evaders will create almost a proportionate decrease in the smooth and effective implementation of VAIDS in Nigeria and vice versa.

Regression Results

Table 4.7: Model Summary of Corruption of Tax Officials, Delays in our Justice System and VAIDS implementation

Model	R	R Square	Adjusted Square	RStd. Error of the Estimate
1	.889 ^a	.847	.828	.42176

a. Predictors: (Constant), CRP, DDJ

The table indicates that the value of R^2 is 84.7% suggesting that the predictor variables significantly influences the criterion variable. The implication is that the corruption of Revenue Authority Staff and the unusual Delays in our Justice system that does not proactively punish tax evaders in accordance with the laws are responsible for 84.7% changes in VAIDS implementation. The remaining 15.3% is explained by variables not included in the study model. The adjusted R^2 is 82.8% which is slightly less than the R^2 of 84.7%. Put differently, the coefficient of determination (R Squared) for the independent variables (CRP and DJJ) indicate an inverse significant relationship with the dependent variable (VIM). The implication is that the variables are statistically significant and do not support the two null hypotheses. Both null hypotheses are therefore rejected, and the alternate ones affirmed. This further shows that a decrease in the level of corruption and unusual delay in justice delivery for tax evaders will increase the efficiency and smooth implementation of VAIDS in Nigeria. This finding is also in line with the finding obtained by Patrick & Bala (2013) who found out from their study that there exists a significant relationship between corruption and decrease in internal generated revenue.

Hypothesis 5: *Politicization/Lack of 'Political Will' will not significantly affect VAIDS implementation in Nigeria*

Table 4.8: Correlations between Politicization/Political Will and VAIDS implementation

		PPW	VIM
PPW	Pearson Correlation	1	-.553**
	Sig. (2-tailed)		.000
	N	302	302
VIM	Pearson Correlation	-.553**	1
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.000	
	N	302	302

** . Correlation is significant at the 0.01 level (2-tailed).

The above table shows a negative and moderately significant association/relationship between the Politicization/lack of Political Will on the part of the Government and the success of VAIDS implementation in Nigeria as denoted by the correlation coefficient of -0.553 and a p value of 0.000 ($p = 0.000 < 0.05$) which reveals that lack of political will by the government will hamper the success of the scheme in Nigeria and vice versa.

Regression Results

Table 4.9: Model Summary of Politicization/lack of will and VAIDS implementation

Model	R	R Square	Adjusted Square	RStd. Error of the Estimate
1	.806 ^a	.767	.658	.37505

a. Predictors: (Constant), PPW

The regression outcome of the table shows the impact of the independent variable (Politicization/Lack of Political Will) on VAIDS implementation in Nigeria. The coefficient of determination R^2 indicates that 76.7% of changes or variations in the criterion or dependent

variable are explained by variations in the predictor or independent variables. The theoretical implication of this result is that 23.3% of variations in VAIDS implementation in Nigeria are explained by other factors outside the model. The adjusted R^2 value of 65.8% is a little lower than the R^2 of 76.7%. This finding is also in line with the finding obtained by Obara and Nangih (2017) who found out from their study that there exists a significant but negative relationship between lack of data base and increase in internal generated revenue from SMEs in Nigeria.

5.0 Conclusions and Recommendations

From the findings, it was discovered that VAIDS is a laudable idea or scheme that will enhance economic recovery and growth. However certain steps need to be taken to ensure its effective implementation in Nigeria. This study exposes that insufficient data, capacity constraints, corruption and lack of political will can affect its successful implementation.

It is recommended that special tax courts should be set up to try quickly and bring to book all tax offenders to serve as a deterrent to others. It is also recommended that the government should stop politicizing and develop enough political will to prosecute any tax offender regardless of their political affiliations or how highly placed. Lastly, staff of the Revenue Authorities should be trained and re-trained and also be professionally minded in the discharge of their duties. Lastly, the amnesty period should be left open for a fairly long period, if not indefinite; as was the case of Singapore; and not time-bound. These will help the scheme work in Nigeria.

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