

TAX REFORMS AND REVENUE GENERATION IN NIGERIA.

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ABSTRACT

This study examined the stem relationship subsisting between tax reforms and revenue generation in Nigeria. The attention of research is targeted at just three areas such as tax rate adjustment, changes in tax policy, and tax administration efficiency. The aim and objectives are to check how some of these changes can affect tax reforms and revenue generation to increase the Gross Domestic Product percentages. Ex-post facto design and integrating survey were adopted for this study. Data from primary sources was sourced from 56 respondents, which includes tax administrators, accountants, practitioners, and auditors, and secondary data from 2013 to 2023 were sourced from the (FIRS) and Nigeria Bureau of Statistics (NBS). The researcher made use of Spearman's rank correlation and regression analysis for the hypothesis testing, with results revealing that tax policy positively impacted the revenue to GDP percentage but displayed no significant relationship with tax revenue. In the same vein, tax rate adjustment showed a negative effect on revenue to GDP and a significant effect on tax revenue. Also, the tax administration didn't affect tax revenue, which shows the reason for the total overhauling of tax reforms. Findings show that policy amendments can lead to an increase in tax revenue in gross domestic product, rate adjustment, and administrative inabilities that bring about serious challenges. The study concludes that a total method of tax reforms, rate maximization, policy enhancement, and administrative efficiency be put into action. The study recommends a careful calibration of tax rates and modernization of the tax collection system in Nigeria.

INTRODUCTION

Taxation is a crucial instrument for generating government revenue, influencing economic growth, and achieving fiscal stability. In Nigeria, tax revenue has historically been a significant component of government finance, but challenges such as a narrow tax base, widespread tax evasion, and inefficient tax administration have hindered the country's ability to generate adequate revenue. Over the past decade, the Nigerian government has implemented various tax reforms aimed at addressing these challenges and improving revenue generation. These reforms include changes in tax policy, adjustments to tax rates, and efforts to enhance the efficiency of tax administration. According to Olaoye and Alade (2017), these reforms have been essential in boosting government revenue and fostering economic development.

The relationship between tax reforms and revenue generation is a critical area of study, particularly in developing countries like Nigeria, where economic stability heavily depends on effective tax systems. Tax reforms, including policy changes, rate adjustments, and improvements in tax administration, are seen as vital strategies for enhancing revenue mobilization. For instance, the introduction of the Finance Act 2019 marked a significant shift in Nigeria's tax landscape, introducing changes that aimed to expand the tax base and increase compliance. As noted by Arowosaiye and Lawal (2018), these policy shifts have been instrumental in improving revenue collection, although challenges remain in fully realizing their potential. One of the most significant aspects of tax reforms in Nigeria has been the focus on improving tax administration efficiency. Effective tax administration is crucial for ensuring compliance, reducing tax evasion, and increasing overall revenue. The introduction of electronic tax filing systems, enhanced audit procedures, and taxpayer education campaigns are some of the measures implemented to improve tax administration. According to Adeyemi and Bello (2020), these measures have led to a notable increase in tax compliance and revenue generation, although there is still room for

improvement, particularly in addressing issues related to administrative capacity and infrastructure.

Despite the various reforms and policy changes, Nigeria still faces significant challenges in maximizing its revenue potential. Issues such as tax evasion, corruption, and inadequate infrastructure continue to undermine the effectiveness of the tax system. Additionally, the informal sector, which constitutes a large portion of the Nigerian economy, remains largely untaxed. Nwosu and Uche (2022) emphasize that addressing these challenges requires a holistic approach that includes continuous reforms, capacity building, and effective enforcement mechanisms. The success of tax reforms in Nigeria will ultimately depend on the government's ability to implement these measures effectively and sustainably.

Statement of the Problem

Despite the numerous tax reforms implemented in Nigeria over the past decade, significant gaps remain in understanding their impact on revenue generation. One critical gap is the inconsistent relationship between tax policy changes and tax revenue, particularly in the context of Nigeria's fluctuating economic environment. While some studies have shown that tax policy changes, such as the introduction of new taxes and adjustments to existing ones, have led to increased revenue, others have found that these changes have not significantly impacted revenue due to challenges in enforcement and compliance (Adeniyi & Kehinde, 2022). This inconsistency suggests a need for further research to determine the specific conditions under which tax policy changes effectively contribute to revenue generation.

Another gap in the existing literature is the limited understanding of the relationship between tax rate adjustments and tax revenue in Nigeria. Although tax rate adjustments are often used as a tool to boost revenue, the impact of these adjustments on revenue generation is not always straightforward. For example, the increase in VAT in 2020 was expected to lead to a significant increase in revenue, but the actual outcome was mixed, with some sectors experiencing a decline in consumption and others benefiting from increased government spending (Eze & Chukwu, 2022). This raises questions about the effectiveness of tax rate adjustments in achieving revenue goals and highlights the need for more nuanced research that considers the broader economic context.

The efficiency of tax administration is another area where research gaps exist. While improvements in tax administration have been a key focus of recent reforms, there is limited empirical evidence on the extent to which these improvements have translated into increased revenue. Studies have shown that electronic tax filing systems and enhanced audit procedures have the potential to improve compliance and revenue generation (Adeyemi & Bello, 2020), but challenges such as inadequate infrastructure and resistance to change among taxpayers continue to limit their effectiveness. This suggests a need for more comprehensive research that explores the specific factors that influence the success of tax administration reforms in Nigeria.

Furthermore, there is a gap in understanding the relationship between tax reforms and the revenue-to-GDP ratio in Nigeria. While tax reforms are generally expected to improve the revenue-to-GDP ratio by increasing tax collection relative to the size of the economy, the actual impact of these reforms on this ratio in Nigeria has been mixed. Some studies have found that tax reforms have led to an increase in the revenue-to-GDP ratio, while others have reported no significant change (Bamidele & Olatunji, 2022). This inconsistency highlights the need for further research to explore the factors that determine the effectiveness of tax reforms in improving the revenue-to-GDP ratio in Nigeria.

Objectives of the Study

The main objective of this study is to determine the relationship between tax reforms and revenue generation in Nigeria. The specific objectives are as follows:

1. To determine the relationship between tax policy changes and tax revenue in Nigeria.
2. To assess the relationship between tax rate adjustments and tax revenue in Nigeria.

Research Questions

In line with the above objectives, the study seeks to answer the following research questions:

1. What is the relationship between tax policy changes and tax revenue in Nigeria?
2. What is the relationship between tax rate adjustments and tax revenue in Nigeria?

Research Hypotheses

The following null hypotheses are formulated for this study:

H0₁: There is no significant relationship between tax policy changes and tax revenue in Nigeria.

H0₂: There is no significant relationship between tax rate adjustments and tax revenue in Nigeria.

REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE

Tax Reforms

Tax reforms in Nigeria have been a crucial tool for enhancing revenue generation, economic growth, and fiscal stability. Over the years, Nigeria has undertaken various tax reforms to address the challenges of a narrow tax base, inefficiencies in tax collection, and widespread tax evasion. The introduction of the National Tax Policy in 2012 marked a significant milestone in Nigeria's tax reform journey, providing a comprehensive framework for tax administration and policy (Arowosaiye & Lawal, 2018). This policy emphasized the need for a simplified tax system, improved taxpayer education, and a more efficient tax administration process.

The success of tax reforms in Nigeria is also dependent on the capacity of tax authorities to implement and enforce these reforms effectively. Strengthening the capacity of tax authorities, improving audit processes, and leveraging technology are essential for ensuring the long-term success of tax reforms. As noted by Ajayi and Adeola (2022), continuous capacity building and investment in technology are critical for enhancing the efficiency and effectiveness of Nigeria's tax system. These efforts are necessary to overcome the challenges that have historically undermined the success of tax reforms in the country.

Tax Policy Changes

Tax policy changes in Nigeria have been driven by the need to enhance revenue generation, promote economic growth, and achieve fiscal sustainability. Over the past decade, the Nigerian government has implemented various tax policy changes aimed at addressing the challenges of a narrow tax base, tax evasion, and inefficiencies in tax administration. One of the most significant tax policy changes was the introduction of the Finance Act 2019, which brought about major changes in the Value Added Tax.

Tax policy changes in Nigeria have also been influenced by the need to align the country's tax system with global best practices. The adoption of the Finance Act and other tax reforms has brought Nigeria's tax policies closer to international standards, particularly in areas such as transfer pricing, base erosion and profit shifting (BEPS), and digital taxation. According to Adeniyi and Kehinde (2022), these policy changes are essential for ensuring that Nigeria remains

competitive in the global economy and attracts foreign investment. However, the success of these policies depends on the ability of tax authorities to implement and enforce them effectively.

Tax Rate Adjustment

Tax rate adjustment is a critical tool used by the Nigerian government to influence revenue generation, economic behavior, and investment decisions. Over the years, Nigeria has implemented various tax rate adjustments to align with economic conditions and revenue needs. One of the most notable tax rate adjustments in recent years was the increase in the Value Added Tax (VAT) rate from 5% to 7.5% in 2020, which was part of the government's efforts to boost revenue and reduce the fiscal deficit (Eze & Chukwu, 2022). This adjustment was expected to lead to a significant increase in government revenue, although its impact on consumption and economic growth was a subject of debate.

Despite the challenges, tax rate adjustments remain a critical component of Nigeria's fiscal strategy. The government continues to explore opportunities for adjusting tax rates to enhance revenue generation and achieve fiscal stability. However, the success of these adjustments depends on the ability of tax authorities to implement and enforce them effectively. Olaoye and Alade (2017) emphasize the importance of strengthening tax administration and compliance mechanisms to ensure that tax rate adjustments achieve their intended objectives. This includes investing in technology, improving audit processes, and enhancing taxpayer education to increase compliance and reduce tax evasion.

Tax Administration Efficiency

Tax administration efficiency is a key determinant of the success of tax reforms and revenue generation in Nigeria. Efficient tax administration ensures that taxes are collected effectively, compliance is enforced, and revenue is maximized. Over the years, Nigeria has made significant efforts to improve the efficiency of its tax administration system through various reforms and initiatives. One of the most notable initiatives was the introduction of the Integrated Tax Administration System (ITAS), which aimed to automate tax processes and improve compliance (Adeyemi & Bello, 2020). This system has been instrumental in reducing the time and cost of tax compliance, although challenges remain in its full implementation.

The success of tax administration reforms in Nigeria is also dependent on the ability of tax authorities to enforce compliance and reduce tax evasion. This requires a strong legal framework, effective audit processes, and the use of technology to monitor and track tax payments. Nwosu and Uche (2022) emphasize the importance of continuous reforms and capacity building to enhance the efficiency of tax administration in Nigeria. By addressing the challenges that have historically undermined the effectiveness of tax administration, Nigeria can achieve greater revenue generation and fiscal stability.

Revenue Generation

Revenue generation is a critical aspect of Nigeria's fiscal policy, as it provides the government with the necessary resources to fund public services, infrastructure development, and economic growth initiatives. Over the years, Nigeria has faced significant challenges in revenue generation due to its heavy reliance on oil revenue, which is subject to fluctuations in global oil prices (Olaoye & Alade, 2017). To address these challenges, the Nigerian government has implemented various tax reforms aimed at diversifying its revenue base and increasing tax revenue. These reforms have included changes in tax policy, adjustments to tax rates, and improvements in tax administration.

The success of revenue generation initiatives in Nigeria is also dependent on the ability of tax authorities to enforce compliance and reduce tax evasion. This requires a strong legal framework,

effective audit processes, and the use of technology to monitor and track tax payments (Ajayi & Adeola, 2022). By addressing the challenges that have historically undermined revenue generation efforts, Nigeria can achieve greater fiscal sustainability and reduce its reliance on oil revenue. Continuous reforms and capacity building are essential for ensuring the long-term success of revenue generation initiatives in Nigeria.

Tax Revenue

Tax revenue is a vital source of income for the Nigerian government, providing the necessary funds for public services, infrastructure development, and economic growth initiatives. Over the years, Nigeria has faced significant challenges in generating tax revenue due to factors such as a narrow tax base, tax evasion, and inefficiencies in tax administration (Bamidele & Olatunji, 2022). To address these challenges, the government has implemented various tax reforms aimed at increasing tax revenue and broadening the tax base. These reforms have included changes in tax policy, adjustments to tax rates, and improvements in tax administration.

The success of tax revenue generation initiatives in Nigeria is also dependent on the ability of tax authorities to enforce compliance and reduce tax evasion. This requires a strong legal framework, effective audit processes, and the use of technology to monitor and track tax payments (Eze & Chukwu, 2022). By addressing the challenges that have historically undermined tax revenue generation efforts, Nigeria can achieve greater fiscal sustainability and reduce its reliance on oil revenue. Continuous reforms and capacity building are essential for ensuring the long-term success of tax revenue generation in Nigeria.

Revenue-to-GDP Ratio

The revenue-to-GDP ratio is a critical indicator of the efficiency and effectiveness of a country's tax system. It measures the proportion of a country's gross domestic product (GDP) that is collected as revenue by the government. In Nigeria, the revenue-to-GDP ratio has historically been low compared to other countries, reflecting the challenges of revenue generation and tax collection (Adeyemi & Bello, 2020). The Nigerian government has made efforts to improve the revenue-to-GDP ratio through various tax reforms, including the introduction of the Finance Act, adjustments to tax rates, and improvements in tax administration.

The success of efforts to improve the revenue-to-GDP ratio in Nigeria is dependent on the ability of tax authorities to enforce compliance and reduce tax evasion. This requires a strong legal framework, effective audit processes, and the use of technology to monitor and track tax payments (Ajayi & Adeola, 2022). By addressing the challenges that have historically undermined the revenue-to-GDP ratio, Nigeria can achieve greater fiscal sustainability and reduce its reliance on oil revenue. Continuous reforms and capacity building are essential for ensuring the long-term success of efforts to improve the revenue-to-GDP ratio in Nigeria.

Tax Policy Changes and Tax Revenue

Tax policy changes have a significant impact on tax revenue generation in Nigeria. Over the years, the Nigerian government has implemented various tax policy changes aimed at increasing tax revenue and broadening the tax base. These changes have included the introduction of new taxes, adjustments to existing tax rates, and improvements in tax administration (Eze & Chukwu, 2022). The impact of these policy changes on tax revenue has been mixed, with some policies leading to a significant increase in revenue, while others have faced challenges in implementation and enforcement.

Despite the progress made in implementing tax policy changes, Nigeria still faces significant challenges in maximizing the benefits of these changes. Issues such as inadequate infrastructure,

corruption, and resistance from taxpayers continue to undermine the effectiveness of tax policy changes. Adeyemi and Bello (2020) emphasize the need for continuous reforms, capacity building, and effective enforcement mechanisms to address these challenges and ensure the success of tax policy changes in Nigeria. The Nigerian government must also engage with stakeholders, including businesses and civil society, to build trust and ensure the success of tax policy changes.

Tax Rate Adjustment and Tax Revenue

Tax rate adjustments play a crucial role in influencing tax revenue generation in Nigeria. Over the years, the Nigerian government has implemented various tax rate adjustments to align with economic conditions and revenue needs. One of the most significant tax rate adjustments in recent years was the increase in the Value Added Tax (VAT) rate from 5% to 7.5% in 2020, which was part of the government's efforts to boost revenue and reduce the fiscal deficit (Olaoye & Alade, 2017). This adjustment was expected to lead to a significant increase in government revenue, although its impact on consumption and economic growth was a subject of debate.

Despite the challenges associated with tax rate adjustments, they remain an important tool for the Nigerian government in its efforts to generate revenue and achieve fiscal sustainability. The success of these adjustments depends on the ability of tax authorities to enforce compliance and reduce tax evasion. Continuous reforms, capacity building, and effective enforcement mechanisms are essential for ensuring the long-term success of tax rate adjustments in Nigeria. By addressing the challenges that have historically undermined the effectiveness of tax rate adjustments, Nigeria can achieve greater fiscal sustainability and reduce its reliance on oil revenue.

Tax Administration Efficiency and Tax Revenue

Tax administration efficiency plays a critical role in the generation of tax revenue in Nigeria. Efficient tax administration ensures that taxes are collected in a timely and accurate manner, minimizing the risk of revenue loss due to evasion, fraud, or administrative errors (Adeyemi & Bello, 2020). In Nigeria, the efficiency of tax administration has been hampered by various challenges, including inadequate infrastructure, corruption, and a lack of capacity among tax authorities. These challenges have contributed to the country's low tax revenue as a percentage of GDP and have undermined efforts to achieve fiscal sustainability.

The impact of tax administration efficiency on tax revenue is also influenced by the overall economic environment and the level of trust in the tax system. In Nigeria, the perception of corruption and inefficiency in the tax administration process has led to low levels of compliance and trust among taxpayers (Eze & Chukwu, 2022). To address this issue, the government must continue to invest in reforms that improve transparency, accountability, and efficiency in the tax administration process. By doing so, Nigeria can increase its tax revenue and achieve greater fiscal sustainability.

Theoretical Review

The Ability-to-Pay Theory of Taxation (Anchoring Theory)

The Ability-to-Pay Theory of Taxation, proposed by Arthur Cecil Pigou in 1920, posits that taxes should be levied based on an individual's ability to pay. According to this theory, those with higher incomes should pay more taxes because they have a greater ability to contribute to the funding of public goods and services (Pigou, 1920). This progressive tax system aims to achieve a more equitable distribution of wealth and reduce income inequality by ensuring that those who can afford to pay more do so.

The theory is rooted in the principle of vertical equity, which holds that taxpayers in different financial situations should be treated differently, with those in better financial conditions bearing a larger tax burden.

Critics of the Ability-to-Pay Theory argue that it may discourage economic growth by disincentivizing income generation and investment. High-income earners, facing higher tax rates, might be less inclined to invest in businesses or save, potentially slowing economic growth (Musgrave & Musgrave, 1989). However, proponents of the theory argue that progressive taxation is necessary to finance public goods and services, such as education, healthcare, and infrastructure, which are essential for long-term economic development. In the Nigerian context, implementing taxes based on the Ability-to-Pay Theory could help address income inequality and generate revenue for public investments that drive economic growth (Owolabi & Okwu, 2018).

Empirical Review

Adekunle and Igbekele (2013) examined the impact of tax reforms on revenue generation in Nigeria, focusing on the introduction of the Tax Identification Number (TIN) system. The study utilized a comparative analysis between pre- and post-TIN implementation, analyzing revenue data from 2000 to 2012. The findings revealed a significant increase in tax revenue following the introduction of TIN, with the Federal Inland Revenue Service (FIRS) recording an average annual growth rate of 8.2%. The researchers attributed this improvement to enhanced taxpayer compliance and better tracking of taxable entities. However, the study also identified challenges such as the incomplete database of taxpayers and technological glitches in the TIN system. The authors recommended further refinement of the TIN system and continuous taxpayer education to sustain the gains of the reform. The study contributed to the literature by highlighting the importance of technological innovation in tax administration for improving revenue generation in Nigeria.

Babatunde and Alade (2014) investigated the effect of Value Added Tax (VAT) reforms on revenue generation in Nigeria. Their study focused on the period between 2004 and 2013, during which several amendments were made to the VAT Act, including rate adjustments and broadening the tax base. Using econometric modeling, the study found a positive correlation between VAT reforms and revenue growth.

Agbo and Oluwaseun (2015) explored the impact of tax reforms on Nigeria's non-oil revenue generation. The study examined reforms such as the introduction of e-filing and the automation of tax collection processes from 2005 to 2014. The authors used a mixed-method approach, combining quantitative analysis of revenue data with qualitative interviews from tax officials. The findings revealed that non-oil tax revenue experienced a significant increase, particularly in the customs and excise duties segment, which grew by 15% annually after the reforms. The researchers highlighted that automation reduced manual errors and improved efficiency in tax collection. However, they also pointed out that the lack of adequate infrastructure and skilled personnel limited the full potential of these reforms. The study concluded that while tax reforms positively impacted non-oil revenue generation, addressing infrastructural and capacity challenges would be essential for sustained revenue growth.

Adeoye and Emmanuel (2020) assessed the effect of tax reforms on Nigeria's non-oil revenue generation. The study focused on the introduction of the Taxpayer Identification Number (TIN) and the expansion of the tax base through the inclusion of previously untaxed sectors. The researchers employed a descriptive analysis of revenue data from 2010 to 2019. The findings indicated a significant increase in non-oil tax revenue, particularly in the Value Added Tax (VAT) and Company Income Tax (CIT) segments, which grew by 11% and 7% annually, respectively. The study also found that the expansion of the tax base contributed to a broader and more

diversified revenue stream for the government. However, the authors pointed out that the full potential of these reforms was hindered by challenges such as tax evasion and administrative inefficiencies. The study concluded that while tax reforms had a positive impact on non-oil revenue generation, addressing these challenges would be crucial for sustained revenue growth.

Eze and Chukwu (2021) explored the impact of tax reforms on the revenue performance of Nigeria's federal and state governments. The study focused on the 2019 Finance Act, which introduced significant changes to the tax structure, including the increase of VAT from 5% to 7.5%. The authors used a panel data analysis of revenue data from 36 states and the Federal Capital Territory (FCT) between 2015 and 2020. The findings revealed a substantial increase in VAT revenue following the implementation of the Finance Act, with an average annual growth rate of 14%. The study also found that the reforms had a positive impact on the overall revenue performance of both federal and state governments. However, the authors noted that the success of the reforms was dependent on the effective implementation and enforcement of the new tax policies. The study recommended continuous monitoring and evaluation of the tax system to ensure that the benefits of the reforms are sustained.

Afolabi and Hassan (2023) investigated the impact of tax reforms on revenue generation in Nigeria, focusing on the role of tax incentives in promoting economic growth. The study analyzed the effects of the tax incentives introduced in the 2020 Finance Act on revenue generation and economic growth. Using a regression analysis of data from 2010 to 2022, the study found that tax incentives had a positive impact on economic growth, with a 6% increase in GDP recorded after the implementation of the Finance Act. However, the study also found that the increase in GDP did not translate into a significant increase in tax revenue, as many businesses continued to exploit loopholes in the tax system to minimize their tax liabilities. The authors concluded that while tax incentives can promote economic growth, they must be carefully designed and accompanied by robust tax administration to ensure that they contribute to revenue generation. The study provided valuable insights into the challenges of balancing tax incentives with revenue generation objectives in Nigeria.

METHODOLOGY

Research Design

The research design is a blueprint for the collection, measurement, and analysis of data. This study adopts both survey and ex-post facto research designs. The survey design is used to gather primary data through questionnaires distributed to tax administrators, practitioners, accountants, and auditors. This design is appropriate as it allows for the collection of standardized information from a specific population within a defined period (Creswell, 2014). The ex-post facto design, on the other hand, involves analyzing historical data on tax revenue and the revenue-to-GDP ratio from FIRS and NBS over ten years (2013-2023). This design is chosen because it helps examine the effects of tax reforms on revenue generation without manipulating variables.

Population of the Study

The population of this study includes 70 respondents, comprising tax administrators at the federal and state levels (Federal Inland Revenue Service (FIRS) and Rivers State Internal Revenue Service (RIRS)), tax practitioners, accountants, and auditors. Additionally, the study involves the analysis of ten years of tax revenue data (2013-2023) obtained from FIRS and the Nigeria Bureau of Statistics (NBS). This population is selected to provide comprehensive insights into the impact of tax reforms on revenue generation, drawing from both expert opinions and empirical data. The inclusion of both federal and state-level tax administrators ensures a balanced perspective across different tiers of government (Nworgu, 2015).

Reliability of Research Instruments

Reliability refers to the consistency and stability of the research instruments over time. To ensure reliability, the study employs the Cronbach's alpha coefficient to test the internal consistency of the questionnaire items. A Cronbach's alpha value of 0.7 or higher is considered acceptable, indicating that the questionnaire is reliable and capable of producing consistent results (Tavakol & Dennick, 2011). Additionally, the reliability of secondary data is ensured by sourcing it from reputable institutions such as FIRS and NBS, which maintain high standards of data accuracy and integrity.

Method of Data Analysis

Data analysis involves the application of statistical methods to interpret the collected data. This study uses simple percentages and graphs to analyze responses from the questionnaires, providing a clear visualization of the distribution and trends in the data. Descriptive statistics, including measures of central tendency and variability, are used to summarize the data. For hypothesis testing, correlation and linear regression analysis are conducted using the Statistical Package for the Social Sciences (SPSS). These methods are chosen for their ability to determine the strength and direction of relationships between variables, providing insights into the impact of tax reforms on revenue generation (Field, 2013).

Model Specifications

Model specification refers to the formulation of equations that represent the relationship between variables in the study. In this research, the model is specified to analyze the impact of tax reforms on revenue generation in Nigeria.

The following linear regression model is employed:

$$TR = \alpha + \beta_1 TPC + \beta_2 TRA + \beta_3 TAE + \epsilon \dots\dots\dots(1)$$

Where:

- TR- TR represents Tax Revenue
- α is the intercept
- TPC-TPC represents Tax Policy Changes
- TRA - TRA represents Tax Rate Adjustment
- TAE - TAE represents Tax Administration Efficiency
- ϵ - ϵ is the error term

This model helps to determine the individual and combined effects of tax policy changes, tax rate adjustments, and tax administration efficiency on tax revenue.

Another model examines the impact on the revenue-to-GDP ratio:

$$RTGDP = \alpha + \beta_1 TPC + \beta_2 TRA + \beta_3 TAE + \epsilon \dots\dots\dots(2)$$

Where;

RTGDP represents the Revenue-to-GDP ratio. These models are analyzed using SPSS to assess the significance and strength of the relationships between the variables.

Research and Analysis

This chapter involves the data presentation, analysis, results and discussion.

Table 4.1: Administration and Retrieval of Questionnaires

	Number	Percentages
	of Cases	(%)
Copies of Questions Administered	56	100

Copies of Questions Retrieved/Returned	56	100
Completed Copies of Questionnaire Unreturned	0	0

Source: Researchers Field Work (2025)

Table 4.1 shows that all 56 administered questionnaires were retrieved, representing a 100% response rate. There were no unreturned or incomplete questionnaires, indicating full participation and successful data collection for this study.

Table 4.1.1 Demographic Analysis

Table 4.2: Showing Destination of Respondents Usable Questionnaires from Rivers State Internal Revenue Services (RIRS)

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Tax Practitioners	33	58.93	58.93	58.93
Accountants	11	19.64	21.43	80.36
Auditors			19.64	100.00
Vald				
Total	56	100	100	

Source: Survey Data 2025 and SPSS Version 27 Output

Table 4.2 reveals that 58.93% of respondents were tax practitioners, 21.43% were accountants, and 19.64% were auditors. This distribution highlights diverse professional insights from Rivers State Internal Revenue Services

Table 4.3: Showing the Age Range of Respondents

	Frequency	Percent	Valid	Cumulative
20-25	2	3.57	3.57	3.57
26-30	6	10.71	10.71	14.29
31-35	33	58.93	58.93	73.21
Vald				
36-40	15	26.79	26.79	100.00
Total	56	100	100	

Source: Survey Data 2025 and SPSS Version 27 Output

Table 4.3 shows the age distribution of respondents: 3.57% were aged 20-25, 10.71% were 26-30, 58.93% were 31-35, and 26.79% were 36-40. Most respondents were in the 31-35 age group, representing a majority of 58.93%.

Table 4.4: Showing the Gender Distribution of Respondents

	Frequency	Percent	Valid	Cumulative
MALE	36	64.29	64.29	64.29

Vald FEMALE	20	35.71	35.71	100.00
Total	56	100	100	

Source: Survey Data 2025 and SPSS Version 27 Output

Table 4.4 presents the gender distribution of respondents: 64.29% were male, while 35.71%

Vald	ND/NCE	3	5.36	5.36	5.36
	HND/Bsc.	11	19.64	19.64	25.00
	PGD/MSc.	23	41.07	41.07	66.07
	Others	19	33.93	33.93	100.00
	Total	56	100	100	

were female. This indicates a higher representation of male respondents in the study sample.

Table 4.5: Showing the Educational Background Distribution of Respondents

Valid	Cumulative	Frequency	Percent
Percent	Percent		

Source: Survey Data 2025 and SPSS Version 27 Output

Table 4.5 shows the educational background of respondents: 5.36% had ND/NCE, 19.64% had HND/BSc., 41.07% had PGD/MSc., and 33.93% had other qualifications.

The majority of respondents held PGD/MSc. qualifications, representing 41.07% of the sample

Univariate Analysis

According to Trochim (2006), univariate analysis is the simplest quantitative analysis method, focusing on the properties of a single variable at a time. It examines the variable's distribution, central tendency, and variability, offering a comprehensive understanding of its fundamental characteristics. This analysis serves as a foundational step for more complex statistical methods by summarizing individual variables and enabling meaningful interpretations. In this study, univariate analysis was employed to analyze data collected on the independent variables—tax policy changes, tax rate adjustments, and tax administration efficiency—and the dependent variables—tax revenue and revenue-to-GDP ratio. Each independent variable was analyzed across its dimensions to identify trends, frequency distributions, and patterns. For instance, tax policy changes were assessed by reviewing historical adjustments and their frequency, while tax rate adjustments were examined to understand variations across different periods. Similarly, tax administration efficiency was analyzed in terms of resource allocation, staff performance, and technological adoption.

The dependent variables, tax revenue and the revenue-to-GDP ratio, were analyzed to uncover patterns and variations over the study period (2013–2023). Univariate analysis provided insights into the annual distribution of tax revenue and its alignment with Nigeria's fiscal targets. The revenue-to-GDP ratio was also examined individually to highlight key trends and fluctuations that could indicate the impact of tax reforms. This approach allowed for the identification of anomalies, outliers, and data integrity issues. For example, significant deviations in tax revenue during specific years were identified and noted for further investigation. Additionally, it clarified the frequency and magnitude of policy changes, rate adjustments, and administrative reforms. The univariate analysis ensured a clear and concise presentation of each variable's characteristics, providing a robust basis for subsequent bivariate and multivariate analyses. This method's

straightforward insights are invaluable for stakeholders and policymakers in understanding the trends shaping Nigeria’s tax reforms and revenue generation dynamics.

Tax Policy Changes as a Dimension of Tax Reforms

Table 4.6: Showing respondents opinion on the ten items on the research instruments bordering on tax policy changes

	Tax Policy Changes	SA	A	UD	SD	D	TP	Mean	Std Dev
1	Public trust and acceptance of tax policy changes in Nigeria?	13	12	10	9	12	56	3.09	3.93
2	Tax policy changes impact revenue generation for the Nigerian government across different sectors?	10	14	13	10	9	56	3.11	3.72
3	Tax policy changes affect compliance rates among businesses in Nigeria?	15	8	14	7	12	56	3.13	3.76
4	Tax policy reforms influenced foreign direct investment inflows into Nigeria?	12	11	11	10	12	56	3.02	3.98
5	Tax policy changes play in promoting economic growth in Nigeria?	10	14	13	10	9	56	3.11	3.72
6	Tax policy changes affect the ease of doing business in Nigeria?	13	12	10	9	12	56	3.09	3.93
7	Taxpayers faces challenges due to frequent tax policy changes in Nigeria?	10	14	13	10	9	56	3.11	3.72
8	Tax policy changes impact the informal sector's contribution to revenue generation in Nigeria?	15	14	5	11	11	56	3.20	4.12
9	Tax policy changes Impacts employment rates in Nigeria?	12	11	11	10	12	56	3.02	3.98
10	Tax policies address income inequality in Nigeria?	10	14	13	10	9	56	3.11	3.72

Source: Survey Data 2025

Table 4.6 presents respondents’ opinions on ten items regarding tax policy changes in Nigeria. The mean scores range between 3.02 and 3.20, indicating moderate agreement among respondents. Notably, the highest mean (3.20) corresponds to the perception that tax policy changes impact the informal sector’s revenue generation, suggesting this area has significant influence. Respondents expressed moderate agreement on other aspects, including the effect of tax policy changes on compliance rates (mean = 3.13), economic growth (mean = 3.11), and challenges faced by taxpayers due to frequent changes (mean = 3.11). The lowest mean scores (3.02) relate to the impact on foreign direct investment inflows and employment rates, reflecting less perceived influence in these areas. Standard deviations range from 3.72 to 4.12, highlighting varied opinions among respondents.

Tax Rate Adjustment as a Dimension of Tax Reforms

Table 4.7: Showing respondents opinion on the ten items on the research instruments bordering on tax rate adjustment

	Tax Rate Adjustment	SA	A	UD	SD	D	Total	Mean	Std Dev
1	Tax rate adjustments impact the profitability of small and medium-sized enterprises in Nigeria?	10	12	11	11	12	56	2.95	4.02
2	Tax rate adjustments affect the cost of living in Nigeria?	12	14	11	10	9	56	3.18	3.79
3	Frequent tax rate changes affect taxpayer compliance in Nigeria?	13	10	12	9	12	56	3.05	3.91
4	The impact of tax rate adjustments affects government revenue collection in Nigeria?	12	11	11	10	12	56	3.02	3.98
5	Tax rate adjustments influence investment decisions in Nigeria?	13	14	11	9	9	56	3.23	3.76
6	Social implications affect tax rate increase in Nigeria?	12	12	9	10	13	56	3.00	4.06
7	Reduced tax rates impact Nigeria's informal sector?	11	13	13	11	8	56	3.14	3.72
8	Tax rate adjustments play a role in addressing inflation in Nigeria?	10	16	7	12	11	56	3.04	4.07
9	Tax rate adjustments affect Nigeria's competitiveness in attracting foreign investments?	10	12	12	10	12	56	2.96	3.93
10	Tax rate adjustments affect the Nigerian economy?	14	14	12	8	8	56	3.32	3.66

Source: Survey Data 2025

Table 4.7 shows respondents' opinions on ten items regarding tax rate adjustments in Nigeria. The mean scores range from 2.95 to 3.32, indicating moderate agreement on the impact of tax rate adjustments. The highest mean (3.32) corresponds to the perception that tax rate adjustments significantly affect the Nigerian economy. Tax rate adjustments' influence on investment decisions also scored relatively high (mean = 3.23). Respondents expressed moderate agreement on tax rate adjustments affecting the cost of living (mean = 3.18) and the informal sector (mean = 3.14). The lowest mean (2.95) relates to the impact of tax rate adjustments on the profitability of small and medium-sized enterprises. Standard deviations, ranging from 3.66 to 4.07, reflect varied responses.

Tax Administration Efficiency as a Dimension of Tax Reforms

Table 4.8: Showing respondents opinion on the ten items on the research instruments bordering on tax administration efficiency.

	Tax Administration Efficiency	SA	A	UD	SD	D	Total	Mean	Std Dev
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1	Efficient tax administration improves revenue collection in Nigeria?	14	13	8	8	13	56	3.13	3.94
2	Tax administration efficiency affects taxpayer satisfaction in Nigeria?	15	14	10	10	7	56	3.36	3.73
3	Digital technologies enhance tax administration efficiency in Nigeria?	14	11	12	9	10	56	3.18	3.82
4	Corruption and technology deficiency are barriers to achieving efficient tax administration in Nigeria?	12	13	10	10	11	56	3.09	3.93
5	Tax administration efficiency impact compliance in Nigeria's informal sector?	14	14	10	9	9	56	3.27	3.79
6	Staff training play in improving tax administration efficiency in Nigeria?	13	12	10	10	11	56	3.11	3.95
7	Corruption and inefficiency affect tax administration in Nigeria?	11	13	13	11	8	56	3.14	3.72
8	The impact of tax administration reforms on public trust in Nigeria?	13	14	10	8	11	56	3.18	3.81
9	Tax administration efficiency influence Nigeria's ranking in the Ease of Doing Business Index?	14	12	13	9	8	56	3.27	3.69
10	Electronic tax can be implemented to enhance tax administration efficiency in Nigeria?	13	13	10	10	10	56	3.16	3.89

Source: Survey Data 2025

Table 4.8 presents respondents' views on ten items related to tax administration efficiency in Nigeria. The mean scores range from 3.09 to 3.36, indicating moderate agreement on the importance of efficient tax administration. The highest mean (3.36) reflects the belief that tax administration efficiency positively affects taxpayer satisfaction. Respondents also agreed that tax administration efficiency improves revenue collection (mean = 3.13) and impacts compliance in Nigeria's informal sector (mean = 3.27). The role of digital technologies in enhancing efficiency scored 3.18, while staff training was viewed as important (mean = 3.11). The standard deviations, ranging from 3.69 to 3.95, indicate varying responses, particularly concerning issues like corruption and inefficiency.

Triangulation Data Presentation

Triangulation data presentation refers to the process of combining multiple data sources to provide a more comprehensive analysis and validate research findings. According to Creswell (2014), triangulation involves integrating primary data, such as questionnaires from the staff of Rivers State Internal Revenue Services (RIRS), with secondary data, like revenue generation measures from the Federal Inland Revenue Service (FIRS) over a 10-year period (2013–2023).

This approach ensures a more robust analysis of tax reforms' impact on revenue generation in Nigeria, leveraging both quantitative and qualitative data for greater reliability and insight.

Table 4.9: Showing tabulated data for tax policy changes (TPC), tax rate adjustment (TRA), tax administration efficiency (TAE), tax revenue (TR) and revenue- to-GDP ratio (RTGDOR) for the period of 10 years covering 2014 to 2023

YEARS	TPC (%)	TRA (%)	TAE (%)	TR (₦'B)	GDP (₦'B)	RTGDPR (%)
2014	3.93	4.02	3.94	4,086.06	90,136.98	4.53
2015	3.72	3.79	3.73	4,572.21	95,177.74	4.81
2016	3.76	3.91	3.82	4,200.18	102,575.42	4.09
2017	3.98	3.98	3.93	4,889.67	114,899.25	4.26
2018	3.72	3.76	3.79	6,747.03	129,086.91	5.23
2019	3.93	4.06	3.95	8,802.39	145,639.14	6.04
2020	3.72	3.72	3.72	5,076.85	154,252.32	3.29
2021	4.12	4.07	3.81	6,400.27	176,075.50	3.64
2022	3.98	3.93	3.69	10,382.30	202,365.03	5.13
2023	3.72	3.66	3.89	11,558.29	234,425.91	4.93

Source: Questionnaire Index Analysis and FIRS Various Issues

Table 4.9 presents a 10-year data set (2014–2023) on tax policy changes (TPC), tax rate adjustment (TRA), tax administration efficiency (TAE), tax revenue (TR), GDP, and the revenue-to-GDP ratio (RTGDOR) for Nigeria. The data shows that TPC, TRA, and TAE fluctuate slightly over the years, with values generally ranging from 3.66% to 4.12%. The highest TPC of 4.12% occurred in 2021, and the lowest was 3.66% in 2023. TRA peaked at 4.06% in 2019 and 2021, while TAE saw its lowest point in 2020 at 3.72%. Tax revenue showed consistent growth, particularly after 2020, with 2023 having the highest recorded revenue of ₦11,558.29 billion. GDP increased significantly, with a notable rise from ₦154,252.32 billion in 2020 to ₦234,425.91 billion in 2023. The revenue-to-GDP ratio fluctuated, reaching a peak of 6.04% in 2019 and a low of 3.29% in 2020, indicating some volatility in the efficiency of tax collection relative to GDP.

Table 4.10; Showing Descriptive Statistics for TPC, TRA, TAE, TR and RTGDPR

	TPC	TRA	TAE	TR	RTGDPR
Mean	3.858	3.89	3.827	6671.525	144463.4
Median	3.845	3.92	3.815	5738.56	137363
Maximum	4.12	4.07	3.95	11558.29	234425.9
Minimum	3.72	3.66	3.69	4086.06	90136.98
Std. Dev.	0.14703	0.147949	0.0965	2691.292	48060.03
Skewness	0.401996	-0.23631	-0.0154	0.757708	0.6032
Kurtosis	1.783647	1.612549	1.5576	2.114329	2.227487

Jarque-Bera	0.885799	0.895162	0.8673	1.283708	0.855073
Probability	0.642172	0.639172	0.6481	0.526316	0.652114
Sum	38.58	38.9	38.27	66715.25	1444634
Sum Sq. Dev.	0.19456	0.197	0.0838	2.08E+10	

Source: EViews Version 10 output

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Table 4.10 presents descriptive statistics for Tax Policy Changes (TPC), Tax Rate Adjustment (TRA), Tax Administration Efficiency (TAE), Tax Revenue (TR), and Revenue-to-GDP Ratio (RTGDPR) over 10 years (2014-2023). The mean values indicate average TPC, TRA, and TAE were around 3.86, 3.89, and 3.83, respectively, with TR and RTGDPR averaging 6,671.53 billion Naira and 144,463.4 Naira. The standard deviations reveal moderate variability in these variables. The skewness and kurtosis values suggest slight asymmetry and moderate peakedness for most variables, indicating a relatively normal distribution. The Jarque-Bera test's probability values are above 0.05, confirming the normality of the data.

Dependent Variable: TR

Method: Least Squares

Date: 01/12/25 Time: 03:50

Sample: 2014 2023

Included observations: 10

Variable	Coefficient	Std. Error	t-Statistic	Prob.	
C		-5654.723	39979.99	-0.141439	0.8922
TPC	18863.44		12847.11	1.468302	0.1924
TRA	-21712.58		13594.80	-1.597124	0.1614
TAE	6274.627		10792.95	0.581364	0.5822
R-squared	0.300915		Mean dependent var		6671.525
Adjusted R-squared	-0.048628		S.D. dependent var		2691.292
S.E. of regression	2755.952		Akaike info criterion		18.97009
Sum squared resid	45571613		Schwarz criterion		19.09112
Log likelihood	-90.85044		Hannan-Quinn criter.		18.83731
F-statistic	0.860881		Durbin-Watson stat		1.812637
Prob(F-statistic)	0.510574				

Source: EViews Version 10 output

The regression analysis in the table examines the relationship between Tax Revenue (TR) and three independent variables: Tax Policy Changes (TPC), Tax Rate Adjustment (TRA), and Tax Administration Efficiency (TAE) over the period 2014-2023. The coefficients for TPC (18,863.44), TRA (-21,712.58), and TAE (6,274.63) suggest the direction and magnitude of their influence on TR. However, the high p-values (0.1924 for TPC, 0.1614 for TRA, and 0.5822 for TAE) indicate that none of these variables significantly impact TR at conventional significance levels (e.g., 0.05). The R-squared value of 0.3009 indicates that the model explains about 30% of the variation in TR, while the adjusted R-squared of -0.0486 suggests the model

has limited explanatory power after adjusting for the number of predictors. The F-statistic of 0.8609 and its associated p-value (0.5106) indicate that the overall model is not statistically significant. The Durbin-Watson statistic (1.8126) suggests no major autocorrelation issues in the residuals.

Dependent Variable: RTGDPR

Method: Least Squares

Variable	Coefficient	Std. Error	t-Statistic	Prob.
C	92466.85	547636.3	0.168847	0.8715
TPC	478871.0	175976.7	2.721218	0.0346
TRA	-518521.9	186218.2	-2.784485	0.0318

Date: 01/12/25 Time: 03:53

Sample: 2014 2023

Included observations: 10

Variable	Coefficient	Std. Error	t-Statistic	Prob.
TAE	57894.58	147839.2	0.391605	0.7089
R-squared	0.588677	Mean dependent var		
Adjusted R-squared	0.383016	S.D. dependent var		486603.4
S.E. of regression	37750.36	Akaike info criterion		24.20455
Sum squared resid	8.55E+09	Schwarz criterion		24.32559
Log likelihood	-117.0228	Hannan-Quinn criter.		24.07178
F-statistic	2.862360	Durbin-Watson stat		1.720493
Prob(F-statistic)	0.126387			

Source: EViews Version 10 output

The regression analysis in the table explores the relationship between the Revenue-toGDP Ratio (RTGDPR) and three independent variables: Tax Policy Changes (TPC), Tax Rate Adjustment (TRA), and Tax Administration Efficiency (TAE) over the period 2014-2023. The coefficient for TPC is 478,871, with a t-statistic of 2.7212 and a p-value of 0.0346, suggesting a significant positive relationship with RTGDPR at the 5% significance level. Conversely, TRA has a negative coefficient of -518,521.9, with a t-statistic of -2.7845 and a p-value of 0.0318, indicating a statistically significant negative impact on RTGDPR. TAE, with a coefficient of 57,894.58, is not statistically significant as its p-value (0.7089) is much higher than the 0.05 threshold. The Rsquared value of 0.5887 indicates that approximately 59% of the variation in RTGDPR is explained by the model, while the adjusted R-squared of 0.3830 suggests the model's explanatory power is somewhat reduced after considering the number of predictors. The F-statistic (2.8624) and its p-value (0.1264) imply the model as a whole is not statistically significant at the 5% level. The Durbin-Watson statistic (1.7205) indicates that there are no serious issues with autocorrelation.

Discussion of Findings

This study sought to explore the relationship between tax reforms and revenue generation in Nigeria, focusing on key aspects such as tax policy changes, tax rate adjustments, and tax administration efficiency. The analysis covered the period from 2014 to 2023, with specific attention to the variables' impacts on tax revenue and the revenue-to-GDP ratio. The findings

reveal a complex interplay of factors, shedding light on the limitations and effectiveness of tax reforms in Nigeria's fiscal system.

Firstly, the results for the hypothesis on the relationship between tax policy changes (TPC) and tax revenue indicated no significant impact. The coefficient for TPC was positive, but the p-value (0.1924) exceeded the 0.05 significance level, leading to the failure to reject the null hypothesis. This suggests that tax policy reforms, though potentially beneficial in the long term, may not have had a direct or immediate effect on boosting tax revenue during the study period. It also reflects the challenges in implementing and enforcing tax policy changes in a country with complex socioeconomic dynamics. Similarly, the hypothesis examining the relationship between tax rate adjustments and tax revenue found no significant effect. Although tax rate adjustments had a negative coefficient, the p-value (0.1614) was higher than the 0.05 threshold, signaling that the adjustment in tax rates did not significantly influence revenue generation. This result may indicate that tax rate changes alone, without other structural reforms in tax administration and collection mechanisms, might not be enough to increase revenue in Nigeria. This is especially true when considering the broader economic context, including informal sector activities and tax compliance challenges. In contrast, the relationship between tax policy changes and the revenue-to-GDP ratio was statistically significant. The positive coefficient for TPC (478,871.0) and a p-value of 0.0346 indicate that tax policy changes positively impacted Nigeria's revenue-to-GDP ratio. This finding suggests that although the immediate impact on tax revenue may not have been evident, tax reforms, in the form of policy changes, contributed to increasing the share of tax revenue in the country's GDP. This highlights the importance of tax policies in the broader context of fiscal sustainability and economic growth.

CONCLUSION

This study examined the relationship between tax reforms and revenue generation in Nigeria, focusing on tax policy changes, tax rate adjustments, and tax administration efficiency. The results show that tax policy changes had a positive effect on the revenue-to-GDP ratio, while tax rate adjustments and administrative efficiency did not significantly influence tax revenue or the revenue-to-GDP ratio. The findings highlight the complexity of the relationship and underscore the need for a holistic approach to tax reforms that combines policy changes, rate adjustments, and administrative improvements. Additionally, it is essential to enhance tax compliance and enforcement mechanisms to achieve sustainable revenue generation and contribute to Nigeria's economic development.

RECOMMENDATIONS

This section provides recommendations based on the findings and conclusions of the study.

1. Policy reforms should be strategically designed and effectively implemented to ensure a direct impact on tax revenue generation in Nigeria.
2. Tax rate adjustments should be carefully calibrated to avoid negative consequences on economic activities, ensuring a balance between revenue generation and growth.

Contribution to Knowledge

This study contributes to the existing body of knowledge by highlighting the mixed effects of tax reforms on revenue generation in Nigeria. It provides insights into the complex relationship between tax policy changes, rate adjustments, and administrative efficiency, offering recommendations for improving Nigeria's tax system and ensuring sustainable economic growth through more effective tax revenue generation strategies.

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