



MULTIPLE TAXATION AND BUSINESS SURVIVAL: A CASE STUDY OF ANAMBRA STATE, NIGERIA

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Abstract

The study investigated the relationship between multiple taxation and business survival in Awka, Anambra State. The specific objective was to evaluate the effectiveness of existing tax policies in fostering a conducive environment for business survival and to analyze the coping strategies businesses employ in response to multiple taxations. A survey research design was employed on a population of 330 from 11 small-scale entrepreneurs in Awka Anambra State. Taro Yamane's formula was used to obtain a sample size of 319. This study employed primary data gathered through structured questionnaires distributed to managers/owners of 319 Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (SMEs) in Awka, Anambra State. The hypotheses were tested using the Chi-squared test with the aid of Statistical Package for Social Sciences V.22. The findings revealed that there is a significant relationship between the effectiveness of existing tax policies and multiple taxations (p-value = 0.000); there is a significant relationship between multiple taxations and coping strategies employed by businesses (p-value = 0.000). Therefore, the study recommends that the Anambra State Government streamline and harmonize tax collection processes across different agencies to minimize duplication and reduce the financial burden on businesses, thereby fostering a more conducive environment for business growth and investment.

INTRODUCTION

Multiple taxations refers to the phenomenon where small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) are subjected to various taxes at different levels of government, resulting in a significant burden on their operations (Adegbe & Fakile, 2015). Effective management of government agencies requires financial resources, and most governments worldwide rely heavily on the collection of both direct and indirect taxes to support these

agencies (Oyedokun et al., 2024). In some instances, like Nigeria, there may be only one major source of tax, like petroleum profit tax, which is more than 80% of the total accruable tax. Any downward trends in the prices of these commodities always have crushing and devastating effects on the governments' finances during the forthcoming periods (Adeyeye et al., 2022). This can lead to double taxation, where the same income or activity is taxed multiple times, causing a significant increase in the tax liability of SMEs (Oyebade & Oyebade, 2018). Multiple taxation is a significant challenge affecting Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (SMEs) in Nigeria, hindering their growth and development. SMEs must pay various federal, state, and local government taxes, leading to a heavy tax burden. This results in increased operational costs, reduced profitability, and limited access to credit facilities. Due to the turbulent and increasing changes in the environment, organizations, especially in emerging economies like Nigeria, are striving so hard to thrive and maintain a competitive edge. However, the result has not been good, as this has consequently led to poor structure, information decay, and poor performance in many organizations (Omotayo, 2015; Nwagbala et al., 2023).

Recent studies noted that Multiple taxation is a major obstacle to the growth and survival of SMEs in Nigeria" (Ogbonna & Ekpo, 2022). SMEs in Nigeria face a complex tax environment, with multiple taxes and levies imposed by different government agencies" (Adegbe & Fakile, 2021). The high tax burden on SMEs in Nigeria leads to reduced and discourages investment, lower productivity, and decreased economic growth" (Oyebade & Oladipupo, 2020). In 1929, women carried out the Aba riot, and in 1969, peasant farmers in Western Nigeria carried out the Agbekoya riots in opposition to tax increases without providing equivalent basic facilities (Afolabi & Akeem, 2022). The peasants in rural areas resisted, for example, to pay taxes for pipe-borne water, which was not extended to them. The organs of governments (police and army) were often used to quell these resistances, resulting in casualties. In support, Ilodigwe (2023) discovered that multiple taxes imposed on SMEs are a major factor responsible for the abrupt folding up of these businesses in Nigeria, as these taxes continue to take a large chunk of their earnings. According to the aforementioned claims, tax-related problems, such as high tax burdens and double taxes, are major contributing causes to the premature demise of SMEs in Nigeria. This frequently poses a challenge to SMEs' ability to survive. However, the rate at which these enterprises fold up is very high and alarming and, therefore, calls for urgent and serious attention. This is in line with Momoh (2017), over 75% of SMEs in Nigeria die in infancy, not surviving beyond their 4th anniversary due to myriad challenges that cannot be remedied by the operations in the sector.

Azubike and Onukwube (2019) stated that taxes are a major factor in every world's society. Even though tax remains one of the key players in revenue generation in Nigeria generally and Anambra state in particular, caution should be applied in how it is levied on SMEs so as not to be an impediment. This is because their size and particular characteristics should be considered when imposing taxes. Regrettably, this is frequently overlooked because most government tax policies fail to consider the distinctive characteristics of SMEs. They are frequently handled similarly to large-scale businesses,

particularly in tax-related matters. Because multiple taxation hurts SMEs' survival and typically contributes to their failure, it undermines the government's meaningful efforts to support SMEs. This is the rationale behind the study, which looks at the relationship between multiple taxation and business survival in Anambra state, Nigeria.

Multiple taxes levied on the same goods and services by various government agencies have deterred commerce and business. The payment of regular taxes on goods in one region of the nation does not guarantee that the same commodities will not be subject to similar taxes when transported to another region. Branded company cars with advertisement taxes paid on them in one local government may have to pay those taxes in every local government they operate in, even if they are traveling between them to do business. Transportation of products across state borders is subject to various taxes levied by individual and local governments. Cattle herds from the far north travel the length and breadth of the nation, paying various taxes until they reach their ultimate destinations in the south. Food products like yams, peppers, and tomatoes pay different taxes. Before reaching their final destination, tomatoes and peppers may need to pay up to 12 different taxes when traveling 12 kilometers. These taxes have been referred to by several titles, including movement tax, ad hoc tax, pollution tax, environment tax, and agriculture tax.

Certain state and municipal governments are testing automobiles on motors previously intended for federal governments. Before a car can travel through the area, it must pass smoke emission tests. These "tests" are conducted on the highways shortly after the necessary taxes are paid. "Passing" a smoke emission test in one jurisdiction does not excuse one from driving through a neighboring state with a comparable test for vehicle smoke emissions. When it comes to the numerous levies levied against the defenseless corporate citizens of Nigeria the telecommunications sector has received more than its fair share. To raise money internally, axes are being collected from the industry by Ministries, Departments, and Agencies (MDA) to create internal revenue. Not only do these MDAs impose charges, but also resident areas, community development areas, and "Areas Boys. These are repeated for each base station across the 36 states and the District of Colombia.

Most of these taxes are gathered extrajudicially, and nonpayment frequently leads to equipment vandalism and subpar services. Businesses in the manufacturing sector pay different kinds of taxes to state and local governments, private entrepreneurs pay similar taxes on the same goods or services being transported across the nation, and individuals paying different kinds of taxes all operate in environments unsuitable for real economic growth. Are there justifications for these multifarious taxes being thrown at the economic community? Are there better ways to make money that don't necessarily involve breaking the law in your community? What are the long-term consequences of these various levies on the nation and the tax structure?

The study's main objective is to investigate the relationship between multiple taxation and business survival in Anambra state. The study seeks to: Evaluate the

effectiveness of existing tax policies in fostering a conducive environment for business survival. Analyze the coping strategies businesses employ in response to multiple taxations; What is the effectiveness of existing tax policies in fostering a conducive environment for business survival?; What are the coping strategies employed by businesses in response to multiple taxation?

Literature Review

Conceptual clarifications

Multiple Taxation

Multiple taxation is when a legal or an artificial body's income is subjected to multiple taxes (Adu,2018). The government has always used taxes embedded in the economy to maximize revenue, even though Nigerian tax authorities have manipulated it. Cross (2019) stated that small business owners are frequently impacted by the taxes they must pay to various government agencies. These taxes include payroll, sales, income, and property taxes, often affecting their businesses. The complexity of tax laws and regulations, combined with a lack of knowledge and expertise in tax compliance and the high cost of tax compliance, make it difficult for small-scale entrepreneurs to keep up with the multiple tax requirements (Bello, 2018). Consequently, this can lead to reduced profitability, cash flow problems, and financial distress for small-scale entrepreneurs (Segun & Osaze, 2018). As such, addressing the issue of multiple taxes is crucial for improving the financial performance and survival of small-scale entrepreneurs in Awka, Anambra State.

Effectiveness of Existing Tax Policies in Fostering a Conducive Environment for Business Survival

The effectiveness of existing tax policies in creating a conducive environment for business survival in the face of multiple taxation is a complex issue that requires a multifaceted analysis. Multiple taxation, where businesses face federal, state, and local taxation, can create significant challenges for businesses. These challenges include increased compliance costs, administrative burdens, and a potential deterrent to entrepreneurship and investment. The OECD has highlighted the negative impact of excessive taxation complexity on entrepreneurship and investment. Their report "Tax Policy Reforms 2020: OECD and Selected Partner Economies" emphasizes the importance of simplifying tax policy and reducing administrative burdens to support economic growth (OECD, 2020). Compliance costs associated with multiple taxation are substantial. According to PwC's report "Paying Taxes 2020," businesses spend significant resources on tax compliance, and multiple layers of taxation can exacerbate these costs, particularly in countries with complex tax systems (PwC, 2020). Moreover, the World Bank Group's "Doing Business 2020" report highlights the adverse effects of excessive taxation on domestic and foreign investment, hindering economic growth and business survival (World Bank Group, 2020). While multiple taxation poses significant challenges to business survival, effective tax policies can mitigate these challenges and foster a

conducive environment for businesses to thrive. Simplifying tax systems, reducing compliance costs, and streamlining multiple taxes are crucial steps in this direction.

Coping Strategies Employed by Businesses in Response to Multiple Taxation

Many businesses have adopted advocacy and engagement as a coping strategy. They actively participate in dialogues with government authorities, industry associations, and advocacy groups to express their concerns about the adverse effects of multiple taxation. Through these platforms, businesses seek to influence policy decisions, promote tax reforms, and create awareness about their challenges (Chukwuma & Eze, 2023). Knowledge sharing enables the organization to exploit existing knowledge or combine different knowledge to form new knowledge (Nwagbala et al., 2023).

Thus, the coping strategies employed by businesses in Nigeria in response to multiple taxation reflect the resilience and adaptability of the private sector. Tax planning, advocacy, diversification, technology integration, collaboration, and legal remedies are among the approach's businesses adopt to navigate the challenges of multiple taxation (Eguavoen et al., 2023). Policymakers must consider the experiences and concerns of businesses, fostering a more collaborative approach to tax policy formulation. A balanced and transparent tax system is essential to promote sustainable economic growth and business development in Nigeria, enabling small businesses to avoid financial distress. Financial distress is when a company cannot meet its financial obligations, such as paying off debts or meeting operating expenses, due to a lack of available funds. By adopting these strategies, businesses in Nigeria can better navigate the complex tax landscape and reduce the burden of multiple taxation.

Business Survival

Business survival refers to the ability of a firm to maintain its existence and continue operating over some time" (Ogbonna & Ekpo, 2022). It is about sustaining a competitive advantage, innovating, and adapting to changing market conditions" (Tanzi, 2020). Survival is the capacity of a business to absorb disturbances, recover from setbacks, and maintain its financial performance" (Lynch & Hufbauer, 2022). It is the ability of a business to withstand challenges, adapt to changing environments, and maintain its market position" (Adegbie & Fakile, 2020). Business survival is the ability of a company to thrive in economic downturns, market changes, and other unforeseen events that can impact its revenue, profitability, and overall viability (Hernández et al., 2021) Thus, business survival refers to the ability of a business to remain operational and profitable despite facing challenges, such as economic downturns, competition, and changes in consumer behavior. Most firms are facing survival challenges due to poor decisions in managing change, as critical factors are not taken into consideration in the decision-making process (Katzenback & Smith, 2011; Nwagbala et al., 2023; Ezeanokwasa et al., 2023). A business needs to survive to achieve its long-term goals, maintain employment for its workers, and contribute to the economy. Business survival often requires strategic planning, adaptation to changing circumstances, and effective risk management. It measures the sustainability and resilience of a business in the face of

competition, economic downturns, changes in consumer preferences, technological advancements, and other factors that may threaten its existence (Jose & Sonia, 2018). In recent years, the issue of multiple taxation has gained prominence globally, with businesses increasingly vocal about its detrimental effects on economic growth and investment. For instance, a report by the World Bank Group highlights the challenges posed by multiple taxation in developing countries, emphasizing the need for comprehensive tax reforms to promote business resilience and sustainable development (World Bank, 2020). Similarly, multinational corporations have raised concerns about the complexity and inconsistency of tax regimes across jurisdictions, calling for greater coordination among governments to address tax-related challenges (OECD, 2021). To mitigate the impact of multiple taxation and ensure business survival, governments and policymakers need to focus on simplifying tax systems, harmonizing tax regulations across jurisdictions, and providing incentives for investment and entrepreneurship. Collaborative efforts between governments, businesses, and international organizations are essential to address multiple taxation challenges effectively.

Theoretical Review

Business Taxation Theory

This study is anchored on Adam Smith's business taxation theory (1776). Smith believes that taxation should be based on the "ability to pay" principle, where individuals with a higher income contribute a greater share of taxes, and argues that taxation should not interfere with the natural workings of the economy and that government intervention should be minimal. He believes taxation should promote economic efficiency by encouraging productive activities and discouraging unproductive ones. Business Taxation Theory focuses on the taxation of businesses and corporations, examining how tax policies impact their behavior, financial performance, and economic outcomes. Business Taxation Theory posits that taxing business activities can distort resource allocation, production decisions, and investment behavior. High corporate tax rates, for example, may discourage investment, innovation, and entrepreneurship, leading to lower economic growth and competitiveness.

Business Taxation Theory is relevant to this study because it explains how multiple taxation affects business survival through several key mechanisms. When businesses face multiple layers of taxation, including corporate income taxes, property taxes, sales taxes, and local business levies, they may be unable to fully pass on these costs to consumers or adjust their pricing strategies. As a result, businesses may experience lower profit margins and reduced cash flow, making it challenging to sustain operations and invest in growth initiatives, ultimately impacting their long-term survival prospects. Thus, excessive or inefficient taxation can dampen investment incentives, deter entrepreneurship, and constrain economic dynamism, leading to stagnation and underdevelopment in affected regions.

Several previous studies have examined the impact of multiple taxes. The first study refers to Adewara et al. (2023) examined the effect of multiple taxation on the financial

performance of SMEs in Ekiti State, Nigeria. The population comprised 9,275 registered and functional small and medium enterprises in Ekiti State, Nigeria. The population comprises all registered and functional SMEs located in Ado Ekiti, Nigeria, and have existed for over 5 years with valid proof of tax payment. The study tested the hypotheses using correlation and multiple regression analysis. The results found that multiple tax burdens and administrations exhibited a significant negative relationship with the financial performance of SMEs in Ekiti State, Nigeria. In contrast, the ability to pay tax revealed a significant positive relationship.

Omar (2022) conducted a study to investigate the impact of value-added tax (VAT) on the financial performance of small and medium enterprises (SMEs) in Mombasa County. The study aimed to determine the effect of zero-rated VAT on SMEs' financial performance in the region. The sample size was 300 small and medium enterprises, selected through stratified random sampling, and data was collected through structured questionnaires. The findings were analyzed using descriptive and regression analysis with the Statistical Package for Social Sciences. The study showed a direct effect of VAT on SMEs' financial performance and recommended that the Kenyan government consider allowing input tax credits to improve the tax system. This would reduce input taxes and move consumers to cheaper options to improve revenue for consumer goods firms.

Abdulrahman and Ajayi (2022) conducted a study to examine the impact of high tax rates and multiple taxation on tax compliance among SMEs in Zamfara State, Nigeria. The study focused on Gusau, the state capital with a population of 682,700, and sampled 400 small and medium business owners in the state using Taro Yamane's sampling formula. The study used multiple regression analysis, ANOVA, coefficient, and co-linearity tests to assess the influence of high tax rates and multiple taxation on SMEs' tax compliance. The study found that the multiple tax system significantly impacted tax compliance, and high tax rates hurt tax compliance among small business owners. The study recommended that the government avoid high tax rates to improve tax compliance among SMEs in Zamfara State.

Okeke et al. (2021) conducted a study on the impact of multiple taxation on business sustainability in Nigeria. The study aimed to investigate the influence of multiple taxation on business sustainability, focusing on SMEs in Rivers State. A sample of twenty firms was selected, and a survey research design was used, followed by multiple regression analysis. Descriptive statistics were used to analyze the data collected through a structured questionnaire, and ordinary least square regression was applied. The results showed that the cost of compliance and value-added tax had a significant negative effect. In contrast, property tax and mobile fees and levies positively affected returns on assets. However, the effect of mobile fees and levies was insignificant. The study recommended that multiple taxation should be outlawed.

Tunde, Felix, and Emmanuel (2021) researched the impact of tax incentives on the growth of small and medium-scale enterprises in Kwara state. The population of the study was made up of twenty-nine registered SMEs in Kwara State, Nigeria. The study employed

a descriptive design, and primary data was collected on variables contributing to tax influence and their effect on the growth of SMEs. A sample of 260 respondents representing a percentage of targeted population enterprises in the production sector of Kwara State Industrial area was selected through Stratified and Simple Random Sampling techniques. Hypotheses were tested using an ordinary least square regression model. The study found a significant correlation between taxation and SMEs' growth. The study recommended a friendly tax policy for all start-up businesses, such as a tax holiday or the introduction of a growth limit that is stable enough to sustain tax payments.

Ilemona et al. (2019) investigated the effects of multiple taxes on the growth of SMEs in Nigeria. The study used non-parametric statistics, including mean score, standard deviation, and z-test, to analyze the data obtained from a survey conducted on staff and owners of SMEs in Lokoja–Kogi State. The results revealed that multiple taxes have negatively affected the growth of SMEs in Nigeria. The study recommended that the government restrict tax collection to those taxes within their tax jurisdiction as stipulated by law and impose stiff penalties against any tier of government, tax officials, and tax agencies using illegal means to enforce multiple taxes on SMEs in Nigeria.

Oyajimo (2019) investigated the multiple taxations of SMEs and their implications for the survival of businesses in Kogi State. The study employed a survey research design with a population size of 15,250. The study used ANOVA and Goodman's and Kruskal's Gamma statistical techniques to analyze the data obtained from a self-administered questionnaire distributed to a sample size of 390 SME operators. The findings revealed that multiple taxations hurt SMEs' survival, and the study recommended that the government develop a uniform tax policy that favors the growth and survival of SMEs in Kogi State. Furthermore, the Federal government should legislate against illegal levies introduced at the state and local levels of government to reverse the tax policy of foreclosure of SMEs by the lower tiers of government

Segun and Osazee (2018) conducted a study to determine the impact of multiple tax regimes on the sustainable development of small-scale enterprises in Lagos state, specifically on Lagos Island. Primary data was collected from small business owners within Lagos Island Local government and analyzed using ANOVA. The study found a significant relationship between multiple tax burdens and the business performance of small-scale enterprises. The researchers recommended the establishment of an institution to manage the issue of multiple taxes in Nigeria.

The study offers helpful insights into the connection between small-scale enterprises and multiple taxation in general. Nonetheless, a dearth of research addresses the connection between various taxation and small-scale businesses' ability to survive in Awka, Anambra State, Nigeria. Moreover, none of the research examined how well the current tax laws support the survival of businesses or examined the coping strategies used by companies in Awka, Anambra State, in reaction to the repeated taxation of small-scale organizations.

METHOD

The research employs a survey research design to investigate the correlation between multiple taxation and business survival in Anambra State. The study is focused on Awka, situated in the southeastern region of Nigeria, specifically within Anambra State. Primary data were gathered through structured questionnaires distributed to managers/owners with a total population of 330 staff in the selected Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (SMEs) in Awka, Anambra State. The questionnaires were designed using a 4-point Likert scale: 1= Strongly Disagree, 2= Disagree, 3= Agree, and 4= Strongly Agree. The researcher adopted Taro Yamane’s formula to obtain the sample. size. Content validity was confirmed through a pilot study, wherein the responses to the questions were scrutinized to ensure they aligned with the research objectives. The internal consistency reliability of the research instrument was assessed utilizing Cronbach's alpha. The researcher's limitation included the uncooperative attitude of some respondents in not providing answers to the questionnaire; some saw the survey as an interruption from their work schedules, while others saw it as purely academics. Some respondents had ill feelings that providing relevant information would endanger their position or job. The problem was mitigated by revisiting the respondents and convincing them of the need to assist in completing the questionnaire.

Staff selected from 11 SMEs are shown below.

Table 1. Population Size Composition of the Study

Name of SMEs	Staff
1. Jocar Nigeria Limited	30
2. Electrihut Nigeria	26
3. Feraco Print Media	31
4. Joydims Investment Limited	30
5. Fedora Concept & Event Management	40
6. XMAC Communications	29
7. ZontalFobis Limited	30
8. Infinity Tech-World	29
9. Encodeup Tech Hub	31
10. Beeman Integrated Services	20
11. Holy Family Table Water	34
Total	330

Source: Field 2024

Sample Size and Sample Technique

The researcher adopted Taro Yamane's formula to obtain the sample size from the total population of 330 small-scale entrepreneurs in Awka, Anambra State. This is demonstrated as follows;

$$\text{Formula: Sample size (n)} = \frac{N}{1+N(e)^2}$$

$$n = ? \text{ (Unknown)}$$

$$N = 330$$

$$e = 1\%$$

Therefore, sample size (n) is obtained thus:

$$n = \frac{330}{1+330(0.05)^2}$$

$$n = \frac{330}{1.033}$$

$$n = 319.4578896418199$$

Approximately, sample size = 319

This study applied the Chi-squared method analysis with the aid of Statistical Package for Social Sciences V.22. The choice of this statistical tool is predicated on the need to examine the relationship between multiple taxation and business survival and the need to establish a relationship.

The tests of the study's hypotheses were conducted at a 5% significance level. Thus, as a decision rule, reject null hypotheses if the p-value is less than 0.05; otherwise, accept null hypotheses if the p-value is greater than 0.05.

FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

Analysis of Research Question One

Table 2. Analysis of Research Question One: What is the effectiveness of existing tax policies in fostering a conducive environment for business survival?

SN	ITEMS	SA	A	D	SD	Mean>2.5	Decision
1	Multiple taxation has a significant effect on the quality of goods produced	77	99	33	22	3.00	Accept
2.	Multiple taxation affects sales volume	87	114	21	9	3.21	Accept

SN	ITEMS	SA	A	D	SD	Mean>2.5	Decision
3.	Adhering to extensive statutory compliance hinders the flexibility of our business processes.	88	108	22	13	3.17	Accept
4	We believe that a strong commitment to statutory compliance positively impacts our long-term business success.	89	97	28	17	3.12	Accept

Source: Field Survey, 2024

Table 2 provides an analysis of Research Question One, which investigates how well the current tax laws support the conditions necessary for businesses to survive. The poll results show that participants mostly agreed, with mean scores ranging from 3.00 to 3.21. Most respondents concur that because different taxing requires extensive regulatory compliance, it negatively impacts sales volume, the quality of items produced, and the flexibility of business procedures. Participants also state that long-term business performance is favorably correlated with a strong dedication to statutory compliance. The choice to "Accept" these claims is consistent with respondents' general agreement, indicating that Anambra state's economic climate and survival tactics are significantly shaped by the state's current tax laws.

Table 3. Analysis of Research Question Two: What coping strategies do businesses employ in response to multiple taxation?

SN	ITEMS	SA	A	D	SD	Mean>2.5	Decision
1	Tax planning and compliance management	98	90	29	14	3.18	Accept
2.	Advocacy and lobbying	111	86	23	11	3.29	Accept
3.	Diversification of operations	73	115	28	15	3.06	Accept
4	Legal challenges and dispute resolution	83	100	31	17	3.08	Accept

Source: Field Survey, 2024

Table 3. The analysis of Research Question Two focuses on the coping strategies businesses employ in response to multiple taxation. The survey results show that participants generally agreed, with mean values ranging from 3.06 to 3.29. Businesses in the state of Anambra use a variety of coping strategies, including advocacy and lobbying, tax planning and compliance management, diversification of operations, and legal challenges and dispute settlement. The decision to "Accept" these strategies indicates that respondents recognize and endorse the significance of these approaches in effectively dealing with the challenges posed by multiple taxation. This consensus underscores the adaptability of businesses in Anambra state, as they employ diverse strategies to navigate and mitigate the impact of multiple taxation on their operations.

Test of Hypotheses

Test of Hypothesis one

H₀₁: No significant relationship exists between the effectiveness of existing tax policies and multiple: taxation.

Table 4. Chi-square Test Statistics for Hypothesis One

There is no significant relationship between multiple taxation and the effectiveness of existing tax policies	
Chi-Square	187.870 ^a
Df	12
Asymp. Sig.	.000

a. 0 cells (0.0%) have expected frequencies less than 5. The minimum expected cell frequency is 17.8.

Source: SPSS V. 22.

As shown in Table 3. The Chi-square test findings indicate a highly significant relationship between the effectiveness of current tax policy and multiple taxation, as hypothesized. The alternate hypothesis is accepted because of the Chi-square value of 187.870 and p-value of .000. This suggests that the frequency of multiple taxation and the efficacy of current tax policies are significantly correlated, highlighting the significance of tax policy effectiveness in reducing the difficulties presented by multiple taxation. Therefore, there is a substantial correlation (p-value = 0.000) between double taxation and the efficacy of current tax policy.

Test of Hypothesis Two

H₀₂: There is no significant relationship between multiple taxation and coping strategies employed by businesses.

Table 5. Chi-square Test Statistics for Hypothesis Two

There is no significant relationship between multiple taxation and coping strategies employed by businesses	
Chi-Square	183.030 ^a
Df	12
Asymp. Sig.	.000

a. 0 cells (0.0%) have expected frequencies less than 5. The minimum expected cell frequency is 17.8.

Source: SPSS V. 22.

The analysis of Hypothesis Two is shown in Table 4: examining the relationship between multiple taxation and business coping strategies demonstrates a significant association. The results reject Ho2 with a p-value of .000 and a Chi-square value of 183.030, indicating a substantial relationship between multiple taxes and the coping strategies employed by businesses. This suggests that the burden of different taxes shapes businesses' coping strategies, underscoring the need for flexible solutions to this challenge. Consequently, a strong association (p-value = 0.000) exists between the different taxes and the coping strategies businesses employ.

The analysis of data revealed the following notable findings:

- 1) There is a significant relationship between the effectiveness of existing tax policies and multiple taxation (p-value = 0.000).
- 2) There is a significant relationship between multiple taxation and coping strategies employed by businesses (p-value = 0.000).

CONCLUSION

Multiple taxation is a long-standing challenge for companies that operate in several areas, such as Nigeria's Anambra state. Multiple taxation problems have become a major obstacle for companies doing business in Anambra state, Nigeria. The efficiency of current tax laws and the coping mechanisms used by these companies are both significantly impacted by this phenomenon.

There is a clear relationship between the incidence of multiple taxation and its impact on the efficacy of current tax laws. Multiple taxes and levies might proliferate due to ineffective tax rules that leave gaps and ambiguities. Businesses are exposed to arbitrary and conflicting tax demands from different government authorities when tax regulations are unclear, inconsistent, and lack enforcement tools. This worsens the detrimental

effects of several taxes on businesses' profitability and impedes economic development in Anambra State.

The relationship between various forms of taxes and the coping strategies enterprises implement highlights the necessary adjustments businesses must make to endure this difficult tax landscape. Businesses burdened by multiple taxation may turn to various coping strategies, including downsizing, cost-cutting initiatives, informal sector operations, or even moving to a location with more advantageous tax laws. Although designed to lessen the negative effects of multiple taxation, these coping strategies may have unforeseen repercussions that lead to decreased job possibilities, discouraged investment, and overall economic stagnation. In light of this, closing this gap helps to improve our knowledge of the unique difficulties experienced by small enterprises in Awka and provides information for policy initiatives designed to foster their expansion and sustainability.

In conclusion, the findings highlight the detrimental effects of multiple taxation on business survival and growth in Anambra state. The imposition of numerous taxes and levies negatively underscores the importance of effective tax policies and forces businesses to adopt coping strategies to navigate the challenging tax environment. Addressing the issue of multiple taxation requires concerted efforts from policymakers to streamline tax systems, enhance tax compliance mechanisms, and create a conducive business environment that fosters sustainable growth and development.

Based on the above discussion, we recommend following the policy agenda. First, regular reviews and assessments of tax policies by the Anambra State Ministry of Finance are necessary to find gaps and inconsistencies. Then, the ministry should seek to implement reforms that improve clarity, consistency, and enforcement, which will lessen the occurrence of multiple taxation and encourage equitable and effective tax practices.

Second, to help businesses navigate the challenges of multiple taxation and sustainably grow their operations, the Anambra State Chamber of Commerce, Industry, Mines, and Agriculture should work with relevant stakeholders to provide support and resources. These resources should include training programs on financial management, tax compliance, and alternative revenue generation strategies.

The body of current research provides insightful information about the overall effects of multiple taxation on small businesses. That being said, the fact that this study was conducted helps to close a significant knowledge gap by precisely examining the impact of several taxes on the survival of small enterprises in Awka, Anambra State, Nigeria. In light of this, closing this gap helps to improve our knowledge of the unique difficulties experienced by small enterprises in Awka and provides information for policy initiatives designed to foster their expansion and sustainability.

Lastly, we suggest further studies: First, examine the efficacy of the tax breaks and incentives provided to SMEs in Anambra. This could offer insights into how these policies

affect the expansion and advancement of SMEs and help create more sensible tax laws to assist SMEs in Anambra.

Second, analyze the effectiveness of the incentives and tax breaks offered to SMEs in Anambra. This could provide information about how these policies impact the growth and development of SMEs and aid in the creation of more reasonable tax rules to support SMEs in Anambra.

The third research agenda is to carry out a long-term analysis to find out how tax laws affect SMEs' performance in Anambra over the long run. This could give policymakers insight into the long-term advantages of assisting SMEs through tax policies and hint at the longevity of the influence of such policies on SMEs.

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