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## **Taxpayers’ Demographic Characteristics and Tax Compliance: Evidence from Edo State of Nigeria**

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### *Authors’ Contributions*

This work was carried out in collaboration among all authors.  
All authors read and approved the final manuscript.

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*Research Article*

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### **ABSTRACT**

The main aim of the study was to evaluate the impact of taxpayers’ demographic characteristics on tax compliance in Edo State, Nigeria using survey research design (closed ended questionnaire) to gather the data). A total of three hundred and eighty-five copies of the questionnaire were used for the analysis of the study. The multiple regression analysis was employed to test the hypotheses of the study. The result of the inferential statistics employed revealed that in Edo State, taxpayers’ education level has positive and significant influence on tax compliance; Taxpayers’ income level has negative significant effect on tax compliance; and taxpayers’ religious background has significant positive influence on tax compliance. The study recommends that government should increase the level of tax education to middle class bracket to improve their tax compliance.

**Keywords:** Demographic characteristics, education level, income level, religious background, tax compliance

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## INTRODUCTION

The government's capacity to continue providing public goods and services is largely dependent on tax income (Rao et al., 2019). Tax income, which is the lifeblood of public finances, is obtained through a variety of taxing methods and has significant effects on the economic stability and general well-being of a country (Adefolake & Omodero, 2022). There has been a deliberate attempt to reinvent the tax system by expanding its scope in order to improve the capacity for tax revenue collection (Dube & Casale, 2019). All levels of Nigerian government have turned to the non-oil industry as a replacement for increasing tax income due to the ongoing global drop in oil prices, which has left them with little revenue. Taxes serve as both a budgetary instrument to stabilise a country's economy and a means of income redistribution by providing residents with social infrastructure. On the other hand, a nation's tax revenue can only rise in areas where tax compliance is effective and efficient. Any government would suffer a significant loss of revenue with a high rate of tax non-compliance (Ayuolu, 2019),

The reasons why taxpayers choose to be compliant vary widely. While some people are driven only by economic considerations, others are primarily motivated by social or psychological variables, and in many cases, different mixtures of these driving forces determine how taxpayers behave (Alm, 2019). Although there is still disagreement on the important factors that determine compliance to tax laws, there is a lot of discussion about the importance of sociodemographic traits including age, gender, income, and education level. Numerous studies (Eriksen & Fallan 1996, Hasseldine 1999, Chung & Trivedi 2003, Bobek, Roberts, & Sweeney 2007; Kastlunger et al. 2010; Hofmann et al. 2017; Bruner, D'Attoma, & Steinmo 2017) have shown that socio-demographic

factors significantly influence tax compliance levels. But other researches (Ashby, Webley & Haslam 2009; Richardson 2006; Wenzel 2002) found no indication of a connection between socio-demographics and tax compliance. Hofmann et al. (2017) conclude in their meta-analysis that these factors are an essential part of the tax compliance methods and may even have interface with other tax compliance inputs, despite the fact that the study has not yet produced a consensus.

In Nigeria, tax compliance is nothing to write home about. Oyedele (2016), and Wahua, Kwode, Chukwuma and Attipoe (2023). Review of contemporary best practices in tax revenue mobilization from underground economies. *International Journal of Latest Technology in Engineering, Management & Applied Science*, 12(2), 38-48. DOI: 10.51583/IJLTEMAS and characterises Nigerian tax compliance behaviour as deficient. Since taxes account for the majority of state revenue, non-compliance clearly presents an issue to the government's efforts to maximise state revenue. The majority of citizens don't comply in a positive way since they don't trust their government (Ola, 2001). There have been few researches on tax compliance and the determinants of tax in various climes of the world. However, there is paucity on the specific study on the nexus between taxpayers' demographic attributes and tax compliance in south-south Nigeria. Some of the related studies includes the Irnanda, Krisnandi, Digidowiseiso and Mohamadi (2024); Rumui and Utomo (2024); Afif and Setiawan (2024); Paleka, Karanović and Štambuk (2023); Hanapi (2022); Muharremi et al (2022); Tan et al., (2021); Hwang and Nagac (2021); Twum et al (2020); Aregbesola et al (2020).

Evidences from the review reveals that there are mixed findings on the relationship between taxpayers' attributes and tax compliance. Furthermore, it was

observed that there is dearth in the literature on the impact of taxpayers' attributes on tax compliance in south-south Nigeria. Also, most of the studies have ignored the religious background attributes of taxpayers' influence on tax compliance. Therefore, this research is to fill the unknown areas in the past studies. The thrust of this research is to look into the impact of age, gender, income level, and education level and religious background of taxpayers on tax compliance in south-south Nigeria and emphasises the need of taking socio-demographics into account when examining taxpayers' behaviour. It also emphasises the necessity for taxing authorities to use a variety of tactics that take into consideration the dynamic and heterogeneous nature of the taxpayers' population.

The main objective of this research is to examine the influence of taxpayers' demographics characteristics on tax compliance in south-south, Nigeria. The specific objectives are to: determine the impact of taxpayers' education level on tax compliance in Edo State Nigeria; evaluate the effect of taxpayers' income level on tax compliance in Edo State Nigeria; and examine the influence of taxpayers' religious background on tax compliance in Edo State Nigeria.

## CONCEPTUAL CLARIFICATIONS

Tax scholars cannot agree upon a common definition of tax compliance, despite the fact that there is a wealth of literature on the factors that influence tax compliance. The idea of tax compliance and how it is used are explained in a number of researches, but a surprisingly high number of inadequacies still exist in the studies (Richardson & Sawyer, 2001). A number of studies (Wenzel, 2004; Gilligan and Richardson, 2005; Ho and Wong, 2008; Kastlunger et al., 2010) examine the idea of tax compliance and what factors should be taken into account,

but they do not provide an explicit definition of the term.

Kirchler (2007) states that underestimating income or inflating costs with the goal of reducing tax liability are three reasons why there may be non-compliance: submitting a tax return entirely absent, undervaluing income, or overstating expenses. The OECD (2008), while defining compliance obligations, states that tax compliance includes: (i) registering for taxes; (ii) filing taxes when required by law; (iii) making known all income taxable and properly making claims on tax return deductions; and (iv) ensuring payment of tax assessed before the deadline.

### Taxpayers' Income Level

Income is a motivating element in ensuring individuals to making timely payment of their tax (Rahman 2018). Income is defined as the total amount of money earned within a specific time period by an individual working on a part-time or disjoint employment (Setiaji & Nisak, 2017). The consequences of Allignham and Sandmo's (1972) model have been extensively studied in the literature, despite the model's equivocal conclusions about the link between income and tax compliance.

### Taxpayers' Education Level

When deciding tax regulation compliance, education is a significant factor (Jackson & Milliron, 1986). More specifically, education level has a role in improving taxpayers' comprehension of tax rules and regulations (Eriksen & Fallan, 1996). According to Chan, Troutman, and O'Bryan (2000), informed taxpayers are more conscious of their responsibilities and the consequences of breaking the law. While it is commonly believed that those with higher education levels understand the law better and are less likely to make mistakes when filing taxes; this is also linked to having greater

access to information. The majority of educated individuals are more aware of the options for tax evasion, which has an impact on their tax compliance behaviour.

According to Clifford, Machogu and Amayi's (2013) research, 83% of respondents agreed that basic education on tax had an influence on their judgements on tax compliance. Taxpayers with lower tax understanding may eventually engage in misbehaviour and inadvertent tax evasion (Riahi-Belkaoui, 2004). Aondo (2020) asserts that as the goal of tax compliance is compliance, taxpayer education on the social duty of paying taxes might have an influence on that compliance. Furthermore, research conducted in Malaysia revealed that the most significant element influencing taxpayer compliance behaviour was tax knowledge (Damajanti & Karim, 2017; Loo et al., 2009)

### **Taxpayers' Religious Background**

Religion may be viewed as a moral pledge to behave in a predetermined manner. A society's moral guidelines are provided by religious organisations. As a kind of "supernatural police," religion enforces adherence to social norms to a certain extent (Anderson & Tullison, 1992). Like habits, religion serves to streamline and simplify our daily activities. In addition to bringing a sense of security to offset the anxiety brought on by uncertainty, it makes our social lives more predictable (Heiner, 1983). Hull and Bold (1994) examine how religious institutions contribute to the creation of social goods like moral conduct, which is exemplified by the Ten Commandments, among other things. Relatively speaking, producing social goods using religion inputs has relatively cheap costs. Religion may deter criminal activity because it is a sanctioning system that upholds and validates societal norms, claim Hirschi and Stark (1969).

Hwang and Nagac (2021) studied the effect of religious practice in

complying with tax laws in U.S countries. The researchers used three variables that are within the country level to do hypothesis testing. They confirmed that a religious practice in US countries has a significant effect on tax evasion in that county.

### **THEORETICAL REVIEW**

This study is anchored on social influence model. The attitude and social norms of a taxpayer's reference group are thought to have an impact on their compliance behaviour with state tax regulations, according to the social influence model (Snively, 1990). Therefore, it is presumed that a person's social interactions with members of their reference group, such as neighbours, family, and friends, have a significant impact on their compliance behaviour. Therefore, a citizen's compliance behaviour will be lower if he or she knows that many significant individuals in their group dodge taxes (Al-Mamun et al, 2014). Similar to this, if the taxpayer is afraid of the public shame that would be inflicted on a member of their own reference group for avoiding taxes, then having social relationships may also assist deter tax evasion. According to a theoretical study by Banerjee (1992), social influence may have an impact on compliance behaviour, especially by affecting the anticipated likelihood of discovery.

### **EMPIRICAL REVIEW**

Abdulrasaq and Babatunde (2024) explore how effective tax enforcement strategies are in addressing non-tax compliance among SMEs in North-West Nigeria. The study gathered quantitative data from 345 SME owners, selected both randomly and purposively, who were registered in the region. This data underwent descriptive and inferential analysis using central tendency measures and multiple regressions. The findings



indicated that three tax enforcement strategies—issuing tax clearance certificates ( $\beta=0.024 < 0.003$ ), offering tax amnesty ( $\beta=0.025 < 0.020$ ), and imposing tax penalties ( $\beta=0.013 < 0.014$ )—had a significant positive impact on tax compliance among SMEs in North-West Nigeria. Based on the statistical evidence, the research concluded that both punitive measures (tax penalties) and persuasive measures (tax clearance certificates and tax amnesty) effectively combat non-tax compliance among SMEs in the region.

Irnanda, Krisnandi, Digdowiseiso, and Mohamadi (2024) examined how age, gender, and tax rates influence tax compliance, with income level serving as a moderating variable at KPP Pratama Jakarta Tanah Abang Dua. This study employed a quantitative approach, focusing on theory testing through numerical measurement and data analysis. The outer model utilized for this study included tests for convergent validity, discriminant validity, and reliability. Tax compliance significantly impacts state revenues. The findings revealed that age and tax rates have a significant effect on tax compliance, and income level can significantly moderate these effects. This means that as a person ages and believes in the current tax rate, their tax compliance tends to increase. In contrast, gender was found to have a negative effect on tax compliance, and income level could not significantly moderate this relationship, indicating that gender does not significantly influence the increase in tax compliance.

Nguvava and Sangar (2024) investigate how the quality of tax services impacts the compliance of presumptive taxpayers in Tanzania, focusing on the Ilala Tax Region. The study was driven by three key objectives represented by the independent variables: Tax Service Reliability, Tax Service Responsiveness, and Tax Service Tangibility. Conducted in Ilala Municipality, the research included a sample of 384 respondents, selected

through a probability sampling method using a simple random sampling technique. The findings showed that Tax Service Reliability and Responsiveness did not have a significant impact on presumptive taxpayers' compliance in the Ilala Tax Region. However, Tax Service Tangibility was found to have a significant positive influence on compliance among these taxpayers.

Sitepu and Arbak (2024) investigate the factors influencing tax compliance among SMEs in Indonesia. The study used a quantitative approach, conducting a survey among SME taxpayers. A structured questionnaire was distributed to 395 SMEs, selected randomly and based on eligibility. The respondents were from Medan City, the third largest city in Indonesia. Structural Equation Modeling (SEM) was employed, utilizing Smart PLS for data analysis along with a goodness of fit test. The research revealed that tax knowledge, tax morals, knowledge of digital e-filing in the tax system, and tax rates all have a positive and significant impact on tax compliance in the SME sector.

Rumui and Utomo (2024) explore the impact of taxpayer awareness and income level on land and building tax compliance in Margosari Village, KulonProgo District, Yogyakarta. The researchers employed a non-probability sampling technique, specifically using purposive sampling, where samples were intentionally chosen based on specific criteria set by the researchers. The selected samples were those with rights to land and buildings. The study's findings revealed that both taxpayer awareness and income level have a significant and positive effect on tax compliance in Margosari Village, KulonProgo Regency, Yogyakarta.

Dissanayake and Damayanthi (2024) explore taxpayers' perceptions of tax evasion. Data was collected through a questionnaire survey. The results indicate that socio-psychological and economic factors significantly and negatively affect

the income tax evasion behaviour of medium-sized taxpayers, while institutional, political, and legal factors have a weaker connection to tax evasion. The study highlights that tax evasion is influenced by socio-psychological factors, including the perceived fairness of the tax system, moral obligations, and social influences, as well as economic factors such as tax rates, penalties, audits, and taxpayer privileges.

Wibawa, Ratnadi, and Sari (2024) investigate the factors influencing compliance among taxable enterprises in Bali province, Indonesia. The study examined three components of behavioral intention determinants, based on the theory of planned behaviour, which were expanded into attitudes (tax morale and taxpayer awareness), subjective norms (tax justice and trust in government), and perceived behavioral control (tax authority power, tax convenience, and tax information). These components were tested to assess their impact on the compliance intention of taxable enterprises. The research employed a probability sampling method, specifically proportional stratified random sampling, with a sample of 100 taxable enterprises selected from a population of 10,697 using the Slovin method. The analysis revealed that tax morale, taxpayer awareness, tax justice, trust in government, tax authority power, tax convenience, and tax information all positively influence the compliance intention of taxable enterprises.

Afif and Setiawan (2024) investigate the influence of demographic factors on tax compliance among MSMEs in Pontianak City, Indonesia. The study collected primary data through questionnaires distributed to individual taxpayers who own MSMEs in the city. The research utilized statistical methods, including data processing and analysis using data quality tests, classical assumption tests, and multiple regression analysis. The findings revealed that age

and gender do not have an impact on tax compliance, as compliance is ultimately dependent on each individual's awareness of the importance of taxes.

Robbi, Putra, Mahdi, and Elyta (2024) explore the impact of service quality, tax sanctions, participation strategies, and the role of religion on regional taxpayer compliance. They employed structural equation modeling to analyze the relationships between these variables and assess their individual effects on tax compliance. The study revealed that the quality of officer services significantly and positively affects regional taxpayer compliance, and that tax sanctions also positively influence tax compliance.

Paleka, Karanović, and Štambuk (2023) investigate the impact of age, gender, income, and education level on tax compliance behavior in Croatia. The study involved 862 fully completed questionnaires from individual income taxpayers in Croatia. To analyze the data, OLS regression was used to interpret the results, and a moderation model was applied to examine the influence of sociodemographic variables on tax compliance. The findings revealed that taxpayers' age, gender, and education level are significantly linked to their compliance behaviour. Moreover, the results confirmed that gender, education level, and income level have a moderating effect on specific tax compliance determinants.

Trifan, Szentesi, Cuc, and Pantea (2023) investigate the various factors influencing tax compliance behavior among individual taxpayers in Romania. They tested their research hypotheses on a sample of 402 individual taxpayers, employing partial least squares-structural equation modeling for quantitative data analysis. The findings revealed that seven key factors—fairness of the tax system, trust in government and tax authorities, understanding of tax laws, personal financial limitations, enforcement measures, moral standards, and simplicity of tax legislation—significantly

contributed to increasing the likelihood of tax compliance.

Hanapi (2022) assesses the influence of tax education programs on tax compliance among Malaysian teachers. The study utilized a quantitative research approach to examine the relationship between tax education and compliance. Data were gathered from a primary source through questionnaires completed by teachers in Kelantan, Malaysia. The results indicated that tax education or awareness significantly contributes to tax compliance, although the majority of respondents expressed uncertainty about their level of compliance.

Muharremi et al. (2022) investigate how demographic factors affect the ethical beliefs of individual taxpayers in Albania regarding tax compliance. To achieve this, data were collected through a survey of 387 taxpayers. Using empirical analysis, the researchers identified relationships between socio-demographic factors and their influence on perceptions of tax avoidance and evasion. They found that gender, marital status, education level, and residential location all play a role in shaping tax compliance and ethics. Although employment status had a statistically significant effect on tax evasion and avoidance, there was no clear trend. No significant relationship was found between age and tax compliance.

## METHODOLOGY

The research design adopted for this study is survey. Through survey you obtain responses from the respondents. The population comprised of owners and staff of businesses operating in Benin City, Edo State. The number of taxpayers (owners of business and staff) in Benin City is totalling 55,832 as at March, 20, 2024 (Edo Internal Revenue Service Tax Database, 2024). The rationale for selecting the owners and staff of businesses operating in Benin City is because they have good knowledge of the subject matter under investigation.

The study employed the Taro Yamane (1967) sample size formula to scientifically determine the sample size of the total population of the study. The sample determination formula yielded three hundred and ninety-seven (397) respondents in the formula shown below:

$$n = \frac{N}{1 + Ne^2}$$

Where:

n = The sample size to be derived from the population

N = Already known population

e = Precision desired

1 = Constant

$$n = \frac{55,832}{1 + 55,832(0.05)^2}$$

$$n = \frac{55,832}{140.58}$$

$$n = 397.15 = 397$$

A total of 397 questionnaires were distributed randomly to the selected respondents. The study utilized primary data, collected through a closed-ended questionnaire. The purpose of the questionnaire was to gather responses from participants in the study. The research instrument was divided into two sections: the first section focused on the respondents' demographic information, while the second section addressed questions related to the study's variables.

The structured questionnaire was used because it allow for high degree of anonymity and the use of standardized question for all respondent. The responses of the respondent in the questionnaire was stated in form of 'Strongly agree', 'agree', 'disagree' and 'strongly disagree'. Therefore, the study adopted a four-point likert scale in analysing the responses of the respondents of the study.

In this study, content validity was used. In order to ascertain the content validity of the research instrument used for data collection, the questionnaire was given to an expert for useful criticism and corrections. The Cronbach's Alpha statistic was adopted to measure the consistency of responses of a given set of questions (scale items) that are combined as a scale to measure a particular

concept (Wahua & Ezeilo (2021). The result of the test showed a figure of 88.6%.

The study employed both descriptive and inferential statistics. The descriptive statistics will include frequency and percentage presented in tables. The study employed the deductive approach in which inferential computation was used to explain the impact between variables under investigation. Therefore, Multiple regression analysis was used to test the hypotheses and make inference on the study. Analysis was done with the help of Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS) version 26.

This study employed content validity. To ensure the research instrument's content validity, the questionnaire was reviewed by

my supervisor for feedback and corrections. Cronbach's Alpha was used to assess the consistency of responses across a set of questions (scale items) combined to measure a specific concept, yielding a result of 88.6%.

Both descriptive and inferential statistics were applied in the analysis. Descriptive statistics, including frequencies and percentages, were presented in tables. The study followed a deductive approach, using inferential calculations to explain relationships between the variables under investigation. Multiple regression analysis was conducted to test the hypotheses and draw conclusions, with the analysis performed using SPSS version 26.

### Model of the Study

The functional form of the model was specified below in line with the objectives:

1. Tax Compliance = f(Taxpayers' demographic characteristics)
2. TCE = f(TEDL; TINL; TRBD)

In econometric form:

$$3. TCE_i = \beta_0 + \beta_1 TEDL_i + \beta_2 TINL_i + \beta_3 TRBD_i + \varepsilon$$

#### Where:

TCE	=	Tax compliance;
TEDL	=	Taxpayers' education level
TINL	=	Taxpayers' income level
TRBD	=	Taxpayers' religious background
$\varepsilon$	=	Stochastic Error
$i$	=	Cross section
$\beta_0$	=	Constant
A priori	=	$\beta_1; \beta_2; \beta_3; \beta_4; \beta_5 > 0$

### 4. Data Presentation and analysis

**Table 1:**

*Demographics of respondents*

Demographics	Frequency	Percentage
<b>Education level:</b>		
O'level	102	26.5
First Degree	162	42.1
Second Degree	95	24.7
Third Degree	26	6.8
<b>Income level:</b>		
Between ₦60,000 – ₦89,000	117	30.4
Between ₦90,000 – ₦129,00	137	35.6
Between ₦130,000 – ₦150,000	67	17.4
Above ₦151,000	64	16.6
<b>Religious Background:</b>		
Christian	176	45.7
Muslem	111	28.8
Others	98	25.5

**Source:** Author (2024)



The results in Table 4.2 provide the descriptive statistics for the study. The respondents had the following academic qualifications: 102 (26.5%) had an O'level qualification, 162 (42.1%) held a first degree, 95 (24.7%) had a second degree, and 26 (6.8%) possessed a third degree. Regarding monthly income, 117 (30.4%) earned between N60,000 and N89,000, 137 (35.6%) earned between N90,000 and N129,000, 67 (17.4%) earned between N130,000 and N150,000, while 64

(16.6%) earned above N151,000. The religious affiliations of the respondents were as follows: 176 (45.7%) identified as Christians, 111 (28.8%) as Muslims, and 98 (25.5%) as belonging to other religions.

### Regression Result and Test of Hypotheses

The model of the study was estimated using the multiple regression analysis. Thereafter, the result of the study used to test the hypotheses of the study.

**Table 2:**

*Regression results summary*

Model	Unstandardized Coefficients <b>B</b>	Standardized Coefficients <b>Beta</b>	<b>T</b>	<b>Sig.</b>
(Constant)	1.962		3.678	0.024
Taxpayers' education level	0.264	0.104	2.227	0.029
Taxpayers' income level	-1.74	-0.403	-4.192	0.003
Taxpayers' religious background	0.201	0.086	2.101	0.038
Dependent Variable:	Tax Compliance			
ANOVA	F = 4.765, df = 4, 381, p = 0.032 < 0.05.			
R	0.849			
R Square	0.804			
Adjusted R Square	0.756			
Std. Error of the Estimate	1.789			

Source: Author (2024)

The table above presents the model summary of the study. The adjusted R-squared value is 0.756, indicating that approximately 76% of the systematic variation is explained by the study's independent variables (Wahua & Ahlijah, 2020). However, 24% of the variation is attributed to other variables not included in the model, which is sufficiently accounted for by the standard error of the regression, SE = 1.789. The ANOVA table revealed that the model was statistically fit, F = 4.765, df = 4, 381, p = 0.032 < 0.05.

The coefficient table show the relationship between the independent variables. From the result, it was revealed that Taxpayers' education level has positive impact on Tax Compliance in south-south in Nigeria. Secondly, the

regression coefficient table revealed that; Taxpayers' education level and Taxpayers' religious background has positive impact on Tax Compliance while taxpayers' gender has no significant impact on tax compliance in Edo State, Nigeria.

### Test of Hypotheses

**H<sub>01</sub>:** Taxpayers' education level has no significant influence on tax compliance in Edo State, Nigeria.

The regression analysis revealed that taxpayers' education level has a positive and significant influence on tax compliance in Edo State, Nigeria, with  $\beta_3 = 0.264$ ; SE = 0.118, T = 2.227; and p = 0.029 < 0.05. Therefore, the null hypothesis that education level has no

significant influence on tax compliance is rejected.

**Ho2:** Taxpayers' income level has no significant effect on tax compliance in Edo State, Nigeria.

The regression results showed that taxpayers' income level has a negative and significant effect on tax compliance, with  $\beta_4 = -1.740$ ;  $SE = 0.415$ ,  $T = -4.192$ ; and  $p = 0.003 < 0.05$ . As a result, the null hypothesis that income level has no significant effect on tax compliance is rejected.

**Ho3:** Taxpayers' religious background has no significant influence on tax compliance in Edo State, Nigeria.

The regression analysis found that taxpayers' religious background has a positive and significant influence on tax compliance, with  $\beta_5 = 0.201$ ;  $SE = 0.095$ ,  $T = 2.101$ ; and  $p = 0.038 < 0.05$ . Thus, the null hypothesis that religious background has no significant influence on tax compliance is rejected.

### Discussion of Findings

This study aimed to assess the impact of taxpayers' demographic characteristics on tax compliance in Edo State, Nigeria. A total of 385 questionnaires were distributed and collected from randomly selected taxpayers. Based on Cronbach's Alpha statistic, the research instrument exhibited a moderate level of reliability. The study found that taxpayers' education level has a positive and significant impact on tax compliance in South-South Nigeria. This finding aligns with the results of previous studies by Rumui and Utomo (2024); Paleka, Karanović, and Štambuk (2023); Hanapi (2022); Muharremi et al. (2022); Tan et al. (2021); and Twum et al. (2020), all of which also observed a positive relationship between education

level and tax compliance. However, Aregbesola et al. (2020) found no significant impact of educational background on tax compliance.

Additionally, the study revealed a negative and significant effect of income level on tax compliance in South-South Nigeria. In contrast, the studies by Irnanda, Krisnandi, Digidowiseiso, and Mohamadi (2024); Rumui and Utomo (2024); Paleka, Karanović, and Štambuk (2023); and Muharremi et al. (2022) found a positive and significant impact of income level on tax compliance.

Lastly, this study also found that taxpayers' religious background has a positive and significant influence on tax compliance in South-South Nigeria, consistent with the findings of Hwang and Nagac (2021), who reported that religiosity significantly deters tax evasion at the country level.

### Summary of Findings

The broad objective of the study is to examine the influence of taxpayers' demographics characteristics on tax compliance in Edo State, Nigeria. The following were found;

- i. Taxpayers' education level has positive and significant influence on tax compliance in Edo State Nigeria;
- ii. Taxpayers' income level has negative significant effect on tax compliance in Edo State Nigeria
- iii. There is positive and significant influence of taxpayers' religious background on tax compliance in Edo State Nigeria.

### Conclusion

This study examined the impact of taxpayers' demographic characteristics and tax compliance in Edo State Nigeria. The study came to the conclusion that

taxpayers' education level, taxpayers' religious background has positive impact on tax compliance while Taxpayers' income has negative influence on tax compliance in Edo State Nigeria. Based on the findings of this study, the following recommendations are proposed;

- i. The government should improve educational facilities and incentives that will give its citizens equal opportunity to attain high level that will in turn improve on their civic responsibility;
- ii. Tax compliance could be improved through the increase in income of tax payers, therefore the government should work towards increasing the minimum wage of workers; and
- iii. The government in collaboration with revenue agencies should sensitize the general public on the importance of tax compliance.

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