Sinergi International Journal of Accounting & Taxation
E-ISSN: 2988-1587
Volume. 3, Issue 2, May 2025
Page No: 104-115

Re-examining the Influence of Tax Compliance Costs on Entrepreneurial Intentions within Nigeria's Business Landscape

Mohammed Aminu Bello[1]
[1]**Bayero University Kano, Nigeria**
Correspondent: mabello.bus@buk.edu.ng[1]

Received : April 09, 2025
Accepted : Mei 16, 2025
Published : Mei 31, 2025

Citation: Bello, M.A., (2025). Re-examining the Influence of Tax Compliance Costs on Entrepreneurial Intentions within Nigeria's Business Landscape. Sinergi International Journal of Accounting & Taxation, 3(2), 104-115.

https://doi.org/10.61194/ijat.v3i2.753

ABSTRACT: This research explores how tax compliance costs affect entrepreneurial intentions in Nigeria's business sector. It specifically evaluates the impact of monetary, time, and psychological compliance costs on individuals' propensity to engage in entrepreneurial endeavors. The moderating role of perceived government support is also assessed. Utilising a quantitative survey design, data were collected from 420 participants, with 392 valid responses analysed through descriptive, correlation, and regression methods. Findings reveal that all dimensions of tax compliance costs exert a significant negative influence on entrepreneurial intentions, while perceived government support mitigates these adverse effects. The study recommends simplifying tax procedures, minimising compliance expenses, and enhancing tax education to promote entrepreneurial activities. Implications for tax policy formulation and entrepreneurship development are also discussed.

Keywords: Tax Compliance Costs, Entrepreneurial Intentions, Government Support, Business Climate, Nigeria.

INTRODUCTION

Entrepreneurship is recognised globally as a vital catalyst for economic expansion, employment creation, and innovation, particularly in emerging economies such as Nigeria (; Acs et al. (2008; Oyelaran-Oyeyinka, 2020). However, Nigeria's entrepreneurial environment faces significant challenges, notably institutional and regulatory barriers, with tax compliance costs increasingly identified as a critical concern. These costs encompass financial expenses, time investments, and psychological stress associated with understanding, adhering to, and fulfilling tax obligations (Evans, 2008).

Small and nascent enterprises are disproportionately burdened by these costs, which can deter formal business establishment and entrepreneurial activity (Coolidge 2012). In Nigeria's regulatory setting—characterised by complexity and inefficiency—the tax compliance burden has become a major barrier to entrepreneurship (Ariyo & Bekoe, 2021). The Bank (2020) highlights the country's elevated tax rates and substantial time commitments required for tax-related activities, both of which dissuade entrepreneurial initiatives. Excessive compliance burdens not only alter the cost-benefit analysis of starting a business but may also push potential entrepreneurs towards informal activities or discourage entrepreneurial efforts altogether (Djankov et al. 2010; Uchenna & Chinedum, 2019).

Despite heightened interest in fostering entrepreneurship in Nigeria, limited empirical research has examined the specific impact of tax compliance costs on entrepreneurial intentions. Prior studies predominantly address tax rates, enterprise performance, or tax evasion, overlooking how compliance burdens psychologically and financially affect entrepreneurial decision-making (Onwuchekwa & Aruwa, 2014). This study addresses this gap by evaluating the influence of tax compliance costs—monetary, time-related, and psychological—on entrepreneurial intentions within Nigeria's business environment. Additionally, it examines the moderating effect of perceived government support.

Theoretically, this research draws on the Theory of Planned Behavior (TPB), which posits that intentions are shaped by attitudes, subjective norms, and perceived behavioral control (Ajzen, 1991), and Institutional Theory, which emphasizes how regulatory structures and institutional inefficiencies constrain or enable entrepreneurial behavior (North, 1990). By integrating these frameworks, the study not only investigates how internal cognitive evaluations (e.g., stress and perceived effort) interact with external institutional constraints (e.g., bureaucratic and fiscal systems), but also sets the stage for interpreting how specific tax burdens affect entrepreneurial intention formation. The findings offer an opportunity to revisit and deepen these theoretical perspectives by highlighting which components of entrepreneurial intention and institutional context are most influenced—and the extent to which perceived government support can mitigate these adverse effects. Ultimately, this research offers insights for tax policy reforms aimed at reducing entry barriers and enhancing entrepreneurship's contribution to economic diversification and inclusive development.

Tax compliance costs refer to the financial, temporal, and psychological resources expended by businesses to fulfill tax-related obligations (Evans 2003; Sandford, 1995). These costs include hiring tax consultants, purchasing tax software, dedicating time to record-keeping and managing tax filings. While large organizations often possess internal structures to manage compliance efficiently, smaller enterprises and aspiring entrepreneurs bear a disproportionate burden due to limited resources (O.E.C.D. 2004). In Nigeria, frequent tax policy shifts, limited taxpayer education, and weak digital systems further exacerbate these challenges (Okafor et al., 2020).

Entrepreneurial intention describes an individual's conscious plan and commitment to start a new business venture (Krueger et al. 2000). It is widely considered a key predictor of actual entrepreneurial behavior. Factors such as perceived feasibility, recognition of opportunities, availability of institutional support, and regulatory environments heavily influence entrepreneurial intentions (Ajzen (1991; Liñán & Chen, 2009). Complex and punitive tax systems may deter entrepreneurial activities by creating barriers that diminish perceived feasibility and increase perceived risks (Djankov et al. 2010).

This research integrates two theoretical lenses: the Theory of Planned Behavior (TPB) and Institutional Theory. According to Ajzen (1991), TPB suggests that behavioral intentions are shaped by three elements: attitude towards the behavior, subjective norms, and perceived behavioral control. Elevated tax compliance costs can negatively influence all three components by reducing the attractiveness of entrepreneurship, increasing perceived social discouragement, and lowering the sense of control over the entrepreneurial process. Institutional Theory, as presented by North (1990), posits that institutions—both formal rules and informal norms—significantly shape economic behavior. Within this framework, high compliance costs and bureaucratic inefficiencies serve as formal institutional weaknesses, raising transaction costs and discouraging entrepreneurial activities (Williams & Shahid (2016)).

Empirical studies consistently suggest a negative relationship between complex tax systems and entrepreneurial activities. Djankov et al. (2010), drawing on data from 85 countries, found that burdensome tax regimes were associated with lower rates of new business formation. Similarly, Coolidge (2012) established that time-consuming compliance obligations adversely impact small firm productivity, particularly in developing economies. In Nigeria, Adebisi & Gbegi (2013) demonstrated that multiple taxation layers and high compliance burdens encourage informality among small and medium enterprises (SMEs). Their findings point to the absence of a harmonized tax system, resulting in overlapping and onerous tax obligations. Okafor et al. (2020) echoed similar concerns, noting that many entrepreneurs perceive the Nigerian tax system as opaque, punitive, and unfavorable to startups. Oyedele (2016) further emphasized that Nigeria's tax policies often fail to differentiate between large corporations and micro-enterprises, imposing a uniform compliance burden that negatively affects startup survival rates. International studies, such as those by Braunerhjelm & Eklund (2014) in Sweden and Waweru (2019) in Kenya, also corroborate that high compliance costs deter new firm formation and formal business entry.

It is noteworthy that most prior research has concentrated on the experiences of established firms, leaving a significant gap regarding how perceived or actual compliance costs affect pre-entrepreneurial intentions. This study aims to address this void by focusing on potential entrepreneurs within the Nigerian context.

Drawing from the reviewed literature and theoretical foundations, the following hypotheses are proposed:

Main Hypothesis:

- H1: Tax compliance costs exert a significant negative influence on entrepreneurial intentions within the Nigerian business environment.

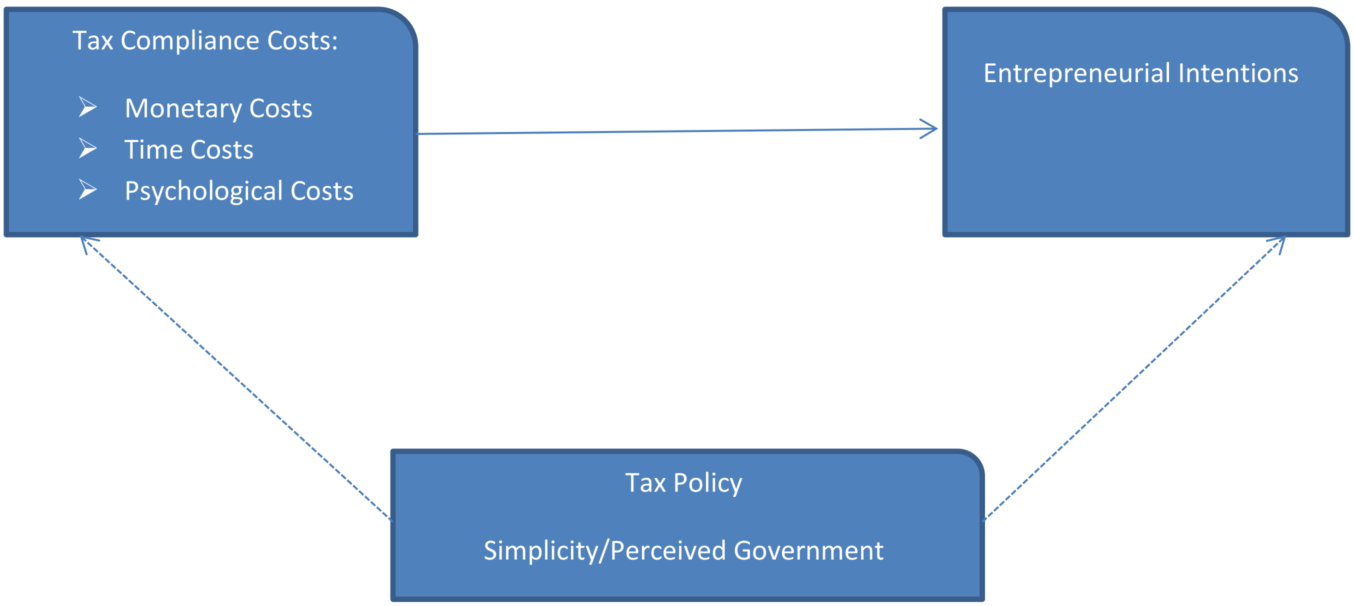
Sub-Hypotheses:

- H1a: Monetary compliance costs negatively impact entrepreneurial intentions.
- H1b: Time-related compliance costs negatively affect entrepreneurial intentions.
- H1c: Psychological compliance costs have a detrimental effect on entrepreneurial intentions.

Moderation Hypothesis:

- H2: The adverse relationship between tax compliance costs and entrepreneurial intentions is moderated by perceived government support or the perceived simplicity of tax policies.

Figure 1. Model of the Study



This framework suggests that higher tax compliance costs negatively influence entrepreneurial intentions, and that government support or perceived simplicity of the tax system may moderate this relationship.

This study's conceptual model integrates insights from the Theory of Planned Behaviour and Institutional Theory, proposing that perceived tax compliance costs—categorized as monetary, time and psychological—negatively influence entrepreneurial intentions. Moreover, it suggests that government support or simplified tax systems can moderate this relationship.

METHOD

This study adopts a quantitative, cross-sectional survey design to examine the influence of tax compliance costs on entrepreneurial intentions, with a particular focus on the moderating role of perceived government support. This approach enables data collection from a large and diverse population at a specific point in time, facilitating the analysis of how individuals in Nigeria's evolving business environment perceive and respond to compliance-related challenges.

The target population includes aspiring and nascent entrepreneurs in Nigeria—individuals preparing to start businesses or already operating informally. These comprise final-year University students enrolled in entrepreneurship-related programs, recent graduates, small informal business operators, and participants in business incubation hubs across selected urban areas.

Using Cochran's formula for large populations at a 95% confidence level and a 5% margin of error, the minimum sample size was calculated to be 385. To increase robustness and account for non-responses, 420 questionnaires were distributed.

A multistage sampling procedure was implemented. First, **p**urposive sampling was used to select four major urban centers—Lagos, Abuja, Kano, and Port Harcourt—recognized for their entrepreneurial vibrancy. Second, **s**tratified random sampling ensured balanced representation across categories such as students, incubator members, and informal traders. Finally, convenience sampling was employed at the point of distribution to accommodate logistical constraints.

The structured questionnaire was developed using adapted items from established scales. It comprised four key sections:

1. Demographics (e.g., gender, age, education);
2. Monetary compliance costs (e.g., fees for professional services, tax software);
3. Time and psychological compliance costs (e.g., time spent on compliance, stress, audit anxiety);
4. Entrepreneurial intentions, measured using a 7-point Likert scale adapted from Liñán and Chen (2009) for comparability with international benchmarks.

Perceived government support, introduced as a moderator variable, was measured using items based on institutional theory (North 1990) and prior empirical studies (e.g., Aidis et al., 2012; Koirala, 2021). This variable was included based on theoretical evidence that institutional trust and supportive governance can buffer the adverse effects of regulatory burdens on entrepreneurial behavior. By assessing how perceptions of fairness, accessibility, and policy responsiveness influence entrepreneurial resilience, the study integrates both institutional theory and the Theory of Planned Behavior (TPB).

To ensure content validity, the instrument was reviewed by subject matter experts in taxation and entrepreneurship. A pilot test involving 40 respondents confirmed **internal consistency**, with Cronbach's alpha values exceeding 0.70 for all constructs: Monetary Costs ($\alpha = 0.82$), Time Costs ($\alpha = 0.78$), Psychological Costs ($\alpha = 0.80$), Entrepreneurial Intentions ($\alpha = 0.85$), and Perceived Government Support ($\alpha = 0.81$).

The operationalisation of variables in the study is outlined as follows:

Variable	Definition	Indicators/Items	Scale	Sources
Monetary Costs	Financial outlay associated with fulfilling tax obligations	Tax consultancy, accounting software, multi-tax payments	5-point Likert	Evans (2003); Adebisi & Gbegi (2013)
Time Costs	Hours dedicated to tax-related tasks	Recordkeeping, filing, bureaucracy delays	5-point Likert	Coolidge (2012); Djankov et al. (2010)
Psychological Costs	Emotional burden from tax compliance	Anxiety, audit fears, perceived system complexity	5-point Likert	Williams & Shahid (2016); Okafor et al. (2020)
Entrepreneurial Intentions	Willingness to establish a business	Desire, readiness, intention to launch a business	7-point Likert	Liñán & Chen (2009)
Government Support	Perceived assistance or simplicity of the tax system	Incentives, awareness, fairness	5-point Likert	Oyedele (2016); OECD (2004)

Data were analysed using SPSS version 26 and AMOS. Descriptive statistics (mean, standard deviation, frequency) summarized the data, while Pearson correlation assessed associations among variables. Multiple regression analysis was used to examine the direct effects of the three types of tax compliance costs on entrepreneurial intentions.

To test the moderating effect of perceived government support, hierarchical regression analysis using interaction terms was applied. This decision was guided by the goal of isolating and interpreting specific interaction effects in a transparent manner.

Although Structural Equation Modeling (SEM) was applied to validate the measurement model and assess global model fit using indices such as RMSEA (≤ 0.08) and CFI (≥ 0.90), SEM was not used throughout for several reasons:

- Model Simplicity and Parsimony: The core model involved only three predictors and one moderator, making multiple regression a suitable and efficient method for hypothesis testing.
- Interpretive Clarity: The use of regression and moderation analysis allowed for clearer interpretation of the conditional relationships, which would be more cumbersome to represent through latent moderated SEM structures.
- Sample Size Considerations: Although the sample size ($n = 392$) was adequate for basic SEM, more complex latent interaction models typically require larger samples for stability and power (Kline, 2016; Hair et al., 2019).

Nonetheless, SEM was employed as a complementary tool to validate measurement reliability and ensure construct distinctiveness prior to regression-based hypothesis testing. Future studies with larger datasets may consider using full SEM pathways, including latent interaction modeling, to test similar frameworks.

The research adhered to ethical guidelines. Participants provided informed consent, were assured of anonymity and confidentiality, and were informed of their right to withdraw at any stage without penalty.

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

This section presents and interprets the data gathered from the field survey, covering descriptive statistics, correlation assessments, multiple regression analysis, and discussions of the findings in relation to prior research.

Out of the 420 questionnaires distributed, 392 were retrieved and deemed usable, yielding a 93.33% response rate. This high level of participation is considered very satisfactory for survey-based research in the social sciences. The demographic breakdown of participants revealed that the majority were young adults aged 25–34 years, accounting for 52.0% of respondents. Gender distribution was relatively balanced, with males comprising 54.1% and females 45.9%. Regarding educational qualifications, 58.9% held a Bachelor's Degree or Higher National Diploma (HND), 24.7% had postgraduate degrees, and 16.3% possessed Diploma/ND/NCE certificates.

Table 1. Demographic Profile of Respondents

Variable	Category	Frequency (n)	Percentage (%)
Gender	Male	212	54.1%
	Female	180	45.9%
Age	Below 25 years	101	25.8%
	25–34 years	204	52.0%
	35–44 years	64	16.3%
	45 years and above	23	5.9%
Educational Level	Diploma/ND/NCE	64	16.3%
	Bachelor's Degree/HND	231	58.9%
	Postgraduate Degree	97	24.7%

Descriptive statistics showed that respondents reported moderate to high levels of tax compliance costs, with time compliance costs emerging as the most pronounced. The mean scores for monetary compliance costs, time compliance costs, and psychological compliance costs were 3.42, 3.67, and 3.55 respectively. Despite these burdens, entrepreneurial intention levels remained relatively high, with a mean score of 5.02. Perceived government support, however, had a lower mean score of 3.21, indicating moderate perceptions of support among respondents.

Table 2. Descriptive Statistics of Study Variables

Variable	Mean (M)	Standard Deviation (SD)
Monetary Compliance Costs	3.42	0.78
Time Compliance Costs	3.67	0.70
Psychological Compliance Costs	3.55	0.74
Entrepreneurial Intentions	5.02	1.12
Perceived Government Support	3.21	0.84

Correlation analysis using Pearson's correlation coefficient indicated significant negative relationships between all dimensions of tax compliance costs and entrepreneurial intentions. Monetary compliance costs, time compliance costs, and psychological compliance costs each showed strong negative correlations with entrepreneurial intentions at the 0.01 significance level. Higher compliance burdens were thus associated with reduced motivation to pursue entrepreneurial activities.

Table 3. Pearson's Correlation Analysis

Variables	1	2	3	4
1. Monetary Compliance Costs	1			
2. Time Compliance Costs	.482**	1		
3. Psychological Compliance Costs	.398**	.467**	1	
4. Entrepreneurial Intentions	–.295**	–.381**	–.346**	1

(**Note**: **p** < 0.01)

Further analysis through multiple regression techniques revealed that the model was statistically significant ($p < 0.001$), explaining approximately 19.6% of the variance in entrepreneurial intentions. Specifically, monetary compliance costs ($\beta = –.181$, $p = .001$), time compliance costs ($\beta = –.219$, $p = .000$), and psychological compliance costs ($\beta = –.176$, $p = .002$) all had significant negative predictive effects on entrepreneurial intentions. These findings provide empirical support for hypotheses H1a, H1b, and H1c, confirming that each dimension of tax compliance costs individually undermines the likelihood of entrepreneurial engagement.

Table 4. Regression Model Summary

Model	R	R^2	Adjusted R^2	Std. Error
1	0.443	0.196	0.189	1.007

Table 5. ANOVA Results

Source	Sum of Squares	df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
Regression	104.121	3	34.707	34.228	.000
Residual	425.034	388	1.096		

Total	529.155	391

Table 6. Coefficients of Predictors

Predictor Variable	B	Std. Error	Beta (β)	t	Sig.
Constant	6.282	0.341	—	18.42	.000
Monetary Compliance Costs	–0.234	0.071	–.181	–3.296	.001
Time Compliance Costs	–0.288	0.075	–.219	–3.840	.000
Psychological Compliance Costs	–0.217	0.069	–.176	–3.159	.002

Moderation analysis was conducted to assess whether perceived government support influenced the strength of the relationship between tax compliance costs and entrepreneurial intentions. Results showed that the interaction term was statistically significant ($p < 0.05$), indicating that perceived government support indeed moderates the relationship. Specifically, individuals who perceive strong government support experience a weaker negative relationship between compliance burdens and entrepreneurial motivations. Thus, perceived government support acts as a buffering factor that reduces the detrimental impact of tax compliance costs.

The findings of this study offer subtle insights into how tax compliance costs shape entrepreneurial intentions within Nigeria's business environment, with direct implications for both behavioral and institutional perspectives. The significant negative effects of monetary, time-related, and psychological compliance costs underscore the multifaceted burdens prospective entrepreneurs face, and how these costs collectively undermine the intention to engage in entrepreneurial activity.

From the standpoint of the Theory of Planned Behavior (TPB), these results illuminate the mechanism through which external constraints (such as tax compliance costs) translate into internal cognitive and motivational outcomes. Specifically, the financial (monetary) and time burdens diminish perceived behavioral control, a central TPB construct that refers to an individual's belief in their ability to perform the entrepreneurial behavior. When tax compliance is seen as overly expensive or time-consuming, individuals are likely to doubt their capacity to succeed, thereby weakening their intentions to start a business. This aligns with prior studies, such as Evans (2003) and Adebisi & Gbegi (2013), which showed that high financial barriers discourage entrepreneurial entry.

Time-related compliance costs similarly contribute to the erosion of perceived behavioral control. Consistent with Djankov et al. (2010) and Coolidge (2012), the time entrepreneurs must allocate to fulfill complex regulatory requirements detracts from more productive or strategic uses of their time. This inefficiency reduces the perceived feasibility of entrepreneurship and supports the idea that administrative burdens operate as disincentives to entrepreneurial intention formation.

Psychological compliance costs further contribute to the deterioration of both attitudes toward the behavior and subjective norms, two other core components of the TPB framework. Stress, fear of audits, and anxiety over potential penalties associated with tax obligations—documented in this study and consistent with Williams & Shahid (2016) and Okafor et al. (2020)—create negative associations with the idea of formal business engagement. These perceptions may influence not only how individuals feel about entrepreneurship, but also how they perceive social approval or disapproval of such endeavors in environments where tax-related challenges are common and well-known.

Importantly, the moderating role of perceived government support offers a critical institutional lens through which to interpret the findings. In line with Institutional Theory, which emphasizes how formal rules, regulations, and governmental structures shape behavior (North (1990)), this study shows that when individuals perceive the government as supportive—through simplified procedures, fair enforcement, or entrepreneurial incentives—the institutional environment becomes less obstructive. This support mitigates the negative impact of tax compliance costs and reestablishes legitimacy and trust in the regulatory framework, thereby enabling entrepreneurial intentions despite institutional barriers.

The integration of TPB and Institutional Theory thus provides a compelling conceptual explanation of how and why tax compliance costs suppress entrepreneurial motivation, while government support can buffer these effects. TPB captures the individual-level cognitive mechanisms, while Institutional Theory explains how macro-level structures can either constrain or facilitate those mechanisms. This combined theoretical perspective reinforces the importance of aligning behavioral interventions with systemic institutional reforms.

In practical terms, the findings call for tax policies that not only reduce financial and administrative burdens but also address the psychological climate surrounding taxation. Transparent communication, digitalized processes, taxpayer education, and visible government support are essential strategies for improving perceptions of control, reducing anxiety, and strengthening entrepreneurial attitudes. These reforms are crucial for stimulating entrepreneurial intentions and achieving broader goals of economic diversification and inclusive development in Nigeria.

CONCLUSION

This study has examined the influence of tax compliance costs—monetary, time-related, and psychological—on entrepreneurial intentions in Nigeria's evolving business landscape. The findings consistently show that each dimension of compliance cost significantly reduces the likelihood of individuals pursuing entrepreneurial ventures. Notably, perceived government support plays a moderating role, helping to mitigate the negative effects of these burdens. These insights have both practical and theoretical significance.

From a theoretical standpoint, the study advances understanding by integrating the Theory of Planned Behavior (TPB) and Institutional Theory to explain how individual entrepreneurial intentions are shaped not only by personal attitudes and perceived control but also by structural and regulatory contexts. It reveals that institutional constraints—specifically tax-related burdens—can erode the motivational components outlined in TPB, while supportive institutional perceptions partially restore entrepreneurial confidence. This integrated lens highlights the dynamic interplay between individual agency and institutional frameworks, offering a more holistic explanation of entrepreneurial behavior in emerging economies.

A key original contribution of this study lies in its emphasis on tax policy differentiation for nascent entrepreneurs. Rather than applying uniform tax compliance regimes, policymakers should consider designing simplified and graduated tax systems tailored to the specific needs and capacities of early-stage entrepreneurs. Such differentiation would lower initial entry barriers, reduce psychological and financial strain, and promote broader participation in the formal economy. This is especially relevant in Nigeria, where informal entrepreneurship dominates and where compliance costs disproportionately deter new business formation.

In light of these findings, policy recommendations include streamlining tax procedures, increasing access to tax education, and implementing targeted incentives or tax holidays for new entrepreneurs. Future research could further explore longitudinal effects or sector-specific dynamics to deepen our understanding of how regulatory burdens evolve across different entrepreneurial phases.

REFERENCES

Acs, Z. J., Desai, S., & Hessels, J. (2008). Entrepreneurship, economic development and institutions. *Small Bus Econ*, *31*(3), 219–234.

Adebisi, J. F., & Gbegi, D. O. (2013). Effect of multiple taxation on the performance of small and medium scale business enterprises. *Res J Finance Account*, *4*(6), 125–131.

Ajzen, I. (1991). The theory of planned behavior. *Organ Behav Hum Decis Process*, *50*(2), 179–211.

Ariyo, A., & Bekoe, W. (2021). Taxation and entrepreneurship in Africa: A regional analysis. *Afr J Econ Policy*, *28*(1), 45–66.

Bank, W. (2020). *Doing Business 2020: Comparing business regulation in 190 economies*.

Braunerhjelm, P., & Eklund, J. E. (2014). Taxes, tax administrative burdens and new firm formation. *Kyklos*, *67*(1), 1–11.

Coolidge, J. (2012). Findings of tax compliance cost surveys in developing countries. *EJournal Tax Res*, *10*(2), 250–287.

Djankov, S., Ganser, T., McLiesh, C., Ramalho, R., & Shleifer, A. (2010). The effect of corporate taxes on investment and entrepreneurship. *Am Econ J Macroecon*, *2*(3), 31–64.

Evans, C. (2003). Studying the studies: An overview of recent research into taxation operating costs. *EJournal Tax Res*, *1*(1), 64–92.

Evans, C. (2008). Tax compliance costs: A review of the literature and implications for tax administration. *Bull Int Tax*, *62*(9), 447–456.

Krueger, N. F., Reilly, M. D., & Carsrud, A. L. (2000). Competing models of entrepreneurial intentions. *J Bus Ventur*, *15*(5–6), 411–432.

Liñán, F., & Chen, Y. W. (2009). Development and cross–cultural application of a specific instrument to measure entrepreneurial intentions. *Entrep Theory Pract*, *33*(3), 593–617.

North, D. C. (1990). *Institutions, institutional change and economic performance*.

O.E.C.D. (2004). *Compliance risk management: Managing and improving tax compliance*.

Okafor, C. A., Uchenna, M. A., & Nwankwo, O. (2020). Tax compliance costs and firm performance in sub-Saharan Africa: Evidence from Nigeria. *Afr J Account Audit Finance*, *8*(2), 129–145.

Onwuchekwa, J. C., & Aruwa, S. A. S. (2014). Value added tax and economic growth in Nigeria. *Eur J Account Audit Finance Res*, *2*(8), 62–69.

Oyedele, T. (2016). *Taxation and SMEs in Nigeria: The way forward.*

Oyelaran-Oyeyinka, B. (2020). Industrialization as an engine of inclusive growth in developing countries: Lessons from Nigeria. *Innov Dev*, *10*(2), 105–123.

Sandford, C. (1995). *Tax compliance costs: Measurement and policy.*

Uchenna, O. K., & Chinedum, A. I. (2019). Institutional quality and entrepreneurial intentions in Nigeria. *Int J Dev Sustain*, *8*(10), 617–632.

Waweru, M. G. (2019). Tax compliance costs and growth of small and micro-enterprises in Kenya. *J Afr Tax Adm*, *4*(1), 57–72.

Williams, C. C., & Shahid, M. S. (2016). Informal entrepreneurship and institutional theory: Explaining the varying degrees of informality across emerging economies. *Entrep Reg Dev*, *28*(3–4), 292–309.