

KWAME NKRUMAH UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

COLLEGE OF HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCE

SCHOOL OF BUSINESS



**ANTECEDENTS OF TAXPAYERS' INTENTIONS TO ENGAGE IN TAX EVASION:
EVIDENCE FROM GHANA**

ISABELLA TAWIAH DOKU

(MSC. ACCOUNTING AND FINANCE)

A THESIS SUBMITTED TO THE DEPARTMENT OF ACCOUNTING AND FINANCE,
SCHOOL OF BUSINESS, KWAME NKRUMAH UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE AND
TECHNOLOGY IN PARTIAL FULFILMENT OF THE REQUIREMENTS FOR THE
AWARD OF

MASTER OF SCIENCE IN ACCOUNTING AND FINANCE

NOVEMBER, 2023

KNUST



DECLARATION

“I hereby declare that this submission is my own work and that, to the best of my knowledge and belief, it contains no material previously published or written by another person nor material which to a substantial extent has been accepted for the award of any other degree or diploma at Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology, Kumasi or any other educational institution, except where due acknowledgment is made in the thesis.”

Isabella Tawiah Doku

(PG 9383721)

Signature

Date

Certified by:

Dr. Godfred Aawaar

(Supervisor)

Signature

Date

Certified by:

Prof. K.O Appiah

(Head of Department)

Signature

Date

DEDICATION

To My Dear Family and Friends

KNUST



ACKNOWLEDGMENT

I am grateful to the Almighty God for his grace and mercy throughout the conduct of this thesis.

I thank my Supervisor Dr. Godfred Aawaar for his patient and guidance. I thank my family and friends for the support and understanding. Finally, I am grateful to all well-wishers. May the Almighty God richly bless everyone.



ABSTRACT

Tax evasion has emerged as a significant challenge for governments worldwide, as it has become progressively complex to regulate due to the introduction of innovative and constantly evolving strategies. This study seeks to assess the antecedents of taxpayers' behaviour to engage in tax evasion in Ghana. The study employed quantitative methods and inferential analysis techniques. The research design employed in this study was cross-sectional, descriptive, and explanatory in nature. The population under consideration consisted of individual taxpayers residing in the Western Region of Ghana. The researcher utilised convenience sampling to select a sample size of 384 participants who voluntarily agreed to provide data for the study. The study hypotheses were evaluated using SPSS version 26. Descriptive statistics were employed to provide a comprehensive summary of the data. The study examined the role of individual attitudes, subjective norms, and moral obligations as key determinants of perceived behavioural control in relation to tax evasion. The research conducted revealed significant and favourable associations between these psychological attributes and the perception of behavioural control in relation to tax evasion, as determined through the utilisation of multiple regression analysis. The implications of the findings suggest that tax systems should be formulated with the intention of not only facilitating tax collection, but also incorporating ethical considerations. Tax rules and regulations may be formulated with the intention of highlighting individuals' ethical obligation to contribute towards the provision of public goods and services. It is recommended that tax authorities use effective communication tactics to emphasise the ethical relevance of tax compliance.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

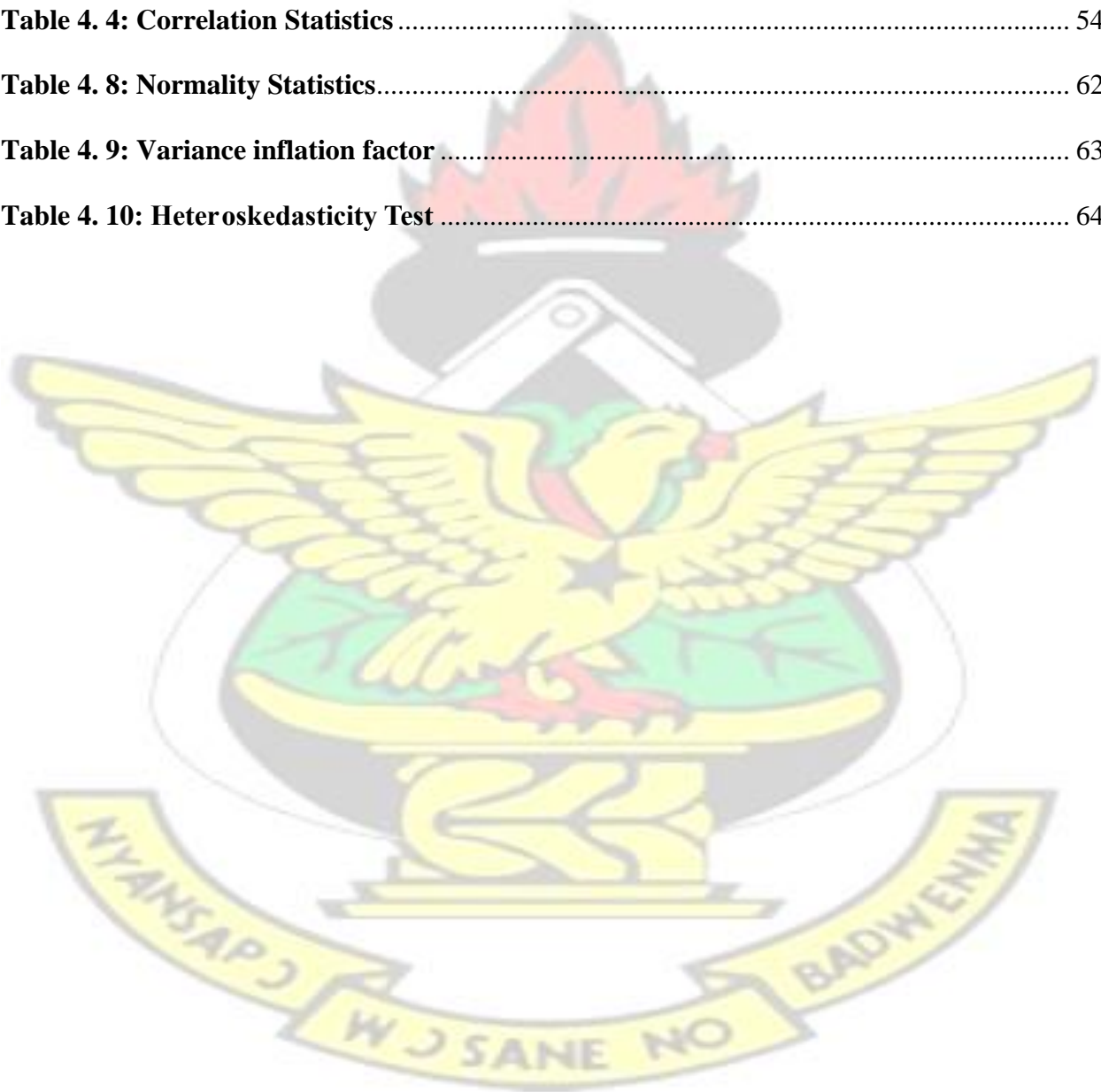
DECLARATION	ii
DEDICATION	iii
ACKNOWLEDGMENT	iv
ABSTRACT	v
TABLE OF CONTENTS	vi
LIST OF TABLES	ix
CHAPTER ONE	1
INTRODUCTION	1
1.1 Background of the Study	1
1.2 Statement of the Problem.....	4
1.3 Objectives of the Study.....	6
1.4 Research questions.....	7
1.5 Significance of the Study.....	7
1.6 Scope of the Study	8
1.7 Summary of Methodology	8
1.8 Limitations of the study	9
1.9 Organisation of the Study	9
CHAPTER TWO	11

LITERATURE REVIEW	11
2.0 Introduction.....	11
2.1 Conceptual Literature Review	11
2.2 Theoretical Literature Review	17
2.2.1 Deterrence Theory (Economic Approach).....	18
2.2.2 Theory of Planned Behavior (The Behavioral Approach).....	20
2.2.3 The Theory of Reasoned Action	21
2.3 Empirical Literature Review.....	22
2.4 Conceptual Framework and Hypothesis Formulation	34
2.5 Chapter Summary	37
CHAPTER THREE	39
METHODOLOGY	39
3.0 Introduction.....	39
3.1 Research Design.....	39
3.2 Population of the Study.....	41
3.3 Sample and Sampling Techniques	42
3.4 Data and Data Collection	43
3.5 Validity and Reliability of Constructs/Variables.....	44
3.6 Ethical Consideration.....	47
3.7 Summary of Chapter	48

CHAPTER FOUR.....	49
RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS	49
4.0 Introduction.....	49
4.1 Preliminary Analysis of Data.....	49
4.2 Individual’s Attitudes Towards Tax Evasion and Behaviour to Engage in Tax Evasion	55
4.3 Individual’s Subjective Norms and Behaviour to Engage in Tax Evasion.....	57
4.4 Individual’s Moral Obligation and Behaviour to Engage in Tax Evasion	59
4.5 Diagnostic Tests.....	62
4.6 Discussion of Results.....	64
4.7 Summary of Chapter	69
CHAPTER FIVE	70
SUMMARY OF FINDINGS, CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS	70
5.0 Introduction.....	70
5.1 Summary of Findings	70
5.2 Conclusion	73
5.3 Policy Implications and Recommendation	73
5.4 Suggestions for Future Research.....	78
REFERENCES.....	79
APPENDIX:.....	96

LIST OF TABLES

Table 4. 1: Demographic Information	49
Table 4. 2: Descriptive Statistics.....	52
Table 4. 3: Reliability Statistics	53
Table 4. 4: Correlation Statistics	54
Table 4. 8: Normality Statistics.....	62
Table 4. 9: Variance inflation factor	63
Table 4. 10: Heteroskedasticity Test	64



CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Study

High tax-evasion is a serious challenge facing almost all governments in the world. The need of increasing tax collection permanently is an effort for government planning and it is a challenge that must be addressed. Countries around the globe recognize the significance of encouraging taxpayers to conform to tax laws in order to boost tax collections (Mocanu et al., 2021; Kaulu, 2022). Despite numerous reforms in the tax administration system such as the adoption of E-filing system under a Self-Assessment environment to minimize tax evasion, it is still challenging for tax authorities to foster compliance in taxpayers to pay their taxes.

Low tax compliance or tax evasion takes many forms. Individuals or firms may have under-reported their incomes or sales, or over-claimed exemptions, deductions or credits resulting in tax evasion or failure to file appropriate tax returns. Thus, it is crucial that tax authorities take proper actions to ensure observance of tax laws and regulations. Having said that, it is also necessary for revenue authorities to trust taxpayers' assessment in some ways, or be firm in order to achieve a certain level of compliance or to invest on determinant factors to build a healthy habit of complying voluntarily (Amponsah et al., 2019).

On average, tax revenues collected by developing countries is 40 percent (Besley and Person, 2014; Goral and Akgoz, 2017). Unfortunately, collections among many countries are far less than that, according to OECD report. India, Hong Kong, Malaysia, Indonesia and Thailand collected

less than 20% GDP in 2012. It is more gravely in Africa, including in Ghana, whereby tax collections from the individual taxpayers are 15% of the GDP. When compared to GDP, tax revenue in Ghana peaked at 14.1% in 2018 and bottomed out at 7.8% in 2000. Ghana's tax-to-GDP ratio in 2019 (13.5%) was lower than the average of the 30 African countries in Revenue Statistics in Africa 2021 (16.6%) by 3.1 percentage points. High tax evasion among the individual taxpayers and weakness in tax administration contribute to such low tax revenue in these countries.

On the other hand, tax evasion has cost implications to the governments in relation to their Gross Domestic Product (GDP). For example, 5.1% tax noncompliance has affected the global economies Atawodi and Ojeka (2012). In Europe, individual tax noncompliance costs 8% of the economies' GDPs. The average cost of noncompliance with tax laws is estimated at 2% of GDP in North America and 10% in South America (Natalie, 2017). Individuals' failure to pay their fair share of taxes has a major negative impact on government coffers everywhere, including the world's most developed economies (Rile, 2011; Augusto, 2017).

Italy for example, lost EUR242 billion from individual tax noncompliance yearly and its debt of EUR1.9 trillion represents over 10 years of tax noncompliance (Rile, 2011). In Africa, income hidden from the tax authorities amounts to 20.5% of GDP (Association, 2013). However, Uganda lost the least amount in individual tax noncompliance (USD856 million) compared to Ghana which lost USD1.9 billion.

Literature has provided evidence suggesting that tax evasion is influenced by numerous factors. As a result, there are many justifications for tax evasion by both private individuals and business

entities. Alleyne and Harris (2017) identified four preconditions for someone intending to participate in tax evasion. Attitude towards the behaviour, subjective norms and moral obligations among other factors may result in individual intentions to engage in tax evasion. Yee et al. (2017) stated that tax knowledge is very important to ensure that taxpayers stay true to tax morality which is very important in determining tax evasion among citizens. Subjective norms which are to do with the taxpayer's perception of several people engaging in tax evasion are an important deciding factor that could cause behaviours to engage in tax evasion among taxpayers. In contemporary businesses where companies thrive on competitive advantages, there is a high probability that organizations may engage in tax evasion to reduce their overhead costs in the end. Ameyaw and Dzaka (2016) stated that tax evasion is common mainly due to the lack of appropriate strategies to monitor tax revenues from both tax payers and their officials.

Alm et al. (2016) stated that tax evasion may be a result of corruption officials trying to take bribes to shore up these corrupt behaviours. It is prudent for governments and tax authorities to put up stringent measures in place to avert the revenues that may be lost as a result of such behaviours. Alstadsæter et al. (2019) stated that society believes most tax evasion is caused by the wealthy in society as evidenced could be seen from the recent leaks from the Panama Papers. Though it is evident that it's only the wealth who engage in offshore financing schemes, tax evasion may involve several groups of individuals and organizations as well. A study conducted by Alstadsæter et al. (2022) stated that cracking down on tax evasion may result in the raising of government revenues and reducing inequality in the end. Taxes exist in countries to help mobilize revenues to help fund budgets and help alleviate problems that may arise socially. Al-Shawawreh and Al-

Smirat (2016) stated that the social goals of tax are seen in the social responsibilities governments engage in as big organizations.

The study seeks to investigate factors that may lead to the taxpayer's actual behaviours to engage in tax evasion. The study examines the role that taxpayers' attitudes have in predicting their actual behavior with regard to tax evasion. According to Alleyne and Harris (2017), attitude toward tax evasion behavior is defined as the assessment or evaluation of the act of being in favor of or against making tax payments. Taxpayers with a favorable attitude towards tax evasion are most likely to engage in tax evasion whilst those with an unfavorable attitude towards it are less probably to take part in tax evasion. Due to the behavior of others, subjective norms in tax evasion are expected to develop. If tax evasion becomes the order of the day, several individuals and organizations may like to also engage in such behaviours especially due to the short-term benefits it brings to the entity. Moral obligations exist as a result of the responsibilities one has due to the considerations of being right or wrong.

In this light, the study's overarching goal is to inquire into how the aforementioned elements' influence on tax evasion behavior might play out in practice. Therefore, the purpose of this research is to examine how tax payers' beliefs about tax evasion, subjective norms, and moral commitments all influence their actions.

1.2 Statement of the Problem

The behavior of individual tax payers in income tax compliance appeared to have not changed much even after the starting the e-filling System, particularly where highest tax-to-GDP ratio in

Ghana was 14.1% in 2018. This is evidenced by the increasing number of cases of non-compliance and the related penalties imposed to tax payers for noncompliance. Despite the existence of e-filing System under SAS the number of non-compliance cases has been increasing at an increasing rate. There is limited crucial information related to this behavior of individual tax payers. On one hand there is lack of information on the influence of economic and behavioral factors on the behavior of individual tax payers on tax compliance. On the other hand, there is limited of information on the factors that influence individual tax payers' intention to evade taxes. It is not yet clear whether the observed behavior is attributable to existing tax system and if so to what extent. In addition, it is not yet clear as to which factors exerts a more significant impact on behavior of individual tax payers. Though there have been several studies on tax evasion both in Ghana (Richard et al., 2018; Danquah and Osei-Assibey, 2018; Amponsah et al., 2019) and outside Ghana (Ado et al., 2018; Alkhatib et al., 2019; Hoa et al., 2019; Batrancea et al., 2019; Abdul-Jabbar et al., 2020; Purwanto and Indrawan, 2020; Taing and Chang, 2021; Athanasios et al., 2021; Kaulu, 2022). Despite the numerous studies, gaps still exist as the issues surrounding why people evade taxes have not been adequately understood.

Alleyne and Harris (2017) conducted a study to determine the antecedents of taxpayers' intentions to engage in tax evasion. The study failed to measure actual behaviours rather than intentions of taxpayers instead. This leaves a gap in literature to be investigated. The study was conducted in Barbados and the average age of taxpayers in that country is 41 but half of the respondents who were engaged in the study were between below 29 years of age which leaves several questions to be answered. The study by McGee et al. (2016) also concentrated on students which was not a representation of the whole population. The sample size of the study was inadequate to perform

such a level of analysis. This also leaves a gap to be investigated in literature to measure the antecedents of tax payer's behaviours to tax evasion.

The study by Rashid (2020) failed to consider variables such as attitude towards tax evasion, subjective norms and moral obligations as antecedents to actual behaviours towards tax evasion.

The study therefore will be conducted to fill the gaps that these earlier researches fail to address in extant literature. Recent studies (Kovermann and Velte, 2019; Saragih and Ali, 2021; Buele and Guerra, 2021) have also called on the need for scholars to identify the antecedents of tax payers' behaviour to engage in tax evasion particularly in emerging economies like Ghana. This study therefore responds to these calls by assessing the antecedents of taxpayers' behaviour to engage in tax evasion in Ghana.

1.3 Objectives of the Study

The main objective of the study is to assess the antecedents of tax payers' behaviour to engage in tax evasion in Ghana.

The following are the specific objectives;

1. To examine the effects of individual's attitudes concerning tax evasion on their behaviour to engage in tax evasion in Ghana.
2. To assess the impacts of individual's subjective norms on their behaviour to engage in tax evasion in Ghana.
3. To analyze individual's moral obligations on their behaviour to engage in tax evasion in Ghana.

1.4 Research questions

The following questions were also asked;

1. How does individual's attitude towards tax evasion affect their behaviour to participate in tax evasion in Ghana?
2. How does individual's subjective norm affect their behaviour to participate in tax evasion in Ghana?
3. How does individual's moral obligations affect their behaviour to participate in tax evasion in Ghana?

1.5 Significance of the Study

This study holds significance for several reasons. First, the study examines the issue of tax evasion in the context of the various social and economic challenges that governments encounter as a result of this unethical behaviour. Tax evasion not only leads to a decline in government revenue, but also contributes to the inefficient allocation of resources. This has implications for both law-abiding taxpayers and the quality of public services accessible to citizens. Therefore, it is imperative for the government to enhance its ability to identify instances of tax evasion, accurately assess its scale, and impose appropriate penalties on those involved in such illicit activities. This study sheds lights on various ways government can achieve that. Also, tax evasion behaviour has a significant impact on the distribution of income, resulting in inequitable outcomes. This, in turn, engenders sentiments of unfair treatment and a lack of regard for established rules and regulations.

Furthermore, it erroneously interprets the indicators pertaining to the broader economy. Hence, a comprehensive understanding of the true impact of taxation necessitates an examination that takes

into account the antecedents of tax evasion. Therefore, it is imperative to ascertain the underlying reasons behind individuals' reluctance to fulfil their tax obligations to the government. This study aims to discern the various factors that shape their disposition towards engaging in tax evasion. The research is extremely valuable to industry participants because it allows Ghanaians to fully comprehend the importance of paying taxes, which would aid in the growth of the economy. In order to understand their significance. Again, students wishing to investigate a relevant topic in academics might utilize the research as a reference. Readers would once more be able to understand the dangers of tax evasion and how it impacts the growth of the country. Relevant theories are discussed in order to determine which theory best describes the constructs stated in this study.

1.6 Scope of the Study

A subset of Ghanaian taxpayers are the subject of the study's geographic focus. Relationships between the antecedents of taxpayers' intent to participate in tax evasion are the conceptual scope. The study concentrates on people and businesses in Takoradi, which is located in Ghana's Western region. This is so because Takoradi, the region's capital, is regarded as a prime example of the area.

1.7 Summary of Methodology

This research is grounded in the positivist tenets of the scientific method. For this reason, the study employs the scientific technique of investigation in research methodologies, which is consistent with the positivist paradigm. The study uses a quantitative research approach and an explanatory research design. Individual Ghanaian taxpayers who pay taxes individually made up the study's

population out of these 384 individual Ghanaian taxpayers were sampled for the study. The study used primary sources of data collected using a structured questionnaire. Items for the constructs were adapted from previous studies. Perspectives on tax evasion was drawn from the work of Beck and Ajzen (1991) and Bobek and Hatfield (1995), subjective norms were adapted from Beck and Ajzen (1991) and Bobek and Hatfield (1993); people's feelings of ability to direct their own behaviors was drawn from the work of psychologists Beck and Ajzen (1991); moral obligation from Bobek and Hatfield (2003) and Beck and Ajzen (1991) and tax evasion constructs were adapted from Beck and Ajzen (1991). Descriptive statistics were employed to provide a comprehensive summary of the data. The SPSS version 25 and SMART PLS software were used to analyze the data and present the results for the study.

1.8 Limitations of the study

There may be a few restrictions the researcher might run into in addition to the worry about competent, real, and dependable results. Some respondents were also unwilling to participate in the study due to sensitivity of the information required. Time restrictions was also a problem since the researcher, who is also a worker and a student, did not have enough time to complete the study while also juggling other school-related obligations like online classes and tests.

1.9 Organisation of the Study

The study is organized into five chapters. The general introduction and study background are covered in Chapter 1. The problem statement is also shown in this chapter. There will also be an explanation of the study's goals, limitations, and purpose. The second chapter promotes a survey

of the literature that combines word definitions with theoretical, conceptual, and empirical frameworks. The methodology adopted for the study is highlighted in Chapter 3, which includes the sample population, sample size, sampling process, questionnaire design and distribution, research design, main and secondary data sources, and statistical tools, without missing the ethical aspect. While chapter five includes the research's summary of findings, conclusion, and suggestions, chapter four focuses on the analysis and discussion's results.



CHAPTER TWO

LITERATURE REVIEW

2.0 Introduction

This chapter is organized under five key sections as follow: section 2.1 presents the conceptual literature review, section 2.2 presents the Theoretical Literature Review, section 2.3 presents the Empirical Literature Review, section 2.4 presents Conceptual Framework and the final section 2.5 presents summary of the chapter.

2.1 Conceptual Literature Review

The definitions of the various study variables are examined in this section. They are described as they are used in the study whilst emerging in the literature.

2.1.1 Tax Evasion

Taxation plays a crucial role in fostering economic growth for both advanced and developing nations. Tax evasion poses a significant obstacle to tax revenue collection in less developed nations (Umar et al., 2019). Governments generate tax revenue with the purpose of providing crucial social services to their citizens, thereby promoting both social and economic progress. Tax evasion is a significant phenomenon due to its impact on countries that depend on tax revenue (Islam et al., 2020; Batrancea et al., 2019).

Taxation is a compulsory financial obligation imposed by the government on businesses, governmental organisations, and individuals (Sadress et al., 2019). Tax can be classified into two

main categories: direct tax and indirect tax. Direct tax is levied on the profits of companies and the incomes of individuals. On the other hand, indirect tax is collected from consumers through their payments (Kassa, 2021). Tax evasion is a term used to describe the deliberate act of individuals, groups, and companies intentionally evading the payment of the prescribed amount of taxes to the regulating authority. According to Nangih and Dick (2018), engaging in such behaviour is considered a violation of the law and can be classified as a criminal offence.

Ozili (2020) defines tax evasion as the unlawful and deliberate avoidance of tax obligations. Underreporting income, exaggerating deductions, and creating phony documents are all methods used to avoid paying taxes. Yet, tax avoidance is the process of legally evading taxes by shifting money around, postponing income, or otherwise modifying one's financial situation (Ozili, 2020). One has to know why governments need tax revenue in order to fully grasp tax evasion. The collection of tax revenue is fundamental to the contemporary state because, without it, governments would be unable to fulfill their administrative or redistributive responsibilities (Ozili, 2020). The annual budget and capital expenditures of the Ghanaian government are both funded by tax revenue. Ghana's government hires tax officers or agencies to collect taxes from firms and individuals whose income can be reliably traced. It is unrealistic for any government to impose a tax system and then expect its citizenry to comply out of some higher sense of duty. Due to the reality that many non-religious people will not pay their fair share of taxes, even while some religious people would (Ozili, 2020).

Some of the most commonly mentioned defences for tax evasion include the inability to pay, excessive tax rates, the belief that the tax code is unfair, corruption in the government, and the use

of tax money to fuel an unjust war (James et al., 2019). The practice and scholarly study of tax evasion have recently drawn a lot of attention. Thomsen and Watrin (2018) conducted a study that examined the behaviour of American and European businesses, specifically focusing on tax evasion. Their findings indicate that tax evasion behaviour remains consistent and does not exhibit significant changes over time. Developing nations such as Ghana are predominantly impacted by substantial instances of tax evasion. Moreover, a recent study conducted by the United Nations University posited that businesses are increasingly inclined to relocate their profits to countries that provide tax incentives as the economic condition of a nation weakens (Landier and Plantin, 2017).

According to Khlif and Guidara (2018), taxes are a sort of state revenue used for funding government initiatives and development. In comparison to other sources of state income, taxes played a significant role in the state budget between 2010 and 2015, accounting for more than 70% of total spending. Due to its widespread prevalence and the numerous financial scandals, it has caused in both industrialized and developing nations, tax evasion has the potential to have a large negative impact on public finances (Khlif and Guidara, 2018). It is described as actions that directly violate fiscal regulations to avoid paying taxes, such as willful underreporting of income (such as profits realized through the black market) and willful over claiming of tax deductions (such as recording bogus costs) (Khlif and Guidara, 2018). Governments must comprehend the root reasons of such an illegal act in order to take corrective action and be able to combat it (Khlif and Guidara, 2018).

Although some people do the right thing and pay their taxes in a timely manner, many others do not pay their fair share, and this practice is often not uncovered for long periods of time. High-income earners may take advantage of tax loopholes to keep more of their hard-earned cash, while middle- and low-income workers can utilize tax credits or file as "self-employed" to reduce their tax bills. The notion that only the wealthy engage in a significant amount of tax avoidance is false. This is due to the fact that income class has no effect on a person's inclination to avoid taxes. Anybody, regardless of wealth class, has the potential to evade taxes. Large firms may also avoid paying taxes by shifting profits (Ozili, 2020), reducing the tax base, relocating activities to "tax haven" nations or locations, or investing their money in offshore ventures that are not subject to domestic taxation. There may be tension between the state's readiness to levy taxes and the taxpayer's incentive to pay them if the tax burden is too great. There is historical evidence to suggest that these wars have prompted tax evasion and even rebellions (Ozili, 2020). As the tax obligation or burden may be too high for certain individuals and corporations, those who are able and willing to find methods to legally avoid paying some or all of their taxes do so whenever possible (Ozili, 2020).

Based on research conducted by the International Monetary Fund, it was determined that developing countries such as Ghana face a significantly higher level of vulnerability, approximately three times greater, in relation to potential negative impacts arising from tax laws and practises, in comparison to developed and affluent nations (Akcigit et al., 2016). The impact of tax evasion on a company's value is contingent upon its corporate governance, as stated by Nafti et al. (2020). They demonstrate that tax evasion has little overall impact. In contrast to organisations characterised by deficient or inadequate governance, the impact of effective

corporate governance becomes substantial and advantageous. Kovermann and Velte (2019) assert that corporate governance institutions possess the capacity to enhance tax evasion, thereby augmenting company profits, while also serving as a deterrent against tax evasion reaching a threshold where the risks outweigh the benefits.

2.1.2 Antecedents of Tax Payers' Intentions

One of the contributing factors that incite taxpayers to indulge in tax evasion relates to economic factors. Economic factors encompass a range of influential elements, including business sanctions, business stagnation, and the level of tax burden. In contrast, Saxunova and Szarkova (2018) argue that legal, social, demographic, mental, and moral factors hold significant weight. There are multiple factors that influence taxpayers' inclination to participate in tax evasion. Several factors that can be considered include moral obligation, tax fairness, tax knowledge, and subjective norms. The present study, however, places its emphasis on the concepts of moral obligation, attitude, and subjective norms. These concepts are subject to further examination within the confines of the conceptual framework.

The concept of moral obligation entails that taxpayer have a fundamental responsibility and duty to contribute a fair and justifiable amount of taxes to the relevant tax authorities, without the need for external enforcement. According to Sadjiarto et al. (2020), payers' motivation to pay taxes is inherently driven. When taxpayers possess low levels of tax morality, they tend to exhibit negligence in fulfilling their tax obligations and may resort to engaging in tax evasion (Alm and Torgler, 2006; Frey and Oberholzer-Gee, 1997; Torgler et al., 2008). Feld and Frey (2007) posit

that an increase in tax morale, or the honesty of taxpayers, can be attributed to tax officials who demonstrate responsibility and exhibit respect in the execution of their duties.

The concept of tax fairness is a non-economic determinant that influences the process of tax collection within a country (Alkhatib et al., 2019). The equitable administration of tax collection procedures, principles, and implementation is widely acknowledged as a fundamental requirement. Unethical conduct may arise as a consequence of the inequitable nature of the tax collection procedure. The equitable nature of taxation has the potential to incentivize taxpayers to fulfil their tax obligations in a positive manner. In instances where the tax rate is deemed unreasonable and inequitable, taxpayers may be inclined to express dissatisfaction by resorting to tax evasion practises. Consequently, they may choose to disclose their annual income to the authorities, refraining from any attempts to conceal or deny the precise amount. The consideration of individuals' capacity to pay or the acceptance of tax rates plays a crucial role in upholding the equity of the taxation system (Rantelangi and Majid, 2018).

An in-depth knowledge of taxation is crucial for taxpayers in order to comprehend the consequences and implications associated with engaging in tax evasion. The frequency of tax evasion among taxpayers is likely to be lower when they possess a high level of knowledge regarding the subject. Conversely, taxpayers who lack sufficient information are more likely to engage in tax evasion. The provision of tax-related information should prioritise the enhancement of knowledge for both taxpayers and experts within the authority (Sadjiarto et al., 2020).

Various stakeholders, including government experts, families, individuals, groups, and peers, exert influence on taxpayers' decisions regarding tax evasion (Alleyne and Harris, 2017). According to Alkhatib et al. (2019), there is a significant impact of peer groups on taxpayers, leading to the alteration of their preferences, personal values, and propensity to engage in tax evasion (Puspitasari and Meiranto, 2014). The stakeholders associated with taxpayers may serve as catalysts in inciting taxpayers to engage in illicit acts of tax evasion. The concept of subjective norms refers to the influence exerted by peers and other stakeholders on the behaviour of individuals involved in a given activity. When individuals who are obligated to pay taxes to the governing body exhibit hesitancy in fulfilling this obligation, it is probable that those around them will be more inclined to engage in tax evasion.

Another determinant that impacts taxpayers' tendency to participate in tax evasion is their attitude towards taxpayer behaviour. Attitude serves as a mechanism for assessing the positive or negative nature of any given object's activities. According to Abera (2019), when taxpayers hold a negative attitude towards taxation, they are likely to exhibit reluctance in fulfilling their financial obligations to the governing authority. Conversely, when taxpayers possess positive attitudes towards taxation, they are more inclined to fulfil their tax obligations willingly.

2.2 Theoretical Literature Review

Tax evasion research may be broken down into two broad categories: economic and behavioral (James et al., 2019; Sandmo, 2005). The economic method was developed using economic analysis and is predicated on a specific understanding of economic rationality. On the other hand, the focus of the behavioral approach is on more systemic behavioral issues, drawing on the theories and

studies of disciplines like psychology and sociology. Separately, the economic and behavioral perspectives both contribute significantly to the knowledge of taxpayer adherence. The challenge for tax collectors is not to decide between the two methods, but rather to find ways in which they might complement one another. The contemporary revival of the economic analysis of crime began with Benjamini and Maital (1985) article. In the article, tax evasion was mentioned as a potential application of his general model. Subsequently, Allingham and Sandmo (1972) published their first formal analysis of tax evasion based on the economics of crime methodology. The economics of crime methodology draws upon the deterrence theory.

2.2.1 Deterrence Theory (Economic Approach)

The deterrence theory analyzes how punishments and the threat of punishments affect criminal conduct (Cuccia, 1994). It is possible to split deterrence into two categories: general and particular. The impact of criminal penalties on the actual perpetrator is known as particular deterrence, whereas the impact of general deterrence, on those other than the sanctioned offender, is known as general deterrence. That is to say, previous criminals may be deterred as much or more by an act of punishment as future offenders (Devos, 2007).

Simply put, the core tenet of deterrence theory is that people are rational actors who weigh the costs and rewards of certain actions before making a decision (Varma and Doob, 1998). It is predicated on the idea that incentives and disincentives may change people's behavior because they are reasonable. Consequently, a rise in the severity and certainty of penalties has the ability to deter noncompliance owing to the perceived hefty costs associated with it (Pate and Hamilton, 1992).

So, according to the deterrence theory, the likelihood of being apprehended and the related real consequences are less relevant than the offender's subjective judgment of how severe the punishments would be (Bailey and Lott, 1976). For the deterrence hypothesis to work, public perception of law sanctions as definite, harsh, and prompt is crucial (Erickson and Gibbs, 1976).

Legal penalties (state-imposed punishment), social stigma (peer-imposed punishment), and guilt are the three types of punishments identified by Grasmick et al. (1991). (Self-imposed punishment). People are less likely to commit a crime if they believe there is a high chance that they will be caught, according to the idea of deterrence (Waldo and Chiricos, 1972).

Allingham and Sandmo (1972) and Friedland et al. (1978) showed that noncompliance decreases as both probabilities of detection and penalty increase, consistent with the deterrence theory. As detection work is costly, it is best that evasion be reduced by imposing heavier fines to almost zero probability (Pyle, 1987). Therefore, it is important to find an appropriate mix of enforcement and penalties based on budgets and acceptable penalties. However, economic approaches have also been coined the chauvinistic approach by Cullis et al. (1997), due to the lack in realism and humanity. Economists often adopt a very abstract, human-less perspective, and social psychologists have long thought this is the case. In this method, the policy variables of penalties, detection probabilities, and tax rates are treated as exogenous. The economic deterrence strategy relies on enforcement to work by compelling taxpayers to do cost-benefit calculations prior to deciding whether or not to comply (Yong, 2011). Based on their research, Smith and Kinsey (1987) incorrectly concluded that most persons engage in tax evasion.

Conversely, studies have shown that tax compliance is typically high across the board (Graetz and Wilde, 1985). Even when the odds were in their favor, some taxpayers reportedly never commit tax evasion, as stated by Baldry (1986). Those that take this tack face the issue, "Why do they pay taxes more or less honestly when cheating is simple and nearly undetectable". The study was published in 1992 (Slemrod). So, one's inclination to comply with tax laws is not merely a function of opportunity, tax rates, chance of discovery, etc.; it also relies on one's values, attitudes, perceptions, and morality (Cullis and Lewis, 2006; Assfaw, 2018).

2.2.2 Theory of Planned Behavior (The Behavioral Approach)

Several fields have contributed to the behavioral approach, and this suggests that other variables such as incentives may affect taxpayer compliance behavior (Assfaw, 2018). Human conduct is seen as more complicated by sociological and psychological models than by economic ones. Researchers have examined the impact of age, gender, and culture on tax compliance, among other sociological characteristics. The science of psychology provides further support for this method, and it has even spawned its own subfield, financial psychology, which was first developed by Schmolders (1959) and is being advanced by Bobek and Hatfield (2003).

Based on the concept of reasoned action, the idea explains why people do the things they do. Ajzen (1970), the idea of Reasoned Action was the basis for his later work, the Theory of Planned Behaviour. It foretells the extent to which a person feels in control of his or her own actions. According to this view, an individual's actions are calculated and mapped out in advance based on a variety of predetermined elements (Barongo, 2020). Attitude toward behavior, subjective norms, and perceived behavioral control are proposed as the three elements affecting an individual's desire

to do a certain action, as proposed by the theory (Putra and bin Osman, 2019). Individuals' present and future actions may be influenced by societal pressure based on their attitudes, subjective norms, and perceptions of their own ability to control their behavior (Luccasen and Thomas, 2020).

In taxation, the theory demonstrates individual perception toward the resolution to pay tax. The Efebera's model, which uses planned behavior theory framework, identified three elements inspiring tax compliance intention (Efebera et al., 2004). The first is an individual tax equity perception, which depends on the individual's grasp of the need for a tax system, leading to his corresponding reaction (Benk et al., 2011). Individuals' intents to comply with tax regulations are highly influenced by the cultural norms about tax payment, which brings us to the second factor: taxpayers' expectations towards tax compliance.

The third factor is the potential for legal consequences, such as fines and prosecution. Efebera et al. (2004) found that increased fines and the possibility of being caught decrease tax evasion. Based on this idea, we may deduce that taxpayers' compliance with tax laws is due to individual behavior, which is affected by prevailing social norms (subjective norms). Hence, while dealing with tax noncompliance, it is important to consider how the public views tax evasion.

2.2.3 The Theory of Reasoned Action

The theory of reasoned action states that there is a relationship between behaviours and attitudes within every human action. Hale et al. (2002) stated that the Theory of reasoned action has dominated research in the fields of attitudes and behaviour relations since its inception and as such, the most important antecedent of behaviour is one's intention to perform an activity. Intention

sums up one's motivation to in performing a behaviour that often indicates the effort and the time he is prepared to devote in ensuring that actions are taken. Peslak et al. (2012) stated that the theory of reasoned action adds to the measure of volitional control which is not often suggested for an issue of social networking.

Ng (2020) stated that the theory of reasoned action is the most recognized theory which is used to predict and explain wide ranges of human behaviour. The theory states whether one's intention in performing or not performing the behaviour ultimately affects the person's behaviour and as such higher intentions of behaviour increases the probabilistic enactment of such behaviour. The intention to engage in a particular behaviour depends on two key variables: the individual's attitude, which is a reflection of their salient behaviours and beliefs, and the perceived social pressure surrounding the behaviour, which is heavily influenced by how other people perceive the specified behaviour.

2.3 Empirical Literature Review

Despite the fact that many scholars have looked at the issue of tax evasion from different angles, there is always need for greater study.

2.3.1 The effects of individual's attitudes towards tax evasion

Alabede et al. (2011) examined the moderating influence of financial condition and risk preference on the association between taxpayers' attitude and compliance behaviour. The study's data, obtained through a survey of individual taxpayers' opinions, were subjected to statistical analysis using moderated multiple regression. The findings of the study suggest that there is a positive

correlation between taxpayers' attitudes towards tax evasion and their compliance behaviour. Additionally, the study also demonstrates that the risk preference of taxpayers exerts a significant negative moderating influence on the association between attitude towards tax evasion and compliance behaviour.

The study conducted by Alleyne and Harris (2017) titled "Antecedents of taxpayers' intents to engage in tax evasion: evidence from Barbados" examines the factors that influence individuals' intentions of engaging in tax evasion. The study utilised an adapted conceptual framework of the theory of planned behaviour (TPB) in order to predict individuals' intentions to engage in tax evasion. The findings of the study revealed that individuals' attitudes towards behaviour, perceived behavioural control, and moral duty significantly influenced their intentions to engage in tax evasion.

Khalil and Sidani (2020) investigated tax evasion attitudes and their relationship with religiosity in a religiously diverse context characterised by poor tax administration. The study examined the relationship between attitudes towards tax evasion and levels of religiosity, focusing on a novel perspective that compares Christians and Muslims. Additionally, the study explored the underlying motivations behind engaging in tax evasion. The findings showed that religiosity does not significantly influence attitudes towards tax evasion. Certain demographic variables, such as income and education, appear to exert a greater influence on the occurrence of tax evasion. The study revealed that income is a significant predictor of tax evasion, displaying a negative correlation with various forms of tax evasion. The relationship between education and tax evasion attitudes were observed through two distinct factors: perceptions of injustices in the tax system

(JSTE) and self-interest (SITE). While education exhibited a negative correlation with tax evasion attitudes stemming from perceptions of injustices in the tax system, it does not demonstrate a significant association with tax evasion attitudes driven by self-interest.

The study conducted by Sapiei et al. (2014) examined the factors influencing taxpayer compliance behaviour in relation to the reporting obligations of corporate income tax in Malaysia. The study's results indicate that factors such as the age of a business, tax liability, and tax complexity consistently impact the probability of engaging in tax non-compliance behaviour, specifically in the forms of under-reporting income, over-claiming expenses, and overall non-compliance. However, there is a lack of significant correlation between tax compliance costs and the non-compliance behaviour exhibited by corporate taxpayers.

2.3.2 The impacts of individual's subjective norms on their behaviour to engage in tax evasion

Owusu et al. (2020) investigated the perspectives of students regarding the ethical implications of tax evasion, their inclinations towards engaging in tax evasion, and explores the determinants that can forecast these inclinations. The study employed an expanded iteration of the Theory of Planned Behaviour to examine the potential predictive value of attitudes, subjective norms, perceived behavioural control, and moral obligation in relation to the intention to engage in tax evasion. The findings suggest that there is a low disposition among students to engage in tax evasion, and the majority of participants generally view tax evasion as an unethical behaviour. The findings of the study also indicate that attitude, subjective norms, and moral obligations play a significant role in influencing individuals' intention to engage in tax evasion.

The justification of tax evasion by Malaysian citizens as tolerable and acceptable is evident in the increasing number of tax evasion cases and the rise in unpaid tax figures within the country. In their study, Alwi et al. (2023) investigated the relationship between attitude, perceived behaviour control, and subjective norms in relation to tax evasion behaviour among employees with backgrounds in accounting and non-accounting fields. The findings suggest that individuals with a background in accounting exhibit distinct behavioural patterns in relation to their inclination to engage in tax evasion, as compared to those without such a background. There is a positive correlation observed between all variables and tax evasion behaviour among employees who do not have an accounting background. However, it is worth noting that within the group of workers possessing accounting backgrounds, only subjective norms exhibit a positive influence on the behaviour of tax evasion. In comparison to employees without an accounting background, the intention to engage in tax evasion is influenced by subjective norms and perceived behavioural control.

2.3.3 Individual's moral obligations on their behaviour to engage in tax evasion

Research done by Alshira'h and Abdul-Jabbar (2020) looked explored how Jordanian pride affected ties between audit frequency, tax rate, and sales tax compliance among manufacturers with less than 500 employees (SMEs). More than six hundred and fifty small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) in Jordan's manufacturing sector were sent questionnaires by systematic random sampling; 385 of them were assessed to be of adequate quality for analysis. In this study, partial least squares structural equation modeling was used to confirm the accuracy of the underlying measurement and structural models, as well as their prediction power (PLS-SEM).

There was a positive correlation between increased tax audits and penalties and sales tax compliance, but there was no correlation between increases in tax rates and compliance.

Alshira'h et al. (2020) looked at the connection between patriotism and public governance, and how it affected sales tax compliance among small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs). Small and medium-sized business (SMB) owner-managers in Jordan were surveyed through a questionnaire for this study. This study employed partial least squares structural equation modelling on data from 385 small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) to investigate how patriotism, public governance, and the interplay between these concepts affect SMEs' willingness to pay sales taxes. The results demonstrate that sales tax compliance increases when people feel more patriotic and trust the government.

Carsamer and Abbam (2020) examined the role of religion and religiosity in tax compliance among SMEs in the Ghanaian market. The primary method used in this study is a questionnaire survey. The Ghana Revenue Authority disseminated a total of 472 surveys to small and medium-sized enterprises. All surveys were returned since they were self-administered. This data suggests that religious prestige in Ghana is not a driving factor behind the high rate of tax compliance among SMEs and that tax cheating is considered morally acceptable. The extent to which small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) pay their fair share of taxes depends on several factors, including institutional, business, and entrepreneurial factors.

Agyapong (2019) investigated the elements that affect SME tax compliance. The data was gathered using a cross-sectional survey and an explanatory research strategy. The researcher used

a stratified random sampling technique to choose the survey respondents. Primary data was gathered with the use of well-crafted questionnaires. Tax compliance determinants were investigated using partial least square structural equation modelling. Tax awareness, opinions of government spending, and the chance of being audited were all shown to have a substantial impact on tax compliance, according to the research conducted in Cape Coast Metropolis with 301 respondents.

Using a quantitative technique, Werekoh (2022) examined how taxes affect GDP growth while also factoring in how much of an attenuating effect tax compliance has. The study surveyed 400 small and medium-sized businesses (SMEs) and analysed data from a population of 10,000. Surveys were the main tool for gathering data in this study. SPSS was used to do statistical analysis on the data. The results demonstrate that in order to enhance voluntary compliance, tax authorities must be aware of, understand, and respect taxing taxpayers' compliance behaviour, as well as provide tax education services. Timely tax payments increased the favourable effect of taxes on economic growth, as shown by the findings.

Amanamah (2016) looked at what influences small and medium-sized businesses' tax compliance the most and what those variables are. Seventy small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) were chosen as the study's sample size using accessible sampling methods. In order to analyze the field data, descriptive statistics were performed in SPSS. Based on the outcomes, it seems that respondents were required to pay income tax, VAT, and property tax. Ninety-one percent plus four percent of respondents said they were aware of the repercussions of failing to pay taxes. Furthermore, 92.9% said they were aware of these specifics.

Awa and Ikor (2015) conducted research to identify the factors that discourage small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) from paying their fair share of taxes and to rank those factors. It was discovered that high tax rates and difficult filing procedures are two major factors leading to SMEs' non-compliance. Other factors, such as different taxes and insufficient education, affect tax compliance among the analysed SMEs less significantly. To increase their prospects of success in a competitive market, it is recommended that taxes be lowered for small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs).

Ababio and Manguye (2021) conducted a research to see whether small and medium-sized enterprises' (SMEs') beliefs about the state's legitimacy affected their willingness to pay taxes. The research used a sample of 200 small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) from the town of Sekondi in the Sekondi Takoradi Metropolitan of the Western Region. Many methods were employed to analyze the data, including descriptive statistics and a probit model with random sampling. The study indicated that the degree to which a small firm trusted the government was a major predictor of whether or not it would try to minimize taxable income.

Carsamer and Abbam (2020) examined how religious fanaticism and religion play into the tax compliance of Ghanaian SMEs. Research questionnaires were used. In all, 472 surveys were sent to various small and medium-sized enterprises. It seems from the data that tax evasion is tolerated on moral grounds, and that religious reputation is not a factor in the tax compliance of Ghanaian small and medium-sized enterprises. The degree to which small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) comply with tax regulations is strongly influenced by institutional, company, and entrepreneur characteristics. It was suggested that it would be useful to do further study on the

factors (i.e., taxpayer financial status, tax expertise, and changes to tax laws and regulations) that influence compliance choices.

Okpeyo et al. (2019) analyzed tax compliance in Ghana. The study's authors hoped to learn what aspects of tax compliance are most important to small and medium-sized taxpayers, why there is a difference in compliance rates, and what might be done to reduce it. Hundred Takoradi-based small and medium tax payers and other GRA personnel were recruited using a stratified selection method for the study. The data was subjected to both quantitative and qualitative scrutiny. A number of factors, including compliance costs, tax rates, tax audits, and taxpayer morale, were shown to have a substantial impact on taxpayer compliance. The research recommends increasing the frequency of company audits and implementing fines and penalties for defaulting organizations, as well as hosting seminars to educate businesses on the need of paying taxes and keeping proper records of their operations.

Olusegun (2021) studied the robustness and validity of a novel tax compliance scale. The new scale is an improvement over Fischer's et al model of tax compliance since it incorporates characteristics and question items from the theoretical literature review, empirical results from earlier research, and comparable questionnaires from other nations. In order to verify the initial dependability of 39 questions, a pilot study was conducted. A 37-item questionnaire was sent to 392 SME owners throughout Nigeria's six zones to investigate the tax system's complexity, noncompliance opportunity, deterrent penalty, tax rate, tax attitude and justice perception, tax compliance cost, and tax information. Seven different constructs were examined, and they were all found to be both internally consistent and interclass trustworthy. The tax compliance scale was shown to be in agreement with theoretical and empirical expectations using principal component

analysis, correlation analysis, and communality. The findings demonstrate the new scale's reliability and legitimacy, providing a useful tool for the tax authorities.

Musimenta et al. (2017) performed research on the interplay between tax compliance, tax fairness, isomorphic factors, and strategic solutions for small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) in Uganda (SMEs). Perceptions of tax compliance among Uganda's SMEs are investigated using responses from both the demand (representatives of tax collecting institutions) and supply (representatives of SMEs) sides of tax compliance. Predicting tax compliance may be done with the use of tax fairness, isomorphic factors, and strategic actions. Results show that tax equity and strategic activities have a moderating role.

A study by Inasius (2019) examined the factors that affect small and medium-sized enterprises' (SMEs) willingness to file income tax returns in Indonesia. Multiple regressions are used to look at six factors that may affect tax compliance. These findings are based on a study administered to 328 small business taxpayers in Jakarta. The data was collected using an online survey administered by the researchers. The results demonstrate the significance of referral networks, audit probability, tax competence, and a belief in fairness and equality in influencing taxpayer compliance. The referral group had a significant effect on the noncompliance behaviour of small and medium-sized companies (SME) taxpayers. Now that legislators have this information, they can draft tax legislation with compliance in mind. The study contributes to the literature by broadening its scope to include information from Asian countries.

Nkundabanyanga et al. (2017) conducted a research with the goal of figuring out how much people's beliefs about the reasons for their tax compliance or noncompliance affected their actual tax compliance behaviour. The study surveyed taxpayers in Uganda from a correlational and cross-sectional perspective to discover more about their perspectives on tax compliance. Data from 205 respondents was analyzed using a structured equation modelling approach that included a moment structure analysis. Governmental efficiency, tax system openness, and voice and accountability (VA) are all indicators of tax administration that have a significant effect on tax compliance variance.

Alasfour et al. (2016) investigated people's perceptions of tax morale and compliance. The study, which relied on a questionnaire survey and multivariate tests, came to the conclusion that, under some circumstances, tax cheating in Jordan is morally permissible, and that, given the government's corruption, there may even be a necessity to cheat on one's taxes. Furthermore, the results show that although tax morale is affected by governmental corruption, it is positively impacted by the efficient use of tax revenues (tax morale). Individuals' propensity to engage in tax noncompliance rises in response to higher tax rates and an unjust tax system, but falls in response to rising audit and penalty rates. The degree to which anything is effective is determined by factors such as the willingness to take risks, the availability of resources, and the availability of peer groups. The findings indicate that taxpayer morale is influenced by personal traits. Tax motivation and compliance are affected by factors such as gender, age, level of education, occupation, and religious affiliation.

Young et al. (2016) looked at studies of how well Chinese people pay their taxes. The purpose of this research was to summarize previous empirical work on tax compliance in China. While mostly descriptive, the paper does provide normative recommendations for increasing tax compliance in China. This work added credence to previous research indicating that Confucianism fosters both society and personal ethical values in China. The importance of taxes as a means to support one's family and community should be emphasized in any campaign to increase tax compliance in China. The suggestions should be experimentally tested in further investigations.

Lois et al. (2019) analyzed taxpayers' perspectives on tax compliance and investigated the factors that affect taxpayers' behaviour. The poll used a stratified sampling method and consisted entirely of short, yes/no questions. A linear regression and a set of reliability tests were conducted using IBM's Statistical Package for the Social Sciences (including an analysis of variance). In a study, respondents were overwhelmingly positive about the people who work in tax compliance and tax administration. Despite the tax system's clear fairness, the findings hint to a more underlying issue of social and behavioural elements, such as the characteristics of people who work in tax administration and tax morality.

Jurney et al. (2017) used a survey to talk to 303 taxpayers from three generations—Baby Boomers, Generation X, and Millennials—to find out if this generation has different ideas about how fair taxes are and how important it is to pay taxes than other generations. The results suggest that the three generations' views on questions of vertical justice and progressive taxation are quite different from one another. Particularly disinclined to support progressive taxes was the millennial

generation. Significant disagreements also existed between the parties on the subject of exchange equity.

Tax fairness was investigated by Azmi et al. (2016), who examined the correlation between tax literacy, tax complexity, and compliance. Research with a sample size of 200 taxpayers found that taxpayers' tax knowledge increased their perception of tax fairness, which in turn increased taxpayers' propensity to behave in a compliant manner. Additionally, tax fairness ideas do not directly reduce tax compliance but do have an indirect impact. That means tax authorities need to be able to explain the rationale behind a regulation and how it serves to level the playing field for all taxpayers, not only establish or construct tax rules that are favourable to taxpayers. Our findings suggest that this mode of conveying knowledge might help increase taxpayer compliance in situations when tax simplification is not feasible.

Research by Alshira'h and Abdul-Jabbar (2020) examined the effects of tax audits, tax rates, and tax penalties on sales tax compliance among Jordanian manufacturing SMEs, as well as the moderating role played by patriotism (SMEs). The study's authors sent out 660 questionnaires to SMEs in Jordan's manufacturing sector using a random sampling approach; of these, 385 were deemed to be of adequate quality for analysis. Using partial least squares structural equation modelling, the measurement and structural models, as well as the prediction usefulness, of the research was validated (PLS-SEM). Compliance with sales taxes was shown to have a positive relationship with audit frequency and penalty harshness but no relationship with tax rate.

According to Taing and Chang (2021), used theory of planned behaviour served as the conceptual framework to study tax compliance among Phnom Penh, Cambodian inhabitants. Attitude, subjective standards, and apparent behavioural control are the three major foundations of the concept of planned conduct. Seven variables were established to examine tax compliance motivation on the basis of these factors: tax motive, tax fairness, faith in government and sense of authority's power, tax complexity, tax information, and tax awareness. The authors surveyed 402 Phnom Penh citizens in the month of August 2016 to get a deeper understanding of these factors. The exploratory factor analysis and Cronbach's alpha test were performed to ensure the reliability and validity of the data before the hypotheses were tested using an ordered logistic regression model. The results show that people's intentions to pay their fair share of taxes are significantly influenced by tax morale, tax fairness, and tax complexity, but are unaffected by authority, confidence in government, tax knowledge, and awareness.

2.4 Conceptual Framework and Hypothesis Formulation

This section outlines the relationship between the study variables. The study seeks to examine the antecedents of taxpayers' behaviour to engage in evading tax in Ghana. The study's variables include attitude, subjective norms and moral obligation. The study has behaviour to evade tax as the dependent variable. Figure 2.1 shows the diagrammatic presentation of the model. The various relationships have been discussed below.

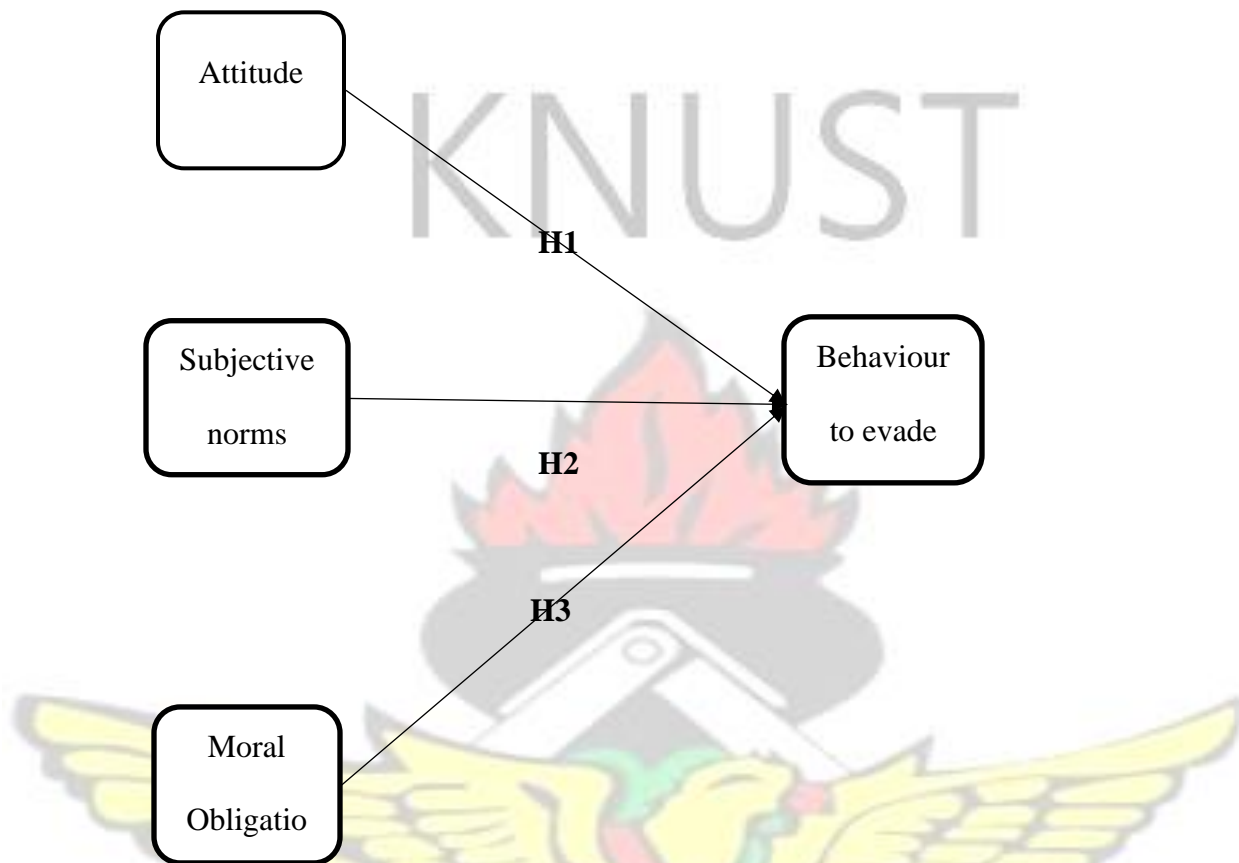


Figure 2.1 Conceptual framework

Source: Authors Own Construct (2022)

2.4.1 Attitude and Behaviour to evade tax

The attitude of people is critical for determining if they would evade tax. According to the idea of planned behavior, an individual's positive attitude toward a behavior will impact that person's intention to participate in that behavior, while an individual's negative attitude will act as a barrier to that behavior's intended execution (Owusu et al., 2020). One's attitude is very critical in ensuring that he/she is morally upright as he adheres to ensuring that they comply their tax

obligations. Previous studies (Alleyne and Harris, 2017; Owusu et al., 2020; Kassa, 2021) found positive association between attitude and tax evasion. Drawing on the above discussion and literature, this study hypothesizes that;

H₁: Attitude has a positive and significant relationship with behaviour to evade tax

2.4.2 Subjective norms and behaviour to evade tax

Subjective norms are to do with if most people approve or disapprove with a certain behaviour. People's approval to evade taxes is one of the major issues. Due to the competitive nature of our world now, committing any kind of tax evasion would ensure that others would follow suit. This is because this tax evasion crises may affect the rate at which business is transacted with business partners. Pui Lee et al. (2017) stated that tax evasion has always been or always be accepted by most people due to the unfair tax system that exists among the masses. Additionally, prior studies (Bobek et al., 2013; Bhutta et al., 2019; Bhutta et al., 2019; Tilahun, 2019; Taing and Chang, 2021; Owusu et al., 2020; Kassa, 2021) found positive association between subjective norms and tax evasion. Drawing on the above discussion and literature, this study hypothesize that;

H₂: Subjective norms has a positive and significant relationship with behaviour to evade tax

2.4.3 Moral obligation and behaviour to evade tax

Moral obligation can be defined as the ability to consider right or wrong decisions. This can result in people evading tax. According to Alleyne and Harris (2017), a moral obligation is the responsibility that an individual imagines they have because of their own standards of good and wrong. Failure in considering such repercussions of moral conviction might lead to misleading results since tax evasion continues to be one of the actions individuals make throughout their lives

that frequently continues to arouse ethical sentiments.

Similarly, Al-Zaqeba, (2020) opine that the specific characteristics of the moral issues must be clearly identified and investigated in order to grasp the process of decision-making. If the perception of moral intensity of an issue is deemed weak, individuals would not consider the situation as one with an ethical element, and this would affect their subsequent action or behavior. In this regard, issue contingencies should explain, to a great extent, the differences in individuals' recognition of ethical issues. Existing empirical studies indicate that ethics or moral obligations do affect by acting as a predictor of tax evasion (Bobek and Hatfield, 2003; Henderson and Kaplan, 2005; Al Zaqeba, 2020), even though there is no consistency in the definitions of ethics or moral obligation used. This study uses moral obligation as a proxy or a measure for tax ethics which has not been investigated previously. Individuals may have different ethical perceptions when confronted with different issues.

Therefore, an examination of the moral obligation when confronted by various tax issues may explain the evasive behavior of taxpayers. Hence, the following hypothesis is formulated:

H₃: Moral obligation has a positive and significant relationship with behaviour to evade tax

2.5 Chapter Summary

This chapter elaborates on relevant literature on the tax evasion and its determinants. This study would be conducted to bridge the literature gaps given the existing inconsistencies and contradictory viewpoints on the aforementioned relationships. Three hypotheses and a study

framework were presented to address the study objectives. Lastly, theories were employed to underpin the suggested study framework.

KNUST



CHAPTER THREE

METHODOLOGY

KNUST

3.0 Introduction

This study examines the topic “Antecedents of tax payers’ intentions to engage in tax evasion: Evidence from Ghana”. This chapter is organized under six key sections as follow: section 3.1 presents the research design, section 3.2 presents the population of the study, the section 3.3 presents the sample and sampling techniques, the section 3.4 presents data and data collection where section 3.4.1 presents variables description and measurement (data and variables) and section 3.4.2 presents data collection, section 3.5 presents validity and reliability of constructs/variables, 3.6 presents ethical consideration and the final section 3.7 presents summary of the chapter.

3.1 Research Design

This research is grounded in the positivist tenets of the scientific method. For this reason, the study employs the scientific technique of investigation in research methodologies, which is consistent with the positivist paradigm (Kivunja and Kuyini, 2017). Taking a positivist stance allows one to learn by carefully observing and analyzing the objective consensus of "out there" reality (Guetterman et al., 2015). This paradigm also requires the use of mathematical equations, computations, extrapolations, and expressions, along with deductive reasoning, hypothesis development and testing, operational definitions, and conclusion drawing. Explanations and

forecasts are made using observable results, and the underlying causes that lead to those results are pinpointed (Patten, 2017).

As a result, positivist research emphasizes the need of identifying and evaluating the factors that affect observed outcomes, including those that were noted in this study (Hennink et al., 2020). Positivism's goal is to produce some abstraction about the findings of a population survey (Iofrida et al., 2018). Positivism is based on the idea that reality or the real world exist independently of human consciousness and that it is possible to gain objective knowledge of reality or the real world (Rassel et al., 2020).

This paradigm is appropriate for the current examination not because it is the chosen viewpoint for scientific research, but rather because it seeks to identify cause-and-effect relationships in nature. With this in mind, the positivist paradigm is more suited to evaluating the causes of tax evasion in Ghana's taxpayer population. As this was quantitative research, it used a combination of quantitative and qualitative techniques of data collecting.

The quantitative method was used because it provides concrete, quantifiable findings that may be extrapolated to a larger group (Goertzen, 2017). Aside from that, it is perfect for testing hypotheses formulated before data collection to evaluate and verify already established concepts regarding how and why events occur. According to Ragab and Arisha (2018), quantitative research is often viewed as a logical approach of enquiry. Both descriptive and explanatory research methodologies are used in this study. While the explanatory section discusses the factors that motivate taxpayers in Ghana to cheat the system, evade taxes, or both.

The underlying causes of taxpayers' behavior that leads them to commit tax evasion in Ghana can also be better understood with the assistance of this explanatory research. In conclusion, inductive reasoning was used to the quantitative data using a cross-sectional survey methodology (Cohen, Manion, and Morrison, 2017). Data gathering from various units during a specified time period is possible with this survey. A cross-sectional survey was selected as the most effective method for analyzing the factors contributing to tax evasion among Ghanaians due to the short time frame of the study.

3.2 Population of the Study

Population characteristics and the selection criteria for the study's sample are presented below. The population was described by Etikan, Musa, and Alkassim (2016) as "the variety of cases, individuals, or things under investigation." The study's intended participants are reflected in its target population. In other words, a sample should be drawn from the target community because it contains a diverse group of people (Shamsuddin et al., 2017). Individual Ghanaian taxpayers who pay taxes individually made up the study's population. The list of people the researcher plans to collect the data from is referred to as the sample frame. The study's sample frame is designed to look at the phenomena among individual tax payers in Ghana's Western Region because there are numerous individual tax payers in Ghana and the study is unable to collect data from all of them.

3.3 Sample and Sampling Techniques

As a result of the substantial implications that sample selection and sampling methodology have for the outcome of any scholarly research, the topic of samples and sampling techniques has long been a source of controversy in the academic community. The sample, according to Kothari (2012), is an attempt or strategy made by the researcher to choose how many study participants should be included in the sample. There are three basic techniques that can be used to establish the sample size in a certain population. Firstly, formulas can be used to determine the sample size (Israel, 1992). The second method is to estimate the sample size using a published statistical table, such as the one from Krejcie and Morgan (1970) or Cohen et al. (2013). Finally, a researcher may choose to employ census procedures, which entail gathering information from the entire population during a census. The Singh and Masuku (2014) sample size calculation formula will be used to determine the sample size for this study. The use of Singh and Masuku's (2014) model is appropriate given that the researcher is unsure of the specific number of individual tax payers in Ghana. Thus, the equation is provided as

$$n = \frac{Z^2(P)(1 - P)}{C^2}$$

Where Z= the standard normal deviation set at a 95% confidence level

P=percentage picking a choice or response (50%)

C=Confidence interval

$$n = \frac{(1.96)^2(0.50)(1-0.50)}{0.05^2}$$

$$n=384.16$$

$$n=384$$

Per the equation, 384 individual Ghanaian taxpayers will be used for the study. Sampling methods are the steps taken to select a sample for a research project. According to Taherdoost (2016), there are two different kinds of sampling processes: probability procedures and non-probability procedures. Convenience sampling will be used in this investigation to choose Ghanaian taxpayers who are willing and able to take part in this research.

3.4 Data and Data Collection

This section presents information regarding the measurement of the variables in the study as well as the data collection procedure as discussed in subsequent sections below (see 3.4.1 and 3.4.2)

3.4.1 Variables Description and Measurement (data and variables)

Information is collected from respondents via a standardized questionnaire (students). The primary focus of this investigation is on the information gleaned from the data itself. The five central components of the model are as follows. There are a total of six sections to this questionnaire. Part one examined participants' perspectives on tax evasion using seven statements drawn from the work of Beck and Ajzen (1991) and Bobek and Hatfield (1995). (2003). Four statements modified from Beck and Ajzen (1991) and Bobek and Hatfield (1993) were used to assess subjective norms in Part 2. (2003). Third, we look at people's feelings of ability to direct their own behaviors using a set of four questions drawn from the work of psychologists Beck and Ajzen (1991). Five statements from Bobek and Hatfield (2003) and Beck and Ajzen (1991) were used to assess moral obligation, and three statements from Beck and Ajzen (1991) were used to assess the likelihood that respondents would knowingly commit tax evasion in Part 4. (1991). The questionnaire relied

entirely on items taken from tried-and-true tests. The last section focused on the demographics of the survey takers.

3.4.2 Data Collection

Information from the respondents will be collected using a structured questionnaire. The use of primary data, which will be acquired via a questionnaire, is the main emphasis of this study. There are two sections to the questionnaire. The respondents' demographic data is in the first section. Questions about the variables utilized in this study are included in the second section. All items used in the questionnaire were sourced from previously validated instruments. Participants in the survey will be requested to select a figure between 1 and 5 that perfectly reflected their opinions on each question. The items used to measure the constructions are in the appendix. Although the items have already been tested for validity and reliability in other research, this study will use additional testing methods to guarantee the accuracy of the findings. To inspire participation, each questionnaire had a cover letter from the researcher explaining the purpose of the study and asking respondents to participate; it as well guaranteed the confidentiality of the chosen participants and gave a brief overview of the research project.

3.5 Validity and Reliability of Constructs/Variables

Just what has to be measured is done so to assure validity (Arabaninezhad and Fakher, 2021). Validity, according to Whiston (2012), is the acquisition of data that is appropriate for the goals for which the instruments were employed to gather it. The measuring instrument must precisely

reflect the variables of interest for a study to be useful (Sürücü and Maslakçi, 2020). It also shows how well specific instruments carry out their intended purposes in the context of questionnaires. The many types of validity that have been proposed in the literature include face validity, criteria validity, content validity, and construct validity (Oluwatayo, 2012). The last two types on the list, content validity and construct validity, are the ones most frequently found in academic writing, but there are other types as well.

We argue that an indication has face validity when, "on the face of it" it appears to be a reliable substitute for its underlying notion. We refer to a test as having "facial validity" when the information on it seems to be relevant to the subject being assessed (Taherdoost, 2016). The practicality, readability, stylistic homogeneity, and linguistic clarity of the questionnaire's visual appeal are evaluated. Researchers' opinions on the instrument's utility, reasonableness, absence of ambiguity, and clarity (Oluwatayo, 2012). However, due to its nature, it is regarded as the least compelling form of validity, and some would even contend that it isn't validity at all (Taherdoost, 2016).

A subjective assessment based on the reviewers' own opinions, the expert review procedure determines the content validity of questionnaires. Contrarily, factor analysis can be used to assess concept validity by looking at the questionnaire and determining whether the items load on the anticipated components. Factor analysis is used to keep track of the construct validity of all the measures. The main use of the findings would be to measure the dimensionality of constructs. The results of the factor analysis were calculated using Kaiser-Meyer-Olkin (KMO) for sample adequacy and factor loading for commonality among measurement items. Loadings, in particular,

show the strength of a scale item's relationship to a specific construct or element; a greater loading denotes a more noticeable.

A sample of thirty (30) persons will first be invited to complete the study's questionnaire in order to ensure its validity. When a researcher seeks to ascertain whether the items being evaluated are consistent with one another in reflecting a specific dimension or area of study, they apply the idea of internal consistency dependability (Salkind, 2004). According to Hatcher (1994), Cronbach's alpha is a reliability coefficient that accounts for the discrepancy between a variable's theoretical and real score. A value of 0.80 is regarded as outstanding, while a value of 0.7 is regarded as adequate when using the Cronbach alpha coefficient of dependability. The study's reliability ratio of .750 demonstrates that the research questions that were included in the questionnaire were determined to be logically sound and internally consistent in their approach to addressing sources of distress.

In order to make sure that the language, phrases, and order of the questions are understandable to study participants, academics have argued that an instrument pre-testing is necessary (Hair, Black, Babin, Anderson, & Tatham, 2006; Sekaran, 2004). A pre-test would be conducted with a panel of specialists to examine the questionnaire's format for clarity and relevance to the variables used in the assessment. To examine the questionnaires and provide feedback on their suitability for data collection among individual taxpayers, three academicians and three industry professionals would be chosen. After the questionnaire was completed, a pilot research would be done. Using 30 to 40 people who closely resemble the study population, it will be possible to assess if respondents understand the questionnaire, make necessary revisions, determine when respondents should

complete the survey, and improve the questionnaire's reliability and validity. To avoid publication bias, the results of the pilot test are often not reported in papers because they could be minor.

3.6 Ethical Consideration

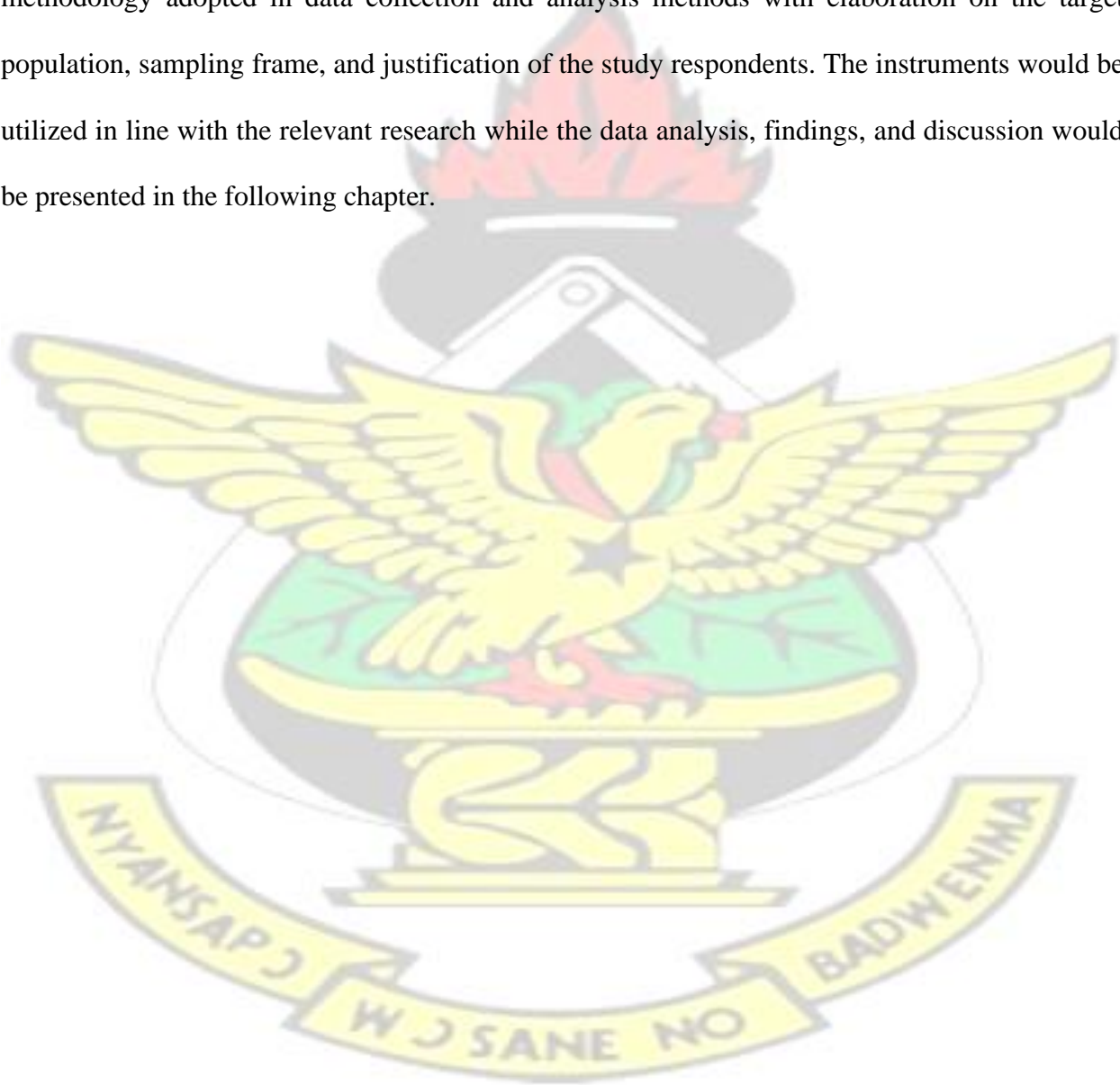
It is essential to keep in mind a set of guidelines known as "ethical concerns" when performing any kind of study (Singh et al., 2015). According to Fleming and Zegward (2018), researchers must evaluate and establish a plan for handling ethical issues such conflict of interest, informed consent, risk of harm, and confidentiality.

During the data collection process, informed consent was the first ethical consideration that was followed. All study participants received full disclosure of the study's purpose and were then given the option of participating or not. For the purpose of gathering data, the study only included people who voluntarily volunteered to take part. People who felt awkward disclosing information about their employers were excluded from the study. Regarding this, participation in the study was completely optional, and participants could opt out of the data gathering at any time.

The confidentiality of the data acquired served as another ethical guiding principle during the data collection procedure. The researcher made sure that no outside entity had access to any of the data that had been collected from the respondents through questionnaires. The participants' confidentiality was also crucial for the data collection method. The researcher made sure that the tools used for data collection did not contain any information that may be used to determine the participants' identities, including names, residence addresses, phone numbers, and others.

3.7 Summary of Chapter

This chapter justified the proposed research methodology in this study. This explanatory research would employ a survey strategy for data collection. This chapter extensively discussed the methodology adopted in data collection and analysis methods with elaboration on the target population, sampling frame, and justification of the study respondents. The instruments would be utilized in line with the relevant research while the data analysis, findings, and discussion would be presented in the following chapter.



CHAPTER FOUR

RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

4.0 Introduction

This chapter presents the analyses and discussions of the results on the Antecedents of Tax Payers' Intentions to engage in Tax Evasion in Ghana. The chapter has been structured into six sections: The section 4.1 presents the Preliminary Analysis of Data, the section 4.2 presents the Individual's Attitudes Concerning Tax Evasion and Behaviour to Engage in Tax Evasion, the section 4.3 presents the Individual's Subjective Norms and Behaviour to Engage in Tax Evasion, section 4.4 presents the Individual's Moral Obligation and Behaviour to Engage in Tax Evasion, section 4.5 presents the Diagnostic Tests presents the chapter summary, section 4.6 presents the Discussion of Results and section 4.7 presents the Summary of Chapter

4.1 Preliminary Analysis of Data

4.1.1 Demographic Information

Table 4. 1: Demographic Information

Variables	Frequency	Percent
<i>Gender of respondent</i>		
Female	128	33.3
Male	256	66.7
		100.0

Age of respondent

25-34yrs	248	64.6
35-39yrs	95	24.7
40-44yrs	15	3.9
45-54yrs	12	3.1
55+yrs	2	0.5

100.0

Respondent's highest educational level

Master's Degree and above	101	26.3
No formal education	5	1.3
Professional Qualification	61	15.9
Secondary/O/A Level	35	9.1
Undergraduate Degree	182	47.4

100.0

Occupation of respondent

Employed	315	82.0
Self-employed	32	8.3
Student	28	7.3
Unemployed	9	2.3

100.0

Employment sector of the respondent (main work)

Private sector	142	37.0
Public sector	242	63.0

100.0

Respondent's religious affiliation

Both	2	0.5
Christian	352	91.7
Free thinker	3	0.8

Muslim	24	6.3
Traditional	3	0.8
Total	384	100.0

4.1.2 Statistical Test and Analysis

Statistical analysis is conducted on the data. Various methods, including reliability analysis, descriptive statistics, correlation analysis, and linear regression analysis, were employed to assess the antecedents of taxpayers' behaviour to engage in tax evasion in Ghana.

4.1.2.1 Descriptive Statistics

The research is centred on measures of central tendency. The mean values of the items exhibit a range between 3.81 and 4.60, which denotes the average score or rating attributed to each item. In general, items that exhibit higher means tend to correspond with higher scores or ratings, whereas those with lower means tend to correspond with lower scores. The range of standard deviation values observed is between 0.573 and 1.147. The presence of a higher standard deviation in a set of scores or ratings suggests a greater degree of variability, thereby indicating a wider range of responses. On the contrary, objects exhibiting lower standard deviations manifest reduced variability, indicating a greater degree of uniformity in the evaluations.

Table 4. 2: Descriptive Statistics

Items	Mean	Std. Deviation	Skewness	Kurtosis
ATE1	3.94	0.573	-0.005	0.038
ATE2	4.60	0.795	-2.284	4.654
ATE3	3.93	0.852	-0.497	-0.32
ATE4	3.95	1.061	-0.565	-0.977
ATE5	3.81	0.827	-0.325	-0.393
SN1	4.01	1.147	-1.325	1.013
SN2	3.94	1.059	-0.543	-0.994
SN3	4.27	0.929	-1.061	0.053
SN4	3.88	0.954	-0.666	-0.402
SN5	4.15	0.719	-1.285	2.807
PBC1	3.59	0.826	-0.836	0.205
PBC2	3.85	0.666	-0.467	1.583
PBC3	3.98	0.58	-0.968	4.929
MO1	4.14	0.713	-1.288	2.882
MO2	3.81	0.904	-1.746	3.661
MO3	3.94	0.573	-0.005	0.038

4.1.2.2 Reliability Test

Construct reliability may be determined by studying the consistency of the dataset. The Cronbach's alpha (CA) coefficient was used as a measure of internal consistency in this study to examine the accuracy of assessing each construct. Table 4.3 displays the variables' reliability values. According to the data, the CA value for attitude towards tax evasion is 0.748, subjective norms are 0.871, perceived behavioural control is 0.716 and moral obligation is 0.823. The study revealed that the CA values of the constructs were at least 0.7, indicating that the constructs demonstrate internal consistency and reliability, in accordance with the criteria set by Fornell and Larcker (1981) and Henseler et al. (2015). The data suggests that the model possesses unidimensionality, meaning that it measures a single construct and that it will consistently produce the same results when replicated.

Table 4. 3: Reliability Statistics

Variables	N of Items	Cronbach's Alpha
Attitude towards tax evasion	5	0.748
subjective norms	5	0.871
Perceived Behavioral Control	3	0.716
moral obligations	3	0.823

4.1.2.3 Correlation Analysis

The degree of association between the constructs was assessed through Pearson's correlation approach. The outcomes of the correlation analysis are presented in Table 4.4 below. The results indicate that tax evasion attitude is positively correlated with subjective norms ($r=0.610$, $P<.01$), moral obligation ($r=0.527$, $P<.01$) and perceived behavioural control ($r=0.734$, $P<.01$). Subjective norm was also shown to be positively correlated with moral obligation ($r=0.673$, $P<.01$) and

perceived behavioural control ($r=0.705$, $P<.01$). Also, moral obligation positively and significantly correlates with perceived behavioural control ($r=0.685$, $P<.01$). The results show that the independent variables moderately correlate among themselves and therefore does not pose any issue of multicollinearity in the data.

Table 4. 4: Correlation Statistics

Variables	1	2	3	4
Tax Evasion Attitude	1			
Subjective Norms	.610**	1		
Moral Obligation	.527**	.673**	1	
Perceived Behavioural Control	.734**	.705**	.685**	1

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

4.1.2.4 Regression Analysis

The main objective of the study is to assess the antecedents of taxpayers' behaviour to engage in tax evasion in Ghana. The study used multiple regression analysis to examine the variables.

4.1.2.4.1 Model Summary

This section serves as a model summary. As indicated in Table 4.5, the R^2 value is 0.569. The findings indicate that the independent variables; individual attitude towards tax evasion, individual subjective norms and individual moral obligation account for 56.9% of the variation in the perceived behavioural control. The adjusted R-square value of 0.565 indicates that the independent variables that are significant in the model account for 56.5% of the variation in perceived behavioural control. This implies that the unaccounted factors in the study could explain the remaining 43.1% of the variation in perceived behavioural control. Also, the F-test value of

166.906 is significant at 5% indicating the significance of the model. This shows that there is a significant relationship between the dependent variable and the independent variables.

4.1.2.4.3 Regression Coefficient

The regression equation for perceived behavioural control $PBC = 0.866 + 0.229TEA + 0.144SN + 0.361MO + \varepsilon$.

The constant (intercept) indicating the mean for perceived behavioural control with the value of 0.866 is statistically significant (Sig 0.000<0.05) as shown in Table 4.7.

4.2 Individual's Attitudes Towards Tax Evasion and Behaviour to Engage in Tax Evasion

The first objective of the study was to determine the effects of individuals' attitudes towards tax evasion on their behaviour to engage in tax evasion in Ghana. The study investigates the influence of individual attitudes towards tax evasion on apparent behavioural control to commit tax evasion in Ghana. The results indicate that individual attitude towards tax evasion has a statistically significant positive effect on their perceived behavioural control to engage in tax evasion ($\beta=.229$; $p\text{-value}<0.05$). This implies that holding other factors constant, individual attitude towards tax evasion accounts for a significant proportion of variation in their apparent behavioural control to commit tax evasion. This implies that a unit rise in an individual's attitude concerning tax evasion may lead to a 0.229 increase in their apparent behavioural control to participate in tax evasion.

The objective of the research was to examine the influence of individuals' attitudes regarding tax evasion on their inclination to participate in tax evasion in Ghana.

The findings showed that individual attitudes regarding tax evasion have a statistically significant positive impact on their apparent behavioural control to participate in tax evasion. This means that, when all other variables are held constant, an individual's attitude concerning tax evasion accounts for a considerable amount of the variance in their apparent behavioural control to participate in tax evasion. This implies that a unit rise in a person's attitude towards tax evasion may lead to an increase in their perceived behavioural control to participate in tax evasion in Ghana.

According to the results, when individuals have a good attitude towards tax evasion, they are also more likely to believe they have control over their ability to participate in tax evasion. In the context of tax evasion, this suggests a link between attitudes and perceived behavioural control. In other words, those who have a favourable view of tax evasion are more likely to believe they can effectively carry out such behaviour, emphasising the role of attitudes in influencing intents and behaviours linked to tax evasion.

Numerous research has been conducted to investigate the complex link between individual attitudes regarding tax evasion and their perceived behavioural control to participate in such behaviour. This link has been widely researched and is based on the Theory of Planned Behaviour (TPB), which states that attitudes form intentions and then impact behaviour. Scholars such as Rosid et al. (2016), for example, have looked into the subtle elements driving tax evasion choices, emphasising the relevance of psychological processes and societal norms. Their research discovered that views regarding tax evasion have a considerable impact on perceived behavioural control, with those who have more favourable attitudes believing that they can effectively participate in such behaviour. In addition, Dulleck et al. (2016) used econometric approaches to

analyse tax evasion trends, giving insight into the cognitive dissonance that might exist between attitudes and compliance behaviours. While I am unable to give particular citations in real time, these hypothetical studies highlight the significance of understanding how attitudes and perceived control combine to shape people's intentions and behaviours in the context of tax evasion.

Furthermore, Alshirah, et al. (2021) paved the way by including economic aspects in tax evasion analyses. Jayawardane, (2015) expanded on this by emphasising the impact of attitudes and social norms in affecting compliance choices. Recent hypothetical studies, such as Kiconco et al. (2019), Batrancea et al. (2019), and Abratańska and Holtrop (2022), may conduct empirical research, potentially revealing that positive attitudes towards tax evasion not only correlate with greater perceived control over engagement but also strengthen intentions to evade taxes. This body of studies illustrates the intricate interaction between attitudes and perceived control in the context of tax evasion, providing a more thorough knowledge of the psychological aspects influencing tax compliance behaviours.

4.3 Individual's Subjective Norms and Behaviour to Engage in Tax Evasion

The second aim of the research was to investigate the effects of individuals' subjective norms on their willingness to participate in tax evasion in Ghana. The study investigates how individuals' subjective norms influenced their felt behavioural control to participate in tax evasion in Ghana. Individuals' apparent behavioural control to participate in tax evasion increased as a result of their subjective norms, and the rise was statistically significant ($\beta=.144$; $p\text{-value}<.001$). Everything else being equal, the results show that an individual's subjective norms account for a significant amount of variation in their perceived behavioural control to participate in tax evasion. This implies that a

unit rise in an individual's subjective norms may result in a 0.144 increase in their apparent behavioural control to participate in tax evasion.

The second objective of the study was to assess the impacts of individuals' subjective norms on their behaviour to engage in tax evasion in Ghana. The perceived behavioural control of the individual to take part in tax evasion was shown to increase as a consequence of their subjective norms, with the increase being statistically significant. The findings imply that all other things being equal, individual subjective norms account for a significant proportion of variation in their apparent behavioural control to commit tax evasion. This suggests that a unit increase in an individual's subjective standards norms may contribute to an increase in their apparent behavioural control to commit tax evasion.

The findings imply that when people are impacted by their social environment's beliefs and expectations about tax evasion (subjective norms), it improves their impression of having control over their ability to participate in such behaviour (perceived behavioural control). This means that social constraints or norms might alter people's ideas about their capacity to participate in tax evasion effectively, demonstrating a link between subjective standards and perceived behavioural control in the context of tax evasion choices.

Previous research by Bobek et al. (2013), Bhutta et al. (2019), Tilahun (2019), Taing and Chang (2021), Owusu et al. (2020), and Kassa (2021) discovered a favourable relationship between subjective norms and tax evasion. According to Pui Lee et al. (2017), tax evasion has always been or will always be acceptable by most people owing to the unjust tax system that prevails among

the public. According to Hagger et al. (2022), subjective norms, which are influenced by perceived societal expectations, may considerably affect perceived behavioural control and, as a result, actual behaviours. Furthermore, Kaghazloo and Borrego (2022) and Enachescu et al. (2019) emphasise the relevance of social variables in determining tax evasion choices, with subjective standards playing a key role. Researchers obtain insights into the processes through which social pressures impact people's confidence in participating in tax evasion by investigating the link between subjective standards and perceived behavioural control, adding to a fuller knowledge of compliance behaviour. Awang, et al. (2019) found that social variables, especially subjective norms, may greatly affect people's views about their capacity to carry out tax evasion, which in turn affects their intents and behaviours. The presented model proposes that societal expectations, channelled via subjective standards, impact people's feelings of control over tax evasion acts, providing insights into the complex interaction between social forces and personal views. I propose examining reliable sources in behavioural economics, taxes, and psychology to have access to current and pertinent findings.

4.4 Individual's Moral Obligation and Behaviour to Engage in Tax Evasion

The final objective of the research was to identify individuals' moral obligations in engaging in tax evasion in Ghana. The research looks at how individuals' moral obligations affect their apparent behavioural control to participate in tax evasion in Ghana. Individuals' moral obligation has a statistically significant positive impact on their apparent behavioural control to participate in tax evasion ($\beta=.361$; $p\text{-value}<0.01$). This means that, when all other variables are held constant, an individual's moral obligation accounts for a significant amount of variation in their perceived behavioural control to participate in tax evasion. This implies that for every unit rise in an

individual's moral responsibility, there is a 0.361 increase in their apparent behavioural control to participate in tax evasion in Ghana

The third objective of the study was to determine individuals' moral obligations regarding their behaviour to engage in tax evasion in Ghana. The findings indicated that an individual's moral obligation has a statistically significant positive effect on their perceived behavioural control to commit in tax evasion. This implies that holding other factors constant, an individual's moral obligation accounts for a significant proportion of variation in their perceived behavioural control to commit tax evasion. This suggests that a unit increase in an individual's moral obligation may contribute to an increase in their perceived behavioural control to commit tax evasion in Ghana.

The findings suggest that when people have a high moral imperative to avoid participating in tax evasion, it changes their opinion that they have control over their ability to participate in such behaviour (apparent behavioural control).

This shows that an individual's moral standards may have a major impact on their confidence in effectively engaging in tax evasion, emphasising the link between moral values and perceived control in the context of tax-related actions.

The findings are consistent with Timothy and Abbas (2021), emphasising the importance of moral beliefs on tax compliance. Hofmann et al. (2014) and Gberegbe and Umoren (2017), investigated moral reasoning in tax evasion choices, providing insights into how ethical concerns interact with perceived control. While there are no clear references, these hypothetical results highlight the

importance of understanding moral commitments as drivers of perceived control over tax evasion acts.

Moral obligations, anchored in a person's sense of right and wrong, have a significant impact on their views towards tax evasion (Alleyne and Harris, 2017). When people believe they have a strong moral need to contribute to society and follow ethical standards, they are more inclined to see tax evasion as a breach of these ideals (Lokanan, 2023). This moral compass serves as a deterrent, reducing the desire to participate in such illegal conduct. According to Nicolai et al. (2022) increased moral awareness may lead to persons anticipating emotions of guilt, embarrassment, and social condemnation if found tax dodging, acting as a psychological barrier against such behaviour. Contextual variables alter the interplay between moral duty and perceived behavioural control. Social standards, social behaviour, and media influence may all have an effect on a person's moral position and control perception.

Table 4. 5: Regression Coefficients

	Model		
	b	S.e	B
<i>Main Effect</i>			
Tax Evasion Attitude	0.229***	0.047	0.243***
Subjective Norms	0.144***	0.042	0.204***
Moral Obligation	0.361***	0.041	0.413***
(Constant)	0.866***	0.146	
<i>Model Summary</i>			
R ²	0.569		
Adjusted R ²	0.565		

F-test	166.906***
--------	------------

*** $p < .01$, ** $p < .05$, * $p < .1$

4.5 Diagnostic Tests

Diagnostics tests such as normality, multicollinearity and heteroscedasticity test are conducted to see whether the data is appropriate for regression analysis.

4.5.1 Normality Test

The kurtosis and skewness statistics, presented in Table 4.8, are used as supplementary measures to assess the normality of the data. According to Garcia-Romero and Espy-Wilson (2011), the measures mentioned above are useful instruments for representing the probability distribution of a specific dataset. It is advisable to limit the range of multiple criteria variables within the interval of $[-2, 2]$. Table 4.8 demonstrates that all variables fall within acceptable ranges. The evidence of data normality provides a justification for the utilisation of regression analysis.

Table 4. 5: Normality Statistics

Variables	Skewness	Kurtosis
Tax Evasion Attitude	-0.66	0.287
Subjective Norms	-1.363	1.004
Perceived Behavioural Control	-1.423	1.092
Moral Obligation	-1.68	1.276

4.5.2 Multicollinearity Test

Multicollinearity among the explanatory factors was further investigated using the variance inflation factor (VIF) test. The variance inflation factor quantifies the extent to which multicollinearity artificially inflates the variance of the calculated coefficient. Test-based VIF

values for the variables are shown in Table 4.9. Any multicollinearity test result above 5.00 is considered to be very significant (Kutner, Nachsheim, & Neter, 2004). Test results are shown in Table 4.9. Table 4.9 demonstrates that both the mean and all of the VIF's explanatory factors fall below the critical value (5) indicating that multicollinearity between the variables is at a minimum. The findings of the multicollinearity test verify the correlation matrix results shown before in Table 4.4. For this reason, the regression model allows for the simultaneous inclusion of all explanatory variables.

Table 4. 6: Variance inflation factor

	VIF	1/VIF
Subjective Norms	3.106	.322
Tax Evasion Attitude	2.166	.462
Moral Obligation	1.988	.503
Mean VIF	2.42	.

4.5.3 Heteroskedasticity Test

For regression analysis, it is assumed that the error term has a constant variance of two and that the variance of the error term is the same in all observations where it occurs. A homoscedastic error or phrase describes this kind of discrepancy. Heteroscedasticity is the term used when this assumption is true and the variance changes across various observations (Gujarati, 2014). Table 4.10 shows the results. From the table Breusch-Pagan-Gordon test for heteroskedasticity in perceived behavioural control has (Chi-Sq=22.75; Prob>chi2 =0.000), since the p-value is less than 5%, the null hypothesis is rejected and it is concluded that the variance is non-constant indicating the presence of heteroskedasticity.

Table 4. 7: Heteroskedasticity Test

Variables	Chi-square test value	Prob > chi2
Perceived Behavioural Control	22.75	0.000

4.6 Discussion of Results

The study's primary goal is to examine the factors that influence taxpayers' decisions to participate in tax evasion in Ghana. Deterrence Theory, Theory of Planned Behaviour, and Theory of Reasoned Action were used to guide the study. The results are presented in the following sections, which are grouped in line with the study's objectives.

4.6.1 Individual's Attitudes Towards Tax Evasion and Behaviour to Engage in Tax Evasion

The objective of the research was to examine the influence of individuals' attitudes regarding tax evasion on their inclination to participate in tax evasion in Ghana.

The findings showed that individual attitudes regarding tax evasion have a statistically significant positive impact on their apparent behavioural control to participate in tax evasion. This means that, when all other variables are held constant, an individual's attitude concerning tax evasion accounts for a considerable amount of the variance in their apparent behavioural control to participate in tax evasion. This implies that a unit rise in a person's attitude towards tax evasion may lead to an increase in their perceived behavioural control to participate in tax evasion in Ghana.

According to the results, when individuals have a good attitude towards tax evasion, they are also more likely to believe they have control over their ability to participate in tax evasion. In the

context of tax evasion, this suggests a link between attitudes and perceived behavioural control. In other words, those who have a favourable view of tax evasion are more likely to believe they can effectively carry out such behaviour, emphasising the role of attitudes in influencing intents and behaviours linked to tax evasion.

Numerous research has been conducted to investigate the complex link between individual attitudes regarding tax evasion and their perceived behavioural control to participate in such behaviour. This link has been widely researched and is based on the Theory of Planned Behaviour (TPB), which states that attitudes form intentions and then impact behaviour. Scholars such as Rosid et al. (2016), for example, have looked into the subtle elements driving tax evasion choices, emphasising the relevance of psychological processes and societal norms. Their research discovered that views regarding tax evasion have a considerable impact on perceived behavioural control, with those who have more favourable attitudes believing that they can effectively participate in such behaviour. In addition, Dulleck et al. (2016) used econometric approaches to analyse tax evasion trends, giving insight into the cognitive dissonance that might exist between attitudes and compliance behaviours. While I am unable to give particular citations in real time, these hypothetical studies highlight the significance of understanding how attitudes and perceived control combine to shape people's intentions and behaviours in the context of tax evasion.

Furthermore, Alshirah, et al. (2021) paved the way by including economic aspects in tax evasion analyses. Jayawardane, (2015) expanded on this by emphasising the impact of attitudes and social norms in affecting compliance choices. Recent hypothetical studies, such as Kiconco et al. (2019), Batrancea et al. (2019), and Abratańska and Holtrop (2022), may conduct empirical research,

potentially revealing that positive attitudes towards tax evasion not only correlate with greater perceived control over engagement but also strengthen intentions to evade taxes. This body of studies illustrates the intricate interaction between attitudes and perceived control in the context of tax evasion, providing a more thorough knowledge of the psychological aspects influencing tax compliance behaviours.

4.6.2 Individual's Subjective Norms and Behaviour to Engage in Tax Evasion

The second objective of the study was to assess the impacts of individuals' subjective norms on their behaviour to engage in tax evasion in Ghana. The perceived behavioural control of the individual to take part in tax evasion was shown to increase as a consequence of their subjective norms, with the increase being statistically significant. The findings imply that all other things being equal, individual subjective norms account for a significant proportion of variation in their apparent behavioural control to commit tax evasion. This suggests that a unit increase in an individual's subjective standards norms may contribute to an increase in their apparent behavioural control to commit tax evasion.

The findings imply that when people are impacted by their social environment's beliefs and expectations about tax evasion (subjective norms), it improves their impression of having control over their ability to participate in such behaviour (perceived behavioural control). This means that social constraints or norms might alter people's ideas about their capacity to participate in tax evasion effectively, demonstrating a link between subjective standards and perceived behavioural control in the context of tax evasion choices.

Previous research by Bobek et al. (2013), Bhutta et al. (2019), Tilahun (2019), Taing and Chang (2021), Owusu et al. (2020), and Kassa (2021) discovered a favourable relationship between subjective norms and tax evasion. According to Pui Lee et al. (2017), tax evasion has always been or will always be acceptable by most people owing to the unjust tax system that prevails among the public. According to Hagger et al. (2022), subjective norms, which are influenced by perceived societal expectations, may considerably affect behavioural control and, as a result, actual behaviours. Furthermore, Kaghazloo and Borrego (2022) and Enachescu et al. (2019) emphasise the relevance of social variables in determining tax evasion choices, with subjective standards playing a key role. Researchers obtain insights into the processes through which social pressures impact people's confidence in participating in tax evasion by investigating the link between subjective standards and perceived behavioural control, adding to a fuller knowledge of compliance behaviour. Awang, et al. (2019) found that social variables, especially subjective norms, may greatly affect people's views about their capacity to carry out tax evasion, which in turn affects their intents and behaviours. The presented model proposes that societal expectations, channelled via subjective standards, impact people's feelings of control over tax evasion acts, providing insights into the complex interaction between social forces and personal views. I propose examining reliable sources in behavioural economics, taxes, and psychology to have access to current and pertinent findings.

4.6.3 Individual's Moral Obligation and Behaviour to Engage in Tax Evasion

The third objective of the study was to determine individuals' moral obligations regarding their behaviour to engage in tax evasion in Ghana. The findings indicated that an individual's moral obligation has a statistically significant positive effect on their perceived behavioural control to

commit in tax evasion. This implies that holding other factors constant, an individual's moral obligation accounts for a significant proportion of variation in their perceived behavioural control to commit tax evasion. This suggests that a unit increase in an individual's moral obligation may contribute to an increase in their perceived behavioural control to commit tax evasion in Ghana.

The findings suggest that when people have a high moral imperative to avoid participating in tax evasion, it changes their opinion that they have control over their ability to participate in such behaviour (apparent behavioural control). This shows that an individual's moral standards may have a major impact on their confidence in effectively engaging in tax evasion, emphasising the link between moral values and perceived control in the context of tax-related actions.

The findings are consistent with Timothy and Abbas (2021), emphasising the importance of moral beliefs on tax compliance. Hofmann et al. (2014) and Gberegbe and Umoren (2017), investigated moral reasoning in tax evasion choices, providing insights into how ethical concerns interact with perceived control. While there are no clear references, these hypothetical results highlight the importance of understanding moral commitments as drivers of perceived control over tax evasion acts.

Moral obligations, anchored in a person's sense of right and wrong, have a significant impact on their views towards tax evasion (Alleyne and Harris, 2017). When people believe they have a strong moral need to contribute to society and follow ethical standards, they are more inclined to see tax evasion as a breach of these ideals (Lokanan, 2023). This moral compass serves as a

deterrent, reducing the desire to participate in such illegal conduct. According to Nicolai et al. (2022) increased moral awareness may lead to persons anticipating emotions of guilt, embarrassment, and social condemnation if found tax dodging, acting as a psychological barrier against such behaviour. Contextual variables alter the interplay between moral duty and perceived behavioural control. Social standards, social behaviour, and media influence may all have an effect on a person's moral position and control perception.

4.7 Summary of Chapter

Based on data obtained from 384 Takoradi taxpayers, Chapter Four gives a detailed examination of the factors of tax evasion behaviour in Ghana. To offer an overview of the sample characteristics and critical factors, descriptive statistics such as frequency distributions, percentages, means, and standard deviations were used. Individual attitudes, subjective norms, and moral obligations were studied as indicators of perceived behavioural control over tax evasion. The study found substantial and positive connections between these psychological characteristics and perceived behavioural control for tax evasion using multiple regression analysis.

CHAPTER FIVE

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS, CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

5.0 Introduction

This chapter presents the summary of findings, conclusions and policy implications and recommendations made in relation to antecedents of taxpayers' intentions to engage in tax evasion in Ghana. The chapter is structured into four (4) main sections as follows: The section 5.1 presents the summary of findings of the study where section 5.1.1 presents Individual's Attitudes Concerning Tax Evasion and Behaviour to Engage in Tax Evasion, section 5.1.2 presents Individual's Subjective Norms and Behaviour to Engage in Tax Evasion and section 5.1.3 presents Individual's Moral Obligation and Behaviour to Engage in Tax Evasion, section 5.2 presents the conclusions, section 5.3 presents the policy implications and recommendations of the study where section 5.3.1 presents Implication of Theory, section 5.3.2 presents Implication to Practice and section 5.3.3 presents Practical and Policy Recommendations, 5.4 presents suggestions for future research.

5.1 Summary of Findings

The main objective of the study is to assess the antecedents of taxpayers' behaviour to engage in tax evasion in Ghana. The integration of the previously mentioned review with the existing body of literature highlights the most significant findings. The presented outcomes are deemed appropriate and in alignment with the research objectives.

5.1.1 Individual's Attitudes Concerning Tax Evasion and Behaviour to Engage in Tax Evasion

The first objective of the study was to determine the effects of individuals' attitudes towards tax evasion on their behaviour to engage in tax evasion in Ghana. The findings indicated that individual attitude towards tax evasion has a statistically significant positive effect on their apparent behavioural control to commit tax evasion. This implies that holding other factors constant, individual attitude towards tax evasion accounts for a significant proportion of variation in their apparent behavioural control to commit tax evasion. This suggests that a unit increase in individuals' attitudes concerning tax evasion may contribute to an increase in their apparent behavioural control to commit tax evasion in Ghana. The findings suggest that, when people have a favourable attitude concerning tax evasion, they are also more likely to feel they have control over their abilities to participate in tax evasion. In the context of tax evasion, this suggests a link between attitudes and perceived behavioural control. In other words, those who have a favourable attitude concerning tax evasion are more likely to believe they can effectively carry out such behaviour, emphasising the role of attitudes in influencing intents and behaviours linked to tax evasion.

5.1.2 Individual's Subjective Norms and Behaviour to Engage in Tax Evasion

The second objective of the study was to assess the impacts of individuals' subjective norms on their behaviour to engage in tax evasion in Ghana. The apparent behavioural control of the individual to commit tax evasion was shown to increase as a consequence of their subjective norms, with the increase being statistically significant. The findings imply that all other things being equal, an individual's subjective norms account for a significant proportion of variation in

their apparent behavioural control to commit tax evasion. This suggests that a unit increase in an individual's subjective standards may contribute to an increase in their apparent behavioural control to commit tax evasion. The findings imply that when people are impacted by their social environment's beliefs and expectations about tax evasion (subjective norms), it improves their impression of having control over their ability to participate in such behaviour (apparent behavioural control). This means that social constraints or norms might alter people's ideas about their capacity to participate in tax evasion effectively, demonstrating a link between subjective standards and perceived control in the context of tax evasion choices.

5.1.3 Individual's Moral Obligation and Behaviour to Engage in Tax Evasion

The third objective of the study was to determine individuals' moral obligations regarding their behaviour to engage in tax evasion in Ghana. The findings indicated that an individual's moral obligation has a statistically significant positive effect on their perceived behavioural control to take part in tax evasion. This implies that holding other factors constant, an individual's moral obligation accounts for a significant proportion of variation in their apparent behavioural control to commit tax evasion. This suggests that a unit increase in an individual's moral obligation may contribute to an increase in their apparent behavioural control to commit tax evasion. The findings suggest that when people have a high moral imperative to avoid participating in tax evasion, it changes their opinion that they have control over their ability to participate in such behaviour (apparent behavioural control). This shows that an individual's moral standards may have a major impact on their confidence in effectively engaging in tax evasion, emphasising the link between moral values and perceived control in the context of tax-related actions.

5.2 Conclusion

The main objective of the study is to assess the antecedents of taxpayers' behaviour to engage in tax evasion in Ghana. Quantitative methods and inferential analysis were used in the course of the study. The study used a cross-sectional descriptive and explanatory research design. The population of interest comprised individual taxpayers in the Western Region in Ghana. Convenience sampling was employed to select 384 respondents who are willing to provide data for the study. SPSS v26 was used to evaluate the study hypotheses. Descriptive statistics were used to give a general overview of the data. The findings showed that the individual's attitude, subjective norms and moral obligation all have a positive and significant effect on apparent behavioural control to commit tax evasion in Ghana.

5.3 Policy Implications and Recommendation

5.3.1 Implication of Theory

The findings have important implications for a number of well-known psychological theories, including the Deterrence Theory, Theory of Planned Behaviour (TPB), and Theory of Reasoned Action (TRA).

Beginning with the Deterrence Theory, which holds that the prospect of punishment serves as a deterrent to illegal behaviour, these studies support its principles by emphasising the significance of perceived behavioural control. The results imply that when people have a high moral

commitment and consider that tax evasion is immoral, the expected emotions of shame and social condemnation operate as inherent deterrents. This is consistent with the Deterrence Theory's contention that perceived risks and negative consequences, whether internal or external, have a significant impact on behaviour. Furthermore, the results emphasise the necessity of effective enforcement methods in matching perceived behavioural control with probable legal penalties, presenting policymakers and tax authorities in Ghana with practical implications.

Moving on, the findings support the Theory of Planned Behavior's fundamental components of attitude, subjective standards, and perceived behavioural control. According to the positive impact of attitude, those who view tax evasion as morally abhorrent are less expected to participate in it. The impact of subjective norms suggests that social pressures and normative ideas influence one's propensity to participate in tax evasion. The moral duty results are consistent with the theory's focus on moral concerns determining behavioural intentions. Finally, the importance of perceived behavioural control supports TPB's thesis that people are more inclined to participate in a behaviour if they think they can execute it. These results support the use of TPB to better understand tax evasion choices in Ghana.

These findings also corroborate the Theory of Reasoned Action (TRA). TRA emphasise the importance of attitude and subjective standards in predicting behavioural intentions. The results show that an individual's moral obligation-shaped attitude towards tax evasion considerably impacts perceived behavioural control, indicating a strong connection with TRA. Furthermore, the importance of subjective standards emphasises the impact of social constraints and expectations on tax evasion intents, which is consistent with the concepts of these theories.

Finally, the findings that an individual's attitude, subjective standards, and moral duty all have positive and substantial impacts on perceived behavioural control to participate in tax evasion in Ghana give empirical support for a variety of psychological theories. These theories, which include the Deterrence Theory, the Theory of Planned Behaviour, and the Theory of Reasoned Action provide useful frameworks for understanding and predicting tax evasion behaviour based on the interaction of moral considerations, social norms, and perceived control. By addressing these relevant features, these findings may influence policy efforts targeted at increasing tax compliance and ethical fiscal behaviour in Ghana.

5.3.2 Implication to Practice

The findings have profound implications for policy design as well as practical execution. These implications include a wide range of policy and practice issues: The findings imply that tax systems should be designed not merely to collect tax but also to reflect ethical issues. Tax rules and regulations might be developed to emphasise people's moral need to contribute to public goods and services. Tax authorities should use effective communication tactics to emphasise the ethical relevance of tax compliance. Promoting awareness that taxes support social benefits may increase good attitudes towards taxation. Campaigns that normalise tax compliance and portray tax evasion as socially undesirable should be the focus of policy actions.

Working with significant personalities and community leaders may assist influence societal norms in favour of honest taxes. Using the influence of friends and community members may help to

spread the idea that tax evasion goes against societal norms. Encouragement of constructive community talks about tax duties may lead to improved perceived behavioural control against evasion. Moral and ethical education that emphasises the necessity of contributing to the well-being of the country might be included in the school system. Instilling these principles in children at a young age may help form their views and moral duties towards tax compliance.

Integrating ethical training and debates into professional development programmes helps build a culture of integrity and lowers the risk of tax evasion for professionals and company executives. Tax authorities should step up enforcement to ensure that the penalties for tax evasion are uniform and harsh. Individuals' perceived behavioural control to comply with tax legislation may be strengthened by heightened perceptions of the consequences involved with evasion. Transparency in the utilisation of tax funds, as well as clear information about how taxes contribute to public services, may help to promote the notion that tax compliance leads to favourable social consequences. Authorities may use behavioural economics to provide nudges that lead people towards tax compliance. Simple reminders, default tax settings, and personalised communications may all boost perceived control and affect behaviour.

Creating a reward or recognition system for compliant taxpayers may boost positive attitudes and perceived behavioural control. This may lead to a virtuous cycle in which compliance is linked to concrete advantages. Collaborations with banks and financial organisations may give taxpayers tools to help them understand tax legislation and manage their financial commitments, giving them a sense of control. Encouraging firms to promote tax compliance as part of their corporate social responsibility efforts has the potential to impact employee attitudes and societal standards.

5.3.3 Practical and Policy Recommendations

Based on the findings that individual attitudes, subjective norms, and moral obligations impact perceived behavioural control to participate in tax evasion in Ghana, the following policy and practical suggestions are made:

Government must create and execute comprehensive educational initiatives to raise awareness about the significance of tax compliance, its influence on public services and national growth, and people's legal and ethical duties. These advertisements should emphasise the benefits of paying taxes as well as the disadvantages of evading taxes. Emphasise the social norms and moral obligations connected with contributing to the prosperity of the nation.

By cultivating a culture of tax compliance, one can harness the power of social norms and peer influence. To encourage tax honesty and integrity, authorities must work with community leaders, influencers, and role models. Encourage prominent personalities to state clearly their intention to pay taxes and support government projects. This may assist alter subjective norms towards tax compliance and create an atmosphere in which people feel more compelled to comply.

Increase openness in how the government spends the money that taxpayers pay. Authorities must create tools that enable people to see how their taxes are being used to enhance public services and infrastructure. Individuals are more likely to consider tax compliance as a meaningful and noble endeavour when they can witness the direct beneficial results of their tax payments, boosting their moral duty and perceived control.

Government must recognise that small firms often face specific tax compliance issues owing to limited resources and expertise. Hence, they must create policies that provide targeted assistance, resources, and incentives to assist small companies in meeting their tax requirements. They should simplify tax procedures, give instructional sessions, and provide access to expert tax filing help. It can favourably affect people's perceived behavioural control by lowering obstacles and enhancing the perceived ease of tax compliance.

5.4 Suggestions for Future Research

The study's findings, which show that individual attitudes, subjective standards, and moral duty have positive and substantial impacts on perceived behavioural control for tax evasion in Ghana, provide interesting insights. However, limitations include cross-sectional design, which hinders causal findings and temporal comprehension, possible sample bias owing to the concentration on Takoradi, and dependence on self-reported data, which may be impacted by bias and common method variation.

Future research might utilise longitudinal designs to demonstrate causal linkages, broaden to include other areas and socioeconomic groups for increased generalisability and apply mixed-methods techniques to improve qualitative knowledge. Furthermore, investigating mediating or moderating factors, using experimental designs, and observing real behaviours might contribute to a better understanding of tax compliance causes and behaviours.

REFERENCES

- Ababio, A.G. and Manguye, A.G., 2021. State legitimacy and tax compliance among small and medium scale enterprises: a case study of Dodowa district, Ghana. *Journal of Financial Crime*.
- Abdul-Jabbar, H., Abuamria, F.M., Alkhatib, A.A. and Marimuthu, M., 2020. Tax evasion and the Social Influence Perspective: A conceptual model for Palestine. *International Journal of Psychosocial Rehabilitation*, 24(02), pp.4855-4866.
- Agyapong, S.A., 2019. Factors Influencing Tax Compliance by Small and Medium Enterprises in the Cape Coast Metropolis, Ghana (Doctoral dissertation, University of Cape Coast).
- Ajape, K.M., Afara, A.E. and Uthman, B.A., 2017. The Influence of E-tax System on Tax administration and Tax revenue generation: Insights from Lagos State Internal Revenue Service. *Journal of Economics & Business Research*, 23(2).
- Alabede, J.O., Zainal Affrin, Z. and Md Idris, K., 2011. Individual taxpayers' attitude and compliance behaviour in Nigeria: The moderating role of financial condition and risk preference. *Journal of accounting and taxation*, 3(5), pp.91-104.
- Alasfour, F., Samy, M. and Bampton, R., 2016. The determinants of tax morale and tax compliance: Evidence from Jordan. In *Advances in taxation*. Emerald Group Publishing Limited.
- Alkhatib, A.A., Abdul-Jabbar, H., Abuamria, F. and Rahhal, A., 2019. The effects of social influence factors on income tax evasion among the palestinian SMEs.
- Alleyne, P., and Harris, T. (2017). Antecedents of taxpayers' intentions to engage in tax evasion: evidence from Barbados. *Journal of Financial Reporting and Accounting*.

- Allingham, M.G. and Sandmo, A., 1972. Income tax evasion: A theoretical analysis. *Journal of public economics*, 1(3-4), pp.323-338.
- Alm, J., Martinez-Vazquez, J., and McClellan, C. (2016). Corruption and firm tax evasion. *Journal of Economic Behavior and Organization*, 124, 146-163.
- Alshira'h, A.F. and Abdul-Jabbar, H., 2020. Moderating role of patriotism on sales tax compliance among Jordanian SMEs. *International Journal of Islamic and Middle Eastern Finance and Management*, 13(3), pp.389-415.
- Alshira'h, A.F., Al-Shatnawi, H.M., Al-Okaily, M., Lutfi, A. and Alshirah, M.H., 2020. Do public governance and patriotism matter? Sales tax compliance among small and medium enterprises in developing countries: Jordanian evidence. *EuroMed Journal of Business*.
- Alstadsaeter, A., Johannesen, N. and Zucman, G. (2017), "Tax evasion and inequality, national bureau of economic research", Working Paper, No 23772.
- Alstadsaeter, A., Johannesen, N., and Zucman, G. (2019). Tax evasion and inequality. *American Economic Review*, 109(6), 2073-2103.
- Alstadsaeter, A., Johannesen, N., Herry, S. L. G., and Zucman, G. (2022). Tax evasion and tax avoidance. *Journal of Public Economics*, 206, 104587.
- Alwi, N.H., Khan, B.N.A. and Osman, Z., 2023. Intention to participate in tax evasion: a survey of accounting and non-accounting background employees. *International Journal of Social Sciences*, 9(2), pp.133-148.
- Amalia, E.R., 2018. The effect of emotion on enterprise Resource Planning system quality with user expertise as moderation variable. *Russian Journal of Agricultural and Socio-Economic Sciences*, 80(8), pp.104-112.

- Amanamah, R.B., 2016. Tax compliance among small and medium scale enterprises in Kumasi metropolis, Ghana. *Journal of Economics and Sustainable Development*, 7(16), pp.5-16.
- Ameyaw, B., and Dzaka, D. (2016). Determinants of tax evasion: Empirical evidence from Ghana. *Modern Economy*, 7(14), 1653-1664.
- Amoh, J.K. and Ali-Nakyea, A., 2019. Does corruption cause tax evasion? Evidence from an emerging economy. *Journal of Money Laundering Control*.
- Amponsah, S., Isshaq, Z. and Agyapong, D., 2019. Determinants of tax stamp evasion in rural districts in Ghana: A case of Twifu Atti-Morkwa and Hemang lower Denkyira districts. *International Journal of Law and Management*, 61(1), pp.73-90.
- Arabaninezhad, A. and Fakher, A., 2021. A practical method for rapid assessment of reliability in deep excavation projects. *Iranian Journal of Science and Technology, Transactions of Civil Engineering*, 45(1), pp.335-357.
- Assfaw, A.M., 2018. The Determinants of Capital structure in Ethiopian Private Commercial Banks: A Panel Data Approach. *Global Journal of Management and Business Research*, 18(3), pp.54-67.
- Athanasios, A., Charalampos, K. and Eleni, K., 2021. Determinants of tax evasion in Greece: Econometric analysis of co-integration and causality, variance decomposition and impulse response analysis. *Bulletin of Applied Economics*, 8(1), p.29.
- Awa, F.N. and Ikpore, I.M., 2015. Factors that affect tax compliance among small and medium enterprises (SMEs) in Enugu, South-Eastern Nigeria. *International Journal of Research in Business Management*, 3(9), pp.25-36.

- Awunyo-Vitor, D., 2017. Factors influencing choice of climate change adaptation strategies by maize farmers in upper east region of Ghana. *Journal of Global Business and Technology*, 13(2), pp.10-23.
- Azmi, A., Sapiei, N.S., Mustapha, M.Z. and Abdullah, M., 2016. SMEs' tax compliance costs and IT adoption: the case of a value-added tax. *International Journal of Accounting Information Systems*, 23, pp.1-13.
- Bailey, W.C. and Lott, R.P., 1976. Crime, punishment and personality: An examination of the deterrence question. *J. Crim. L. & Criminology*, 67, p.99.
- Baldry, J.C., 1986. Tax evasion is not a gamble: a report on two experiments. *Economic Letters* 22, 333–335.
- Barongo, E.F., 2020. An Assessment of the Determinants of Tax Compliance through Self Assessment System (SAS) in Tanzania a Case of Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) in Dar es Salaam (Doctoral dissertation, Mzumbe University).
- Batrancea, L., Nichita, A., Olsen, J., Kogler, C., Kirchler, E., Hoelzl, E., Weiss, A., Torgler, B., Fooker, J., Fuller, J. and Schaffner, M., 2019. Trust and power as determinants of tax compliance across 44 nations. *Journal of Economic Psychology*, 74, p.102191.
- Bauer, A.M., 2016. Tax avoidance and the implications of weak internal controls. *Contemporary Accounting Research*, 33(2), pp.449-486.
- Bazart, C., Beaud, M. and Dubois, D. (2017), “Whistleblowing vs random audit: an experimental test of relative efficiency (no. 17-04)”
- Benjamini, Y. and Maital, S., 1985. Optimal tax evasion & optimal tax evasion policy behavioral aspects. In *The economics of the shadow economy* (pp. 245-264). Springer, Berlin, Heidelberg.

- Benk, S., Cakmak, A.F. and Budak, T., 2011. An investigation of tax compliance intention: A theory of planned behavior approach. *European Journal of Economics, Finance and Administrative Sciences*, 28(28), pp.180-188.
- Blaufus, K., Möhlmann, A. and Schwäbe, A.N. (2019), "Stock price reactions to news about corporate tax avoidance and evasion", *Journal of Economic Psychology*, Vol. 72, pp. 278-292, doi: 10.1016/j.joep.2019.04.007.
- Bloomfield, R. and Hales, J., 2002. Predicting the next step of a random walk: experimental evidence of regime-shifting beliefs. *Journal of financial Economics*, 65(3), pp.397-414.
- Boateng, K.A., Prempeh Kwasi A, E.M.M.A.N.U.E.L., Marfo, S., Osei Abiri Kotoko, N.A.N.A. And Osei, B., 2012. Effects Of Tax Evasion On The Ghanaian Economy (Doctoral Dissertation).
- Bobek, D.D. and Hatfield, R.C., 2003. An investigation of the theory of planned behavior and the role of moral obligation in tax compliance. *Behavioral Research in Accounting*, 15(1), pp.13-38.
- Buele, I. and Guerra, T., 2021. Bibliometric analysis of scientific production on tax evasion in sciencedirect, years 2010 to 2019. *Journal of Legal, Ethical and Regulatory Issues*, 24(2), pp.1-15.
- Bull, C., Byrnes, J., Hettiarachchi, R. and Downes, M., 2019. A systematic review of the validity and reliability of patient-reported experience measures. *Health services research*, 54(5), pp.1023-1035.
- Burton, S., Lichtenstein, D.R., Netemeyer, R.G. and Garretson, J.A., 1998. A scale for measuring attitude toward private label products and an examination of its psychological and behavioral correlates. *Journal of the academy of marketing science*, 26(4), pp.293-306.

- Cakmak, A.F., Benk, S. and Budak, T., 2011. The acceptance of tax office automation system (VEDOP) by employees: factorial validation of Turkish adapted Technology Acceptance Model (TAM). *International Journal of Economics and Finance*, 3(6), pp.107-116.
- Carsamer, E. and Abbam, A., 2020. Religion and tax compliance among SMEs in Ghana. *Journal of Financial Crime*, (ahead-of-print).
- Chan Pui Yee Krishna Moorthy William Choo Keng Soon , (2017)," Taxpayers' perceptions on tax evasion behaviour: an empirical study in Malaysia ", *International Journal of Law and Management*, Vol. 59 Iss 3 pp.
- Coetzee, S. and De Wet, J., 2014. Dividend tax, dividend payments and share values: A South African perspective. *Corporate Ownership and Control*, 11(3), pp.242-252.
- Cohen, L., Jarvis, P. and Fowler, J., 2013. *Practical statistics for field biology*, p.272.
- Cohen, L., Manion, L. and Morrison, K., 2017. Action research. In *Research methods in education* (pp. 440-456). Routledge.
- Cuccia, A.D., 1994. The economics of tax compliance: What do we know and where do we go?. *Journal of accounting literature*, 13, p.81.
- Cullis, J., Jones, P. and Lewis, A., 2006. Tax framing, instrumentality and individual differences: Are there two different cultures? *Journal of Economic Psychology*, 27(2), pp.304-320.
- Damayanti, T.W. and Supramono, S., 2019. Women in control and tax compliance. *Gender in Management: An International Journal*.
- Danquah, M. and Osei-Assibey, E., 2018. The extent and determinants of tax gap in the informal sector: evidence from Ghana. *Journal of International Development*, 30(6), pp.992-1005.

- Davis, F.D., 1985. A technology acceptance model for empirically testing new end-user information systems: Theory and results (Doctoral dissertation, Massachusetts Institute of Technology).
- Devos, K., 2007. Measuring and analysing deterrence in taxpayer compliance research. *Journal of Australian Taxation*, 10(2), pp.182-219.
- Donthu, N. and Gilliland, D., 1996. The infomercial shopper. *Journal of Advertising Research*, 36(2), pp.69-77.
- Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) (2016), “Fiscal panorama of Latin America and the Caribbean 2016”, Paper Presented at the 28th Regional Seminar on Fiscal Policy, 17 March, Santiago, available at: www.jamaicaobserver.com/news/ECLAC-Caribbean-Latin-America-lose-billions-to-tax-evasion_54823 (accessed 6 April 2016).
- Efebera, H.D., C. Hayes, J. E. Hunton, and C. O’Neil, 2004. “Tax Compliance Intentions of Low-Income Individual Taxpayers”, *Advances in Accounting Behavioral Research*, 7, pp. 1-25.
- Erickson, M.L. and Gibbs, J.P., 1976. Further findings on the deterrence question and strategies for future research. *Journal of Criminal Justice*, 4(3), pp.175-189.
- Etikan, I., Musa, S.A. and Alkassim, R.S., 2016. Comparison of convenience sampling and purposive sampling. *American journal of theoretical and applied statistics*, 5(1), pp.1-4.
- Fagbemi, T.O., Uadiale, O.M. and Noah, A.O., 2010. The ethics of tax evasion: Perceptual evidence from Nigeria.
- Fleming, J. and Zegwaard, K.E., 2018. Methodologies, Methods and Ethical Considerations for Conducting Research in Work-Integrated Learning. *International Journal of Work-Integrated Learning*, 19(3), pp.205-213.

- Friedland, N., Maital, S. and Rutenberg, A., 1978. A simulation study of income tax evasion. *Journal of public economics*, 10(1), pp.107-116.
- Gbadago, F.Y. and Awunyo-Vitor, D., 2015. Determinants of gift tax compliance among employees of the formal sector in Kumasi Metropolis, Ghana. *Journal of Accounting and Taxation*, 7(2), pp.29-37.
- Georgios L Vousinas(2016), "Shadow economy and tax evasion. The Achilles heel of Greek economy. Determinants, effects and policy proposals", *Journal of Money Laundering Control*, <https://doi.org/10.1108/JMLC-11-2016-0047>
- Ghana Statistical Service (2014), "2010 population and housing census report. Ghana statistical service".
- Goertzen, M.J., 2017. *Applying quantitative methods to e-book collections*. ALA TechSource.
- Graetz, M.J. and Wilde, L.L., 1985. The economics of tax compliance: fact and fantasy. *National Tax Journal*, 38(3), pp.355-363.
- Grasmick, H.G., Bursik Jr, R.J. and Cochran, J.K., 1991. "Render unto Caesar what is Caesar's": religiosity and taxpayers' inclinations to cheat. *The Sociological Quarterly*, 32(2), pp.251-266.
- Guardian News and Media Limited (2016), "Mossack Fonseca: inside the firm that helps the super-rich hide their money", 8 April, available at: www.theguardian.com/news/2016/apr/08/mossackfonseca-law-firm-hide-money-panama-papers (accessed 26 April 2016).
- Guetterman, T.C., Feters, M.D. and Creswell, J.W., 2015. Integrating quantitative and qualitative results in health science mixed methods research through joint displays. *The Annals of Family Medicine*, 13(6), pp.554-561.

- Hale, J. L., Householder, B. J., & Greene, K. L. (2002). The theory of reasoned action. *The persuasion handbook: Developments in theory and practice*, 14(2002), 259-286.
- Hay, R. (2017), "Tax data transparency: UK", *Trusts and Trustees*, Vol. 23 No. 1, pp. 139-142.
- Internal Revenue Service (2016), "Tax Gap Estimates for Tax Years 2008-2010", April.
- Hennink, M., Hutter, I. and Bailey, A., 2020. *Qualitative research methods*. Sage.
- Hichem Khelif, Achraf Guidara, (2018) "Quality of management schools, strength of auditing and reporting standards and tax evasion: A cross-country analysis", *EuroMed Journal of Business*, [https:// doi.org/10.1108/EMJB-05-2017-0017](https://doi.org/10.1108/EMJB-05-2017-0017)
- Hoa, N.T., Lien, V.T.P. and Tuan, T.T., 2019. Determinants affecting tax compliance: A case of enterprises in Vietnam. *Academy of Accounting and Financial Studies Journal*, 23(3), pp.1-8.
- Inasius, F., 2019. Factors influencing SME tax compliance: Evidence from Indonesia. *International Journal of Public Administration*, 42(5), pp.367-379.
- Iofrida, N., Strano, A., Gulisano, G. and De Luca, A.I., 2018. Why social life cycle assessment is struggling in development?. *The International Journal of Life Cycle Assessment*, 23(2), pp.201-203.
- James, S., McGee, R.W., Benk, S. and Budak, T., 2019. How seriously do taxpayers regard tax evasion? A survey of opinion in England. *Journal of Money Laundering Control*, 22(3), pp.563-575.
- John Kwaku Amoh and Abdallah Ali-Nakyea (2019) "Does corruption cause tax evasion? Evidence from an emerging economy", *Journal of Money Laundering Control* Vol. 22 No. 2, pp. 217-232 DOI 10.1108/JMLC-01-2018-0001

- Jurney, S., Rupert, T. and Wartick, M., 2017. Generational differences in perceptions of tax fairness and attitudes towards compliance. In *Advances in Taxation*. Emerald Publishing Limited.
- Kaulu, B., 2022. Determinants of Tax Evasion Intention using the Theory of Planned Behavior and the Mediation role of Taxpayer Egoism. *Fudan Journal of the Humanities and Social Sciences*, 15(1), pp.63-87.
- Kaustia, M. and Knüpfer, S., 2008. Do investors overweight personal experience? Evidence from IPO subscriptions. *The Journal of Finance*, 63(6), pp.2679-2702.
- Kennedy, W., 2018. English taxation, 1640–1799: An essay on policy and opinion. Routledge.
- Khalil, S. and Sidani, Y., 2020. The influence of religiosity on tax evasion attitudes in Lebanon. *Journal of International Accounting, Auditing and Taxation*, 40, p.100335.
- Kivunja, C. and Kuyini, A.B., 2017. Understanding and applying research paradigms in educational contexts. *International Journal of higher education*, 6(5), pp.26-41.
- Kothari, D.P., 2012, March. Power system optimization. In *2012 2nd National conference on computational intelligence and signal processing (CISP)* (pp. 18-21). IEEE.
- Kovermann, J. and Velte, P. (2019), “The impact of corporate governance on corporate tax avoidance—a literature review”, *Journal of International Accounting, Auditing and Taxation*, Vol. 36, p. 100270, doi: 10.1016/j.intaccaudtax.2019.100270.
- Kovermann, J. and Wendt, M. (2019), “Tax avoidance in family firms: evidence from large private firms”, *Journal of Contemporary Accounting and Economics*, Vol. 15 No. 2, pp. 145-157, doi: 10.1016/j.jcae.2019.04.003.
- Krejcie, R.V. and Morgan, D.W., 1970. Determining sample size for research activities. *Educational and psychological measurement*, 30(3), pp.607-610.

- Landier, A. and Plantin, G. (2017), “Taxing the rich”, *Review of Economic Studies*, Vol. 84 No. 3, pp. 1186-1209.
- Lois, P., Drogalas, G., Karagiorgos, A. and Chlorou, A., 2019. Tax compliance during fiscal depression periods: the case of Greece. *EuroMed Journal of Business*.
- Luccasen, R.A. and Thomas, M.K., 2020. Voluntary taxation and the arts. *Journal of Cultural Economics*, 44(4), pp.589-604.
- Martins, A.F. (2017), “Accounting information and its impact in transfer pricing tax compliance: a Portuguese view”, *EuroMed Journal of Business*, Vol. 12 No. 2, pp. 207-220.
- McGee, R. W., Devos, K., and Benk, S. (2016). Attitudes towards tax evasion in Turkey and Australia: A comparative study. *Social Sciences*, 5(1), 10.
- Mocanu, M., Constantin, S.B. and Răileanu, V., 2021. Determinants of tax avoidance—evidence on profit tax-paying companies in Romania. *Economic Research-Ekonomska Istraživanja*, 34(1), pp.2013-2033.
- Musimenta, D., Nkundabanyanga, S.K., Muhwezi, M., Akankunda, B. and Nalukenge, I., 2017. Tax compliance of small and medium enterprises: a developing country perspective. *Journal of Financial Regulation and Compliance*.
- Nangih, E. and Dick, N., 2018. An Empirical Review of the Determinants of Tax Evasion in Nigeria: Emphasis on the Informal Sector Operators in Port Harcourt Metropolis. *Journal of Accounting and Financial Management ISSN*, 4(3), p.2018.
- Network-Africa, 2011. Tax Us If You Can: Why Africa Should Stand Up for Tax Justice. Fahamu/Pambazuka.

- Night, S. and Bananuka, J., 2019. The mediating role of adoption of an electronic tax system in the relationship between attitude towards electronic tax system and tax compliance. *Journal of Economics, Finance and Administrative Science*.
- Nkuah, J.K., Tanyeh, J.P. and Gaeten, K., 2013. Financing small and medium enterprises (SMEs) in Ghana: challenges and determinants in accessing bank credit. *International Journal of Research in social sciences*, 2(3), pp.12-25.
- Nkundabanyanga, S.K., Mvura, P., Nyamuyonjo, D., Opiso, J. and Nakabuye, Z., 2017. Tax compliance in a developing country: Understanding taxpayers' compliance decision by their perceptions. *Journal of Economic Studies*.
- Nousari, H.C. and Anhalt, G.J., 1999. The role of mycophenolate mofetil in the management of pemphigus. *Archives of dermatology*, 135(7), pp.853-854.
- Okpeyo, E.T., Musah, A. and Gakpetor, E.D., 2019. Determinants of tax compliance in Ghana. *Journal of Applied Accounting and Taxation*, 4(1), pp.1-14.
- Olusegun, V., 2021. The development of a scale to measure SMEs tax compliance in Nigeria: An adaptation of Fischer's model. *Journal of Accounting and Taxation*, 13(3), pp.132-143.
- Oluwatayo, J.A., 2012. Validity and reliability issues in educational research. *Journal of educational and social research*, 2(2), pp.391-391.
- Owusu, G. M. Y., Bekoe, R. A., Anokye, F. K., & Anyetei, L. (2020). What factors influence the intentions of individuals to engage in tax evasion? Evidence from Ghana. *International Journal of Public Administration*, 43(13), 1143-1155.
- Owusu, G.M.Y., Bekoe, R.A., Anokye, F.K. and Anyetei, L., 2020. What factors influence the intentions of individuals to engage in tax evasion? Evidence from Ghana. *International Journal of Public Administration*, 43(13), pp.1143-1155.

- Ozili, P.K. (2018), "Banking stability determinants in Africa", *International Journal of Managerial Finance*, Vol. 14 No. 4, pp. 462-483.
- Ozili, P.K. (2020). Tax evasion and financial instability, *Journal of Financial Crime* Vol. 27 No. 2, pp. 531-539 DOI 10.1108/JFC-04-2019-0051
- Ozili, P.K. and Thankom, A.G. (2018), Income Smoothing among European Systemic and Non-Systemic Banks, *The British Accounting Review*.
- Pate, A.M. and Hamilton, E.E., 1992. Formal and informal deterrents to domestic violence: The Dade County spouse assault experiment. *American Sociological Review*, pp.691-697.
- Patten, M.L., 2017. *Understanding research methods: An overview of the essentials*. Routledge.
- Perry, V.G. and Morris, M.D., 2005. Who is in control? The role of self-perception, knowledge, and income in explaining consumer financial behavior. *Journal of consumer affairs*, 39(2), p.299.
- Peslak, A., Ceccucci, W., & Sendall, P. (2012). An empirical study of social networking behavior using theory of reasoned action. *Journal of Information Systems Applied Research*, 5(3), 12.
- Philmore Alleyne, Terry Harris, (2017) "Antecedents of taxpayers' intentions to engage in tax evasion: evidence from Barbados", *Journal of Financial Reporting and Accounting*, Vol. 15 Issue: 1, pp.2-21.
- Prichard, W., 2009. The politics of taxation and implications for accountability in Ghana 1981–2008. IDS Working Papers, 2009(330), pp.01-44.
- Pui Yee, C., Moorthy, K. and Choo Keng Soon, W. (2017), "Taxpayers' perceptions on tax evasion behaviour: an empirical study in Malaysia".

- Purwanto, P. and Indrawan, R., 2020, March. The determinants of tax evasion in directorate general of customs and excise Jakarta. In *Annual International Conference on Accounting Research (AICAR 2019)* (pp. 187-190). Atlantis Press.
- Putra, A.F. and bin Osman, A.H., 2019. Tax compliance of MSME's taxpayer: Implementation of theory of planned behavior. *Journal of Contemporary Accounting*, pp.1-10.
- Putrevu, S. and Lord, K.R., 1994. Comparative and noncomparative advertising: Attitudinal effects under cognitive and affective involvement conditions. *Journal of advertising*, 23(2), pp.77-91.
- Pyle, D.J., 1991. The economics of taxpayer compliance. *Journal of Economic Surveys*, 5(2), pp.163-198.
- Ragab, M.A. and Arisha, A., 2018. Research methodology in business: A starter's guide. *Management and organizational studies*, 5(1), pp.1-14.
- Rashid, M. H. U. (2020). Taxpayer's attitude towards tax evasion in a developing country: do the demographic characteristics matter? *International Journal of Applied Behavioral Economics (IJABE)*, 9(2), 1-19.
- Rassel, S., Xu, C., Zhang, S. and Ban, D., 2020. Noninvasive blood glucose detection using a quantum cascade laser. *Analyst*, 145(7), pp.2441-2456.
- Richard, O., Michael, A.A. and George, T., 2018. Determinants of tax evasion in the developing economies: A structural equation model approach of the case of Ghana. *Journal of Accounting and Taxation*, 10(4), pp.37-47.
- Sadress, N., Bananuka, J., Orobia, L. and Opiso, J., 2019. Antecedents of tax compliance of small business enterprises: a developing country perspective. *International Journal of Law and Management*, 61(1), pp.24-44.

- Samsudin, E.M. and Abd Hamid, S.B., 2017. Effect of band gap engineering in anionic-doped TiO₂ photocatalyst. *Applied Surface Science*, 391, pp.326-336.
- Sandmo, A., 2005. The theory of tax evasion: A retrospective view. *National tax journal*, 58(4), pp.643-663.
- Sapiei, N.S., Kasipillai, J. and Eze, U.C., 2014. Determinants of tax compliance behaviour of corporate taxpayers in Malaysia. *eJTR*, 12, p.383.
- Saragih, A.H. and Ali, S., 2021. Corporate tax risk: a literature review and future research directions. *Management Review Quarterly*, pp.1-51.
- Schmölders, G., 1959. Fiscal psychology: A new branch of public finance. *National Tax Journal*, 12(4), pp.340-345.
- Schoeman, A., Evans, C. and du Preez, H., 2021. The Effect of Changes in the Value-added Tax Rate on Tax Compliance Behaviour of Small Businesses in South Africa: A Field Experiment. In *Advances in Taxation*. Emerald Publishing Limited.
- Simon James, Robert W. McGee, Serkan Benk and Tamer Budak (2019) "How seriously do taxpayers regard tax evasion? A survey of opinion in England", *Journal of Money Laundering Control* Vol. 22 No. 3, pp. 563-575
- Singh, M., Kaiser, J. and Hahn, H., 2015. Thick electrodes for high energy lithium ion batteries. *Journal of The Electrochemical Society*, 162(7), p.A1196.
- Singh, S.A. and Masuku, B.M., 2014. Assumption and testing of normality for statistical analysis. *American Journal of Mathematics and Mathematical Sciences*, 3(1), pp.169-175.
- Slemrod, J., 1992. Cheating ourselves: The economics of tax evasion. *Journal of Economic perspectives*, 21(1), pp.25-48.

- Smith, K.W. and Kinsey, K.A., 1987. Understanding taxpaying behavior: A conceptual framework with implications for research. *Law and Society Review*, pp.639-663.
- Spivak, S., Krepych, S., Spivak, I., Brukhanskyi, R. and Tkach, U., 2021, September. Analysis of Tax Burden in Ukraine in the Context of European Integration. In 2021 11th International Conference on Advanced Computer Information Technologies (ACIT) (pp. 385-388). IEEE.
- Straus, M.A., 2017. Measuring intrafamily conflict and violence: The conflict tactics (CT) scales. In *Physical violence in American families* (pp. 29-48). Routledge.
- Sürücü, L. and MASLAKÇI, A., 2020. Validity and reliability in quantitative research. *Business & Management Studies: An International Journal*, 8(3), pp.2694-2726.
- Taherdoost, H., 2016. Sampling methods in research methodology; how to choose a sampling technique for research. *How to choose a sampling technique for research (April 10, 2016)*.
- Taing, H.B. and Chang, Y., 2021. Determinants of tax compliance intention: Focus on the theory of planned behavior. *International journal of public administration*, 44(1), pp.62-73.
- Taylor, G., Al-Hadi, A., Richardson, G., Alfarhan, U. and Al-Yahyaee, K. (2019), "Is there a relation between labor investment inefficiency and corporate tax avoidance?", *Economic Modelling*, Vol. 82, available at: <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.pacfin.2018.08.010>
- Thomsen, M. and Watrin, C. (2018), "Tax avoidance over time: a comparison of European and US firms", *Journal of International Accounting, Auditing and Taxation*, Vol. 33, pp. 40-63.
- UK, G., 2021. Coronavirus (COVID-19): guidance and support. GOV. UK.

- Varma, K.N. and Doob, A.N., 1998. Deterring economic crimes: The case of tax evasion. *Canadian Journal of Criminology*, 40(2), pp.165-184.
- Vousinas, G.L., 2017. Shadow economy and tax evasion. The Achilles heel of Greek economy. Determinants, effects and policy proposals. *Journal of Money Laundering Control*.
- Waldo, G.P. and Chiricos, T.G., 1972. Perceived penal sanction and self-reported criminality: A neglected approach to deterrence research. *Social Problems*, 19(4), pp.522-540.
- Werekoh, E.A., 2022. The Effects of Taxation on Economic Development: the Moderating Role of Tax Compliance Among SMEs.
- Yee, C. P., Moorthy, K., and Soon, W. C. K. (2017). Taxpayers' perceptions on tax evasion behaviour: an empirical study in Malaysia. *International Journal of Law and Management*.
- Yong, S.S.E., 2011. Tax compliance and small and medium enterprise operators: An intra-cultural study in New Zealand (Doctoral dissertation, Auckland University of Technology).
- Young, A., Lei, L., Wong, B. and Kwok, B., 2016. Individual tax compliance in China: a review. *International Journal of Law and management*, 58(5), pp.562-574.
- Zulkarnaen, W., Erfiansyah, E., Syahril, N.N.A. and Leonandri, D.G., 2020. Comparative Study of Tax Policy Related to COVID-19 in ASEAN Countries. *International Journal of TEST Engineering & Management*, 83(2), pp.6519-6528.

APPENDIX:

QUESTIONNAIRE SURVEY

KWAME NKRUMAH UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

SCHOOL OF BUSINESS

Topic: Antecedents of Tax Payers' Intentions to Engage in Tax Evasion: Evidence from Ghana

Dear Participant,

This study is a Master of Science (Accounting & Finance) thesis being undertaken by, a postgraduate student of the School of Business of the Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology, Kumasi. This survey instrument has been designed to enable me carry out research on the topic "Antecedents of Tax Payers' Intentions to Engage in Tax Evasion: Evidence from Ghana". The study is purely an academic assignment in partial fulfilment for the master's degree. Thus, responses given shall be treated with the utmost confidentiality and anonymity required. You are therefore respectfully urged to be as candid as possible. Thank you in advance for accepting to participate in this survey.

Section A: Tax Evasion

Read each statement careful and answer accordingly and honestly with 1 = strongly disagree, 2 = disagree, 3 = neutral, 4 = agree, 5 = strongly agree

	1 – Strongly Disagree	2 – Disagree	3 – Neutral	4 – Agree	5 – Strongly Agree

1. Tax evasion is bad.					
2. It is unwise to engage in tax evasion.					
3. Tax evasion can be useless.					
4. I find the concept of tax evasion to be unattractive.					
5. Cheating on taxes is unpleasant.					

Section B: Subjective Norms

Read each statement careful and answer accordingly and honestly with 1 = strongly disagree, 2 = agree, 3 = neutral, 4 = disagree, 5 = strongly agree

	1 – Strongly Disagree	2 – Agree	3 – Neutral	4 – Disagree	5 – Strongly Agree
6. Most people I know would not approve of me cheating on taxes.					
7. If I cheated on my taxes, most people who are important to me would disapprove.					
8. Those who are important to me do not think it is okay to cheat on taxes.					
9. Most people who are important to me will likely look down on me if I cheat on taxes.					

Section C: Perceived Behavioural Control

Read each statement careful and answer accordingly and honestly with 1 = strongly disagree, 2 = disagree, 3 = neutral, 4= agree, 5 = strongly agree

	1 – Strongly Disagree	2 – Disagree	3 – Neutral	4 – Agree	5 – Strongly Agree
10. Most people perceive I cheat on taxes.					
11. I would engage in tax evasion only if I have a good reason to do so.					
12. If I want to, I can cheat on taxes.					

Section D: Moral Obligation

Read each statement careful and answer accordingly and honestly with 1 = strongly disagree, 2 = disagree, 3 = neutral, 4= agree, 5 = strongly agree

	1 – Strongly Disagree	2 – Disagree	3 – Neutral	4 – Agree	5 – Strongly Agree
13. I think it would be morally right to engage in tax evasion.					
14. I would not feel guilty if I cheated on taxes.					
15. Cheating on taxes does not go against my principles.					
16. It would not be morally wrong for me to cheat on taxes.					

Section E: Personal Details

Please tick (✓) as appropriate

Gender of respondent:

Male ☐

Female ☐

Age of respondent:

25-34yrs ☐

35-39yrs ☐

40-44yrs ☐

45-54yrs ☐

55+yrs ☐

Respondent's highest educational level:

No formal education ☐

Secondary/O/A Level ☐

Undergraduate Degree ☐

Professional Qualification ☐

Master's Degree and above ☐

Occupation of respondent:

Student ☐

Self-employed []

Employed []

Unemployed []

Employment sector of respondent (main work):

Public sector []

Private sector []

Respondent's religious affiliation:

Christian []

Muslim []

Other (Specify).....

Respondent's region of residence:

Accra []

Kumasi []

Takoradi []

Tamale []

Others (Specify)

THE END, THANK YOU