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VALUE ADDED TAX AND ECONOMIC GROWTH IN NIGERIA (A SIX-YEAR LONGITUDINAL SURVEY FROM 2009-2014)

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Abstract

The study investigated the effect of Value Added Tax on Nigeria's Economic Growth. A survey was undertaken to evaluate and assess the relationship between Value Added Tax and the measures of Economic Growth used in this research work, that is, the GDP, PCI and BOP. This study made use of longitudinal survey which cuts across several years (six years). The study made use of secondary data which is from the Statistical bulletin of the Central Bank of Nigeria and the FIRS bulletin. Others were sourced from journals, fact books, and seminar paper. The regression analysis was used to analyse hypothesis 1-3. Data relating to the Value Added Tax and economic growth was used to construct the Ordinarily Least Square (OLS) model of regression and SPSS 20 was used to analyse the data. The findings show that there is no significant linear relationship between VAT and GDP, PCI & BOP. The study concluded that even though Value Added Tax reflects an insignificant linear relationship to Nigeria's economic growth, it still remains an integral part of the Nigeria economy. As such, Nigeria will grow economically if the status quo is sustained; though there is always room for improvement.

Key Words: Value Added Tax, Economic Growth, Gross Domestic Product, Per Capital Income, Balance of Payment
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I. Introduction

Value Added Tax (VAT) has become a major source of revenue in many developing countries. In sub- Saharan Africa for example, VAT has been introduced in Benin Republic, Cote d'Ivoire, Guinea, Kenya, Madagascar, Mauritius, Niger Republic, Senegal, Togo and Nigeria. Evidence suggests that in these countries, VAT has become an important contributor to total government tax revenues **(Ajakaiye, 2000). Shalizi and Squire (1988)** found out that VAT accounted for about 30% of total tax revenues in Cote d'Ivoire, Kenya and Senegal in 1982. The oil producing countries are not excluded from the list of countries introducing this tax hurdle. **Tait (1989)** showed that VAT has been in effect in Ecuador and Mexico since at least 1973 and by 1983 accounted for 12.35% and 19.71% of total government revenues in these counties respectively. Indonesia introduced VAT in 1983 and by 1988; the ratio of VAT revenue to GDP had risen to 4.5% **(Bogetic and Hassan, 1993).** There are quite a number of definitions of tax or taxation depending on the qualities it possess. In that vein, taxation is the process or machinery by which communities or group of persons are made to contribute… in some agreed quantum and method for the purpose of the administration and development of the society **(Igbonyi, 2008).** Taxation is the system of imposing levy by the government against the income, profit or wealth of the individual, partnership and corporate organization **(Tabansi, 2001).**

In the present dispensation of Nigerian economy, taxation always been a means by which communities are provided with common facilities such as access roads, religious facilities, security, amongst others from time immemorial **(Obadimi, 1994).** Modern and well regulated taxation system in Nigeria started in 1940 with the introduction of direct taxation ordinance No. 29 (CAP 54) of the year. Before the 1940 ordinance, income tax has first been introduced in northern Nigeria in 1904 by Lord Lugard. It was known as community tax, several changes were made to the community tax. VAT became operational in Nigeria on the 1st of January 1994. Though Nigeria joined the league of countries operating

VAT just of recent, she has very unique features in the operation of the policy. It is charged at a flat rate of 5% on some items of goods and services.

VAT was introduced in Nigeria following a study group set up by the federal government in 1991 to review the nation's tax system. It was this group that proposed VAT and in that same manner, a committee was set up to conduct feasibility study on the implementation of the VAT (Thacker, 2009). VAT was introduced to replace the sales tax because it creates storage incentives to collect than a sale tad does. It differs from sales tax in that, with the latter, the tax is collected and remitted to the government only once at the point of purchase by the end consumer. With VAT, government and credits for taxes already paid occur each time a business in the supply chain purchase products **(Tabansi, 2001).** Value Added Tax (VAT) in Nigeria is a Federal Government tax, which is administered using the existing machinery of the Federal Inland Revenue Services (FIRS). VAT has a directorate within the frame work of the Federal Inland Revenue Services (FIRS) with the head office in Abuja. It has a network of zonal and local offices throughout the federation. The Directorate of the tax is headed by a director who is assisted by two deputy directors. The Zonal Coordinator of the Federal Inland Revenue Services (FIRS) at Lagos, Ibadan, Enugu, Kaduna and Jos also coordinates the activities of local VAT offices within their areas and are responsible to the VAT Directors in Abuja for all Value Added Tax (VAT) related matters.

VAT as a form of tax was introduced in Nigeria with effect from 1st January 1994 based on the report of the study group set up in 1991 by government to review the system of indirect tax in Nigeria. Before the introduction of VAT in Nigerian economy, the Federal Government has been working relentlessly on how to revamp the Nigeria economy. To this effect, a lot of economic measures have been introduced. Among the economic measures introduced included the Second –tier Foreign Exchange Market (SFEM), Structural Adjusted Programme (SAP) and Foreign Exchange Market (FEM) etc. All these efforts at revamping the economy were to no avail as the economy seems to be an ailing child that has defied all economic therapy or fiscal measures. Prompted by its avowed position to revamp the Nigerian economy at whatever cost, the Federal Military Government under the leadership of General Sani Abacha introduced a fiscal policy, the Value Added Tax (VAT) in January 1994. VAT is a consumption tax at each stage of the consumption chain and is borne by final consumer. It requires a taxable person upon registering with the Federal Board of Inland Revenue to charge and collect VAT at a flat rate of 5% on all vatable goods and services.

Where the supply is not subject to VAT, the VAT liability will either be Zero-rated or exempted. Zero-rated goods and supplies are all export goods and supplies. Supplies that are zero-rated are still taxable but no actual tax is payable to the government. The important difference between Zero-rated and exempt items is that any input VAT relating to Zero-rated supplies is recoverable, whereas that relating to exempt supplies are not recoverable. The registration of Value Added Tax (VAT) is to cover all the business activities of the vat able persons. Therefore all domestic manufacturers, wholesalers, distributors, importers and suppliers of goods and services in Nigeria are expected to register for VAT within six months after the commencement of the decree or six months from the commencement of business, whichever is earlier. A vatable person is one who trade in vatable goods and services for a consideration. Every vatable person has the obligation to register for Value Added Tax (VAT) payment. Professionals like lawyers, accountants, Engineers etc. who provide professional services to their clients are require to register. There is therefore no thresh-hold for registration. VAT paid by a business on purchases is known as input tax, which is recovered from VAT charges on company sales known as output tax. If output exceeds input in any particular month, the excess is remitted to the Federal Board of Inland Revenue (FBIR) but where input exceeds output, the tax payer is entitled to a refund of excess from Federal Board of Inland Revenue (FBIR) though in practice this is not always possible. A tax payer however has the option of recovering excess input from excess output of a subsequent period. It should be stated at this point that recoverable input is limited to Value Added Tax (VAT) on goods imported directly for resale and goods that form the stock-in trade sued for the direct production of any new product on which the output VAT is charged.

VAT in Nigeria were created as replacement or substitution for the sales taxes that were in operation before. They were imposed on all goods that were manufactured in the country as well as goods t hat had been made outside the country and were selling there. The impressive performance

of VAT in virtually all countries where it has been introduced, according to **Ajakaiye (2000),** clearly influenced the decision to introduce VAT in Nigeria in January 1994. VAT is a consumption tax that is relatively easy to administer and difficult to evade and it has been embraced by many countries world-wide (Federal Inland Revenue Service, 1993). Evidence so far supports the view that VAT revenue is already a significant source of revenue in Nigeria. For example, actual VAT revenue for 1994 was N8.189 billion, which is 36.5% higher than the projected N6 billion for the year. Similarly, actual VAT revenue for 1995 was N21 billion compared with the projected N12 billion. In terms of contributions to total federally collected revenue, VAT accounted for about 4.06 % in 1994 and 5.93% in 1995. As much as N404.5 billion was collected on VAT (5.1% of total revenue) in 2008.

Following these, Value Added Tax (VAT) seems to be the best among other types of taxes. It is against this background that we are going to analyze VAT and to see the impact it has on the nation's economy. Most economy relies on income from taxation for it development. Aside from its uses as a means of raising government revenue, taxation is also often used as an instrument of regulating the economy, redistributing wealth and inducing preferred modes of behaviour, particularly consumption patterns and investment choices **(Naiyebu, 1996, Oyebode, 2010).** While the performance of VAT as a source of revenue in Nigeria is encouraging, it remains difficult to find attempts to systematically assess the impact of VAT on the economy. Recent research works on the impact of taxation on the Nigerian economy lumped up all the various taxes together without isolating VAT. How and in what direction has VAT been affecting the Nigerian economy, proxy by Gross Domestic Product (GDP)? Is there any causality between the two economic variables? Finding answers to these and other similar questions is the main trust of this paper. It is based on these that this research ''Value Added Tax and Economic Growth in Nigeria'' is carried out.

The attitude of Nigerians towards taxation is worrisome as many prefer not to pay tax if given the opportunity and the economy continues to lose huge amount of revenue through the unwholesome practice of tax avoidance and tax evasion (Okoye and Gbegi,13).These loss of revenue can change the fortune of many economy particularly, developing countries like Nigeria. This problem has been lingering for so long which urgent attention and solution is overdue. The cost of collecting tax in Nigeria (both social and economic cost) is too high to the extent that, if left unchecked, the cost may soon outweigh the benefit or value derived from such operation and that will not be appropriate for the system. The government spends more to realize a miserable pittance. The rate of corruption on the part of tax officials is alarming as most of them connive and collude with supposed-tax- payer to evade and avoid tax. Sometimes, the tax officials are not properly trained on the modern ways of tax administration. The inadequate social infrastructures in Nigeria call for attention as to how tax revenue generated is to be expanded and accounted for, especially where those in authority continue to spend these hard-earned resources in a reckless and wasteful manner.

The significant impact of VAT or the role played by Value added Tax in the development of the nation cannot be overemphasized. Revenue is raised by the government through taxation for the development of the nation's project. VAT was introduced as a revenue mobilization strategy to cover up the deficiencies experienced with the former sales tax because of its progressive nature. Government ability to adequately and effectively retrieve the proceeds from companies and other agents of collection remains a problem. It does not appear as if there is adequate machinery for effectively monitoring of the remittance of the tax withheld to the relevant tax authorities, this means that the federal inland revenue, the body charged with the administration and implementation of VAT lacks the logistic support, this invariably will give room for tax evasion and avoidance **(Margaret N Okoli and Charles Odinakachi Njoku, 2014).** Secondly, the dishonest practice by some tax officials also posed a serious threat to effective tax administration in Nigeria, especially when such practices are capable of having demoralizing effects on the honest tax payers. Consumers will still want to know how much they are paying as VAT as most of these taxes are not duly reflected on their invoice. It is generally believed that VAT is another way of reflecting economic hardship on the consumer to the advantages of the manufacturers and companies. It could be seen as an excuse to raise prices of goods and services arbitrary. For instance, landlords are now charging VAT on house rents, some hotels are charging VAT on their services without remitting same to the appropriate authorities. These are contrary to the regulation governing the VAT system **(Naiyebu, 1996, Oyebode, 2010).**

However, previous researchers like **Okoye, and Gbegi (2009)** discovered that revenue generated through VAT has no significance influence on wealth creation in Nigeria and also has no significant effect on the overall tax revenue in Nigeria while **Nwezeaku and Anyafo (2010)** also discovered that revenue generated from Value Added Tax is so meagre compared to revenue from other sources as such, government can do without VAT. However, the lack of clarity about the effect of Value Added Tax on Nigeria's Economic Growth is the motivating factor for this study.

The present study intends to reduce the knowledge gap by investigating the effect of Value Added Tax on Nigeria's Economic Growth .The rest of the paper is organized as follows: section 2 deals with literature review while in section 3 the methodology of the study is examined. Section 4 presents the results and discussion and section 5 concludes the study.

Objective of the study

The main objective of the study is to assess the implication of Value Added Tax on Nigeria's economic growth. Specifically, the study attempts to:

i. **determine the relationship between of Value Added Tax and GDP of Nigeria.**
ii. **assess the relationship between Value Added Tax and per capital income of Nigeria.**
iii. **investigate the relationship between Value Added Tax and Balance of Payment of Nigeria.**

Research hypotheses

The following hypotheses were examined

I. **H_o: There is no significant relationship between VAT and GDP of Nigeria.**
II. **H_o: There is no significant relationship between VAT and per capital income of Nigeria.**
III. **H_o: There is no significant relationship between VAT and Balance of Payment of Nigeria.**

Literature Review and Theoretical Insight

Conceptual Framework

Value Added Tax in Nigeria

In Nigeria, the idea of VAT started with the acceptance of recommendation of the study group on indirect taxation in November 1991, set up by the federal government. The federal government was however, not satisfied with revenue yield from the sales tax whose base is regarded as norms and which covers only nine categories of goods plus sales and services in registered hotels, motels, and similar establishment. It is felt that the narrow base of the consumption negates the fundamental principles of consumption tax; which by nature is expected to cut across consumptions of goods and services. Value Added Tax, in contrary has a broader base and includes, most professionals services and banking transactions that are high profit generating sectors, only locally manufactured goods were targeted by the sales tax Decree of 1986; although this might not have been the intention of the law. VAT is neutral in this regard. Under VAT a considerable part of the tax to be realized is from imported goods. This means that under VAT, locality manufactured goods will not be placed at a disadvantages relative to import. Since VAT, is based on the general consumption behavior of the people. The expected high yield from it will boast the fortunes of the state government with minimum resistance from the tax payers of the tax **(Ola, 1999).**

The decision to accept the recommendation of the study group set up by the federal government on indirect taxation in November 1991 was made public in the budget speech of the Head of State. This resulted in setting up the Modified Value Added Tax (MVAT) committee on 1st June 19992 as recommended by the study group. The recommendation of the committee that VAT should be administered by an independent commission rather than the federal inland revenue services, which was the body already charged with the responsibility of administering most other taxes in Nigeria was rejected by the federal government. This led to the introduction of VAT in Nigeria, through Decree 102 of 1993 which marks the phasing out for the sales tax decree No 7 of 1986. The Decree took effect from 1st December, 1993 but by administrative arrangement, invoicing for tax purposes did not commence until 15t January, 1994: Value Added Tax is a consumption tax on economic operations which include imported goods and services. Vat is computed at a flat rate of 5% of price of goods and services and at zero rates for export **(Seyi, 1993).**

Conceptual analysis of Value Added Tax (VAT)

The concept VAT (Value-Added Tax) has been given different definitions by different authors and writers. According to Nworji as quoted in **(Chima 1996)** Value Added Tax is defined as a consumption tax whereby the consumer is made to bear the tax burden. The tax burden is passed from the

manufacturer to wholesaler to retailer and finally to the consumer who has been designed to bear it without complaints from the above. It therefore means that the VAT can only be avoided by the consumer if he avoids buying any of the vatable goods or services that is an item on which VAT is paid. Similarly, a vatable person is one who trades in vatable goods and services for a consideration.

According to IMF survey, VAT can be defined as an indirect tax imposed on each sale beginning at the start of the production and distribution cycle and culminating in the sales to the consumer. It went further to create the impression that it is the consumer that absorbs the VAT as part of the sales prices, showing that VAT essentially is a consumption tax collected, throughout the production chain.

VAT is a more broadly based tax on consumer expenditure which with a few exception, is levied in all goods and services at the rate which vary from one country to another. **Okpe (2000)** in his own definition, defined -VAT as a multi stage tax imposed on the value added to goods and services as they proceed through various stages of production and distribution and to services as they are rendered, which is eventually borne by the final consumer but collected at each stage of production and distribution chain. This definition, brings out the three characteristics of value added tax, which are

i. **VAT is a consumer tax**
ii. **VAT incidence is on the final consumer**
iii. **VAT is a multi-stage tax**

Jennings (1986) also describe VAT as a tax levied at each stage which supplies changes hands. In the case of manufactured items, this could be at the primary producer, manufacturer, wholesaler and retailer stages. It is ultimately borne by the consumer.

From the above definitions of VAT by Jennings, he suggests that there are intermediaries through which a produced goods or services must pass before getting to the financial consumer. At each stage the goods pass from one person to another, a value is added to it. It is this value that is being taxed and borne at last by the final consumer. The above mentioned, suggests that the value of the goods and services to the final consumer presents the aggregate of all the values added by successive traders or intermediaries in the chain. Since each trader pays only the VAT attributable to the value he added at his stage the final tax for any given final value is same, irrespective of the number of stages in the process or chain. The operation of VAT can be viewed as a typical chain of transactions where goods produce by a manufacturer are sold to a wholesaler who sells to a retailer who in turn sells to a consumer. Everybody in the chain except the consumer gets a refund for the impute VAT he paid on his purchases. Since the consumer is not entitled to any refund in respect of the VAT included in the price he paid to the retailer, it is at this stage that the tax can be said to form part of the net Cost of the goods purchased by him. **(Ezejelue 2001).**

Aims of VAT in Nigeria

Oyegbile (1996) observed that the Value Added Tax was introduced in Nigeria with several reasons, among which are the following;

a. **To broaden the nations revenue base thereby making it less dependent on oil export**
b. **To broaden the tax base with an equal burden on imported and domestically produced goods and services. The old sales tax places locally manufactured good at disadvantage relative to imported ones.**
c. **It would diminish the incidence of taxation towards expenditure rather than income**
d. **Through Value Added Tax, it was believed that the harmonization of our tax system would be achieved especially with these flat rates of 5% throughout the nation.**
e. **It makes it easier to claim credit for input tax, since a registered person must hold tax invoice.**
f. **It makes it easier for the collection of tax collected on behalf of the federal government by businesses or organization, which have registered with the federal inland revenue Services (FIRS, VAT Directorate) for VAT purposes**
g. **The introduction of VAT has bought fairness to all tax payers, because a number of goods and services which were not previously covered by the sales taxes were brought together under the VAT regime.**
h. **To under the base of the tax system in the country, because VAT is the only Tax impose on a wide range of goods and services without undue attention being given to the place of**

manufacturer of item (local or imported) or the peculiar nature of the commodity. (Luxury and harmful products).

i. To help the common people, traders industrialists and also the government. It is indeed a move towards efficiency; healthy competition and farmers in the tax system.

Administration of VAT in Nigeria

The VAT system in Nigeria is administered by the federal Inland Revenue services. (VAT directorate). The board is charged with the function of assessment and collection of the tax and shall account for all amounts so collected in accordance with the provision of the decree. Although, it is administered and controlled by the federal government using the existing tax machinery of the federal Inland Revenue services in close co-operation with the Nigeria custom services and the state Inland Revenue services. The net proceeds from VAT are shared among the federal, states and local government in the ratio of 45.35:20. The prospective VAT payer obtains and completes form 002 and returns same to the nearest VAT office. Once, registered, the VAT proceeds are expected on monthly basis to be paid to the VAT office.

This is done in consonance with the regulation establishing these bodies that are in charge of VAT in Nigeria.

i. The board of federal Inland Revenue services (The board of FFBIR).
ii. The Federal Inland Revenue services (FIRS) which comprises six directors with headquarters at Abuja being headed by one of the directors.
iii. The technical committees: These committees come into existence through section 3 of the VAT decree with major responsibility on advisory capacity.
iv. The VAT directorate, As explained earlier, the whole administrative machinery of VAT, lies in these directorate, who works in close co-operations with the Nigeria customer's services and the state inland revenue services.

Theoretical Framework

Faculty Theory of Taxation:

It is known as "ability to pay" theory of taxation. It states that everyone should be taxed according to his ability to pay. (**Hanson 1974)** states that the problem with the theory is that it is not easy to measure with accuracy and fairness to pay of people even in superficially similar circumstance. It suggests that those who have equal ability to pay should shoulder a heavier tax burden.

In a nutshell, the faculty theory of taxation is simply an attempt to make an explicit value judgment about the distributive effect of taxes.

Benefit Theory of Taxation

Browning (1979) implies a specific method of distribution of the tax burden. He said that taxes should be allocated on the basis of benefits received from government expenditure. The great advantage of the benefit principle is that it emphasizes the essential two-sidedness of government tax expenditure decisions. If people do not receive benefits commensurate with their tax burden, then perhaps the expenditure should not be undertaken at all.

Taxable Capacity Theory

Hanson (1974) points out that it is very difficult to decide what the taxable capacity of people is. The theory is an expression of the extent to which a person can be taxed and what the state does with the revenue from the taxes. The limit of taxable capacity might be considered to be the point beyond which the additional taxation would produce economical harmful result (such as a fall in the national income) that out-weigh the gain from the services provided by the state from this additional taxation.

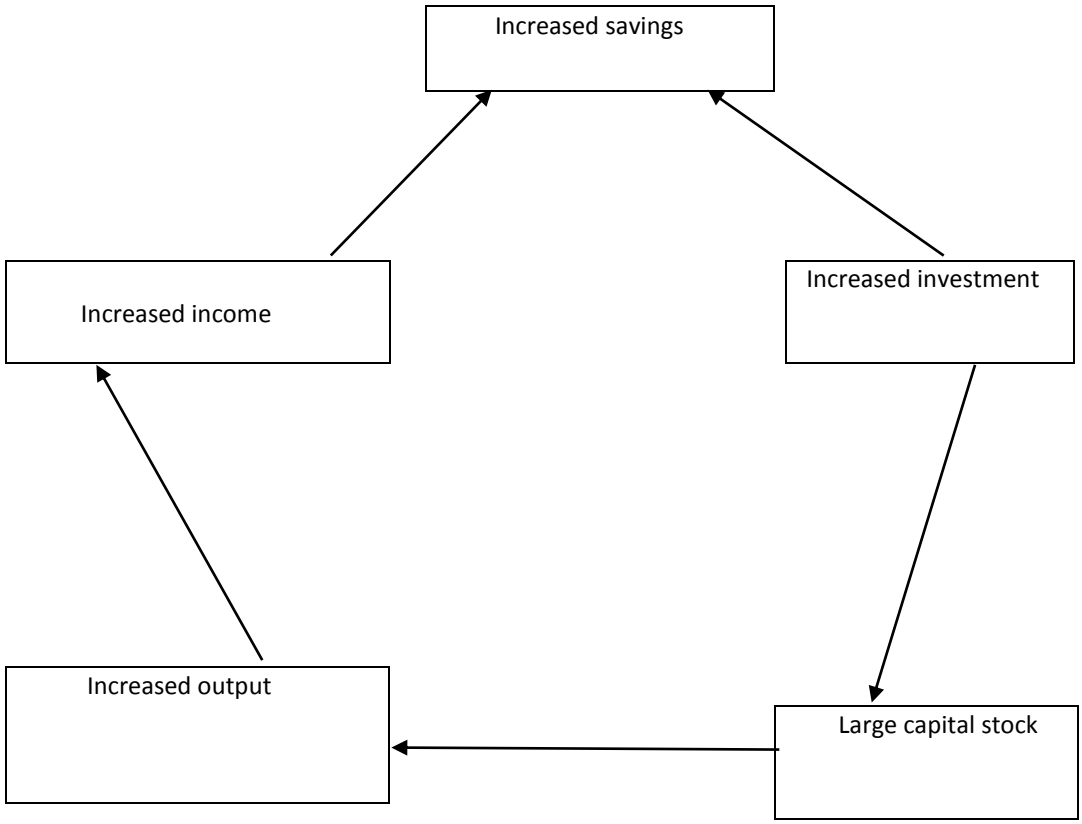
Dalton (1964) took a hard look a theory of taxable capacity distinguishing what he termed the "absolute taxable capacity of single community" and the relative taxable capacity of two or more communities.

Economic Growth Models

The emergence of economic growth theory can be traced back to Adams Smith's wealth nations. In his view, economic growth of a nation strictly deals with wealth of nations, depends on division of labour, and economic growth deals with sustained increase in real gross domestic product, per capita income, expansion of the production possibilities frontier (Arnold 2008). The PPF have been sluggish, fluctuating and very low in Nigeria when compared with other countries due to lack of sufficient utilization of available natural resources, production capacity and systemic corruption.

The following theories of economic growth would be discussed;

Harrod Domar Growth Model:



This model suggests that economy's rate of growth depends on the level of saving, productivity of investment, that is, capital-output rate which depends on the amount of labour and capital.

The Kaldor Model of Distribution: In this model Kaldor attempts to make the saving-income ratio variable in the growth process. It is based on the classical saving function which implies that savings equals the ratio of profits to national income. S= P/Y

The Paisnett Model of Profit and Growth: This model is based on the Kaldor model of distribution by incorporating workers' profits as returns on their savings. It shows that there exist a distribution of income between profit and wages which keeps the system in long run equilibrium.

Joan Robbinson Model of Capital Accumulation: In Mrs. Robbinson's book, the accumulation of capital bulled a simple model of economic growth based on capital rules of the game the model where national income is the sum total wage bill plus total profit which may be seen as: Y= WN+ PK.

III. Empirical Studies

Simply called the Goods and Services Tax (GST), it is levied on the value added that results from each exchange. It is an indirect tax collected from someone other than the person who actually bears the cost **(Ochei, 2010).** It was invented by a French Economist, Maurice Laure in 1954 and was first introduced in France on April 10, 1954. **Feldstein and Krugman (1990)** were the first set of researchers to research on the international trade effects of Value Added Taxation. Their research was based on the widespread belief that VAT, because it is levied on imports and rebated on exports, acts as a combination of protection and export subsidy, giving the traded goods sectors of countries with VAT an advantage over the corresponding sectors of countries that rely on income taxation. The research used a simple model to show that this view is almost completely wrong. A VAT is not a protectionist measure; indeed, the allegedly pro-competitive device of export rebates is necessary if the VAT is not to act as an export tax, which in turn is actually a protectionist measure that would reduce both imports and exports. It was also established that in practice, VAT would almost surely fall more heavily on traded rather than non-traded goods, which would constitute a bias against both exports and imports.

Different scholars had used different explanatory variables to attempt some empirical measurements of tax efforts in various countries. Such variables included agricultural output-GDP ratio, per capital income, mineral exports-GDP ratio, the degree of openness of the economy, money-GDP ratio, etc. Using mining-GDP, agricultural output-GDP ratio, and export – GDP ratio as determinants of tax share in GDP to measure tax efforts, **Chelliah, Bass and Kelly (1975)** showed that the agriculture share is negative while the mining share is positively related to tax share, and the export ratio is not significant. Using panel data on 43 Sub-African Countries for the period 1990-1995 to measure the determinants of tax-GDP ratio to construct an index of tax effort for these countries, **Stotsky and Woldemariam (1977)** found that the countries with a relatively high tax- GDP ratio tended to have a relatively high index of tax effort, although the results varied across countries. **Tait and Gratz (1979)** later updated the work of **Chelliah et al (1975)** using the same sample of developing countries for the period 1972-1976. However, they did not find the agric-GDP ratio to be significant but their measure of tax effort indices yielded similar results to the initial study.

Toder and Rosenberg (2010) worked on the effects of imposing a value added tax to replace payroll taxes or corporate taxes (in the US). The research work was conducted against the background that the United States is the only country in the developed world that does not imposed a broad-based consumption tax. The typical form of broad-based consumption tax used worldwide is a credit-invoice Value Added Tax (VAT). The credit-invoice VAT, a subtraction –method VAT or Business Transfer Tax (BTT), and a Retail Sales Tax (RST) are all intended to tax the final consumption once at the retail level, but the collection mechanisms differ among the three taxes. The researchers found out that VAT has administrative advantages over both BTT and RST. Both VAT and BTT are easier to enforce than RST because under a tax collected at different stages of production, evasion by the final seller still leaves much of the tax in place. Compared with BTT, VAT makes it easier to exempt sales of categories of consumption goods, including export sales, but more difficult to grant preferences to selected industries. The distributional burden of VAT, it was found, is roughly proportional at the bottom of income distribution but regressive at the top.

VAT was introduced by The Federal Government of Nigeria in January, 1993. It was believed by many Nigerians that the tax was introduced as a means of avoiding taking loans from international agencies **(Ochei, 2010). Adereti, Adesina & Sanni (2001)** examined the impact of Value Added Tax on the economic growth of Nigeria. They used the time series data on the Gross Domestic Product (GDP), VAT revenue, Total Tax Revenue and Total (Federal Government) Revenue from 1994 to 2008. These data were analyzed using multiple regression modelling. Their findings showed that the ratio of VAT Revenue to GDP averaged 1.3% compared to 4.5% in Indonesia and indicated a positive and significant correlation between VAT Revenue and GDP. It also showed that no causality existed between the GDP and VAT revenue but a lag of two years however existed. **Onwuchekwa and Aruwa (2014)** investigated the impact of VAT on economic growth of Nigeria. They employed the Ordinary Least Square Technique to test the hypothesis formulated. The result showed that VAT contributed significantly to the total tax revenue of government and by extension, the economic growth of Nigeria. It was also observed that VAT revenue growth had a consistent, although not explosive increase.

Izedonmi and Okunbor (2014) empirically examined the contribution of VAT to the development of the Nigerian economy. The used time series data on the Gross Domestic Product (GDP), VAT Revenue, Total Tax Revenue and (Federal Government) Revenue from 1994 to 2010. The data were analyzed using multiple regression modelling. Their findings showed that VAT Revenue accounted for 92% significant variations in Nigeria's GDP. It showed a positive but insignificant correlation between VAT Revenue and GDP. **Onaolapo, Aworemi and Ajala (2013)** examined VAT and its effect on revenue generation in Nigeria. The used the stepwise regression analysis technique to analyze their data. Their findings showed that Value Added Tax has statistically significant effect on revenue generation in Nigeria. **Bakare (2013)** investigated VAT on output growth in Nigeria. Using the Ordinary Least Square regression technique, he found a significant relationship between VAT and output growth in Nigeria with emphasis on Balance of Payment. The results of his findings also showed that the past values of VAT could be used to predict the future behaviour of output growth in Nigeria and the surplus/deficit nature of BOP. The main conclusion of the study was that Value Added Tax has the potential to assist in the diversification of revenue sources, thereby providing enough funds for economic growth and development and reducing over dependence on oil for revenue.

Olatunji (2009) did a study on the effectiveness of the administration of VAT to improve government revenue and boost economic growth in Nigeria. It used simple percentage and chi-square to analyze the data. The study showed a positive correlation between VAT and GDP. **Okoli and Matthew (2015),** examined the extent to which VAT had contributed to Nigeria's total federally-collected revenue and its position among the other tax components from 1994 to 2012. Using the Error Correlation Model (ECM) for the analysis, results revealed that VAT was the second long term source of the total federally collected revenue.

II. Methodology

Research Design

This study made use of longitudinal survey. The research study cuts across several years (six years).

Study Population

The target population for this study is the Federal Inland Revenue Service (FIRS) and the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN). Six years audited account of the FIRS was used for the analysis.

Research Instrument

The researcher used secondary data which is the Statistical bulletin of the Central Bank of Nigeria and the statistical bulletin of the Federal Inland Revenue Service. Other supplementary data sets were collected from secondary sources such as journals, fact books, seminar paper, the Federal Board of Inland Revenue Statistical Bulletin, and Economic and Financial Review of various years. This is to ensure the effectiveness and objectivity of the study.

Administration of the Instrument

The audited account of the FIRS and CBN were used for the analysis of the study.

Model Specification

Model specification for the study is as stated below:

$$GDP = \alpha 0 + \beta 1\ TVAT + \beta 2PCI + \beta 3BOP\ A$$

Where;
GDP= Gross Domestic Product which is the dependent variable
TVAT= Total Value Added Tax
PCI= Per Capita Income
BOP= Balance of Payment
$\alpha 0$= Constant
$\beta 1$= Beta of the Regression
A= Economic Condition
t= The t^{th} year (time series)

Empirical Results and Discussion

Table 1: Presentation of Data on VAT, BOP, PCI and GDP from 2009 to 2014

YEAR	VAT (₦)	BOP (₦'000)	PCI ((₦'000)	GDP ((₦'000)
2009	4,684,000,000	3,253,851.20	7,296.18	24,794,238.66
2010	5,629,000,000	3,030,420.30	9,589.01	33,984,754.13
2011	6,495,000,000	3,751,986.30	10,572.44	37,409,860.61
2012	7,102,000,000	3,345,419.30	10,808.57	20,544,099.94
2013	7,956,000,000	3,375,942.00	11,920.31	42,396,765.71
2014	4,570,400,000	13,060,220.96	14,185.17	52,995,957.14

Source: CBN Statistical Bulletin and NBS for various years.

Table 2: Descriptive Statistics

	VAT	BOP	PCI	GDP
Mean	6072733.333	4969640.0100	10728.6133	35354279.3650
Median	6062000.000	3360680.6500	10690.5050	35697307.3700
Std. Deviation	1354021.959	3970457.18405	2301.26063	11813401.68243
Kurtosis	-1.546	5.927	.870	-.503
Std. Error of Kurtosis	1.741	1.741	1.741	1.741
Range	3385600.00	10029800.66	6888.99	32451857.20

Source: Compiled from SPSS version 20.

The above table shows the mean and standard deviation for the variables, GDP having the highest mean value 35354279.3650 and highest standard deviation 11813401.68243 while per capital income is having the lowest mean value of 10690.5050 and lowest standard deviation of 2301.26063.

Table 3: Correlations showing the relationship between VAT and GDP

		VAT	GDP
VAT	Pearson Correlation	1	-.154
	Sig. (2-tailed)		.770
	N	6	6
GDP	Pearson Correlation	-.154	1
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.770	
	N	6	6

Table 4 below reveals the relationship between the two variables Value Added Tax and Gross Domestic Product. The result obtained indicate there is a negative linear relationship between Value Added Tax and Gross Domestic Product and it is not significant at 0.05 or 5% level of significance. The extent to which the explanatory variable (Value Added Tax) Influence the dependent variable (Gross Domestic Product) is to the degree of 0.150 that is approximately (%15).

Table 4: Correlations showing the relationship between VAT and PCI

		VAT	PCI
VAT	Pearson Correlation	1	.150
	Sig. (2-tailed)		.776
	N	6	6
PCI	Pearson Correlation	.150	1
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.776	
	N	6	6

Source: Compiled from SPSS version 20.

Table 4 below reveals the relationship between the two variables Value Added Tax and Per Capital Income. The result obtained indicate there is a positive linear relationship between Value Added Tax and Per Capital Income and it is not significant at 0.05 or 5% level of significance. The extent to which the explanatory variable (Value Added Tax) Influence the dependent variable (Per Capital Income) is to the degree of 0.150 that is approximately (%15).

Table 5: Correlations showing the relationship between VAT and BOP

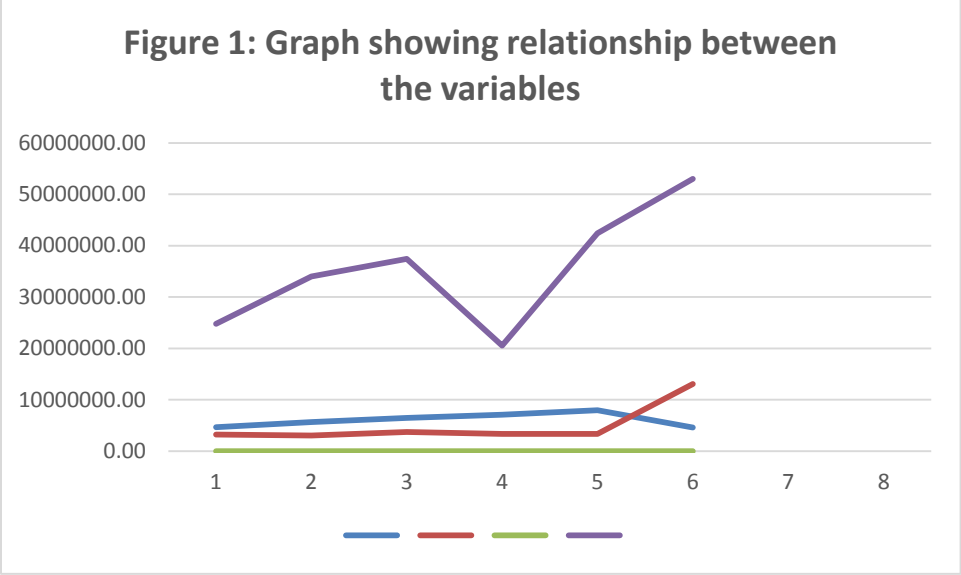
		VAT	BOP
VAT	Pearson Correlation	1	-.524
	Sig. (2-tailed)		.285
	N	6	6
BOP	Pearson Correlation	-.524	1
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.285	
	N	6	6

Source: Compiled from SPSS version 20.

Table 4 below reveals the relationship between the two variables Value Added Tax and Balance of Payment. The result obtained indicate there is a negative linear relationship between Value Added Tax and Balance of Payment and it is not significant at 0.05 or 5% level of significance. The extent to which the explanatory variable (Value Added Tax) Influence the dependent variable (Balance of Payment) is to the degree of (0.524) that is approximately (%52.4).

Graphical Analysis

The graph below shows the relationship between the variables; VAT, BOP, PCI and GDP.



Source: Computations using Microsoft Excel

Test of Hypotheses

Hypothesis one

Ho: There is no significant relationship between VAT and GDP of Nigeria.

Hi: There is significant relationship between VAT and GDP of Nigeria.

Model Summary

Model	R	R Square	Adjusted R Square	Std. Error of the Estimate
1	.154[a]	.024	-.220	13049530.65990

a. Predictors: (Constant), VAT

ANOVA[a]

Model		Sum of Squares	df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
1	Regression	16621294777844.219	1	16621294777844.219	.098	.770[b]
	Residual	681161001774643.900	4	170290250443660.970		
	Total	697782296552488.100	5			

a. Dependent Variable: GDP

b. Predictors: (Constant), VAT

Coefficients[a]

Model		Unstandardized Coefficients		Standardized Coefficients	T	Sig.
		B	Std. Error	Beta		
1	(Constant)	43531503.969	26710571.031		1.630	.178
	VAT	-.001	.004	-.154	-.312	.770

a. Dependent Variable: GDP

Interpretations

The table above shows result for the simple linear regression analysis examining the relationship between Value Added Tax and Gross Domestic Product.

The model summary table reveals a co-efficient denoted by R=.154[a] which indicate a weak and positive relationship dependent variable (gross domestic product) and independent variable (value added tax) it also reveal R square (R^2) the co-efficient of determination which is used to explain the percentage of variation in the dependent variable that is explained by the independent variable from the model summary table R^2=.024 or 2.4%, this indicate that about 2.4% variation in dependent variable (Gross Domestic Product) is explained by the independent variable (Value Added Tax)

The ANOVA table shows how good the model is. It reveals that the F statistic of .098 and a significance of 0.770 were greater than 0.05 showing that the variables were not statistically significant. The un-standardized co-efficient table shows the relevant figure for the multiple linear regression model, which indicates how a unit change in the dependent variable will affect the dependent variable.

Hypothesis Two

Ho: There is no significant relationship between VAT and per capital income of Nigeria.

Hi: There is significant relationship between VAT and per capital income of Nigeria.

Model Summary

Model	R	R Square	Adjusted R Square	Std. Error of the Estimate
1	.150[a]	.023	-.222	2543.69824

a. Predictors: (Constant), VAT

ANOVA[a]

Model		Sum of Squares	Df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
1	Regression	597399.413	1	597399.413	.092	.776[b]
	Residual	25881603.046	4	6470400.762		
	Total	26479002.459	5			

a. Dependent Variable: PCI

Coefficients[a]

Model	Unstandardized Coefficients	Standardized Coefficients	T	Sig.

		B	Std. Error	Beta		
1	(Constant)	9178.348	5206.596		1.763	.153
	VAT	2.553E-007	.000	.150	304	.776

a. Dependent Variable: PCI

Interpretations

The table above shows result for the simple linear regression analysis examining the relationship between Value Added Tax and Gross Domestic Product.

The model summary table reveals a co-efficient denoted by R=.150[a] which indicate a weak and positive relationship dependent variable (gross domestic product) and independent variable (value added tax) it also reveal R square (R^2) the co-efficient of determination which is used to explain the percentage of variation in the dependent variable that is explained by the independent variable from the model summary table R^2=.023 or 2.3%, this indicate that about 2.3% variation in dependent variable (Per Capital Income) is explained by the independent variable (Value Added Tax).

The ANOVA table shows how good the model is. It reveals that the F statistic of .092 and a significance of 0.776 were greater than 0.05 showing that the variables were not statistically significant. The un-standardized co-efficient table shows the relevant figure for the multiple linear regression model, which indicates how a unit change in the dependent variable will affect the dependent variable.

Hypothesis Three

Ho: There is no significant relationship between VAT and Balance of Payment of Nigeria.
Hi: There is significant relationship between VAT and Balance of Payment of Nigeria.

Model Summary

Model	R	R Square	Adjusted R Square	Std. Error of the Estimate
1	.524[a]	.275	.094	3779503.03019

a. Predictors: (Constant), VAT

ANOVA[a]

Model		Sum of Squares	Df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
1	Regression	21684078631301.860	1	21684078631301.860	1.518	.285[b]
	Residual	57138572620722.390	4	14284643155180.598		
	Total	78822651252024.250	5			

a. Dependent Variable: BOP
b. Predictors: (Constant), VAT

Coefficients[a]

Model		Unstandardized Coefficients		Standardized Coefficients	T	Sig.
		B	Std. Error	Beta		
1	(Constant)	14309577.886	7736116.093		1.850	.138
	VAT	-.002	.001	-.524	-1.232	.285

a. Dependent Variable: BOP

Interpretations

The table above shows result for the simple linear regression analysis examining the relationship between Value Added Tax and Gross Domestic Product.

The model summary table reveals a co-efficient denoted by R=.524[a] which indicate a positive relationship dependent variable (gross domestic product) and independent variable (Value Added Tax) it also reveal R square (R^2) the co-efficient of determination which is used to explain the percentage of variation in the dependent variable that is explained by the independent variable from the model summary table R^2=.0275 or 27.5%, this indicate that about 27.5% variation in dependent variable (Per Capital Income) is explained by the independent variable (Value Added Tax).

The ANOVA table shows how good the model is. It reveals that the F statistic of 1.518 and a significance F of 0.285 were greater than 0.05 showing that the variables were not statistically significant. The un-standardized co-efficient table shows the relevant figure for the multiple linear regression model, which indicates how a unit change in the dependent variable will affect the dependent variable.

III. Discussion of Findings

The research was carried out to evaluate the influence of Value Added Tax on economic growth of Nigeria. In order to establish whether these factors have a relationship or not, three hypotheses were put to test.

The first hypothesis sought to establish whether there is significant relationship between Value Added Tax and Gross Domestic Product. The result of hypothesis tested show that there is no significant linear relationship between Value Added Tax and Gross Domestic Product due to the fact that alpha value is greater than P-value (0.05< 0.770). This result corroborates with the assertion made by **Liu (2008),** he examined the casual relationship between GDP and Value Added Tax for US data for 1947-2002.

The results revealed that the linear relationship between VAT and GDP is not significant enough compared to other sources of revenue that constitute the Gross Domestic Product. This is however in compliance with the research work carried out by **Okoye, and Gbegi (2009)** where they discovered that revenue generated through VAT has no significance influence on wealth creation in Nigeria and also has no significant effect on the overall tax revenue in Nigeria. **Nwezeaku and Anyafo (2010)** also discovered that revenue generated from Value Added Tax is so meagre compared to revenue from other sources as such, government can do without VAT. **Izedonmi and Okunbor (2014)** empirically examined the contribution of VAT to the development of the Nigerian economy. They used time series data on the Gross Domestic Product (GDP), VAT Revenue, Total Tax Revenue and (Federal Government) Revenue from 1994 to 2010. The data were analyzed using multiple regression modelling. Their findings showed that VAT Revenue accounted for 92% significant variations in Nigeria's GDP. It showed a positive but insignificant correlation between VAT Revenue and GDP. However, the insignificant effect of VAT has on GDP of Nigeria may be attributable to corruption and embezzlement in the system that something might be wrong with the computation of the figure. It also showed that government could generate more revenue if revenue leakages are checked.

The second hypothesis sought to investigate whether there is significant relationship between Value Added Tax and Per Capital income of Nigerians. Hypothesis two also shows weak and positive relationship between VAT and Per Capital Income. The result of this test indicates that there is no significant linear relationship between VAT and Per Capital Income of Nigeria due to the fact that alpha value is greater than P-value (0.05< 0.776). This implies that the relationship between VAT and Per Capital Income of Nigeria is not significant enough. The analyzed results showed that VAT has had no significant effect on Per Capital Income of Nigerians for the years covered by the analysis. Per Capital Income is a key indicator of economic growth as researched by **Okoye, and Gbegi (2009)** showed that VAT has no effect on wealth creations of Nigerians. The analysis showed that the effect of VAT on Per Capital Income sis so insignificant and meagre. Also, the finding is consistent with that of **Koman and Brahmasrene (2007).** They examined the association between VAT Per Capital Income in Thailand, by employing the Granger Causality test. The results showed that Value Added Tax and Per Capital Income do not co-integrate. Hence, if further exposed, the unidirectional relationship between, as causality runs from VAT to Per Capital Income, the results expressed a positive effect of VAT on Per Capital Income. The positive coefficient Per Capital Income also tends to suggest that Wagner's hypothesis holds for Nigeria. The results showed that there is a long run positive relationship between income per capital and Value Added Tax.

The third hypothesis sought to determine whether there is significant relationship between Value Added Tax and Balance of Payment of Nigeria. In testing for hypothesis three, it revealed that there is a weak and positive relationship between VAT and Balance of Payment. The result of this test indicates that there is no significant linear relationship between VAT and Balance of Payment of Nigeria due to the fact that Alpha value is greater than P-value (0.05< 0.285). **Bakare (2013)** investigated VAT on output growth in Nigeria, using the Ordinary Least Square regression technique, he found a significant relationship between VAT and output growth in Nigeria with emphasis on Balance of Payment. The

results of his findings also showed that the past values of VAT could be used to predict the future behaviour of output growth in Nigeria and the surplus/deficit nature of BOP. The main conclusion of the study was that Value Added Tax has the potential to assist in the diversification of revenue sources, thereby providing enough funds for economic growth and development and reducing over dependence on oil for revenue. He also assert that Balance of Payment basically complies to measure gross deficits or surpluses with the rest of the world. However, the Balance of Payment statement has become increasingly important in recent years, as it has been devised to describe in a concise fashion the state of international economic relationship of the country, as a guide to its monetary, fiscal exchange control and other policies. Thus, **Onwuchekwa and Aruwa (2014)** investigated the impact of VAT on economic growth of Nigeria. They employed the Ordinary Least Square Technique to test the hypotheses formulated. The result showed that VAT contributed, but not much significantly to the total tax revenue of government and by extension, the economic growth of Nigeria. It was also observed that VAT revenue growth had a consistent, although not explosive increase.

Based on the findings, it is established that Value Added Tax does not influence Economic Growth of Nigeria.

IV. Conclusion

The indication of this is that even though Value Added Tax reflects an insignificant linear relationship to Nigeria's economic growth, it still remains an integral part of the Nigeria economy. As such, Nigeria will grow economically if the status quo is sustained; though there is always room for improvement. The results of this study indicate that if more goods and services are taxed, the revenue base of the country will increase.

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