FIRM ATTRIBUTES AND TAX AVOIDANCE IN NIGERIAN LISTED MANUFACTURING COMPANIES

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ABSTRACT

This study investigated the effect of firm attributes on tax avoidance among listed manufacturing companies in Nigeria. Ex-post facto design was employed in the study with secondary data being gathered from published annual reports of these companies from 2012 up to 2021. Hypothesis was tested using the Ordinary Least Squares (OLS) approach. The results portrayed a positive relationship between firm leverage (FIL) and tax avoidance, though this relationship was not statistically significant at 5 percent level ($p > 0.05$). This shows that big-sized companies among manufacturing companies quoted in Nigeria tend to be more tax aggressive. The study concluded that firm attributes do not significantly affect tax avoidance in these companies. Consequently, it suggested that the Federal Inland Revenue Service (FIRS) need to promote transparency in tax reporting by encouraging companies to disclose their tax planning strategies, particularly given the significant influence of larger boards of directors on tax behavior. Also, offering tax benefits by the government to firms that engage in sustainable practices, research and development, and employee training is important to steer profitable companies away from aggressive tax strategies and promote socially responsible business behaviour.

Keywords: Firm Attributes, Firm Leverage, Firm Growth, Capital Intensity.

JEL Classification: H26, M14

1.0 INTRODUCTION

Taxation is a fundamental aspect of public finance, shaping the economy of every nation. In Nigeria, various administrations have strategically applied fiscal policies to stimulate growth in the private enterprises domain, especially within business and industrial areas (Okerekeoti, 2022). Government utilizes tax revenue to fulfill its traditional duties, which include providing social amenities, the maintenance of law, defending against external attacks and threats, and regulating businesses to ensure economic and social balance (Rimamsikwe & Sule, 2022). Gatsi, Gadzo, and Kportorgbi (2018) observe that taxation contributes to the challenges faced by the manufacturing sector, as tax laws serve multiple purposes beyond simply generating income for the nation. It has the potential to safeguard emerging sectors as well as incentivize investors to channel their investments into them (Ogbodo & Omonigho, 2021). According to Ngozi (2022), contributing to the advancement and prosperity of an economy is an anticipated responsibility for taxpayers. Nonetheless, taxpayers frequently view tax payments as a burden, prompting them to reduce their tax expenses by taking advantage of loopholes in various tax acts.

Tax avoidance involves engaging in activities within the framework of tax legislation for the purpose of reducing the firm's tax expense, as indicated by the effective tax rate of the entity. It encompasses utilizing the loopholes provided by tax legislation to reduce tax liability (Yahaya & Yusuf, 2020). By adopting a tax avoidance strategy, a company can lower its tax payments, leading to an enhanced financial position (Chen, Cheok & Raziah, 2019). While the approaches might comply with the law, governments globally have consistently opposed them because they shift funds from the relevant authorities to the shareholders, limiting the government's ability to meet its legal duties. The use of tax shields reduces tax payments, prompting individuals and corporations to invest significant effort in selecting deductions for their financial statements every year-end. The purpose of tax avoidance is to postpone or eradicate tax obligations, thereby reducing the effective tax rate for both businesses and individuals.

Firm attributes form the foundation for achieving a company's goals, encompassing various facets of management, including internal controls, corporate disclosure, action plans and performance evaluation. Management bears numerous responsibilities, with a key focus on maximizing wealth for shareholders. Zemzem and Fluohi (2019) assert that firm attributes are linked to factors such as audit committee size, board size, firm leverage, managerial ownership, firm growth, and firm liquidity. These commonly acknowledged board characteristics are essential for maintaining the integrity of the financial reporting procedure and ensuring the provision of high-quality information for tax liability calculations, which is crucial for national development and public revenue. Despite this understanding, income taxes are often seen as a significant cash outflow, necessitating substantial time, effort, and financial resources to minimize their effect on financial outcomes. The correlation between corporate attributes and tax aggressiveness can manifest in various contexts. One such scenario involves preventing boards of directors from endorsing actions that contradict the interests of shareholders. Another aspect is guaranteeing the excellence of management choices and openness in tax management. Specifically, it is crucial to ensure that the board, shareholders, and other stakeholders are well-informed about the factors influencing tax management (Nwezoku & Egbunike, 2020).

Tax avoidance has emerged as a significant issue in corporate governance, particularly in developing economies like Nigeria, where tax revenue is crucial for economic development. While existing literature has extensively explored the determinants of tax avoidance globally, there remains a limited focus on how firm-specific attributes influence tax avoidance within Nigerian-listed manufacturing companies. This lack of attention is concerning, given the sector's pivotal role in the nation's economic growth and its potential to contribute significantly to tax revenue. Additionally, the unique regulatory and economic environment of Nigeria, characterized by inconsistent tax policies, weak enforcement, and pervasive corruption, warrants a deeper investigation into the contextual factors shaping corporate tax practices. To address these gaps, our study examined the influence of firm attributes on tax avoidance of Nigerian listed manufacturing firms. The study is divided into five parts, with the first part being the introduction, the second reviewing the literature, followed by a description of the research methods, the fourth explaining the results, and the last part concluding with recommendations.

2.0 LITERATURE REVIEW

Corporate governance attributes encompass the policies and procedures implemented by companies to attain specific objectives, corporate visions, and missions concerning many stakeholders (Poudel, 2015). The primary focus lies on enhancing the trustworthiness of accounting information furnished to stakeholders (Ogbodo & Omonigho, 2021). Firm attributes can be categorized into two: internal and external processes. External governance processes encompass the stock market, legal framework, and corporate control market (Bushman & Smith, 2017). Internal governance processes involve the audit committee, remuneration committee, board of directors, ownership structure, and management compensation as noted by Denis and McConnell (2018). Karaibrahimoglu (2021) stated that these methods are closely related to the structure, composition, and features of the company’s board. According to Waluyo (2020), the main objective of effective firm attributes is geared towards maintaining accountability, and efforts towards protecting shareholders' interests, including fulfilling tax obligations.

The underpinning theory for this study is the stakeholders' theory. The theory was introduced by R. Edward Freeman in his 1984 book "Strategic Management: A Stakeholder Approach." The theory suggested that the interests of all stakeholders (individuals or groups) that affect or are affected by a company's actions should be taken into account in the decision-making processes of businesses, rather than focusing solely on shareholders. The firm aims to generate wealth or value for its stakeholders by transforming their investments into goods and services. Jiraporn, Kim, and Davidson (2020) further suggest that stakeholder theory seeks to determine which stakeholder groups merit and need management's attention. According to Odunsi (2024), tax avoidance involves strategies aimed at reducing tax liabilities in a calculated manner. This practice often undermines the interests of stakeholders, as firms become tax aggressive. Organizations that engage in such behavior frequently disregard best practice codes, which advocate for ethical and moral responsibility toward stakeholders. Consequently, these organizations may fail to fulfill their social responsibilities by minimizing their tax obligations. In essence, the agency relationship between the providers of corporate finances and those managing the firm's affairs is disrupted by conflict. This issue arises from the principal agents' goal of maximizing shareholders' wealth, while self-interested agents attempt to appropriate funds for themselves.

Ebimobowei (2022) conducted a study examining how corporate attributes impact the tax avoidance activities of Nigerian listed pharmaceutical firms between 2015 and 2020. Ex post facto research design was utilized, the investigation targeted a population size of eleven pharmaceutical companies, with data extracted from their published financial statements as of December 31, 2020. The research work utilized secondary data sourced from published annual financial statements of the firms. The results from the multiple regression technique indicated that board financial expertise and board size had a positive but insignificant impact on tax savings. Conversely, board meetings and board compensation had a negative and insignificant impact on tax savings, meanwhile, gender diversity also had a negative and insignificant impact. Additionally, further analysis revealed board expertise to have a significant effect on book-tax differences, whereas board meetings, board compensation, board size, and gender diversity had a negative and insignificant impact. The conclusion reached by the study is that corporate attributes influence the tax avoidance approach of Nigerian listed firms.

Similarly, Uten (2022) assessed the role of board characteristics on the tax avoidance of Nigerian listed oil and gas firms spanning 2011 to 2020. This study included all 13 oil and gas corporate entities quoted on the Nigerian Exchange Group, using an unbalanced panel that accounted for both delisted and newly listed companies during the period. The research was based on secondary data from the sampled companies' financial reports. Various statistical tests, including multicollinearity, heteroskedasticity, normality, and Generalized Least Square Random Effect, were used to ascertain the best estimator for the regression model. The findings indicated that gender diversity and board financial expertise had a significant negative effect on the Effective Tax Rate (ETR) of Nigerian oil and gas firms. This suggests that these board attributes contribute to a reduction in ETR and promote tax aggressiveness among the firms studied.

Salaudeen and Abdulwahab (2022) investigated the influence of favorable corporate characteristics on the tax compliance behavior of quoted firms in Nigeria spanning 2012 to 2016. They selected a sample of 79 quoted companies that met specific inclusion criteria, that is companies whose financial reports or tax returns were not available within the five-year period from 2012 to 2016, which was covered by this study, were excluded from the population. Data on corporate governance features were obtained from the companies' annual reports, while data on tax compliance metrics were sourced from their tax office records. The fixed-effect model, chosen as a result of Hausman test results, was used to analyze the findings. The findings indicated a significant positive correlation between tax compliance and both managerial ownership and the presence of non-executive directors. However, board size was negatively related to tax compliance. No significant effects were found for auditor profile, institutional ownership, gender diversity, and ownership concentration.

Lambe, Orbunde, and Akinpelu (2021) explored the role of corporate governance components on tax aggressiveness in Nigeria's manufacturing sector. Employing an ex-post facto research design, they analyzed secondary data from 44 publicly quoted manufacturing companies spanning 2008 to 2020. A multiple regression analysis was formulated to explore the relationships that exist between the regressed and the regressor. From the research work, it revealed that individually, both board size and board diversity had a positive but statistically insignificant impact on tax avoidance. Conversely, return on assets, used as a control variable, had a positive and statistically significant impact on tax avoidance. The conclusion by the study is that there is a significant association between corporate attribute mechanisms and the tax aggressiveness of Nigerian listed manufacturing companies.

Olurankinse and Oyewole (2021) examined the effect of corporate social responsibility on tax aggressiveness in Nigeria quoted companies. The study adopted Ex-Post-facto method with extensive reliance on secondary data sourced from the annual reports of thirty-five (35) manufacturing firms quoted on the floor of Nigerian Stock Exchange for the period of 2011-2019. Both statistical and econometric tools were employed in the analysis. The study showed that corporate social responsibility has a positive and significant relationship with tax aggressiveness proxied by effective tax rate in Nigerian manufacturing firms. It was also discovered that community development has a negative effect on tax aggressiveness proxied by effective tax rate in Nigeria manufacturing firms. Also, Social and political engagement has negative effect on effective tax rate in Nigerian sampled manufacturing firms.

Chukwu and Appah (2020) investigated the effect of corporate governance mechanism on tax aggressiveness of listed consumer firms in Nigeria for the period 2015 to 2019. The study employed ex-post facto research design and analyzed data obtained from the published annual reports and financial statements of twenty-two firms for the sample period. The dependent variable, tax aggressiveness, was measured using effective tax rate, while the independent variable, corporate governance, consisted of board independence, board size, ownership structure, audit committee size and audit quality. Profitability and firm size were introduced as control variables. The data obtained from the annual reports were analyzed with descriptive statistics, correlational analysis and multiple regression analysis. The findings of the study revealed a negative but significant relationship between board independence and effective tax rate. Each of the other corporate governance variables had insignificant relationship with effective tax rate.

Onatuyeh and Ukolobi (2020) examined the measures of tax aggressiveness of effective tax rate and cash tax rate as well as corporate governance mechanisms of board gender diversity, audit committee diligence, and board independence; and how these variables explain changes in external audit fees. A sample of one hundred and seven (107) firms from the entire firms quoted on the Nigerian Stock Exchange as at December, 2018 was utilized. Data were sourced solely from annual financial statements of the studied firms over a ten-year period (2009 to 2018). The panel regression technique, with preference for the random effect model based on the outcome of the Hausman test, was employed to estimate the balanced panel data. The results of the study showed that cash tax rate, audit committee diligence and board independence all exert positive and significant effect on audit fees. Surprisingly, the study revealed a positive but statistically insignificant link between board gender diversity and audit fees. This result may not be unconnected with the low presence of female directors on the board of the firms investigated.

The following question arises in this study: What effect does firm leverage have on tax avoidance in Nigerian listed manufacturing companies? To address this inquiry, the study aims to examine the effect of firm leverage on tax avoidance in Nigerian listed manufacturing companies. The following hypothesis is formulated in the null form for testing:

H_0: Firm leverage has no significant effect on effective tax rate of Nigerian manufacturing companies.

3.0 METHODOLOGY

The methodology utilized in this study follows an ex post facto approach, as elucidated by Kowthar (2021). In an ex post facto research design, the investigator conducts a structured empirical inquiry without manipulating independent variables, as the conditions being examined already exist or have taken place. A purposive sampling strategy was used to eliminate bias in selecting the sample of eleven designated manufacturing companies under investigation. This study employed panel data, with information being gathered from Nigerian listed manufacturing companies for a period of 10 years. In the manufacturing sector, firm-specific factors such as leverage, growth, and capital intensity might evolve over years due to market dynamics. A 10-year period captures these changes comprehensively. The data used for the study are Effective Tax Rate (Dependent variable), Firm Leverage (Independent variable), Firm Growth, and Capital Intensity. Secondary data were sourced from fact books, sampled companies audited financial statements and Nigerian Exchange Group's publication which spanned a decade, from 2012 to 2021.

3.1 Model Specification

The study aims to investigate how firm leverage influences tax avoidance among manufacturing companies listed in Nigeria. To achieve this, the model was structured in the following manner.

$ETR = f(FIL, FIG, CAI)$

Where:

ETR = Effective Tax Rate

FIL= Firm Leverage

FIG= Firm Growth

CAI = Capital Intensity

In econometric form, the model is specified below:

$ETR_{it} = \beta_0 + \beta_1 FIL_{it} + \beta_2 FIG_{it} + \beta_3 CAI_{it} + \varepsilon_{it}$.

Where i represent individual companies (from 1 to 11), and t represents the time (ranging from 2012 to 2021), β_0 remains constant, while β_1, β_2, and β_3 represent the parameters of the explanatory variables, and ε_{it} signifies the stochastic term.

Equation 3.2 is then reformulated in its logarithmic form as follows. Logging reduces the influence of extreme values (outliers). Since the log function grows at a decreasing rate, large values are compressed more than smaller ones, making the analysis more robust.

$LogETR_{it} = \beta_0 + \beta_1 LogFIL_{it} + \beta_2 LogFIG_{it} + \beta_3 LogCAI_{it} + \varepsilon_{it}$.

On apriori, we expect $\beta_1 > 0$; $\beta_2 > 0$ and $\beta_3 > 0$

4.0 RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

The section provides the descriptive statistics of the variables used, followed by the presentation of the results.

Table 2: Descriptive analysis of selected variables

Company	Mean	Min	Max	Std. Dev
Effective Tax Rate				
BUA Cement Plc	20.538	8.278	27.964	7.818
Nestle Nig. Plc	28.389	9.042	63.222	15.564
Guinness Nig.	35.740	-26.326	81.369	32.086
Fidson Healthcare Plc	42.347	11.176	159.954	43.623
Flour Mills of Nig. Plc	23.669	5.323	34.685	9.635
Unilever Nig. Plc	31.285	16.041	57.763	10.488
UAC of Nig. Plc	18.389	8.576	30.000	6.145
Nig. Breweries Plc	61.944	28.332	308.184	86.744
Lafarge Africa Plc	13.179	2.110	30.962	11.056
Dangote Cement Plc	36.680	12.780	155.124	42.144
Cadbury Nig. Plc	17.794	-47.341	32.690	24.185
Firm Leverage				
BUA Cement Plc	15.602	0.158	41.520	12.027
Nestle Nig. Plc	102.503	18.310	262.372	77.836
Guinness Nig.	66.127	21.529	192.258	52.818
Fidson Healthcare Plc	24.660	0.000	65.169	26.180
Flour Mills of Nig. Plc	68.522	25.998	141.647	35.056
Unilever Nig. Plc	11.915	0.001	36.682	13.952
UAC of Nig. Plc	0.001	0.001	0.001	0.001
Nig. Breweries Plc	104.036	0.525	261.762	102.234
Lafarge Africa Plc	27.375	4.034	79.585	26.770
Dangote Cement Plc	23.227	5.821	32.388	8.523
Cadbury Nig. Plc	13.435	0.001	76.856	25.149
Firm Growth				
BUA Cement Plc	6.187	-97.107	29.923	37.118

Nestle Nig. Plc	6.779	1.914	12.769	3.968
Guinness Nig.	8.443	-11.115	61.554	19.997
Fidson Healthcare Plc	14.080	-3.369	48.769	16.067
Flour Mills of Nig. Plc	13.015	-26.999	49.991	25.244
Unilever Nig. Plc	4.731	-18.730	39.028	16.049
UAC of Nig. Plc	22.177	-29.749	103.870	39.277
Nig. Breweries Plc	17.712	-2.054	107.676	33.981
Lafarge Africa Plc	19.088	-18.427	158.428	55.366
Dangote Cement Plc	3.487	-99.877	32.179	38.147
Cadbury Nig. Plc	-8.036	-88.538	16.516	29.409
Capital Intensity				
BUA Cement Plc	63.198	50.001	83.603	11.171
Nestle Nig. Plc	50.412	31.899	69.871	12.499
Guinness Nig.	50.412	31.899	69.871	12.499
Fidson Healthcare Plc	53.446	9.446	73.236	18.497
Flour Mills of Nig. Plc	36.123	23.467	73.054	16.218
Unilever Nig. Plc	28.022	2.329	53.081	17.589
UAC of Nig. Plc	2.438	0.775	4.661	1.177
Nig. Breweries Plc	629.970	62.219	1,194.355	404.270
Lafarge Africa Plc	53.087	24.728	83.924	20.124
Dangote Cement Plc	40.309	21.488	60.555	13.944
Cadbury Nig. Plc	37.029	0.828	49.908	14.603

Source: Author's computation (2025).

Table 2 describes all the variables. From 2012 to 2021, the Nigeria Breweries was the highest among the listed companies at 61.944% concerning the mean effective tax rate while Lafarge Cement Plc had a lower mean value of 13.179%, depicting a more conventional tax planning method. During this period, the minimum effective tax rates were notably low for Cadbury Nig. Plc at -47.342% and Guinness Nig. at -26.326%, suggesting that these companies employed tax reduction strategies that significantly lowered their tax liabilities.

Nestle Nig. Plc holds the highest annual average debt-to-equity ratio (leverage) at 102.503%, closely followed by Nigeria Breweries Plc with an annual mean leverage of 104.036%, indicating both companies carried significant debt during the period. Furthermore, Unilever Nig. Plc, BUA Cement Plc, Cadbury Nig. Plc, UAC of Nig, and Fidson Healthcare Plc all maintained low minimum leverage values (< 0.001), indicating minimal debt levels during specific years.

With mean growth rate of 22.177% throughout the time, UAC of Nigeria Plc leads. Lafarge Africa Plc and Nigeria Breweries Plc, having mean growth rates to be 19.088% and 17.712% accordingly, are closely behind, demonstrating strong growth patterns. Dangote Cement Plc and Cadbury Nigeria Plc grow more slowly than the other companies, whereas Fidson Healthcare Plc [14.08%], Flour Mills of Nigeria Plc [13.015%], Guinness Nigeria [8.443%], and Nestle Nigeria Plc [6.779%] have relatively smaller annual average growth rates. With a growth rating of -99.877%, Dangote Cement Plc has the lowest annual minimum growth rates, suggesting a notable contraction or fall within a given year. Cadbury Nigeria Plc exhibits significant negative growth, with a minimum growth rate to be -88.538%. In terms of the highest growth numbers, the range is 16.516% to 158.428%. With a maximum growth rate of 158.428%, Lafarge Africa Plc has the most increase during this time. Nigeria Breweries Plc is not far behind, with the highest growth rate of 107.676%, indicating the same pattern of rapid expansion.

Nigeria Breweries Plc is the industry leader for capital intensity, with an annual mean capital intensity of 629.970%, showing that efficient revenue generation requires substantial capital expenditure. With a mean value of 63.198%, BUA Cement Plc comes in second, depicting a comparatively high degree of capital intensity. UAC of Nig. Plc has the least annual mean capital intensity (2.438%), suggesting that little capital is needed to generate revenue. The comparable mean values of 50.412% for Nestle Nig. Plc and Guinness Nig. indicate significant capital investment in their respective businesses.

4.1 Test of Hypothesis

The effect of firm leverage on tax avoidance in Nigerian listed manufacturing companies

Table 3: The regression analysis of FIL, FIG, CAI, and ETR

Variable	Coefficient	Std. Error	t-Statistic	Prob.
C	1.753188	0.123295	14.21949	0.0000
FIL	0.105534	0.061064	1.728258	0.0872
FIG	0.077393	0.015999	0.002270	0.0500
CAI	0.015999	0.040430	0.395723	0.6931
	Weighted Statistics			
Root MSE	0.180401	R-squared		0.219402
Mean dependent var	1.536814	Adjusted R-squared		0.288633
S.D. dependent var	0.182084	S.E. of regression		0.183773
Sum squared resid	3.579890	F-statistic		0.335370
Durbin-Watson stat	2.162111	Prob(F-statistic)		0.009784

Source: Author’s computation (2024).

The study aims to assess the impact of firm leverage on tax avoidance among listed manufacturing companies in Nigeria. Table 3 presents the results specific to the groups of selected listed manufacturing companies. According to the table, there is a positive relationship between firm leverage (FIL) and tax avoidance. A one percent rise in FIL results in a 0.106 percent rise in ETR. At 10 percent level, the findings are significant indicating that firm leverage is a key factor in tax avoidance among listed manufacturing companies. This finding aligns with prior expectations and corroborates the results of Yahaya & Kabir (2020) and Chukwudi, Okonkwo & Asika (2020) while the result does not corroborate with the findings of Yee & Abdullah (2018) and Nebie & Cheng (2023). This study therefore aligns with the stakeholders' theory which suggested that the interests of all stakeholders (individuals or groups) that affect or are affected by a company's actions should be taken into account in the decision-making processes of businesses, rather than focusing solely on shareholders.

Conversely, the coefficient for firm growth (FIG) is positive (0.077) and significant at 5 percent level ($p = 0.050$). This depicts that a one percent rise in FIG leads to a 0.077% increase in the effective tax rate (ETR). This indicates that quoted manufacturing firms in Nigeria with tremendous growth levels tend to have greater rates of tax avoidance. This result aligns with previous expectations and corroborates the results of Rudyanto, Julisar & Debora (2023), and Lawal (2021) while the result does not corroborate with the findings of Tanko (2023) and Ezekwesili & Ezejiofor (2022). Regarding the second control variable in the model, capital intensity positively affects tax avoidance. The results show that a one percent rise in CAI raises ETR by 0.693 percent, though this increase is not statistically significant. This implies that capital intensity does not significantly influence tax avoidance among Nigerian listed manufacturing companies when firm leverage is considered. This finding meets prior expectations and supports the conclusions of Afrianti & Uzliawat (2022) and Gunawan & Surjandari (2022) while it does not corroborate the findings of Abdulkadir, Issa & Yunusa (2020) and Omesi & Appah (2021). The model's R-squared value is 0.219, showing that about 21.9 percent of the changes in tax avoidance can be explained by the included independent variables. Additionally, the Durbin-Watson statistic of 2.162 suggests that no significant autocorrelation exists in the chosen model. Moreover, the F-statistic of 0.010 indicates the overall significance of the model. From the results, firm leverage has a positive and significant influence on tax avoidance among Nigerian listed manufacturing companies. In this case, the p-value (0.087) is greater than 5% (0.050), so the study accepts the null hypothesis. This means that firm leverage has no significant effect on tax avoidance in Nigerian listed manufacturing firms.

5.0 CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

This study analyzed the extent to which the characteristics of firms affect tax avoidance among manufacturing companies quoted in Nigeria. Eleven manufacturing firms quoted on the Nigerian Exchange Group were selected using a purposive sampling method. The study used the Effective Tax Rate (ETR) to represent tax avoidance. The analysis of firm leverage coefficients revealed a significant association, showing that big-sized companies tend to be more aggressive to tax.

From the results generated, the study made the following recommendations.

The FIRS ought to promote the disclosure of tax planning strategies by companies and enhance transparency in tax reporting, particularly considering the substantial impact of larger boards of directors on tax behavior. Additionally, fostering board education on tax-related matters can result in more transparent and ethically sound tax planning practices. This approach not only fosters public trust but also empowers stakeholders to more effectively evaluate a company's tax practices. In addition to that, providing tax incentives to companies engaged in sustainable practices, research and development, and employee training is crucial for guiding financially successful businesses away from aggressive tax strategies and encouraging socially responsible business conduct.

The limitation of the study is that changes in tax laws and regulations over time could influence tax aggressiveness. The study period covers different regulatory periods and it might be challenging to isolate the effect of firm leverage on tax avoidance.
This study has been able to investigate the influence of corporate attributes on tax aggressiveness among listed manufacturing companies in Nigeria. The study focused on only the manufacturing companies in Nigeria, further research should focus on cross-industry comparison which can shed light on whether tax avoidance patterns differ across sectors and whether the drivers of aggressive tax behavior vary between industries.

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