INTERNALLY GENERATED REVENUE (IGR) AND CORRUPTION IN NIGERIA: A FOCUS ON TAXES AND RATES

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ABSTRACT
This study investigates the pervasive impact of corruption on Internally Generated Revenue (IGR) in Nigeria, focusing specifically on the collection and administration of taxes and property rates. Utilizing a quantitative research design, data were collected through a structured questionnaire administered to 162 respondents in Edo State, representing various demographics and socioeconomic backgrounds. The analysis reveals a significant negative correlation between corruption and tax collection efficiency, evidenced by a correlation coefficient of -0.65. The findings indicate that high levels of bribery, embezzlement, and misappropriation of funds among tax and revenue officials substantially hinder effective revenue generation, thereby limiting the financial resources available for public services and infrastructural development. Moreover, the study highlights that corruption not only constrains revenue collection but also erodes public trust in government institutions, leading to a diminished perception of the efficacy and reliability of public services. This erosion of trust has far-reaching implications for governance and accountability in Nigeria, as citizens become increasingly disillusioned with their government's ability to manage resources effectively. To address these challenges, the study emphasizes the urgent need for enhanced transparency, robust accountability mechanisms, and the strengthening of institutional frameworks to combat corruption effectively. Policymakers are urged to implement reforms aimed at improving revenue administration and ensuring that collected taxes and rates are utilized for the public good. By contributing valuable insights to the existing literature on public finance management, this research serves as a critical resource for policymakers and stakeholders seeking to enhance revenue generation while curbing corrupt practices in Nigeria.

Introduction

Internally Generated Revenue (IGR) in Nigeria is essential for ensuring the financial independence of state and local governments. It consists of revenues collected within the jurisdiction of states, separate from federal allocations, enabling them to fund local projects and initiatives independently. Taxes and rates are among the most significant components of IGR. Taxes encompass personal income taxes, company taxes, consumption taxes, and other forms of statutory contributions, while rates include levies on properties and charges on services provided by local authorities. Together, these components provide the financial resources necessary for delivering essential public services and driving infrastructural development within states (Ogunleye & Owolabi, 2022). However, despite their importance, the efficient collection and utilization of IGR in Nigeria face significant challenges due to pervasive corruption within revenue administration. Corruption manifests in various ways, including bribery, misappropriation of funds, and embezzlement by revenue officials (Adedeji, 2023). These corrupt practices not only limit the volume of revenue collected but also erode public trust in government institutions. Citizens are less willing to comply with tax obligations when there is a perception that funds collected are not being properly utilized or are diverted for personal gains by officials (Eze & Nwosu, 2023). Consequently, corruption significantly hinders the effectiveness of public services, as the funds meant for local projects and infrastructural development are mismanaged or lost to corrupt practices. This problem is further compounded by the lack of transparency and accountability in the revenue collection process. Many state and local governments struggle to maintain accurate records of tax and rate collections, which creates opportunities for officials to manipulate revenue figures or engage in illicit activities (Ayodele & Akanbi, 2024). As a result, the success of IGR as a tool for achieving financial autonomy and fostering sustainable development in Nigeria depends largely on addressing corruption and establishing robust systems that ensure accountability and transparency in revenue administration. In Nigeria, the effectiveness of Internally Generated Revenue (IGR) in achieving sustainable development is severely impeded by corrupt practices within the revenue administration system. Taxes and rates serve as the primary sources of revenue generation for state and local governments. However, persistent issues such as lack of transparency, poor accountability, and inefficient systems significantly contribute to substantial revenue leakages (Okeke & Onuoha, 2023). Revenue administration often suffers from corrupt practices like bribery, embezzlement, and misappropriation of collected funds by officials. This corruption not only limits the volume of revenue collected but also affects the effective utilization of the generated revenue, thereby hindering infrastructural development and public service delivery.Moreover, the lack of transparency in revenue collection creates room for corrupt officials to manipulate tax records and divert collected funds for personal gain, reducing the funds available for development projects (Adekunle & Adebayo, 2022). Inefficient systems for monitoring and auditing tax and rate collections further exacerbate this problem. Poor accountability and weak enforcement mechanisms lead to substantial losses in potential revenue, which affects the financial autonomy of state and local governments and undermines public confidence in government institutions (Umeh & Olatunji, 2024). Citizens are often reluctant to comply with tax obligations when they believe that collected funds are not being used for their intended purposes.

This problem highlights the urgent need to investigate how corruption influences the collection and utilization of taxes and rates, and to identify effective strategies for improving revenue administration in Nigeria. Addressing these challenges is crucial to enhancing revenue collection efficiency, fostering accountability, and ensuring that IGR effectively contributes to sustainable development at state and local levels (Bello & Ikenna, 2023). Identifying these issues and implementing corrective measures can help to create a more transparent, accountable, and efficient revenue collection system in Nigeria.

Research Questions

1. How does corruption affect the collection of taxes in Nigeria?
2. What impact does corruption have on the administration of property rates in Nigeria?
3. How can the accountability and transparency of tax and rate collection systems be improved in Nigeria?

Literature Review

Taxes

Taxes are compulsory contributions imposed by governments on individuals, businesses, and organizations to generate revenue for public expenditure and infrastructure development. In Nigeria, taxes serve as a primary source of Internally Generated Revenue (IGR) and include several types such as personal income taxes, corporate taxes, value-added taxes (VAT), and consumption taxes (Oladele & Okafor, 2023). These taxes are essential for state and local governments to achieve financial independence and deliver public services like healthcare, education, and infrastructure. The successful collection of taxes requires an efficient and transparent system that ensures compliance and minimizes opportunities for tax evasion. However, the efficiency of tax collection in Nigeria is significantly compromised by corrupt practices. Corruption within the tax administration process fosters evasion and weakens revenue collection efforts (Ibrahim & Abdul, 2023). Officials involved in tax administration sometimes engage in bribery, accepting illicit payments from taxpayers to underreport taxable incomes or reduce tax liabilities. This practice not only leads to substantial revenue losses but also creates an environment in which tax evasion becomes normalized among individuals and businesses (Adamu & Musa, 2022). Moreover, mismanagement of collected funds due to corruption reduces the effectiveness of taxes as a tool for achieving development objectives. The misappropriation of tax revenues by officials undermines public trust and discourages voluntary tax compliance. Citizens and businesses are less likely to meet their tax obligations when they perceive that tax revenues are being diverted for personal gain rather than being utilized for public good (Ayo & Oyeniran, 2024). This erosion of public trust, coupled with inadequate accountability mechanisms, results in substantial revenue leakages and limits the capacity of state and local governments to achieve sustainable development. Therefore, addressing corruption in tax collection is crucial to enhancing the efficiency of IGR and improving public service delivery in Nigeria. Establishing transparent, accountable, and automated tax administration systems could help reduce the prevalence of corrupt practices and increase the revenue generated from taxes.

Rates

Rates are levies imposed by local authorities on properties and assets, typically calculated based on the assessed value of these properties. They serve as a significant source of Internally Generated Revenue (IGR) for local governments in Nigeria, providing essential funding for community-based projects such as road construction, waste management, water supply, and other local development initiatives (Adedeji & Folayan, 2023). Rates play a crucial role in enabling local governments to achieve financial autonomy and undertake infrastructural development projects that directly benefit local communities. Despite the importance of rates in sustaining local government functions, their collection is often plagued by corrupt practices. Corruption within revenue administration, especially in the collection of rates, leads to issues such as embezzlement, diversion of collected funds, and extortion of property owners (Ekanem & Olajide, 2023). Revenue officials sometimes collude with property owners to undervalue properties in exchange for bribes or misappropriate collected funds without proper accounting. These practices significantly diminish the amount of revenue collected and reduce the effectiveness of rates as a reliable source of public funding. The implications of corruption in the collection of rates are far-reaching. It directly affects the quality of public services and local infrastructure development, as funds that are meant for projects are siphoned off by corrupt officials (Okeke & Ibezim, 2024). When local authorities cannot effectively collect and utilize rates, communities suffer from inadequate services, deteriorating infrastructure, and poor living conditions. Additionally, property owners become disincentivized to comply with payment obligations due to perceived misuse of funds, which further exacerbates revenue leakages. To address these challenges, local authorities must adopt more transparent and accountable systems for rate collection. This can involve establishing automated property assessment and rate payment systems that reduce opportunities for manipulation and corruption (Bello & Salami, 2023). Implementing strong internal control mechanisms and regular audits could also help ensure that collected funds are accurately accounted for and utilized for their intended purposes, thereby improving the efficiency of revenue administration and fostering sustainable local development.

Internally Generated Revenue (IGR) and Corruption

Internally Generated Revenue (IGR) is crucial for the financial sustainability of state and local governments in Nigeria. It encompasses various revenue streams, primarily taxes and rates collected from individuals and businesses within their jurisdictions. IGR is vital for funding public services, infrastructure projects, and other essential governmental functions that directly impact citizens' quality of life. However, the efficacy of IGR in Nigeria is severely undermined by widespread corruption within revenue administration. Corruption manifests in multiple ways, including bribery, embezzlement, and fraudulent activities among tax and revenue officials. These corrupt practices create significant barriers to efficient revenue collection, as they lead to substantial revenue leakages. For instance, tax officials may engage in collusion with taxpayers to facilitate tax evasion, thereby reducing the overall tax base. A study by Ekanem & Olajide (2023) highlighted that over 75% of property owners believed corruption among local officials impeded the proper collection of property rates, resulting in lost revenue that could have been used for community development projects. Moreover, the negative correlation between corruption and tax collection efficiency further illustrates the detrimental impact of corrupt practices. The correlation coefficient of -0.65 indicates that as corruption increases, the efficiency of IGR collection decreases. This dynamic not only affects the volume of revenue generated but also erodes public trust in governmental institutions. Citizens become disillusioned when they perceive tax officials as corrupt, leading to increased tax evasion and a general reluctance to comply with tax obligations. Addressing corruption is, therefore, imperative for improving IGR in Nigeria. Implementing transparent systems, promoting accountability, and establishing independent oversight bodies are essential steps toward creating an environment where efficient revenue collection can flourish. Without these measures, the cycle of corruption will continue to inhibit the potential of IGR, ultimately hindering economic growth and development across the country. Ensuring the integrity of the revenue collection process is essential not only for increasing IGR but also for restoring public confidence in government institutions and fostering sustainable development.

Theoretical Framework

This study adopts the **Public Choice Theory**, which posits that government officials, similar to individuals operating within the market, are primarily motivated by self-interest. Developed by economists such as James Buchanan and Gordon Tullock, this theory argues that politicians and bureaucrats are driven by the desire to maximize their utility, often prioritizing personal gains over the public good (Buchanan & Tullock, 1962). In the context of Internally Generated Revenue (IGR), Public Choice Theory provides a valuable lens through which to examine the behavior of revenue officials and the dynamics of revenue collection in Nigeria. Within this framework, the actions of government officials can be understood as a series of decisions aimed at maximizing their own benefits, whether through financial incentives, power, or job security. For instance, tax collectors may engage in corrupt practices, such as bribery or embezzlement, to enhance their personal wealth or job performance metrics, while neglecting the responsibility to collect and utilize taxes and rates for the welfare of the public (Meyer & Dutta, 2023). This self-interested behavior often leads to the prioritization of personal or political interests over the efficient administration of public funds. Moreover, the Public Choice Theory underscores the importance of institutional frameworks and accountability mechanisms in curbing corrupt practices. When the incentives for corrupt behavior are high and the likelihood of detection is low, officials may feel emboldened to engage in malfeasance (Tullock, 2005). This situation highlights the necessity for robust regulatory systems, transparent processes, and effective checks and balances to minimize opportunities for corruption and ensure that revenue collection processes align with public welfare objectives. Ultimately, by applying Public Choice Theory to the study of IGR in Nigeria, this research aims to elucidate the underlying motivations that drive corrupt practices in tax and rate collection. Understanding these dynamics is essential for formulating strategies to enhance transparency, accountability, and efficiency in revenue administration, thereby ensuring that IGR can effectively contribute to sustainable development and public service delivery. Addressing these theoretical implications is crucial for creating an environment where the interests of officials align more closely with the needs of the public, fostering trust and improving the overall effectiveness of government revenue systems.

Empirical Review

Previous studies have explored the relationship between corruption and revenue administration in Nigeria. Adeniji & Folayan (2023) examined a study on "Corruption and Tax Revenue Generation in Nigeria," utilizing a quantitative approach with a structured questionnaire distributed to 150 tax officials across several states, selected through stratified random sampling. Their findings revealed a significant negative correlation between corruption and tax revenue generation, with over 60% of respondents indicating that corrupt practices among tax officials result in substantial revenue losses. The authors concluded that enhancing transparency and implementing stricter accountability measures are crucial for improving the efficiency of tax collection in Nigeria.

Ibrahim & Abdul (2023) conducted a qualitative study titled "Impact of Corruption on Local Government Revenue Generation: Evidence from Selected Local Authorities in Nigeria," which involved in-depth interviews with local government officials, tax collectors, and community members. Their research unveiled widespread corruption practices such as bribery and embezzlement, leading to a notable decline in the quality of local services. The authors recommended establishing independent audit committees to oversee local revenue collection processes, thereby fostering accountability and trust in local governance.

Ekanem & Olajide (2023) conducted a mixed-methods study titled "The Role of Corruption in Diminishing IGR: A Case Study of Property Rates in Nigeria," which combined surveys with 200 property owners and focus group discussions. Their results indicated that 75% of property owners believed corruption among local authorities severely impacted the efficient collection of property rates. The study concluded that implementing automated property assessment systems could reduce human interference and corruption, thereby improving revenue generation from property rates.

Okeke & Ibezim (2024) examined the study "Corruption in Revenue Administration: Analyzing the Tax Compliance Behavior of Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) in Nigeria," employing a survey design with a sample of 180 SMEs from various sectors. The study revealed that 70% of respondents engaged in tax evasion due to fears of corruption among tax officials. The authors concluded that fostering a culture of compliance through awareness campaigns emphasizing the importance of tax contributions could mitigate the adverse effects of corruption on tax revenue.

Bello & Salami (2023) investigated the case study "Transparency and Accountability in Local Government Revenue Collection: Implications for IGR in Nigeria" through interviews and document analysis across three local governments in Nigeria. They found that a lack of transparency in revenue collection processes allowed corruption to flourish, diminishing local governments' potential for IGR. The study highlighted the importance of implementing e-governance solutions to enhance transparency and trust, concluding that such measures could significantly improve revenue collection efficiency.

Ayo & Oyeniran (2024) focused their research on "Assessing the Impact of Corruption on Tax Collection Efficiency: Perspectives from Tax Administrators in Nigeria," gathering the views of tax administrators through a questionnaire distributed to 100 tax officials. The study found that 80% of respondents believed corruption significantly hindered their ability to collect taxes effectively. The authors recommended comprehensive training programs for tax officials to strengthen ethical standards and reduce corruption in tax administration, emphasizing the need to cultivate a culture of integrity within tax offices to enhance revenue collection efficiency.

Methodology

The study is focused on Edo State, Nigeria, examining corruption's impact on IGR collection with specific attention to taxes and property rates. The population comprises revenue officials, taxpayers, and residents of Edo State. The estimated population size is 1,200. A sample size of 162 respondents was determined using Taro Yamane's formula. The study adopts a descriptive survey design, which allows for the collection of quantitative data on the relationship between corruption and IGR. Data were collected using a structured questionnaire designed to measure respondents' perceptions of corruption and its effects on tax and rate collection. The questionnaires were administered through face-to-face distribution to revenue officials, residents, and business owners in Edo State. Data were analyzed using descriptive statistics (mean, standard deviation)

and inferential statistics (Pearson correlation analysis) to assess the relationship between corruption, taxes, and rates.

Data Analysis

Table 1: Demographic Characteristics of Respondents

Demographic Variable	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Gender		
Male	100	61.7%
Female	62	38.3%
Age Group		
18-25 years	45	27.8%
26-35 years	68	42.0%
36-45 years	30	18.5%
46 years and above	19	11.7%

Source: *Field Survey (2024)*

Table 1 presents the demographic characteristics of the respondents involved in the study, providing valuable insights into the composition of the sample population. The data reveals that the majority of respondents were male, accounting for 61.7% of the total, while females constituted 38.3%. This gender distribution suggests a predominance of male participation, which may reflect broader societal trends or occupational demographics within the context of tax administration and revenue collection in Edo State. Understanding the gender dynamics is essential for interpreting the perspectives and experiences shared by respondents regarding corruption and Internally Generated Revenue (IGR). The age group distribution indicates a youthful demographic among the respondents, with individuals aged 26-35 years representing the largest segment at 42.0%. This is followed by the 18-25 years group at 27.8%, while the older age groups, 36-45 years and 46 years and above, accounted for 18.5% and 11.7%, respectively. The predominance of younger respondents highlights a potential generational shift in attitudes toward tax compliance and corruption. Younger individuals may have different perceptions and experiences concerning government practices compared to older generations, which could influence their responses regarding IGR and corruption. Additionally, the significant representation of younger respondents may suggest that the workforce in tax administration and revenue collection is becoming increasingly youthful. This shift could have implications for the implementation of innovative strategies to combat corruption, as younger employees might be more receptive to adopting technology-driven solutions and reforms aimed at enhancing transparency and accountability in revenue generation processes. Overall, the demographic characteristics presented in Table 1 provide a foundational understanding of the sample population, allowing for a more nuanced interpretation of the findings. Recognizing the gender and age distribution of respondents is crucial for tailoring anti-corruption initiatives and fostering an inclusive approach to improving IGR collection. Furthermore, engaging younger individuals in discussions and strategies related to revenue administration may lead to more effective solutions in addressing the challenges posed by corruption in Nigeria.

Table 2: Corruption's Impact on Rates Administration

Statements	Mean	Std. Dev.
Corruption leads to embezzlement	4.52	0.76
Bribery in rate collection	4.28	0.68
Misappropriation of rate funds	4.34	0.72

Source: *Field Survey (2024)*

Table 2 illustrates the respondents' perceptions regarding the impact of corruption on rates administration, with three key statements evaluated based on their mean scores and standard deviations. The findings highlight significant concerns surrounding corruption in the collection and management of rates, which are essential for Internally Generated Revenue (IGR). The statement "Corruption leads to embezzlement" received the highest mean score of **4.52**, accompanied by a standard deviation of **0.76**. This indicates a strong consensus among respondents that embezzlement is a prevalent consequence of corrupt practices in rates administration. The high mean score suggests that many participants believe that funds collected through rates are frequently misappropriated by officials for personal gain, leading to substantial revenue losses for local governments. Such embezzlement not only diminishes the resources available for community development projects

but also undermines public trust in the integrity of revenue collection systems. The second statement, "Bribery in rate collection," garnered a mean score of **4.28** and a standard deviation of **0.68**. This finding reflects a widespread acknowledgment of bribery as a common practice in the administration of rates. The relatively high mean score indicates that respondents perceive bribery as a significant impediment to effective rates collection. When officials solicit bribes, it not only distorts the fairness of the rate collection process but also discourages compliance among honest taxpayers. This culture of bribery can lead to a vicious cycle of corruption, where taxpayers feel compelled to engage in corrupt practices to avoid punitive measures, further exacerbating the issue.

Lastly, the statement "Misappropriation of rate funds" received a mean score of **4.34** with a standard deviation of **0.72**. This result further emphasizes the respondents' concerns about the management of collected funds. The significant perception of misappropriation indicates that many respondents believe that even when funds are collected, they are often diverted away from their intended purposes, such as funding local infrastructure or public services. This misallocation not only affects the quality of public services but also diminishes the accountability of revenue officials. The findings presented in Table 2 indicate a clear and pressing concern regarding the impact of corruption on rates administration. The high mean scores across all statements highlight the pervasive nature of corruption—specifically embezzlement, bribery, and misappropriation—in the revenue collection process. Addressing these issues is crucial for enhancing the efficiency and integrity of rates administration, which is vital for increasing Internally Generated Revenue and ensuring sustainable development at the local government level. By implementing robust anti-corruption measures and promoting transparency in the management of rate funds, governments can restore public trust and improve the effectiveness of their revenue systems.

Correlation Analysis

The correlation analysis aimed to examine the relationship between corruption and tax collection efficiency. A sample of tax administrators and officials was surveyed, with a focus on their perceptions regarding the impact of corruption on the effectiveness of tax revenue collection. The statistical method used to analyze the relationship between these two variables was Pearson's correlation coefficient. The analysis revealed a correlation coefficient of **-0.65**, indicating a significant negative relationship between corruption and tax collection efficiency. This suggests that as the level of corruption increases within tax administration, the efficiency of tax collection correspondingly decreases. The negative value of the correlation coefficient implies that higher incidences of corrupt practices, such as bribery, embezzlement, and mismanagement of funds, adversely affect the ability of tax officials to perform their duties effectively. To better illustrate these findings, the following table summarizes the correlation results, showcasing the variables involved and the statistical significance of their relationship:

Table 3: Correlation Analysis between Corruption and Tax Collection Efficiency

Variable	Corruption	Tax Collection Efficiency	Correlation Coefficient (r)	Significance (p-value)
Corruption	1.00	-	-	-
Tax Collection Efficiency	-0.65	1.00	-	0.01

Source: *SPSS v23*

From the table, it is evident that the correlation coefficient of **-0.65** between corruption and tax collection efficiency is statistically significant, with a p-value of **0.01**. This p-value indicates a high level of confidence in the results, suggesting that the observed negative relationship is unlikely to have occurred by chance. In conclusion, the findings from this correlation analysis underscore the critical impact of corruption on the effectiveness of tax collection in Nigeria. Addressing corrupt practices within tax administration is essential for enhancing revenue generation and achieving greater financial independence for state and local governments. The results highlight the urgent need for implementing robust anti-corruption measures and promoting transparency and accountability within tax collection processes to improve overall efficiency.

Discussion of Findings

The findings from this study highlight a profound relationship between corruption and the collection of taxes and the administration of property rates in Edo State. The data indicates that high levels of bribery and embezzlement among tax and revenue officials pose significant barriers to effective revenue collection. This aligns with previous research that underscores the detrimental impact of corrupt practices on public financial management (Adeniji & Folayan, 2023). Corruption manifests in various forms, including bribery, where tax officials solicit payments to bypass standard procedures, and embezzlement, where collected funds are misappropriated for personal gain. Such practices not only lead to substantial revenue losses but also erode public trust in government institutions. When citizens perceive tax officials as corrupt, their willingness to comply with tax regulations diminishes, further exacerbating the challenges of achieving efficient revenue generation. The analysis reveals a correlation coefficient of **-0.65** between corruption and tax collection efficiency, indicating a significant negative relationship. This suggests that as corruption increases, the effectiveness of Internally Generated Revenue (IGR) collection declines correspondingly. The implications of this finding are critical for policymakers. It signals an urgent need for comprehensive reforms aimed at curbing corruption within tax administration to bolster revenue collection efficiency. Moreover, the detrimental effects of corruption extend beyond mere revenue figures; they impact the overall quality of public services. Funds that should be allocated for infrastructure development, healthcare, and education are often siphoned off, leaving communities underserved. This cycle perpetuates poverty and inequality, undermining sustainable development goals. Furthermore, the study's findings emphasize the importance of transparency and accountability mechanisms in revenue administration. Implementing e-governance solutions, independent audits, and robust reporting systems can help mitigate corruption. By fostering a culture of integrity and professionalism within tax agencies, the government can enhance tax compliance and improve public trust in the revenue system.

In conclusion, addressing corruption is not merely an administrative challenge but a critical factor for enhancing the financial independence of state and local governments in Edo State. The evidence presented in this study underscores the necessity for concerted efforts to combat corrupt practices, which are fundamental to improving the efficiency of tax collection and the overall performance of the revenue system. By prioritizing anti-corruption measures, the state can create a more conducive environment for effective IGR generation, ultimately contributing to sustainable economic growth and development.

Summary

This study investigated the impact of corruption on Internally Generated Revenue (IGR) in Nigeria, specifically examining the roles of taxes and property rates. The findings reveal that corruption significantly hampers revenue collection efforts and diminishes public trust in governmental institutions. Notably, the study identified several critical areas where corrupt practices, such as bribery, embezzlement, and misappropriation of funds, adversely affect the effective administration of taxes and property rates. These corrupt activities not only lead to substantial revenue leakages but also compromise the quality of public services that are essential for community development. By highlighting the detrimental effects of corruption on IGR, the study underscores the urgent need for reforms aimed at enhancing transparency, accountability, and efficiency in revenue collection processes. Addressing these challenges is crucial for fostering sustainable economic growth and restoring public confidence in the governance of tax and revenue systems in Nigeria.

Conclusion

Corruption continues to be a significant barrier to the effective collection of Internally Generated Revenue (IGR) in Nigeria. This study clearly established that various corrupt practices, including bribery and embezzlement, severely hinder the collection of taxes and property rates, resulting in substantial revenue losses for state and local governments. The implications of these findings are profound, as the erosion of public trust in government institutions undermines the overall effectiveness of revenue systems and diminishes the quality of public services available to citizens. To effectively combat corruption and improve IGR, it is essential to enhance transparency in revenue collection processes, enforce strict accountability measures for officials involved in tax and rate administration, and strengthen institutional frameworks that govern these activities. By implementing comprehensive reforms aimed at promoting integrity and efficiency in IGR collection, Nigerian governments can restore public confidence, optimize revenue generation, and ultimately contribute to sustainable development within their jurisdictions.

Recommendations

1. **Strengthen Anti-Corruption Measures**: Establish independent monitoring bodies to oversee tax and rate collection processes.
2. **Enhance Transparency in Revenue Administration**: Implement digitalized revenue collection systems to reduce human interaction and limit opportunities for bribery.
3. **Public Awareness Campaigns**: Educate citizens on their rights and responsibilities, and promote transparency in revenue utilization.
4. **Capacity Building for Revenue Officials**: Regular training should be conducted for revenue officials on ethical standards and best practices in revenue administration.

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