

# 1 Impact of Electronic Billing Machine (EBM) on Vat Compliance 2 among Small and Medium Sized -Enterprises in Rwanda

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## 6 **Abstract**

7 This study aimed at assessing the impact of Electronic billing machine on VAT compliance on  
8 Small and Medium -Size Enterprises in Rwanda. The main challenge in the administration of  
9 Value Added Tax (VAT) in many countries, has mainly been tax evasion by non-issuance of  
10 tax invoices especially by small to medium taxpayers. Electronic Billing Machines (EBMs)  
11 enable revenue authorities to monitor formal business transactions and thus offer the potential  
12 to improve VAT compliance, however, because firms can choose not to issue receipts or issue  
13 false receipts, EBMs have limited benefits to VAT collections. Descriptive method was used to  
14 collect data, data gathered was analyzed, interpreted and presented. A sample size of 159  
15 people grouped into Medium taxpayers, Small taxpayers and staff of RRA Musanzestation  
16 was randomly selected from a population of 709 VAT registered taxpayers located in Tax  
17 centre of Musanze. Primary and secondary data was used in this research. Given the findings  
18 of this study, there is positive relationship between the adoption of mandatory usage of EBMs  
19 and VAT compliance indicators with a correlation coefficient of 0.586.

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21 **Index terms**— electronic billing machine (EBM), vat compliance, small and medium size enterprises.

## 22 **1 Introduction**

23 Generally, the rationale for imposing taxes in any country is derived from the government responsibilities of  
24 providing social and economic goods and services such as public goods, redistribution of income and wealth,  
25 social and economic welfare, and economic stability ??Herman et al., 2017).

26 The primary mission of the tax administration is to collect the tax revenues due and needed by the government,  
27 under the country's tax laws, without hindering economic activity. In pursuing their mission, tax administrations  
28 face a number of challenges, including how to broaden the tax base by continually bringing non-registrants and  
29 non-filers into compliance, strengthening organization and management, controlling tax evasion, improving tax  
30 collection, and facilitating voluntary compliance. The greatest challenge for any tax administration is achieving  
31 and maintaining a high degree of voluntary compliance ??Peter and Patricia, 2015).

32 Improving VAT compliance is one of the most critical issues for domestic revenue mobilization in developing  
33 countries for two reasons: Firstly, VAT revenues tend to dwarf all other tax revenue streams, so that even small  
34 improvements have relatively large impacts. Secondly, the data generated to observe VAT liability generates a  
35 paper-trail that strengthens a revenue authority's ability to enforce tax compliance across all domestic tax types  
36 (IGC, 2017).

37 Many governments around the world have recently introduced Electronic Billing Machine (EBM). These devices  
38 aim to combat non-compliance with VAT by monitoring business transactions (IGC, 2017). A good tax collection  
39 system is based on the recording of all transactions that are subject to taxation, sometimes via the use of electronic  
40 devices that would prevent eluding the State's interests and committing fiscal fraud (Bostan and Popescu, 2017).

41 In the context of worldwide the first to use Electronic Fiscal Device (EFD) was the Italian administration in  
42 1983. The Greek tax agency was the next tax administration to adopt fiscal devices in 1988 ??Peter and Patricia,  
43 2015). Kenya was the first adopter in Sub-Saharan Africa in 2005, and since then many others have followed  
44 including Tanzania, Ethiopia and most recently Rwanda and Malawi. South Korea has extended the scope of

## 5 LITERATURE REVIEW

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45 EFDs to all business. EFDs have therefore been an important and influential policy (IGC, 2017). The Table 1  
46 presents an overview of the roll-out of EFDs for a selection of countries: In August 2013, Rwanda adopted a new  
47 law that stated that all businesses registered for VAT must provide customers, at each sale, a certified VAT receipt  
48 generated by a third-generation EFD: the Electronic Billing Machine, which contains a Sales Data Controller  
49 (SDC) with GPRS and a Certified Invoicing System (CIS) all working together. This must be purchased from  
50 a Rwanda Revenue Authority (RRA)-approved vendor and activated by the RRA (IGC, 2017). The findings of  
51 the study of Internal Growth Center in Rwanda showed that on average, the introduction of EBMs resulted in a  
52 VAT increase of 5.4 percent. This was relatively little, and much lower than expected by the Rwandan Revenue  
53 Authority (IGC, 2017).

54 Tanzania Revenue Authority (TRA) has recorded an increase in Value Added Tax (VAT) under the use of  
55 EFDs. Despite the fact that the revenue collection has increased following the introduction of the EFDs, the  
56 system is lacking support from business operators in the country-raising unsolved grievance between business  
57 operators regarding the use of EFDs. All over the country business operators have been conducting several  
58 demonstrations and/or strikes to oppose the use of FEDs. The users of these devices has been complained for the  
59 high cost of obtaining them, insecurity which leads to the lack of trust and other financial reasons (Mohammed,  
60 2014).

61 The introduction of fiscal devices presents opportunities for the tax administration to rethink its approach  
62 to business processes, not only by automating the collection of information, but also by leveraging the new  
63 arrangements to improve compliance approaches and strategies. Another area affecting the use and deployment  
64 of EFDs is the constant evolution of the technology involved, both in terms of cost reduction and improved  
65 performance of the devices. The emergence of new technologies is a constant challenge to established views on  
66 fiscal devices. Several countries approached for the survey indicated that after studying the effectiveness, costs,  
67 and administrative requirements of EFDs, they had decided that other technologies, in particular einvoicing,  
68 would be more cost-effective (Peter and Patricia, 2015).

69 Another key conclusion of many researchers the introduction of EFDs requires considerable effort and is  
70 accompanied by associated costs both to the administration in identifying the technology, selecting the devices,  
71 overseeing their deployment. Once the devices are chosen and available, it is essential that appropriate  
72 arrangements be put in place for their installation, support, and maintenance. Proper consideration of these  
73 factors is essential for a successful implementation. Moreover, EFDs appear to suffer from similar challenges  
74 as other regimes if there are no effective follow-up and enforcement measures. Absent effective compliance  
75 monitoring and enforcement, overall VAT compliance cannot be improved, with or without EFDs .

## 76 2 II.

### 77 3 Objectives

78 The general objective of this study is to analyze the contribution of electronic billing machine (EBM) on VAT  
79 compliance on small and medium -size enterprises in Rwanda. Specifically: 1. To determine the level of compliance  
80 activities namely tax education, frequency of audit and tax advisory visits, on VAT compliance. 2. To assess the  
81 impact of the adoption of EBM on VAT compliance. 3. To establish measures to improve the use of EBM in  
82 enhancement of VAT compliance.

## 83 4 III.

### 84 5 Literature Review

85 Trivedi et al. (2005) explain the reason why taxpayers comply by two classes of theories. First, the economic  
86 based theories, which emphasize incentives. This theory suggests that taxpayer "play audit lottery". They make  
87 calculation of the economic consequences of different compliance alternatives (such as whether to or not to evade  
88 tax), the probabilities of detection and the consequences thereof, and then choose the alternative for the desired  
89 level of risk. In contrast, the second class of theories assumes that psychological factors including moral and  
90 ethical concerns are also important to taxpayers and so taxpayers may comply even where the risk of audit is  
91 low. Economic theories generally call for increased audit and penalties as the solution to compliance. However,  
92 the policy prescription of psychological theories leads to emphasize on changing individuals attitude towards  
93 the tax system by increasing its perceived fairness and making it easy to comply with the tax law through such  
94 measures as superior website information, increased telephone assistance and appropriate information technology.

95 The impact of fines on tax compliance do not provide a clear picture on the relation between fines and tax  
96 compliance ??Fischer et al., 1992). Keeping constant the expected value of a tax but changing audit probabilities  
97 and fines for non-compliance, it showed that compliance increased significantly with higher fines, but not with  
98 higher audit probabilities. Punitive penalties makes tax evasion more costly for the taxpayer hence leading to  
99 the reduction of tax evasion. Research studies show that more punitive fines and penalties can result in more  
100 tax avoidance ??Kirchler, 2007). Deterrence is effective when there is a combination of effective imposition  
101 of fines and frequent audits to detect cases of noncompliance. ??ascagni et al., (2016) found that sending a  
102 'reminder' by either letter, email or text message, of a firm's upcoming tax obligations all had a strong and  
103 significant effect on firms' payment of Corporate Income Tax. Applying such an approach to EBM receipt

104 issuing could offer a powerful means to improve EBM receipt issuing compliance. Any such an intervention will  
105 require the establishment of a strong data analytics programme, which can reliably identify 'irregular' patterns of  
106 receipt issuing. On this basis, it could send out automated text messages to firms to 'remind' them of suspicious  
107 behaviour. For instance, taxpayers could be informed that the revenue authority has noticed a large drop in  
108 receipt issuing and requested to clarify if there is anything wrong with the EBM device; it could be asked for a  
109 voluntary quarterly VAT revision based on suspicious tax declarations (fake receipts) or suspicious price patterns.

110 In his study, Wanjiku (2011) did a study on the impact of ETRs on the duration of VAT audit in Kenya.  
111 This study findings indicate that the use of ETRs contribute significantly in reducing the VAT audit time in  
112 the studied population in Kenya (Wanjiku, 2011).The research findings suggest that the use of ETRs machines  
113 among VAT registered taxpayers in the study areas does indeed contribute in a positive and significant way to  
114 improving the compliance attitude and efficient tax administration in the study area.

115 Chenge (2010) conducted a study on the impact of ETR on VAT compliance among classified hotels found in  
116 the capital, Nairobi. He found out that the introduction of these machines result in the VAT compliance level  
117 through increasing the level of declared VAT liability among the studied classified hotels (Chenge, 2010).

118 Ikasu (2014) studied the challenges facing the implementation of using EFD in tax collection in Tanzania.  
119 The major findings of the study were; it had been indicated that EFD system had a lot of challenges which  
120 hinder the implementation of using the machine though the system enhanced tax collection in business premises  
121 in Tanzania. Those challenges include regular break down, fairness of tax estimated from tax payers, lack of  
122 education on the use of EFDs machines, maintenance of machines and under pricing of tax from traders.

123 Current trends in tax administration modernization suggest there may be more effective ways to achieve  
124 voluntary compliance, particularly through the adoption of compliance improvement models. It is clear that  
125 technology in and of itself will not change behavior. The implementation of EFDs can only be effective if it is a  
126 part of a comprehensive compliance improvement strategy that clearly identifies risks for the different segments of  
127 taxpayers and envisages implementing a set of measures to mitigate these risks. The deployment of fiscal devices  
128 alone cannot by itself achieve meaningful results, whether in terms of revenue gains or permanent compliance  
129 improvements. Another key conclusion from many studies is that the introduction of EFDs requires considerable  
130 effort, accompanied by associated costs both to the administration and to the affected taxpayers in addressing  
131 the requirements of the new rules. Once the devices are chosen and available, it is essential that appropriate  
132 arrangements be put in place for their installation, support, and maintenance. Studies showed that, when these  
133 arrangements were not in place or were incomplete, the implementation of EFDs faced considerable problems.  
134 Proper consideration of these factors is essential for a successful implementation. Moreover EFDs appear to suffer  
135 from similar challenges as other regimes if there are no effective follow-up and enforcement measures. Absent  
136 effective compliance monitoring and enforcement, overall VAT compliance cannot be improved, with or without  
137 EFDs (Peter and Patricia, 2015).

## 138 6 IV.

## 139 7 Methodology

140 This section describes the methodology that was used in the study.

## 141 8 a) Research design

142 This study adopted a descriptive survey. Descriptive survey research design is a scientific method which involved  
143 observing and describing the behavior of a subject without influencing it in any way ??Cooper & Schindler, 2008).  
144 It employed both quantitative and qualitative approaches. The study engaged a descriptive, cross sectional and  
145 correlational research designs. It engaged correlation design to establish the relationship between electronic  
146 billing machine (EBM) and VAT compliance on small and medium -size enterprises in Rwanda.

## 147 9 b) Population and sampling techniques

148 The population in this study will limit to 709 who are taxpayers and staffs of RRA Musanze tax station, Musanze  
149 Branch irrespective of structure, age, sex and any other conditions. The target population was taxpayers of RRA  
150 Musanze station.

151 In this research, the sample has been calculated by using the formula of Slovin, with confidence level of 93%  
152 and a permissible error of 7%. The sample size for this study has been determined using the formula of (Slovin,  
153 1960). The formula is used to calculate the sample size (n) given the population size (N) and a margin of  $n = N$   
154  $(1+N?? 2 )$ .

## 155 10 Error (e). It is computed as:

156 In this research  $N= 709$  taking the confidence level of 93% that is with a permissible error of 7%,  $e=0.07$ .  
157 Therefore, the sample size was calculated as the following;s respondent Ne N n 159 6 . 158 ) 07 . 0 \* 709 ( 1 709  
158 ) 1 ( 2 2 ? = + = + =

159 The size of the corrected sample was equal to 159 respondents to present 709 entire population, are VAT  
160 traders register and RRA Musanze staff.

161 **11 ? Sampling frame**

162 The sampling frame is any material or device used to obtain observational access to the finite population of  
163 interest. It must be possible with the aid of the frame to identify and establish contact with selected elements  
164 either by telephone, visit, questionnaire, etc. (Kakooza, 1996). The sampling frame is comprehensive list of all the  
165 sampling units from which a sample can be selected. The table 2 shows the number of taxpayers according to their  
166 categories, 245 are small taxpayers, 281 medium taxpayers and 183 large taxpayers. Then for every categories  
167 there are some persons means sample which was taken to represent every categories, for small taxpayers is 55,  
168 63 for medium taxpayers and 41 for large taxpayers.

169 **12 c) Research Instruments**

170 In this research two main sources of information will be used; these are primary and secondary data.

171 **13 ? Questionnaires**

172 For this study, both open and closed ended questions were used and addressed to respondents.

173 The questionnaire has been addressed to a sample of taxpayers registered in VAT Musanze station where a  
174 member responded the question pre-prepared.

175 **14 ? Interview**

176 In this study, semi structured interview was used to the staff of RRA Musanze station that they have freely  
177 expressed their views and objectively.

178 **15 ? Documentation**

179 Documentary technique has enabled the researcher to collect data from different sources of secondary data: RRA  
180 reports, thesis of the other researcher related to our study.

181 **16 d) Validity and reliability**

182 Validity helped to ensure that the questionnaires represented the content, they were appropriate for the sample  
183 and that the questionnaires were comprehensive enough to collect all the information needed to address the  
184 purpose and goals of the study. Test-re-test method was used. During the study, a randomly selected sample of  
185 proprietors of RRA's was given questionnaires to fill.

186 **17 e) Ethical Considerations**

187 This research endeavored to obtain an informed consent from the respondents before undertaking to collect data  
188 from the field. Objectives of the research were explained and made known to the respondents so as to solicit their  
189 informed consent. High level of confidentiality on the information provided by respondents through interview or  
190 questionnaires was maintained.

191 V.

192 **18 Results Discussion**

193 The following tables shows the results obtained through the survey conducted on tax payers Musanze station.

194 **19 a) Impact of mandatory usage of EBM on VAT compliance**

195 This part is composed of results obtained on mandatory usage of EBM on VAT compliance indicators namely  
196 timely filing of VAT returns, timely payment of VAT liabilities, accurate reporting in VAT declaration and  
197 voluntary VAT registration . According to the results in table above, which shows the impact of EBM on timely  
198 filing of VAT declaration after the adoption of EBM, 74.8% of all respondents strongly agree with the positive  
199 impact of EBM on timely filing of VAT after the adoption of EBM, 18.2% agree and other 3.8% strongly disagree  
200 and that means 3.1% of all respondents disagree with the positive impact of EBM on timely filing of VAT  
201 declaration after the adoption of EBM. There is positive impact of EBM on timely filing of VAT declaration  
202 after the adoption of EBM. According to the results in table above, which shows the impact of EBM on timely  
203 payment of VAT declaration after the adoption of EBM, 79.2% of all respondents strongly agree with the positive  
204 impact of EBM on timely payment of VAT liabilities after the adoption of EBM, 13.2% agree and other 1.9%  
205 strongly disagree the last one means 5.7% of all respondents disagree with the positive impact of EBM on timely  
206 payment of VAT liabilities after the adoption of EBM.

207 Means that the adoptions of EBM have a strong positive impact on VAT liabilities. Through the results  
208 obtained in the table, 79.9% of all respondents strongly agree that there is a positive impact of EBM on reporting  
209 of VAT sales after the adoption of EBM, 10.1% agree, 5.0% strongly disagree and other 5.0% of all respondents  
210 disagree. These results explain that there positive impact of EBM on reporting VAT sales after the adoption  
211 of EBM. Table 10 shows that 67.9% of all respondents strongly agree with positive impact of EBM on VAT  
212 paid after the adoption of EBM, 28.9% Agree with that, 1.9% strongly disagree and only 1.3% disagree with the

213 positive impact of EBM on VAT paid after the adoption of EBM. This result confirmed that there is positive  
214 impact of EMB on VAT paid after the adoption of EBM. Table 11 shows the impact of EBM on voluntary VAT  
215 registration after the adoption of EBM; 69.8% of all respondents strongly agree with the positive impact of EBM  
216 on voluntary VAT registration after the adoption of EBM, 10.1% agree, 15.1% strongly disagree and 5% disagree  
217 with the positive impact of EBM on VAT registration after the adoption of EBM. This result confirmed that  
218 there is strongly relationship between impact of EBM on VAT registration before and after the adoption of EBM.

## 219 **20 b) The impact other compliance activities conducted by 220 RRA on VAT compliance**

221 The part below shows the impact of other compliance activities conducted by RRA on VAT compliance indicators  
222 namely audit, Tax education and Tax advisory visits. The results have obtained through to the survey conducted  
223 by researcher on the taxpayers of Musanze station.

## 224 **21 ? Tax audits**

225 Some studies claimed that audits have a positive impact on tax evasions ??Dubin, 2004). These findings suggest  
226 that in self-assessment systems, tax audits can play an indispensable role and their essential role is to increase  
227 voluntary compliance. Frequencies and meticulousness of audits could encourage taxpayers to be more prudent  
228 in completing their tax returns, reporting all income and claiming the correct deductions to ascertain their tax  
229 liability. In contrast, taxpayers who have never been audited might be tempted to under report their actual  
230 income and claim false deductions. Table 12 shows the impact of audit on accurate reporting of information in  
231 VAT declaration, 59.7% strongly agree with the positive impact of audit on accurate reporting in VAT declaration,  
232 10.1% agree, 20.1% strongly disagree and 10.1% of all respondents disagree with the positive impact of audit on  
233 accurate reporting of information in VAT declaration. Table 13 shows the impact of audit on timely payment  
234 of VAT liabilities, 79.9% of all respondents strongly disagree with the impact of audit on timely payment of  
235 VAT liabilities, 10.1% agree, and 5.0% of all respondents strongly agree and other means 5.0% of all respondents  
236 disagree. These results confirmed that there is no relationship between the impact of audit on timely payment of  
237 VAT liabilities. Table 14 shows the impact of audit on timely filing of VAT declaration, 79.9% of all respondents  
238 strongly disagree with the impact of audit on timely filing of VAT declaration, 10.1% strongly agree, 5% of all  
239 respondents agree and 5% disagree. These results confirmed that there is no relationship between the impact  
240 of audit and on timely filing of VAT declaration. The table 15 shows, the impact of audit on voluntary VAT  
241 registration, then 3.1% strongly agree with the impact of audit on voluntary VAT registration, 6.9% agree, 79.9%  
242 strongly disagree and 10.1% disagree on the impact of audit on voluntary VAT registration . These results explain  
243 clearly that there is no relationship between the impact of audit and voluntary VAT registration.

## 244 **22 i. Education**

245 Previous literature supports the direct, positive relationship between educational level and taxpayer compliance  
246 (Jackson and Miliron, 1986). Chan et al. (2000), also postulate that education level is directly linked to a  
247 likelihood of compliance. Educated taxpayers may be aware of noncompliance opportunities, but their potentially  
248 better understanding of the tax system and higher level of moral development promote a more favourable taxpayer  
249 attitude and greater compliance. The influence of tax knowledge on compliance behaviour has been described  
250 in various researches. The level of education received by taxpayers is an important factor that contributes  
251 to the understanding about taxation especially regarding the laws and regulations of taxation (Eriksen and  
252 Fallan, 1996). The table 16 shows that 59.7% of all respondents strongly agree on the positive impact of tax  
253 education on accurate reporting of information in VAT declaration, 20.1% agree, 6.9% strongly disagree and  
254 13.2% of all respondents disagree on the positive impact of tax education on accurate reporting of information in  
255 VAT declaration. The results obtained confirmed that there is positive relationship between the impacts of tax  
256 education on accurate reporting of information in VAT declaration. Table 17 shows the results of respondents  
257 on the positive impact of tax education on timely payment of VAT liabilities, 57.9% strongly agree, 22% agree,  
258 6.3% strongly disagree and 13.8% of all respondents disagree on the positive impact of tax education on timely  
259 payment of VAT declaration. Table 18 shows that 54.7% of all respondents strongly agree with the positive  
260 impact of tax education on timely of filing of VAT declaration, 25.8% agree, 3.8% strongly disagree and 15.7% of  
261 all respondents positive impact of audit tax education on timely filing of VAT declaration. These results mean  
262 that there is strong positive relationship between tax education and timely of filing of VAT declaration. According  
263 to the results in the table 19, 67.9% of all respondents strongly agree with the positive impact of tax education  
264 on voluntary VAT registration, 20.1% agree, 3.8% strongly disagree and 8.2% of all respondents disagree with  
265 the positive impact of tax education on voluntary VAT registration. This means that there is positive impact of  
266 tax education on VAT registration.

## 267 **23 ii. Role (efficiency) of the tax authority/government**

268 For many aspects of tax compliance, there is a debate in literature as to how the effective operation of the  
269 tax system by the tax authorities influences taxpayers' compliance behaviour. The role of the tax authority

## 25 C) STATISTICS OF RRA MUSANZE STATION IN RELATION TO OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

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270 in minimizing the tax gap and increasing voluntary compliance is clearly very important. Hasseldine and Li  
271 (1999) illustrated tax compliance is placing the government and the tax authority as the main party that need  
272 to be continuously efficient in administering the tax system in order to curtail tax evasion. Besides, the study of  
273 Richardson (2008) also suggested that the role of a government has a significant positive impact on determining  
274 attitudes toward tax. For the table which shows the results on the impact of tax advisory visits on accurate  
275 reporting of information in VAT declaration, 62.9% of all respondents strongly agree, 23.3% agree, 3.8% strongly  
276 disagree and 10.1% of all respondents were agree. This results shows that there is positive impact of tax advisory  
277 visits on accurate reporting of information in VAT declaration. According to the results in the table 21, 23.3% of  
278 all respondents strongly agree with the impact of tax advisory visits on timely payment of VAT declaration, 24.5%  
279 were agree, 10.1% strongly disagree and 42.1% of all respondents disagree with the impact of tax advisory visits  
280 on timely payment of VAT liabilities. This means that there is no impact of tax advisory visits on timely payment  
281 of VAT declaration. For the table 22 which shows the results on the impact of audit tax advisory visits on timely  
282 of filling of VAT declaration, 20.1% of all respondents strongly agree, 25.2% agree, 15.1% strongly disagree and  
283 39.6% of all respondents disagree with the impact of audit tax advisory of filing of VAT declaration. This means  
284 that there is no impact of audit tax advisory visits on timely of filing of VAT declaration. The table 23 shows the  
285 impact of tax advisory on voluntary VAT registration, 62.9% of all respondents strongly agree with the positive  
286 impact of tax advisory visits on voluntary VAT registration, 23.3% agree, 3.8% strongly disagree and 10.1% of  
287 respondents disagree with the positive impact of tax advisory visits on voluntary VAT registration. These results  
288 explain that there is positive relationship between tax advisory visits and voluntary VAT registration.

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### 290 25 c) Statistics of RRA Musanze station in relation to objectives of the study

291 The part below is composed of statistics of RRA Musanze station on number of voluntary VAT registration before  
292 and after the adoption of EBM, sales declared and VAT collected before and after the adoption of EBM, filing  
293 and payment rates of VAT declaration before and after the adoption of EBM . This figure shows the collection of  
294 annual turnover before and after the adoption of EBM, the results fund after the analysis was shows that there  
295 is big difference between the annual turnover collected before and after the adoption of EBM. From 2010up to  
296 2013, the total annual turnover of those years was 78,287,591,846 Rwf while from 2014 up to 2017 after the  
297 adoption of EBM the total annual turnover was 196,115,022,924 Rwf, these total turnover shows that there is  
298 higher difference between the turnover collected before the adoption of EBM means 78,287,591,846 Rwf and the  
299 total turnover after the adoption of EBM which is 196,115,022,924 Rwf. The results of this study agree with the  
300 study conducted by Machogu and Amayi (2013) which is state that the adoption of EBM have positive impact  
301 on the annual turnover collected. Other compliance indicators are; percentage of income that is reported for the  
302 taxation purposes and the programme impact indicator. Here, one may assess the impact of specific programmes  
303 or initiatives the VAT compliance as well as behaviour of the target taxpayer population (Machogu and Amayi,  
304 2013). This figure 4 shows the collection of VAT paid before and after EBM adoption, the results fund after  
305 the analysis was shows that there is big difference between the VAT paid before and after EBM adoption. From  
306 2010up to 2013, the total annual turnover of those years was 2,624,017,597Rwf while from 2014 up to 2017  
307 after the adoption of EBM the total VAT paid was 6,604,092,152Rwf, these total VAT paid shows that there  
308 is difference between the VAT paid before the adoption of EBM means 2,624,017,597Rwf and the total VAT  
309 collected after the adoption of EBM which is 6,604,092,152 Rwf. The adoption of EBM has positive impact  
310 on the VAT collected. The table 26 shows the statistics of number of timely filing of VAT before and after the  
311 adoption of EBM at Musanze station. Then the results obtained through to the secondary data of RRA musanze  
312 station confirmed that from 2010 to 2011 there is increasing on time filing rate means 57.8% to 69.6%, from 2012  
313 to 2013 there an increasing on time filing rate means 66.9% to 69.8% . we know that the adoption of EBM was  
314 begin in 2013 this results shows that after the adoption of EBM there is increasing on time filing rate while for  
315 rate filing there is a decreasing of rate filing means 18.4% in 2010 to 3.9% in 2017. For non filing rate there is  
316 also decreasing from 23.9% in 2010 to 9.0% in 2017, this decreasing Figure 5 shows that the EBM has positive  
317 impact on time filing, the data from RRA Musanze station was collected and analysed then the results confirmed  
318 that from 2010 up to 2013 the rate of time filing was 57.8% in 2010, 69.6% in 2011, 58.6% in 2012 and 66.9% in  
319 2013 before the EBM adoption. Then after the adoption of EBM the on time filing rate was increasing, means  
320 in 2014 was 69.8%, 2015 was 77.1%, 2016 was 85.8% and in 2017 was 87.1%. this results confirmed that the the  
321 adoption of EBM have positive impact on time filing rate. Figure 6 shows the late filing rate before and after  
322 the EBM adoption, the results confirmed that from 2010 up to 2013 the late filing rate was 18.4% in 2010, 13.6%  
323 in 2011, 5.8% in 2012 and 7.7% in 2013 before the EBM adoption. Then after the adoption of EBM the late  
324 time filing rate was decreasing, means in 2014 was 7.4%, 2015 was 8.4%, 2016 was 6.8% and in 2017 was 3.9%.  
325 this results confirmed that the the adoption of EBM have positive impact on decreasing late filing rate. Figure  
326 7 shows the non filing rate before and after the EBM adoption, the results confirmed that from 2010 up to 2013  
327 the non filing rate was 23.9% in 2010, 16.8% in 2011, 35.5% in 2012 and 25.4% in 2013 before the EBM adoption.  
328 Then after the adoption of EBM the non filing rate was decreasing, means in 2014 was 22.5%, 2015 was 14.6%,  
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330 2016 was 7.4% and in 2017 was 9.0%. this results confirmed that the the adoption of EBM have positive impact  
331 to decrease non filing rate.

332 **26 Year**

333 **27 Annualturnover declaration**

334 **28 Collection of turnover before and after EBM adoption**

335 **29 d) Correlation Analysis**

336 The correlation coefficient is a number between -1 and +1 that measures both the strength and direction of the  
337 linear relationship between two variables. The magnitude of the number represents the strength of the correlation.  
338 A correlation coefficient of zero represents no linear relationship, while a correlation coefficient of -1 or +1 means  
339 that the relationship is perfectly linear (all of the dots fall exactly on a straight line). The sign (+/-) of the  
340 correlation coefficient indicates the direction of the correlation. A positive (+) correlation coefficient means that  
341 as values on one variable increase, values on the other variable tend to also increase; a negative (-) correlation  
342 coefficient means that as values on one variable increase, values on the other tend to decrease, that is, they tend  
343 to go in opposite directions.

344 **30 On time payment rat**

345 **31 Year**

346 **32 ON TIME PAYMENT RATE**

347 Table 28 is the Pearson correlation coefficient for factors of Electronic Billing Machine and VAT compliance  
348 indicators of small and medium size enterprises in Rwanda. From the correlation analysis, it can be deduced that  
349 there is a positive relationship between the mandatory usage of EBM for all VAT registration and frequency audit,  
350 where the correlation coefficient was 0.936 and a p-value of 0.000. The findings indicate that the frequency audit  
351 and mandatory usage of EBM correlate positively with correlation coefficients of 0.936 and p-value of 0.000. The  
352 study further established that there is a positive relationship between frequency of tax education and mandatory  
353 usage of EBM with a correlation coefficient of 0.913 and p-value of 0.000. Furthermore, the study that there is  
354 a positive relationship between the frequency of tax education and mandatory usage of EBM. Lastly, the study  
355 found that there is a positive relationship between the frequency of tax advisory visits causes of mandatory usage  
356 with a correlation coefficient of 0.843 and a pvalue of 0.000.

357 These findings clearly show that all the four independent variables (mandatory usage of EBM for all registered,  
358 frequency of audit and inspection conducted on taxpayers, frequency of tax education and frequency of tax  
359 advisory visits) had a significant influence on the dependent variable (VAT compliance). This is because the p-  
360 value in all the relationships was 0.000 which is less than the alpha value (level of significance) 0.01. From these  
361 findings we can infer that mandatory usage of EBM and frequency audit and inspection conducted on taxpayers  
362 had the most significant influence on mandatory usage followed by frequency tax education and frequency of tax  
363 advisory visits.

364 **33 e) Combined linear regression Model**

365 Regression analysis was done to determine the relationship between Electronic billing machine (EBM) and VAT  
366 compliance. Table 19 shows that the coefficient of determination R square is 0.294 and R is 0.544 at 0.05  
367 significant level. The coefficient of determination indicates that 29.1% of the variation in the dependent variable  
368 VAT compliance is explained by the independent variables (mandatory usage of EBM for all registered, frequency  
369 of tax audit, tax education and frequency advisory visits).

370 **34 Table 28: ANOVA a**

371 Table 30 presents the results of Analysis of Variance (ANOVA) on usage of Electronic billing machine and VAT  
372 compliance. The ANOVA results for regression coefficient indicate that the significance of the F is 0.00 which is  
373 less than 0.05. This implies that there is a positive significant relationship between the adoption of EBM and  
374 VAT compliance and that the model is a good fit for the data. The ANOVA test in Table 30 indicates that  
375 the significance of the P value 0.000 is less than 0.05, implying that null hypothesis is rejected, and alternative  
376 hypothesis accepted. It is concluded that there is a significant effect of adoption of EBM and VAT compliance  
377 for small and medium enterprises.

378 **35 VI. Consluson and Recommendations a) Conclusion**

379 According to the results of this study based on the objective of assessing the impact of the adoption of EBM  
380 on timely filing of VAT declaration compared to the period before EBM is introduced in Rwanda, 93% of all  
381 respondents confirmed that the adoption of Regarding the results obtained by analyzing the data collected basing

## 36 B) RECOMMENDATIONS

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382 on the objective of assessing the impact of the adoption of EBM on timely payment of VAT liabilities , 92.4% of  
383 all respondents confirmed that EBM has a positive influence on timely payment of VAT liabilities. This finding  
384 was also confirmed by the report of RRA on payment rate of VAT from the year 2010 to 2017 whereby the report  
385 shows that after the introduction of EBM the payment rate of VAT was increase by 20%.

386 In regard with The results obtained by analyzing the data collected basing on the objective of assessing the  
387 impact of the adoption of EBM on accurate reporting in VAT declaration, 90% of all respondents confirmed  
388 that the adoption of mandatory usage of EBM has a positive impact on reporting of VAT sales comparing to  
389 VAT sales that were declared before the adoption of EBM , in addition 96.8% of all respondents confirmed that  
390 the adoption of mandatory usage of EBMs has a positive on VAT payable and collected by RRA comparing  
391 to the VAT that was collected before the adoption of mandatory usage of EBM. These findings are confirmed  
392 by the RRA report on VAT collections before and after the adoption of EBM whereby report shows that after  
393 introduction of EBM VAT collections increased by 732 %, that means increased by 7 times . In addition the  
394 RRA report shows as well that, after the introduction of EBB, sales reported by taxpayers were also increased  
395 by 737 %.

396 Regarding the results obtained by analyzing the data collected basing on the objective of assessing the impact  
397 of the adoption of EBM on voluntary VAT registration,79.9% of all respondents confirmed that the mandatory  
398 usage 'of EBM has a positive impact on voluntary VAT registration . This finding was also confirmed by the  
399 report of RRA on figures about the number of taxpayers voluntarily registered for VAT from the year 2010 to 2017  
400 whereby the report of RRA indicates that after introduction of EBM the number of voluntary VAT registration  
401 increased by 346 %.

402 The correlation coefficient on analysis of the relationship between mandatory usage of EBM and indicators of  
403 VAT compliance is 0.586. this value indicates that correlation is significant at 0.05 level (2tailed) and implies  
404 that there is a positive relationship between mandatory usage of electronic billing machine and VAT compliance  
405 indicators of ( $r = .586$ ). We can therefore conclude Electronic Billing Machine contribute positively to VAT  
406 compliance in Rwanda.

407 According to the results of this study obtained from the analysis of the data collected basing on the objective  
408 of assessing the significance of other compliance activities that have been always used by RRA to improve  
409 VAT compliance, 69.8 % all respondents confirmed that the frequency of audit has a positive influence accurate  
410 reporting in VAT.

411 Regarding the activity of Tax Education, 80.5 % of all respondent confirmed a positive influence of Tax  
412 education on timely filing of VAT declaration while 80 % of all respondent confirmed that Tax education has a  
413 positive influence on timely payment of VAT liabilities and accurate reporting in VAT declaration and 88% of all  
414 respondents confirmed a positive impact of Tax education on voluntary registration.

415 Regarding the activity of Tax advisory visits. 86.6% of all respondent confirmed a positive influence of tax  
416 advisory on voluntary VAT registration followed by 86.2% of all respondents who confirmed as well that Tax  
417 advisory visits have a positive influence on accurate reporting in VAT declaration.

418 In conclusion The findings of this study clearly show that all the four independent variables (mandatory usage  
419 of EBM for all registered, frequency of audit and inspection conducted on taxpayers, frequency of tax education  
420 and frequency of tax advisory visits) had a significant influence on the dependent variable (VAT compliance).  
421 Therefore to improve VAT compliance through EBMs. RRA is recommended to come up with plan integrating  
422 EBMs within broader tax compliance frameworks that create the environment which will best ensure taxpayers'  
423 voluntarily compliance. This suggests that the most cost-effective way to improve compliance will likely involve a  
424 small number of high-profile enforcement activities (targeting high-risk evaders), close monitoring and reviewing  
425 of activities (for medium-risk evaders) and improved tax information and facilitation activities for the majority  
426 of taxpayers.

### 427 36 b) Recommendations

428 Basing on the results of this study, following actions are recommended:

429 Regular identification of EBM non usage: RRA should be able to reliably identify when a taxpayer is not  
430 using EBM using data from back office guiding field visits interventions. Tax advisory visits for taxpayers who  
431 regularly failed to use EBM, as the results of this research have confirmed the positive impact of tax advisory  
432 on VAT compliance ; Deterrent measures against to regular Defaulters of EBM usage: RRA needs to be willing  
433 and able to enforce receipt issuing on taxpayers who usually fail to issue receipt because if there is no sanctions  
434 for defaulters it can lead to negative competition against compliant taxpayers operating in the same sector and  
435 decrease their compliance.

436 Extensive communication strategy: Through tax education, tax awareness campaigns, tax dialogues and media,  
437 RRA should communicate their focus and ability to enforce EBM receipting for any specific sector. This will  
438 further facilitate voluntary compliance;

439 Higher Risk Tax payers( High risk, big consequences): For this category of taxpayers, real time deterrence is  
440 recommended. This may include surprise checks, comprehensive audit and continuous monitoring of compliance  
441 in respect of timely filing of VAT return, timely payment of VAT liabilities and accurate reporting regular checked  
442 basing third party information, data matching;

443 Key taxpayers ( Low risk, big consequences): For this category of taxpayers, regular monitoring of their tax

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444 return is recommended, regular tax advisory visits to address issue of non-compliance with EBM instead of  
445 conducting audit, tax dialogues and regular reminders advising them to file and pay before due dates in order to  
446 avoid penalties;

447 **37 Medium risk taxpayers(High risk, low consequences):**

448 For this category tax education and close monitoring of their tax returns and discuss with taxpayer on any  
449 discrepancies identified. Tax advisory visits and desk audits are appropriate to boost compliance of these  
450 taxpayers instead of using deterrent measures;

451 Lower risk taxpayers (Lowrisk, low consequences): Tax education, tax advisory visits and periodic review of  
452 their tax returns and EBM back office followed by reminders if there any tax issue to address without conducting  
453 audit.

1 2 3

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<sup>1</sup>© 2019 Global Journals

<sup>2</sup>Impact of Electronic Billing Machine (EBM) on Vat Compliance among Small and Medium Sized -Enterprises

<sup>3</sup>Impact of Electronic Billing Machine (EBM) on Vat Compliance among Small and Medium Sized -Enterprises  
in Rwanda

### **37 MEDIUM RISK TAXPAYERS(HIGH RISK, LOW CONSEQUENCES):**

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1

Country	Year	Type of EFD	Scope
	First Generation		
Greece	1988	SDC	All VAT registered
Bulgaria	1993	SDC	All VAT registered
Moldova	1993		
Brazil (State level)	1994	SDC	All Sales Tax registered
Argentina	1995	SDC	All VAT registered
Romania	2000	SDC	All VAT registered
Mexico	2000	SDC	All VAT registered
Montenegro	2001	SDC	All VAT registered
	Second Generation		
South Korea	2005	SDC + GPRS	All businesses
Paraguay	2008	SDC + GPRS	Sector VAT registered
Sweden	2010	SDC + GPRS	All VAT registered
	Third Generation		
Chile	2003	SDC + GPRS + CIS	All VAT registered
Kenya	2005	SDC + GPRS + CIS	All VAT registered
Ethiopia	2008	SDC + GPRS + CIS	All VAT registered
Dominican Republic	2009	SDC + GPRS + CIS	All VAT registered
Tanzania	2010	SDC + GPRS + CIS	All VAT registered
Kosovo	2012	SDC + GPRS + CIS	All VAT registered
Panama	2012	SDC + GPRS + CIS	All VAT registered
Rwanda	2013	SDC + GPRS + CIS	All VAT registered
Hungary	2014	SDC + GPRS + CIS	All VAT registered
Malawi	2015	SDC + GPRS + CIS	All VAT registered

*[Note: Source: Adapted from Casey and Castro, 2015.]*

Figure 1: Table 1 :

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**2**

Group	Total taxpayers	Sample
Small taxpayers	688	154
Medium taxpayers	21	5
Total	709	159

Source: Primary data, 2018

Figure 2: Table 2 :

**3**

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
strongly agree	119	74.8	74.8	74.8
ValidAgree	29	18.2	18.2	93.1
strongly disagree	6	3.8	3.8	96.9
Disagree	5	3.1	3.1	100.0
Total	159	100.0	100.0	

Source: Primary data, 2019

Figure 3: Table 3 :

**4**

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Strongly agree	126	79.2	79.2	79.2
ValidAgree	21	13.2	13.2	92.5
Strongly disagree	3	1.9	1.9	94.3
Disagree	9	5.7	5.7	100.0
Total	159	100.0	100.0	

Source: Primary data, 2019

Figure 4: Table 4 :

**5**

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Strongly agree	127	79.9	79.9	79.9
ValidAgree	16	10.1	10.1	89.9
Strongly disagree	8	5.0	5.0	95.0
Disagree	8	5.0	5.0	100.0
Total	159	100.0	100.0	

Source: Primary data, 2019

Figure 5: Table 5 :

### **37 MEDIUM RISK TAXPAYERS(HIGH RISK, LOW CONSEQUENCES):**

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**6**

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Strongly agree	108	67.9	67.9	67.9
Valid Agree	46	28.9	28.9	96.9
Strongly disagree	3	1.9	1.9	98.7
Disagree	2	1.3	1.3	100.0
Total	159	100.0	100.0	

Source: Primary data, 2019

Figure 6: Table 6 :

**7**

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Strongly agree	111	69.8	69.8	69.8
Valid Agree	16	10.1	10.1	79.9
Strongly disagree	24	15.1	15.1	95.0
Disagree	8	5.0	5.0	100.0
Total	159	100.0	100.0	

Source: Primary data, 2019

Figure 7: Table 7 :

**8**

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Strongly agree	95	59.7	59.7	59.7
Agree	16	10.1	10.1	69.8
Valid	32	20.1	20.1	89.9
Strongly disagree	16	10.1	10.1	100.0
Disagree	159	100.0	100.0	

Source: Primary data, 2019

Figure 8: Table 8 :

**9**

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Strongly agree	8	5.0	5.0	5.0
Valid Agree	16	10.1	10.1	15.1
Strongly disagree	127	79.9	79.9	95.0
Disagree	8	5.0	5.0	100.0
Total	159	100.0	100.0	

Source: Primary data, 2018

Figure 9: Table 9 :

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**10**

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Strongly agree	16	10.1	10.1	10.1
Valid Agree	8	5.0	5.0	15.1
Strongly disagree	127	79.9	79.9	95.0
Disagree	8	5.0	5.0	100.0
Total	159	100.0	100.0	

Source: Primary data, 2018

Figure 10: Table 10 :

**11**

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Strongly agree	5	3.1	3.1	3.1
Valid Agree	11	6.9	6.9	10.1
Strongly disagree	127	79.9	79.9	89.9
Disagree	16	10.1	10.1	100.0
Total	159	100.0	100.0	

Source: Primary data, 2018

Figure 11: Table 11 :

**12**

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Strongly agree	95	59.7	59.7	59.7
Valid Agree	32	20.1	20.1	79.9
Strongly disagree	11	6.9	6.9	86.8
Disagree	21	13.2	13.2	100.0
Total	159	100.0	100.0	

Source: Primary data, 2018

Figure 12: Table 12 :

**13**

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Strongly agree	92	57.9	57.9	57.9
Valid Agree	35	22.0	22.0	79.9
Strongly disagree	10	6.3	6.3	86.2
Disagree	22	13.8	13.8	100.0
Total	159	100.0	100.0	

Source: Primary data, 2018

Figure 13: Table 13 :

### **37 MEDIUM RISK TAXPAYERS(HIGH RISK, LOW CONSEQUENCES):**

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**14**

Year 2019  
( )

[Note: G]

Figure 14: Table 14 :

**16**

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Strongly agree	100	62.9	62.9	62.9
Valid Agree	37	23.3	23.3	86.2
Strongly disagree	6	3.8	3.8	89.9
Disagree	16	10.1	10.1	100.0
Total	159	100.0	100.0	

Source: Primary data, 2017

Figure 15: Table 16 :

**17**

Year 2019  
Volume XIX Issue II Version I  
( )  
Research

[Note: G]

Figure 16: Table 17 :

**20**

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Strongly agree	32	20.1	20.1	20.1
Valid Agree	40	25.2	25.2	45.3
Strongly disagree	24	15.1	15.1	60.4
Disagree	63	39.6	39.6	100.0
Total	159	100.0	100.0	

Source: Primary data, 2018

Figure 17: Table 20 :

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**21**

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Strongly agree	100	62.9	62.9	62.9
Valid Agree	37	23.3	23.3	86.2
Strongly disagree	6	3.8	3.8	89.9
Disagree	16	10.1	10.1	100.0
Total	159	100.0	100.0	

Source: Primary data, 2018

Figure 18: Table 21 :

**22**

N O	YEAR	Number vat registered taxpay- ers	
1	2010	148	
2	2011	283	
3	2012	301	
4	2013	350	BEFORE
5	2014	432	
6	2015	499	
7	2016	523	
8	2017	661	AFTER

Source: Secondary  
data, 2017

Figure 19: Table 22 :

**23**

N O	Year	Annual sales declared	VAT collected	
1	2010	8,695,712,436	249,870,919	
2	2011	17,928,313,102	418,758,690	
3	2012	23,112,614,685	475,606,998	
4	2013	28,550,951,623	1,479,780,990	BEFORE

Figure 20: Table 23 :

**25**

Figure 21: Table 25 ,

**24**

BEFORE

Figure 22: Table 24 :

### 37 MEDIUM RISK TAXPAYERS(HIGH RISK, LOW CONSEQUENCES):

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25

N o	YEAR	On time payment rate	Year	
			BEFORE	AFTER
1	2010	70.3%		
2	2011	60.6%		
3	2012	75.1%		
4	2013	79.4%		
5	2014	82.7%		
6	2015	84.3%		
7	2016	84.5%		
8	2017	82.3%		

Source: RRA Musanze station, 2017

Figure 23: Table 25 :

26

		Mandatory usage EBM	Frequency of audit	Frequency of tax education	Frequency of tax advisory visits
Mandatory usage of EBM	Pearson Correlation	1	.936 **	.913 **	.843 **
	Sig. (2-tailed)		.000	.000	.000
	N	159	159	159	159
Frequency audit	Pearson Correlation	.936 **	1	.889 **	.835 **
	Sig. (2-tailed)		.000	.000	.000
	N	159	159	159	159
Frequency of tax education	Pearson Correlation	.913 **	.889 **	1	.934 **
	Sig. (2-tailed)		.000	.000	.000
	N	159	159	159	159
Frequency of tax advisory visits	Pearson Correlation	.843 **	.835 **	.934 **	1
	Sig. (2-tailed)		.000	.000	.000
	N	159	159	159	159

[Note: \*\*. Correlation is significant at the 0.01 level(2-tailed).]

Figure 24: Table 26 :

---

**27**

Model

1

R R Square Adjusted R Square Std. Error of the Estimate

.544 .291

.288.13577

a

a. Predictors: (Constant),mandatory usage of EBM, frequency audit and frequency advisory visits

Figure 25: Table 27 :

mandatory usage has a positive influence of timely filing of VAT return.

1

Model	Sum of Squares	Df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
Regression	573 a	3	.192	11.26300	b
Residual	1.383	52	.018		
Total	1.853	55			

a. Dependent Variable: Tax litigation

b. Predictors: (Constant), mandatory usage of EBM for all registered, tax education, frequency of tax audit frequency advisory visits

Figure 26:

**37 MEDIUM RISK TAXPAYERS(HIGH RISK, LOW CONSEQUENCES):**

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