



(RESEARCH ARTICLE)



Tax compliance burden of unincorporated sector enterprises in Kerala in GST period

George K John *

Gulati Institute of Finance and Taxation, Thiruvananthapuram (Affiliated to CUSAT).

World Journal of Advanced Research and Reviews, 2026, 30(02), 1551-1561

Publication history: Received on 12 April 2026; revised on 18 May 2026; accepted on 20 May 2026

Article DOI: <https://doi.org/10.30574/wjarr.2026.30.2.1432>

Abstract

The transition from the VAT to GST was a paradigm shift in India's indirect taxation environment. Unincorporated sector enterprises have to face the challenges of shifting from a record-based state-level taxation to a nationwide digital taxation scenario. This study examines the tax compliance burden of unincorporated firms in the GST period in comparison with the pre-GST VAT period. The study was based on primary survey data predominantly from rural hired worker enterprises.

The study revealed that both in VAT and GST regimes, the firms have to spend on compliance costs compared to unregistered firms. Buyer pressure and the need for formal credit are the key drivers of tax registration among the unincorporated sector firms. The analysis also highlights the use of technology by registered firms, reflecting the increased technological requirements with GST compliance.

The comparative evaluation shows that tax registration imposes a considerable burden on the firms, but the monetary as well as the psychological burden was higher in the GST regime compared to the VAT period. This may be due to increased procedural formalities, digital reporting, and frequent return filing. Since GST was introduced to improve the efficiency of the tax mechanism, it has also increased the compliance cost for smaller unincorporated enterprises, highlighting the need for tailored policies for unincorporated firms.

Keywords: Goods and Services Tax; Value Added Tax; Compliance Burden; Unincorporated Sector; Tax Registration

1. Introduction

Modern tax systems can contribute to the economic development through reduced tax complications, lessened informality in the economy and by fostering ease doing business (Ghosh 2020). In India, the economic setup comprises a huge chunk of unincorporated sector enterprises largely micro and small enterprises (Rajshkhar, 2017) at the same time these enterprises addressing issues of unemployment, regional imbalances, and poverty (Syal, 2015). These firms often operate outside the purview formal economy due to complex tax regulations the high compliance cost (Ganguly, 2021; Kanbur & Keen, 2014). India's transition from Value Added Tax (VAT) regime to an integrated Goods and Services Tax (GST) regime in July 2017 aimed at a simplified tax administration, augment tax revenue efficiency, and improve compliance, thereby reduce the informality in the economy through improved tax registration of informal sector enterprises. This study aims to estimate the tax compliance cost of unincorporated sector enterprises during GST regime using nationally representative data, which provide a better picture that how far GST achieved if pre-defined objective of formalisation.

* Corresponding author: George K John, Gulati Institute of Finance and Taxation, Thiruvananthapuram (Affiliated to CUSAT)

1.1. GST reform in India

GST was introduced in India on 1st July 2017 by subsuming various state and centre- level indirect taxes. Prior to the implementation of GST, goods and services are treated differently in the tax laws and the taxation was done with two different taxing mechanisms viz., Services Tax for the entire services and fragmented state and central level taxes for the goods. Before the introduction GST goods taxation was collectively done by centre and state through various taxes like, Value Added Tax, Excise Duty, Sales Tax, Central Sales Tax and so on. This fragmented taxing mechanisms inculcate numerous difficulties to the tax payers in terms tax compliance. GST was the ability to address this issue to a large extent by comprising the different taxes.

In a developing economy like India, the implementation of the Goods and Services Tax (GST) was a game-changing decision, enabling a unified tax system across the country. The GST-based taxation system enhances transparency, contributing to a 1-2% increase in GDP and reducing tax theft and corruption in the country (Singh, A.N., 2018). By eliminating barriers to the free flow of goods and services between states, establishing a uniform rate of tax for goods and services across the states, and eliminating cascading effects, compared with the predecessors.

1.2. Unincorporated Sector Enterprises

As per the Annual Survey of Unincorporated Sector Enterprises (ASUSE) Ministry of Statistics and Program Implementation conducted by the NSO, unincorporated enterprises are non-agricultural establishments in manufacturing, trade, and other services (excluding construction) that are not incorporated as separate legal entities, such as proprietorships, partnerships, or self-help groups. These informal sector units include own-account enterprises and those with hired workers.

1.3. Key characteristics

- **Scope:** The survey covers unincorporated non-agricultural enterprises that are not registered under the Factories Act or are not part of the organized sector surveyed by the Annual Survey of Industries.
- **Ownership Structure:** These include sole proprietorships, partnerships (excluding LLPs), Self-Help Groups (SHGs), cooperatives, and trusts.
- **Coverage:** They are classified into two main types:
 - **Own-Account Enterprises (OAEs):** Enterprises that do not employ any hired workers on a fairly regular basis.
 - **Establishments (units with hired workers):** Enterprises that employ at least one hired worker on a regular basis.
- **Exclusions:** Enterprises that are incorporated as companies, such as Public or Private Limited companies, are excluded from ASUSE.

1.4. GST Registration Threshold and Unincorporated Sector Enterprises

The Goods and Services Tax (GST) mechanism provides a threshold for GST registration to safeguard firms below a certain turnover level from the complexities of tax compliance. Under section 22 of the GST Act, firms engaged in services have to register only when they achieve an annual turnover of 20 lakhs, and other firms involved in trading and manufacturing have to attain a 40-lakh turnover for mandatory registration, but the Act also enumerates that this threshold is not a static demarcation for registration. Registration is optional for firms below the threshold. This is evident from the registration details provided by the GST Council, which show that a substantial portion of registered dealers are firms below the registration threshold. The various aspects under which the firms are registering are discussed below.

Section 24 of the GST Act explicitly overrides Section 22, which mandates firms in certain categories to register under the Act even if they fall below the threshold limits. Firms engaged in interstate trade, supplying through e-commerce platforms, operating as agents, liable under the reverse charge mechanism, and TCS/TDS-related entities are legally required to register, even if their turnover is minimal. To enjoy the benefits of the GST regime, such as seamless ITC, borderless trade, and expansion to online platforms, all are covered under section 24, which mandates compulsory registration.

1.5. Role of Unincorporated MSMEs in GST

Since these MSME firms are outside the purview of GST as per their turnover but threshold was not a static demarcation of GST registration and it allowing the firms to be part of the GST system even if they are having a lower turnover a large number of firms are registering with GST. The turnover-wise distribution of GST taxpayers shows the role of micro firms in GST framework. As shown in the table, 42.49 per cent of taxpayers have annual turnover of up to ₹10 lakh, while another 8.30 per cent fall in the ₹10-20 lakh category and 10.34 per cent in the ₹20-40 lakh group. This implies that more than 60 per cent of GST taxpayers are small firms, largely belonging to the micro enterprise segment. About 26.32 per cent of taxpayers fall within the ₹40 lakh to ₹2 crore turnover group, representing growing small enterprises that are increasingly integrated into formal production and distribution networks. These firms play a key role in linking local markets with larger national supply chains, thereby supporting the objective of creating a unified national market under GST.

Table 1 Turnover Classification GST taxpayers

Turnover	% of Taxpayers
Up to ₹10 lakhs	42.49%
₹10-20 lakhs	8.30%
₹20-40 lakhs	10.34%
₹40 lakh-₹2 crore	26.32%
Above ₹2 crore	12.89%

Source GSTN, Government of India

Small firms are the backbone of the GST taxpayer base, contributing to tax base broadening, formalisation of the informal sector, employment generation, and regional economic development. At the same time, their predominance also underscores the need for simplified compliance procedures, threshold exemptions, and support measures to reduce the compliance burden on small enterprises.

1.6. Unincorporated Sector in Kerala

Coming to the economic landscape of Kerala, role of the unincorporated MSMEs particularly the micro sector enterprises became more prominent. The Unincorporated sector enterprises form the backbone of Kerala's industrial and economic development by addressing various indicators like employment generation, income diversification, regional development, and the preservation of traditional industries (Manoj et.al, 2021). data. Taxation policy particularly the indirect taxation policy of the country is meant for fostering industrialization and thereby step-up the tax Revenue. Proper industrialization throttles sustainable economic development. Government attempts to energise industrialisation by reviving the traditional industries meanwhile, the MSME sector. Our MSME sector has the potential to emerge as strong, vibrant and globally competitive.

As stated, Kerala is a state lagging behind in industrialisation due to its various geographical and demographical specialities like the existence of Ecologically Fragile Areas and uneven distribution of the population. The absence of appropriate infrastructure also pulled back the state from industrialisation. Boosting the MSME sector is the solution to overcome the industrial backwardness of the State. MSME sector enjoyed certain tax benefits before GST. The Central Government included the MSME sector in the GST blanket in order to ensure proper performance of the system but it eliminates the tax benefits to the MSME sector. As two sides of a coin GST also have a negative side and it impacted the performance of the MSME sector in such manners as the need for technological up-gradation, highly talented personnel and compliance issues. In a state like Kerala where the MSME sector has a huge contribution to the economy, a small shortfall in the sector will definitely affect the entire State economy. The introduction of GST made a huge impact on the MSME sector and evaluation of those is necessary for the better performance of the sector.

1.7. Theoretical Background and Rationale of the Study

Changes in existing tax structures requires alterations in the compliance framework and the acquisition of new infrastructure becoming imperative for complying with it (Bhalla, N., Sharma, R. K., & Kaur, I., 2023). In adhering to the Goods and Services Tax (GST) framework, Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) find themselves compelled to seek additional assistance from auditors, tax practitioners, and lawyers which puts additional burden on their limited resources. This introduces an additional layer of compliance costs in the form of consulting charges, audit fees, and

professional charges (Hanefah et al., 2002; Sandford et al., 1989). Comparative assessments of GST against previous tax regimes, such as VAT and sales tax, in countries like Australia, Malaysia, and New Zealand, indicate an increase in compliance costs. Additionally, the time required for the compliance procedure has also witnessed an increase (Breen et al., 2002; Evans et al., 1996; Gunz et al., 1995; Pope & Mohdali, 2010; Siddiq & Sathya, 2017). In Indian context, compliance costs could be a reason for a large section of unincorporated enterprises to stay outside the tax system, as 78.63 per cent of eligible unincorporated enterprises are not registered under VAT/ Sales Tax (Mukherjee & Badola, 2022).

Under the VAT regime which is implemented in Indian states in the mid-2000s at state-level tax aimed to reduce cascading taxes by allowing input tax credit and there by attract more firms to the tax net. But the decentralized nature of VAT attributed to the state level tax administration, was not fully successful in achieving this. The state level compliance requirements under VAT included various strenuous procedures like manual filings, maintenance of detailed records and unavailability of Input Tax Credit for interstate transaction failed to reduce the cascading effect and informality (Keen, 2014; Jaiswal 2017).

Goods and Services Tax was introduced in 2017 to address with these issues, subsumed most of the state level and central level indirect taxes to a unified tax system and GST digitized the registration, filing, and return filing, and introduced e-invoicing and input tax credit matching leading to a tax system built on a strong information and communication technology foundation. For larger firms this offered standardization and efficiency but for small unincorporated firms, GST imposed new digital requirements that many of them are incapable of coping with them due to limited resources.

Unincorporated enterprises are generally sole proprietorships or partnerships firms not registered under the Companies Act/Factories Act operating on constrained resources and this might affect their ability to adapt to changes in tax regimes and affects their survival and growth (Djankov et al., 2002).

Assessing the tax compliance burden on the unincorporated firms under GST regime is needed for tailor made policies for this vulnerable sector to coping with the nuanced GST framework thereby encouraging formalization of the economy in a state like Kerala where the industrial landscape of the entire state depending heavily on the unincorporated sector.

1.8. Significance of the Study

This study offers insights to the government policy making to push for tax base expansion and economic formalization. While GST is hailed for its simplicity at a macro level, understanding its micro-level impact on the most numerous yet vulnerable segment, unincorporated enterprises, is essential for equitable policy design. Given these challenges, the government has actively promoted the Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSME) from unincorporated sector to ensure economic development. The impact of the Goods and Services Tax (GST) on the compliance burden of these firms necessitates a critical analysis for informed policymaking and the prosperity of the economy.

Objectives of the Study

This study aiming at achieving the following objectives:

- Quantify the tax compliance burden of unincorporated sector enterprises under the GST regime.
- Evaluate whether GST has contributed for reducing the tax compliance burden and nurtures small firms tax registration.
- Suggest policy interventions to reduce compliance burden of unincorporated firms and to encourage voluntary tax registration among micro and small enterprises.

2. Data and Methodology

A field survey of unincorporated MSMEs for understanding the ground level impact of GST compliance burden on the unincorporated firms. Convenient sampling was used to select the samples from the list unincorporated firms obtained from the Directorate of Industries and Commerce.

3. Results and Conclusion

3.1. Descriptive Statistics of Sample Enterprises

This section covers the basic profile of 20 unincorporated enterprises surveyed from Idukki and Thiruvananthapuram districts of Kerala. The analysis includes details on enterprise characteristics, ownership, infrastructure, accounting, GST compliance, and perceptions of GST compared to VAT. The objective is to give a structured overview of the sample before moving to the detailed analysis.

Table 2 Summary statistics of the Primary survey

Variable	Mean	Median	Std. Dev.	Min	Max
Owner age (years)	53.2	52	10.5	35	71
Hired workers (no.)	8.2	4	11.6	0	50
Family workers (no.)	0.55	0	1	0	4
GST compliance time (hrs/month)	15.4	15	7.7	5	30
VAT compliance time (hrs/month)	12.2	10	6.7	5	30
GST monetary cost (₹/month)	14,458	10,000	10,260	6,100	40,000
VAT monetary cost (₹/month)	9,085	5,500	7,053	4,000	24,000
Invoices generated/month	451	250	582	100	2,000
Penalty amount (₹)	6,500	0	12,365	0	50,000

Source: Author's calculations based on primary survey data.

3.2. Geographic and Sectoral Distribution

Out of the total 20 firms surveyed, 10 are situated in Idukki district, and the balance are from Thiruvananthapuram district.

3.3. Location of the firm

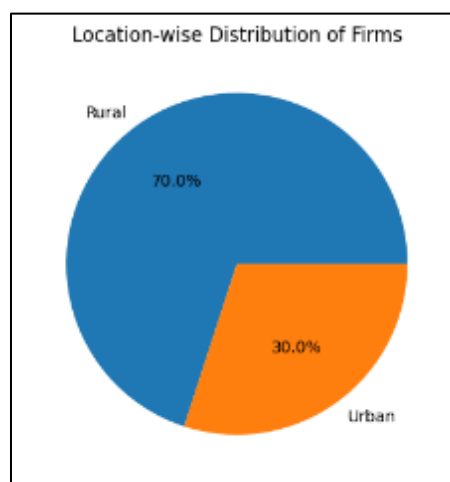


Figure 1 Location of the firm

Unincorporated enterprises are more concentrated in rural areas compared to urban areas. Infrastructure and government support are comparatively low in rural areas, making firms' GST compliance more burdensome.

3.4. Sector-wise Distribution

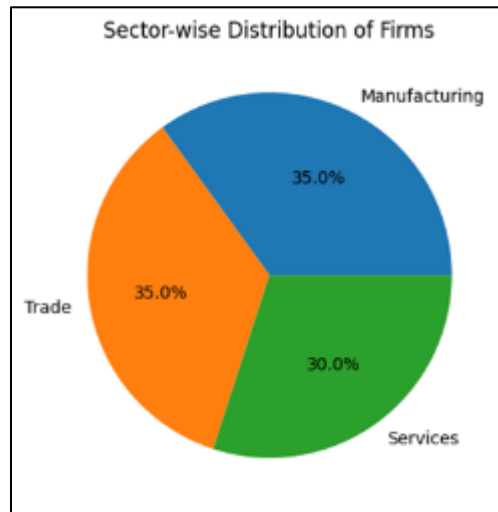


Figure 2 Sector-wise Distribution

The sample selected for the survey was evenly distributed across sectors of the economy to capture the sector-specific changes in firms' GST compliance burden.

3.5. Ownership and Socio-Demographic Profile

3.5.1. Type of Ownership

The ownership pattern of the firms, with male-owned firms dominant, is representative of the state's total unincorporated firm's population. 30% of the sample includes female-owned enterprises, which ultimately represent enough female-owned firms in the data collection, where gender specific factors are also decisive in tax compliance of the firms.

3.5.2. Education of the Proprietor

Most entrepreneurs possess at least a secondary education, as education is fundamental for dealing with modern ICT-based tax systems such as GST.

3.5.3. Age Profile

The age of entrepreneurs' ranges from 35 to 71 years, with a concentration between 45 and 65 years. Since the sample was also concentrated on firms started before 2016, prior to the implementation of GST, to ensure a comparative perspective across GST and pre-GST tax regimes.

3.6. Enterprise Characteristics

3.6.1. Year of Establishment

The firms selected for the survey were established between 1978 and 2015, with many units operating for more than 15 years. This shows that the sample consists of experienced firms that have transitioned from VAT to GST.

3.6.2. Enterprise Type

- HWE (Hiring Workers Enterprise): 19 firms
- OAE (Own Account Enterprise): 1 firm

3.6.3. Employment Structure

- Hired workers range from 0 to 50 workers.
- The majority employ between 2 and 10 hired workers.

- Family labour is minimal (mostly 0–2 workers).

3.6.4. Fixed Assets and Capital Employed

- Fixed assets range from ₹4 lakh to ₹50 lakhs.
- Capital employed is mostly above ₹5 lakhs.
- Several firms report capital employed above ₹10 lakhs.

3.7. Financial Inclusion and Digital Adoption

3.7.1. Bank Account and Credit Access

- All 20 firms have bank accounts (100%).
- Credit sources:
 - Both formal as well as informal: Majority
 - Formal only: Several firms
 - None: 1 firm

Financial inclusion, as measured by bank accounts and credit usage, is relatively high among firms registered under GST.

3.8. Computer and Internet Usage

- Almost all firms use computers.
- Internet access is widely available.
- Accounts are maintained by all firms.
- Most maintain digital records (sales, purchases, stock, wages).

GST increases the use of technology in firms for computerised billing, e-way bill generation, and compliance with GST procedures, though it becomes costly for firms.

3.9. Registration and Government Interface

All the firms surveyed are registered under GST, as the estimation of the compliance burden requires registered firms.

3.10. Other Registrations

Firms also reported multiple other registration such as:

- Trade License
- Udyam Registration
- S&E
- FSSAI
- LSGI
- Pollution Control Board
- Drug Control
- Forest Department
- Fire & Safety

Interacting with various other formal registrations increases the chances of GST registration and also increases their compliance burden.

Government Schemes

Several firms availed schemes such as:

- Mudra loans
- Export promotion benefits
- Others reported none

3.11. GST Compliance Burden: Time and Cost

3.11.1. GST Compliance Time (Hours per Month)

- The firm spent 5 to 30 hours of working time on tax-related activities each month.
- Many firms spend 10-20 hours monthly on GST-related work.
- Compliance-related procedures time usage increases with the size of firms, measured by turnover, number of invoices, and employment.

Table 3 Sector-wise Compliance Time

Sector	GST Time (hrs)	VAT Time (hrs)	Time Increase (hrs)
Manufacturing	17.14	13.83	3.31
Services	16.43	15	1.43
Trading	12.17	8.33	3.84

Source: Author's calculations based on primary survey data.

In most firms, the time spent on tax compliance was higher under GST than under VAT. This supports the hypothesis that GST has increased time-related compliance burden.

3.12. Persons Engaged

Most firms employed 1 or 2 persons for tax-related work, but those employees were not specifically assigned to tax work, as they were engaged in overall accounting for the firms.

All the firms are taking external help from tax practitioners for GST-related work, and the payments made to them accounted for the major portion of tax-related expenditure.

3.13. Monetary Compliance Cost

The cost of complying with GST regulations is higher than under the pre-GST regulations. Payments to tax practitioners contribute to the lion's share of the total compliance burden. The entrepreneurs also mention the inseparability of payments for GST compliance, accounting, and Income tax compliance.

- Minimum: ₹6,100
- Maximum: ₹40,000
- Many firms incur annual costs of ₹9,000–₹15,000.
- Larger firms incur above ₹30,000.

3.14. VAT Cost (Pre-GST)

- Generally lower than GST.
- Range: ₹4,000–₹24,000.

Table 4 Sector-wise Monthly Compliance Cost

Sector	VAT Cost (₹)	GST Cost (₹ Actual)	GST Cost (₹ Real)	Real Increase (₹)	% Increase
Manufacturing	12,583	18,800	13,629	1,046	8.30%
Services	9,340	15,357	11,128	1,788	19.10%
Trading	5,375	8,342	6,046	671	12.50%

Source: Author's calculations based on primary survey data.

Comparing the costs in 2015-16 with 2025-26 was meaningless since the value of the currency was changing over the period. So, the cost was deflated using the GDP deflator. Even after adjusting for inflation the compliance burden increased by 8.30%, 19.10% and 12.50% for manufacturing, services and trading firms respectively.

3.15. Psychological Cost and Perception

3.15.1. Psychological Cost

- Many firms report High psychological cost in terms of mental stress due to limited understanding of the system, as well as continuously changing tax-related laws.
- Few entrepreneurs replied that compliance is handled entirely by Tax Practitioners, and they are only providing invoices and other documents to the practitioners.

3.15.2. GST vs VAT Perception

The majority of entrepreneurs believe that GST improved taxation, even if the compliance burden increased. This might be because of:

- Input Tax Credit (ITC)
- Wider market access
- Reduction in cascading taxes

Many of the firm owners are facing issues with;

- System complexity
- Portal issues
- HSN classification
- Frequent rule changes
- E-way bill and roadside checks

3.16. Return Filing and Penalties

3.16.1. Return Filing Frequency

- Monthly: Majority
- Quarterly: Some smaller units

3.16.2. Invoices per Month

- Range: 100 to 2000
- Larger manufacturing and trading units issue significantly more invoices.

3.16.3. Penalties

- Few firms reported penalties.
- Penalty amounts range from ₹10,000 to ₹50,000.
- Most firms did not face penalties.

Firms that paid the penalties believe the penalties arose from a lack of awareness of the law, since the law was consistently changing during the initial phase of implementation. In fear of penalties, many of the firms approach tax practitioners rather than doing the tax related works by themselves.

Table 5 Reasons for GST Registration

Reason	Percentage of Firms
Buyers' Requirement	75%
Access to Loans	60%
Market Expansion	25%
Business Expansion	15%
Input Tax Credit	15%
Voluntary	5%

Source: Author's calculations based on primary survey data.

4. Conclusion

The study mainly based on the primary survey data collected through structured questionnaires from the unincorporated entrepreneurs mainly from rural areas with hires workers. Both in VAT and GST periods there is a statistically significant cost incurred for the tax registered firms. Pressure from the buyers as well as the need of formal credit are the key drivers of tax registration among unincorporated firms. Technology adoption of the tax registered firms is evidence for the technological advancement needed to comply with GST. So, the monetary cost in absolute terms is higher for the GST registered firms comparing to VAT registered firms in pre-GST period along with monetary burden the psychological burden was also high for the GST registered firms.

Compliance with ethical standards

Disclosure of conflict of interest

No conflict of interest to be disclosed.

References

- [1] Azmi, A., Sapiei, N. S., Mustapha, M. Z., & Abdullah, M. (2016). SMEs' tax compliance costs and IT adoption: the case of a value-added tax. *International Journal of Accounting Information Systems*, 23, 1-13.
- [2] Bhalla, N., Sharma, R. K., & Kaur, I. (2023). Effect of Goods and Service Tax System on Business Performance of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises. *SAGE Open*, 13(2). <https://doi.org/10.1177/21582440231177210>
- [3] Breen J., Bergin-Seers S., Roberts I., Robert S. (2002). The impact of the introduction of the GST on Small Business in Australia. *Asian Review of Accounting*, 10, 1-25.
- [4] Cl  roux, P. (1992). Small business and the cost of paperwork: the goods and services tax. *Journal of Small Business & Entrepreneurship*, 9(4), 27-39.
- [5] Dandapat, A., & Das, P. (2022). Role of microfinance to promote the growth of unorganized manufacturing enterprises in India: An analysis. In *Microfinance to Combat Global Recession and Social Exclusion: An Empirical Investigation* (pp. 131-146). Singapore: Springer Nature Singapore.
- [6] Dehejia, R. H., & Wahba, S. (2002). Propensity score-matching methods for nonexperimental causal studies. *Review of Economics and statistics*, 84(1), 151-161.
- [7] Djankov, S., La Porta, R., Lopez-de-Silanes, F., & Shleifer, A. (2002). The Regulation of Entry. *Quarterly Journal of Economics*.
- [8] Ebrill, M. L. P., Keen, M. M., & Perry, M. V. P. (2001). *The modern VAT*. International Monetary Fund.
- [9] Eichfelder, S. and F. Hechtner (2018). "Tax compliance costs: Cost burden and cost reliability." *Public Finance Review* 46(5): 764-792.
- [10] Eichfelder, S., & Vaillancourt, F. (2014). Tax compliance costs: Measurement and policy.
- [11] Emran, M. S., & Stiglitz, J. E. (2005). On selective indirect tax reform in developing countries. *Journal of public Economics*, 89(4), 599-623.

- [12] Ernest, B. T., & Danie, S. (2021). Tax compliance cost: A review of methodologies of recent studies. *Academy of Accounting and Financial Studies Journal*, 25(4), 1-10.
- [13] Evans C., Ritchie K., Tran-Nam B., Walpole M. (1996). A report into the incremental costs of taxpayer compliance. *Commonwealth Information Services*.
- [14] Evans, J. (2003). The effect of discretionary actions on small firms' ability to survive Chapter 11 bankruptcy. *Journal of Corporate Finance*, 9(1), 115-128.
- [15] Faridy, N. (2013, January). VAT compliance costs and VAT evasion of small and medium enterprises (SMEs) sectors in Bangladesh: Is there a link. In *25th Annual Australasian Tax Teachers Association Conference, Auckland, New Zealand* (pp. 23-25).
- [16] Ganguly, S. (2021). Informality and structural change: evidence from microenterprises in India's unorganised manufacturing sector. *Journal of Small Business and Enterprise Development*, 28(1), 22-44.
- [17] Gendron, P. P., & Bird, R. M. (2020). VAT gaps in developing countries: measurement, administration and politics. *Administration and Politics* (September 21, 2020).
- [18] Ghosh, S. (2022). Formalising the Informal through GST: Evidence from a Survey of MSMEs. *Review of Development and Change*, 27(2), 150-169.
- [19] Gunz S., Macnaughton A., Wensley K. (1995). Measuring the compliance cost of tax expenditures: The case of research and development incentives. *Canadian Tax Journal*, 43(6), 2008-2034.
- [20] Hanefah M., Ariff M., Kasipillai J. (2002). Compliance costs of small and medium enterprises. *Journal of Australian Taxation*, 4(1), 73-97.
- [21] Jaiswal, S. (2017). removing cascading Effect of taxes. *Yojana*, August.
- [22] Kanbur, R., & Keen, M. (2014). Thresholds, informality, and partitions of compliance. *International Tax and Public Finance*.
- [23] Keen, M. (2014). Targeting, cascading and indirect tax design. *Indian Growth and Development Review*, 7(2), 181-201.
- [24] Keen, M., & Lockwood, B. (2006). Is the VAT a money machine? *National Tax Journal*, 59(4), 905-928.
- [25] Kirchler, E. (2007). The economic psychology of tax behaviour. New York, NY: Cambridge University Press
- [26] Manoj, P. K., Khan, A. K. J. F., & Krishna, S. (2021). MSMEs for Faster and Equitable Economic Growth: The Case of Kerala in India. *Journal of Production Research & Management*, 11(3), 19-28p.
- [27] Mukherjee, S., & Badola, S. (2022). Estimation of VAT compliance costs of unincorporated enterprises in India: unit-level analysis. *Indian Economic Review*, 57(2), 421-441.
- [28] Palil, M. R., Hamid, M. A., & Hanafiah, M. H. (2013). Taxpayers Compliance Behaviour: Economic Factors Approach. *Jurnal Pengurusan*, 38.
- [29] Pope J., Mohdali R. (2010). The role of religiosity in tax morale and tax compliance. *Australian Tax Forum*, 25, 565-596.
- [30] Rupert, T., Single, L., & Wright, A. (2003). The Impact of Tax Complexity on Taxpayers' Compliance Decisions. *Journal of the American Taxation Association*.
- [31] Sandford C. T., Godwin M., Hardwick P. (1989). Administrative and compliance costs of taxation. *Fiscal Publications*.
- [32] Siddiq K., Sathya P. (2017). Impact of GST on micro, small and Medium Enterprises. *Journal of Management Sciences*, Special Issue 1, 180-184.
- [33] Singh, A. N. (2018). A comprehensive analysis of Goods and Services Tax (GST) in India. *Indian Journal of Finance*, 7(7), 1-4.
- [34] Slemrod, J., & Venkatesh, V. (2002). The income tax compliance cost of large and mid-size businesses.
- [35] Syal, S. (2015). Role of MSMEs in the growth of Indian economy. *Global Journal of Commerce and Management Perspective*, 4(5), 40-43.
- [36] Scholz, J. T., Roth, J. A., & Witte, A. D. (1989). *Taxpayer compliance: An agenda for research* (Vol. 1). University of Pennsylvania Press.