

Increased Tax Avoidance By Leverage Through Corporate Social Responsibility Disclosure

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ABSTRACT

This study aims at examining and analysing the effect of leverage on tax avoidance. The moderating variable is disclosing corporate social responsibility. The population in the current study is manufacturing companies in the consumer goods industry sector. The companies were listed on the Indonesia Stock Exchange (ISE) from 2013 to 2017. To examine the hypotheses, Moderation Regression Analysis (MRA) was applied. The results prove that leverage has a positive and significant effect on tax avoidance. Moreover, the corporate social responsibility disclosure is proven to strengthen the effect of leverage on tax avoidance.

Keywords: Leverage; Tax Avoidance; Corporate Social Responsibility. [10.24843/EJA.2021.v31.i02.p18](https://doi.org/10.24843/EJA.2021.v31.i02.p18)

Peningkatan Penghindaran Pajak dengan Leverage Melalui Pengungkapan Tanggung Jawab Sosial Perusahaan

ABSTRAK

Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk menguji dan menganalisis pengaruh leverage terhadap penghindaran pajak. Variabel moderasi adalah pengungkapan tanggung jawab sosial perusahaan. Populasi dalam penelitian ini adalah perusahaan manufaktur sektor industri barang konsumsi. Perusahaan-perusahaan tersebut terdaftar di Bursa Efek Indonesia (BEI) dari tahun 2013 hingga 2017. Untuk menguji hipotesis tersebut, digunakan Moderation Regression Analysis (MRA). Hasil tersebut membuktikan bahwa leverage berpengaruh positif dan signifikan terhadap penghindaran pajak. Selain itu, pengungkapan tanggung jawab sosial perusahaan terbukti memperkuat pengaruh leverage terhadap penghindaran pajak.

Kata Kunci: Leverage; Penghindaran Pajak; Tanggung Jawab Sosial Perusahaan.

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INTRODUCTION

Tax is a mandatory contribution to a country. According to Rodriguez & Arias., (2012) Leverage (LEV) is a factor that affects companies in paying taxes. Leverage is the level of debt used by companies in financing. A percentage of total debt measures financial leverage to the company's equity in a period, also called Debt to Equity Ratio (DER). Darmawan & Sukartha (2014) states that the increase in the amount of debt will result in interest expenses that must be paid by the company. The interest expense component will reduce the company's pre-tax profit. This statement is in line with research conducted by Zahirah et al., (2017) which states that leverage affects tax avoidance, the research results are supported by research by (Jasmine et al., 2017) and (Nursari et al., 2017).

Based on the empirical results, it can be seen that a clear pattern of relationship between leverage and tax avoidance is that companies that have a high degree of leverage tend to avoid taxes. Nevertheless, on the other hand, the company is also required to keep maintaining the level of investor confidence so that this pressure encourages companies to disclose CSR as a form of corporate social responsibility. This is in line with the signal theory that companies with high leverage levels are expected to make more CSR disclosures to reduce information asymmetry that might result in stronger creditors and investor pressure on the company. By providing information disclosure such as CSR, it is expected that parties such as creditors and investors can see this as a guarantee for the company's business so that their rights as creditors and investors are guaranteed and do not put greater pressure on the company (Christiawan & Putri, 2014). However, despite the apparent trend patterns, some researchers revealed different results. Faizah & Adhivinna, (2017) and Hidayat, (2018) who succeeded in proving that leverage does not affect tax avoidance. Based on the description, the hypothesis in this study is as follows.

H₁: Leverage affects tax avoidance (tax avoidance).

According to Watson, (2011), if the company does not disclose CSR, it indicates that the company does not have a social responsibility. Therefore, it is often the parties concerned to make a tax strategy. The more forms of accountability a company does to its environment, the company's image will increase, and investor interest will increase. Social responsibility is one of the main factors in the survival of a company.

This study selects the object of research in the manufacturing companies in the consumer goods industry sector. The reason is that the consumer goods industry sector has good sales each year and the consumer goods industry sector is a large company that promises high profits, therefore the possibility of greater tax avoidance. Then, related to CSR disclosure, according to Ramadhani, (2012) companies in the consumer goods industry sector have more influence/impact on the surrounding environment as a result of the activities carried out by the company and meet aspects on the theme of CSR disclosure.

Based on the background described and the conflict between previous researchers (research gap), the authors are interested in re-analyzing the effect of leverage on tax avoidance with CSR disclosure as moderating. It is hoped that through the findings of this research, at least it can reduce the research gap and be input for future research.

Dealing with the current research, there are some theories, concepts and methods described. They are as follows. Legitimacy is a psychological state of partiality of people and groups of people who are very sensitive to the symptoms of the surrounding environment, both physical and non-physical (Hadi, 2011). According to Dowling & Pfeffer, (1975), legitimacy is the most important thing for an organization, social norms and values emphasize the limits, and the reaction to these limits encourages the importance of organizational behavior concerning the environment. Legitimacy Theory focuses on the interaction between the company and the community. It is based on the view that a company should create harmony between the social values and the norms of behavior that exist in the social system. As long as the two value systems are in harmony, this can be seen as the company's legitimacy. However, when there is actual disharmony between the two value systems, there will be a threat to the legitimacy of the company (Dowling & Pfeffer, 1975).

Stakeholders are interested parties in the company, which include employees, consumers, suppliers, the community, the government as a regulator, shareholders, creditors, and others. According to Anggraeni, (2011), Stakeholders Theory states that companies are not entities that only operate for their interests, but provide benefits for stakeholders, government, and society. In the perspective of stakeholder theory, society and the environment are the company's core stakeholders that must be considered. Stakeholder theory relates to the concept of corporate social responsibility where corporate responsibility is not only limited to maximizing the profits and interests of shareholders but must also consider the community, customers and suppliers as part of the company's operations. The assumptions of stakeholder theory are built on the statement that the company develops to be very large and causes the community to be very related and pay attention to the company, so the company needs to show accountability and responsibility more broadly and not limited to shareholders.

Signal theory is a theory that explains why companies have the drive to provide financial statement information to external parties (Sari & Zuhrohtun, 2006). One of the information that must be disclosed by the company is information about corporate social responsibility. The company made CSR disclosures in the hope of increasing the company's reputation and value (Rustiarini, 2010). Information about CSR disclosure is a signal to the company to communicate the company's performance in the long run, because CSR is related to acceptability and sustainability, which means that the company is accepted and sustainable to run somewhere long-term, who do not and disclose CSR activities (Adisusilo & Sudarno, 2011).

Tax avoidance is part of tax planning that is done to minimize tax payments. Pohan, (2011) states that tax avoidance is a tax avoidance effort that is carried out legally and safely for taxpayers without conflicting with applicable taxation provisions because the methods and techniques used are by utilizing the weaknesses contained in Tax Laws and Regulations. Tax avoidance is an effort made by every company manager to reduce the tax burden, and even taxes are not paid to the government to take advantage of certain individuals or groups.

According to Kasmir, (2014), leverage is a ratio used to measure the extent to which a company's assets are financed by debt, meaning how much debt burden the company bears compared to its assets, or this ratio is to measure the company's ability to pay all of its obligations both short and long term (total debt / total assets). The problem of leverage arises because companies use debt which causes the company to bear a fixed burden. This ratio is the debt to total assets ratio, Debt to Equity Ratio, fixed charge coverage ratio and debt service coverage. A percentage of total debt measures financial leverage to the company's equity in a period, also called Debt to Equity Ratio (DER).

Hadi, (2011) argues that Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) is a form of action that departs from ethical considerations of companies that are directed to improve the economy, which is accompanied by improving the quality of life for employees and their families, as well as improving the quality of life of surrounding communities and communities as a whole. Corporate social responsibility (CSR) is a form of social responsibility given by a company to increase the commercial value of a company without leaving ethical values for the quality of the environment and society. Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) is a phenomenon of corporate strategy that accommodates the needs and interests of its stakeholders. Based on the description, the hypothesis in this study is as follows:

H₂: Leverage influences Tax avoidance which is moderated by Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR).

The model of the current research is shown in the following figure.

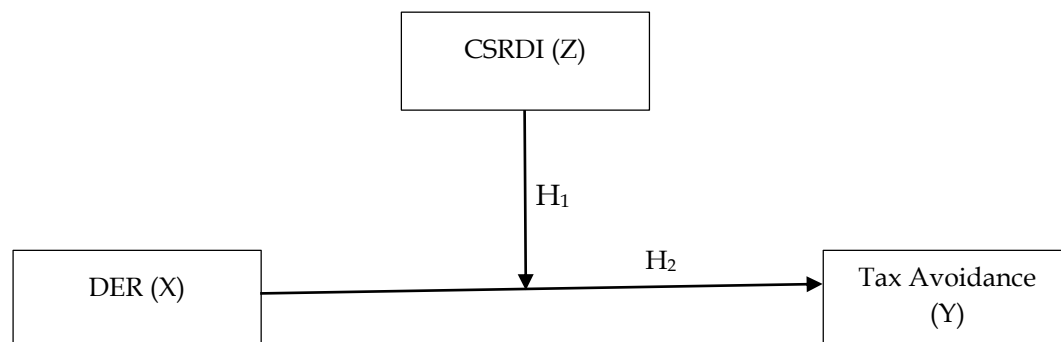


Figure 1. Research Model

Source: Research Data, 2020

RESEARCH METHODS

The method used in this research is quantitative. The type of data used in this study is secondary data with data collection on manufacturing companies in the consumer goods industry sector which are listed on the Indonesia Stock Exchange (ISE) in 2012-2016. The research population is Manufacturing companies in the consumer goods industry sector which are listed on the Indonesia Stock Exchange (IDX). The total population contained in this study was 42. From the population, there will be taken several samples used in this study, with a purposive sampling method. The criteria presented as follows; 1) Manufacturing companies in the consumer goods sector which were listed on the Indonesia Stock Exchange IDX in 2013-2017. 2) The company publishes annual

reports and complete financial reports for 2013-2017. 3) The company did not experience losses during the study year or positive profit value. 4) There were successive CSR disclosures in the 2013 Annual Report during 2013-2017. 5) Companies that do not have outlier data. Based on these criteria, seven companies were observed for five years. The analytical method used in this study is a moderated regression analysis with the formula:

$$ETR = \alpha + \beta_1 DER + \varepsilon \dots\dots\dots(1)$$

$$ETR = \alpha + \beta_2 DER + \beta_3 DER * CSRDI + \varepsilon \dots\dots\dots(2)$$

The independent variable is leverage. A percentage of total debt measures financial leverage to the company's equity in a period, also called Debt to Equity Ratio (DER). DER is a measure used in analyzing the amount of collateral for creditors. The greater the DER reflects the relatively high risk of the company. The dependent variable, namely tax avoidance, is an attempt to reduce, or even eliminate the tax debt that must be paid by the company by not violating existing laws. Low ETR indicates a lower income tax burden than pre-tax income. The formula for calculating the effective tax rate is as follows:

$$DER = \frac{\text{Total Liability}}{\text{Equity}} \dots\dots\dots(3)$$

Source: Sandy & Lukviarman, (2015)

The moderating variable used is Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR). CSR disclosures are disclosures related to company responsibilities in the annual report. CSR disclosure is measured through the Corporate Social Responsibility Disclosure Index (CSRDI):

$$CSRDI = \frac{\sum X_{ij}}{N_{ij}} \dots\dots\dots(4)$$

Source: Yanti & Budiasih, (2016)

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

The normality test aims to test whether, in the regression model, confounding or residual variables have a normal distribution. A good regression model is having normal or near-normal data distribution (Ghozali, 2016). In this study, the normality test was detected by analyzing the normal probability plot graph and the non-parametric Kolmogorov-Smirnov Z analysis (1- Sample K-S). This statistical test is normally distributed if the significant residual value in the Kolmogorov-Smirnov test is more than 0.05. The results of the normality test with the Kolmogorov-Smirnov (K-S) test, can be seen in the table as follows:

Table 1. Normality Test Result

	Unstandardised Residual
Kolmogorov-Sminov Z	1,038
Asymp. Sig. (2-tailed)	,231

Source: Research Data, 2020

Based on the Table 1, it can be seen the value of Asymp. Sig. (2-tailed) of 0.231 significant value (0.231 > 0.05), which means that the data are normally distributed, and the regression model can be used as the next test.

Multicollinearity test aims to test whether the regression model found a correlation between independent variables. To detect the existence of multicollinearity problems can be done by looking at the tolerance value and

variance inflation factor (VIF) on each independent variable. Multicollinearity test results can be seen in the following table.

Table 2. Multicollinearity Test Result

Model	Model	Collinearity Statistics	
		Tolerance	VIF
1	(Constant)		
	DER	,999	1,001
	CSRDI	,999	1,001

Source: Research Data, 2020

Based on the Table 2, the results of the data processing show that there is no single variable that has a tolerance value below 0.10 and the value of Variance Inflation Factor (VIF) above 10. Then it can be concluded that in this study multicollinearity did not occur.

The autocorrelation test aims to assess whether a linear regression model correlates with the fault error in the t period and the error in the previous period (t-1): autocorrelation test or residual independent assumptions using the Durbin-Watson method. The Durbin-Watson test is only used for first-order autocorrelation (first-order autocorrelation) and only requires the existence of intercepts (constants), in the regression model and no more between independent variables (Ghozali, 2016). The results of the autocorrelation test can be seen in the Table 3.

Table 3. Autocorrelation Result

Model	Std. The error of the Estimate	Durbin- Watson
1	0,2390	1,275

Source: Research Data, 2020

The data shows that the Durbin-Watson (D-W) test obtained was 1,275. Based on the theory in the research model, there is no auto-correlation, because the D-W value of 1.275 is between -2 to 2, which means that it is free from the auto-correlation problem.

Heteroscedasticity test aims to test whether the regression model occurs variance invariance from residuals of one observation to another. Heteroscedasticity symptoms are detected using scatterplot charts. The results of the heteroscedasticity test can be seen in the figure below.

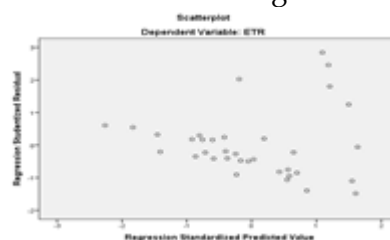


Figure 2. Heteroscedasticity Test Results

Source: Research Data, 2020

Based on the classic assumption test that has been done, it can be seen that the data in this study do not have the problem of classical assumptions. Therefore, the available data meet the requirements to use a simple and moderation regression model. In this study, two linear regression equations are consisting of simple linear regression and moderation linear regression contained in the interaction element. Next, in the first regression, the result of the

moderation linear regression in which there are elements of interaction for the second equation are as follows:

$$ETR = 0,240 + 0,039DER$$

while in the second regression, it is:

$$ETR = 0,241 + 0,436DER + 1,103DER * CSRDI$$

Based on the results, it is stated that the first hypothesis testing results, leverage affects tax avoidance. It is seen in the following Table.

Table 4. First Hypothesis Testing Results

Independent variable	t-count	t-table	Sig.	Note.
Leverage	2,672	2,037	0,012	Affected

Source: Research Data, 2020

Based on the Table 4, it can be concluded that the results of the t-test between leverage against tax avoidance are obtained count $2.672 >$ greater than t-table that is 2.037 with a significance value of $0.012 < 0.05$ which means H_1 is accepted, so it shows that leverage affects tax avoidance.

Table 5. Determination Coefficient Test Results (R2)

Model	R	R Square	Adjusted R Square	Std. The error of the Estimate
1	,422	,178	,153	,02754

Source: Research Data, 2020

Based on the calculations performed in the table shows that the coefficient of determination (R2) proposed from the Adjusted R-Square value of 15.3% variable Y (tax avoidance) can be explained significantly by DER. Other variables outside the model explain the remaining 84.7% generated from $(100\% - 15.3\%)$.

The results obtained from testing the first hypothesis indicate that the higher the amount of funding from third party debt used by the company and the higher the interest costs arising from the debt. The higher interest costs will have the effect of reducing the company's tax burden. Thus the higher the value of leverage, the level of tax avoidance by companies will be higher. The results of this study support the research (Zahirah et al., 2017). This positive relationship occurs because companies that have high debt will get tax incentives in the form of discounts on loan interest. The results of this study are also in line with the view of the trade-off theory. It states that the use of debt by companies can be used for tax savings. The tax savings are in the form of interest costs that can be deducted from taxable income.

Thus, companies that have high tax rates can increase the portion of debt more than companies that have low tax rates. However, this study is not in line with the results of Hidayat, (2018), who said that leverage does not affect tax avoidance. Second Hypothesis Testing Results, H2: Leverage affects Tax avoidance which is moderated by Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR).

The results of this study support the theory of legitimacy and stakeholders, where companies must consider the satisfaction of all parties in implementing company activities and decision making. The higher the level of CSR disclosure, the higher the tax avoidance carried out by the company. Fulfilment of CSR obligations is carried out by companies to cover up the company's image so that it merely looks good, has the support of the community and the environment.

Companies in the consumer goods industry sector on average have high debt and interest expenses, of course, giving the effect of reducing the company's tax burden. With a high level of CSR disclosure, as if the company has fulfilled its obligations, the company's image looks good and has the support of the community and the environment, then the company that conducts tax evasion in the presence of CSR will get higher levels of tax avoidance.

CONCLUSION

Based on the results of data analysis regarding the DER is proxied as leverage against tax avoidance with CSR as a moderating variable, it can be concluded as follows, Leverage affects tax avoidance. It means that the higher the leverage is, the higher the level of tax avoidance. Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) strengthens the relationship of Leverage Against Tax avoidance, meaning that the more increased CSR disclosure, the more strengthened the relationship between leverage and tax avoidance.

Next, undeniable, the current research has its limitation. The research limitations are presented as follows. The variables in this study only use two variables, namely Leverage (DER), and corporate social responsibility (CSR). But, likely, there are still many other variables that can affect tax avoidance. This study only uses manufacturing companies in the consumer goods industry sector as a sample, so the results cannot be used as a reference for other companies on the Indonesia Stock Exchange (IDX).

Finally, based on the discussion and conclusion, it is suggested as follows. First, future studies are suggested to be able to add independent variables and use measurements other than those used in this study. Second, in the next research, it is expected to use other types of companies other than manufacturing companies in the consumer goods industry to get more developed results.

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