

To cite this article: Anang Candra Arianto, Wahyu Agus Winarno and Ririn Irmadariyani (2023). Influence of Obedience Pressure and Task Complexity on Audit Judgment with Professional Commitment as Moderating Variable in The Besuki Residency Inspectorate. International Journal of Education, Business and Economics Research (IJEER) 3 (3): 97-104

INFLUENCE OF OBEDIENCE PRESSURE AND TASK COMPLEXITY ON AUDIT JUDGMENT WITH PROFESSIONAL COMMITMENT AS MODERATING VARIABLE IN THE BESUKI RESIDENCY INSPECTORATE

Anang Candra Arianto¹, Wahyu Agus Winarno² and Ririn Irmadariyani³

¹²³University of Jember, Faculty of Economics and Business, Department of Accounting
Jember, East Java, Indonesia

ABSTRACT

This study aims to examine whether obedience pressure and task complexity affect audit judgment which is moderated by professional commitment to the Besuki Residency Inspectorate. In taking the sample, the census method is used, which is a technique for determining a sample with all members of the population selected to be the sample because the number of Inspectorate auditors in the Besuki Residency is under 100 people. The data collection method in this study was carried out using survey techniques and distributing questionnaires directly to respondents which were made in the form of structured statements with the respondent's limits on alternative answers only or using a Likert scale. This study uses Moderated Regression Analysis (MRA) data analysis with Smart (Partial Least Square) PLS to process research data. The results of this study indicate that obedience pressure and task complexity affect audit judgment, but are not moderated by professional commitment to the Besuki Residency Inspectorate.

KEYWORDS: Audit judgment, obedience pressure, professional commitment, task complexity.

© The Authors 2023
Published Online: June 2023

Published by International Journal of Education, Business and Economics Research (IJEER) (<https://ijeber.com/>) This article is published under the Creative Commons Attribution (CC BY 4.0) license. Anyone may reproduce, distribute, translate and create derivative works of this article (for both commercial and non-commercial purposes), subject to full attribution to the original publication and authors. The full terms of this license may be seen at: <http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/legalcode>

1. INTRODUCTION

The demand for the implementation of public sector accountability for the realization of good governance is increasing. Internal auditors, in this case the Government Internal Oversight Apparatus, must be able to account for the management of their regional finances in order to realize good governance. Sometimes an auditor does not work in accordance with the auditor's professional standards, but in accordance with the wishes of the superior or client so that it is more profitable for the client or company. This shows that the auditor does not perform audit judgment properly (Tielman, 2012). Auditors will feel under pressure when they receive orders or requests from superiors to carry out the wishes or orders of superiors that are contrary to professional standards

and ethics. Obedience pressure from superiors can affect the inspection process carried out by the auditor. According to Misbahuddin, et al. (2018), auditors can be influenced by the complexity of the task in carrying out audit judgments due to the more complex a task, the Government Internal Oversight Apparatus must issue all capabilities they have to complete it, so that task complexity can motivate the Government Internal Oversight Apparatus in their efforts to achieve a better assessment appropriate in carrying out an audit.

Based on the research that has been done, there are still inconsistencies from the results of previous studies. The difference between this study and previous studies lies in the use of moderating variables as a professional commitment. Professional commitment refers to an individual's attachment to his profession. Individuals with high professional commitment have strong beliefs and acceptance of professional goals. Consideration of the inclusion of professional commitment as a moderating variable is that it can be seen whether professional commitment can strengthen or weaken the effect of obedience pressure and task complexity on the audit judgment taken by the Government Internal Supervisory Apparatus. The research location is in the District/City Inspectorate Offices throughout the Besuki Residency (Jember Regency, Bondowoso Regency, Situbondo Regency and Banyuwangi Regency) the researcher chose these four areas to be the object of research because this research had never been conducted in these four areas and the characteristics of the people still had similarities to one another.

2. REVIEW LITERATURE

2.1 Agency Theory

According to Kustono (2009), the basic assumption of agency theory is that each individual will try to do everything possible to optimize their own interests. The relevance of agency theory in this study is that the independent auditor acts as a mediator between the two parties who have different interests, and discusses the problem of principal agents in the separation between public and government control between different capital suppliers and in the separation of risk-bearing, decision-making and control functions in the inspectorate, where the government is a party contracted by the community to work in the interests of the people.

2.2 Good Government Governance Theory

According to the Minister for Administrative Reform, good governance is good, clean and authoritative governance. The Asian Development Bank defines governance as administering government by articulating accountability, participation, transparency and predictability.

2.3 Attribution Theory

The relevance of attribution theory in this study is that one of a person's behavior in making audit judgments is influenced by external factors, namely task complexity and obedience pressure. External causes refer more to the environment that influences a person's behavior such as social conditions, social values, and community views (Nugrahanti & Jahja, 2018). Auditors will face a variety of very complex tasks and different levels of difficulty. Obedience pressure in the form of pressure from superiors or agencies can also affect the judgment of the auditor.

2.4 Obedience Pressure

According to Rustan (2021) says that the pressure of obedience from superiors experienced by subordinates will change the psychology of a person, where that initially an independent behavior becomes a channeling behavior. Auditors experience obedience pressure from superiors and clients related to the audit process being carried out which will cause pressure for the auditor to choose and obey the will of superiors and clients or remain firm in a professional manner as an accountant.

2.5 Task Complexity

Complexity can arise from ambiguity and weak structure, both in main tasks and other tasks (Kang & Piercey, 2020). Auditors are always faced with tasks that consist of many parts and are interrelated to one another. The complexity of audit documents can occur in various accounts, the amount or the amount of the account balance.

2.6 Professional Commitment

According to Byrnes, et al. (2012) defines professional commitment as the relative strength of individual identification with the involvement of a profession including beliefs, acceptance of goals and the desire to maintain membership. Professional commitment is a responsibility to behave that goes beyond fulfilling the responsibilities assigned to them and goes beyond complying with laws and regulations. Government Internal Supervisory Apparatuses as professionals will recognize their responsibilities to the public, auditees, and colleagues in the profession and even to the state.

2.7 Audit Judgment

Audit judgment is a personal consideration or auditor's point of view in responding to information that influences evidence documentation and the auditor's decision-making regarding the financial statements of an entity, where audit Judgment is needed when dealing with uncertainties and limitations of information and data obtained where the examiner is required to be able to make assumptions which can be used to make judgments and evaluate judgments. In the incremental judgment process, if information keeps coming, new considerations and new decisions/choices will emerge (Harahap & Parinduri, 2022).

2.8 Conceptual Framework

There is a direct relationship between obedience pressure and task complexity on audit judgment. While the indirect relationship occurs in obedience pressure and task complexity to audit judgment with professional commitment as a moderating variable in the Besuki Residency Inspectorate. Based on the description above, the following is the framework of this research:

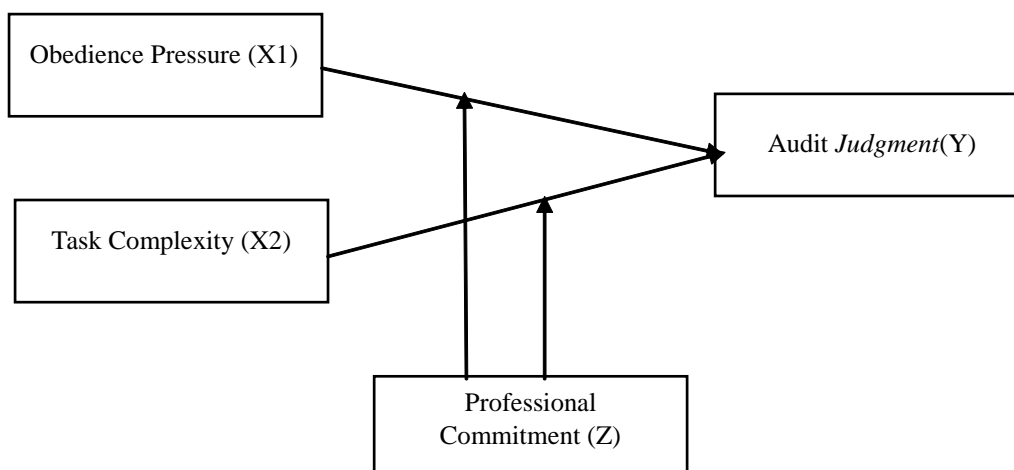


Figure 1: Conceptual Framework

2.9 Research Hypothesis

H1: Obedience Pressure has an effect on Audit Judgment

H2: Task Complexity has an effect on Audit Judgment

H3: Professional Commitment moderates Obedience Pressure on Audit Judgments

H4: Professional Commitment moderates Task Complexity on Audit Judgment

3. METHOD

The design of this study uses a descriptive quantitative approach. The data used in this study uses primary data from respondents' answers to questionnaire statements collected from auditors of the Besuki Residency Inspectorate. The questionnaire is made in the form of a structured statement with the respondent's limits on alternative answers only or using a Likert scale. The scale will then be summed up in the form of recapitulation of answers from respondents and processed the scale using Moderated Regression Analysis (MRA) data analysis using Smart (Partial Least Square) PLS.

4. RESULT

4.1 Descriptive Statistical Analysis

The results of processing the descriptive statistical data of the research variables are shown in Table 1 below:

Table 1. Results of Descriptive Statistics

Research variable	N	Min	Max	Mean	Standard Deviation
Obedience Pressure (X1)	51	4	10	7,62	1,5486
Task Complexity (X2)	51	8	13	10,92	1,1107
Professional Commitment (Z)	51	13	25	20,47	1,9427
Audit Judgment (Y)	51	14	20	16,39	1,1502

Based on table 1, the results of the descriptive statistical test can be explained as follows:

1. Obedience Pressure (X1)

The numbers of respondents in this study were 51 people with a standard deviation of 1.5486 for the Obedience Pressure variable (X1). The obedience pressure variable (X1) has a minimum value of 4 and a maximum value of 10. The mean value is 7.62 which indicate that the majority of respondents answered agree, meaning that the role of obedience pressure (X1) is in a fairly high category. The mean value is greater than the standard deviation value, meaning that the distribution of the data is even.

2. Task Complexity (X2)

The numbers of respondents in this study were 51 people with a standard deviation of 1.1107 for the Task Complexity variable (X2). The Task Complexity variable (X2) has a minimum value of 8 and a maximum value of 13. The mean value is 10.92 which indicates that the majority of respondents answered agree, meaning that the role of Task Complexity (X2) is in a fairly high category. The mean value is greater than the standard deviation value, meaning that the distribution of the data is even.

3. Professional Commitment (Z)

The numbers of respondents in this study were 51 people with a standard deviation of 1.9427 for the Professional Commitment variable (Z). The Professional Commitment variable (Z) has a minimum value of 13 and a maximum value of 25. The mean value of 20.47 indicates that the majority of respondents answered agree, meaning that the role of Professional Commitment (Z) is in a fairly high category. The mean value is greater than the standard deviation value, meaning that the distribution of the data is even.

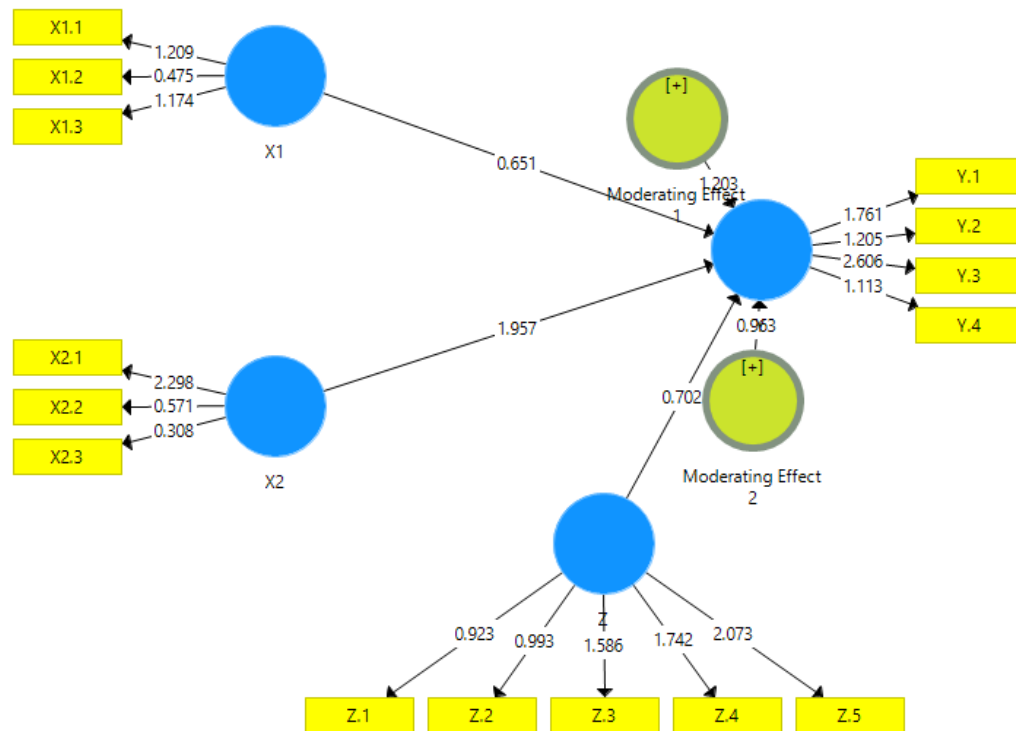
4. Audit Judgment (Y)

The numbers of respondents in this study were 51 people with a standard deviation of 1.1502 for the Audit Judgment variable (Y). The variable Audit Judgment (Y) has a minimum value of 14 and a maximum value of 20. The mean value is 16.39. This shows that the majority of respondents answered agree, meaning that the role of Audit Judgment (Y) is in a fairly high category. The mean value is greater than the standard deviation value, meaning that the distribution of the data is even.

4.2 Hypothesis Testing

Based on the data processing that has been done, the results can be used to answer the hypothesis in this study. Hypothesis testing in this study was carried out by looking at the T-Statistics values and P-Values. The research hypothesis can be declared accepted if the P-Values < 0.05 . The following are the results of hypothesis testing obtained in this study through the inner model:

Figure 1. Partial Least Square SmartPLS 6.0 Testing Model



From the results of the research hypothesis testing model using SmartPLS 6.0 as shown above, then it can be seen the direct and indirect effects of the relationship between the variables. The results of testing the direct effect of the relationship between variables using SmartPLS 6.0 can be seen in the following table:

Table 2. Influence Between Variables

Variable	Path Coefficients	P-value	Result
Moderation 1	-0.359	0.243	Not significant
Moderation 2	-0.283	0.360	Not significant
X1 – Y	0.132	0.011	Significant
X2 – Y	0.500	0.041	Significant
Z – Y	0.158	0.461	Not significant

Based on the direct influence test from Figure 1 and Table 2 above, it can be seen that:

1. Path coefficients from Moderation 1, namely Obedience Pressure (X1) on Audit Judgment (Y) moderated by Professional Commitment (Z) is $\beta = -0.359$, which is negative. The p-value, which is 0.243, is not significant because the p-value is more than 0.05. So based on the calculated values of path coefficients and p-values on the influence between variables,

- Obedience Pressure (X1) moderated by Professional Commitment (Z) is not proven to have an effect on Audit Judgment (Y).
2. Path coefficients from Moderation 2 namely Task Complexity (X2) to Audit Judgment (Y) moderated by Professional Commitment (Z) are $\beta = -0.283$ which is negative. The p-value, which is 0.360, is not significant because the p-value is more than 0.05. So based on the calculated values of path coefficients and p-values on the influence between variables, Task Complexity (X2) moderated by Professional Commitment (Z) is not proven to have an effect on Audit Judgment (Y).
 3. The path coefficients from Obedience Pressure (X1) to Audit Judgment (Y) are $\beta = 0.132$, which is positive. The p-value is 0.011. This result is significant because the p-value is less than 0.05. So based on the calculated values of path coefficients and p-values on the influence between variables, the Obedience Pressure (X1) is proven to have an effect on Audit Judgment (Y).
 4. Path coefficients from Task Complexity (X2) to Audit Judgment (Y) are $\beta = 0.500$, which is positive. The p-value is 0.041. This result is significant because the p-value is less than 0.05. So based on the calculated values of path coefficients and p-values on the influence between variables, Task Complexity (X2) is proven to have an effect on Audit Judgment (Y).
 5. The path coefficients of Professional Commitment (Z) to Audit Judgment (Y) are $\beta = 0.158$, which is positive. The p-value is 0.461. This result is not significant because the p-value is more than 0.05. So based on the calculated values of path coefficients and p-values on the influence between variables, Professional Commitment (Z) is not proven to have an effect on Audit Judgment (Y).

4.3 Discussion

The results of the hypothesis test show that Obedience Pressure affects Audit Judgment by looking at the significance level, which is equal to 0.011. The influence shown by the regression coefficient is positive, meaning that the higher the Obedience Pressure, the Audit Judgment will increase (H1 is accepted).

The results of the hypothesis test show that Task Complexity affects Audit Judgment by looking at the significance level which is equal to 0.041. The effect shown by the regression coefficient is positive, meaning that the higher the Task Complexity, the Audit Judgment will increase (H2 is accepted).

The results of the hypothesis test show that Professional Commitment does not moderate the influence of Obedience Pressure on Audit Judgment at the Besuki Residency Inspectorate by looking at the significance level of 0.243, meaning that the higher the Professional Commitment, the stronger or weaker the effect of Obedience Pressure on Audit Judgment can be (H3 is rejected).

The results of the hypothesis test show that Professional Commitment does not moderate the influence of Obedience Pressure on Audit Judgment at the Besuki Residency Inspectorate by looking at the significance level of 0.360, meaning that the higher the Professional Commitment, the stronger or weaker the effect of Obedience Pressure on audit judgment can be (H4 is rejected).

4.4 Conclusion

Based on the results of the analysis and discussion that the researcher has explained, it can be concluded as follows:

1. The results of the study show that obedience pressure affects audit judgment of the Besuki Residency Inspectorate.
2. The results of the study show that task complexity affects the audit judgment of the Besuki Residency Inspectorate.
3. The results of the study show that professional commitment does not moderate the effect of obedience pressure on audit judgment at the Besuki Residency Inspectorate.
4. The results of the study show that professional commitment does not moderate the effect of task complexity on audit judgment at the Besuki Residency Inspectorate.

REFERENCES

- [1] P.E. Byrnes, B. Gullvist, H. Brown-Liburd, R. Teeter, J.D. Warren, & M. Vasarhelyi, Book Section: Evolution of Auditing: From the Traditional Approach to the Future Audit. Audit Analytics and Continuous Audit: Looking Toward the Future, 2012.
- [2] C. Harahap, & A. Parinduri, "Factors Affecting Audit Judgement," 2022.
- [3] Y.J. Kang & M.D. Piercey, "Would an Audit Judgement Rule Improve Audit Committee Oversight and Audit Quality?," Current Issues in Auditing, 2020.
- [4] A.S. Kustono, "Pengaruh Ukuran, Devidend Payout, Risiko Spesifik, dan Pertumbuhan Perusahaan terhadap Praktik Perataan Laba pada Perusahaan Manufaktur Studi Empiris di BEJ 2002-2006," Jurnal Ekonomi Bisnis, 14 (3), 2009.
- [5] Misbahuddin, Mursalim, M. Su'un, "Faktor-Faktor yang Berpengaruh terhadap Audit Judgment pada Inspektorat Daerah Provinsi Sulawesi Selatan," Journal of Management & Business, 1 (2), pp. 91-116, 2018.
- [6] T.P. Nugrahanti, & A.S. Jahja, "Audit Judgement Performance: The Effect of Performance Incentives, Obedience Pressures and Ethical Perceptions," Journal of Environmental Accounting and Management, 2018.
- [7] R. Rustan, "Several Factors Affecting Audit Judgement with Moral Reasoning Moderation," Jurnal Ilmiah Akuntansi, 2021.
- [8] E.M.A. Tielman, Pengaruh Tekanan Ketaatan, Tekanan Anggaran Waktu, Kompleksitas Tugas, Pengetahuan dan Pengalaman Auditor terhadap Audit Judgment, University of Diponegoro, Semarang, 2012.