

Peer Review

Review of: "Are Tobacco Companies in Nigeria Complying With Health Warning Label Regulations on Cigarettes and Other Tobacco Products?"

Hany Akeel Al-hussaniy¹

1. University of Baghdad, Iraq

This research article addresses an important public health and regulatory compliance issue by evaluating adherence of tobacco companies to pictorial health warning label (PHWL) requirements in Nigeria, and it demonstrates strong relevance, a reasonably large and diverse sample, and a clearly described multistage sampling method that supports the credibility of its findings. The study effectively highlights significant compliance gaps, particularly among non-cigarette tobacco products and foreign exporters, and provides policy-relevant conclusions aligned with WHO FCTC recommendations. However, the manuscript would benefit from methodological and analytical strengthening to improve scientific rigor and impact. The study relies primarily on descriptive statistics, and incorporating inferential analyses (e.g., comparisons between product categories, companies, and compliance determinants using regression or association testing) would provide deeper insight and strengthen conclusions. The use of discarded tobacco packs may introduce selection bias and should be supplemented with market share-weighted sampling or structured retail purchasing methods. The manuscript would also benefit from clearer operational definitions and validation of compliance indicators using internationally recognized evaluation frameworks. Additionally, the discussion section contains repetition and would be improved by stronger integration with global literature, clearer differentiation between policy implications and observational findings, and expansion of limitations and future research directions, including nationwide surveillance and longitudinal monitoring of regulatory compliance. Improved data visualization, such as summary graphs or compliance index scoring, would enhance clarity and reader engagement. Overall, the study contributes meaningful evidence but would gain stronger academic robustness and translational policy

influence through enhanced statistical analysis, methodological refinement, and a more concise and critical discussion.

Declarations

Potential competing interests: No potential competing interests to declare.