

Assessment of Skills Possessed and not Possessed by Youths that Engaged in Resist Fabric Dyeing Enterprise

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Abstract

The study assessed skills possessed and not possessed by youths that engaged in resist fabric dyeing enterprise. Area of study was Abeokuta, Ogun state, Nigeria. The population was made up of 2500 youths between 20-24 years. A purposive sampling technique was adopted to select 10 per cent of the population. Questionnaire was used for data collection. Data were analyzed using frequency and percentages. The major findings include: majority of the respondents 113 (58.38%) were married and 75 (36.23%) practiced Islam. Majority also possessed the following skills: dyeing preparation, motif preparation, dyeing application and post dyeing operation. It was concluded that if the youths can invest more on this enterprise, it will occupy them and enhance their sustainable living. Recommendations include, among others, that: - resist dyers should wear more of their products for societal awareness in the utilization.

Keywords: Skills, Youths, Fabric Dyeing, Enterprise.

Introduction

Youths represent the vibrant segment of the Nigerian population on whose shoulders the future of all facets of the nation's economy lies. Youths are not only legitimately regarded as the future leaders, they are potentially and actually the greatest investment for a country's development (*ThisDay* 2007).

The extent of their vitality, responsible conduct and roles in the society is positively correlated with the development of their country. They own the key to security, creativity and resourcefulness. Hence, the youths need to be empowered.

Arubayi (2010) and Spore (2004) explained that taking cognizance of

the peculiar realities of poverty, unemployment and deprivations in Nigeria and other developing countries some youths still depend on adults for survival, protection and development when it comes to white collar jobs that are not forth coming. Youths in this age bracket (20-24years) according to Adedoyin (2005) have a lot of energy that could be properly directed towards productive life through meaningful skills.

Globally, the number of jobless people is fast increasing. In Nigeria, national unemployment rate was 60% in 1997 and the situation is not getting any better (Awosope 2004). The problem of graduate unemployment is on the increase because Nigeria's economy is becoming more of service oriented (Awosika 2009 and Anyakoha 2006).

Nigeria World (2007) opined that youths are empowered when they acknowledge that they have or can create choices in life, are aware of implications of choices, free decision making, take action based on that decision and accept responsibility for the consequences of those actions.

According to Arubayi (2010) and Amubode (2008) they explained that youths need to be skillful and empowered. This means that they have to create and support the enabling conditions under which they can act on their own terms rather than at the direction of others. These dreams can only be realized by the youths through proper guidance, monitoring and evaluation of skills possessed. In addition, the willingness

and ability to continuing seeking investment opportunities and run them successfully is a way out of harsh economic condition in Nigeria and other developing countries of the world. The need for self-employment through entrepreneurship is vital to the youths in which sustainable living will be guaranteed. Some youths engaged in many skills for survival and wellbeing but the focus of this study is to investigate the skills possessed and not possessed by the youths that engaged on resist fabric dyeing in the study area.

According to Adebisi and Arubayi (2008), they explained that Abeokuta the capital of Ogun State is prominently known for resist fabric dyeing (adire) for their livelihood. Technologically, if the preparation methods involved in producing motif, dyeing application and post dyeing operation skills are adequately followed, the fabric produced will fetch more money that can be enough for happy sustainable living. They stressed further that after successful completion of dyed fabrics, one can use it to sew many products of various designs for household, decorations and clothing.

Resist fabric dyeing is a vocation that helps in wealth creation and it makes the investor to become an entrepreneur. According to Fisher (2009) and Ogunniran (2000), this skill could be learnt through formal, semi-formal and non-formal education. Batik and tie-dye are fabric decoration technologies in resist dyeing production. At global level, training in

this indigenous fabric dyeing has become part of education curriculum (Federal Republic of Nigeria 2004). According to Ojo (2010) resist fabric dyeing skill involved: de-waxing the fabric, dry the fabric and iron, application of dye-stuff solutions, removal of resist agent, rinsing, starching, ironing and packaging. All these skills need competence for the articles produced to be highly accepted by the consumers.

The production of resist fabric can affect the society values, beliefs and geographical factors and indeed environmental determination (Crystal 2006). Investment in this fabric production requires moderate capital either on small or medium scale enterprise. The enterprise can be financed through savings or loans from financial institution depending on the product target, marketability, consumer preference and fashion (Zakare 2013 and Beijing 2006). In fact, in a period of sustained economic growth, the development trend continues without becoming less because there is enough of what is needed to live or exist. For example, a healthy and prosperous society relies on a healthy environment to provide food, resources, safe drinking water, regular supply of electricity and clean air for its citizens.

The youths that engaged on resist fabric dyeing are entrepreneurs. They involved in creation of new enterprise that gives value to humanity by filling up neglected area of indigenous fabric dyeing enterprise. These youths are not contractors but the pivot on which

the economy of individual, society and nation at large rotates. According to Nwafor (2007), he explained that a nation that has entrepreneurial deficiency will find it difficult to industrialize and grow economically. It is on this basis that the study sought to assess production skills possessed by the youths who engaged on fabric resist dyeing in the study area.

Purpose of the Study

The major purpose of the study was to assess the production skills possessed and not possessed by the youths that engaged in Resist Fabric Dyeing Enterprise in Abeokuta, Ogun State. Specifically, the study determined:

1. the fabric preparation skills possessed/not possessed by the youths.
2. resist fabric motif preparation and transfer skill techniques possessed/not possessed by the youths.
3. fabric dyeing application skills possessed/not possessed by the youths.
4. post dyeing operations skills possessed/not possessed by the youths.

Research Questions

The study was guided by the following research questions:

1. What are the skills possessed and not possessed by the youths on resist fabric dyeing preparation in Abeokuta?
2. What are skills possessed and not possessed on resist fabric motif

- preparation and transfer skill techniques in the study area?
3. What are the skills possessed and not possessed on resist fabric dyeing applications in the study area?
 4. What are the skills possessed and not possessed by the youths on post dyeing operation of resist fabric dyeing in the study area?

Methodology

Area of Study: The study was carried out in Abeokuta, Ogun State. The town is respected and referenced for its cultural heritage, creativity and values. Itokun market area is predominantly known for resist fabric production, display and sales.

Design of the Study: The design of the study was descriptive survey design. This type of design was used because the findings from these data are expected to be generalized to the entire population using appropriate sampling technique to ensure that resultant sample is sufficiently representative of the population.

Population of the Study: The population was made up of youths aged between 20-24years. The youths that engaged in resist fabric dyeing enterprise in Itokun market area of Abeokuta, Ogun State were 2,500. This information was obtained through shop to shop visitation of the fabric dyeing market and also during their association meeting day.

Sample for the Study: Two hundred and fifty (250) respondents were selected from the 2,500 population.

Convenience sampling technique was used to select them. 207 respondents were able to use the instrument well without mutilation. Majority 113 (54.58%) of the respondents were within the age ranges of 22 to 24 years. Also 119 (57.48%) are male, 148 (71.49%) possessed Primary School Leaving Certificate, 132 (6.76%) are married and majority 75 (36.23%) practiced Islam.

Instrument for data collection:

Questionnaire was used for the study. It was developed through extensive literature review based on purposes of the study. It was validated by three experts in Textiles and Clothing, Home Economics Department. Cronbach Alpha Statistical tool was used to ascertain the reliability coefficient of $r=0.749$.

Data Collection and Analysis: 230 copies of the questionnaire were distributed to the respondents. The Questionnaires were collected immediately. Only 207 copies of the questionnaires were retrieved without mutilation. Three trained research assistants were employed for the administration of the instrument. Data for the analysis was drawn for the instrument collected. Data collected was analyzed using frequency counts and percentages. The total responses of each item were tabulated and the findings were analyzed.

Findings of the study:

The findings are summarized in Tables 1 -4.

Table1:- Percentage Responses on Fabric Preparation Skills possessed/not possessed by the youths.

S/N	Resist fabric Dyeing Preparation Skills	Skills Possessed		Skills Not Possessed.	
		F	%	F	%
1	Obtain require fabric	207	100	0	2.42
2	Removal of buttons, buckles and unpick hems of heavy fabrics	200	96.61	7	3.38
3	Fabrics for from dirt and grease	180	86.96	27	13.4
4	Dewax the fabric	206	99.52	1	0.88
5	Rinse	204	98.55	3	1.44
6	Dry	207	100	0	0

Table 1 indicates percentage responses on resist fabric dyeing and preparation skills of the respondents in the study area. The table reveals that majority of the respondents possessed skills on preparation of the required fabrics 201 (100%), removal of buttons, buckles and unpick hems of heavy fabric 200 (96.61%), fabric free from dirt and

grease 206 (99.55%), de-wax the fabric 201 (98.55%), rinse 204 (98.55%) and dry 207 (100%). This implies that majority of the respondents possessed all the skills needed in resist fabric preparation for dyeing. Also, Minority of the respondents do not possess skills in fabrics preparation.

Table 2: Percentage Responses on Resist Fabric Motif Preparation and Transfer Skills possessed/not possessed by the youths

S/N	Resist Fabric motif Preparation skills	Skills Possessed		Skills not Possessed	
		F	%	F	%
1	Preparation of motif	207	100	0	0
2	Spread fabric for motif transfer	207	100	0	0
3	Transfer motif to the right position	204	98.55	3	1.45
4	Arrangement of motif among the parts such as lines, forms and spaces for harmony	200	98.55	7	3.35
5	Arrangement of motif proportionally	180	66.62	27	13.04
6	Balance the motif for a sense of equilibrium	180	66.67	27	13.04
7	Progression of sizes, shapes and lines are rhythmic	200	96.62	7	3.38
8	The arrangement emphasize significant parts	202	97.58	5	2.42

Table 2 shows percentage responses on resist fabric motif preparation and transfer skills. This reveals that majority of the respondents possessed the following skills: preparation of

motif 207 (100%), spread fabrics for motif transfer 207 (100%),transfer motif at the right position 204 (98.55%),arrangement of motif among the path such as lines, forms and

spaces harmonized 200 (96.62%), arrangement is proportional 180 (66.67%), balance the motif for a sense of equilibrium 180 (66.67%), progression of sizes, shapes and lines are rhythmic 200 (96.62%) and the

arrangement emphasizes the significance parts 202 (97.58%). This implies that the majority of the respondents possessed the skills on the resist fabric motif preparation and transfer skills.

Table 3: Percentage Responses on Resist Fabric Dyeing Application Skills Possessed and not Possessed by youths

S/N	Resist dyeing application skills	Skills possessed		Skills Not possessed	
		F	%	F	%
1	Choosing appropriate dye	190	91.79	17	8.21
2	Preparing appropriate dye	207	100	0	0
3	Utilization of large container preferably earth ware vessel	206	99.52	1	0.48
4	Enough dye solution to have the garment completely immersed and easily moved about	200	96.62	7	3.38
5	Dye the fabrics	207	100	0	0

Table 3 indicates percentage responses on resist fabrics dyeing application skills possessed and not possessed. The majority of the respondents possessed the following skills: choosing appropriate dye 190 (91.79%), preparing appropriate dye 207 (100%), utilization of large

container preferably earthenware vessel 206 (99.52%), enough dye solution to have the garment completely immersed and easily moved about 200 (96.62%) and Dye the fabrics 207(100%). This implies that majority of the respondents possessed skills on resist fabrics dyeing.

Table 4: Percentage Responses on Post-Dyeing Operation Skills possessed/not possessed by the youths

S/N	Post Dyeing operation skills	Skills Possessed		Skills Not Possessed	
		F	%	F	%
1	Remove resist materials	200	96.61	7	3.38
2	Rinse fabrics	202	97.58	5	2.41
3	Starch	200	96.61	7	3.38
4	Dry in a shady place	198	95.65	9	4.34
5	Iron	200	96.61	7	3.38
6	Air the fabrics	160	77.29	47	22.70
7	Fold	206	96.51	1	4.83
8	Package	206	96.51	1	4.83

Table 4 indicates percentage responses on post dyeing operation skills possessed and not possessed by the youths in the study area. The eight production skills are possessed by the respondents while minority did not possess the most dyeing operation skills.

Discussion of Findings

Table 1 reveals percentage responses on resist fabrics dyeing preparation skills. From the six (6) items stated, the respondents possessed (86% - 100%) skills on resist fabric preparation. This is in line with Adedoyin (2005) that stressed that youths at this stage have a lot of productive life through meaningful skills. In addition, Amubode (2008) explained that the willingness and ability of the youths to continuing seeking investment opportunities and run them successfully is a way out of harsh economic condition. The strength enabled the respondents to possess the preparation skill in resist fabric dyeing.

Table 2 indicates percentage responses on resist fabric motif preparation and transfer skills. Majority of the responses possessed skills on motif preparation. Abeokuta, Ogun State is prominently known for resist fabric production and most of their youths engage on resist fabric production for their livelihood. Adebisi and Arubayi(2008) also explained that technologically, if the preparation methods involved in producing motif dyeing application and post dyeing operation skills are

adequately followed, the resist fabric produced will fetch more money that can be enough for happy sustainable living. In addition, Crystal (2006) opined that production of resist fabric can affect the society values, beliefs and geographical factors and indeed environmental determination. Also, Beijing (2001) explained that investment in this enterprise requires moderate capital either on small or medium scale enterprise. The enterprise can be financed through saving or loan from financial institution depending on the product target, marketability, consumer preferences and fashion.

Table 3 shows percentage responses on resist fabric dyeing application skills possessed and not possessed by the respondents in the study area. From the five (5) items, majority of the respondents possessed dyeing application skills. This is in line with Ojo (2010) which pointed out that resist fabrics dyeing skills involves: de-waxing the fabric, drying of the fabric and ironing, application of dye-stuff solutions, removal of resist agent, rinsing, starching, ironing and packaging. All these skills need to be highly accepted by the consumers.

Table 4 reveals percentage responses on post dyeing operations skills. Majority of the respondents possessed all the eight itemized skills in the study area. These youths engaged in enterprise that give value to humanity and also fill up the neglected area of indigenous fabric dyeing. Nwafor (2010) emphasized that these youths are not contractors

but entrepreneur. Also Amubode (2008) pointed out that this skill could be learnt through formal, semi-formal and non-formal education.

Conclusion

In conclusion, youths are characterized by activity, agility and restiveness. There is need to engage these youths on more creative and challenging activities that would keep them busy with useful skills. This will reinforce the youth and also generate income that will enable them to maintain sustainable living. Youths represents the vibrant segment of Nigeria population on whose shoulders the future of all facets of the nation's economy lies. The extent of their vitality, responsible conduct and roles in the society is positively correlated with the development of their country. They own the key to security, creativity and resourcefulness. Resist fabric dyeing enterprise is an interesting and creative vocation that is generating income, if the youths in Abeokuta land invest more on this enterprise, it can enhance sustainable living.

Recommendations

Based on the findings from this study, the following recommendations were made:

1. The resist fabric dyers should wear more of their products for society awareness of the utilization and promote aesthetic value of the land.
2. The resist fabric association members should be encouraged

through the Government giving the dyers soft loans to boost the resist fabric production.

3. Educational and curriculum planners should review the curriculum in line with the new National policy of education so that entrepreneurial based skills are emphasized.
4. Modern skill acquisition centers on resist fabrics production should be opened in Ogun State to equip the youths more on saleable and recent designs in vogue.

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