# Perceived Benefits and Constraints of Establishing Tie-Dye Research Centre in Federal College of Education, Eha-Amufu

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#### Abstract

This study determined the perceived benefits of establishing local fabric dyeing centre in Eha-Amufu Community, possible Constraints to the establishment of the centre and possible ways of surmounting the identified constraints. The study was a survey. Questionnaire and focus group discussion (FGD) were used for data collection. The instrument was validated by four experts, three Home Economists and one Fine and Applied Arts Lecturer. The reliability coefficient of the instrument was 0.68 established using Cronbach Alpha coefficient. Mean and standard deviation were used in analyzing the three research questions that guided the study. Findings from the study revealed that benefits such as capacity building, economic empowerment among others can be achieved by establishing tie dye research centre, while inadequate funding, lack of experienced and qualified teachers to mention but a few are constraints to its establishment. Counterpart funding, invitation of resource persons, in-service training among others are ways of surmounting the constraints. Based on these findings, recommendations were made.

Key words: Tie-dye, Research, Center, Benefits, Constraints.

#### Introduction

Textile dyeing is a major component in Home Economics and Fine and Applied Arts curriculum in Nigerian Colleges of Education. Textile dyeing involves designing fabrics by methods of tie-dyeing, batiking, printing and painting, and immersing the fabric in a dye bath. Textile design is the process of creating designs on woven, knitted or printed fabrics or surface ornamented fabrics. This enhances the look of the fabrics and makes them attractive.

Tie – dyed fabrics have multipurpose functions for they can be used on natural and synthetic fibres. They have wide range of colours which make tie-dyed fabrics to be used for men's and women's attires and for the production of purses and children's caps, it avails children the

opportunity to tie-dye their hats, shirts, pants among other items so as to express and represent their creativity (tie-dyepants.net, 2010). These items made from tie-dyed fabrics can be used as beautiful and unique gifts for friends. Also, caps made of tie dyed fabrics of bright colours help parents keep track of their little ones in a crowd. is Pigment dveing advantageous because it is easy to apply, less expensive and produces wide range of colours in clothing items.

Clothing which is one of the basic needs of man is not only worn for protection and covering of nakedness, but man also needs beautiful and attractive clothing. The quest to get beautiful and attractive fabric, led man to seek ways of making designs on fabric using different techniques. Ezema (1996) noted that a good design on fabric creates beauty on the finished product. In dyeing fabric, conventional dyes such as vat dye are used, these conventional dyes in most cases are expensive and it is difficult to get good quality one that can be fast. Apart from getting quality and fast conventional dyes, students of Home Economics and Fine and Applied Arts in Federal College of Education, Eha-Amufu in order to learn the state of the arts in local dyeing using indigo leaves, travel all the way to the Western part of Nigeria - Oshogbo in Osun State. This movement is not only capital intensive but also predisposes students and staff to risk of accidents. In the light of this, it becomes necessary to research on the efficacy of

some local plants, fruits, leaves and roots in dyeing fabrics. The efficacy of these local products can be done in an enabling environment which will enhance teaching, learning and research. Such enabling an environment is a research centre which will avail individuals the opportunity to extract dye from local plants, roots, leaves and fruits and use such dyes to dye fabrics. The use of these local natural dyes not only will reduce the cost of buying conventional dyes but will also reduce the effect of the toxic and hazards that go with use of conventional dyes. Kumaresan, Palanisany and Kumer (2012) reported that with the world becoming more towards conscious ecology and environment, there is greater need today to revive the tradition of natural dye and dyeing techniques as an alternative of hazardous synthetic dyes. In their own statement, (Purohit, Mallick, Nayak, Das, Nanda & Sahoo, 2007) pointed out that interest in the use of natural dyes has been growing rapidly due to the result of stringent environmental standards imposed by many countries in response to toxic and allergic reactions associated with synthetic dyes. То achieve this requires the establishment of а research centre that will make staff, students and indigenes of Eha-Amufu community to research on the use of local substrates from plants in dyeing fabrics. Such a research centre will increase the impact and prominence of scholarly research. Research centre is a faculty or building dedicated to research, commonly with the focus on a specific area. It should aim at attracting, retaining and supporting excellent academic investigation, enhance graduate education, train quality research manpower and finally, create new knowledge in the specific area of focus of each area.

Eha-Amufu Community is blessed with vegetation where plants parts can be harnessed for use in local dyeing. This community has а tertiary institution that offers Home Economics and Fine & Applied Arts that engage in fabric dveing. Establishing a research centre in Eha-Amufu community will help the beneficiaries acquire relevant skills in fabric designing and research processes. Skills involve knowing the processes and techniques involved in carrying out an operation effectively. Okorie (2000) noted that skill is an organized sequence of action, proficiently executed and usually displaying a flexible but systematic temporal patterning. In line with the above definition, Ohawovriole (2004) defined skill as the ability of students to use knowledge effectively and readily in performance and the ability to transform knowledge into action. Transformation of knowledge into action demands that one be creative in nature as to meet up with the creative demand of the textile design. "Creativity is the mother of invention", common adage says. It is the ability of a person to originate a new idea or idea add new to an existing phenomenon. Ozioko (2006) explained creativity as a process by which something new, either an idea or an

object is produced as a basic tool for progress in any undertaking. It is the frequency to generate or recognize ideas, alternatives or possibilities that may be useful in solving problems, communication with others and enhancing ourselves and others (Franken, 2014). In nutshell, а creativity is the ability to create ideas and solve problems using an original, new or unconventional means.

The use of substrates from fruits, roots, leaves and flowers of trees found in the locality will be a way of creating new idea in the area of fabric design. This will help the beneficiaries to have the opportunity to learn how to dye their new and faded fabrics. It will be а springboard to the development of young and new talents the area of textile in design/arts, hence leading to economic sustainability. It will also help in inculcating entrepreneurial and research skills in the staff, students and indigenes of Eha-Amufu, thus. enhance their career advancement.

The engagement of individuals in fabric dyeing business will not only improve the lives of the individuals but will help them to impact other people's lives positively. In other words, the individual will create job for him/herself and at the same time be an employer of labour. Lemchi (2010) pointed out that skill courses help in creating employers of labour and not job seekers as evidenced from numerous opportunities embedded in the various skill subject areas. Thus, the research centres will help in

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capacity building, developing capabilities in sustainable families which are both culturally appropriate and locally relevant.

Citizens of Eha-Amufu community will find the establishment of this research centre useful, as it will avail them the privilege of visiting the centre to acquire skills in dyeing fabrics and by extension being selfreliant. Some of them can be employed as workers in the centre or as resource persons in getting the needed local herbs or substances for dyeing from the locality. Despite the benefits derivable from the establishment of local fabric dyeing research centre, there are some constraints which hinder its establishments. Such constraints as lack of fund, lack of interest, lack of awareness, corruption and others. The surmounting of these hindrances to the establishment of tiedye research centre will help workers in the centre experience a sustainable quantum leap in their economic wellbeing and also create a vibrant local economy that gives opportunities to meaningful and researching work for all the community.

# Purpose of the Study

The major purpose of the study was to investigate the perceived benefits and constraints of establishing tie-dye research center in Eha-Amufu community. Specifically the study determined the perceived

1) benefits of the establishment of local fabric dyeing research centre in Eha-Amufu community.

- 2) constraints to the establishment of this local fabric dyeing research centre.
- 3) possible ways of surmounting the constraints against the establishment of the local fabric dyeing research centre.

### **Research Questions**

The study sought answers to the following questions

- 1) What are the perceived benefits of establishing local fabric dyeing research center in Eha-Amufu community?
- 2) What are the perceived constraints to the establishment of this fabric dyeing research centre?
- 3) What is the possible ways of surmounting the perceived constraints to the establishment of this fabric dyeing research centre be solved?

# Methodology

*Area of study:* The area of the study was Enugu State of Nigeria. Enugu State is made up of three senatorial zones namely: Enugu North, Enugu West and Enugu East. Eha-Amufu is in Enugu North. It has a tertiary institution named Federal College of Education, Eha-Amufu.

*Design of the Study*: The study adopted a survey research design. It sought information from staff, and students of Home Economics and Fine and Applied Art in Federal College of Education, Eha-Amufu and from indigenes of the community.

*Population for the Study:* The population for the study was 67 made

up of first, second and third year students of Home Economics and Fine and Applied Arts departments, all the teaching and non-teaching staff in both departments and some indigenes of Eha-Amufu community. Due to the small size of the target population, the entire 67 number of subjects form respondents for the study.

Instrument for Data Collection: Structured questionnaire and Focus Group Discussion (FGD) guide were used for the study. The structured questionnaire was developed based on literature and research objectives. The instrument was based on a four point scale of SA, A, D, SD. The instrument was face and content validated by three experts in Home Economics and one in Fine and Applied Arts Departments, all from Federal College of Education, Eha-Amufu. The reliability co-efficient the of instrument was established using Alpha reliability. cronbach The coefficient of internal consistency was 0.68.

Data Collection and Analysis Techniques: Distribution and retrieval of the instrument were done by the researcher with the help of two research assistants. Data collected were analysed using mean and standard deviation. Two FGD sessions were also held to obtain a qualitative data. These sessions were made brief to avoid boredom on the discussants.

#### Findings

The following findings were made on the perceived benefits derived from the establishment of a tie-dye research centre in Eha-Amufu community, constraints impeding its establishment and solutions to the identified constraints. These findings are presented in tables 1, 2 and 3 in line with the research questions.

#### Results

Perceived benefits of establishing tie dye research centre in Eha-Amufu Community

Table	1:	Mean	Responses	of	Respondents	on	the	Perceived	Benefits	for
	E	stablish	ing Tie Dye	Res	earch Centre.					

	Benefits of Establishing Tie-dye Research Centre	f	SD	Decision	
1.	Capacity building for staff and students of the	3.50	0.71	Benefit	
	institution.				
2.	Economic empowerment of staff, students and other	3.00	0.82	Benefit	
	individuals from the surrounding communities				
3.	Enhancement of the institution and departments	3.75	0.58	Benefit	
	internally generated revenue (IGR)				
4.	Increase in trade and commerce in textiles	2.65	0.44	Benefit	
5.	Improvement of cordial relationship between Eha-	2.75	0.50	Benefit	
	Amufu community and the institution				
6.	Creates employment opportunity for indigenes of	3.00	0.94	Benefit	
	the community				
7.	Inculcates skill development in textile dyeing	3.50	0.53	Benefit	
		0015			
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8.	Development of research capability in staff, students and other individuals	3.50	0.58	Benefit
9.	Supports academic investigation	3.50	0.48	Benefit
10.	Enhances students education	2.75	0.54	Benefit
11.	Creates new knowledge in the area of tie-dyeing	3.75	0.50	benefit

Table 1 shows the perceived benefits to be derived from establishing a local tie-dye research centre in Eha-Amufu community. The data collected in this table pointed to the fact that a lot of benefits can be derived from the establishment of this research centre. This can be seen from the responses in items 1 to 11. Among these items, enhancement of internally generated revenue (IGR) of the departments and the institution ranked highest with a mean  $(\uparrow)$  of 3.75 while increase in trade and commerce in textiles ranked lowest with a mean score of 2.65. The standard derivation of the items range from 0.44 - 0.99 which indicate the responses of the respondents were close to each other.

The FGD with students, on the perceived benefits of establishing tie dye research centre, they revealed that having the centre will help them get firsthand information on the state of the art of dyeing fabric, help them experiment on the use of some local colorants in their various localities for fabric dyeing, and also avails them the opportunity to practice what they were taught theoretically in class.

On the part of staff, the FGD showed that it will enable them develop research skills, publish original work thereby adding to the body of knowledge in the area of textile dyeing. To them also, the establishment of such a centre will help them master the skills in dyeing and generate fund from the products.

The FGD with the indigenes indicated that having a tie dye research centre will enable them acquire knowledge skills and training in fabric dyeing. It will also help them dye their faded clothes, improve their income by sourcing for tie local colorants and supplying them to the centre for pay. They were also of the view that it will help them relate cordially with staff and students of the institution. Finally, it will increase their joy and happiness as they will feel fulfilled.

# Possible Constraints in the establishment of a local fabric dyeing centre in Eha-Amufu community

**Table 2:** Mean Responses of Respondents on the possible Constraints in theEstablishment of Local Dyeing Research Centre.

S/N	Possible Constraints to the establishment of	f	SD	Decision
1.	Inadequate funding	2.56	0.63	Constraint
2.	Lack of Experienced and qualified teachers	3.00	0.98	Constraint
3.	Difficulty in sourcing raw materials/Local	2.75	0.54	Constraint

	stuffs			
4.	Lack of structural facilities	3.50	0.94	Constraint
5.	Lack of interest	3.00	0.82	Constraint
6.	Lack of awareness of the benefits	3.45	0.65	Constraint
7.	Corruption	3.75	0.50	constraint

Table 2 show that corruption (i = 3.75), lack of structural facilities († =3.50), lack of awareness († =3.45), lack of experienced and qualified teachers (f = 3.00) difficulty in sourcing raw materials (f =2.75) and funding =2.56) inadequate ( Ť constitute setbacks the in establishment of a local fabric dyeing centre in Eha-Amufu community. The standard deviations range from 0.54 to 0.94 which implies that the opinions of the respondents are not too far from the means and from each other.

From the FGD, the indigenes of Eha-Amufu enumerated the following as the hindrances that will undermine

the putting in place such a centre: problem of communication, the above problem may occur since most of those to teach the skills may not speak their dialect fluently and an interpreter may not communicate the idea effectively. Also, most of the interested ones may be slow to grasp what is being taught, lack of fund for buying some of the items (like fabric) needed for the training and training fee, inability to cope with the training and domestic chores.

Possible ways of surmounting the establishment of local fabric dyeing centre in Eha-Amufu community

the constraints to the Establishment of Local Fabric Dyeing Centre						
S/N	Possible ways of surmounting constraints	Í	SD	Decision		
1.	Sourcing counterpart funding by the institution industrialists and other good spirited individuals	3.45	0.69	Solution		
2.	Inviting resource persons from local areas where local textile dyeing is practiced	3.75	0.50	Solution		
3.	Providing equipment and structural faculties by Tertiary Education Trust Fund (TETFund)	3.50	0.53	Solution		
4.	Opportunity for in-service training to local dyeing area for teachers involved in the teaching of textile courses	3.50	0.48	Solution		
5.	Improvisation of some of the equipment needed.	2.75	0.96	Solution		

**Table 3:** Mean Responses of Respondents on the possible ways of surmounting<br/>the constraints to the Establishment of Local Fabric Dyeing Centre

Table 3 reveal that engagement of<br/>resource person from the localitywhere local fabric dyeing is practiced<br/>and in-service training for textile

teachers are very good solution to overcoming the problems of establishing local fabric research centre. Both had mean of 3.75.

Other solutions include provision of equipment and structural facilities by TETFUND ( $\uparrow$  =3.50), counterpart funding by institutions, industrialists and individuals ( $\uparrow$  =3.45) and finally, improvisation of some of the required equipment ( $\uparrow$  =2.75). The range of standard deviation of the items reveal that the responses of the respondents do not differ very much from each other (range of 0.48 – 0.96).

The FGD with the respondents revealed that for the problems identified can be solved by giving free training and providing the required items for practice, sensitizing them through village or church meetings on the need to acquire skills in fabric dyeing, show casing some of the items produced or that can be produced, teaching in their local dialect, teaching bearing in mind individuals' learning pace and having session of teaching to accommodate people with different work schedule.

# Discussion

The result from this study indicated that a lot of perceived benefits could be derived from the establishment of local fabric dying Research centre in Eha-Amufu community. These include benefits others among generation and enhancement of internally generated revenue for the departments in particular and the institution general, capacity in

building for staff and staff and students, skill development in fabric dveing, development of research skills in staff, students and other interested individuals. Also, there will be benefits in terms of employment opportunities for indigenes of the community, economic empowerment of staff, students and other persons from the community. Establishment of this fabric dyeing practice centre will already enhance the existing relationship between Eha-Amufu community and the institution. In fact, establishment of local fabric dyeing practice centre will no doubt inculcate entrepreneurial skills in Home Economics, Fine and Applied Arts students and other persons who may show interest in the learning of fabric dyeing in the centre. When these entrepreneurial skills in the area of local fabric dyeing is imparted on individuals, it will help them to be self-reliant, thus averting the ills of unemployment. This agrees with Emelue (2010) who pointed out that entrepreneurial skills are skill an individual needs to succeed in business. In his own view, Mayoux (2005)reiterated that equipping self-reliance through youths for entrepreneurship is an effective way of addressing the challenges of unemployment and promote economic survival. Also, Olaitan, Ali, Onyemachi & Nwachukwu (2000) noted that skill acquisition will reduce poverty, rural urban drift and other that social vices emanate from joblessness. In his over view, Onvegegbu (2012) stressed that these needed skills will help in enhancing human capital and creating employment opportunities for self employment.

Enhancement of cordial relationship between Eha-Amufu community and the institution was one of the benefits identified if local fabric dyeing centre was established in Eha-Amufu. There is no gain saying that when indigenes of Eha-Amufu are given opportunity to be part of the training programmes on the skills in fabric dyeing as well as engaging some of them on collecting the raw materials for dyeing of fabrics. In effect, the bond between the two will be enhanced. This is because members of the community will have a stake and a feeling of recognition by the institution. In other words, the two will be partners in progress as there agreement will be an and understanding between them.

Summing up the benefits of exposure of individual, practical Steven (2008) stated that service learning experiences have multiple proven benefits for students, teachers, communities and learning institutions. It helps students to develop in numerous ways that can have lifelong gaining practical benefits as experience puts education theory into practice, thereby making it more relevant. Lee, Bush and Smith in Steven (2008), also noted that practical experience allows people learn in a variety of ways, enhances knowledge and skills and improves self-esteem. It improves academic achievement,

problem-solving skills, character and social behavior.

Despite all the benefits expected to be derived from the establishment of a local dyeing centre, there are some challenges to the establishment of this Such constraints included centre. among others, funds, insufficient infrastructure, non-availability of raw etc. fund is materials a major life hindrance in all endeavor especially in business and this is applicable to the establishment of local fabric dyeing centre because fund is required for its set up.

In the case of fund being a constraint in the establishment of local fabric dyeing centre, Nwaokaomah (2010) stated that funding remains a strong militating factor in the provision of study material ... in her own view Ogbene (2006) pointed out that central to the enhancement of entrepreneurial skill in Home Economics Programme is fund. Since fabric dyeing is an aspect of the course offered under Home Economics Programme, fund is needed for its execution. All vocational education courses are skill oriented and capital intensive. In line with this, Agomuo (2012) noted that vocational education training programmes are inherently expensive in terms of infrastructure, equipment, training, materials and personnel overhead. Continuing, Agomuo (2012) maintained that in most cases, modest scales are applied to the provision of these structural facilities which renders the Programme ineffective. The FDG with the indigenes showed that

communication is a problem as the teachers/instructors may not be able to communicate in their language. Asma (2010) and Thutong (2011) wrote that communication is the key factor in the success of any business. It essential for learning and is development in both formal and informal contexts because individuals handicapped who are in this experience enormous barriers to learning and development.

The study also revealed how the constraints to the establishment of local fabric dyeing centre can be solved. These solutions included counterpart funding of such a project by the institution, industrialists and philanthropic individuals, engaging resource persons in the teaching of local fabric dyeing and improvisation of some of the needed equipment. Partnership among the institution, industrialists and some good spirited individuals in the community will help in alleviating the challenges posed by the establishment of local fabric dyeing centre in Eha-Amufu. This partnership is necessary as the parties involved will help to provide fund and/or equipment and facilities required in the establishment of such a centre. In agreement with the above statement, Bray (2004) stated that collaboration or partnership helps in increased resources because each partner brings resources which may be human, material of financial to the common forum. Nwakaire (2010) in his view recommended that communities should see themselves as partners and functionaries in their

various capacities to ensure quality education.

Resource persons could be engaged in the teaching of the local fabric dyeing especially where the teachers are not well grounded in the art of fabric dyeing. This will help the participants of the programme on fabric dyeing gain firsthand information in the skill and art of fabric dyeing. In agreement with the above statement, (Centre for Civic Education, New York,) stated that classroom visits from informed professionals can be a valuable teaching tool. Resource experts serve as a role model and make community institutions more familiar. Thev provide additional content support to the classroom materials.

## Conclusion

This research study has tried to establish the need for establishing a local fabric dyeing Research centre in Eha-Amufu community. The achievement of this goal will help the students, staff and individuals in the community in no small measure in empowering them financially, enhancing their research skills, cordial relationship between the community and the institution and above all, creating employment opportunities for individuals involved. The establishment of a local fabric dyeing Research centre is really a step in the right direction.

# Recommendations

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Based on the findings of the study, the researcher made the following recommendations:

- 1.Efforts should be made by management of the institution and leaders of the Eha-Amufu community to see that they gather all available resources at their disposal to see that a fabric dyeing Research centre is established.
- 2. Resource persons should be invited to teach the students and staff the art and skills involved in fabric dyeing.
  - 3. Trees where the dye stuff will be extracted from (the leaves, roots and fruits) should be planted on the land of the Research centre.

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