

Clothing Provision Practices of Households in Ogba/Egbema/Ndoni Local Government Area of Rivers State

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Abstract

This study focused on clothing provision practices among families in Ogba/Egbema/Ndoni Local Government Area of Rivers State. Specifically, it determined factors households consider in making clothing decisions; practices families adopt in budgeting and purchasing their clothing needs. It adopted descriptive survey research design. Population for the study was homemakers within the age of 20-50 years in Onelga. Questionnaire was used for data collection. Data analyzed using mean and standard deviation. Major findingsw include 12 factors households consider in making clothing decision in Onelga; 13 clotging purchasing practices households adopt; and 13 budgeting practices households adopt. Four recommendations were made which include, that government should sponsor a programme through media that will enlighten the families on the need for making adequate clothing provision for family members and the consequences of lack of it.

Keywords: Clothing, Provision, Practices, Household, Decisions, Homemaker.

Introduction

Clothing is one of the basic needs of man. It can be described as "our next skin". Anyakoha (2015) defined clothing as items placed on the body to protect beautify or adorn it. This includes decorations such as cosmetics, tattoos, hair colour and hair do; ornament of jewelry, hand bags, clothes or apparels, among others. Different types of clothing are used for various activities and purposes in the household such as clothing for school/work, parties and social gathering, clothing for religious worship/household work, sports and picnic, night wear, under wears among

others (Igbo 2006). Various attempts have been made to explain importance of clothing as part of the motivation underlying individual's clothing choice. Jones (1990) stated that clothes are majorly worn amongst people for six importance such as; protection, modesty, occupational identity, attraction, social status and traditional identity of the family. Donald (2010) explained that individuals in the family represent and speak volume of their root when they adorn themselves properly with their clothing choice. It is of no importance when clothing does not protect the human body. The

importance of clothing in the household and the need to be appropriate preparations for its provision have been emphasized by many (Igbo 2002; Uzoezie 2012; Bellis 2016; Jenkin's 2019).

There are different ways a household can provide for clothing need of members. For instance, Hence Griese, (2002) stated that there are more creative ways of providing clothing without stress such as borrowing from friend renovating or affordable price and second handed clothes. Igbo (2002) also noted that clothing can be provided through purchasing, sewing, trading, sharing and renting it means acquisition through the payment of money or its equivalent. Clothes can be purchased at boutiques departmental stores, outlets, stores market, supermarket, offices, petty traders who may carry from house to house, office to office, store to store. Second handed can be purchased from the used clothing stores and market. Most time, sew is the only way to get new style, design and colours and fit that family member's need. It requires time and skills to get them well made. It is also cheaper and easy to sew clothes. Furthermore, clothing can be acquired through the aid of non-governmental organizations which are interested in the welfare of families. Religious organizations, deserter and refuge team may also aid family clothing provision and practice. All the activities a household carried out so as obtain clothes for the members, become their clothing provision practices.

Zachary (2011) observed that such activities aim of meeting clothing needs for household members and to give them approved appearance. Household

members have different clothing needs. Anyakoha (2015) these practices may include the following; carrying out market survey, buying in bulk or small quantity, hire purchase and impulsive buying. This is the study of prices of commodities and clothes from different shops and location. This can be achieved by visiting a number of market and shop to ascertain prices of clothes. Anyakoha (2015) supported that market survey reveals where clothes are cheap, and seasons when clothes are in abundant to help consumers compare prices. Clothes can be bought in larger quantities. This consideration by the family head may involve money available at that moment, considering sex and age of different members of the family, good fit, attractive style, colour among others. Hire purchase is a system of buying clothes where the consumer deposit a part of the price for the clothes and take without completing the payment. Another form of hire purchase is "lay away or aside", this has to do with the consumer pays a little sum of money and the seller keeps them away or aside from other goods in the shop. The buyer takes it home only when he has finished paying for it.

Clothing provision practices for families in Onelga has been neglected by homemakers and family heads. This neglect has constituted some dress look nuisance such as children and members of the family wearing whatever they lay their hands on, thereby violating protection and modesty theories in clothing. According to Igbo (2010) home makers should endeavor to provide clothing for their members. Poor

clothing provision has made family members to lose their sense of responsibility and decency. However, clothing speaks volume of the wearer and communicates to the beholder the strength of the background of individuals. Most homes, children and other family members are mostly seen with uncovered body or shabbily made clothing, because they lack the tutelage or guardian by their family head on the need to cover or protect the body. Hence if family members must be properly clothed, there should be adequate clothing provision.

Moreso, Gustav, (2018) stated that clothing provision for households covers the different categories of persons such as; men, women, children, youth, teenagers, the aged, among others. Hence, individuals should have access to sufficient changes of clothing to ensure their terminal comfort, dignity and safety. This entails the provision of more than more set of essential clothing items for households. Also, Gustav (2018) further added that clothing should be provided for households in its appropriateness like appropriate to climatic conditions and cultural norms, separately suitable for men, women, girls, boy among others and sized according to age. By implication the homemaker should involve all members of the family in making clothing provision even some with special needs like pregnant and lactating mothers, older people and infants are more prone to heat lost than adults due to their ratio of body surface area and may require more clothing to maintain level of terminal comfort, the homemaker

require some clothing decision practices.

Decision is regarded as the cognitive process resulting in the selection of a belief or a course of action among several possible alternative options. Decision-making is the process of identifying and choosing alternatives based on the values, preferences and beliefs of the decision-maker. Every decision-making process produces a final choice, which may or may not prompt action. Hence, clothing decision has to do with the purchase and use of garments which is important for family members. According to Erich (2016) clothing decision is showing confidence and perceived related risk to satisfaction, the author further pointed that it covers physical characteristics such as color or fiber content. Moreso, it involves social class, quality/price relationships amongst others. It however implies that the homemaker stand the ground of making selection or choice of the kind of fabric that can be durable for family members. This is achievable with evaluative criteria such as laundering qualities, appearance and style amongst others. Kahneman (2000) stated that, it is better for the homemaker to have full understanding of clothing to be able to make satisfactory decision on the provision of family clothing. Moreover, family clothing decision should center on values, interests, attitudes, self-concepts and personal factors which will in turn enhance the appearance of family members. So, homemakers should make a perfect clothing decision in terms of providing clothing for family members.

Purpose of the Study

The main purpose of the study was to investigate the practices adopted by households in (ONELGA) the clothing provision of their clothing in Ogba/Egbema/Ndoni Local Government Area. Specifically, the study determined:

1. factors households consider in making clothing decision in ONELGA
2. practices households adopt in budgeting for their clothing needs in ONELGA
3. practices households adopt in purchasing their clothing needs in ONELGA

Research Question

1. What factors do households consider in making clothing decisions in ONELGA?
2. What are budgeting practices adopted by households in meeting their clothing needs in ONELGA?
3. What are the purchasing practices adopted by households in meeting their clothing needs in ONELGA?

Methodology

Design of the Study: Descriptive survey was used for the study.

Area of the Study: The area of the study was Ogba/Egbema/Ndoni Local Government Area which is one of the 23 Local Government areas in Rivers State. Onelga is located in the South-East of Rivers state with the headquarter at Omoku main land. It occupies a land mass of 1.621sqkm with a projected population of 283,294 people residing across the various communities. The major occupation of the people of Onelga includes: farming, civil service,

trading and various crafts and skills. The L.G.A is inhabited by people of different age.

Onelga is made up of three ethnic groups and 30 villages. The area is thickly populated by households who pay less attention to clothing needs of their family members. As a result clothing provision practices is not seen as a major need of their households. Hence, families in these area must have the knowledge of clothing how to make clothing decision, budget for clothing and plan on how to carryout purchase of clothing. On the contrary, many family members are seen wearing clothes that are either torn, shabby, worn out, undersize, oversize among others. Knowledge of clothing provision practices among households will expose family members to different clothing provision practices that will enable them to provide clothing adequately for them.

Population for the Study: The population for this study consists of all homemakers within the age of 20-50 years in Onelga. According to population (Census, 2006), the total population of homemakers in Onelga within the age range of 20-50 was 283,294. The reasons for using this age range are often the persons who provide the family clothing. They make decisions and purchases. Besides they are still strong and viable to endeavour to provide clothing for their family. The study covers the three clans of Onelga.

Sample for the Study: The sample size for the study was 108 homemakers drawn through a multi-stage sampling technique. This is to help arrive at good representatives of the population. In the

first stage, three villages were randomly selected out of ten villages. The selected village from Ogba clan was; Omoku, Okposi, Obigwe; twelve households was selected from each namely; Omoku 12, Okposi (12) and Obigwe (12) which comprises of father, mother, children and grandparents.

At the second stage, out of ten villages that make up that clan; three villages was randomly selected which are; Abacheke, Okwuzi and Mgbede for Egbema clan with twelve households each such as: Abacheke (12), Okwuzi (12) and Mgbede (12).

The third stage, out of ten villages of the Ndoni clan, three villages was randomly selected. They are Ogboukwu, Umu-Ajie and Umuedi twelve households were also used which is Ogboukwu(12), Umu-Ajie (12) and Umuedi (12). This gave a total of one hundred and eight homemaker which were involved in the study; purposive selection is to ensure that only homemakers within the age limit that bear the same characteristics of the population were selected.

Instrument for Data Collection: Questionnaire was used for data collection. It was adopted based on the specific purposes of the study and extensive review of literatures related to the study. It had into two main parts. Part 1 sought for information on personal data of respondents while part II was sub-divided into three section, A-C which sought for information on three purposes of the study. Section A seeks for information on clothing decision of homemakers adopted in Onelga and it has 12 items. Section B sought information on practices families

adopt in purchasing clothing in Onelga with 13 items. Section C sought for information on practices families in Onelga adopt in budgeting for clothing with 14 items. This information was collected at the level of nine villages. A four point scale of strongly agreed (SD)=4, agreed (A)=3, disagree (DA)=2 and strongly disagree (SD)=1 was used to obtain information from respondent.

The questionnaire was subjected to face-validation by three experts. Two from Department of Home Economics and Hospitality Education, one from Department of Agricultural Education all from Federal College of Education (Technical), Omoku. They were requested to vet the instrument for clarity of words, ambiguity of words and then the extent the items measured the purpose of the study. They made suggestion on items to be included and identified some items to be removed. Based on their corrections, and recommendations, the final copy of the questionnaire was developed. Ten copies of the instrument were trial tested on a sample that was not part of the study. After the trail test, their responses were subjected to Cronbach Alpha because the instrument was questionnaire the reliability indices gotten for cluster A, B and C overall were 0.92, 0.84 and 0.64.

Method of Data Collection: a total of 108 copies of questionnaire was distributed to respondents by hand through the help of one research assistant. The research assistant was briefed on the purposes of the body study and how to administer the questionnaire to the respondents. The instrument was administered to each

respondent through personal contact using research assistance. The completed 108 copies of the questionnaire was collected immediately from respondent for analysis. The reason for using research assistance is to help the researcher cover all the intended area of the study.

Method of data Analysis: The data collected from respondent were

analyzed using means. The mean of 2.50 was used at decision making using scale of 0.5 the upper limit is $2.5+0.5=3.0$. Therefore, any item with mean of 2.50 and above was regarded as agreed upon while any item with mean less than 2.5 was regarded as disagree.

Findings of the Study

Table 1: Mean Responses on Factors households in Onelga consider in making Clothing Decisions

S/N	Factors considered	Mean \bar{X}	S.D	Decision
1.	Size of the family/number of persons in the family	3.37	0.84	Agreed
2.	Age of family members	2.90	0.79	Agreed
3.	Fit of clothes	3.33	0.87	Agreed
4.	Fabrics suitable to skin	2.37	0.5	Disagreed
5.	Durability of fabric	3.17	0.82	Agreed
6.	Clothes that suit the weather/season	3.00	0.73	Agreed
7.	Colour of clothes	2.80	.079	Agreed
8.	Comfort of clothes	2.27	0.77	Disagreed
9.	Available money	2.93	0.79	Agreed
10.	Clothing that suitable for work, various activities e.g. household, activities	3.10	0.59	Agreed
11.	Prevailing fashion	2.47	0.89	Disagreed
12.	Attractiveness of clothes	3.00	0.73	Agreed
13.	Culture of community	1.73	0.68	Disagreed
14.	Religion of family members	2.13	1.06	Disagreed
Grand mean & standard deviation		2.76	0.77	

Mean = \bar{X} ; SD = Standard Deviation

Table 1 reveals that all the items listed have their mean, ranging from 2.27 to 3.37. The mean of nine items ranging from 2.93 to 3.37. This shows that the mean responses of nine items are above 2.50 which is the cutoff point while means of five items are below the cutoff point. It also indicates that 9 items out of 14 items are factors households in

Onelga consider in making clothing decisions. The standard deviation ranges from SD = 0.59-.05, it showed minor disparities in the opinion of respondents. However, it has no effects on the overall result of the respondents.

Budgeting Practices

Table 2: Mean Responses on Practices Households in ONELGA Adopt in Budgeting for their Clothing Needs

S/N	Practices adopted for Budgeting	Mean \bar{X}	S.D	Decision
1.	Use disposable income e.g. family income	2.43	0.80	Disagreed
2.	Use regular income e.g. salaries	3.13	0.76	Agreed
3.	Consider numbers of people in the family	2.77	0.80	Agreed
4.	Putting plan on how to buy clothes	2.97	0.88	Agreed
5.	Taking inventory of clothes already available	2.23	0.72	Disagreed
6.	Making price list	2.83	0.78	Agreed
7.	Going for market survey	2.97	0.79	Agreed
8.	Cash at hand	2.53	0.89	Agreed
9.	Buying second handed clothes	3.00	0.78	Agreed
10.	Shopping ground home or close markets	2.70	0.82	Agreed
11.	Adjusting family clothing needs with available finance	3.13	0.81	Agreed
12.	Buying from retailers	2.83	0.69	Agreed
13.	Utilizing hand-me-down with the family	1.73	0.06	Disagreed
14.	Creating plans on clothing purchase	2.70	0.82	Agreed
15.	Considering sex/age of family members	2.83	0.78	Agreed
16.	Estimate of clothing needs	1.73	0.68	Disagreed
17.	clothing items that may be sourced within household	2.37	0.5	Disagreed
18.	List the clothing needs of members of household	2.90	0.79	Agreed
Grand mean & standard deviation		2.65	0.73	

\bar{X} = mean; S.D= Standard Deviation

Table 2 reveals that the mean of 18 items ranging from 2.97 to 3.13. This means that the respondents perceived 13 items out of 18 items listed as budget practices adopted by families in Onelga, 2 items have the means score lower than 2.50 which is below cutoff point. This indicates that, the respondents disagreed with those items as budget

practices adopted by families in Onelga for their clothing needs. The standard deviation of the items ranging from SD = 0.06 to 0.82. This implies that respondents are not too far apart from their opinions but are very close in their perceptions.

Purchasing Practices

Table 3: Mean Responses on Practices Households adopt in purchasing their clothing needs in ONELGA

S/N	Practices adopted for purchasing	Mean X	S.D	Decision
1.	Preparation of shopping list	3.13	0.81	Agreed
2.	Engage in hire purchase	2.30	0.82	Disagreed
3.	Buy on credit and pay by the end of the month or as agreed	2.90	0.91	Agreed
4.	Impulse buying	1.73	0.68	Disagreed
5.	Bulk buying	2.13	1.06	Disagreed
6.	Purchase when money is available	2.83	0.69	Agreed
7.	Consider seasons of the year when clothing are cheap	3.33	0.70	Agreed
8.	Check quality of clothes before paying	2.54	0.89	Agreed
9.	Buy from hawkers/vendors	3.00	0.78	Agreed
10.	Buy from boutiques	2.23	0.72	Disagreed
11.	Use tailor-made clothes	2.70	0.82	Agreed
12.	Buy from local market	2.77	0.96	Agreed
13.	Buying second-handed clothes	2.80	0.79	Agreed
14.	Buying multi-purpose clothing items	2.30	0.82	Disagreed
15.	Estimation of the cost of clothing items before buying	2.83	0.78	Agreed
16.	Evaluating present stock of clothing	2.13	1.06	Disagreed
17.	Paying for clothes installmentally	2.97	0.79	Agreed
	Grand mean & standard deviation	2.62	0.83	

\bar{X} = mean; S.D = Standard Deviation

Table 3 shows that the mean \bar{X} responses of 17 items ranging from 1.73 to 3.33. The means of eleven items ranging from 2.53 to 3.33. This indicates that the respondents see these items as practices adopted by families in Onelga to purchase clothing. However six items out of 17 items listed had a mean score of 1.73 to 2.30 which is below the cutoff point. This shows that the respondents sees these items as practices that are not adopted by families in Onelga to purchase clothing needs. The standard deviation of the item ranging from SD=1.73 to 2.13. This implies that the respondents are not too far from their opinions but were very close in their perceptions.

Discussion

The finding of this study is organized and discussed according to research questions. The findings on research question 1 as presented in table 1 revealed that size of the family, ages of family members, clothes that fit well, durability of clothes, clothes that suits the weather/season, checking of colours of clothes, considering cash at hand, clothes that matches works and activities and attractive clothes among others. The respondent disagreed with 3 items as factors households in Onelga consider in making clothing decision such as; clothes that are cool and pleasant touch, considering clothes allowance and adjusting family clothing needs with available cash. These factors

for household clothing decisions are in line with Anyakoha (2015) which stated that, household clothing decision include; considering cash at hand, family size, and durability amongst others. In support of this, Gorlin & Dhar, (2012) stated that clothing decision means to identify what the clothing need of the family is and putting up plans on how to get the plan achieved. This implies that homemakers have to seek for information about clothing family members. Family size is among the factors that the respondent considered appropriate for clothing members of the family. As the family increase, the responsibility also increases in meeting clothing needs. Gannett (2003) added that the size of the family determines the accurate provision that can be made such as providing the right clothes for the season, occasion, activities and works among others. The author stated that making maximum provision for clothing depends on how effective these factors are duly followed.

The finding on research question 2 as presented in table 2 showed that; preparation of shopping list, buying on credit pay by the end of the month or as agreed, purchase when money is at hand or available, consider seasons of the year when clothing are cheap, check quality of clothes before paying, buying from hawkers, tailor made clothes, buying from market and buying second handed clothes are listed as: purchasing practices adopted by families in Onelga, the respondents disagreed with 5 items out of 13 listed such as taking inventory of clothes already available, disposable income tax, buying from boutiques,

impulse buying, bulk buying. These practices of purchase adopted by families in Onelga which are disagreed by respondents in research question 2 are not in accordance with, Doodoo (2014) who stated that for a satisfactory purchasing practice several opinion should be considered to be able to get the best for family members. He further pointed that the needs and desire of family clothing can be achieved when the homemaker consider what to buy, how to buy, where to buy and people to buy from. Similarly, Dadfor, (2013) stated that purchase consist of taking a decision to buy goods and services clothing inclusive that for household use. The implication the person that indirectly involve in purchasing practices stand the chance of reaching a decision, which leads to achieving the best purchasing practices to enhance the clothing needs of the family.

Finding on Research question 3 as presented in Table 3 showed that, budgeting practices adopted by families in Onelga such, permanent income/salary, number of people in the family, putting plans on how to buy clothes, making price list, going for market survey, going for smart shopping, buying second handed clothes, shopping around home or close market, adjusting family clothing needs with available cash, buying from low retailers and stating your income are budgeting practices adopted by families in Onelga. The respondents disagreed with three items as budgeting practices not adopted by families in Onelga, they are; utilizing hand-me-down, disposable income e.g. tax and taking inventory of clothes already available.

These budgeting practices are in agreement with Seock (2013) who pointed that budgeting can involve a record of what you earn and spend, your needs and you want since it will enable families set aside money for other unforeseen expenses. In support of this, Hong (2010) stated guideline on best family budgeting practices as; consider family income, family size, composition of family members, goals of family members among. These are also in line with the researchers findings.

It is notable that clothing provision pattern of families is very poor and has become a source of concern, mostly when families lack understand of what to do. Many families in Ogba/Egbema/Ndoni Local Government Area lack knowledge of adequate clothing provision practices such as considering some factors before making clothing decision, putting up purchasing ideas and budgeting for clothing needs. These are important because of the ground families stand in the society. Most families their members dress in a way that send wrong signals of them or portray wrong image. Some families in rural areas do not even see the need to cloth their members as such most of their wards are seen with either torn, worn-out or shabby clothing hence, families must understand the need to carry out some clothing provision practices in order to address these needs. This study is aimed at identifying family clothing provision practices in Ogba/Egbema/Ndoni Local Government Area of Rivers State.

The study adopted a descriptive survey research design. An instrument

was designed to determine family clothing provision practices in Onelga. The population for the study is 108 which consist of family heads or homemakers within the age of 20-50 years in Onelga. A multi-stage sampling technique is adopted in the selection of respondents for the study. Three research questions were answered. A structured questionnaire of 40 items was developed for the study through literature review. These research questions are based on three purposes of the study. The questionnaire was administered by personal contact and with the help of research assistance. One hundred and eight copies of questionnaire were duly completed and returned. The research questions were analyzed using mean and standard deviation.

The findings of this study will have implication to so many persons as students, teachers among others, but mostly to the homemakers and family heads who are within the stipulated age of the study 20-50. This is a viable and articulates age where the homemaker within this age could endeavor to provide clothing items for its members. The information obtained will be useful for the homemakers if they submit themselves to talk and training through seminars and workshops on clothing provision practices. The knowledge of the findings will expose the homemaker or family head on making good clothing decision such as; considering family size, cash at hand, attractive clothes, durable clothes, among others. The result of the study will also enlighten them more on the importance of budgeting before purchasing of family

clothing practicing this finding, will help homemakers to save their money and also enhance the appearance of family members. Proper dissemination of the outcome of this finding through enlightenment programmes like seminars and workshops will help family to understand the importance of clothing provision practices. It will foster changes in their attitude as they will be determined to follow all plans to affect those clothing provision practices. The knowledge of making good clothing decision will enable them get the right clothe for their members. When budgeting practices is inculcated in them, it will help them plan before buying and go for what the family really need as a result they may save money and time for them.

Conclusion

Clothing serves a social purpose just as food serves a health purposes in every human society. The person whose clothes do not fall within approved standard in any given situation attract attention that is most times negative. Moreover, clothing is an important clue used by people to form an impression of the family one is coming from or tells whom one is and what one is not. Thus, the following conclusion was made. Families in Ogba/Egbema/Ndoni Local Government Area in Rivers State do not consider certain type of clothing decision in family as provision practices such as adjusting family clothing needs with available cash at hand, clothes that are cool and pleasant touch among others. More so, some clothing purchasing practices were not adopted such as, impulse buying, bulk buying

etc. Lastly, some budgeting practices were not adopted such as, taking inventory of clothes already available, utilizing hand-me-down, disposable income. However, it was discovered that the clothing provision practices of family members in Ogba/Egbema/Ndoni can be enhanced by adopting the practices this work has proffered.

Recommendation

1. Families should develop interest in their clothing provision practices since it is going to help them enhance and improve their appearances.
2. Government should sponsor programme through media that will enlighten the families on the need for providing clothing and the consequences of lack of it.
3. Federal government should enforce law through SON which will ensure durability of clothing articles when families acquire them.
4. School authorities should take personal interest to educate the learners on the importance and usefulness of clothing.

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