

Utilization of Textile Stencil-Printed Articles for Interior Decoration by Households in Okigwe Local Government Area, Imo State Nigeria

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Abstract

This study focused on utilization of textile stencil-printed articles for interior decoration among households in Okigwe Local Government Area (LGA) of Imo State. Specifically, it identified textile stencil-printed articles utilized by households in the study area, determined constraints to utilization of the articles, and ways of enhancing utilization of the articles. Survey research design was used. Population for the study comprised of homemakers in 2049 households. Questionnaire was used to collect data. Means and standard deviations were used for data analysis. Findings include 24 types of textile stencil-printed articles used for interior decoration, including curtains, throw pillows, bed sheets/bed covers, among others; 18 constraints to utilization of textile stencil-printed articles, including, inadequate skills, high cost of the textile stencil-printed articles, inadequate materials for textile stencil-printing, and so on. 16 ways of enhancing the utilization of textile stencil-printed articles. These include, among others, enlightenment/reorientation for homemakers on patronizing textile stencil-printed articles, improvement of available skills on producing textile stencil-printed articles. Five recommendations were made for enhancing the utilization of textile stencil-printed articles for interior decoration.

Keywords: Interior, Decoration, Utilization, Textile, Stencil-printed, Articles.

Introduction

Man has always sought for ways to create for himself pleasant environment that would relatively give him a sense of satisfaction and pride. Hence, the conscious effort to decorate and produce wide range of interior

decoration articles is one of the ways (Onwuasoanya, 2013). According to him, decoration means all that makes up the appearance of a room or the stage. A house always has interior and external areas. Interior means situated within while interior decoration is the dual art

of planning and producing interior structures for basic function, comfort, convenience and aesthetic appeal (Ford, 2016). It is the art of decorating a residential home, commercial or business area according to personal preferences and style. Amirkasra (2019), stated that the focus of interior decoration is to use interior details, which involve surface treatment like, flowers, selecting colours, use of accessories, flooring materials, artwork, furnishings and other articles to create a beautiful space that meets the physical and psychological needs of those that will live there. The goal of interior decoration is to improve the user experience by better managing the space available in the intervened environment area. It plays a key role in shaping the spaces we live in and therefore have the liability and obligation to create spaces that meet those needs.

Limited space calls for interior design and decoration to make the living and working space more comfortable, beautiful and practical (Kusum and Surender, 2017). It is made up of walls, floors, windows and doors, and these are the main parts shaping interior spaces. They are gathered together to define the space enclosure as they are functionally related to each other (Ching, 2005). Butterworth (2000) asserts that spaces and buildings are more than just props in people's lives. They are embedded with deeper personal and cultural meaning, resonance and simultaneously symbolize personal customs, interpersonal relationship, people's values and sense of belonging. As a

basic necessity, it should cater for safety and shelter. However, in order to cater for people's wellbeing, a place needs to be able to give its inhabitants a sense of belonging and a sense of identity, a place for both privacy and social interaction and this is what interior decoration tends to accomplish. It transforms an area into an aesthetically pleasing and budget friendly design.

In planning and designing for interior decoration in the home, one must basically consider the content of quality design for the person and purpose of decoration (Ford, 2010). The decoration of the interior of the home provides a revealing portrait of its inhabitants (Alan, 2013) and (Jessy, 2013), because homes are often perceived as an enclosure of comfort where objects of interests and satisfaction are displayed to make for relaxation and enjoyment. Thus, there is usually the desire to make the interior of a home become a source of aesthetic pleasures, decorated with items that are beautiful, affordable as well as entertaining. The interior decoration of homes may be considered as suitable opportunity for demonstration of one's culture, skills and potentials of various crafts. Often, the products of various designing techniques are mostly the items used to ignite beauty and excitement in the interiors of the homes (Magnani and Rivista, 2000). In the modern society, interior decoration of the home goes beyond decorating only with our commonly used flowers and ornamentals but involves using different types of decorative materials in the entire rooms such as living room, kitchen, bathroom, toilet and bedrooms.

Other articles used for interior decoration include pottery, greeting cards, pictures, sculptures, collage wallpapers, wall hangings and textile crafts, among others.

Textile crafts are produced and beautified using different techniques. Such techniques include crocheting, quilting, weaving, tie dyeing, batik, printing, and others. Printing is a technique of expressing ideas, activities or emotions in pictures on any possible surface through manual or mechanical means, such surfaces can be textiles, papers and others. Printing is widely used in various styles on different surfaces which includes textiles. Textile printing according to William *et al*, (2015), is the application of colour ants in definite repeated patterns to a fabric, yarn or silver Stewart(2012) and. (Shelton, 2013), asserted that there are multiple hand printing techniques that can be used to add cute patterns to everything one owns. According to Banjoko, (2000) in Kuso (2018), there are various types of printing techniques such as block printing, roller printing, screen printing stencil printing and others.

Stencil-printing is one of the printing methods and it uses an angled blade called a squeegee to press a viscous material through pre-defined aperture in a solid foil on to a substrate. It is a method of transferring a pattern by blushing, spraying or squeegeeing ink or paint through open areas of a stencil cut from metal or cardboard. Stencil printing of fabric, apparel, wall hangings and room dividing screens, is an inexpensive easily performed and versatile art. The versatility shows its

use on surfaces of papers, woods, cardboards, metals, glasses, leather, plastics and textiles among others. Stencil-printed textiles can be used to produce different articles for interior decorations, such as quilted bed sheets/covers; curtains, cushion covers; and others it can provide employment for homemakers and other interested people, thereby providing additional income to the family. The art of stencil printing is not new, it has been applied to the decoration of different surfaces such as textiles for a very long time by the Japanese and the usage has increased employment in Europe for certain class of decorative work on woven goods for furnishing purposes (Kuso 2018).

Utilization means to make profitable or effective use of items or materials, among which is textile. Textile utilization involves, deciding how to purchase or obtain and use it which includes sewing it for different purposes such as articles for interior decoration which the homemaker uses to decorate the home interior. However, from observation and some literatures, homemakers use different products in beautifying their homes but textile stencil-printed articles for interior decoration are one aspect that has not been properly explored in Nigeria especially in Okigwe LGA of Imo State. The introduction of imported textiles and its products changed the taste of Nigerians. This has affected indigenous and contemporary hand crafted products which include interior decoration articles produced from textile stencil-printed articles. This has resulted to hand crafted crafts, which

include textile stencil printed articles gradually losing its value and identity. Therefore, to promote the hand crafted crafts, there is need to bring it to the fore and it is on this premise that the researchers find it pertinent to embark on the study: Utilization of textile stencil-printed articles for interior decoration by households in the study area.

Objectives of the study:

The main objective of this study was to assess the utilization of textile stencil-printed articles among households in Okigwe LGA of Imo State. Specifically the study;

1. identified textile stencil-printed articles used by households for interior decoration in Okigwe LGA.
2. determined the constraints households encounter in the use of textile stencil-printed articles in interior decoration
3. determined ways the use of textile stencil-printed articles for interior decoration could be enhanced among households in Okigwe LGA of Imo State

Research questions

1. What are the textile stencil-printed articles for interior decoration used by households in Okigwe LGA?
2. What are the constraints encountered in the use of textile stencil-printed articles for interior decoration by households in Okigwe LGA.?
3. What are the ways to enhance the use of textile stencil-printed articles for interior decoration by households in Okigwe LGA?

Methodology

Design of the study: The study was carried out using survey design involving the use of structured questionnaires to collect data from respondents.

Area of the Study: The geographical location of this research work is Okigwe Local Government Area of Imo State. Okigwe is the third largest city, after Owerri and Orlu, in Imo State. The city lies between the Port Harcourt-Enugu and Maiduguri rail line. It has a population of 132,237 (2006, Census). Most of the inhabitants are mainly civil servants and Abia State University students from other states. The city was the primary host site of the old Imo State University (now, Abia State University). Okigwe has various tourist and historical sites. The Federal Government College in the city has remained one of the best unity schools in Nigeria. The city remains one of the food baskets of Nigeria with terrace cultivation practiced on its hilly farmlands. The inhabitants use different materials in interior decorations among which are wall papers, floor coverings, curtains, bed sheets/ bed covers made of different designs.

Population for the Study: The population for the study comprised 2049 households. The female homemakers were the unit of observation/respondents .In Okigwe Local Government Area of Imo State; most occupants are mainly immigrant workers who are mainly middle income earners. Some are traders followed by

civil servants and some peasant farmers. A large number of the occupants are literate. Okigwe LGA comprise of five Autonomous Communities and twenty five villages.

Sample for the Study: Multi-stage sampling technique was adopted. Okigwe Local Government Area of Imo State has five Autonomous Communities (ACs). These are made up of 25 villages. The five Autonomous Communities were involved in the study. The second stage involved purposive selection of five villages from each autonomous communities and this gave a total of 25 villages. In the third stage, simple random sampling technique was used to select 13 households from each of the 25 villages to give a total of 325 households. From each household, a female homemaker was selected for the study, giving a total of 325 home makers.

Instrument for Data Collection: Questionnaire was used for data collection. It was made up of two sections: A and B. Section A had questions on bio data of the respondents. Section B comprised of questions based on the three research questions. A four point scale was used for rating thus: Strongly Agreed (SA), Agreed (A), Strongly Disagreed (SD), and Disagreed (D) with values. 4, 3, 2, and 1 assigned respectively. The Instrument was validated by three experts (Lecturers) from Home Science

Department, Michael Okpara University of Agriculture, Umudike. The contributions of validators were reflected in the final draft of the instrument. In determining the reliability of the instrument, a pilot study of the research instrument was carried out to ascertain the adequacy of the instrument. To achieve this, ten questionnaires were distributed to ten female homemakers in Ikwuano L. G .A, which was not part of the research area. The questionnaires were collected and analyzed to determine the effectiveness of the research instrument. The reliability coefficient value for the pilot study was 0.89.

Data Collection: Three hundred and twenty five copies of questionnaire were distributed to the respondents with the help of research Assistants. Three hundred and fifteen copies were properly filled and returned.

Data Analysis Technique: Means and standard deviation were used for data analysis. The mean was calculated by assigning nominal values to the response categories. Strongly Agree (SA); Agree (A); Strongly Disagree (SD); Disagree (D) with values 4, 3, 2 and 1 assigned respectively. The criterion level was 2.5 and any value below 2.5 was regarded as disagreed while above 2.5 was regarded as agree.

Findings of the Study

Table 1: Means Responses on Types of textile stencil-printed articles utilized by households for interior decoration in Okigwe L.G.A

S/No	Stencil-printed textile articles utilized by households for interior decoration	\bar{X}	SD	Remarks
1	Curtains	3.31	1.09	Agreed
2	Table mats	3.30	1.08	Agreed
3	Pillow cases	3.08	1.05	Agreed
4	Wall hangings	3.11	1.17	Agreed
5	Table cloths/covers	3.13	1.05	Agreed
6	Headrest for chairs	3.31	1.02	Agreed
7	Quilted Bed sheets	3.32	0.97	Agreed
8	Shower curtains	3.09	1.05	Agreed
9	Wall tidy bags	1.54	1.02	Disagreed
10	Television covers	3.07	1.04	Agreed
11	Oven gloves	3.11	1.16	Agreed
12	Pot holders	3.06	1.02	Agreed
13	Table napkins	3.08	1.05	Agreed
14	Glass cup covers	3.11	1.17	Agreed
15	Bed covers	3.30	1.08	Agreed
16	Mattress covers	3.13	1.06	Agreed
17	Draperies	3.25	1.16	Agreed
18	Cushion Covers	3.34	1.00	Agreed
19	Armrest	3.35	1.04	Agreed
20	Throw pillows	3.36	0.98	Agreed
21	Food covers	3.06	1.02	Agreed
22	Foot mat	3.08	1.05	Agreed
23	Sewing machine covers	3.11	1.16	Agreed
24	Computer covers	3.24	1.15	Agreed
25	Cupboard covers	3.11	1.16	Agreed
26	Keyboard/organ covers	1.58	1.05	Disagreed

Foot note: Mean (\bar{X})=, SD=Standard Deviation

Table 1 shows the result of stencil-printed textile articles utilized by households for interior decoration in the study area. The mean (\bar{X}) scores ranged from 1.54-3.36 and standard deviation of 0.97 to 1.17. Item no 20 throw pillows, had the highest mean response of 3.36 and SD of 0.98 while items no 9, wall tidy bags, had the least mean responses of 1.54 and SDs of 1.02. The mean scores in 24 items out of the

26 items identified were above the criterion level which is 2.5 while the standard deviation in all the responses showed that SD dispersion is low, therefore, it is agreed that the respondents utilized 24 printed articles identified. Items no 9 and 26 had mean responses below the criterion level. This signifies that the articles were not utilized by households in the study area.

Table 2: Mean Responses on constraints to the use of textile stencil-printed articles for interior decoration among households in Okigwe L.G.A.

S/ N	Constraints to the use of textile stencil-printed articles for interior decoration among households in Okigwe LGA	\bar{X}	SD	Remark
1	Lack of knowledge about the textile stencil-printed articles by home makers	3.11	1.16	Agreed
2	High cost of the textile stencil-printed articles	3.09	1.05	Agreed
3	Inadequate skills in utilizing textile stencil-printed articles	3.13	1.06	Agreed
4	Inadequate production of the stencil- printed textile articles	3.25	1.16	Agreed
5	Inadequate skills in stencil-printing	3.30	1.08	Agreed
6	Inadequate materials for stencil- printing	3.74	0.73	Agreed
7	Inadequate equipment for stencil -printing	3.06	1.02	Agreed
8	Articles not produced within the city	3.73	0.76	Agreed
9	Lack of interest in the use of textile stencil- printed articles.	1.56	1.16	Disagreed
10	Inadequate income of households	3.06	1.02	Agreed
11	Home makers dislike textile stencil-printed articles for home decorations.	1.67	0.96	Disagreed
12	Inadequate enlightenments on the uses of textile stencil-printed articles	3.32	0.97	Agreed
13	The articles fade easily.	3.30	1.08	Agreed
14	Low quality of the textile stencil-printed articles.	3.08	1.05	Agreed
15	Lack of diverse creativity in design of textile stencil-printed articles.	3.31	0.89	Agreed
16	Stencil-printed textile articles are not attractive.	1.45	1.05	Disagreed
17	People question the durability of the textile stencil-printed articles.	3.25	1.16	Agreed
18	Inadequate awareness of the existence of the textile stencil-printed articles.	3.06	1.02	Agreed
19	Lack of technological knowhow	3.53	0.79	Agreed
20	Too many family responsibilities	3.34	1.00	Agreed
21	The articles are very scarce	3.11	1.16	Agreed

Foot note: \bar{X} =Mean, SD=Standard Deviation

Table 2 shows the results on the constraints in the utilization of textile stencil-printed articles for interior decoration in the study area. The mean responses ranged from 1.45 - 3.74 with standard deviation of 0.73 - 1.16. Respondents agreed that nineteen (19) constraints affect the use of textile

stencil-printed articles in the study area. This was arrived at based on fact that nineteen (19) constraints in the use of textile stencil printed articles for interior decoration in the study area listed, had mean responses above the criterion level (2.5) and the standard deviation values were low in all the responses,

which signifies that the values are close to the means. Item no 6, inadequate materials for stencil-printing had the highest mean response of 3.74 followed by item no 8, articles are not produced within the city with the mean response of 3.73 and standard deviation of 0.76 while item no16, stencil-printed textile articles are not attractive, had the lowest mean response of 1.45 and standard deviation of 1.05. The results also revealed that the responses on three of the constraints had low mean responses.

These items are no 9, lack of interest in the use of textile stencil- printed articles with the mean response of 1.6, item no 11, lack of interest in the use of textile stencil-printed articles with the mean response of 1.56, and item no16, textile stencil-printed articles are not attractive with the mean response of 1.45 respectively. This shows that the respondents disagreed that these constraints mentioned do not affect them in the use of stencil-printed articles.

Table 3: Means Responses on Ways the Use of Stencil-Printed Textile Articles for Interior Decoration could be Enhance

S/N	Ways To Enhance The Use Of Stencil Printed Articles.	\bar{X}	SD	Remark
1	Introduce the stencil-printing skill in the skill acquisition centers, primary secondary and tertiary institution entrepreneurial education.	3.32	0.99	Agreed
2	Improvement of available skills on stencil-printing of textiles by incorporating into poverty alleviation programmes .	3.06	1.02	Agreed
3	Enlightenment/Reorientation on patronizing stencil-printed textile articles	3.11	1.17	Agreed
4	Organizing workshops where people will learn how to make stencil-printed textile articles.	3.36	0.98	Agreed
5	Conduct exhibitions to showcase different articles made of stencil-printing.	3.74	0.73	Agreed
6	Value addition to textile stencil-printing.	3.73	0.76	Agreed
7	Organizing training on textile stencil-printing skills.	3.08	1.05	Agreed
8	Developing the interest of homemakers through home economics education from the grass root.	3.04	1.03	Agreed
9	Encouraging innovations and creativity among the youths through sponsorships by government and non-governmental agencies.	3.74	0.73	Agreed
10	Job creation by government to improve homemakers' income.	3.73	0.74	Agreed
11	Empowering the homemakers and youths through skill acquisition in textile stencil- printing.	3.74	0.75	Agreed
12	Producers should improve on the colour fastness of the articles.	3.24	1.17	Agreed
13	Durable fabrics should be used in producing stencil-printed textile articles.	3.32	1.03	Agreed
14	The technical knowhow for stencil-printing should be taught in Nigerian schools.	3.07	1.06	Agreed

15	Different designs of the articles for decoration should be produced using stencil-printed fabrics.	3.11	1.17	Agreed
16	Articles that promote indigenous cultural heritage should be produced.	3.33	0.98	Agreed

Foot note; \bar{X} =mean, SD=standard deviation

Table 3 shows the mean and the standard deviation of the respondents on ways of enhancing the utilization of textile stencil-printed articles for interior decoration in Okigwe LGA. The respondents agreed to all the items listed as ways of enhancing the utilization of textile stencil-printed articles with the mean responses ranging from 3.08 to 3.74 and SD values of 0.73 to 1.17. The responses to the items were all agreed on, since their means were above the criterion level 2.5 and the SD is close to the mean values. The item no 3, enlightenment on patronizing homemade textile stencil-printed articles had the highest mean score of 3.74 and standard deviation of 1.15, while item no (6) which stated that value should be added to textile stencil-printed articles had a mean response of 3.73 and SD of .0.76. Item no (2), improvement of available skills on textile stencil-printing articles by incorporating poverty alleviation programme, had the least response of 3.06 and standard deviation of 0.73.

Discussion of findings

The findings of the study on textile stencil-printed articles used by households for interior decoration in Okigwe L.G.A, revealed that the articles utilized include, pillow cases, curtains, table clothes and wall designs among others. The findings were in line with Alan (2013) ,Onwuasoanya (2013),

Dalhar, *et.al*, (2017) and Kusum *et al* (2017),conceded to the fact that pillow cases, sofa, curtain, table cloth, wall design and headrest are among the major ways of utilizing textiles and its products for interior decoration in the homes. Also Gbadebe, *et al*, also supported that textile fabrics made of indigenous and contemporary methods are used for interior furnishings such as table cloth, napkins, and curtains among others.

Also revealed from the findings, the respondents agreed that the possible constraints on the use of textile stencil-printed articles for interior decoration in the homes are; lack of knowledge about the textile stencil-printed articles, high cost of the printed articles, inadequate skills in utilizing the textile stencil-printed articles, low quality of the printed articles among others. This was supported by Alozie (2017), who asserted that these are the main constraints that affect the use of textile stencil-printed materials in interior decoration. The findings of this study is also in agreement with Anyakoha (2015), who reported that inadequate finance, inadequate skills, among others, are some of the constraints on the use of stencil products for interior decoration in the homes. Gbadebe *et.al*, (2019), in his work pointed out that decline in the use of some indigenous fabric where due to lack of funds for the producers, high cost of raw materials,

original designs been copied by foreign companies such as china and produced cheaply

The findings further revealed possible ways the use of textile stencil-printed articles for interior decoration could be enhanced. The respondents agreed that the following measures; enlightenment/reorientation on patronizing textile stencil-printed articles is one of the ways of enhancing the use of textile stencil-printed articles. This is supported by Onwuasoanya (2013), who stated in his work that, though few people make use of window blinds, bed sheets, armrests, table cloths and pillow cases made of textiles, that there is need for the general public to be enlightened on the role and usefulness of textiles and its products for interior decoration in our homes. Improvement of available skills on stencil-printed articles is another way of enhancing the use of stencil- printed textile articles as revealed from the findings of this study. This is in line with (Oluwambe, *et al*, 2020), who stated that skill acquisition is a key factor of production and Cottage textile industries provide opportunities for the development of local skills and technology acquisition. The authors further stated that it is an avenue for the creation of local entrepreneurs in several areas of cottage textile production which includes stencil textile printing. The study as well revealed that value addition, innovations and creativity to stencil-printed articles will help to enhance the utilization of stencil- printed textile articles. This is supported by Emmanuel (2014), Richard *et al*, (2018) and Onwuasoanya(2013), who in their

works stated that innovation and creativity are the hallmark to the survival of handcrafted textiles which has been affected by the influx of imported textiles. Other findings as revealed by the study are as follows, incorporating poverty alleviation programme, value addition to hand printed textiles by using the textiles to produce different articles for interior decoration so as to encourage people to patronize the stencil-printed articles among others, should be adopted in enhancing the utilization of textile stencil- printed articles for interior decoration in the study area.

Conclusion

Textile stencil-printing should be used in producing varieties of interior decoration articles like wall hangings and room dividing screens, curtains, wall papers, armrests, among others. It is an inexpensive easily performed and versatile art. The skill in making stencil-printed articles could be enhanced through entrepreneurial education, exhibitions, among others, to enable people learn the skill and equally develop interest in utilizing the items.

Recommendations

Based on the findings, the following recommendations were made

1. Conferences, seminars and workshops should be periodically organized on stencil- printing techniques for households by NGOs' that handle crafts and skill acquisition, Home Economists and other concerned agencies in Okigwe Local Government Area of Imo State.

2. Entrepreneurial education on the use of stencilling techniques should be pursued with vigour in all Colleges of education and other tertiary institutions where Home science is offered.
3. The products of the local crafts should be popularized by producing varied intricate designs so that they could enjoy wide patronage from many Nigerians.
4. The skills in stencil printing techniques should be incorporated into the entrepreneurial studies of schools from primary school to tertiary institutions.
5. Creativity and innovations should be introduced to stencil- printed textile articles by producers.

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