

CONSUMERS VIEW ON HOUSEHOLD ARTICLES PRODUCED FROM SCRAP FABRICS- TOWARDS A CLEANER ENVIRONMENT

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Abstract

Methods of disposal of left- over fabric by fashion houses have led to various forms of environmental pollution and it is pertinent to consider means in which scrap fabrics can be used to enhance additional value to the society. Specifically, the study identified attributes considered by consumers during selection of household articles and the perception of consumers on household articles produced from scrap fabrics using patchwork techniques. The study was carried out among Academic staff of Oyo State College of Agriculture and Technology. Multi-staged sampling techniques were used to select sample size of 242 respondents from a population of 536. Questionnaire was used to collect data. Descriptive statistics was used to analyze the data using frequency counts, percentages and mean values. Results showed that the attributes considered by the consumers during household article selection in order of importance were quality, price/affordability, decoration benefit for homes and durability. Findings, also revealed that the respondents had high acceptability and good perception of the household articles produced from the scrap fabrics. It can be concluded that if the household articles made from scrap fabrics possess most attributes/qualities that are of importance to the consumers, it will draw consumers attention in the market; thereby increasing the demand of products made from fabric waste in the environment.

Keywords: Consumers, Household articles, Scrap fabrics, Cleaner Environment.

Introduction

Recycling waste is one of the most important environmental tasks that face the world. (Jassim, 2017). Commercially, textile waste generation is influenced by the production of textile goods; the higher the production, the greater the amount of waste generated. With regards to wastes, textile waste originated from the community through several streams including the fibers, textile or clothing manufacturing industries, commercial and consumer service industries (Bairagi, 2014). Burçin, *et al.* (2020) posited that textile production is one of the main industries that affect global environmental pollution, as both the production and processing of necessary raw materials are the causes of pollution. Method of disposal of left-over fabric by fashion houses leads to environmental pollution; most garment construction sites dispose their garment pieces on illegal dumpsite, some were burnt, causing the exposure of carbon-monoxide to the atmosphere thus disrupting the ozone layer and causing air pollution to the people around. The land where burning took place is also affected as the micro-organisms were destroyed. The scrap fabric can also be left un-kept and so wind blows it away to the surrounding environment. Some dispose fabric waste into the canals, causing drainage blockage and leading to flooding. Hence, waste disposal remains one of the

biggest worries for sustainable fashion design practitioners, (Asanovic *et al.*, 2017)

Also, (Jassim, 2017) showed that scrap fabrics from apparel production can be recycled to produce new garments and household articles. According to Lou *et al.* (2005), recycling waste is one of the most important environmental tasks that face the world, Hence, this study focuses on the use of scrap fabrics for household articles with the aid of patchwork techniques.

According to Amubode (2006), patchwork is the method of sewing; using scraps fabrics arranged creatively form combinations of design and color. Patchwork also means the combination of pieces of cloth sewn together to make a larger whole (Bridget, 2014). Patchwork could range from the use of random scraps of fabric crudely joined together to create a piece of cloth to a decorative needlework stitched using selected fabric shapes and colors to achieve a pleasing design. It is an uncommon craft used for making beautiful articles out of scraps of fabrics which are to be thrown away or for making an extended fabric by joining several lengths of narrow hand- woven widths.

There are different types of household articles, ranging from tangible and movable personal property placed in the living rooms, dining room, kitchen, family rooms, and basement such as bed-sheet, table

cover, towels, wardrobe, sofa, wall hanging, curtain, pillowcase, mattresses, rugs Patchworks can be use to construct or make a lot of designs in the household such as production of garment for wear, bed sheets, table cloth, pillow case, flower vase, aprons and appliqué for in interior designs in the home. This research work however involved the recycling of waste fabrics to produce patchworks for household articles like bed-sheet, table cover, pillow cases, and aprons. It is hoped that the outcome of the work will reduce environmental and waste pollution or reduction in the society.

Purpose of the Study

The following objectives guided the study:

1. Production of bedsheets from scrap fabrics.
2. Identify attributes considered in selecting household articles.
3. Assess the respondents' acceptability of household articles made from scrap fabrics.
4. Determine the respondents' perception of household articles made from scrap fabrics.

Materials and Methods

Research Design: The design of this study is descriptive survey.

Study Area: The study was conducted at Oyo State College of Agriculture and Technology, Igboora.

Sample Size: The sample size for the study was determined by using Taro Yamane's sample size formula Taro (1967) as cited by Alero (2016) $n = 230$ respondents

However, to cater for loss or un-retrieved questionnaires, 5% of the sample size which is equivalent to 12 was added to make a total of 242.

Sampling Technique: Simple Random Sampling Technique was used to select four (4) Departments from the Faculties in the College while convenience sampling method was adopted to select 6 respondents from the selected Departments according to availability and willingness to participate in the study.

Research Instrument: Structured questionnaires evaluated through reliability and validity tests were administered to the respondents. The questionnaire adopted mostly Likert's scale question format. The questionnaire had four sections: The first section contained questions that determined the socio-demographic characteristics of the respondents. The second measured attributes considered in selecting household articles. The third sections measured respondent's acceptability of household articles made from scrap fabrics while the fourth section was used to determine the respondent's acceptability of household fabrics made from scrap fabrics acceptability of patchwork and attributes considered during selection of household articles.

Procedure for Production of Household Article:

The process is shown in the figure1 below;

1. Sourcing of scrap fabrics at garment shops at Asero market, Abeokuta
2. Sorting of the scrap fabric and cutting them into desired sizes is 51/2 inches by 71/2 inches
3. Considering colour and texture combinations
4. Stitched the patchwork pieces together Sewing of the scrap fabric together
5. Final production

Data analysis: Data was analyzed using descriptive statistics; frequency counts, percentages, mean and standard deviation was used to analyze the data.

Results

Table 1 reveals the attributes considered by the respondents when selecting household articles. About (94.4%) of the respondents agreed on the quality of the fabric, majority (82.3%) considered price/affordability, the decoration gave the home (74.5%), and durability of the article fabric (75.8%). The other attributes considered by the respondents in order of importance are; the Color of the fabric, size or length of the articles (especially bed sheet), the neatness in production and completion of the article, design of the fabric, ease of caring, the comfort the article can provide and the Uniqueness in the combination of designs.

**Table 1: Attributes Considered in Selecting Household Articles**

S/N	ATTRIBUTES	Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly disagree	MEAN	Rank
1	The quality of the fabric	416(44.8%)	345(49.6%)	26(5.6%)	0(0.0%)	3.25	1
2	The Color of the fabric	256(27.6%)	411(59.1%)	38(8.2%)	12(5.2%)	2.95	5
3	Durability of the fabric	468(50.4%)	177(25.4%)	44(9.5%)	34(14.7%)	2.99	4
4	The combination of Motif and arrangement	224(24.1%)	195(28.0%)	162(34.9%)	30(12.9%)	2.52	12
5	The Beauty of the fabric	240(34.5%)	2493(35.8%)	94(20.3%)	22(9.5%)	2.50	13
6	Price/affordability	528(56.9%)	177(25.4%)	44(9.5%)	19(8.2%)	3.17	2
7	The design of the fabric	224(24.1%)	300(43.1%)	108(23.3%)	22(9.5%)	2.70	8
8	The decoration it can give the home	428(46.1%)	198(28.4%)	118(25.4%)	(0.0%)	3.07	3
9	The Uniqueness in the combination of designs	252(27.2%)	225(32.3%)	94(20.3%)	47(20.3%)	2.55	11
10	The comfort it can provide	192(20.7%)	330(47.4%)	54(11.6%)	47(20.3%)	2.57	10
11	Ease of caring	236(25.4%)	279(40.1%)	78(16.8%)	41(17.7%)	2.62	9
12	The size or length of the articles	324(34.9%)	255(36.6%)	88(19.0%)	22(9.5%)	2.85	6
13	The Pattern arrangement on the article	138(14.7%)	159(22.8%)	220(47.4%)	35(15.1%)	2.27	14
14	The neatness in production and finish of the article	136(14.7%)	447(64.2%)	50(10.8%)	24(10.3%)	2.71	7

Source, Field Survey, 2021

The table 2 reveals the respondents' acceptability of patchwork household articles by examining factors such as awareness, uniqueness, construction, price and market value. Considering the mean of mean, it can be deduced that the consumer's acceptability of household articles made from patchwork is high.

Table 2: Consumers acceptability of Scrap Fabric Household Articles

S/N	FACTOR	ITEMS	Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Mean score
1	Awareness	I have come across articles made from scrap fabrics	12(5.2%)	30(12.9%)	88(37.9%)	102(44.0%)	1.79
		I am aware that scrap fabric household articles are made from waste fabrics	56(24.1%)	82(35.3%)	81(34.9%)	13(5.6%)	2.78
2	Uniqueness	Color combination of scrap fabrics are attractive and patchwork articles are fashionable and can be given out as gifts	46(19.8%)	59(25.4%)	115(49.%)	12(5.2%)	2.59
3	Construction	Scrap fabrics articles are neatly sewn and produced	12(5.2%)	160(69.0%)	48(20.7%)	12(5.2%)	2.94
		The layout of the patchwork is well planned	41(17.7%)	132(56.9%)	25(10.8%)	34(14.7%)	2.77
4	Price	The price of scrap fabrics articles are economical	56(24.1%)	64(27.6%)	56(24.1%)	56(24.1%)	2.51
		I can encourage my friend to buy scrap fabric articles at any cost of price	0(0.0%)	46(19.8%)	100(43.%)	86(37.1%)	1.82
5	Market value	Scrap fabric products are better than imported product	12(5.2%)	31(13.4%)	110(47.%)	79(34.1%)	1.89
		Scrap fabrics articles can compete with other household articles in the market	36(15.5%)	70(30.2%)	47(20.3%)	79(34.1%)	2.27

Source, Field Survey, 2021

The mean value was interpreted using;

- Mean score from 0.01 to 1.00 is Strongly disagree; that is, very low acceptability

- From 1.01 to 2.00 is Disagree; that is, low acceptability
- From 2.01 to 3.00 is Agree; that is, high acceptability
- From 3.01 to 4.00 is Strongly agree; that is, very high acceptability

Table 3 revealed the perception of the respondents about the household articles made from scrap fabrics.

It can be deduced that the respondents had a good perception of the articles produced from scrap fabrics and worthy to note that majority (55.2%) of the respondents agreed that household made from scrap fabrics are more expensive than the others from non-scrap product. 30.2% of respondents agreed that it is not as beautiful as the other ones produced from non scrap product.

Table 3: Perception on the use of scrap fabrics for household article

S/N	ARTICLES	Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	MEAN
1	More expensive than other produce	417(19.0%)	252(36.2%)	122(26.3%)	43(18.5%)	2.5
2	It will not last compared to other produce	224(24.1%)	38(45.7%)	126(27.2%)	7(3.0%)	2.8
3	It lacks quality compared to other produce	324(34.9%)	111(15.9%)	214(46.1%)	7(3.0%)	2.7
4	It is better than other fabric	52(5.6%)	168(24.1%)	132(28.4%)	97(41.8%)	1.9
5	It should be cheaper than other produce	48(5.2%)	258(37.1%)	184(39.7%)	42(18.1%)	2.2
6	It will worn out faster compared to other produce	224(24.1%)	318(45.7%)	116(25.0%)	12(5.2%)	2.8
7	It is not as beautiful as other produce	48(5.2%)	174(25.0%)	206(44.4%)	59(25.4%)	2.0
8	It is colorful compared to other produce	400(43.1%)	252(36.2%)	72(15.5%)	12(5.2%)	3.0
9	They are easy to wash	232(25.0%)	348(50.0%)	48(10.3%)	34(14.7%)	2.7
10	They can be refurbished	280(30.2%)	177(25.4%)	118(25.4%)	44(19.0%)	2.6
11	If the bed-sheets and pillow cases are available in the market I will definitely buy	48(5.2%)	483(69.4%)	68(14.7%)	25(10.8%)	2.6

Source: Field Survey,2021

Discussion

Several studies (Nong and Ho, 2019; Acar, *et al.*, 2016) had found that quality and price or affordability always come to fore when it comes to selection criteria for textile produce; this study is not an exception. The other attributes considered by the respondents of this study in order importance are; the Color of the fabric, size or length of the articles (especially the major article considered was bed sheet and pillow cases), the neatness in production and finish of the article, design of the fabric, ease of caring, the comfort the article can provide and the Uniqueness in the combination of designs.

Furthermore, the consumer's acceptability of household articles made from scrap fabrics is high and the respondents also had a good perception of the articles. Even though, most of the respondents had an inadequate awareness of such household articles, they were still able to showed some positive disposition of the produce. The findings revealed that some respondents feel that the produced article may be as expensive as other produce in the market, a larger

percentage (74.6%) agreed that if articles produced from scrap fabrics are available in the market, they will definitely buy. This is a very good pointer to the fact that people can begin to look into producing such items as they are most likely to get buyers. It is interesting to note that most of the raw materials for the production may be gotten almost free since they are scrap fabrics that can be gathered from different local garment shops. Apart from the fact that it will generate income for many and result in a cleaner environment, it will also encourage recycling and its processing to create new opportunities in the textile, apparel and interior decoration industries.

Majority, 94.4% of the respondents noted that the quality of the scrap fabrics is of high quality. This confirms the findings of Asanovic (2016) which states that people prefer to use fabrics that are of high quality than low quality fabrics in producing scrap fabrics. Many (52.1%) of the respondents agreed that the combination of the motif and arrangement of the scrap fabric is unique. This confirms the findings of Amubode (2006) that the arrangement and

combination of household articles from scrap fabrics is unique. Also, 82.3% of the respondents noted that the price of the household articles is high, this confirms the findings according to Petrulyte & Baltakyte (2018) which states that the cost of production of household articles made with scrap fabrics is high.

Furthermore, 45.2% of the respondents agreed that the scrap fabric is unique this confirms the findings of Slater (2016) which states that the production of household articles made with scrap fabrics is unique. Also, 45.7% of the respondents noted that scrap fabrics articles can compete with other household articles in the market. This confirms the findings of Jassim (2017) that household articles made from scrap fabrics have high market value.

In conclusion, the household articles that are made from scrap fabrics possess most of the attributes/qualities which are of acceptance to the consumers, it will attract attention in the market place, thereby resulting in higher demand of the produce, continuous production and ultimately reduction of fabric waste in the environment. From the work, it can be concluded that the implication of the favourable attitude of the consumers can lead to;

- an income generating business in some societies.
- assisting the masses on reducing the cost spent on the purchase of household articles due to inexpensive cost of scrap fabrics.
- provision of full-time or part-time employment opportunities for both educated and non-educated individuals.
- Employment creation for those collecting waste fabrics for sale and commercial viability of household articles made with waste fabrics from fashion house will be boosted.
- achieving the ultimate goal of supporting the eco-system by reducing the amount of waste that is released into the environment from the fashion industry by maintaining a sustainable cleaner environment and
- boost economic growth of the country.

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