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CONSUMER SCIENCES SOCIETY OF NIGERIA

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INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL OF FAMILY AND CONSUMER SCIENCES
MANUSCRIPT GUIDE FOR AUTHORS

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The International Journal of Family and Consumer Sciences (IJFACS) aims to publish high quality research on all aspects of Consumer Sciences/Home Economics and related fields. As an international academic journal, provides a global and multidisciplinary forum to understand consumers from psychology, sociology, anthropology, marketing and consumption economics perspectives. All submissions will go through a strict double-blind peer-reviewed procedure based on strong theoretical conceptualization and rigours research methods. Short research notes and commentary, with innovative approach and insightful ideas are also welcome.

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As a guide, articles should be between 3,000 and 6,000 words in length. It must be DOUBLESPPACED using 12-point Times New Roman font. A title of not more than fifteen words should be provided. Page one should show full name of all authors, affiliation, e-mail address and full contact details. Authors should not be identified anywhere else in the article. Page two should contain the article title, abstract and the contents. Authors must provide up to five keywords which encapsulate the principal topics of the article.

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PERCEPTION OF FARMERS ABOUT RABBIT PRODUCTION AS A MEANS OF LIVELIHOOD IN IFE NORTH LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA OF OSUN STATE, NIGERIA

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ABSTRACT

The increasing population throughout the world has spurred scientists, farmers, government, as well as Non-governmental Organizations to seek means of making ends meet in a bid to cope with increasing demand for food during this period.

The study specifically described the demographic characteristics of the respondents, extent of management practices embarked upon by them, marketing channels used and challenges as well as profitability of rabbit keeping as perceived by the respondents.

A snowball technique was adopted in selecting 200 respondents from the farming communities. Some of the findings revealed that 59 percent of the respondents were between the ages of 31 and 60 years, and 66 percent of them had primary education. About 48.5 percent of the respondents agreed that rabbit production was not profitable and 74 percent also agreed that its production was full of challenges. There was a significant relationship between the level of profitability $R^2 = 0.141$, $P = 0.05$ and their perception about rabbit production. It was recommended among others that effort should be geared towards increasing awareness in rabbit production by the government and non-governmental organizations.

Key Words: perception, production, livelihood, profitability

INTRODUCTION

Animal protein in-take has been reported to be dismally low in lesser developed countries (LDC) than in the developed countries. The FAO recommends a minimum of 70g of protein daily per caput, out of which 35g (50percent) should come from animal protein, but according to Chamberlain (2003) an average Nigerian consumes less than 10g of protein with less than 3.2g of this amount from animal protein. It was explained further that Nigeria with a population of about 140 million in Africa, has the highest number of less than five mortality and these deaths occur as a result of low animal protein intake, (Adeyeye, 1996).

Vietmeyer (1984) suggested micro-livestock such as rabbit, guinea pig, grass cutter, giant rat, iguana and pigeons as a rapid means of obtaining proteins. According to Fanatico, (2005) two medium-size breeds the New Zealand White (NZW) and the Californian, are the most important for meat production which can weigh 8 to 12 pounds at maturity. Lukefahr and Cheeke (1991) called for applied research to be conducted in developing countries in all aspects of rabbit production. The attributes of rabbits include: affordable or low-cost management requirements, small-bodied size, short generation interval, fecundity (ability of a male to produce large quantity of sperm), and rapid growth rate, genetic diversity, ability to utilize forage and agricultural by-products, and adaptation over a wide range of ecological environments and research has shown that rabbit is socially accepted, minimal zoonotic health hazard and minor capital investment involved, there are no social taboos regarding the consumption of rabbit meat and the meat is low in fat and cholesterol, guarantor of improved livelihood (Jones, 1990). Posited by Collin, (2005), rabbit can be a source of income generation if practiced in a large scale and in a right perspective. In Nigeria, the diets of rabbits are primarily forages, grasses, and legumes supplemented with kitchen waste and agricultural by-products.

According to Robert, (2006) the most obvious limitation to rabbit production in developing countries is that rabbits are susceptible to heat stress, at temperatures above 30oC, as the fur coat do not allow heat to radiate out of the body. Hubbard, (2006), opined that 'in developing countries, rabbit production requires a reasonable degree of management skill, and commitment on daily basis. Onifade and Abu, (2008) demographic data obtained showed that women and the children are the most involved in the routine management and are particularly tasked during the dry season when forages are scarce. The age bracket of children involved in rabbit keeping is between ages 5-17 years, while the older children (17-25 years) work only in cases where

they have their own herd.

Despite the good qualities attributed to rabbits, its production is still very low in Nigeria FAO (1997), and given the significance of rabbit, unfortunately, little or no attention is paid to rabbit production by livestock farmers in the people of Osun State. Unlike the commonly reared livestock like goat, sheep and poultry, Soyebó, (2006), found out that, farmer's ignorance about rabbit keeping and inability of the ministry of agriculture to pay particular attention were the major impediments in the study area.

However it is on this premise that the study sought to assess the perception of farmers about rabbit production as a means of livelihood in Ife North LGA of Osun State. The following research questions were raised in the study:

- 1.) What are the demographic characteristics of the livestock farmers in the study area?
- 2.) What is the extent of management practices embarked upon by the respondents?
- 3.) What are the marketing strategies embarked upon by the rabbit farmers?
- 4.) What are the problems faced by the rabbit farmers?

Objective

The main objective was to investigate the perception of farmers in Ife North LGA of Osun State about rabbit production.

Hypotheses

Two hypotheses were formulated which were:

- i. There is no significant relationship between livestock farmers' personal and demographic characteristics and their perception about rabbit production.
- ii. There is no significant relationship between livestock farmers' perception about the level of profitability of rabbit and their perception about rabbit production.

METHODOLOGY

Study area

The study was carried out in Ife North Local Government Area of Osun state, which covers about 985 square kilometers and its population, was put at 129,996 by the national population census. The local Government shares boundaries in the north with Ede South with both Ife South and some parts of Ife central LGA, in the west with Ayedaade local government, in the North West with Atakunmosa West and in the east with Ife Central local Government area respectively and the council Headquarters is located at Ipetumodu.

Data collection and analysis

For this study, five communities were randomly selected with corresponding respondents based on the population of farmers in each community; Asipa (37), Akinlalu (35), Edunabon (45), Ipetumodu (50), and Moro (33), and a total of 200 respondents who were rabbit farmers were chosen using the Snowball Technique and validated structured interview schedule was administered to obtain primary Data. The Dependent variable was the perception of respondents about rabbit production measured with the use of attitudinal statements on a 5 point likert scale of strongly agree(5), agree (4), undecided (3), disagree (2), strongly disagree (1). The data collected were analyzed with the use of descriptive statistics, such as Frequency counts distribution, percentages, Hypothesis 1 was tested with Chi square test at $p=0.05$, and Hypothesis 2 was tested with correlation coefficient.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Socio-economic characteristics: Table 1 shows the socioeconomic characteristics of the respondents. 22.5 percent of the respondents were within the age group of 30 years and below, while 59.0 percent were found within the age group of 31 – 60 years, and 18.5 percent of the respondents were within the age group of 61 years and above. This indicates that most of the farmers in the study area were in their productive age of 31-60 years, and the most of them had the strength to engage in rabbit farming activities. 66.0 percent males were involved, while 34.0 percent were female, 63.0 percent were Christians, 33.5 percent were Muslims, and 3.5 percent were traditionalist. 75.5 percent were married while 20.5 percent were single and 4.0 percent were divorced, 71.5 percent were monogamous families, while 28.5 percent were polygamous. 26.5 percent were full time farmers, while 33.0 percent were farmers and artisans, 17 percent were farmers and traders, 23.5 percent were engaged in farming and other jobs such as civil service, driving, while other were students. This indicates only

few were engaged in farming alone. 53.5 percent had only primary education; 17 percent had secondary education, while 29.5 percent had post secondary education.

Farmer's perception about rabbit production: Table 2 below show the distribution of respondents' responses to the perceptonal statements raised about rabbit production: 37 percent admitted rabbit production was full of challenges, while 56 percent disagreed with the statement.

Table 1: Distribution of Personal and Demographic Characteristics of Respondents

Variables	Frequency	Percentage
Age		
30 and below	45	22.5
31-60	118	59.0
60 and above	37	18.5
Sex		
Male	132	66
Female	68	34
Religion		
Islam	67	33.5
Christian	126	63.0
Traditional	7	3.5
Marital Status		
Single	41	20.5
Married	151	75.5
Divorced	8	4.0
Types of family		
Monogamy	143	71.5
Polygamy	57	28.5
Types of Job		
Farming alone	53	26.5
Farming with artisanship	66	33.0
Farming with trading	34	17.0
Farming with others	47	23.5
Educational Qualification		
Primary School	107	53.5
SSCE	34	17.0
OND	23	11.5
HND	17	8.5
BSc	19	9.5

Source: Field survey 2009.

Also, 39.5 percent agreed, there was no market for rabbit, while 34.5 percent disagreed. 47.5 percent agreed that rabbit production did not command good market value, while 55.5 percent agreed that people don't consume rabbit meat much. 43.5 percent respondents admitted that rabbits were not hardy, while 34 percent disagree with the statement. 48 percent admitted rabbit had poor fed conversion ratio, while 29.5 percent disagreed. 42.5 percent agreed while 20.5 percent disagreed that rabbit had small litter size. Total of 55.5 percent agreed, 24 percent undecided, 20.5 disagreed that rabbit competed with human food items. 25 percent respondent agreed, 24.5 percent undecided, while 21.5 percent disagree that rabbit meat needs a great deal of processing before sale.

Table 2: Distribution of respondents based on their views about rabbit production

Variables	SA Freq	A Freq	UD Freq	D Freq	SD Freq
It is full of challenges	37 (18.5)	37 (18.5)	14 (7)	65 (32.5)	47 (23.5)
It is not profitable	47 (23.5)	50 (25)	28 (14)	54 (27)	21 (10.5)
It needs special management practices	26 (13)	65 (32.5)	46 (23)	51 (25.5)	12 (6)
There is no market for rabbit	20 (10)	59 (29.5)	52 (26)	57 (28.5)	12 (6)
It does not command good market value	42 (21)	53 (26.5)	47 (23.5)	46 (23)	12 (6)
People don't consume it much	52 (26)	59 (29.5)	36 (18.0)	44 (22)	9 (4.5)
They are not hardy	34 (17)	53 (26.5)	45 (22.5)	62 (31.0)	6 (3.0)
It has poor fed conversion ratio	42 (21)	54 (27)	44 (22)	55 (27.5)	5 (2.5)
It produces small litter size	27 (13.5)	58 (29)	74 (37)	36 (18)	5 (2.5)
It competes with human food items	55 (27.5)	56 (28)	48 (24.0)	35 (17.5)	6 (3.0)
It needs great deal of processing before sale	8 (4.0)	37 (18.5)	49 (24.5)	63 (31.5)	43 (21.5)

Source: Field survey, 2009

Distribution of respondents based on the extent of management practice: Table 3 shows that 55.4 percent respondents always provide feeds for rabbits, 40.5 percent often provide feed, and 3.4 percent rarely provide feed, while 0.7 percent did not provide feed at all, 52.0 percent always sweep the pen, 41.9 percent always provide water, 39.2 percent often provide, while 1.4 percent did not provide at all. 5.4 percent always provide drugs 58.8 percent often provide drugs, and 29.7 percent rarely provide, while 6.1 percent did not provide drugs at all. In the same view, the table shows that provision of feeds had the highest value with a weighted score of 3.51, followed by sweeping of wastes from the rabbit pen 3.43, and then followed by providing water 3.22, while providing drugs was least with 2.66 weighted mean. This implies that feeding and sanitation is important in rabbit production.

\Table 3: Distribution of Respondents Based on the Extent of Management practice

Variables	Not at all	Rarely	Often	Always	Weighted mean
Feeding	1 (0.7)	5 (3.4)	60 (40.5)	82 (55.4)	3.51
Sweeping	2 (1.4)	10 (6.8)	59 (39.9)	77 (52.0)	3.43
Providing water	2 (1.4)	26 (17.6)	58 (39.2)	62 (41.9)	3.22
Providing drugs	9 (6.1)	44 (29.7)	87 (58.8)	8 (5.4)	2.66

Source: Field survey 2009

Distribution of respondents based on the channel of disposing rabbit meat: Table 4 shows that 29.1 percent always disposed their mature rabbits through the main market, 34.5 percent often and 17.6 rarely used the main market while 18.9 percent did not use the channel at all. 50.0 percent respondents always disposed their mature rabbit to friends and neighbour, 12.8 percent and 12.2 percent often and rarely sold to friends and neighbour, while 25.5 percent never used the channel. 16.9 percent always sold their rabbit to restaurant operators, 23.0 percent and 39.9 percent often and rarely sold to restaurant, while 20.3 percent did not use this channel at all.

Distribution of respondents based on their profitability of keeping rabbit: Table 5 shows that 40.5 percent respondent agreed that it can only be used to supplement other means of income. And to this, it shows that one can live on rabbit production only, had a weighted mean score of “3.03”, similarly those that felt that rabbit production can provide half of ones income “3.05”, also it can only be used to complement other means of income “3.17”, while it is only economical only when one rears and eat it with ones family had a weighted mean of“3.21”this was in agreement with Abu, (1996).

Table 4: Distribution of respondents based on the channel of disposing their rabbits

Variables	Main market	Restaurant	Schools	Friends and Neighbors	Road side	Farm gate
Always	43 (29.0)	25 (16.9)	18 (12.2)	74 (50.0)	13 (8.8)	12 (8.1)
Often	51 (34.5)	34 (23.0)	34 (23.0)	20 (13.5)	53 (35.5)	27 (18.2)
Rarely	26 (17.6)	59 (39.9)	54 (36.5)	18 (12.2)	30 (20.3)	56 (37.8)
Not at all	28 (18.9)	30 (20.3)	42 (28.4)	36 (24.3)	52 (35.1)	53 (35.8)
Mean	2.74	2.36	2.19	2.90	2.18	1.99

Source: Field survey 2009

Table 5: Distribution of respondents based on their profitability of keeping rabbit

Variables	SA Freq	A freq	UD Freq	D Freq	SD Freq	Mean
One can live on rabbit production alone	30 (20.3)	41 (27.7)	16 (10.8)	26 (17.6)	35 (23.6)	3.03
It can provide half of one's income	25 (16.9)	41 (26.4)	21 (14.2)	39 (26.4)	22 (14.9)	3.05
It can only be used to supplement other means of income	16 (10.8)	60 (40.5)	25 (16.9)	28 (18.9)	19 (12.8)	3.17
It is only economical when one rears and eat with one's family	25 (16.9)	39 (26.9)	39 (22.3)	33 (22.3)	12 (8.1)	3.21

Source: Field survey 2009

Distribution of respondents by their perceptions about the challenges in rabbit keeping: Table 6 shows that 29.1 percent and 35.8 percent strongly agreed and agreed respectively that feed poses challenge, while 20.3 percent and 5.4 percent disagreed and strongly disagreed respectively and 9.5 percent were undecided about the state statement. 8.1 percent and 14 percent strongly agreed and agreed that hutches construction poses a challenge respectively, and 61.5 percent and 4.1 percent strongly disagreed and disagreed, while 12.5 percent were undecided. Concerning the perceptional statement that purchasing good breeds poses a challenge, 6.8 percent and 26.4 percent strongly agreed and agreed respectively, 16.2 percent and 24.3 percent disagreed and strongly disagreed, while 26.4 percent were undecided about the statement. Also, 8.1 percent and 14.2 percent strongly agreed and agreed with the statement that drug and its administration poses challenge respectively, 23.6 percent and 28.4 percent disagreed and strongly disagreed, while 27.5 percent were undecided about the statement. Furthermore, 6.8 percent and 14.2 percent strongly agreed and agreed respectively that securing feeding materials poses challenge, while 24.3 percent and 39.2 percent disagreed and strongly disagreed respectively, and 15.5 percent were undecided about the statement. 7.4 percent and 26.4 percent strongly agreed and agreed respectively that getting does mated poses challenge 35.1 percent and 11.5 percent disagreed and strongly disagreed, while 19.6 percent were undecided.

Testing of hypotheses

Ho1: there is no significant relationship between some of the respondents' selected personal and socio-economic characteristics and their perception about rabbit production. Data presented in Table 7 below showed that at P 0.05 significant level, educational qualification (1.586) was strongly associated with the respondents' perception about rabbit production. This implied that the educational qualification of farmers played a pivotal role in the attitudes of the farmers towards keeping rabbit which enhance effective management practice that can increase production.

Table 6: Distribution of respondents by their perception about the challenges in rabbit keeping

	SA Freq	A freq	UD Freq	D Freq	SD Freq
Feeds	43 (29.1)	53 (35.8)	14 (9.5)	30 (20.3)	8 (5.4)
Hutches construction	12 (8.1)	14 (9.5)	25 (12.5)	91 (61.5)	6 (4.1)
Purchasing good breeds	10 (6.8)	39 (26.4)	39 (26.4)	24 ((16.2)	36 (24.3)
Drugs and its administration	12 (8.1)	21 (14.2)	38 (25.7)	35 (23.6)	42 (28.4)
Securing feeding equipment	10 (6.8)	21 (14.2)	23 (15.5)	36 (24.3)	58 (39.2)
Getting does mated	11 (7.4)	39 (26.4)	29 (19.6)	52 (35.1)	17 (11.5)
Coping with heat stress	64 (43.2)	46 (31.1)	18 (12.2)	14 (9.5)	6 (4.1)
One can contract diseases from rabbit	9 (6.1)	37 (25.0)	37 (25.0)	47 (31.8)	18 (12.2)
Breeding	6 (4.1)	50 (33.8)	30 (20.3)	35 (23.6)	27 (18.2)
Control of diseases outbreak	13 (8.8)	30 (20.3)	41 (27.7)	45 (30.4)	19 (12.8)
Control of odour that emanates from hutch	65 (43.9)	42 (28.4)	23 (15.5)	15 (10.1)	3 (2.0)
Getting mature rabbit sold	42 (20.7)	68 (45.9)	28 (18.9)	6 (4.7)	4 (2.7)

Source: Field survey 2009

Ho2: there is no significant relationship between the perception of farmers about the profitability and challenges of rabbit production, and their general perception about rabbit keeping. The result of correlation analysis between farmers' perception about profitability vis-à-vis their perception about the challenges inherent in rabbit production is presented in Table 8 below, the Pearson's correlation coefficient (0.141) for perception about the profitability of rabbit production and the general perception about rabbit production showed that at P 0.05 significance level, there is positive significant relationship between the two variables, while the Pearson's correlation coefficient (-0.198) for farmers' perception about the challenges inherent in rabbit keeping and their overall perception about rabbit production showed that there is an inverse relationship between the two variables. Correlation analysis revealed that the higher the profitability of rabbit keeping the higher the general attitudes towards rabbit keeping.

The implication of the above stated result is that the profitability of rabbit production will go a long way in determining the attitudes of farmers towards rabbit production. If farmers see rabbit production as a lucrative business, they will develop a favourable perception about rabbit keeping. In the same vain if the farmers see rabbit rearing as a venture laced with challenges and problems, they will develop a negative perception about rabbit production. Based on this, the null hypothesis is rejected.

Table 7: Results of Chi square analysis showing association between some selected personal and socioeconomic characteristics of farmers and their perception about rabbit production

Variables	X2	df	Level of significance	Decision
Age	56.883	52	0.298	NS
Sex	25.484	26	0.492	NS
Religion	36.994	52	0.492	NS
Marital status	66.138	52	0.09	NS
Type of family	21.917	26	0.732	NS
Educational qualification	1.586	104	0.00*	S

Significant at P 0.05 level

Table 8: Result of Pearson's Correlation (r) analysis of the relationship between the perception about the level of profitability, challenges and their perception about rabbit production

Variables	Pearson's Correlation (r)	Co-efficient of determination (r)
Perception about profitability of rabbit production	0.141*	0.019881
Perception about challenges in rabbit production	-0.198*	0.00280

Significant at P 0.05 level

CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Most of the farmers involved in rabbit production affirmed that rabbit keeping was economical in the sense that it can be carefully managed with prudence and practical vision without wastage. There are challenges to be faced when the thought of going commercial is conceived by potential producers.

The following recommendations were made that

1. Concerted efforts must be made by Governmental and Non Governmental Organizations (NGO) in order to enhance the attitude and interest of farmers towards rabbit keeping. This can be achieved through revitalizing the moribund research institutes and by dissemination of improved rabbit technologies with the use of print and electronic media in order to ameliorate the perceived challenges of rabbit farmers, thereby rabbit keeping could be more rewarding and attractive to farmers.
2. Platforms through which the larger population of farmers can learn from Model rabbit farmers must be put in place by Extension agencies, Governmental and Non Governmental Organizations. This will enhance their confidence in rabbit production as a credible source of income and empower them with other requisite skill needed in rabbit keeping.

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ASSESSMENT OF PREFERENCE FOR FISH FARMING AMONG FARMERS IN EKITI STATE, NIGERIA

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ABSTRACT

The study investigated various possible ways to eke out living from aquaculture practices.

The study was conducted in Ekiti State. Multistage sampling procedure was used to select 120 farmers for the study. Six Local Government Areas (LGAs) predominant in fish farming were purposively selected from the three senatorial districts. Pretested and validated interview schedule was used to access data from respondents.

The results showed that the mean age of farmers was 48.6 years. Majority (68.8%) did not have agricultural extension contact, but educated. All the respondents claimed fish farming was profitable and that it was a worthwhile enterprise. Majority reared only Clarias Spp while 42% reared Clarias with Tilapia together and only 6.7% cultured Tilapia only. About 60% preferred fish farming enterprise to poultry, 42% preferred it to crop husbandry and 85% preferred it to snailery. There was a positive and significant correlation between preference for fish farming and age ($r = 0.426$; $P < .05$), preference and size of pond ($r = 0.322$; $P < .05$), preference and income ($r = 0.410$ $P < .05$), preference and source of information ($r = 0.224$; $P < .01$). Other sub enterprises identified along with fish farming include management of pepper soup shop with fresh fish, sales of fresh fish, breeding of fish seed, sales of dried fish and construction of smoking kiln.

The study concluded that unemployed citizen could capitalize on the sub enterprises available in fish farming to be self employed.

Key words: Fish farming, unemployment, panacea

INTRODUCTION

Unemployment situation in Africa and Nigeria is in alarming rate and this among others is the reason behind the constant social upheaval in the country. Employment generation is not supposed to be the duty of government. Job creation is supposed to be a private sector initiative. The government is to create security and enforce laws. Unemployed citizens should not look at the government to create jobs for them, but rather gather capital to start their own. If jobs are not created by someone, there will not be any job anywhere. An attempt to solve problems of other people will create some jobs (Adesoji, 2011).

\Fish accounts for 40 per cent of protein intake in the country and local fish farms provide 20 per cent of total local production of fish in the country (Omitoyin, 2007). Current fish demand in the country is put at 1.5 million metric tonnes per annum. Of the sum, 1.1 million metric tonnes are imported, resulting in the country incurring a bill in excess of \$241 million annually (CBN, 2007). If only 0.4 million metric tonnes of fish demand in the country is produced by fishers and fish farmers, then, potential opportunities abound for job seekers in the fishery sector of the economy which could be tapped. About 1.75 million hectares of suitable sites have been identified in the country for fish farming (Arawomo, 2004). It was also found that less than 20 per cent has been put to use (Omitoyin, 2007). It was reported by Faturoti (1999) that recent trends all over the world point to a decline in landing from capture fisheries which is an indicator that fish stocks have approached or even exceeded the point of maximum suitable yield. Aquaculture remains the only viable alternative for increasing fish production to meet the protein needs of people. Suitable land for fish farming can be exploited by the unemployed and even the employed to engage some in the fish farming and to increase fish supply in the country. Production of fish through aquaculture increased from 68,300 tonnes to 76,300 tonnes, representing a growth rate of 11.7 per cent (CBN, 2007). Fish farming, has been reported to be profitable by many authors. Farinde and Adesoji (2008) reported that Clarias, Heterobranchus, Heterotis and Tilapia were profitable in Osun State, Adebayo and Adesoji (2008) found both the earthen pond and concrete tank to be profitable in Ekiti State and Fapounda (2004) found fish enterprise as a profitable venture in Ondo State.

It was reported that many farmers are being engaged in fish farming in Africa with Nigeria and Egypt taking the lead. The question that could be asked is: do farmers prefer fish farming to other farming enterprise? In order to answer the question, the following objectives were set:

- (I) .identify the socio –economic characteristics of fish farmers in the state;
- (ii). identify type of fish farming sub enterprise in the study area; and
- (iii). identify preference of fish farming to other farming enterprise in the study area.

It was also hypothesized that there is no relationship between preference to fish farming and farmers' socio – economic characteristics.

METHODOLOGY

The study was carried out in Ekiti State. The state was created in 1996. It covers a land of about 6,353 square kilometers and it is bounded by Ondo State to the South and Kwara State to the North, on the East by Kogi State and Osun State to the West. The state is made up of sixteen Local Government Areas.

A multistage sampling procedure was employed to select farmers. At the first stage, six Local Governments Areas (LGAs) with the highest number of fish farms were purposively selected; the LGAs selected are Ado, Ikere, Ekiti South West, Ikole, Irepodun/Ifelodun and Ijero. From the list of farmers in each LGA selected, twenty farmers were systematically selected at interval of four with a random start. One hundred and twenty (120) farmers were selected and interviewed for the study. Pretested and structured interview schedule was administered on the farmers.

Apart from variables like age, household size, sex and level of education that were measured directly. Respondents were subjected to binary choice questions of Yes and No in most cases. The mean number of respondents that preferred fish farming to other farming enterprise was used as the dependent variable and it was measured with binary choice questions. Sub enterprises that go along with fish farming were extracted from open ended questions asked. Pearson Moment Correlation was used to relate the dependent variable and other independent variables.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Results in Table 1 showed that the mean age of respondents was 48.6 years with standard deviation of 5.2. High percentage (57%) was between 41 and 50 years. None of the farmers was above 60 years.

Majority (89.16%) of the farmers were male and 95 per cent were married with 2.5 per cent as single and others were divorced/separated and widowed. About 65 per cent were Christian and 34.1 per cent were of Islamic religion while 0.9% were traditional worshipers. Only 3.3 per cent of the respondents were without formal education, 37.5 and 46.6 per cent had secondary and tertiary education, respectively. This showed that fish farmers in the study area were well educated.

Among the sampled farmers, forty three percent of them were fish farmers; others were involved in crop and animal husbandry including snailery, rabbitry and cane rat farming. The mean fish farming experience was 7.5 years with standard deviation of 3.22. This means that fish farming was relatively young in the state. Majority (92.3%) of the fish farmers were part time and 46.6 per cent claimed no contact with agricultural extension workers.

Table 1: Socio – economic characteristics of respondents

Age	Frequency	%	
20 -30	5	3.33	Mean 46.3
31 - 40	16	17.33	
41 - 50	70	58.33	Std Dev5.
51- 60	30	25.00	
Sex			
Male	107	89.16	
Female	13	10.83	
Marital Status			
Single	3	2.5	
Married	114	95.00	

Marital Status	Frequency	%
Divorced	1	0.83
Separated	1	0.83
Widowed	1	0.83
Religion		
Christianity	78	65.00
Islam	41	34.17
Traditional	1	0.83
Education		
No formal	4	3.33
Primary	15	12.5
Secondary	45	37.5
Tertiary	56	46.67
Farming Experience		
6 – 10	51	42.50
11 – 15	20	16.67
16 – 20	5	4.17
Type of Fish Farming		
Part-time	48	92.3
Full-time	4	7.7

Source: Field survey, 2010

Results in Table 2 show other occupations engaged in. As some were crop producers (49.6%) and Traders (46.4%), others were Artisans (20.8%) and civil servants 7.2 per cent. The mean size of pond was 0.1 ha with standard deviation of .005 ha and all the fish farmers reared Clarias fish. Only 6.67 per cent reared Tilapias under monoculture while 41.67 per cent combined Tilapia and Clarias under polyculture. The mean income of the respondents from farming was N245,000 per annum with standard deviation of N22,000.

Table 2: Respondents other occupation, extension contact, size of fishpond, type of fish stocked and income.

*Occupation	Frequency	Percentage
Crop production	60	50
Trading	56	46.7
Artisan	25	20.8
Civil Service	9	7.5
Extension contact		
Yes	64	53.3
No	56	46.6

*Occupation	Frequency	Percentage
*Type of fish stocked		
Tilapia only	8	15.4
Clarias only	52	100
Clarias + Tilapia	50	96.1
Heterobranchus	4	7.7
Income '000		
< 50	21	17.5
51 – 200	78	65
201 – 600	10	8.3
>600	11	9.1

Source: Field survey, 2010

Results in Table 3 show that 15 per cent of the farmers in the study area preferred fish to broilers, 45 per cent preferred fish farming to pullets rearing; 42 per cent preferred fish to crop husbandry, 45 per cent preferred fish to cane rat, 85 per cent preferred fish to snailery and 76 per cent preferred fish to rabbits rearing.

Table 3: Preference of fish farming to other farm enterprises by the respondents

*Other Farm Enterprises(OFE)	Frequency of preference of farmers to OFE	Percentage
Broilers	18	15
Pullets	54	45
Turkey	48	40
Crop husbandry	50	41.6
Cane rat	54	45
Snailery	102	85
Rabbits	91	75.8

Source: Field survey, 2010

*Means multiple responses

Results in Table 4 revealed a positive and significant relationship between preference to fish farming and age (r = 0.426; p < .088). This means that as the age of respondents' increases in a fish farming communities, there is the tendency to prefer fish farming to other farming enterprises. Years spent in formal educational institution (r = 0.446; p < .033); years of fish farming experience (r = 0.435; p < .036), income (r =410; p<.059); and sources of information (r = .0224; p < .091) were all found to be positive and significantly correlated with preference to fish farming. The findings revealed that the more the years spent in educational institution the more the preference to fish farming. Also, the more the income of farmers, the more the preference to fish farming. This is also true of years of fish farming experience. The more the number of sources of information on fish farming, the more the preferences to fish farming as against other farming enterprise. However, variables like size of household, extension contact and cosmopolitaness were highly significant at 1% level. These significant variables are very crucial when planning and taken decisions on fish farming and farming enterprises.

The open ended question identified the following sub - enterprises from fish farming enterprise: Pepper soup with fresh fish canteen; marketing of fresh fish; marketing dried fish; fish seed breeding; fabrication of fish kiln and fish pellet machine. Others include, construction of fishponds both earthen and concrete tanks and marketing of fishing equipments like hook and line, pumping machine and aerator. The identified sub – enterprises can still engage people in search of labour. This shows that fish farming enterprise is one of the enterprises that has avenue to engage many job seekers.

Table 4: Correlation analysis showing relationship between preference of fish farming and some socio–economic variables.

Variables	Correlation Coefficient	P-Values
Age	0.426***	.088
Size of household	0.011*	.0106
Years of formal education	0.446**	.033
Years of fish farming experience	0.435**	.036
Extension Contact	.019*	.0043
Income from fish farming	.410**	.059
Cosmopoliteness	.066*	00012
Number of information sources	.224***	.091

It was concluded that apart from fish farming which is growing fast in the vast suitable land of the country, job seekers can exploit other sub - enterprises that are available in fishing and fish farming enterprises to engage themselves and be self employed.

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FACTORS INFLUENCING THE SERVICEABILITY OF INDEGENEOUS FABRICDESIGN AMONG CONSUMERS IN SOUTHWEST STATES OF NIGERIA.

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ABSTRACT

This study appraised factors influencing the serviceability of indigenous fabric design (IFD) among consumers' in Southwest States of Nigeria. Specifically, it determined level of IFD serviceability; analysed psychosocial value, studied maintenance system, and investigated the socio- technical capacity of IFD. Stratified and purposive sampling procedures were used in selecting 300 men and women who were using IFD for clothing and home furnishing. Descriptive statistics were used in interpreting the data and inferential tools such as correlation analysis was employed in making inferences. All the consumers indicated that, IFD aesthetic values changed with use and age but, strongly agreed that, the comfort and safety produced by the product in term of absorbency and temperature among others do not change. Seventy two percent ascertained that, the cost of purchase was affordable considering the product inherent attributes, but has a very high maintenance capacity. There was significant relationship between serviceability and indigeneous fabric Psychosocial variables [luster ability (r = 0.516), hygroscopic ability (r = 0.544), heat conductivity (r = 0.561), oleophilic capacity(r=-0.238)]; maintenance capacity [maintance complexity (r = -0.298), abrasion resistance(r= 0.298), temperature(r=-0.533)] at critical value of r= 0.196, of significant level of 0.05. It was concluded that the major problem confronting IFD serviceability was inability to retain its surface-appearance. It is recommended that, research works should be intensified towards ability of IFD to maintain its aesthetic values with use and age. The producers should be trained on fibres and dyestuffs identification to enhance their skill in selecting those that can be used together for effective colourfastness.

Keywords: Serviceability, Indigenous, Fabric, Consumers.

INTRODUCTION

After the advents of industrial and exogenous textile of 20th century in Nigeria, indigenous means of fabric decoration still persisted to some extent especially among the rural people as a source of income and clothing, mostly for identification during festival. As part of government efforts towards rural development, mid 80's marked the onset, when some genuine recognition was given to Textile Extension Services (TES). This delivery was incarcerated during the oil boom in Nigeria. At the end of the oil boom funfair, the meager available project fund for rural and agricultural development programme by the World Bank and the federal government was diverted towards maximizing food production with little or no attention given to textile development. TES is to create job opportunities for the masses; improve fibre and latex production to feed local and foreign textile industries and, increase national foreign revenue. Generally, the service is to positively enhance the standard of living of the people. Traditionally, TES is being programmed along with general agricultural extension and rural development programme as a project, under which indigenous fabric design (IFD) (Batik, Tie-dye, Ikat and others) production is a sub –set project (Ajila and Kolawole,2011). Parts of strategies for improving textile production locally and its adoption was the embargo placed on importation of textile goods by federal government in 1989, and creation of several training projects for indigenous textile production throughout the nation.

Indigenous fabric design is the act of decorating fabrics through local utensils, and knowledge, in which most of the technique are being carried out manually. The origin is not known, for it has been in existence for ages in Africa, but it was believed to have been adapted by Nigerians. IFD producing industries could be found in different parts of the country but, was highly concentrated and attached to some areas like Abeokuta, Osogbo, Owo, Ondo, Okene, Benue among others. Resist printing is the only method of colour application commonly used among IFD producers and, it is defined as a process of blocking predetermined areas of fabric for the purpose of resisting dyeing (Sara and Anna, 2004). The resisting substances include hot wax, and many other substances which could not dissolve or melt during the process of dyeing

The determining factor or input in IFD production is the dyestuffs, which have been grouped into two (natural and synthetic) based on its origin. At the pre - technological age, all dyestuffs were made from natural source, mainly from animals and plants. For example, Madder is a red dye from the root of *Rubia tinctorum* plant; yellow from the stigmata of saffron plant (a member of the crocus family); blue indigo from the leaves of *indigofera tinctoria* plant; pulp of the Logwood tree produced excellent dark colors among others (Toffah, 2004). At this period, human progress in textile production, mainly dyeing was limited in meeting the growing population, because they depend solely on animals and plants for dyestuffs and other inputs for textile production. Subsequent growth in technology aids in producing synthetic dyestuffs and other advanced materials/additives use in textile industries. Increase in the rate of adoption and use of IFD in the society today, mostly among the foreigners is unconnected with the level of awareness of peculiar attributes of IFD in the following orders viz identity and impression creation; comfortability, and aesthetic values. Its application ranges from household decorations to wears of different kinds and standard. In the process of poverty alleviation through various economic empowerment programme introduced by the government, textile extension services delivery was also strengthened. IFD production was one of the projects of TES that received greater attention, due to its identified socio-economic attributes. Several skill acquisition trainings and workshops were organized, including location of special IFD market in some strategic towns like Itokukemta in Abeokuta. Again producers were given opportunity to access loans from banks, and export their products. Despite the introduction of improved dyestuffs and technologies including other developmental efforts towards IFD, consumers were yet to be satisfied with the use and maintenance of IFD. Therefore, this study tried to appraise factors influencing the serviceability of IFD among consumers. It specifically;

determined the level of serviceability of IFD; analysed psychosocial value of IFD influencing its serviceability; studied maintenance system of IFD influencing its serviceability; and investigated the socio-technical capacity of IFD influencing its serviceability.

METHODOLOGY

Stratified and snowball sampling procedures was used in selecting ten respondents from each of the selected communities. A total of three hundred and twenty individual who uses IFD in home furnishing or clothing were selected and interviewed for the study. Descriptive statistical techniques were used to describe and summarize the data. Correlation and coefficient of determinant was employed to inferred the degree of association between the dependent and independent variables.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Respondents' personal and socio-economic characteristics

Age and sex: Result shows that 1.5% of the respondents were in the age range of 16-25 years, while 4.5 % were within 26-30 years, 11.0 % falls within 31-35 years, 17.0% were within 36 – 40 years, 66.0% were 41 years and above. While 32.5% were female, 67.5% were male. About 70.0% signified to be married, 16.5% single, and 14.0% were separated. Ajila (2010) identified age limit of 37 years and above as adulthood. The study presented about 83.0% of the respondents as above 36 years old. This signified that majority of IFD users were adults and married. The expression capacity of IFD presages class and maturity that fit into the adulthood. Moreover, youth always desire to be in vogue so as to follows the existing fashion trends, and the drape and fall of IFD does not support the present clinging style among the youth so, they were not using it.

Educational Level, knowledge, and religion belief: Detailed analysis indicated that, 99.0% of the respondents were educated, out of which 63.0% attained tertiary educational level, 27.5% were secondary school certificate holder, 9.0% finished primary school, and only 0.5% was secondary school dropped out. All (100.0%) were externally oriented. This signified that majority of the respondents were literates, which is a good factor in aiding reading and understanding of an instruction. Four percent had formal training on the management of IFD, and 96.0% did not. Ninety seven percent signifies to have acquired knowledge on IFD maintenance through informal and personal trial and error system. Majority (96.0%) has no knowledge on fibre identification, but 4.0% has. Again, 55.5% of the respondents were identified to be Christian, 35.0% were Muslims and, just 9.5% were traditionalists.

Psycho-social variables: Thorough examinations of some selected psycho-social variables of IFD show that, its lusterability was identified to be semi-dull with cool effect by 63. 0% of the respondents and, 37.0% said it was matte (dull). All (100.0%) the respondents indicated that IFD do not retain its luster with use, but it could

be recuperate by sizing. Hoston (2009) indicated that in any fabric, yarn and fabric structure including types of finish applied, may change luster of the fiber. In-depth analysis of IFD drape (the way a fabrics falls over a three dimensional object) form was also investigated. All (100.0%) the respondents indicated that the drape form was averagely stiff, and of light weight. Fibers influence drape to a degree but yarns and, fabrics structure may be more important in determining drape. Texture which describes visual and tactile senses of fabric surface was studied. Eighty nine percent identified it as smooth, and 11.0% said it was semi-smooth. All (100.0%) the respondents indicated that, hand (way a fabrics feel to the skin) of IFD was cool and soft. This was determined using cross-sectional shape and surface properties of the fibre. Types of finishes applied could also affect the fibre hand. Further analysis revealed that 60.0% of the respondents considered colour in selecting IFD for use, while 17.5% based the selection on texture (nature of the surface), 12.5% considered hand of the fabrics, and only 10.0% put culture and climatic factors into consideration. It might be said that selection of IFD products for use among respondents depends on surface attraction, mostly colour. The respondents were again asked to identify those factors that might lead to discontinuation and discards of the fabrics, while 37.5% identified surface distortion, 62.5% indicates fading as the major factor.

Analysis revealed that, 96.0% of the respondents indicated that the products are hygroscopic (ability to absorb moisture without feeling wet), so it has good absorbency capacity. Seventy one percent agreed that IFD has good heat conductivity value and, 29.0% strongly agreed. While 87.5% strongly agreed that it has low heat sensitivity value, only 12.5% agreed. This capacity determines safe pressing temperatures of any textiles products. Again, all (100.0%) the respondents strongly agreed that IFD has low age resistance value which affects its storage. It was also agreed by 59.0% of the respondents that IFD has poor dimensional stability value, and 41.0% disagreed. Seventy two percent of the respondents indicated that, the products have low flammability capacity, and 28.0% said it was average. About 94.0% strongly agreed that IFD has low mildew resistance, and high modulus. This affects its storage and durability. Assessing IFD oleophilic capacity shows that, 68.0% of the respondents identified IFD as having an average oleophilic value, 32.0% said it was high. While 72.0% strongly agreed that IFD has high surface pilling tendency, 28.0% agreed. All (100.0%) the respondents strongly agreed that IFD has very low resistance to sunlight so its ability to withstand degradation from sunlight was low. This is a feature of the dyestuffs, and fibre contents. Again, the result shows that, 66.5% of the respondents indicated that, IFD is comfortable for its end use in term of its absorbency, 37.5% identified its moderate thermal retention and, 4.5% signified that the coolness plus softness which IFD offered in contact with skin as the most important comfort they enjoyed in it. While 87.0% agreed that the tactile comfort derived from IFD does not change with use, all further signified that, the visual comfort experienced from IFD changed with use and care.

Further investigation shows 77.5% of the respondents to have agreed that, IFD is attractive in its appearance for its end use. About ninety one percent confirmed that, appearance of the product is appropriate for its end uses. The respondents were asked if the fabric retains its new look with use and care, 80.5% said it does not. Only one percent of the respondents identified IFD as been colourfast to cleaning, sunlight (2.5%), atmospherics fume (13.5%), perspiration (12. 0%), and 71.0% said that the product is not colourfast. While 73.0% of the respondents agreed that, cost of purchase of IFD was affordable, and cheaper relative to other fabrics. All (100.0%) the respondents signified that, IFD were made available in various qualities and hence, this has effect on cost of purchase and maintenance, but 71.5% agreed that the cost of purchase is considerable relative to the fabric inherent attributes.

Maintenance factors: Maintenance of IFD was thoroughly assessed, seven percent washed IFD only when dirty, 58.0% washed it after each used, 13.0% washed it after second used, 11.0% washed it after third and forth used, respectively. They were further asked to signify the methods apply in cleaning this fabric, 90.0% cleaned IFD by using hand wash, 0.5% used machine, and only 9.5% dry-clean. When they were further asked to signify those factors put into consideration when sorting fabrics for washing. Less than average (40.0%) of the respondents sort fabrics according to colour, 45.0% on type of fabric, and 8.0% on type of stains, and 7.5% did not sort fabrics at all. About seventy percent indicated that, they soaked the fabric before washing, 30.5% washed directly without soaking. While 97.5% of the respondents used soap, 2.5% used detergent when washing this fabric. About fifty percent do dry the fabrics under shade, and 50.5% dry it under direct sunlight after washing. The respondents were further asked to signify if they had training on IFD care. About thirty four percent identified that, they have, and they all indicated that the training was informal

and through personal contact. Among those that have training, 75.0% put the training into practiced. When they were asked to indicate the washing style adopted for IFD. Analysis revealed that, 75.0% of the respondents squeezed the fabric during washing, 9.5% applied agitating and wriggling methods, and 7.5% applied beating and pressing. Highest percentage (96.5%) of the respondents washed IFD with cold water and, 3.5% uses lukewarm water. None of the respondents used water softener during washing. Eighty four percent neither used bleach nor chemical on IFD products. Among those that use it, more than average confirmed that it was applied just on the stained area. They were asked to identify the type of surface smoothening operation they used on IFD, 89.5% used dry ironing on dampened IFD, 3.0% do pressing, by folding the fabrics under mattress, and 8.0% used steam ironing for smoothening. Ninety six percent identified that, IFD wrinkled easily, and shrink in size through care.

Analytical experimentation of the dyestuffs used for IFD production in Nigeria was carried out. Dyestuffs imported from different countries available in Nigeria markets were collected such as those imported from China, Europe, Indian, and Germany. It was found that most popular synthetic dyestuffs available in Nigeria for IFD production was cationic (basic) dyestuff. Peculiar characteristics of this dyestuff involve poor fastness to light, washing, perspiration, and tend to bleed and crock. Recommended care methods for any products made of the dyestuff is to be hand wash by slight squeezing, and dripped dry in a shade with the use of industrial mild soap (Saran, 2004). It should only be washed when dirty, and sorted based on colour without soaking. It should not be exposed to high light intensity for long. For perfect smoothening, high heat is required, because of the fiber contents, at the same time the dyestuff is not colourfast to high heat. It should be stored in a dry and well ventilated area. All (100.0%) the respondents strongly agreed that the fabrics have low abrasion resistance. While 81.0% agreed that IFD is flexible, 19.0% strongly agreed. Ninety five percent agreed that tenacity of IFD was average when dry, and low when wet. About ninety nine percent of the respondents strongly agreed that IFD has low elongation capacity. For effectiveness in the serviceability of any textile product, it should be able to retain its original appearance during use, care, and storage.

Hundred percent of the respondents indicated that, IFD has poor resiliency, this means that whenever the products are crushed, it will not spring back to its original look with ease, instead it appeared wrinkled and creases, so its not wrinkled resistance. All (100.0%) the respondents further indicate that IFD shrunk with use and care so, it has poor dimensional stability. It was also signified that the product residual shrinkage was minimal. Hundred percent of the respondents strongly agreed that IFD has poor elastic recovery. Sixty three percent of the respondents rated the maintaining capacity of IFD as highly complex, 37.0% rated it average. This was judged based on stress, time and technicalities involved in its cleaning, drying, smoothening and storage. All (100.0%) the respondents agreed that, inputs for maintaining IFD were available. Fifty four percent indicated that the inputs were averagely affordable, not affordable (33.0%), and fairly affordable (17.0%). Eighty three percent signified that, the relative advantage of care required by IFD was lower than what applies in other fabrics, 6.5% said it was average, and 19.5% was undecided.

Socio-technical characteristics: Analytical observations were carried out on IFD collected from different sources; colours, and texture to identify fibre contents of the fabrics through burning test, and microscopic test. For confirmation test, it was further subjected to solubility test. The result shows that, IFD burns when in flame, and continues to burn with glow after removal from flame, with brittle black ash and chemical odour hence, cellulosic and man-made fibres were suspected. Further again, when 200 grammes of IFD that was dried inside a drier to the minimum level, was deepened into 100% acetic acid at about 250°C inside a conical flask, and allowed to stay for 30 minutes. The fibre was brought out, and allowed to dry. The dried fibre was weighed. It was observed that, part of the fibre has dissolved; the undissolved fibre weighed 120.0 grammes. This indicates presence of 80.0 grammes of acetate fibre and other fibres. When the same test was repeated, using concentrated sulfuric acid, at 360°C, it was observed that all the fibre dissolved. This indicates presence of cotton. The experiment was repeated 10 times, using IFD of various texture and hand from different producers from different towns. Little variation was detected in the blending proportion of cotton: synthetics fibre, and also in the type of synthetics fibre used. The proportion of cotton: synthetics fibre was found to be 25:75 in 60.0% of the fabrics, 40:60 in 25.0%, and 50:50 in 15.0% of the fabrics. The most common synthetics fibre identified were acetate and polyester. This finding then confirmed that, fibre contents of IFD were a mixture of synthetics and natural cellulose fibre. Presence of synthetics fibre might be a major contributing factor to the level of IFD serviceability. This is due to the fact that, for good colorfastness' in

acetate fibre, disperse dyestuff is required, while for cotton, vat dyestuff is needed. However, the major common and mostly available dyestuff in Nigeria is cationic, which is best colourfast on acrylic fibre. When used on natural fibres, it has poor colourfastness to light, washing, perspiration, and it crocked (Sara and Anna, 2004). Cotton fibre is hampered by acids but resists alkalis. Coloured/dyed cotton fabrics easily oxidized by sunlight and undergoes degradation. Acetate fibre is resistant to weak acids, and alkalis, but sensitive to high heat. Coloured acetate fibre is sensitive to sunlight.

All (100.0%) the respondents strongly agree that IFD bleed/crocked with use and care. While 57.0% strongly agreed that IFD faded and weakened by exposure to sunlight and heat, 39.0% agreed, 4.0% was undecided. Seventy one percent agreed that atmospheric fume has a negative effect on the serviceability of IFD, 5.0% disagreed and 24.0% was undecided. About twenty five percent of the respondents strongly agreed that perspiration contributes to fading and weakness experience in IFD, 27.0% strongly disagreed, 31.0% disagreed and 17.5% strongly agreed. Sixty four percent agreed that IFD will not develop odour if clean and dry very well, and then stored in a dry ventilated area, and 36.0% disagreed.

Serviceability of indigenous fabric design: Serviceability (the ability of IFD to meet the specific needs of the consumer) was assessed. Result shows that, 97.5% of the respondents used IFD frequently, 2.5% seldom used it, and when 28.5% used it as decorating accessories, nearly all 99.5% wore it. Little percentage (5.5%) of the respondents wear it IFD daily, 10.5% wore it thrice in a week, 17.0% twice, 24.5% wore it once per week, 29.0% wore it fortnightly, and 13.0%, wore it occasionally. All (100.0%) indicate dissatisfaction with use and care of IFD. Major causes of dissatisfaction identified by the respondents are that, IFD easily fade and pilled with use, not colorfast, developed odour, easily lose shape and drape, attacked by mildew and moths. None of the respondents has knowledge on how to test for colour fastness in fabric selection. Investigation of the aesthetics value of IFD revealed that, 92.0% of the respondents scored the attractiveness of IFD aesthetic value as high, and 8.0% scored it low. Comfort value of IFD, which is primarily a matter of special preferences and individual perception was scored high by 86.0% of the respondents, and 14.0% scored it as an average. Thorough examinations into the care complexity of IFD were scored high by 84.0% of the respondents, and 16.0% scored it low. This was examined based on technicalities involved in its cleaning, drying, smoothening and storage. Seventy one percent of the respondents scored IFD durability as low, 29.0% said it was average. Sixty four percent scored safety value of IFD high, 32.5% scored it average, and 3.5% scored it as low. This was based on the ability of IFD to protect the body from environmental hazards. Appearance retention of the product was low as indicated by all (100.0%) the respondents. The impacts of the product on the physical environment with use and disposal were low as indicated by 87.0% of the respondents, and high with production and care. Thirteen percent indicated that it was average with use, production, care, and disposal. Sixty nine percent of the respondents indicated that the cost paid in acquiring, use, and disposal of IFD was averagely affordable relative to other fabrics, 19.0% said it was high, and 12.0% said it was low. While 59.0% scored the maintenance cost as high, 38.0% said it was average, and 4.0% said it was low. The serviceability of IFD was scored average by 78.0% of the respondents, 14.0% scored it low and, 8.0% scored it high. It could be said that IFD has good aesthetics and durability values, with an appreciated comfort and safety capacity, including affordable cost value. The areas of discrepancies in its serviceability were its appearance - retention capacity with use, and care. These discrepancies are factors of fibre and dyestuffs chemical structures. The nature of the fiber to be dyed is a determinant factor in choosing dyestuffs.

Relationship between serviceability and IFD selected variables

Respondent socio-economic; IFD social-technical, maintenance, psychosocial variables and dependent variable (serviceability) were subjected to Pearson product moment correlation analysis. The result of the analysis is as presented in Table 1. Lusterability ($r = 0.516$), hygroscopicability ($r = 0.544$), heat conductivity ($r = 0.561$), training ($r = 0.231$), abrasion resistance ($r = 0.294$), elongation capacity ($r = 0.351$), and resiliency ($r = 0.410$) has positive significance with serviceability of IFD. This indicates an increase in the serviceability of IFD as the value of these variables increases. Again heat sensitivity value ($r = -0.372$), modulus ($r = -0.501$), oleophilic capacity ($r = -0.238$), resistance to light ($r = -0.397$), soaking ($r = -0.520$), water temperature ($r = -0.198$), and maintenance complexity ($r = -0.490$) shows negative, but significant association with the serviceability of IFD. This means that any decrease in the value of these indicators will bring an increase in the serviceability of IFD.

Table 1: Correlation analysis showing linear relationship between IFD selected variables and Serviceability.

Variables	Correlation Coefficient	Coefficient of Determinant (r2)
- oleophilic value	-0.238*	0.057
- modulu	-0.501*	0.251
- heat conductivity	0.561*	0.314
- shrinkage	-0.614*	0.377
- maintenance complexity	- 0.298*	0.089
- maintenance inputs availability	0.371*	0.138
- maintenance inputs affordability	0.405*	0.164
- knowledge on fibre identification	0.519*	0.269
- level of education	0.173	0.029
- hygroscopic ability	0.544*	0.030
- training on maintenance	0.653*	0.426
- abrasion resistance	0.231*	0.053
- elongation capacity	0.351*	0.108
- resiliency	0.410*	0.618
- luster ability	0.516*	0.263
- hand	0.617*	0.381
- age	0.154	0.024
- heat sensitivity	-0.419*	0.176
- light sensitivity	-0.633*	0.401

Source: Field survey, 2011.

Critical value of $r = 0.196$

Level of significant = 0.05

***The value was significant at 0.05 level of significance.**

CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The finding of this study shows that IFD was appropriate for its end use, but the consumers were dissatisfied with its care, because the fabric fades, and losses its drape easily with use and, develops odour with storage. These are factors of fibres and dyestuffs chemical structures. It was discovered that the major available dyestuff in Nigeria was cationic, which is best colourfast on acrylic fibre. This dyestuff has poor colourfastness to light, washing, perspiration, and it crocks easily when used on other fibres mostly cellulosic fibres. The major fibres present in most fabrics use in IFD production were cotton, acetate and polyester. Cationic dyestuff is not colourfast to these fibres. So, it was concluded that the major problems with the serviceability of IFD was with the dyestuffs and fibre contents used in its production. It is therefore recommended that, the producers must be trained on fibre and dyestuffs selection. Also dyestuffs of various kinds must be made available in the Nigeria markets. Apart from the producers, the consumers also need to be well trained on how to maintain IFD.

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**MANAGING HOUSEHOLD-BASED ENTERPRISES EFFECTIVELY
FOR SUSTAINABLE RURAL EMPLOYMENT PROMOTION
IN OSUN STATE, NIGERIA.**

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ABSTRACT

The paper focused on effective management of rural household-based enterprises for sustainable employment promotion. It specifically identified various household-based enterprises in the study area, described the demographic characteristics of their owners and examined enterprise characteristics influencing their effective management. Data were collected from 400 owners of household-based enterprises selected from 30 rural communities, using multistage sampling procedure. Descriptive statistical techniques such as frequency counts, percentages, mean and standard deviation were employed to analyze the data while correlation analysis was used for making inferences. Results showed that Cassava processing and oil palm production were the most common enterprises in the study area. The mean age of enterprises' owners was 45.15 years, the mean initial capital invested was N29,500 while the mean monthly net income was N17,100. Majority (72.3%) of the respondents were in the medium level of effective management, 17.5% were in the low level while 10.2% were in the high level. Positive and significant correlations ($p = 0.01$) were found between effective management and years of formal schooling ($r = 0.248$), enterprise size ($r = 0.236$), sources of land ($r = 0.233$), sources of labour ($r = 0.143$), sources of credit ($r = 0.190$), initial capital invested ($r = 0.331$) and area of business coverage ($r = 0.335$).

The study concluded that policy efforts should be geared towards provision of functional infrastructural facilities and production resources that will enhance rural enterprises' development and consequently promote rural employment and income.

Key words: Effectiveness, management, household, rural employment, enterprise.

INTRODUCTION

Rural dwellers constitute the majority of the total population of Nigeria, accounting for 65% (91 million) of the entire 140 million people (NPC, 2006). Unfortunately, the capacity of agriculture (which is the major economic enterprise in the rural areas) to provide sustainable livelihood opportunities to the rural dwellers is becoming increasingly inadequate due to growing smaller parcels of land, low agricultural productivity and adverse climate change. According to Aigbokhan (2000), farmers constitute the poorest economic group in Nigeria, a deplorable condition that has led to rural-urban migration. As the drive for rural-urban migration continues, the increasing number of rural poor seeking job in already overcrowded urban centres stretch the employment opportunities and available social and physical infrastructural facilities in the urban areas beyond their capacities. As a result, urban centres are not capable of providing adequate livelihood opportunities for all their immigrants. This then indicated the need to step down the rate of migration from agriculture and diversification towards non-farm income generating activities among rural households.

Non-farm household-based enterprises are important for a number of reasons that have to do with employment generation, poverty alleviation and rural economic growth. It has been estimated that in sub-Saharan Africa, rural non-farm work provides 20-45 per cent of full time employment in rural areas and 30-50 per cent of rural household income (Haggblade and Hazell, 1989). In the same vein, Islam (1997) reported that the share of non-farm sector in rural employment in developing countries varied from 20 to 50 per cent. UNIDO (2003) reiterated that earnings from non-farm activities contribute 30 to 50 per cent of incomes in rural Africa, Asia and Latin America, and 20-50 per cent of employment. Promotion of rural non-farm activities has also been identified as a successful strategy for alleviating rural poverty. Reardon (1997) reported that the typical rural

household in Africa has more than one member employed in non-farm enterprises and that the share of rural non-farm income in Africa ranges from 22 to 93 per cent. Reardon et al. (1998) asserted that the average share of rural non-farm incomes as a proportion of total rural incomes in Africa is 42 per cent. It has also been observed that for Africa as a whole, processing activities form the second largest rural industry (Page and Steel, 1989). The number of people involved in various non-farm activities form a large share of those employed outside agriculture in most African countries. For instance in Zambia, 25,000 people were involved in the fuel wood trade (Fisseha and Milimo, 1986), 48,000 people were employed in charcoal production, 11,500 people involved with bee-keeping and 96,000 households earn income from handicraft production (Marks and Robbins, 1984). Also in Cote d'Ivoire, about 65,000 people were involved in rattan cane basketry (Kaye, 1988). In Nigeria, next to agriculture, these enterprises also provide employment and income for a substantial percentage of rural households particularly during agricultural off-seasons and seasonal shortfalls in food and cash crop income as well as in periods of drought or other emergencies. The fact that these activities require low capital investment, simple technology with little or no powered equipment being used and limited managerial skills favour the participation of rural households. There are great diversities in the involvement of rural households in these activities within various states of Nigeria. However, it is well known that they are involved in gathering and trading of forest products such as fuel wood and charcoal, medicinal plants and forest foods like bush meat, snails, mushrooms, fruits, honey, among others commonly referred to as Non-timber forest products (NTFP). They are also involved in small-scale manufacturing of items like local soap, wood furniture and agricultural implements; processing activities such as oil palm, cassava, locust beans, and soybean processing; handicrafts like cloth weaving, cloth dyeing, pottery, mat weaving, basket weaving, wood and calabash carving; and service activities such as local laundry, tailoring, phone call services, hair dressing and barbing.

Statement of the problem

Successive government in Nigeria have realised the potentials of these enterprises to reverse rural-urban migration, promote indigenous entrepreneurship, enhance household food security and poverty alleviation as well as serving as a hub for rural industrial transformation. As a result, several interventions have been put in place for promoting these enterprises. Major among these interventions are: Directorate of Food, Roads and Rural Infrastructure (DFRRI) in 1986; Better Life for Rural Women (BLP) inaugurated in 1987, the National Directorate of Employment (NDE) established in 1989, Family Support Programme (FSP) established in 1994 and Family Economic Advancement Programme (FEAP) in 1997 (Iheduru, 2002; Nnoyelu and Gadzama, 1991). Despite various governmental and non-governmental efforts to proffer solution to the problem of job creation for the Nigeria rural populace by stimulating non-farm economic activities at the grassroots, most rural households, particularly in Osun State, irrespective of their involvement in various forms of these enterprises still live from hand to mouth without appreciable progress. This is so because the success of any business depends largely on how effectively it is managed. The same money, materials, equipment and personnel will yield different results when managed differently. It is therefore crucial to investigate into how effectively these enterprises are managed by their owners and proffer answers to the following research questions.

- 1. What are the various types of household-based enterprises in which people in the study area engaged?
- 2. What are the demographic characteristics of owners of these enterprises?
- 3. What are the characteristics of these enterprises that can influence their effective management?
- 4. At what level of effective management are their owners operating?

Objectives of the study

The main objective of the study is to determine the level of effective management of rural household-based enterprises in Osun State. The specific objectives are to

- 1. identify various household-based enterprises in the study area;
- 2. describe the demographic characteristics of the owners;
- 3. examine enterprise characteristics influencing effective management of the enterprises; and
- 4. highlight the variables that correlate with effective management of these enterprises.

METHODOLOGY

The study was conducted in the three Osun State Agricultural Development Programme (OSSADEP) zones namely Ife/Ijesa, Iwo and Osogbo with ten, seven and thirteen Local Government Areas (LGAs), respectively. A multistage sampling procedure was used to select the respondents. One-third of the LGAs from each zone were randomly selected at the first stage, 30 communities were proportionately sampled from the selected

LGAs at the second stage and the third stage involved random selection of 3 per-cents of the population sizes of each of the selected communities making a total of 400 respondents. Pretested and validated interview schedule was used to collect data based on the objectives of the study. Data collected were analysed using descriptive statistics like frequency counts, percentages, means and standard deviation while Pearson correlation was used to identify and highlight the variables that had significant relationship with effective management.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

Table 1 shows that cassava processing (26.2%) and oil palm production (20.5%) were the most common household-based enterprises in the study area and that woman were more in these enterprises than men. The implication of this is that efforts to develop rural household-based enterprises in the study area should focus these common enterprises.

Table 2 shows that majority (73.5%) of the respondents were in the age bracket of 25 and 55 years while very few (2.5%) were below 25 years of age and few (14.0%) were above 55 years of age. The mean age was 45.15 years. This implies that majority of owners of these enterprises were still in their active ages when they could still make significant contribution to the development of rural entrepreneurship if necessary resources were made available. Age is one of the factors that could be used to measure people's level of maturity, strength and ability to accomplish. Active ages are characterized with hard work and relentless efforts to achieve, as against old age when little or nothing could be accomplished. Entrepreneurs who are in their active ages are more likely to manage their enterprises more effectively than the aged.

Table 1: Distribution of respondents by the type of enterprise engaged in

Type of enterprise	Male		Female		Total	
	Freq	%	Freq	%	Freq	%
Cassava processing	46	11.5	59	14.7	105	26.2
Oil Palm processing	37	9.25	45	11.25	82	20.5
Palm wine production	13	3.25	7	1.75	20	5.0
Locust bean production	0	0.0	22	5.5	22	5.5
Local soap making	5	1.25	23	5.75	28	7.0
PKO production	7	1.75	7	1.75	14	3.5
Tailoring	15	3.75	19	4.75	34	8.5
Carpentry	12	3.0	0	0.0	12	3.0
Iron pot production	4	1.0	1	0.25	5	1.25
Basket weaving	6	1.5	2	0.5	8	2.0
Mat weaving	0	0.0	1	0.25	1	0.25
Saw milling	11	2.75	2	0.5	13	3.25
Food service	0	0.0	12	3.0	12	3.0
Black smiting	6	1.5	2	0.5	8	2.0
Vulcanizing	1	0.25	0	0.0	1	0.25
Mechanic	1	0.25	0	0.0	1	0.25
Trading	4	1.0	24	6.0	28	7.0
Photography	1	0.25	0	0.0	1	0.25
Bricklaying	3	0.8	0	0.0	3	0.8
Hair dressing	0	0.0	2	0.5	2	0.5
Total	172	43.05	228	56.95	400	100.0

Source: Field survey, 2009.

A large number (85.5%) of the respondents were married, few (1.7%) were separated, very few (1.5%) were divorced, some (6.8%) were widowed and 4.5 percent were single. As a result of family responsibilities and commitments of married people, they are likely to be more responsible and more committed to their enterprise success to enhance their household members' welfare than the unmarried. The finding agrees with Fielden et al. (2000) which established a positive relationship between marital status and business performance which is an indicator of effective management.

Some (29.5%) of the respondents had no formal education, many (42.0%) spent between 1-6 years in school while only 28.5 percent spent more than 6 years in school. The mean year of schooling was 5.5 years implying that the sample studied had a low literacy level. The result conforms to Soyebo (2005) which reported that 29.7 percent of rural households in Osun State had never been to school and 6.6 years as their mean years of schooling. Attendance of formal school provides opportunity for enlightenment and exposure in various areas of life. An entrepreneur who is highly educated is likely to be more enlightened in enterprise administration than the illiterates or those with low level of education.

Half (50.0%) of the respondents had no apprenticeship training while the remaining half had between 1-8 years of training. Apprenticeship training is an indigenous way of skill acquisition among local entrepreneurs. The fact that half of the sample studied indicated that they had no apprenticeship training may imply that most of the studied enterprises were inherited from previous generations; hence no formal apprenticeship training was involved.

12.2 percent of the respondents could not estimate their monthly income from their enterprises while the mean income was N17, 100 per month. The inability of some of the respondents to give the estimate of their monthly income may be due to their inability to keep proper record of their income or their deliberate refusal to disclose the amounts they actually realized for fear of taxation and security reasons. The mean monthly income of N17,100; at 150 Nigerian naira (NGN) = 1United State dollar (USD) when compared with monthly income of N500 reported by Aina (1995) among entrepreneurs engaging in cloth weaving, mat, soap and pottery making in Southwestern Nigeria at 78.5 NGN = 1USD shows a significant improvement in the earnings of small enterprise owners over the years.

Table 2: Distribution of respondents by their demographic characteristics

Characteristics	Frequency	Percentage	Mean	S.D
Age				
25 and below	10	2.5		
26 – 35	52	13.0		
36 – 45	150	37.5		
46 – 55	132	33.0		
Above 55	56	14.0		
Total	400	100.0	45.15	9.41
Marital status				
Married	342	85.5		
Separated	7	1.7		
Divorced	6	1.5		
Widowed	27	6.8		
Single	18	4.5		
Total	400	100.0		
Years of formal schooling				
No formal schooling	118	29.5		
Between 1-6 years	168	42.0		
Between 7-12 years	86	21.5		
Above 12 years	28	7.0		
Total	400	100.0	5.50years	4.71

Characteristics	Frequency	Percentage	Mean	S.D
Years of apprenticeship training				
No apprenticeship training	200	50.0		
Less than 1 year	8	2.0		
Between 1-4 years	171	42.8		
Between 5-8 years	21	5.2		
Total	400	100.0	1.49years	1.98
Income				
Can not estimate	40	12.2		
N10,000 and below	85	21.3		
Between N10,001 — N20,000	156	39.0		
Between N20,001 - N30,000	72	18.0		
Between N30,001 - N40,000	16	4.0		
Between N40,001 — N50,000	17	4.3		
Above N50,000	5	1.2		
Total	400	100.0	N17,100	12,460
S.D: Standard Deviation				

Table 3 shows that majority (79.0%) usually employ between 1-5 people to work with them while some (17.8%) employed between 6-10 people and few (3.2%) were working alone,. The mean enterprise size was 3.8. This implies that household-based enterprises in the study area were characterized with small size with average of four people. The result agrees with Otera (1987) which described household level enterprises as those employing five persons or less. Sources of obtaining land among the respondents were multiple and majorly internal such as inherited father's land (45.2%), spouse land (25.8%), lease (20.2%), bought land (11.5%), borrowed land (4.8%), gift from kin or friend (2.8%) and government land (0.8%). The implication is that the prevailing traditional inheritance way of getting land has not changed. The communal land ownership is still very much in place despite the land decree of 1978 that reserves land to state government. Sources of obtaining labour among the sample studied were multiple and internal including family members (58.5%), hired labour (48.2%), apprentices (15.2%), self (7.0%) and cooperative labour (owe) (1.8%). The results justify the fact that in small businesses, the family members constitute the readily available labour.

Sources of credit among the respondents were also multiple such as cooperative society (46.2%), informal savings (esusu) (33.2%), relatives (18.8%), spouse (17.2%), trade associations (14.2%), friends (8.2%), money lenders (4.8%), banks (2.5%), Government micro credit scheme (2.5%) and NGO assurance (1.5%). The implication of this finding is that entrepreneurs in the study area have not been exploiting the financial assistance available with the various micro finance institutions present in the country. This could be due to their ignorance of these facilities or the relative complexity of criteria for accessing such when compared to the familiar local sources.

The capital investment of most enterprise owners in the study area was very low with 26.3 percent of the respondents having the initial business capital not more than N10,000, 59.3 percent having between N10,001 and N 50,000, 13.7 percent having between N 50,001 and N 100,000 while 0.7 percent having more than N 100,000. The mean capital investment was N 29,500. This observation may be an indication that their credit sources were mainly internal and the need for the intervention of micro finance institutions in provision of more adequate credit opportunities for rural entrepreneurs. Majority (62.8%) of the respondents used simple and manually operated equipment, some (28.2%) used simple and fuel powered equipment while few (9.0%) used simple and electrically powered equipment. None indicated the use of solar powered or any sophisticated equipment. The findings revealed that simple equipment such as locally fabricated mill, local fryer; chain saw and sewing machine among others were used among the small- scale entrepreneurs.

Some (22.8%) of the respondents indicated that majority of their customers came from within their local community, some (24.5%) indicated other villages within the Local Government Area (LGA), some (38.2%) indicated outside the LGA, few (14.5%) indicated outside the state while none indicated outside the country. The mean score of 2.44 is low indicating localized area of operation. It was evident from the findings that

household-based enterprises in the study area were characterized with smallness in size, internal and multiple sources of factors of production, minimum capital investment, simplicity of equipment and localized area of operation. The findings agree with Arnold (1994) and Adelante Foundation (2006) which identified smallness in size, low capital investment, technological simplicity, locally-based area of operation and internal sources of factors of production as peculiar characteristics of household-based enterprises.

11.8 per cent of the respondents had between 1 and5 years of experience on their enterprises, 18.7 percent between 6 and 10 years, 17.0 percent between 11 and 15 years, 24.3 percent between 16 and 20 years, 9.7 percent between 21 and 25 years, 8.0 percent between 26 and 30 years, 7.0 percent between 31 and 35 years, 3.5 percent between 36 and 40 years and 1.0 percent between 41 and 45 years. The mean year of experience was 17.7 years. It implies that the respondents have been long in their enterprises. It could be deduced from the findings that although owners of these enterprises have been long in their businesses, they still possess limited managerial skills; implying the need for skill development trainings that will build up their capacity and consequently enhance the growth and development of these enterprises.

Table 3: Distribution of respondents by enterprise characteristics

N= 400		
Enterprise characteristics	Frequency	Percentage
Enterprise size		
Working alone	13	3.2
Between 1-5	316	79.0
6-10 workers	71	17.8
Total	400	100.0
Mean score = 3.84		
*Sources of land		
Inherited fathers' land	181	45.2
Spouse's land	103	25.8
Lease	81	20.2
Bought	46	11.5
Borrowed	19	4.8
Gift from kin or friend	11	2.8
Government land	3	0.8
*Sources of labour		
Family members	234	58.5
Hired labour	193	48.2
Apprentices	61	15.2
Self alone	28	7.0
Cooperative labour (owe)	7	1.8
*Sources of credit		
Cooperative society	185	46.2
Informal saving (esusu)	133	33.2
Relatives	75	18.8
Spouse	69	17.2
Trade associations	57	14.2
Friends	33	8.2
Money lenders	19	4.8
Banks	10	2.5
Government microcredit scheme	10	2.5
NGO assistance	6	1.5
Capital investment		
10,000 and below		26.3

10,001- 50,000		59.3
50,001- 100,000		13.7
Above 100,000		0.7
Total		
Mean = 29,500		
Type of equipment		
I use simple and manually operated equipment	251	62.8
I use simple and fuel powered equipment	113	28.2
I use simple and electrically powered equipment	36	9.0
I use sophisticated power equipment	0	0
Total	400	100.0
Area of operation		
Within the local community	91	22.8
Other villages within the LGA	98	24.5
Outside the LGA	153	38.2
Outside the state	58	14.5
Outside the country	0	0
Total		
Mean score = 2.44	400	100.0
Years of experience		
1 – 10	122	30.5
11 – 20	161	40.3
21 – 30	71	17.7
31 – 40	42	10.5
41 – 50	4	1
Total		
Mean = 17.7 years	400	100.0

*Multiple responses

Source: Field survey, 2009

Table 4 shows that maximum and minimum effective management scores from eight management functions were 403 and zero respectively. With the mean score of 240.61 and standard deviation of 34.12, only 10.2 percent of the respondents were in the high level of effective management having their scores between mean score plus one standard deviation and above (274.73 and above), 17.5 percent were in the low level with scores between mean score minus one standard deviation and below (206.49 and below) while majority (72.3%) were in the medium level with scores between the high and low levels (between 206.48 and 274.72). While low level of effective management could lead to operating the enterprise at a loss and medium level of effective management could result in subsistence level of operation, high level of effective management is germane to achieving an appreciable growth and development of rural household-based enterprises. The fact that only few of the sample studied were in the high level of effective management implies that owners of rural household-based enterprises should be given more enlightenment on how to improve on their enterprise management so as to better their lots and to enhance overall economic transformation in the rural areas.

Table 4: Summary of measurement, scoring and level of effective management.

Management Functions	Items Scoring	Score Range
Production	Allocating production resources	0 – 20
	Controlling production activities	0 –24
Subtotal		0 –44
Marketing	Selecting enterprise location	0 - 52
	Improving product quality	0 –20
	Fixing product price	0 -32
	Employing promotion strategies	0 -52
Subtotal		0 – 156

Financial	Allocating financial resources	0 – 44
	Coordinating financial activities	0 – 28
Subtotal		0 – 72
Personnel	Improving workers performance	0 – 12
Subtotal		0 – 12
Risk	Risk awareness	0 – 11
	Risk reduction	0 – 11
	Risk insurance	0 – 11
Subtotal		0 – 33
Record	Type of records kept	0 – 14
Subtotal		0 – 14
Equipment	Ownership of equipment	0 – 4
	Maintenance of equipment	0 – 20
Subtotal		0 – 24
Decision making	Accessibility to relevant information	0 – 16
	Usage of information for decision making	0 – 32
Subtotal		0 – 48
Grand total		0 – 403
Level of effective management	Frequency	Percentage
High (274.73 and above)	41	10.2
Medium (206.48 – 274.72)	289	72.3
Low (206.49 and below)	70	17.5
Total	400	100.0
Mean = 240.61		
Standard Deviation = 34.12		

Source: Field survey, 2009

Table 5 shows that at P < 0.01 level of significance, there were positive correlations between effective management of rural household based enterprises and year of schooling (r = 0.248), enterprise size (r = 0.236), source of land (r = 0.233), source of labour (r = 0.143), source of credit (r = 0.190), capital investment (r = 0.331) and area of operation (r = 0.335).

Table 5: Correlation analysis showing variables significant to effective management

Variables	Correlation (r)	Co-efficient of determination (r2)	P-value
Age	-0.136**	0.0185	0.006
Years of schooling	0.248**	0.0615	0.000
Household size	-0.125*	0.0156	0.012
Income	0.086	0.0074	0.084
Years of experience	-0.001	0.0000	0.986
Enterprise size	0.236**	0.0557	0.000
Source of land	0.233**	0.0543	0.000
Source of labour	0.143**	0.0204	0.000
Source of credit	0.190**	0.0361	0.000
Capital investment	0.331**	0.1096	0.000
Type of equipment	0.119*	0.0142	0.018
Area of operation	0.335**	0.1122	0.000

* Significant at p < 0.05 (2-tailed)

**Significant at p < 0.01(2-tailed)

Source: Field survey, 2009

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The study pointed out areas of attention for evolving relevant strategies that could enhance effective management of household-based enterprises for rural employment generation. For instance, it revealed that oil palm and cassava processing enterprises were the major rural household-based enterprises in the study area, indicating the need for policy makers and planners of developmental programmes to give specific attention to the development of these enterprises. It also revealed positive and significant correlations between effective management and variables like years of formal schooling, sources of production resources (land, labour and capital), enterprise size, capital investment and area of operation. It could be deduced therefore, that efforts should be made by appropriate institutions to provide adequate educational facilities to anchor relevant educational programmes ranging from adult literacy classes and record keeping to skill development training courses for owners of these enterprises. Provision of production resources especially in the areas of better access to credit opportunities and land acquisition could minimize the problems of smallness of enterprise size, low capital investment, use of simple equipment for enterprise operations and localized area of operation. Although household enterprises are not thriving currently in the study area but putting the identified strategies in place could foster their growth and development.

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CURRRICULUM REVIEW FOR HOME ECONOMICS; MEANS TO QUALITY ASSURANCE AND NATIONAL DEVELOMENT.

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ABSTRACT

The best quality any curriculum could possess is its reviewable ability to meet the dynamics of knowledge for educational quality assurance. This paper reviews the Nigeria Home Economics curriculum in comparison with those of developed nations to bring out their differences, similarities and inherent career and entrepreneurial components of the programme. The paper enunciates some “barriers and enablers” towards the study of home economics and concludes that the time to introduce some components within the dynamism of contemporary global needs for skills and competencies into the programme as panaceas for national development to rid the society of impoverished, frustrated and unpatriotic citizenry is now. The relevant aspects of the present curriculum that are to be reviewed and the supposed reviews and recommendations were all highlighted.

Keywords: Barriers/Enablers, HEC Education, Curriculum Review, National Development.

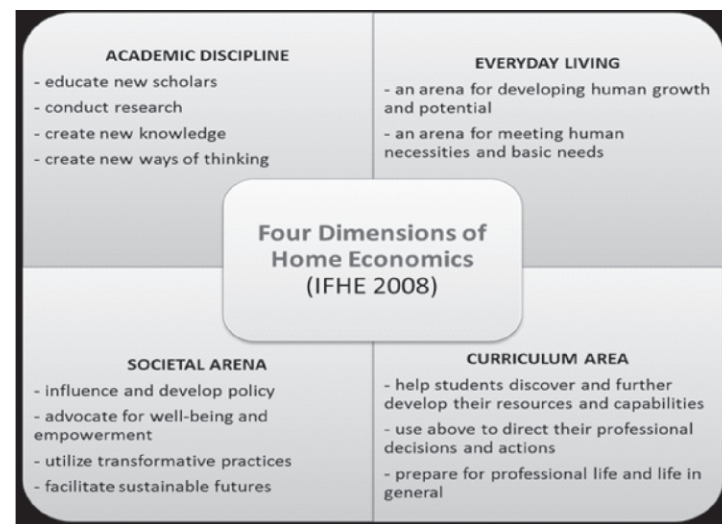
Introduction

The best quality any curriculum could possess is in its reviewable ability to meet with the dynamics of knowledge. Just like other programmes of study, Home Economics (HEC) has the curriculum which is to be operated as a blueprint for trainees to acquire the necessary knowledge in the cognitive, affective and psychomotor domains of learning to produce all-round skilled individuals who could solve personal, family and societal needs for self and national self sustenance and sufficiency.

The study and concepts of Home Economics education are basically to provide the opportunities and feasible options for developing technologically dynamic and internationally competitive skilled individuals in the context of rapidly changing technological and world market conditions. As a field, HEC is aimed at training people to have a better understanding and recognition for individual needs that of the family and the society at large without gender bias or cultural interferences as a field of study and a profession, situated in the human sciences that draws from a range of disciplines to achieve optimal and sustainable living for individuals, families and communities (IFHE, 2008). Furthermore, the McGregor, Pendergast and Turki (2011) are of the opinion that Home Economics be clarified by four dimensions or areas of practice: agenda that had more to do with controlling the economy and society than sustaining development. Sustainable development involves a progressive transformation of the economy and society international interdependence, redistribution of wealth, less material and more equitable growth, ensuring a sustainable level of population, merging environment and economics in decision making and a new ethics that is, the relationship between man and nature above all. Clearly, there is more to sustainable development than simply good steward-ship of natural resources.

The International Federation of Home Economics IFHE (2008), conclude that the principles, practices and values of sustainable development are closely linked to Home Economics Education. It further stressed that Home economics as a filed of study and as a profession is situated in the human sciences which draws from a range of disciplines to achieve optimal growth and development for partakers.

Four Contemporary Dimensions of Home Economics



Source: McGregor, Pendergast and Turki (201

1. as an academic discipline to educate new scholars, to conduct research and to create new knowledge and ways of thinking for professionals and for society
2. as an arena for everyday living in households, families and communities for developing human growth potential and human necessities and basic needs to be met
3. as a curriculum area that facilitates students to discover and further develop their own resources and capabilities for use in their personal life, by directing their professional decisions and actions
4. as a societal arena to influence and develop policy, to advocate for individuals, families and the society.

Who is an Home Economist?

Home economists are graduates who acquire intellectual and professional trainings and skills foods and nutrition, clothing construction, child development and care, home and interior decoration, teaching at various levels of education from tertiary institutions with a minimum of Nigeria Certificate in Education. The trainings received enable gradates to teach the subject efficiently and impact on lives through the practice of life changing skills and competencies. Though training and specializations differ but home economists generally have training and experience in money management, consumer education, food and nutrition, housing, clothing, textiles, family studies and human development. Depending on the university the program of study may be called Home Economics, Human Ecology, Family Studies, Nutrition and Food Sciences, Consumer Studies, Home Science and Management, Family and Consumer Science among others.

According to Awosika (2009), examined the roles home economics can play in addressing tremendous social, economic and environmental challenges that the world face today is to jeer up the family to understand the roles in health issues, home and interior furnishing, personal grooming, nutrition and social growth of family members, so that they could jettison traditional stereo type positions, and stigmatization of male Home Economists. She also enumerates the laudable skills and competencies that are inherent in HEC for youths and adults to embrace for self sustenance and movement above poverty. In order to achieve the above, it becomes pertinent to have a broad over-view of the curriculum for Home Economics Education in Nigeria in both content and practice; and compare it with the curriculum contents and implementation strategies for HEC in other countries so we can take clues from countries that have sailed above board.

International and National understanding of Home Economics

In New Zealand and Australia, the roots of Home Economics stem back to its association in the 19th century with the teaching of manual training, the purpose of which was to train the mind, eye and hand coordination (Coon, 1964). HEC at that time was also taught with an intention for future generations to live better than the present one. The subject was thus introduced on the following basis.

·The emancipation/empowerment theory which stemmed from the need for a new field of study in education that could help the home, and family, particularly women to have more control over lives and to reinforce the notion that a 'women's place is in the home', thus ensuring women continued to take primary responsibility for house-hold and child-care tasks (Cosic,1999).

Right from inception, the development of home economics and its body of knowledge in Zealand and Australia was one of rapid change resulting from the industrial revolution of the late 19th century which enhanced its emergence to the impact on social issues of health and well-being of home, family and communities at that time.

According to the International Federation for Home Economics (IFHE), an international understanding of home economics presents it as- “the study of household management to achieving the highest quality of life” which is to be achieved through teaching of vital and culturally integrated theory for human capacity building to attain and sustaining a better quality life and to effectively convey life competencies (Mc Gregor, 2007). In addition, HEC was seen by IFHE in the context of 'family studies', with its programme development in a holistic context as listed below:

- improve the quality of everyday life for individuals, families and households through the management of their resources
- highlight the impact of the social, economic and environmental impact on the management of everyday life of individuals, families and households, and
- expand the understanding of the ecological view of the individuals, families and households in the larger environment (IFHE, 2004).

The American Association of Family and Consumer Sciences (AAFCS)

The American Association of Family and Consumer Sciences (2006) identified a body of knowledge for HEC and defined it as series of concepts that have direct relationship with the daily issues individuals face as they interact with families and the environments. The AAFCS HEC has three threads which are embedded with basic human needs for communication skills, public policy, critical thinking, diversity and a global perspective. It also contain 'specialist themes which include: food and nutrition, technological developments in textiles, shelter, economics and management, relationships with social leadership, and wellness (AAFCS, 2006). HEC was taught in the US within the context above as a practical application of critical theory known as a 'critical science perspective'.

Home Economics in Australia (HEIA)

According to the Home Economics Institute of Australia (HEIA) (1999), a range of understandings and skills that all students will develop for the acquisition and usage of basic for competencies and metacognition are provided in the delivery framework for HEC in Junior Secondary School by outlining the purpose and understandings of HEC and students outcomes in the aspects of families, food, clothing and textiles, human relationships and housing. The HEC programme at inception was to contribute to empowering people to become active and informed members of society with respect to independent living in caring situations with other people. The curriculum and these positions were reviewed to enable students develop an understanding of the interdependence of their everyday living with that of other human beings and broader issues related to ecological sustainability to incorporate the following as posited by (HEIA, 2002).

- * Understand, promote well-being and think critically about personal and societal influences on wellbeing
- * Make informed consumer choices, engage in creative and enterprising actions when meeting self needs and enhancing well-being of self and others
- * Develop effective interpersonal and communication skills and make socially responsible and informed decisions
- * Understand the impact of decisions and actions on future well-being and promote preferred futures for individual and family well-being.

The knowledge, understandings, values and attitudes identified and provided in the new curriculum review empowered teachers with a framework to develop meaningful programmes for their students, using the themes of: food and nutrition, textiles and clothing, home and family living, scientific/practical interior decoration as well as child development and care. Basically, related contents should include the following:

- * Socio-cultural, political, psychological, and economic issues and their effects on family lifestyles to include - eating patterns and food choices, government policies, culture, values and priorities, beliefs and practices, market place, changing health and safety needs.
- * past, present and future trends of economic and social issues, changing needs, using resources in flexible and caring ways to protect the consumer.

- * development, management and innovative use of resources to meet changing needs, decision-making and practical application to assist wise consumer choices
- * scientific and technological changes affecting health status, values, attitudes and influence health practices and well-being, nurture families and provide support, evaluate new information about technological and scientific developments.

The need for curriculum review for Nigerian Home Economics

Home Economics as a field of study involves the application of scientific knowledge, creativity through the arts and psychology to help the individual meet his needs and live a quality life. Trainees develop sound knowledge of intelligent thinking to provide useful ideas and materials for self and other people while available occupations afford them opportunities to be exposed to and interact with, the skills needed to plan, design, develop and produce items for personal, home and community use (Ogunniran 2000). The components of the programme are basically drawn with the objective of producing graduates who can be self-reliant, self-employed and employers of labour to reduce the number of impoverished Nigerians. Since knowledge is said to be dynamic, the responsibility is on planners, executors, financiers' learners and other stake holders in education to organize and implement holistic reviews of the programme of study from time to time so that graduates can confidently compete for effective impact in the global market.

Adelegan (2004), observed that development is a process involving the totality of man through increased skills, capacity, creativity, self discipline, responsibility, material well-being and greater freedom. Increase in job demands in the opinion of Katz (2001) is widely attributed to the changing culture of employment in the contemporary world because “a job for life” is no longer the norm in a “knowledge-driven society”. The society now requires “higher levels of skills and qualifications to fill worthwhile jobs” because 'white collar jobs' have seized to be status providers” (Halpin, 2005). Taking clue from the above, a review that will toll the position of IFHE (2008) for global future-proofing for HEC is most welcome.

Curriculum and future proofing the HEC profession

Home Economics in the 21st Century according to IFHE (2008) focuses on the decade ahead and future proofing in anticipation of future developments with actions to minimize negative consequences of tasks that are necessary for sustainable vision for the profession, individual member, trainers and trainees to produce skilled graduates, HEC in developed countries has commenced it's future-proofing strategies by advocating relevant disciplinary fields and critically reflecting on its historical roots. The future-proofing for HEC is based on specific megatrends around which contemporary curriculum for HEC should be woven to solve personal and societal problems. Scaling up existing curriculum for improved lives and housing conditions for all by the year 2020 are major assignments that IFHE Think Tank committee is responsible for to brand and reflect forward vision of HEC as a recognisable 'brand' for future visibility, accessibility and articulate distinctive characteristics.

Figure 2- The 10 Megatrends toward 2020 HEC Programme



Source- McGregor, Pendergast and Turki (2011)

To upgrade the implementing skills of executors and bring up issues that would serve as eye openers to government as well, curriculum review in HEC is expected to help brand and rebrand entry qualifications of teachers, training pedagogies Teaching/learning environment and post qualification improvement activities of teachers by appropriate organs. Basically, the megatrends are for the following purposes.

- * An eye opener to Home Economists to become alive to upgrade pre-qualification experiences to meet the dynamism of knowledge in the theory and practice of HEC to become future entrepreneurs.
- * To set Home Economists on their toes to embrace emerging global challenges and the impact of being deskilled from skills that are traditionally HEC in nature should they fail to contribute to contemporary sustainability.

In addition to rebranding the profession, McGregor (2007) proposed the creation of 'home economics ambassadors'. The word ambassador stems from the Medieval Latin word ambactia meaning spokespersons authorized to represent a profession, 'carry its message' and represent it outside the field of practice with the main function of advancing the interests of the profession. Ambassadors' work quietly behind the scenes or in the public as long as they are well versed in an agreed-to value statement of the profession (one example being the 2008 IFHE position statement). Within this mission of branding the profession, it is important to consider what home economics might be and how we ensure that the profession is a part of the future of humankind. Clarity about "what is home economics?" has been a challenge to the profession for one hundred years, hence IFHE has proposed a unified position from which to engage HEC work around the globe with the following career opportunities in mind for graduates:

Career opportunities in Home Economics

Awosika and Izuagie (2006), Pendergast (2005), Friedmann (2009) and www.myfutures.edu have identified that career opportunities and several levels of occupations in Home Economics are rich and limitless for an individual to choose from. According to the Australian Government (HEIA) (1992), you may find a home economist working:

In Businesses as:

- * Consumer service manager
- * Fashion or textiles designer
- * Store buyer
- * Journalist/ Media commentator
- * Recipe developer/ Food stylist
- * Product promoter
- * Financial planner/ Administrator/ Product manager
- * Accessories developer/ Textile/fashion merchant
- * Haberdashery/Notions merchant/ Wardrobe Advisor

In a community agency as:

- * Volunteer coordinator
- * Family outreach worker/skills facilitator
- * Rehabilitation worker/Consumer advocate
- * Interiors designer/decorator
- * Event planners/coordinators/executors and Resource person

In the health care field as:

- * Dietitian
- * Nutritionist
- * Coordinator of health education

In Education as:

- * Teacher
- * College instructor
- * University professor
- * Adult educator
- * Administrator

In Government as:

- *· Financial counselor
- * Museum curator
- * Nutritionist
- * Marketing specialist
- * Health Educator
- As Volunteers in their communities partaking in activities that support the family and qualitative living for individuals.

In Research as

- *· Product development officers
 - * Food or textile scientists
 - * Researchers in Human Development
- (Pat Street 2006, Associating Saskatchewan Home Economics- ASHE)

Barriers and enablers pertaining to students' achievement in home economics

According to Awosika 2008, some barriers and enablers abound in the transfer of knowledge and competencies in Home Economics

Gender imbalance

Studies carried out by the Australian Department of Education (2005) and Awosika (2009) have confirmed gender imbalance, culture, parental perception, and patriarchy culminating into community stigmatization as serious barriers to gender imbalance among students' engagement and consequent, learning of home economics at national and international forums. This is very pertinent at Senior Secondary School (SSS) classes where 'options' of subject choices are given; the tendency to revert to traditional gender of only women studying the subject to play. The solution proffered to this by Home Economics Institute of Australia (HEIA) is the development of more male-orientated resources along with the encouragement of males to train as home economics teachers and to act as role models for students as agreed to by this has been a significant enabler for male students learning home economics.

Societal negative influence**Teachers' Confidence and professional support**

According to Hattie, (1999), “the single most powerful moderator that enhances achievement is feedback” Teachers who feel confident in their pedagogy and subject knowledge will be in very stronger position to provide feedback to students. A teacher that does not have a sound knowledge of the subject matter nor lacks the skill to communicate concepts effectively can never exhibit confidence before the students. Professional support and relevant resources to assist teachers to design programmes of teaching would aid teacher confidence. A professional development model that would empower teachers and, encouraging them to use strategies that could encourage students to actively clarify their ideas and assumptions strategies, like mapping and learning journals have been found to enable students take responsibility for their own learning in Australia (Hipkins & Connor, 2004).

Training and support of teachers by their employers have also been fingered contributing to enhancing students learning (Brewerton, 2004). Home economics teachers perceived that assessments in home economics seemed more difficult “long and time consuming for just a few credits” than in other subjects; To increase student ability to demonstrate competence and confidence in home economics and provide transparent links to vocational and academic learning pathways, “a way might be found to structure new achievement standards so that they can be used to assess some types of knowledge and practical skills that seem currently to be mainly assessed by unit standards. The provision of professional post qualification development opportunities for teachers to access current research and practice would be powerful enablers as well.

Supply and demand of teachers

While Pendergast, Reynolds, & Crane, (2000) identify a projected shortage in the number of trained home economics teachers in Australia as a significant barrier to learning in home economics. The study found that: there exists a growing shortage of professional and academic home economics teachers and the shortage

directly attributed to the cancellation of teacher training courses for specialist home economics teachers. The Nigerian situation is contrary because HEC graduates teachers usually wait for four, five and more years before employment comes. This is because of the traditional/culture placement given to home economics as a mere “cooking and eating subject. Whereas the entry qualification into other science programmes like Chemistry and Agricultural Science, Home Economics students do Mathematics up to Calculus level as undergraduates and take several courses in Biology and Integrated Science. Tertiary institutions appear to be hesitant/slow in adjusting programmes to meet changing demands for what and how home economics teachers are expected to teach. The consequences of this are that schools face either collapsing courses, by not employing teachers with interest in other fields apart from their specialist area. Student learning in home economics is inevitably affected as students are taught by people without the necessary knowledge of underlying principles, approaches and content.

CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The home economics body of knowledge will continue to be relevant and meaningful for students in the future within international and national contexts to meet current and future societal needs. Current review for significant changes in the learning and teaching focus of HEC should be reflective of current and emerging paradigms like the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) National Economic Empowerment Development Strategy (NEEDS) and (EFA) Education For All. Review of HEC curriculum should continually respond to and transform to societal changing needs without losing the focus on the well-being of individuals and families within society. It is hoped that with abundant skills in HEC, escalating level of poverty, infant mortality and malnutrition could be checkmated in Nigeria.

To ensure quality and functionality of the HEC curriculum for graduate self-reliance, this paper recommends as follows:

1. Government at various levels should enact laws to make the acquisition of skills compulsory in all universities so that graduates can fall back to utilize the skills acquired to earn a living in the absence of white-collar-jobs.
2. Universities across the country should establish and make fully operational, the unit for entrepreneurial development and Management to cater for the demands in (1) above
3. The establishment of skills development centers in all local government area of the country to create avenues for school drop outs to acquire skills and become self-reliant for meaningful living should be given utmost attention.
4. Interested Youths should be assisted in their quest to acquire skills during the National Youth Service Corps (NYSC) in order to reduce poverty and allow for national growth.
5. The procurement of facilities like land, foreign exchange and credit facilities should be taken over by government to help graduates of skill development centers establish their own business and expand.

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ASSESSMENT OF YOUTH ACCESSIBILITY TO SOCIAL AMENITIES TOWARDS PROMOTING EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES IN FARMING COMMUNITIES OF OSUN STATE, NIGERIA

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ABSTRACT

The study assessed youth accessibility to social amenities towards promoting employment opportunities in farming communities of Osun State, with aim of identifying available social amenities in the farming communities and determines the extent to which social amenities are accessible to rural youths. Multistage sampling procedure was used to select 125 respondents from 6 rural communities in 3 Local Government Areas of the State. Pretested and validated interview schedule was used to collect data on objectives set for the study. Accessibility to social amenities was determined by calculating the total score of each respondent for amenities identified and accessed. Mean score and standard deviation were used to categorise accessibility into high, medium and low. The results showed that age ($r = 0.322$; $p = 0.01$) was significant, that is, the higher the age of the respondents the higher their accessibility to rural infrastructure. The study also revealed that majority (76% and 73%) of the respondents had access to cooperative activities and basic education, respectively. Hospital ($r = 0.283$; $p = 0.01$), police station ($r = 0.705$; $p = 0.01$), agro-service centre ($r = 0.573$; $p = 0.01$), bore-hole ($r = 0.615$; $p = 0.01$), internet facility ($r = 0.703$; $p = 0.01$), bank ($r = 0.644$; $p = 0.01$), tractor hiring ($r = 0.237$; $p = 0.01$), town hall ($r = 0.644$; $p = 0.01$), television ($r = 0.564$; $p = 0.01$) and cinema house ($r = 0.909$; $p = 0.01$) were positively related and significant to youths accessibility to social amenities in the studied area. The study recommended that an increase in the coverage and quality of basic social amenities should be given priority by development stakeholders in order to enhance their accessibility with the aim of closing the development gap between the urban and rural areas, which may eventually promote the employment opportunities among the youths in the study area.

Keywords: Social amenities, youth accessibility, employment opportunity

INTRODUCTION

Youth empowerment, as defined by Torimiro et al. (2008); YJF (2006) and Giwa (2008) is “creating and supporting the enabling conditions under which young people can act on their own terms, rather than at the direction of others”. It is a universal belief that certain basic infrastructural facilities aid the development of the mind and body and assist productivity in any environment which might eventually promote employment opportunities in any dwelling environment, particularly, rural areas. These facilities have been identified as good roads, good water supply, constant power, and access to information and communication technology and other tools for trading trade. A case where these are lacking in a community, the growth of the economy will be adversely affected. In most rural areas in Nigeria, these basic working tools as well as the enabling environment are lacking. This state of affairs has frustrated a lot of young people with bright ideas and consequently negatively affects the spirit to effect a change in some areas of our national life. Rural infrastructure and social amenities can be referred to as structures or resources put in place to improving rural livelihood, make them more informed, enlightened and for the social well being of the people. These infrastructures can be categorised as; Physical (water supply, housing, rural roads, rural electricity), Social (housing, clinics, sport grounds, schools, Information and communication technology (ICT) facilities) and Economic (business districts, shopping centres, transport systems, telephones) (Seider, 1995; Torimiro, Lawal and Laogun, 2000; Kibwika and Sermana, 2002; Sermana, 2002; UNESCO, 2002; Giwa, 2008; NAYES, 2008).

Rural areas in most parts of the country generally exhibit great poverty, poor health conditions and ignorance as a result of varying degrees of geographical, social and political isolation. Rural youths have been largely

ignored by most national agricultural and extension systems because this group was not viewed as central to the goal of achieving national food security. Different scholars have provided different ways of defining youth. United Nations World Youth Report, defines youth as a phase when a person moves from a time of dependence (childhood) to independence (adulthood) and identifies four distinct aspects of this move (UNESCO, 2003). An ILO (International Labour Organization) report on youth employment (2004) suggests that there are particular difficulties for youth in accessing livelihood opportunities globally: 15-24 year-old represent nearly half the world's jobless. Unfortunately, the link between youth unemployment and mobility is rarely explored. However, only a few developing countries, such as Costa Rica, Indonesia, Philippines, Tanzania, and Thailand, have established nationwide rural youth organizations, and most of those clubs reach only a small percent of the rural youth population. Because most rural communities have little or no experience in organizing different types of farmer groups, rural youth organizations are an effective way for extension to introduce “social capital” concepts, skills, and procedures into rural communities, especially in teaching the next generation of farmers how to participate in farm organizations and to become leaders in civil society organizations.

Statement of research problem

The present poor state of decline in agricultural production has dimmed the hope of raising the level of agricultural production to ensure sustainable food security and employment opportunity for the ever increasing population of Nigeria. One of the major setbacks of agricultural development programmes is attributed to the inability of the Federal Government to integrate youths into the mainstream of the numerous agricultural development programmes implemented over the years. In addition, young people from most part of the nation have limited opportunities for participation and most often are unable to speak out on their mind during identification of development programmes in their community (Torimiro et al., 2000). For many countries, it is assumed that formal education is all that is needed in response to needs of youth, therefore other options and opportunities, such as non-formal educational programmes are often poorly supported or not even considered. The foregoing aroused the quest to assess youth's accessibility to social amenities towards promoting employment opportunities in farming communities of Osun State. Specifically, it determined the socio-economic characteristics of the youth in the farming communities and the extent to which rural infrastructure and social amenities are accessible to rural youth.

The following hypotheses were tested

H01: There is no significant relationship between youth accessibility to rural infrastructure and their socio-economic characteristics.

Ho2: There is no significant relationship between youth accessibility to rural infrastructure and the availability of these infrastructural facilities to the youth in the study area.

METHODOLOGY

The study was carried out in Osun state. The state was divided into three agricultural zones comprising of thirty Local Government Areas (LGAs) and one area office situated in Modakeke. Three LGAs which are Orolu in Osogbo zone, Ife North in Ife/Ijesha zone and Ede in Iwo zone were randomly selected from each of the zones. In the second stage, six communities where the interview was conducted with interview schedule were chosen using simple random technique to select two communities from each of the Local Government Area (LGA) selected. They were Ifon Osun and Oke-Awesin in Orolu LGA, Alajue and Bepo-Aho in Ede South LGA and Akinlalu and Abasusu (Asipa) in Ife North LGA. A total of 125 respondents (youths) were used for the study using simple random sampling technique as follows: Orolu (45), Ede South (35) and Ife North (45).

The dependent variable of the study is youth accessibility to rural infrastructure and social amenities. This was measured by their accessibility to the rural infrastructure and social amenities through multiple responses of the respondents. One (1) was scored for each respondent that indicated yes while zero (0) was scored for each respondent that indicated no. The total score of each respondent was calculated for analysis. The maximum score was (24) and the minimum score was (0). However, their level of accessibility was categorised into three levels using their mean scores and standard deviation, based on the assumption that the level of accessibility scores assumed a normal distribution. This was operationalised as follows; High level will be perceived by communities with mean level of accessibility score plus one standard deviation and above. Low level will be perceived by communities with level of accessibility score below mean level of

accessibility score minus one standard deviation scores. Medium level of accessibility was perceived by communities with mean scores in between the high and low level of accessibility.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Respondents' personal and socio-economic characteristics

Results in Table 1 reveal that 63.2 percent of the respondents were male with mean age of 22 years and average income of N8, 000.00K. The Table further shows that schooling was the major occupation of the respondents (42.4%) with average of 8.14 years of formal education, while majority (73.6%) were unmarried. This implies that there is still gender sensitivity in the assessment of infrastructures in rural areas of Osun State, which may be a reflection of the different gender gap in education in Nigeria (Torimiro et al., 2008 and Ayinde, 2006). Concerning the marital status, majority (73. 6%) indicated that they had not married. This conformed to the children-in-Agriculture programme (CYIAP-Network, 2006) which took cognizance of the circumstances of poverty, unemployment and deprivations that prevalent in Nigeria and some other developing countries which make some people to still depend on others for survival, protection and development up to the age of 40 years.

Table 1: Distribution of respondents by personal and socio-economic characteristics

Variable	Frequency	Percent	Central Tendency
Age			
15-19	46	36.8	x = 22.06 S.D = 5.74
20-24	37	29.6	
25-29	27	21.6	
25-29	11	8.8	
35-39	3	2.4	
40 and above	1	0.8	
Total	125	100	
Sex			
Male	79	63.2	
Female	46	36.8	
Total	125	100	
Marital Status			
Single	92	73.6	
Married	33	26.4	
Total	125	100	
Level of Education			
Primary	9	7.2	x = 8.14 S.D = 4.54
Secondary	69	55.2	
Tertiary	30	24.0	
Quaranic	3	2.4	
No formal education	14	11.2	
Total	125	100	
Level of Income (#)			
1000-5000	46	36.8	x=7998 S.D=6166
6000-10000	20	16.0	
11000-15000	9	7.2	
16000-20000	9	7.2	
21000-25000	2	1.6	
No response	39	31.2	
Total	125	100	
Primary Occupation			
Farming	26	20.8	
Trading	17	13.6	
Artisan	14	11.2	
Civil Servant	15	12.0	
Others (Schooling)	53	42.4	
Total	125	100	

Source: Field survey, 2011

X = Mean
S.D = Standard deviation

Results in Table 2 show that 58.4 percent, 52.0 percent, 49.6 percent, 48.0 percent, 38.4 percent, 35.2 percent, 31.2 percent, 24.8 percent and 21.6 percent, respectively were able to assed schools, electricity, road, market, pipe-borne water, agro-service centres, extension information, tractor hiring services and agro-processing facilities. Also, an irrigation facility was not available in the study area. Inadequate availability of these facilities may have negative influence on stocking, processing and marketing of agriculture produces which may eventually reduce their production; and inhibit employment generation among the youths in their communities. This agreed with an International Labour Organization (ILO) report on youth employment (2004) which suggests that there are particular difficulties for youth in accessing livelihood opportunities globally, particularly those who are between the age of 15 and 24 year that represent nearly half the world's jobless.

Table 2: Level of availability and accessibility of rural infrastructures and social amenities to the youth n = 125

*Social Amenities and Rural Infrastructure	Availability		Accessibility	
	Yes	No	Yes	No
School	82(65.5)	43(34.4)	73(58.4)	52(41.6)
Hospital	55(44.0)	70(56.0)	47(37.6)	78(62.4)
Roads	75(60.0)	50(40.0)	62(49.6)	63(50.4)
Pipe Borne Water	42(33.6)	83(66.4)	48(38.4)	77(61.6)
Electricity	34(27.2)	91(72.8)	65(52.0)	60(48.0)
Market	69(55.5)	66(44.8)	60(48.0)	65(52.0)
Extension work	53(42.4)	72(57.6)	39(31.2)	81(64.8)
Police station	68(54.4)	57(45.6)	47(37.6)	78(62.4)
Fire service	-	125(100.0)	-	125(100.0)
Agro service centres	55(44.0)	70(56.0)	44(35.2)	81(64.8)
Bore-hole	83(66.4)	42(33.6)	79(63.2)	46(36.8)
Cooperative & Credit society	122(97.6)	3(2.4)	76(60.8)	49(39.2)
Internet facility	46(36.8)	79(63.2)	26(20.8)	99(79.2)
Banks	60(48.0)	65(52.0)	60(48.0)	65(52.0)
Radio centre	-	125(100.0)	-	125(100.0)
Tractor hiring	47(37.6)	78(62.4)	31(24.8)	94(75.2)
Town hall	50(40.0)	75(60.0)	29(23.2)	96(76.8)
Agro-Processing facilities	43(34.4)	82(65.6)	27(21.6)	98(78.4)
Irrigation facilities	-	125(100.0)	-	125(100.0)
Irrigation facilities	-	125(100.0)	-	125(100.0)
Storage facilities	-	125(100.0)	-	125(100.0)
Recreational facilities	-	125(100.0)	-	125(100.0)
Television	60(48.0)	65(52.0)	60(48.0)	65(52)
Cinema house	26(20.8)	99(79.2)	25(20.0)	100(80.0)
Telecommunication	120(96.0)	5(4.0)	120(96.0)	5(4.0)

Source: Field survey, 2011 n = no of respondents () Parentheses are in percent
*Multiple responses

Testing of Hypotheses

Ho1: There is no significant relationship between youth accessibility to rural infrastructure and their socio-economic characteristics.
Results in Table 3 show the situation between selected socio-economic characteristics of youths and the accessibility of youth's to rural infrastructure and social amenities which was defined using Pearson's correlation coefficient. The results from Table 3 show that age was significant (positively correlated) at 1 percent (p = 0.01) with correlation value of 0.322, this is indicative of a relationship between youth

accessibility to rural infrastructure and their socio-economic characteristics which implied that the higher the age of the respondents the higher their accessibility to rural infrastructure. However, there are no significant relationship between youth accessibility to rural infrastructure and their household size (0.070), farm size (-0.126), years of farming (0.057) and level of income (-0.071) respectively.

Table 3: Correlation analysis between youth accessibility to rural infrastructure and their socio-economic characteristics

Variables	r	r2	Remarks
Age	0.322**	0.1037	Significant
Household size	0.070	0.0049	Not Significant
Farm size	-0.126	0.0159	Not Significant
Years of farming	0.057	0.0032	Not Significant
Level of income	-0.071	0.0050	Not Significant

** Correlation is significant at 0.01 level

r- Correlation coefficient

r2- Correlation determinant

Results in Table 4 show the situation between selected socio-economic characteristics of youth and the accessibility of youth to rural infrastructure and social amenities which was defined using Pearson's Chi-Square. The results showed that only level of education/years spent in formal education (χ^2 = 27.349) and occupation (χ^2 = 81.454) had significant association with youth accessibility to rural infrastructure while marital status (χ^2 = 12.087), religion (χ^2 = 18.504) and sex (χ^2 = 19.739) had no significant association with youth accessibility to rural infrastructure. Furthermore, the contingency coefficient (C) values of 0.62, 0.53, 0.23, 0.30 and 0.34 for level of education, major occupation, religion, marital status and sex respectively, revealed that these associations were strong except that of sex. Therefore, the Null hypothesis is rejected.

Table 4: Chi-square analysis showing relationship between youth accessibility to rural infrastructure and their socio-economic characteristics

Variables	χ^2	df	C	Remark
Sex	19.739	1	0.336	Not Significant
Marital Status	12.087	3	0.228	Not Significant
Religion	18.504	2	0.298	Not Significant
Educational Status	27.349	4	0.623	Significant
Primary occupation	81.454	4	0.534	Significant

Source: Field survey, 2011

Level of significant = 0.05

Degree of freedom = df

Contingency coefficient = C

χ^2 = Chi-square

Hypothesis two

Ho2: There is no significant relationship between youth accessibility to rural infrastructure and the availability of these infrastructural facilities to the youth in the study area.
Table 5 show the situation between youth accessibility to rural infrastructure and the availability of these infrastructural facilities which was defined using Pearson's correlation coefficient.
The result in Table 5 show that hospital (r = 0.283), police station (r = 0.705), agro-service centre (r = 0.573), bore-hole (r = 0.615), internet facility (r = 0.703), bank (r = 0.644), tractor hiring (r = 0.237), town hall (r =

0.644), television (r = 0.564) and cinema house (r = 0.909) respectively were all significant at 0.01 level. Pipe-borne water (r = 0.197), market (r = 0.184), co-operative and credit society (r = 0.205), agro-processing facilities (r = 0.201) and telecommunication (r = 0.194) respectively were significant at 0.05 level. This further emphasize that the higher the number of available infrastructural facilities in the study area, the higher the youth accessibility to them, which might enhance their involvement in rural development activities, if development stakeholders and policy makers effectively manage the situation. Therefore, the Null hypothesis is rejected.

Table 5: Correlation analysis showing relationship between youth accessibility to rural infrastructure and the availability of these infrastructural facilities

Variables	r	r2	Remarks
School	-	-	-
Hospital	0.283**	0.3283	S
Roads	-	-	-
Pipe Borne Water	0.197*	0.0388	S
Electricity	0.132	0.0174	NS
Market	0.184*	0.0339	NS
Extension work	0.124	0.0154	NS
Police station	0.705**	0.4970	S
Fire service	-0.086	0.0074	NS
Agro service centre	0.573**	0.0801	S
Bore-hole	0.615**	0.3782	S
Cooperative & Credit society	0.205*	0.0420	S
Internet facility	0.703**	0.4942	S
Banks	0.644**	0.4147	S
Radio centre	-	-	-
Tractor hiring	0.237**	0.0562	S
Town hall	0.644**	0.4147	S
Agro-Processing facilities	0.201*	0.0404	S
Irrigation facilities	-	-	-
Storage facilities	-0.448**	0.2007	S
Recreational facilities	-	-	-
Television	0.564**	0.3181	S
Cinema house	0.909**	0.8263	S
Telecommunication	0.194*	0.0376	S

Source: Field survey, 2011
N- Significant
NS- Not significant
** Correlation is significant at 0.01 level
*Correlation is significant at 0.05 level
r- Correlation coefficient
r2- Correlation determinant

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The study revealed that the inadequacy in the provision of some basic amenities and infrastructures identified in the study area need to be given positive consideration by development stakeholders. This is with view to reduce the already exacerbated problem of rural-urban migration among the youths, as well as absorb youths fully into farming activities which will eventually enhance employment opportunities and food surplus among rural dwellers.

Among other recommendations, it was suggested that in order to exploit the potentials of youths and their relevancy in nation building, there must be increased in coverage and quality of basic infrastructure, utilities, and social amenities most especially to reduce rural-urban migration among the youths. Employment

opportunities can be enhanced among the youth, if adequate attention is given to provision of agro-processing facilities, storage facilities and irrigation facilities among others by agriculture development stakeholders in Nigeria. In addition, for agriculture to enhance sustainability of national food security, provision of loan facilities, adequate extension services, and training opportunities should be provided to rural youths in order to facilitate their involvement in agricultural production.

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USE OF RATTAN FURNITURE FOR HOTEL INTERIOR DECORATION IN OSOGBO, OSUN STATE, NIGERIA

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ABSTRACT

Rattan has been a long-established furnishing material employed for interior decoration in developed countries, but yet to be appreciated in Nigeria. The study examined the extent of use of rattan furniture in hotels in Osogbo and determined the respondents' perception for the use of rattan furniture for hotel interior decoration. Structured questionnaire was administered to 180 respondents (guests/lodgers and workers of the hotels) through multi-stage sampling procedure. Descriptive, chi-square and t-test statistics were employed to analyse the data collected. Results showed that 88.2% and 82.9% of guests/lodgers and workers respectively rated the use of rattan furniture in our hotels as low. The chi-square analysis showed the extent of use as low. $X^2_{\text{Crit}} = 3.84$; $x^2 \text{ Cal} = 53.777$, $df = 1$, $p < 0.05$). From the findings in this work, the use and integration of local materials such as rattan into hotel interior decoration is recommended as this may evolve a new fashion trend in tourism and hotel management in Nigeria.

Keywords: Rattan furniture, Interior decoration, Hotels, Tourism.

INTRODUCTION

There have been a number of research projects carried out to investigate the factors that influence the consumers' selection of accommodation. Many have found that comfort is considered as one of the most important factors affecting selection of accommodation. Lockyer (2003) observed that guest expectations were often not being met when it comes to adequate comfortability with particular reference to the lobbies, porches and reception foyers. Decoration can create a sense of comfortability when the available spaces are so designed to place various forms and sizes of articles in an orderly manner to create a pleasant and useful environment. The art of interior decoration have been practised from time immemorial and was conceived when the first element of comfort, convenience and attempts at beautifying the dwellings were introduced. Ball (2002) defined interior decoration as the art of beautifying a room so that it is attractive, easy to use and functions well with the existing architecture. The goal of interior decoration is to provide a certain “feel” for the room. Ball (2002) asserted that proper interior decoration will bring the customers back again and again to visit the hotel. Also, customers depart with an elated satisfaction not because of the tasty food alone but because of the atmosphere that has acted as an appetizer. The experience is usually unforgettable and creates a lasting impression on the customers. The whole decoration and interior will bring different experience for the user. In this regard, interior decoration can also be seen as the planning, layout and design of the interior spaces within the building.

In addition, Ball (2002) noted that physical settings in the home interior enhance basic need for comfortable living and conducive environment. Decent physical settings set the stage for and influence the shape of human activities, nurture his aspirations and express the ideas that accompany his actions.

Furnishing is one category of design elements that lies almost wholly within the realm of interior decoration. While walls, floors, ceilings, windows, and doors are established in the architectural design of the building, the selection and arrangement of moveable interior elements (like furniture) are major tasks of interior decoration because furniture contributes to the visual character of interior settings.

Furniture could, depending on the quality of its design, either offers or limits physical comfort in a real and tangible way. Our bodies will tell us if a chair is comfortable or not. There is definite feedback that tells us whether a piece of furniture is appropriate for its intended use. Furniture may be constructed of wood, metal or

plastic and other synthetic materials. Hoadley (2000) opined that wood is one of the most important forest products widely employed for making furniture for homes. Anyakoha (1999) asserted that wood furniture is often heavy and could not be moved around easily. It is often attacked by termites and could twist out of shape if not properly treated and seasoned. Smith and Hashemi (2010) added that iron which is the widely used of all the metals could be used in the form of steel for making furniture. But steel is expensive and was only used where no cheaper alternative existed. Anyakoha (1999) also examined the disadvantages of using metal and plastic for interior home furnishing and concluded that metals are expensive, heavy, get corroded easily and can damage the floor or floor covering when moved. Plastics are breakable, colours fade with time and could hardly withstand the stress of day to day use. One of the materials used extensively for furnishing in other parts of the world is rattan. Rattan is a thinner natural material used for making furniture such as sofa set, tables, bars, stools, trolley, and other household items. Paul and Yavitt (2010) indicated that rattan is popular because of its light weight, durability natural pleasantness and toughness and can offer a variety of quality designs to suit various styles. The use of rattan is considered to be economical and combines strength with flexibility in a way that stimulates and relieves the body without compressing tissues and nerves. Existing studies on decoration have emphasized wood, metal and plastic-based materials which lack the expected aesthetic quality required in hotels and interior home furnishing. The all-important use of rattan-based furniture is left unexplored. This gap in research has constituted a problem which the present study hopes to solve. The objective of the study was to assess the use of rattan furniture for interior decoration of hotels in Osogbo, Osun State of Nigeria with the view to showcasing the beauty of rattan furniture and promote its use for interior decoration.

Research hypotheses

1. There is no significant relationship between the lodgers and workers perception for the use of rattan furniture in hotels.
2. There is no significant relationship between the lodgers and workers perception on the extent of use of rattan and wood furniture materials in hotels.
3. There is no significant difference between the lodgers and workers perception for the use of rattan furniture in hotels.

METHODOLOGY

The study was carried out in Osogbo a city in Nigeria, the capital of Osun State and Local Government Area. The Local Government Area has an area of 47km² and a population of 156,694 at the 2006 census (Nigeria Department of Statistics 2006 Census Details) the postal code of the area is 230. The major crafts of the people are rattan furniture making and resist fabric production. Stratified multi-stage sampling procedure (a sample of secondary units were selected from each primary units) was used in selecting 180 respondents which comprised of 110 guests or lodgers and 70 workers of the hotels. The hotels involved in the study were: Leisure Spring, Royal Spring Holiday Inn, Palm Crest, Zarah, and Heritage hotels all five star.

Data was collected between the months of July and August 2010 when the World Heritage Festival, Osun Osogbo was being celebrated. Tourists from different nations such as Brazil, Cuba, Trinidad, Grenada, and United States of America, to mention but a few take pleasure in visiting Osogbo. They also lodge in beautifully decorated hotels in the process. This makes Osun festival a good reference time for this study because it actually helped to get a wider view of respondents about hotel interior decoration. Questionnaire was used to elicit information on the socio-economic data of respondents, extent of use of rattan furniture and their perception for the use of rattan furniture for hotel interior decoration.

Data collected was analysed using descriptive tools while chi-square and t-test statistics were used to test the hypotheses. Plates were shown to the respondents to determine their perception on the use of rattan furniture for hotel interior decoration.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The socio-economic characteristics of respondents as regards age, educational qualifications and occupation is shown in Table 1. From the table, 74.6% and 92.9% of lodgers and workers respectively belonged to age group between 20 – 49 years. Concerning their educational qualifications, majority 99.1% and 100.0% of lodgers, and workers respectively were literates i.e. possess Teachers Grade II to first degree and above. As

regards occupation, artisan and civil servant form the majority that 89.1% of lodgers visited the hotel. This may be due to the fact that an annual International Festival is always being held in Osogbo, Osun State and this attracted different people into the state therefore, their work as artisans or civil servants make them use hotel facilities more. Also, during this period, they would have been exposed to the properties and benefits of rattan products thereby making them desirable items for use in home decoration.

Table 2 shows the chi-square analysis of respondents' socio-economic characteristics. From the table, it is shown that all the variables i.e. age (χ^2 -27.823,p-0.033), educational qualifications (χ^2 -14.237,p-0.007), and occupation(χ^2 -48.172,p-0.010) had a significant relationship with their perception for the use of rattan furniture for hotel interior. This implies that majority of respondents belonged to active age who indicated interest in furniture that is attractive, comfortable and different from the common furniture available around because of its aesthetic pleasantness, as stated by Olorunnisola (1994). Their educational background is an influence on their choosing furniture with beautiful designs that can lend a visual interest to the room where it is used.

Table 1:\Socio-economic characteristics of respondents as regards Age, Educational Qualifications and Occupation

AGE(yrs)	Lodgers		Workers	
	Freq	%	Freq	%
Below 20	13	11.8	3	4.3
20-29	33	30.0	14	20.0
30-39	39	35.5	28	40.0
40-49	10	9.1	23	32.9
50 & above	15	13.6	2	2.9
Total	110	100.0	70	100.0

Educational Qualifications	Freq	%	Freq	%
None	1	0.9	-	-
Tr. Grade II, GCE, WASC	18	16.4	11	15.7
OND/NCE	21	19.1	8	11.4
B.Sc, HND and above	70	63.6	51	72.9
Total	110	100.0	70	100.0

Occupation	Freq	%
Artisan	50	45.5
Civil servant	48	43.6
Students	9	8.2
Journalist	3	2.7
Total	110	100.0

Table 2: Chi-square analysis of the variables

Variable	χ^2	CC	df	p-value
Age	27.823	26.3	16	0.033*
Educational qualifications	14.237	9.49	4	0.007*
Occupation	48.172	41.3	28	0.010*

From Table 3, majority of the lodgers (88.2%) and worker (82.9%) attested that the use of rattan-based furniture is low and wood furniture high in hotels, they visited or managed. The chi-square analysis shows that there is a significant relationship in the perception of the extent of use of rattan-based furniture and wood furniture in hotels. (χ^2 – Crit = 3.84, χ^2 – Cal = 1.014, df = 1, p < .05). The χ^2 – Crit is greater than the χ^2 – Cal. This shows that the guests/lodgers rated the use of rattan furniture in hotels as low and wood as high. This corroborates the study of Mohmod (2000) which states that rattan furniture was mostly used as outdoors/garden or summer furniture because it was sold uncoloured. This may pose a set back to the demand of rattan products. Nowadays, coloured rattan furniture are available for use both in and out of doors. To boost its patronage, adequate and vigorous publicity of the product and its advantages should be made known to its potential users.

Table 3:\Analysis of respondents' perception on the extent of use of rattan-based/wood furniture in hotels

Extent of Use of Rattan-based/ Wood Furniture	Category	χ^2 Crit.	χ^2 Cal.	Df	P
	Lodgers Freq. (%)		Workers Freq. (%)		
Rattan	97(88.2)	3.84	58(82.9)	1	.314
Wood	13(11.8)		12(17.1)		

Table 4 reveals that majority (61.1% and 61.4%) of lodgers and workers showed positive disposition to rattan furniture usage for interior decoration of hotels. This could be because most of the respondents were literates who may have travelled far and wide and have seen the type of furniture materials used for hotel interior decoration. Rattan furniture can be integrated into hotels and in turn may evolve a new fashion trend in tourism and hospitality management in Nigeria. Tourism being an act of movement of individuals and group to visiting unfamiliar environment to explore the new borough. The natural aesthetic qualities of rattan may enhance tourism and encourage foreigners who are interested in creative art works to seek to check in into such hotels. The chi-square analysis shows that there is significant relationship between rattan furniture usage and respondents' socio-economic characteristics . (χ^2 –Crit = 3.84, χ^2 – Cal = 53.777, df = 1, p < .05). The χ^2 – Crit is less than χ^2 – Cal.

Table 4:Analysis of respondents' perception for rattan furniture usage for interior decoration

Category	Use		χ^2 Crit		χ^2 Cal	df	P	
	Freq	A %	D Freq x	%				
Lodgers (110)	68	61.1	42	38.9	3.84	53.777	1	.000
Workers (70)	43	61.4	27	38.6				

Note: A = Agree, D = Disagree

Table 5 shows that there is no significant difference between the respondents' perception for the use of rattan furniture in the hotels (crit-t-2.0,cal-t= .559, df=1,p-.578) i.e. the mean score is the same which shows that both guests and workers showed positive disposition toward the of rattan furniture use for interior decoration of hotels.

Table 5:T-test analysis of respondents' perception for rattan furniture usage for interior decoration

Rattan furniture usage	N	Mean	Std. Dev.	Crit-t	Cal-t	df	p
Workers	70	53.6316	7.63916				
	2.0	0.559	68	0.578			
Guests/Lodgers	110	52.5098	7.39560				

CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION

Furniture used for hotel interiors are made of different materials such as wood, iron and plastic. However, the use of rattan furniture for hotel interiors will add to the list of materials available locally for furnishing. It was noted that the extent of use of rattan furniture is low despite the positive comments made by respondents about the qualities inherent in rattan. Therefore, its desirable attributes should be showcased to encourage its adoption for hotel interior decoration as this will make many individuals go into the business of rattan furniture production as a source of providing means of livelihood to alleviate poverty in the land.

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**CHILDREN AND INCOME GENERATING ACTIVITIES
IN THE RURAL COMMUNITIES OF AKWA IBOM STATE, NIGERIA**

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ABSTRACT

The main purpose of the study was to investigate the level of involvement of children in income generating activities in the rural communities in Akwa Ibom State. The population consisted children between the ages of 7 and 18. The sample size of 240 was selected from eight schools in the area using the multistage sampling technique. Data collected were analyzed using frequency counts, percentages and mean scores for the research questions, while chi-square was used to test the hypothesis. Results show that over 92% of the children (both in primary and secondary schools) were actively involved in various income generating activities for their families. These include crop farming, cassava processing/sales, livestock rearing, petty trading, oil palm harvesting/processing, food gathering, water leaf planting/sales, firewood collection/sales, weeding, bush/lawn clearing, neighbourhood hunting, selling cooked food/snacks, childcare and stream fishing. It was revealed that involvement in income generating activities benefitted the children and their families in areas of having money to buy books, providing money for feeding and buying clothing materials, providing pocket money for emergencies, developing a sense of responsibility in the children, and preparing them for adult roles. Majority of the children had positive perceptions about their involvement in income generating activities, but claim that their involvements in these activities do affect their school performance. Significant associations were found to exist between gender and certain types of income generating activities, as boys and girls dominated in certain types of activities based on the traditional gendered division of labour. Recommendations were made that children should be allowed enough time for their school work, rest and recreation; the state government should complement its free and compulsory education by providing books, uniforms and other materials, so that poor children need not to generate income to buy school materials; while the federal government should enforce labour restrictions and anti-child labour legislation, to prevent children from regular and sustained labour employment which is defined as child labour.

Key words: Children, child labour, poverty, rural families, income generating activities, survival.

INTRODUCTION

Poverty is one of the major challenges facing many rural families. Poverty is the condition of not having enough income to meet basic subsistence needs (Bankston, 2000). Households are also said to be poor if they live below poverty line (i.e. below the level of income deemed necessary to provide a decent standard of living (Carbett, 2006).

It has been observed that although revenues from crude oil have been increasing over the past decades, Nigerian people have been falling deeper into poverty (NEEDS NIGERIA, 2004). World Bank (2002) reports that the poor in Nigeria have a cash income that is insufficient to cover minimum standard of food, water, fuel, shelter, medical care and schooling; and that poor people are also more likely to live in rural areas, be less educated and have larger families than the rest of the population.

In order to survive and reduce their poverty profile, many rural families engage in income generating/livelihood activities. Olawoye (2002) observed that people of the Third World derive their livelihoods in a variety of ways including different types of crop farming, livestock rearing, trading, fishing or hunting, gathering non-timber forest products, and working as hired labourers among others. Asa (2008) confirmed that rural dwellers in Akwa Ibom State also engage in numerous of these livelihood activities, that incomes they earn from these activities significantly reduce their poverty level. Incomes from rural livelihoods also serve as emergency source of funds for rural families (Brown, 2008).

Children are important assets to rural dwellers, though their large numbers further deplete their family's income, thereby increasing the poverty profile of rural families. A child is any human being below the age of 18 (United Nations, 1998). Olaitan and Akpan (2003) observed that children are important in the family because they contribute to the improvement of their parent's status and also play vital roles in the economic survival of the family.

In trying to increase their economic base, reduce poverty and ensure food security, most rural communities involve their children in many economic and income generating activities. Torimiro (2009) observed that as a way of devising coping mechanisms for survival, rural people have had to harness their children's potential by engaging them in on-farm and off-farm economic activities. Parents also utilize the labour provided by their children for prompt completion of certain livelihood or income generating activities. Olaniyi (2009) posited that in search of financial relief from the avalanche of economic and social distress, some parents depended on the labour of the children. Certain tasks involved in some income generating activities also are specifically assigned to children. Osemweige (1998) found that most parents absolutely depended on the proceeds from their children's labour for their daily survival. Most often children on their own venture into livelihood activities to generate incomes for self use, such as for buying food in the absence of family meals, books, clothing materials, etc.

There are varying views on the participation of children in their families' income generating activities. Torimiro (2009) posited that engaging children in economic activities is a contextual issue; that in a typical African setting, for instance, children are normally socialized into work. Rice (1995) observed that assigning tasks is a developmental process that helps children to build character, develop responsibility, learn the tasks, and earn an allowance; and the need to keep busy. The International Labour Organization, ILO (2005) views work that deprives children of their childhood, their potential, and their dignity, and that is harmful to physical and mental development as child labour. Okafor (2010) argues that it is important not to confuse child labour with activities that assist a child's development, such as helping around the house, doing chores, and assisting in the family business to earn extra money during the school holidays.

Many international organizations such as UNICEF and the International Labour Organization (ILO), view the involvement of children in work (such as income generating activities) as child labour. For instance, helping in the parents' business, having ones' own business (for example selling food), or doing odd jobs are listed as child labour (Child labour, n.d). But many parents do not consider these as child labour. Research studies show that majority children engage in various economic and productive activities with the consent of their parents (Torimiro, 2009; Soyebó, 2012). In many traditional communities, children are expected to take part, not only in household chores, but also in whatever business or livelihood activity the family is engaged. This perhaps may be what encouraged polygamy in traditional societies, where many children from various wives were expected to help in farming which was then the main occupation of the people. Poor rural people without alternative option still employ the services of their children in generating income for the family. Olaniyi (2009) posited that poor families added children to the family labour force to generate income to meet their subsistence and school fees. UNICEF (1997) maintains that as long as there is family poverty, there will be child labour.

Many rural parents do not consider as child labour, the involvement of children in informal work that generates income for the family, and the views of many children may also not be different. Oloko (1997) explains that a child who does some odd jobs which do not disturb his schooling and other aspects of his welfare for neighbours after school to earn the needed pocket money is not engaged in child labour. Involving children in certain income generating activities may give children opportunity to learn adult roles and other developmental benefits, showing that some kind of work is beneficial. It is generally accepted that work can and does influence the children's learning and their ability to cope with different situations, creates opportunities for self-expression, helps children to relate learning with life, give satisfaction; and be a source of education, training and income (Soyebó, 2012). Some youth rights groups, in support of some form of work for children feel that prohibiting work below a certain age violates human rights, reducing children's options and leaving them subject to the whims of those with money (Child labour, n.d.).

The Akwa Ibom State Government recently introduced the free and compulsory education to help poor children to go to school, yet many children from poor rural households still engage in income generating activities of their families. These they do before leaving for school in the morning or immediately they return from school, and during holidays. Oloko (1997), ILO (2001), reported that some children combine economic activities with schooling. Others, in extreme poverty, do not seem to see the need to go to school under severe hunger hence, they ignore the free education policy and continue in one income generating activity or the other, while any income earned is usually ploughed back into their families for survival. According to Torimiro (2009), it is expected that the interest of the children will be highly sustained in their studies if proceeds from economic ventures are expended on their education.

There is no empirical data on the level of involvement of children in income generating activities in the rural communities of Akwa Ibom State. The views of children concerning their involvement in income generating activities, and how involvement in income generating activities affect their schooling in the midst of the free and compulsory education policy in the state also need to be explored. Against this background, attempts were made to provide answers to the following research questions: What is the percentage of children are involved in income generating activities in the rural communities of Akwa Ibom State? What are the specific incomes generating activities engaged by children in the study area? Do children in the rural communities of Akwa Ibom State have positive or negative perception about their involvement in income generating activities? What benefits do children and their families in the study area derive from children's involvement in income generating activities? What are the perceived effects of children's involvement in income generating activities on their schooling?

Purpose of the study

the major purpose of the study was to investigate the level of involvement of children in income generating activities in the rural communities in Akwa Ibom State. Specifically, the study sought to:

- (i) Determine the percentage of children involved in income generating activities for their families.
- (ii) Identify the income generating activities in which children in the area engage in.
- (iii) Determine the perception of children in the study area about their involvement in income generating activities.
- (iv) Ascertain the benefits derived by the children and their families from involvement in income generating activities.
- (v) Ascertain the perceived effects of children's involvement in income generating activities, on the children's schooling.

Hypothesis

Ho1: There is no significant association between gender and types of income generating activities of children in the rural communities of Akwa Ibom State.

METHODOLOGY

Area of the study: The study was conducted in Mkpát Enin Local Government Area, one of the 31 Local Government Areas in Akwa Ibom State. The Local Government Area is made up four clans and 14 electoral wards. The main occupations of people in the area are farming and fishing. The area is largely rural with overall poverty profile of 56.2% and 33.1% identified as core poor (Poverty Profile of Akwa Ibom State, 2001 as cited in AK-SEEDS, 2004).

Population for the study: The population for the study comprised all children between the ages of 7 and 18 in Mkpát Enin Local Government Area, of Akwa Ibom State.

Sample and sampling technique: Multistage sampling procedure was used to select a sample size of 240 respondents. The first stage involved selection of the four clans that make up the area. The second stage involved purposive selection of 2 schools (1 primary and 1 secondary) from each of the four clans giving a total of 4 primary schools and 4 secondary schools. The last stage involved random sampling of 30 students from each of the eight schools selected for the study to give a total of 240 respondents.

Instrument for data collection: A structured questionnaire containing 2 sections was used for data collection. Section A of the questionnaire elicited information on the personal characteristics of the respondents, while questions in Section B of the questionnaire were based on the objectives of the study. The questions on the negative effects of involvement in income generating activities contained four- point scale questions in which the respondents were required to choose from Strongly Agree (SA), Agree (A), Disagree (D), and Strongly Disagree (SD). These were scored 4, 3, 2, 1 point respectively on the scale. The questionnaire was validated by two lecturers in the Department of Home Economics, University of Uyo. Test – retest reliability was used to test the reliability of the instrument, and a reliability coefficient of 0.96 was obtained.

Data collection and analysis technique

The researcher visited the selected schools and obtained permission from the headmasters/mistresses or the principals as was the case. 30 copies of the questionnaire were randomly distributed by hand to students in primary one to six in each of the four primary schools, while 15 copies were administered to students in junior

secondary one to three and senior secondary one to three respectively in each of the four secondary schools. Students in senior classes who were able to read and comprehend the contents of the questions were guided to complete the questionnaire correctly. The questionnaire also served as interview schedule to primary school students and those in other classes who could not read and understand, while their responses were recorded in the appropriate columns in the questionnaire. Data collected were analysed using frequencies, percentages and mean scores for the research questions; and Chi-square to test the hypothesis. For the four - points scale questions, a weighted mean score of 2.5 and above was agreed as acceptable response while a mean score below 2.5 was disagreed and rated as unacceptable response.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

Distribution on personal characteristics of the respondent showed that 47.5% of the respondents were males while 52.5% were females, 29.2% of the respondents were in the age range of 7-12 years, 36.7% were between age 13 and 15, while 34.1% were those between 16-18 years. 50% of the respondents were in primary schools and 50% were pursuing their secondary education. Research question 1: What is the percentage of children involved in income generating activities in the rural communities of Akwa Ibom State?

Table 1: Percentage of children involved in income generating activities in the rural communities of Akwa Ibom State

Responses	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Yes	222	92.5
No	18	7.5
Total	240	100

Table 1 show that 92.5% of the respondents were involved in income generating activities, while only 7.5% are not involved in such activities, meaning that even children in primary schools equally take part in these activities. This corroborates Torimiro (2009), who observed that as a way of devising coping mechanisms for survival, rural people have had to harness their children's potential by engaging them in on-farm and off-farm economic activities. Olaniyi (2009) also posited that in search of financial relief from the avalanche of economic and social distress, some parents depended on the labour of their children. Some studies revealed that most parents absolutely depended on the proceeds from their children's labour for their daily survival (Osemweige, 1998; Torimiro, 2009). Research question 2: What are the specific incomes generating activities engaged by children in the study area?

Table 2: Incomes generating activities in which children in the rural communities of Akwa Ibom State are engaged.

S/N	Income generating Activities	Frequency	Percentage (%) **
1.	Crop farming	174	72.5
2.	Petty trading	128	53.33
3.	Livestock rearing (goats & poultry)	181	67.18
4.	Food gathering	96	40.00
5.	Selling cooked food/snacks	46	19.21
6.	Oil palm harvesting and processing	106	44.26
7.	Cassava processing for sales	162	67.5
8.	Stream fishing	38	15.8
9.	Waterleaf planting/sales	92	38.3
10.	Neighbourhood hunting	56	23.3
11.	Firewood collection and sales	88	36.7
12.	Hired for bush/lawn clearing	66	27.5
13.	Hired for weeding	72	30.0
14.	Child care	39	16.3

** Multiple responses

Findings from Table 2 shows that children in the rural communities in Akwa Ibom State, engage in various income generating activities for their families such as crop farming (72.5%), cassava processing and sales (67.5%), livestock rearing (67.1), petty trading (53.3%), oil palm harvesting and processing (44.2%), food gathering (40%), water leaf planting and sales (38.3%), firewood collection and sales (36.1%), hired for weeding (30%), hired for bush/lawn clearing (27.5%); and neighbourhood hunting (23.3%). The least engaged income generating activities were selling cooked food and snacks (19.2%), child care (16.3%) and stream fishing (15.8%). Multiple responses were recorded here implying that the respondents engaged in more than one type of income generating activity. This shows that the children were exposed to varied income generating ventures, but that they were not involved in all of them concurrently. That crop farming, livestock rearing, and petty trading are ranked among the highest in this study is in line with that of Asa (2003) who reported that crop farming, trading and livestock rearing were the major livelihood activities of rural people in Akwa Ibom State. This also corroborates Oyekunle (1999) that children help their parents in the areas of planting, weeding, harvesting and processing. Torimiro (2009) however found that the types of work in which children were engaged included; carrying of planks in sawmills (25.71 per cent), hawking and selling of different kinds of goods in the street (54.29 per cent), and bus conducting in motor-garages (20.00 per cent), which he considered were the worst forms of child labour of the hazardous category, as 57.14 per cent of the children usually work for less than 43 hours per week, while 42.86 per cent put more than 43 hours into their respective labour per week. Soyebo (2012) also found that the respondents in his study involved their children in land clearing, stumping, ridging, thinning, weeding, supplying, harvesting, pesticides application, cassava processing, oil palm processing, and cocoa processing, livestock feeding, hunting, monitoring of traps, sale of produce, planting and fertilizer application. The variations here lie in the fact while this study focused on school children in rural a community, whereas about 20percent of the children in Torimiro's study were not enrolled in school; while farmers were the respondents in Soyebo's study.

Research questions 3: Do children in the rural communities of Akwa Ibom State have positive or negative perceptions about their involvement in income generating activities?

Table 3: Percentage responses on children's perception about involvement in income generating activities

Perceptions	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Positive	184	76.7
Negative	56	23.3
Total	240	100

Table 3 shows that 76.7% of the children had positive perceptions about their involvement in income generating activities, while only 23.3% had negative perceptions. This does not however mean that the children accepted their involvement in these activities as normal part of life. Studies have shown that children are often prompted to work by their parents because of the poor household economic situation (Torimiro and Lawal, 2001; Torimiro, and Lawal, 2002).

Research question 4: What benefits do children and their families in the study area derive from children's involvement in income generating activities?

Table 4: Percentage analysis of the benefits derived from children's involvement in income generating activities.

Benefits	Frequency	Percentage (%) **
Provides the family with additional feeding money	218	90.8
Provides money for books and other school needs	226	94.3
Provides pocket money for other emergencies	108	45.0
Provides money for clothing materials	196	81.7
Helps to develop a sense of responsibility	165	68.8
Preparation for adult roles	135	56.3
Keeps busy thereby preventing from joining bad company	84	35.0
Having enough money to my snacks in school	46	19.2

** Multiple responses

Table 4 revealed that children in the study identified providing money for books and other school needs (94.3%) as the highest benefit derived from engagement in income generating activities, followed by providing the family with additional income for feeding (90.8%) and provision of money for clothing materials (81.7%). Other benefits were; developing a sense of responsibility (68.8%), preparation for adult roles (56.3%), providing pocket money for emergencies (45%) and keeping busy to escape bad companies (35%). Having money to buy snacks in school (19.2%) was not considered as a major benefit. The findings support Asa (2008) that incomes earned from livelihood activities significantly decreased the poverty levels of rural dwellers in Akwa Ibom State, and Brown (2008) that incomes from livelihoods also serve as emergency source of funds for rural families. Torimiro (2009) maintains that children are engaged in economic activities for a variety of reasons, the most important being poverty and the induced pressure upon them to escape from its trap. The cost saved through children involvement could be used to procure some necessities such as uniforms, textbooks and other materials that may be needed to enhance the children's learning in school (Soyebo, 2012).

Research question 5: What are the perceive effects of children's involvement in income generating activities on schooling?

Table 5a: Percentage responses on whether involvements in income generating activities do affect their schooling

Responses	Frequency	Percentage
Yes	172	71.7
No	68	28.3
Total	240	100

Table 5a revealed that 71.7% of the children indicated that their involvement in income generating activities affected their schooling, while only 28.3% indicated that they were not affected. This shows that though the respondents' had positive perceptions about their involvement in these activities they also suffered negative consequences especially in the area of schooling.

Table 5b: Mean responses on the negative effects of involvement in income generating activities on schooling

S/N	Negative effects experienced	Weighted Mean	Decision
1	Lower examination scores	2.87	Agree
2	Lateness to school	2.78	Agree
3	Lack of time for extra lesson	3.08	Agree
4	Lack of time for home work	3.02	Agree
5	Loss of interest in school	2.05	Disagree
6	Frequent absenteeism especially on market days	2.94	Agree
7	Lack of concentration while in school	2.12	Disagree
8	Tiredness from much work done at home usually resulting in sleeping during lessons	3.03	Agree

Table 5b shows that the respondents agreed to six out of the eight items with weighted mean scores of 2.5 and above. The negative effects of involvement in income generating activities on schooling as agreed by the respondents were in order of importance; lack of time for extra lesson (3.08), tiredness from much work done at home, often resulting in sleeping during lessons (3.03), lack of time for home work (3.02), frequent absenteeism (2.94), lower exams scores (2.87), and lateness to school (2.78). They disagreed to the views that involvement in income generating activities resulted in loss of interest in schooling (2.5), and lack of concentration while in school (2.12). This implies that the respondents though suffering various negative effects of involvement in income generating activities still have interests in going to school, not deterred by whatever negative effects they were facing and are ready to cash in on the state governments' free education to

help take them out of poverty. It also shows that respondents do not lack concentration in school though they may at times fall asleep because of excessive tiredness. That the respondents are experiencing these negative effects on schooling is in deviance to the observation that children's work needs to be seen as happening along a continuum, with destructive or exploitative work at one end and beneficial work – promoting or enhancing children's development without interfering with their schooling, recreation and rest (Child labour: Frequently asked question, n.d). Oloko (1997) affirmed that a child who does some odd jobs for neighbours and friends after school to earn needed pocket money; in as much as such jobs do not disturb his or her schooling or other aspects of his/her welfare is not engaged in child labour. Okafor (2010) argues that when children work as wage earners outside the homes to survive and supplement the family incomes, it may solve some family economic problems and create new ones both for children and the society.

Hypothesis Testing

Ho1: There is no significant association between gender and types of income generating activities of children in the rural communities of Akwa Ibom State.

Table 6: Chi-Square Analyses of association between gender and types of income generating activities of children in the rural communities of Akwa Ibom State.

S/N	Perceived Effects	Sex	D	E	Cal x2	Critical x2	Remarks
1	Crop farming	M	84	87.5	0.28	0.597	Not Sig.
		F	91				
		Total	175	87.5			
2	Petty trading	M	63	64.0	.031	.860	Not Sig.
		F	65				
		Total	128	64.0			
3	Livestock rearing (goats & poultry)	M	83		.155	.694	Not Sig.
		F	78	80.5			
		Total	161	80.5			
4	Food gathering	M	51	45.5	1.330	.249	Not Sig.
		F	40	45.5			
		Total	91	45.5			
5	Selling cooked food/snacks	M	9	23.0	17.043	**.000	Significant
		F	37	23.0			
		Total	46	23.0			
6	Oil palm harvesting and processing	M	52	53.0	0.036	.846	Not Sig.
		F	54	53.0			
		Total	106	53.0			
7	Cassava processing for sale	M	35	81.0	52.247	**000	Significant
		F	127	81.0			
		Total	162	81.0			
8	Stream fishing	M	30	17.0	19.882	**.000	Significant
		F	4	17.0			
		Total	34	17.0			
9	Waterleaf planting/sales	M	5	46.0	73.087	**.000	Significant
		F	87	46.0			
		Total	92	46.0			
10	Neighbourhood hunting	M	56	30.5	42.639	**.000	Significant
		F	5	30.5			
		Total	61	30.5			
11	Firewood collection and sales	M	37	44.0	2.227	.136	Not Sig.
		F	51	44.0			
		Total	88	44.0			
12	Hired for bush/lawn clearing	M	58	33.0	37.879	**.000	Significant
		F	8	33.0			
		Total	66	33.0			
13	Hired for weeding	M	5	38.5	58.299	**.000	Significant
		F	72	38.5			
		Total	77	38.5			
14	Child care	M	2	20.5	33.390	.**000	Significant
		F	39	20.5			
		Total	41	20.5			

** Significant at < 0.05 level

Table 6 shows that significant association existed between gender and the types of income generating activities of children in the rural communities in Akwa Ibom State. Boys dominated in stream fishing, neighbourhood hunting and hiring for bush /lawn clearing, while girls dominated in selling cooked foods/snacks, cassava processing/sales, waterleaf planting/sales, being hired for weeding and child care, - mostly work done at home. Significant association were not found between gender and other types of income generating activities such as crop farming, petty trading, livestock rearing, food gathering, oil palm harvesting/processing, and firewood collection and sales. Further enquiry revealed that specific works done by the males and females differed, based on the traditional gendered division of labour. The findings are in line with Imoh and Nwachuku (2009) that certain tasks, activities and enterprises are regarded as masculine/feminine in some societies. According to Torimiro (2009), tasks that are energetic are expected to be assigned to the male gender, while those that require patience and less energy exertion are ethically meant for the girls.

CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION

The main purpose of the study was to investigate the level of involvement of children in income generating activities in the rural communities in Akwa Ibom State. It has been revealed that children in the area are actively involved in generating income activities and at times the only sources of income in poor rural families. Findings revealed that income generating activities engaged by the children include; crop farming, cassava processing/sales, livestock rearing, petty trading, oil palm harvesting/processing, food gathering, water leaf planting/sales, firewood collection/sales, hired for weeding, bush/lawn clearing, neighbourhood hunting, selling cooked food/snacks, childcare and stream fishing. Poverty is believed to be the main reason for involving in these activities, as the findings of the study revealed that involvement in income generating activities benefited the children and their families in areas of having money to buy books, providing money for feeding and buying clothing materials, providing pocket money for emergencies, developing a sense of responsibility in the children, and preparing them for adult roles among others.

Majority of the children had positive perceptions about their involvement in income generating activities, but claim that their involvements in these activities affected their schooling. Findings revealed that involvement in income generating activities negatively affected schooling in areas such as lack of time for extra lessons and home work, sleeping during lessons as a result of tiredness, lower examination scores, frequent absenteeism and lateness to school. Significant associations were found to exist between gender and certain types of income generating activities of children in the study as boys and girls dominated in certain types of activities based on the traditional gendered division of labour.

Involvement of children in income generating activities in the rural communities in Akwa Ibom State as revealed in this study is seen as a survival strategy and not child labour or abuse as the children were still going to school despite their involvement. Because of their poverty profile which is reported to be high in the area, the children feel obligated to help their families to ensure survival, reduce food insecurity and poverty levels; and meet educational demands. This however does not mean that generating income for the family should be left to the children. As observed by Oloko (1997), a child who does some odd jobs which do not disturb his schooling and other aspects of his welfare after school to earn needed pocket money is not engaged in child labour in African context. The experience gained from these activities may give children opportunity to learn adult roles and other developmental benefits. These with more education and improved infrastructure in the rural areas could encourage entrepreneurship which is the only solution to unemployment. Children should however be allowed enough time for their school work, rest and recreation. The state government should complement its free and compulsory education by providing books and other materials, so that poor children need not to generate income to buy school materials. Federal and state governments should enforce labour restrictions and anti-child labour legislation, to prevent children from regular and sustained labour employment which is defined as child labour.

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MOTHERS' ANGER ON TEENAGERS' PSYCHOSOCIAL BEHAVIOUR- SELECTED TEENAGERS PERCEPTION

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ABSTRACT

This study investigated teenagers' perception of mothers' anger on their psychosocial behaviour in Abeokuta metropolis. Structured questionnaire was used to elicit responses from 159 conveniently drawn teenagers between the age bracket of 13 and 19 from four educational study centers in the study area. The validity of the instrument revealed Alpha 0.87 and Guttman split is 0.80. Data collected was analyzed using descriptive statistics. Results showed that one in every two (56%) teenagers perceived parent to be unstable extrovert. Teenagers experienced slapping (75%) of physical abuse, deprivation of love (66%) of emotional abuse, and name calling (69%) of verbal abuse. The study further revealed psychosocial behaviour exhibited by teenagers' as; poor self-worth (81%), dependency (78%). This study concludes that mothers' anger has adverse effect on the psychosocial behavior of teenagers. It was therefore recommended that mothers should be mindful of how they throw temper tantrums on their teenagers, learn to spend quality time impacting desirable behavior on their teenagers; setting limits on both their deficit and excesses behavior. Mothers' infliction of physical and emotional abuses on teenagers will only drive the teenagers away from their mothers leaving them in the hands of undue influence of peer group.

Keywords: Mother, Anger, Teenager, Psychosocial behaviour

INTRODUCTION

Extensive research shows that mothers play a crucial and exclusive role in shaping the lives of their children's thoughts, emotions, feelings and behavior than anyone else. The influence of mothers on children begins from their mothers' womb that is, as a fetus to birth and this last a lifetime. Mothers are therefore children's first teachers as well as role models.

As children grow into their teen years, they start believing in their abilities to take serious decisions with or without their parent. Parent on the other hand, feel they have the right to control and dominate the child in a more coercive way. When this becomes impossible with their teenage child, they become very angry and find it difficult to manage their anger towards their teens yet the relationship between parent's attitude and children's psychosocial behaviour is crucial during teenagehood (Toby, 2000).

Many parent especially mothers' dread the onset of teenagehood, fearing that their teenage children will become hostile and rebellious and begin to reject parental guidance or even abandon their family. Although, it is incorrect to characterize teenage years as a time when mother ceases to be important or a time of inherent and inevitable family conflict. What many mother fails to know or appreciate is that teenagehood is a period of significant change in the life of teenager which calls for a closer parent-child relationship (Weismer, 2006).

Parent-child relationship changes most around the time of puberty, with increasing conflicting and decreasing closeness occurring between some parents and their teenagers. Changes in the way teenagers view family rules and regulations may contribute to increase disagreement between them and their mothers.

Family conflict during this stage is more likely to take the form of anger bickering over day-to-day issue than out right fighting. Similarly, the diminished and/ or lack of closeness is more likely to be manifested in increased privacy on the part of the teenager and diminished physical affection between teenager and parent, rather than any serious loss of love or respect between parent and child (Vissing & Straus, 2002).

Teenagers need more than material support like; clothing, food, shelter, education for their psychosocial behavior. Teenagers desire to be loved, cared for, to feel accepted and valued as an individual and to have a sense of belonging (Orphans and Vulnerable Children (OVC) 2007. The ability of a teenager to identify his

role in the society is mostly determined by his or her acceptance in the family or society to which he or she belongs. (Papalia & Feldman, 2002). But when a teenager is confused about his role in life, it can be traced to his family, society, media and peers influence to which he belongs. The social behavior valued by a culture may be reflected by parental goals, beliefs, expectation and behaviours (Rubin, Hastrings, & Stewart 2000).

Many factors influence the psychosocial behavior of teenagers. They are; direct and indirect (environmental) factors. Direct factor include the child, parents and family such as; poor quality family relationship, psychopathology and criminal behavior in the family, pre-natal complications, marital discord, large family size, parenting styles, personality traits, socio-economic factors. Indirect factors include; peer influence, mass media and school-related factors and the environment in which the teenager finds himself (Nathan and Gorman, 2002) to mention a few but the influence of mother is clearly important.

The expression of anger is natural to human beings than expressing other feelings. Mothers sometimes express their anger in order to reveal their hurts, frustration, disappointment and unhappiness towards their children's mal-adaptive and or undesirable behavior (Davis, 1999). According to Nathan & Gorman (2002), anger's expression can include physical abuse, verbal abuse, prejudice, malicious gossips, antisocial behavior, sarcasm, addictions, and withdrawal and psychomatic disorders. This can devastate lives, destroying parent-child relationship, harming teenagers, disrupting work, clouding effective thinking, affecting physical health and ruining future (Lebelle, 2008).

Parents personality and forms of anger

Anger is an emotional state that can rage from irritation to intense temper tantrum. Anger becomes the most predominant feeling behaviourally, cognitively and psychologically when a person makes the conscious choice to take action to immediately stop the threatening behavior of another-outside face. It is a behavioral pattern designed to warn aggressors to stop threatening behavior. Uncontrolled anger can however negatively affect personal or social well being. Anger is displayed in various forms. The forms are physical, verbal and emotional abuses. Physical abuse is the torturing of a teenager in order to subdue or control mal-adaptive and undesirable behaviour. According too the Redeemed Christian Church of God (RCCG, 2011), physical abuse is animistic, physically damaging and emotionally traumatizing, such as; slapping, hitting, kicking, shoving, chocking, pinching, punching, forced feeding, throwing things, pinning against wall/bed, floor and beating and the like.

Most Children have grown up with all of these form of anger, as well as psychological/ emotional abuse which include; criticism, rejection, belittling, food and love deprivation, condemnation, ignoring and withholding praise and affection. All these are the failure of parents especially mothers to provide the psychological nurturing ingredients which are necessary for a child's physical, social and emotional are they different from each other.

Verbal abuse is another form of anger being experienced by teenagers when their mothers constantly shout at, humiliate, frighten and make use of spoken words that can damage or injure teenager's feelings, erode self-esteem, self- identity and can fill them with fear, confusion as well as hatred (RCCG, 2011) Verbal abuse includes; threat, yelling or screaming name calling, insult, railings, harassment, accusations, abusive words or cursing, lies and deception. While physical abuse might seem worse, the scars of verbal and emotional abuses are deep. Anger on the child is an intentional method used by mothers to express their displeasure, discipline and authority on the child and also punish the child for his or her offensive behavior as the mother. The angry mother purposefully makes use of verbal, physical and emotional means to gain control over the child (Toby, 2002).

Vissing and Straus (2002) found that children who experience frequent verbal aggression from parent exhibited higher rate of physical aggression, delinquency and interpersonal problems. The ability of a teenager to identify his role in society is determined by the level of parental acceptance especially mothers.

Allport (1961) personality exists only when the common features of human nature already interacted with one another and produced unique self-continuing and evolving system.

He then defines personality “as the dynamic organization within the individual of those psychophysical systems that determine his or her characteristic behavior and though”.

Morgan, King, Weisz & Schoplar (2004) divided personality into four; stable extrovert, unstable extrovert, stable introvert, and unstable introvert. Unstable extrovert includes, touchy, restless, aggressive, excitable, active, changeable and so on. Stable extrovert includes sociable, outgoing, responsive, lively, outgoing, carefree, leadership. Unstable introvert includes moody, anxious, rigid, quiet, unsociable, sober, and stable introvert includes, passive, careful, thoughtful, peaceful, controlled, reliable, calm, and even- tempered.

Psychologist and child development

Erikson (1963), a psychosocial psychologist affirmed that the personality development of a child during teenage hood is self identify or dutiful becomes confused. He believed that the way in which the teenager resolves the crises of identity will have an impact on his or her struggles with the crises of adulthood (Weismer, 2006).

Gaining identity for teenagers among peers could pose lots of challenges than due to the major changes in society, laws and traditional ideas (Dictionary for dads, 2008). The ideas of self and identity are closely related but are different construct. Identity provides a sense of coherence and continuity that is; while we may play different roles at times we are indeed the same person. Thus, we are more than just the sum of social roles (Lebelle, 2008).

According to Erikson, the primary goal for this stage of development is to achieve a sense of identity. During this stage of development, teenagers learn how to satisfactorily develop a sense of identity, a sense of who they are. While teenagers need to have a sense of belonging, they also need to be encouraged to develop their self-sufficiency other-wise they will become resentful rebellious or engage in self-defeating pattern especially if they feel they are growing up in a world where the adults are controlling their destiny (Andrea and Raab, 2007). Teenagers often start experimenting with different looks, identities, behaviors and attitudes and they become extremely aware by sensitive to how they differ from their teenage peers. This often can results in episodes of distraction and conflict between parents and teenage. Parents need to help teenagers adapt to this stage in healthy way, by educating them about the coping skills for the challenges of this transition period.

Mothers' and teenagers' psychosocial behaviour

Mothers need to understand and know the psychosocial needs of children which include love, play, care when sick, counseling or guidance in school, friendship and games, though psychosocial needs are not as important as the physical needs of children, they come only after prompting. Research cautioned mothers to be sensitive to the feelings and emotions of their children when expressing their anger towards them, for this affects teenagers' behavior (Zhou, Eisenberg, Wang & Reiser, 2004). According to Weismer (2006), mothers who do not care about their teenagers and get angry easily only observed the psychosocial needs of their child when negative emotional state has gain ground in the child, only then is importance attached to these needs which may be late, thus the child finds it difficult to relate with people, they are depressed, have low self-concept and become withdrawn. Mothers need to consider the individual differences and uniqueness when relating with their children because each child has peculiar emotional needs. (Orphans & Vulnerable Children (OVC) 2007).

Research questions

The following research questions were raised to direct the flow of the study.

- What are teenagers' perceptions of their mothers' personality traits?
- What are the forms of mothers' anger on teenagers?
- What are the psychosocial behaviors exhibited by teenagers?

METHODOLOGY

This study utilized a survey design to find out how teenagers perceive the effect of their mothers anger on their psychosocial behavior. The sample of this study comprised of one hundred and fifty-nine (159) participants who were conveniently drawn from four educational study centers in Abeokuta Metropolis. The choice of a convenient sampling technique became inevitable because students were not in school session when the study was carried out. The age-range of participants was between 13 and 17 years. Males were 78 while there were 81 females.

The instrument used in this study was a well-structure questionnaire tagged 'Teenagers' Perception of Mothers' Anger on Psychosocial Behaviors' (TPMAPB). 21 open ended questions were generated to probe into the knowledge of the participants about their mothers' anger. A pilot study was conducted to establish the psychometrics properties of the instrument before going to administer the questionnaire on the field. The result of the pilot study revealed Alpha 0.87 and Guttman split is 0.80 respectively. The researchers administered the questionnaire with the assistance of two research assistants who were well trained on how to administer the questionnaire at the four educational centers. Descriptive Statistics of frequency counts and simply percentages were employed for data collation and interpretation.

RESULTSAND DISCUSSION

Research question 1: What are teenager's perceptions of their mother's personality traits?

Table1: Teenagers' perception of mother's personality traits

Mother's Personality Traits	Disagree		Agree		Not Sure		Total	
	No	%	No	%	No	%	No	%
Stable Extrovert								
Sociable	116	72	36	23	7	4	159	100
Lively	125	79	18	11	16	10	159	100
Responsive	101	64	33	21	25	16	159	100
Unstable Extrovert								
Aggressive	50	31	82	52	27	17	159	100
Touchy	49	31	91	57	19	12	159	100
Unpredictable	46	29	92	58	21	13	159	100

Table 1 shows the two categories of personality traits considered by this study; and it is amazing as well as revealing, that 72%, 79% and 64% teenagers did not perceive their mothers as stable extroverts, they consented that their mothers were neither sociable (72%), lively (79%), and /or responsive (64%). The above table further revealed that 52%, 57%, and 58% teenagers who participated in this study perceived their mothers as being aggressive, touchy and unpredictable. This result no doubt, it revealing. Mothers' personality traits as being perceived by their teenage children show the reasons why many teenagers are pushed away to various peer group for acceptance.

Research question 2: What are the forms of Mothers' Anger on Teenagers?

Table 2: Forms of mother's anger on teenagers

Forms of Anger	Disagree		Agree		Not sure		Total	
	Num	%	Num	%	Num	%	Num	%
Physical Abuse								
Kicking	23	15	127	67	9	6	159	100
Slapping	29	18	111	75	19	12	159	100
Beating	75	47	63	40	21	13	159	100
Emotional Abuse								
Deprivation of food	45	28	105	66	9	6	159	100
Condemnation	45	28	97	61	17	11	159	100
Ignoring	63	40	79	50	17	11	159	100
Verbal Abuse								
Name calling	39	25	109	69	11	7	159	100
Screaming	39	25	107	67	13	8	159	100

Table 2 shows the various forms of anger being thrown at teenage children by their mothers. These range from physical abuse, emotional abuse to verbal abuse. The above result affirmed that indeed, teenagers experienced all forms of abuse from their mothers as a result of the latter's un-controllable anger. (127 out of 159) teenagers', i.e. 67% have experienced maltreatment in form of kicking, Punishment from their mothers, slapping 75%, deprivation of food 66%, name calling 69%, outright condemnation 61%, being screamed at 67%,

Research question 3: What are the psychosocial behaviors exhibited by teenagers?

Table 3: Psychosocial behaviour of teenagers represented

Statement	Disagree		Agree		Not Sure		Total	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
I an always under pressure	62	39	85	53	12	8	159	100
I always feel sad	60	38	88	55	11	7	159	100
I lack discretion	95	60	43	27	21	13	159	100
I can figure who I am	108	68	26	16	25	16	159	100
I always withdrawn to myself	91	57	51	32	17	11	159	100
I do not believe in my selfe worth	26	16	128	81	5	5	159	100
I am dependent	29	15	124	78	6	4	159	100

Table 4 shows the direct effect of mother's anger on their teenage children's psychosocial behaviour. For example, 54% teenagers experienced being pressurized, 60% lack initiative and or discretion, 81% did not believe in self worth i.e. they have concept, 78% were dependent.

Discussion

The findings of this study have shown that a greater percentage of teenagers perceived their mother's personality traits to be unstable extrovert (56%). When mothers exhibit this kind of traits, it will reduce the positive emotons in teenage child and promotes sadness, withdrawn, confusion, lack of discretion as well. Also, teenagers were beaten but a higher percentage of them experienced being slapped (75%), name calling (75%), screaming and kicking (67%), food deprivation (66%) and condemnation (61%). Definitely, a teenager who experience deprivation of food can be lured a child into antisocial behaviours such as pilfering (even from their parents), prostitution and cannot grow well, therefore may be difficult comprehend in the classroom. This agrees with the work of Nathan & Gorman (2002) which indicated that when teenagers are deprived food for their growth, it will be difficult to comprehend in class, teachers reported higher level of hyperactivity, absenteeism and tardiness among hungry than not hungry child. Therefore hunger can also cause psychosocial dysfunction.

From this study, it was discovered that the most common form of anger was verbal abuse (68%), followed by physical abuse (65%) and emotional abuse (59 %). This deferred from what Davis (1999) obtained that the most common form of anger is physical abuse. The reason for this disparity could be based on the personality traits of the mothers, with more than half of them being touchy and unpredictable, thus teenagers can almost simultaneously experienced verbal and physical abuse.

Furthermore, 81% of the teenage children did not have self worth. It was also sad to find as high as 78% dependent. The possible explanation for this could be hinged on the fact that most mothers have intimidated their teenage children in such a way that they have developed a low self-concept about themselves, this can prevent them from succeeding in school and developing other constructive interest, thus making them to be prone to peer pressure and might not be able to identify who they really are and depend on their mothers or others before they could take any serious decision of their own. This finding is consistent with the works of the following;
Lebelle, (2008) that discovered that anger can devastate lives, destroy parent child relationship, harm teenagers, disrupt work, cloud effective thinking and ruin future.
Anger Management Training Institute (2005) asserted that teenagers who are physical abuse become withdrawn and lose confidence in themselves.

CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

This study concluded that mother's anger in its different forms has adverse effect on the psychosocial behavior of teenagers and it is the most destructive tool because mother's infliction of all these abuses will only drive teenagers away from their mothers, leaving them in the hands of undue influence of peer group and making them psychosocial unbalanced.

As a matter of urgency, mothers should be mindful of how they throw temper tantrums on their teenagers, learn to spend quality time impacting desirable behavior on their teenagers; setting Limits on both their deficit and excesses behaviour. Mother should foster their child emotional behaviour by modeling open and genuine expressing of feeling while emphasizing that they are always available to assist them as needed.
Teenager's should have a sense of control over their life, develop self-esteem and have a close trusting bond with parents or other adults.

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INFLUENCE OF WOMEN'S STATUS ON CHILD CARE PRACTICES

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ABSTRACT

The study examined how the socio-economic status and the decision making power of the respondents in their households influenced their child care practices. A semi structured interview schedule was used to collect data from 160 randomly selected mothers with children between ages 0 to 24 months in Akinyele Local Government Area of Oyo State, Nigeria. Descriptive statistics such as percentages, frequency counts were used to describe the data while correlation analyses were used to test the hypothesis. The results of the study indicated that majority of the respondents 71% had between average and good level of child care practices while 29% had poor level of child care practices. There was a positive and significant relationship at 0.05 levels between level of child care practices of mothers and the number of children in the household ($r = 0.273$), level of education ($r = 0.380$) decision making power level within the household ($r = 0.311$) and income ($r = 0.201$). On the other hand, the age of respondents ($r = 0.230$) was positively related but not significant while the hours mothers worked outside the home ($r = -0.168$) was negatively related to their level of child care practices. It can be concluded that women's' level of education and decision making power contributed positively to their child care practices. There is need for mothers to be adequately empowered especially with good education, to enable them meet the challenges of providing high quality care for herself and her children. A good child care practices of mothers would no doubt contribute to reducing the mortality rates of under five children.

Keywords: education, decision making power, women status, quality care, children, child mortality rates

INTRODUCTION

No consensus had been reached on a single definition of the widely used employed term “women's status”. It is associated with women's authority, autonomy, power, empowerment valuation and “position” in society, and also simply with women's well-being (Kishor, 2000; Sen and Batliwala, 2000). These components are considered in an absolute sense and sometimes relative to men. Three aspects of this definition are important to note. First, women's status is considered to be relative to men's rather than absolute or relative to other women's. This definition thus implicitly incorporated the idea of gender inequality argued to be harmful to children's nutritional and health status (Abi et al, 1991).

Second, it is founded on the concept of power. Simply put, power is the ability to make choices. It is the ability of a person or group of people to define goals and pursue them even in the face of opposition from others. Power is exercised through decision-making and can take the form of actual decisions taken on one's own or taken jointly with another person through a process of bargaining and negotiation (Kabeer, 1999). A person's control over resources including economic, human and social resources enhances his or her ability to exercise choice. Example of economic resources includes income, time, productive inputs, financial assets and food. Examples of human resources are education, skills and knowledge. Membership in groups and access to kin and other social networks are examples of social resources. (Quisumbing et al, 2003; Sen et al, 2000). The definitions of women's status thus address inequalities in the ability of women to make choices which may be reflected in inequality in control over resources.

Third, the definition has an intrahousehold dimension. Women experience differences in their power relative to men not only within households in which they live but also in the communities and nations in which they live. Customs and norms based in deeply held beliefs, values and attitudes often dictate differential roles, acceptable behaviours, rights, privileges and life options for women and men (Kishor, 2000; World Bank, 2011).

In most societies including Nigeria, it is women who are the caregivers for themselves, young children and bears the primary responsibility for their health and survival. Yet, women with low status relative to men tend to have little control over household time and income, face tough time constraint, have little social support to relieve these constraints, have little knowledge or inappropriate beliefs and have poor mental health, low self confidence and low self-esteem. Moreover, women living in communities where less value is placed on women's well-being than men's may find that reproductive health services are not available. These circumstances make it difficult for women to undertake the caring practices that are in their children's best interests. They also hamper women's ability to provide adequate care for themselves which further undermine their ability to give care to their children (Smith et al., 2003).

The greater a woman's control over household economic resources including the use of her time, the more effective her care for herself and her children would be. Besides, the obvious benefit of having more resources, gives her the ability to weigh the cost and benefits of alternative uses of resources so that they are employed in the most efficient manner. For example, the more control a woman has over her own time and household income, the more likely she is to make a timely decision to treat her sick child after discovering an illness. She is more likely to make use of health services and follow through with the treatment recommended and have the child immunized. She may be more likely to obtain a special food for a child, prepare it and feed it to the child at an appropriate frequency and with likely degree of patience required. She may also be more likely to make use of health services for herself during illness, ongoing gynaecological care and prenatal and birth care. Numerous studies have demonstrated that income or assets acquired by women or believed to be controlled by women are more likely than those of men, to be allocated to expenditures that benefit children's education, food, clothing and health care (Quisumbing et al, 2003; Thomas, 1997).

The lower a woman's status the more time-constrained she is likely to be, reducing the time she can devote to providing high quality time for herself and her children.

Fundamentally, this is a consequence of low value placed on women's caring activities and leisure time, and it is related to women's multiple productive and reproductive responsibilities. In addition to childcare, women are normally responsible for a wide variety of time consuming domestic activities such as water and fuelwood gathering as well as income-generating activities.

Women with low status are often restricted in their mobility and are therefore less likely to go outside their households and engage in social interactions with people outside of their family. They are thus less likely to be exposed to new health and nutrition knowledge, or respond to new information. They are also less likely to call into question culturally biased beliefs that are deleterious to children's nutritional status such as inappropriate food taboos for children and association of protein-energy malnutrition with the influence of spirits rather than insufficient food consumption. In fact, the lower a woman's status, the less likely she is to acquire and assimilate information she needs to best care for herself and her children (Kishor, 2000; Defor, 1997; Engle et al, 1999). The level of confidence of the caregiver is thought to be particularly critical factor for successful complementary feeding (Engle et al, 1999)

Care for women has an important indirect effect on care for children through the means of reproductive health services such as fertility regulation, ongoing gynaecological care, prenatal and birthing care. Women with low status are believed to have a higher total fertility rate than women with high status. And their children are more closely spaced. Caring for a large number of children reduces the quality of care a woman can provide for each new child. Evidence that the survival chances of children are greater when births are well spaced throughout a woman's reproductive life is abundant (Kishor, 2000; Defor, 1997; Hobcraft, 2000). Having a competent adult caretaker is critical to a child's nutrition and health especially in the first few years of life (Hobcraft, 2000; Engle, 1999; Smith et al, 2003; Ogbimi, 2008).

Child care is a complex set of behaviour that ranges from child feeding practices that promote a safe and healthy environment for the child and provides adequate health care, psychological interactions and emotional support. Psychosocial care refers to the provision of affection and warmth, responsiveness to the child and encouragement of autonomy and exploration (Engle, 1999). Psychosocial factors that can therefore influence the quality of physical care include timeliness and care taken during child feeding, health-seeking behaviour when a child is sick and sensitivity to a child's needs in general. The child's environment must be clean to protect him or her from diseases.

In developing countries like Nigeria, there is a clear evidence of differences in child survival rates associated with the status of mothers. For instance maternal education has been shown consistently to be a critical asset that can enhance woman status (Ogbimi, 2008; Levine et al, 1991; Joshi, 1994). The main objective of this study is to examine the influence of women's status on their level of childcare practices. The specific objectives are to:

- i. identify personal and socio-economic status of mothers.
- ii. determine the childcare practices of mothers in the study area.
- iii. determine their decision making power within the household
- iv. determine the effect of mothers' status on their level of child care practices.

To further ascertain women status that influenced their childcare practices, the following hypothesis stated in null form was tested: There is no significant relationship between women's level of childcare practices and their selected personal and socio-economic status.

METHODOLOGY

In order to find out how women status influenced their childcare practices, a cross-sectional study of randomly selected 160 mothers with children between age 0-24 months was carried out in Akinleye Local Government Area of Oyo State. Semi-structured interview schedules were used to collect information concerning the personal and socio-economic characteristics of women, child-care practices and decision making power within the household. Data were analysed using descriptive and inferential statistics.

Measurement of Variables.

I. Dependent variable.

Care Index

A care index was created using data from mothers' child feeding and preventive health care practices (Quisumbing and Maluccio, 2003). The child feeding practices carried out such as exclusive breast feeding 0 – 6 months, bottle feeding only or use of breast milk/baby formular. Also, weaning/complimentary food such as cereals and other types of foods given to children. Some common preventive health care practices, were presented to the respondents to indicate whether they practiced them or not. These included washing of hands before preparing and feeding of child, immunization of children against childhood killer diseases like diphtheria, polio, tetanus malaria prevention; oral dehydration therapy (ORT) in terms of awareness and ability to prepare it and periodic monitoring of children's growth.

The general scoring system for the care index allocated a score of (0) for a bad practise (1) for an average practice and (2) for a particular good practice. For example mothers' use of fortified cereals, exclusive breast feeding 0 – 6 months; ability to prepare (ORT) fluid was considered good and was scored (2). Infact, practices were considered good or bad based on child feeding recommendation from World Health Organization (Sen and Batliwala, 2000) and available scientific evident about their benefits or risks. For instance, exclusive breast feeding from birth to 6 months is highly recommended practice and was scored (2). Breast milk is known to have a protective effect on children's health and growth. The use of infant formular (different types of baby milk) that did not originate from humans and breast milk was scored (1) while the use of baby formular only from birth was scored (0). The total score for each respondent was then calculated and categorized according to good, average or bad child care practices. For the categorization a score > grand mean – standard deviation was regarded as poor care.

II. Independent variables

Two measures of women's status were used. First, the socio-economic status of the women such as age, marital status, level of education, occupation, income, child spacing method and membership of social group. The second variable that was used to measure women status is their decision making power within the household. Three types of indicators can be used (Kishor, 2000)

- a. Those that give evidence of such power
- b. Those that are sources of power
- c. Those that characterize the setting of power.

For the purpose of this study, the decision making power of the respondent was determined by “direct evidence”, that is the number of decision respondents participated within the household. A total of 20 common decisions taken in the day to day running of the household such as decisions over visits of friends and family, the household budget, having another child, family planning, children's education, obtaining healthcare for a sick child, food purchases and preparation, how to spend earned money, were presented to the respondents and were asked to indicate whether such decisions were taken solely by them, their husbands only or by both of them (joint decision).

RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

Personal and socio-economic characteristics

Age: Data in Table 1.1 indicated that 55% of the respondents fell between 31-40 years of age. Thirty-two percent (32%) are between 21-30 years of age while 10% and 2% were 20 years of age and 41-50 years respectively.

Marital status: Data in Table 1.2 showed that 98% of the respondents were married while 2% were single as at the time of the study. Eighty percent (80%) of the respondents are in monogamous families while 17% are in polygamous families and the remaining are in undisclosed family arrangement.

Level of education: The level of education the respondents attained and had certificate for are indicated in Table 1.3. Secondary level 53% followed by Tertiary level 33%, while 14% attained primary education while 3% of them had no formal education. The level of education attained by the respondents reflected in their occupational status and their earning power as shown in (Table 1.4 and 1.5). For instance, half of the respondents (50%) are civil servants such as teachers in primary and secondary schools and factory workers, 90% of them spent 5-10 hours working outside the home daily. Also, 75% of them earned between N30, 000 to N50, 000 /month. Majority of the respondents (65%) had 4-6 children in their households and 93% practised child spacing. The results in Table 1.6 indicated that majority of the women participated in more than one social group. Ninety-one percent (91%) are in religious groups, 78% in interest groups such as tribal and community groups, 50% participated in cooperatives while 6% indicated non participation in any group. It should be noted that the respondents participated in more than one group.

Table 1: Distribution of respondents according to personal and socio-economic characteristics

Variables		(N) = 160 Frequency	(%) Percentage
1.1	Age		
	20 and below	16	10
	21 – 30	2	1
	31– 40	51	32
	41 -50	88	55
	51 and above	3	2
	Total	160	100
1.2	Marital Status		
	Single	4	2
	Married	156	98
	Total	160	100
1.3	Level of Education		
	Primary	22	14
	Secondary	80	53
	Tertiary	52	30
	Non-formal Education	6	3
	Total	160	100
1.4	Occupation		
	Civil Servant/Factory workers	80	50
	Farming	24	15
	Trading	51	32
	Housewife	5	3
	Total	160	100
1.5	Income/Month (N)		
	20,000 and below	8	5
	20,001 – 30,000	19	12
	30,001 – 40,000	72	45
	40,001 - 50,000	48	30
	50,001 and above	13	8
	Total	160	100
1.6	Membership of Social groups*		
	Cooperative societies	80	50
	Religious organisation	146	91
	Interest groups (Tribal and Commodity)	125	78
	Non membership	10	6
	* Multiple response		

Feeding practices of respondents.

Several key feeding practices are known to be beneficial for health and nutrition of young children. First, initiation of breastfeeding almost immediately after birth protects the new born by providing a rich source of antibodies and nutrients through colostrums, the first milk (Linkages, 1999; Newman, 1995). Breast milk can provide all of the nutrients needed by the young infant. For these reasons, exclusive breast feeding is recommended during the first four to six months of life, with continued breastfeeding into the second year of child's life (Brown et al, 1998).

Also, to meet a growing child's macro and micronutrients requirements, high-quality complementary foods should be introduced by six months of age.

Table 2 indicated the results of the feeding practises of respondents. Majority of mothers, 70%, fed their babies with both breast milk and baby milk, 35% of them breastfed exclusively, while 15% of them bottle-fed their babies with baby formula only (Table 2.1). The duration of breast feeding (Table 2.2). Seventy per-cent (70%) of the mothers breastfed their babies between 7-12 months, 20% between 13-18 months while 6% and 4% of respondents breastfed for 0-6 months and 19-24 months respectively.

The complementary food commonly used by mothers was unfortified pap made from corn or guinea corn. In addition, other foods such as mashed beans, rice, moin-moin (bean-pudding), amala (yam-flour) were also used as complementary foods. Sixty-seven percent of the respondents introduced complementary foods when their children were between 4 – 6 months, (30%) introduced 7-12 months while a handful (3%) introduced 1 – 3 months

The importance of exclusive breastfeeding from 0 – 6 months is well understood by mothers in Nigeria. This was popularized through “Baby Friendly Initiative” in Nigeria. The probable reason why majority 70% of the mothers in the study area practiced both bottle and breast feeding is because they were employed in formal and informal sectors of the economy. Nursing mothers are expected to resume work as soon as their babies are three months old. There are no work-based crèche or day care centres available to them. The practice is that these babies are left in day care centres or with baby sitters while mothers are away to their different places of work. Also, majority of mothers (70%) introduced complementary food earlier than the recommended age of 6 months (Table 2.4)

Table 2: Distribution of respondents according to child feeding practices

Variables		(N) = 160 (Frequency)	(%) (Percentage)
2.1	Type of feeding*		
	Exclusive breastfeeding for 0- 6 months	56	35
	Bottle feeding only	24	15
	Breastfeeding/Bottle feeding	112	70
*Multiple response			
2.2	Duration of breast feeding		
	0 – 6 months	9	6
	7 – 12 months	113	70
	13 – 18 months	32	20
	19 months and above	6	4
	Total	160	100
Mean age		14.8 months	
2.3	Complementary food was introduced*		
	Unfortified cereals such as pap	120	75
	Fortified pap, custard, nutrend	80	50
	Others: matched beans, rice, moin-moin, amala	74	46
*multiple response			
2.4	Age of child when complementary food was introduced		
	1 – 3 months	5	3
	4 – 6 months	107	67
	7 – 10 months	48	30
	Total	160	100
	Mean age	5.2months	

Health care practices of respondents

Health-seeking behaviour is complex and includes both preventive and curative aspects. Infectious diseases such as diphtheria, polio, tetanus, diarrhoea and malaria are some of the leading causes of morbidity and mortality in young children in Nigeria. Preventive measures such as immunization and timely and appropriate treatment of infections and diseases are important caregiving practices that can be influenced by women's status. The results in Table 3 showed that majority of the mothers (91%) attended ante-natal clinic during pregnancy and 69% of them delivered their babies in the hospital, 22% in churches, while 6% and 2% delivered their babies either in the church or at home respectively.

Majority of the respondents (90%) immunized their children against childhood killer diseases while 10% did not. The respondents protected their children against malaria by the use of insecticides (70%), treated mosquito nets (50%) and clearing of bushes around their houses (30%). Infact, respondents used different methods at different times. Majority of the respondents (76%) took their children to the hospital when he or she was sick, 17% patronized pharmacy shops while 4% and 3% took their sick children to traditional healers and churches respectively.

Majority of respondents (90%) in the study area immunized their children and protected them from malaria attack by several means and took their sick children to the hospitals.

It can be said that majority of the respondents in the study area practiced both preventive and curative medicine in trying to keep their children healthy. For instance, children were immunized against childhood killer diseases and protected from mosquito bites which is the causal agent of malaria in Sub-Saharan African countries like Nigeria. The finding is also supported by the child care scores of mothers in the study area. Data in Table 4 revealed that majority of the respondents 79% had average to good levels of child care scores while only 29% had bad scores.

Table 3: Distribution of respondents according to their health care practices

Variable		(N) = 160 Frequency	(%) Percentage
3.1	Attendance of antenatal clinic during pregnancy		
	Yes	145	91
	No	15	9
	Total	160	100
3.2	Place of delivery		
	Hospital	110	69
	Traditional birth attendants home	4	2
	Home	10	6
3.3	Reason for choice of place of delivery		
	Church	36	22
	Money	9	6
	Belief	67	42
	Culture	60	37
	Only available place	10	6
3.4	Others	14	9
	Total	160	100
3.4	Immunisation of child against childhood killer diseases such as diphtheria, polio, and tetanus (DPT), hepatitis B, Tuberculosis etc.		
	Yes	144	90
	No	16	10
	Total	160	100
3.5	Malaria Prevention*		
	Clearing of bushes around the house	48	30
	Use of treated mosquito net	80	50
	Use of mosquito repellants/killers	112	70
3.6	Where a child is taken when he/she is sick		
	Hospital	122	76
	Pharmacy	27	17
	Traditional healer	7	4
	Church	4	3
	Total	160	100

Table 4: Distribution of mothers according to childcare practice score.		
Child care practice score	(N) = 160	(%)
	Frequency	Percentage
0-6 (poor)	46	29

Decision making power of the respondents

The area where women participated in decision making solely included how to spend their earnings (92%), visitation to friends (70%), family members (60%), purchase of food (85%), Type of food to be prepared for family members for breakfast, lunch and dinner (90%). Joint decisions were made in having another child (56%), use of contraceptives/birth controls (63%), obtaining health care for a sick family member (43%). On the other hand, decisions taking solely by husbands were in the area of family budget (90%) and the purchase of household equipment (80%). The respondents in the study area could be regarded as having high levels of decision making power considering the number of decisions they participated solely or jointly with their husbands.

Child care index of respondents

Table 5 indicated the childcare practice score of the respondents. The results showed that 56% had average childcare practices, 29% poor childcare practices while 15% had good child care practices. Maternal education is associated with the level of care provided. Education increases both the ability to earn income and the ability to appreciate the importance of caring. In developing world, there is clear evidence of differentials in child survival rates associated with the education of mothers. Maternal education is associated not only with the quality of breast feeding (duration, frequency), but also the quality of feeding (Guldan et al, 1993). Another caring behaviour associated with child health and nutrition is the family's home health practices. It is becoming increasingly evident that maternal education affects a child's health and nutritional status through its effect on the mother's health seeking practices (Engle et al, 1997). Thus, educated women are likely to use available health care facilities, keep her environment clean to the benefit of her children. The finding of this study is in line with Guldan et al, 1993 and Engle et al, 1997. In the study area, education contributed positively and significant to level of income and decision making power of the respondents especially in the area of their health care practices.

Results of tested hypothesis

Association between selected woman's status and childcare practices

Table 5 summarized the results of correlation analysis between mothers childcare practice scores and selected indicators of women's status. The results revealed that there was a positive and significant relationship between child care practices and respondents' years of schooling (r = 0.380); decision making power (r = 0.311); number of children in the household (r = 0.230) and income (r = 0.201). On the other hand, the age of respondents was positively related but not significant while the hours respondents work outside the home was negatively related (r = -0.168) to their child care practices.

Table 5: Results of correlation analysis showing the relationship between selected factors contributing women status and childcare practices.

Variables	Correlation Coefficient(r)	Co-efficient of Determination (r ²)
Age of mother	0.230	0.053
Number of children in household	0.273**	0.075
Years of schooling	0.380**	0.144
Hours mothers work outside the home	-0.168	0.028
Income	0.201**	0.040
Decision making power	0.311**	0.096

*Significant at 0.05 levels.

CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The factors that contributed to enhancing the status of the mothers and thus influencing their childcare practices in the study area include level of education, decision making power in the household, number of children in the household, and income in descending order. Majority of the respondents did not practise exclusive breast feeding because of their work demands. In terms of their health practices, majority of the respondents immunized their children and protected them from malaria attack. They sought information from health workers concerning their health and those of their children and also utilize health care facilities when the need arises.

The findings of this study supported the importance of women's socio-economic status in determining adequacy of child caregiving practices, especially in breastfeeding practises, the timely introduction of good quality complimentary food and health care which are critical for normal growth and development of young children.

Based on the major findings of this study, there is need to: (i) take the education of the girl-child seriously in order to enhance the status of our future mothers. (ii) assist working mothers especially with provision of work-based crèches and day-care centres to improve their childcare abilities. These efforts would not only contribute to the total development of young children but would also reduce mortality rates of under-five children which is prevalent in Nigeria and other developing countries.

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YOUTH PREFERENCE AND MOTIVATION FOR NON-FARM ACTIVITIES IN PERI-URBAN AREAS OF OSUN STATE, NIGERIA.

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ABSTRACT

The study assessed youth preference and motivation for non-farm activities in Peri-urban areas of Osun State. A multistage sampling technique was used to select 121 youths from three Local Government Areas (LGAs) of Osun State. Descriptive and inferential statistics were used to analyse the data. Result revealed that about 70.2 percent of the respondents were male, 66.1 percent were within the age of 21 – 30 years and 52 percent possess tertiary education. Majority (85%) of the respondents were unmarried with 66 percent involved in non-farm activities. Non-farm activities youths engage in were daily paid casual works (38%), trading (16%), local hair dressing (10%), art work production (10%) and motor cycle riding (Okada) (7.4%). The study established among other things that fluctuation in rainfall pattern (4.45), degraded soil, due to continuous farming without replenishment (4), among others, were push factors, leading them into non-farm work. The pull factor prompting them into non-farm work include: more income from non-farm work (4.12), non-farm work guarantee higher and constant income for sustainability (3.70), non-farm work enable me to participate in social activities (3.60). The study indicates that improved farm technologies and constant farm income could reduce the influx of youths into non-farm activities at the expense of farming.

INTRODUCTION

The three throng problems of unemployment, poverty, and inequality have continued to bedevil most African nations. Literature is still replete with evidences indicating the triumphs of these hydra headed monster especially among the African youth (Torimiro and Okorie, 2007). Africa's population is growing fast and is experiencing a slow demographic transition which will increase the pressure most countries particularly Nigeria face with job creation. A vast majority (70%) of the youth in Nigeria has been identified to live in rural areas and is mostly employed in agriculture for which they account 65 percent of total employment (UN, 1995).

Nowadays, farming on its own rarely provides a sufficient means of survival in rural areas of low-income countries. For this reasons, most rural youths are found to depend on a vast array of activities and income sources. Many youth have actively sought non-agricultural activity involvement in urban and peri-urban areas. It has been revealed that between 30-50 percent of rural household's income in Sub-Sahara Africa (SSA) is typically derived from rural non-farm/self-employment sources (Reardon, 1997). These youths have their common problems ranging from high poverty level, lack of opportunity, unemployment/underemployment, lack of education, sexually transmitted diseases/HIV, early marriages and child bearing. They are engaged in a whole spectrum of economic activities. Madulu (1998) noted that youths are specialising in medium and long-distant trade, motor-bike transportation, artisan/service, electrical and mechanical repairs and other official jobs taking advantage of the freedom of movement associated with being unmarried and unencumbered with family responsibility. These activities are pursued by these youths on a regular or seasonal basis within and outside the village to meet the local demand for various goods and services (Fabosoro, 2005).

It is becoming increasingly apparent that young people are unwilling to be involved in anything that would take time away from trading and instant cash earning pursuits (Bryceson, 1999). Yunusa (1999) observed in Nigeria's Middle Belt, that youth dominate Non-Farm Activities (NFA), citing an 18 percent increase in family and child non-agricultural activity since 1992. Similarly in the South Western cocoa producing areas of Nigerian, youth of all income strata are far less attracted to farming than their parents and are diversifying into a number of trading and service activities (Mustapha, 1999).

Torimiro et al. (2008) identified lack of rural infrastructure and social amenities, poor living standard of the rural dwellers, non lucrateness of farming and high taste for cities as part of the reasons why youths are quitting the rural areas and farming activities for non-farm activities. Because the Nigerian youth constitute

over 32 percent of the rural population (Torimiro, 1999), the recent exodus of this army of able bodied young individuals from farming to non-farm activities is not only a recipe for the immediate food crises, but also a harbinger of the imminent collapse of the rural economy since this is driven by farming (Olaide, 1975 cited in Torimiro et al. 2008). It is against this background that this paper investigated the youth preference and motivation for non-farm activities in peri-urban areas of Osun state. Specifically, it described the socio-economic characteristics of the youths, examines the perception of the youths about farm work and non-farm work, and identifies the push and pull factor leading youths to non-farm work.

METHODOLOGY

The study was conducted in six administrative areas of Osun State. The state is located in the South-Western part of Nigeria. The state lies between latitude 6 50 and 8 10 on the North – South Pole and longitude 4 5 and 5 2 on the East-West pole within the tropics. The state is bounded by Kwara State in the north, in the south by Ogun State, in the West by Oyo State and in the East by Ondo State. Two communities were randomly selected from each administrative zone to make twelve communities. Twelve structured questionnaire were administered on youths in each community. A total of one hundred and forty four questionnaires were distributed out of which one hundred and twenty one were good enough for analysis. Descriptive and inferential statistics were used to analyse data collected.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Results in Table 1 show that majority (66.1%) of the respondents were between the ages of 21 and 30 years while 31.1 percent were between the ages of 11 and 20 years. This indicates that the respondents between 21 and 30 years of age were mostly involved in non – farm activities. About 70 percent of the respondents were males showing that non-farm activities in the study area are male dominated. Majority (85.1%) of the respondents were single with 10.7 percent married. This indicates that most of the respondents do not want to be encumbered with family responsibilities and would want to make money substantial enough for good livelihood. This corroborates Farinde et al. (1999) statement that young people normally abandon farming when their farm income can no longer break even with their mounting socio-economic responsibilities. About 52.1 percent of the respondents had attended tertiary level education, 31.4 percent had secondary education while 12.4 percent had a primary education. Only 4.1 percent of the respondents had no formal education. This indicates that majority of the youth in peri-urban areas were literate as they stay longer in school because of greater educational opportunities abounding in their place of domicile.

Table 1: Demographic characteristics of respondents

	Variables	Frequency (N=121)	Percentage (%)
Age	11 -20	40	33.1
	21 -30	80	66.1
Sex	Male	85	70.2
	Female	36	29.8
Marital status			
	Single	103	85.1
	Married	13	10.7
	Separated	3	2.5
	Divorced	2	1.7
Educational status			
	No formal education	5	4.1
	Primary education	15	12.4
	Secondary education	38	31.4
	Tertiary education	63	52.1

Major non-farm activities engaged in by the respondents as shown in Table 2 were daily paid labour in casual works (38.2%), trading (15.7%), local hair dressing (9.8%), art work production (9.8%) and motor cycle riding (Okada) (7.4%). Even with the high literacy rate among youth in peri-urban area, a large percentage of them were found doing works that do not match their trade and training. Due to high level of unemployment in the nation at large, youth are engaging themselves in menial jobs in the non-farm as a means of last resort to sustain

their livelihood. This further buttresses the impression of a massive exodus of farm labour from farming activities. Hence, there is negative implication of this on national food production in relation to population growth in the country (Torimiro and Kolawole, 2005).

Table2: Distribution of respondents by non-farm activities engaged in

Variables	Frequency (N=121)	Percentage (%)
Art work	9	9.8
Trading	18	15.7
Carpentry work	2	1.7
Okada riding	8	7.4
Tailoring	2	1.7
Local Hair dressing	9	9.8
Hawking	5	4.9
Apprenticeship	5	4.9
Gold smith	2	1.7
Shoe making	3	2.5
Digging of well	3	2.5
Daily paid casual works	55	38.2

Data in Table 3 reveal the ranked mean score of the perception of peri-urban youth to farm work. The statement on “farm work is hard and labour intensive (mean score=4.34) was ranked first, followed by “there are lots of risks associated with farm activities (mean score=4.01), and “my peers are leaving farm work for city jobs” (mean score=3.71) comes next while “income from farm alone cannot support my livelihood” was the least (mean score=3.29). The findings show that these youths formed high opinion about farm work being hard and labour intensive. The drudgery associated with farming activities had discouraged their involvement this venture leading to complete exit from agriculture to take up non-farm work as a means of escaping poverty (Dixon et. al., 2001).

Table3: Distribution of respondents by their perception of farm work

Variables	Mean	Ranking
Farm work is hard and labour intensive	4.34	1st
There are lots of risk associated with farm activities	4.01	2nd
My peers are leaving farm work	3.71	3rd
There is low pricing for farm product	3.55	4th
Low farm output is a treat to my future financial status	3.58	5th
Farm income alone cannot guarantee suitable livelihood	3.51	6th

Response to perceptual statements on non-farm works by most rural youths in Table 4 reveal that “their involvement in non-farm work will command the respect of my peers” (mean score=3.93), involvement in non-farm work is the vogue of the community (mean score =3.71), non-farm work will enhance their level of exposure (mean score =3.62), there is satisfaction in non-farm work (mean score =3.61), technical knowhow could be a barrier to jobs in non-farms works (mean score =3.59), they generate most of their income from non-farm work (mean score =3.52), involving in non-farm work is economic worthy (mean score =3.42), non-farm works will provide more income for family care (mean score =3.39), involvement in non-farm work is necessary for their well being (mean score =3.36), there are ready markets available for non-farm work (mean score =3.34).

Table 4: Distribution of respondents by their perception to non - farm work

Variables	Mean	Ranking
Involvement in non-farm work commands the respect of my peers	3.93	1st
Involvement in non-farm work is the vogue of the community	3.71	2nd
Non-farm work will enhance my level of exposure.	3.62	3rd
There is satisfaction in non-farm work.	3.61	4th
Technical knowhow is a barrier to jobs in non-farm works	3.59	5th
Farm income alone cannot guarantee suitable livelihood	3.51	6th

Grand mean score = 3.54
Standard deviation 6.66

Concerning the push factors leading to non-farm work, fluctuations in rainfall pattern affecting farm products (4.45) were ranked highest. This was followed by low returns from farming especially during period of long dryness (4.07), lack of storage facilities leading to spoilage of farm produce (4.07), soil degradation due to continuous farming without replenishment (4.12), lack of machineries resulting in cultivation of small portion of land (3.96). This findings agrees with Bawet et al. (2004), that the tilt of individuals towards non-farm activities is more in higher risk, drier environment where income from farming drop to levels not sufficient for survival in the off- season. On the other hand the pull factors leading youth preference into farm work were more income from non-farm work (4.12), guaranteed high and steady income (3.70) freedom to participate in social activities (3.60), no drudgery as compared to farm work (3.85). This findings also supports Torimiro et al. (2008), postulation that farm drudgery and steady daily earning from transportation are the correlates of farm youths involvement in transportation business.

The respondents reaction to this statement that “ income from non-farm works is more than that from farm work” (mean score = 4.12) was ranked highest, followed by “involvement in non-farm work will guarantee high and constant income for my livelihood sustainability” (mean score = 3.70), non-farm works enables me to participate in social activities (mean score = 3.60), non-farm work is lively and easy to cope with (mean score = 3.57), there is market availability for non-farm products (mean score = 3.36), while facilities for work are readily available in non-farm work sectors (mean score = 2.90) was ranked lowest.

Table 5: Distribution of respondents respect to push factors

Variables	Mean	Ranking
Fluctuation in rainfall pattern affects farm produce.	4.45	1st
Soil is degraded due to continues farming	4.12	2nd
Agricultural produce perish due to lack of storage Facilities.	4.07	3rd
Income returns from farm activities are always low during the [period of long dryness or draught	4.07	3rd
Due to lack of machineries we only cultivate small portion of land.	3.94	4th

Grand mean score = 3.94
Standard deviation 6.66

Table 6: Distribution of respondents with respect to pull factors

Variables	Mean	Ranking
Income from non-farm work is more than that of farm work	4.12	1st
Involvement in non-farm work will guarantee high and Constant income for sustainability.	3.70	2nd
Non-farm work enables me to participate in social activities.	3.60	3rd
Non-farm work is lively and easy to cope with.	3.57	4th
Farm income alone cannot guarantee suitable livelihood	3.51	6th

Grand mean score = 3.54

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The study has revealed, among others that the peri – urban youth were highly involved in non – farm activities such as daily paid labour in casual works, trading, local hair dressing, art work production and motor cycle riding (okada) which are low skill menial jobs. It showed that the high level of involvement in non – farm activities could be a reflection of dearth of skill for exploring alternative strategies and the quest for immediate gratification among the respondents. Also, the study established that income from non – farm works is more than that from farm work and will guarantee high and constant income for livelihood sustainability. Thus, the potentials of non – farm activities to draw agricultural labour in a given agrarian community is deeply rooted in

its ability to provide daily earnings for the youth involved in it. Hence the following recommendations were made: farm technologies be improved to sustain youth interest in agriculture in other to ensure a constant farm income; relevant agencies of government and non-governmental organizations should be get involved in establishing youth friendly skill acquisition centres; improve agricultural infrastructure, transport and provision of credit facilities to serve as institutional support to the youth; creation of strong extension delivery system with widen focus to incorporate other aspects livelihood that will make it more relevant in the emerging non-farm sector of our economy.

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AWARENESS AND KNOWLEDGE OF FRUITS AND VEGETABLES CONSUMPTION AMONG PREGNANT WOMEN IN IBADAN METROPOLIS OF OYO STATE, NIGERIA

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ABSTRACT

The study examined the level of awareness and knowledge of pregnant women about the health and nutritional benefits in consumption of fruits and vegetables in Ibadan metropolis. A multi-stage sampling technique was used to select the respondents. Three urban Local Government Areas (LGAs) of Ibadan were randomly selected. Ten percent of National Health Insurance Scheme (NHIS) participating hospitals in the LGAs and 30.0% of registered pregnant women in selected hospitals were randomly sampled. Data were collected using pretested interview schedule and analyzed using descriptive and inferential statistics. Most (84.4%) of the respondents were aware of the health and nutritional benefits in fruits and vegetables, 73.8% were aware of the relationship between colours of fruits/vegetables and the beneficial substances in them. Knowledge about fruit and vegetable consumption was high (88%) among respondents. Water and fresh fruits were frequently consumed by 87.7% and 79.5% respectively while 60.0% of the respondents occasionally consume packaged fruit juice when fresh fruits are not available. Orange ranked first as the most preferred colours for fruits while green ranked first as the most preferred for vegetables among the respondents. Significant relationship ($p < 0.05$) existed between knowledge about consumption of fruits and vegetables and age ($r = 0.22$), education ($X^2 = 26.19$) and awareness about health ($X^2 = 17.88$) and nutritional benefits ($X^2 = 9.58$) in fruits and vegetables. Research efforts should be geared towards improving the colour quality of fruits and vegetables. Fruits and vegetables with preferred colours should be considered in the promotion of its consumption and full advantage of the different fruits in season should be taken for adequate nutritional balance.

Key words: Fruits consumption, colour preference, phytochemical, pregnant women.

INTRODUCTION

Awareness and knowledge are very crucial for the effective utilization of the nutritional and health benefits inherent in fruits and vegetables. To enhance the nutritional status of the populace and pregnant women in particular, there is the need for adequate knowledge about the multifaceted roles that fruits and vegetables played in a balanced diet.

According to Liu, (2003), poor nutrition results in poor growth and development which has also been implicated in the development of some risk factors and life threatening chronic ailments such as cardiovascular diseases, stroke, hypertension, diabetes and some types of cancers and deaths. The resultant effect of poor nutrition is low productivity in all sectors of the economy and the resultant poor health is a big drain on government as well as individual's financial resources and other social services.

Low consumption of fruits and vegetables is estimated to cause 31% of ischemic heart diseases and 9% of stroke worldwide (WHO,2012). Some of the world's widespread and debilitating nutritional disorders, including birth's defects, mental and physical retardation, weakened immune systems, blindness and even death are caused by diets lacking in vitamins and minerals commonly referred to as micronutrients (World Health Report, 2002). In all, it is estimated that up to 2.7 million lives could potentially be saved each year if fruits and vegetables consumption was sufficiently increased. This could be due to the fact that fruits and vegetables contain essential vitamins and minerals for boosting body immune system and serving as powerful anti-oxidants and fiber that help in moving harmful substances through the intestinal tract and lower cholesterol level. These function in several ways to promote good nutrition and health (Wardlaw et al., 2004; Pamplona-Roger, 2006).

Regular and adequate fruit and vegetable intake contribute to good health and protects against a number of diseases, also studies have shown that regular consumption of fruits and vegetables is associated with reduced risk of cancer, cardiovascular diseases, stroke, Alzheimer's disease, cataracts and age-related functional decline (WHO, 2007; Nestle, 2011). Precisely, fruits and vegetables are rich in micronutrients beneficial for normal growth and development of the body system. WHO reported a joint WHO/FAO report recommending a population-wide intake goal of a minimum of 400g of fruit and vegetables per day for prevention of chronic diseases such as heart diseases, cancer, diabetes, obesity, and also for the prevention and alleviation of several micronutrients deficiencies, especially in less developed countries. This is to strengthen, promote, and protect health in the context of a healthy diet by guiding the development of sustainable actions at community, national, and global levels. Low fruits and vegetable consumption is among the top 10 selected risk factors for global mortality (WHO, 2010).

Prevention is a more effective strategy than treatment of chronic diseases. This and other convincing evidence suggest that a change in dietary behaviour such as increasing consumption of fruits and vegetables is a practical strategy for significantly reducing the incidence of chronic diseases (Nti, 2011). However, without awareness, knowledge and application, these potentials will be useless and wasted.

The nutrition of pregnant women is important as dietary intake during pregnancy is likely to have a positive impact on a woman's health during pregnancy and postpartum which may also have beneficial effects for the baby, not only around the time of birth but also in early and late childhood, and possibly in adult life (Nti, 2011). Studies conducted in the United Kingdom showed that the diets of pregnant women are inadequate in a number of key nutrients and potential exists for improving health through maternal nutrition interventions (Maternal and Child Nutrition Programme, 2011).

Olajide-Taiwo, et-al (2005) reported that fruits and vegetables have nutritional, economic, and cultural benefits among Nigerian populace thus emphasizing their relevance and popularity in the country. Regardless of this, 13.1% of mothers and 19.2% of pregnant women were at risk of vitamin A deficiency, 24.3% of mothers and 35.3% of pregnant women were at different stages of iron deficiency in Nigeria (IITA, 2004; Hart, 2005).

In order to ensure full utilization of the embedded potentials in essential food, during ante-natal clinic, pregnant women in Nigeria are given mother-craft lectures parts of which include the type of nutrition to be taken during pregnancy. Among the recommended diets are fruits and vegetables which are highly rich in micronutrients and phytochemicals. Encouraging people to eat more fruits and vegetables is often the top of nutrition educator's to-do list; still most populations are not consuming enough. It is therefore crucial to determine the level of awareness and knowledge of pregnant women on the nutritional and health benefits in fruits and vegetables consumption.

The specific objectives therefore are to:

- i. Determine the personal characteristics of the respondents
- ii. Determine the awareness about the benefits in fruits and vegetables consumption
- iii. Assess level of knowledge about the benefits in fruits and vegetables consumption
- iv. Evaluate their colour preference for fruits and vegetables
- v. Determine the factors that affect their awareness and knowledge about fruits and vegetable consumption

METHODOLOGY

Sampling technique, sample size and data analysis

A multistage sampling technique was used to select the respondents. Three out of the five urban local government areas (LGAs) of Ibadan metropolis were randomly selected. Ten percent of registered and participating National Health Insurance Scheme (NHIS) hospitals in the selected LGAs and 30% of registered pregnant women in each hospital were randomly sampled. A total of 122 respondents from five hospitals were interviewed using interview schedule to elicit information. Data was analyzed using frequency count, percentages, ranking, Chi square and Pearson Product Moment Correlation.

Measurement of variables

Respondents were asked to indicate their personal characteristics such as age, educational level and occupation. Respondents were asked to indicate 'yes' or 'no' to asses their awareness about the benefits in

consumption of fruits and vegetables. To assess the knowledge of the respondents about the benefits in fruits and vegetables consumption, 14 items addressing the subject was drawn, a correct answer attracted a score of '1' while a wrong response attracted a score of '0'. This gives a highest score of 14 and a least score of zero. Mean score and above were considered as high knowledge while below mean scores were considered as low knowledge. Respondents were asked to indicate the frequency of consumption of fresh fruits and fruit juice by indicating “frequently consumed” = 3, “occasionally consumed” = 2 and “not consumed” = 1.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION
Personal characteristics of the respondents

Majority (67.2%) of the respondents were within the age range of 19-29 years while 29.5% were within 30-39 years. The prevalent religion among the respondent was Christianity (82.0%) and Islam (17.2%), 45.9% were carrying their first pregnancies while 49.2% previously had between 1 and 4 children. Level of literacy was high among the respondents with 94.7% having one form of education or the other. Only 5.7% were without formal education. Many (61.47) of the respondents had a monthly income less than N18, 000.00 per month which is lower than the minimum wage for the country. This could be due to the fact that some of them were applicants and students as at the time of data collection (Table 1).

Table 1: Personal characteristics of the respondents (n=122)

Characteristics	Categories	Frequency (%)
Age	19-29	82 (67.2)
	50-39	36(29.5)
	40-49	4(3.3)
	Religion	Christianity
	Islam	21(17.2)
	Free thinker	1(0.8)
Number of children	0	56(45.9)
	1-4	60(49.2)
	5-9	6(4.9)
	Educational qualification	No formal education
Primary school		9(7.4)
Secondary school		24(19.7)
OND/HND		47(38.5)
BSc, MSc, PhD		35(28.7)
Income	Less than N18,000	75(61.5)
	N18,000.00-37,000.00	27(22.1)
	N38,000.00-N57,000.00	10(8.2)
	Above N57,000.00	10(8.2)

Awareness about the benefits in fruits and vegetables consumption and the relationship between colours and beneficial substances in them

Most (84.4%) of the respondents were aware of the health and nutritional benefits inherent in the fruits and vegetables (Table 2). This agreed with the findings of the International Food Information Council (IFIC) foundation food and health survey (2007) on consumers' attitude towards functional foods in the United States and Nti et al (2011) in a similar study in Ghana, where the respondents were aware that fruits and vegetables were sources of body nourishment and not just to satisfy hunger. Greater percentage (73.0%) of the respondents was aware of the relationship between colours in fruits and vegetables and the beneficial substance inherent in them (Table 2). The high level of awareness among the respondents could be traced to their location (Ibadan metropolis), the fact that majority of them are educated and are exposed to ante-natal lectures. Lin et al; (2003) confirmed that with higher educational attainment consumers are equipped with better dietary knowledge and thus consume more fruits and vegetables. Nti et al; (2011) also observed that knowledge about nutritional and health benefits of fruits and vegetables was significantly related to the level of education, meaning as the level of education increased, knowledge of the benefits of fruits and vegetables also increased.

Table 2 Awareness of health benefits in fruits and vegetables

Respondents' awareness	Yes		No		Not sure	
	Frequency	%	Frequency	%	Frequency	%
Awareness of health benefit	103	84.4	17	13.9	2	1.6
Awareness of the relationship between colours in fruits and vegetables and the beneficial substances	90	73.8	29	23.9	1	0.8

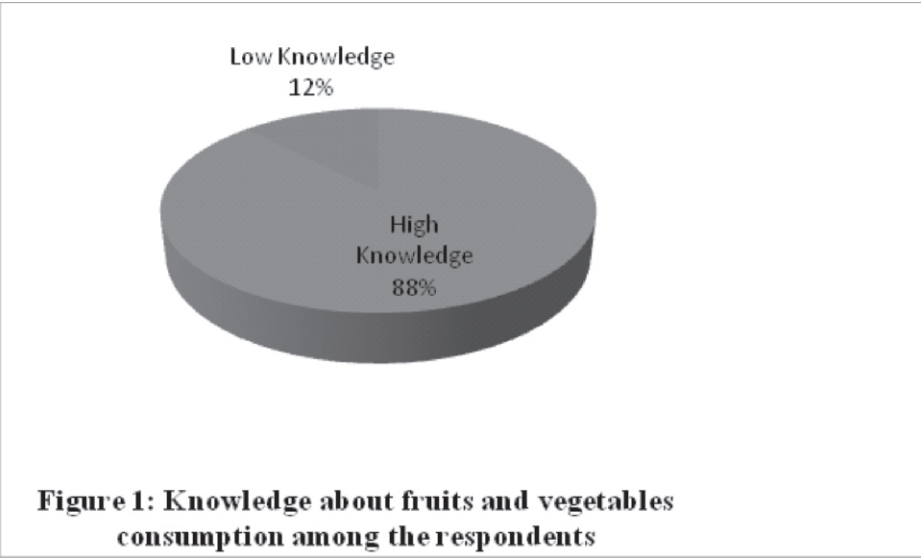
Knowledge about the Benefits in Fruits and Vegetables Consumption

More than half (88%) had mean score and above (high knowledge) while 22.0% scored below mean value, corresponding to low knowledge (Figure 1). The high knowledge about health benefits of fruits and vegetables consumption could be attributed to high educational status and also the health talk they have been exposed to in ante-natal clinics within the study area. This high knowledge was in conformity with the findings of Nti et.al; (2011) where majority of the respondents were knowledgeable about fruit and vegetable consumption.

However, their high knowledge had not translated to high consumption in types of fruits and vegetables consumed and frequency of consumption as was discovered in a similar study by Olajide-Taiwo et al (2009). The low consumption could be attributed to the low income level among the respondents.

Consumption of fresh fruits and packaged fruit juice

It was observed that 87.7% and 79.5% of the pregnant women frequently consumed water and fresh fruits respectively. However, packaged fruit juice was occasionally consumed by 60.0% of them (Table 3). The high consumption of water that was observed could be attributed to the uniqueness in the nature of water for proper body growth and development and for the nourishment of the system and the developing fetus. The reason while fresh fruit was frequently consumed could be due to the form at which it is made available, cheaper than fruit juice which has to pass through different processing stages, thus bringing about increase in price due to value addition.



Though this paper did not take into consideration the actual quantity of fruits consumed, Olajide-Taiwo et al (2009) in the same study discovered that 46.7% of the respondents consume no vegetable per day and none consumed above 5 times per day. Also, 34.5% and 18.9% consumed vegetable 1-2 and 3-4 times daily respectively. This implies that the perceived frequent consumption of fruits and vegetables does not translate to quantity consumed.

Table 3: Frequency of consumption of fresh fruits, fruit juice and water

Consumption	Frequently consumed		Occasionally consumed		Not consumed	
	Freq	%	Freq	%	Freq	%
Drinks						
Water	107	87.7	15	12.3	-	-
Fresh fruits	97	79.5	16	13.0	9	7.0
Packaged fruit juice	44	36.1	60	49.2	18	14.2

Colour preference for fruits and vegetables

For fruits orange, green and yellow colours ranked 1st, 2nd and 3rd in order of colour preference and appreciation with a score of 344, 303 and 245 respectively. For vegetables, green, orange and red ranked 1st, 2nd and 3rd respectively among the respondents (Table 4 and 5). Pink, black and blue scored relatively low among the respondents. This implies that fruits and vegetables that appear in these colours may have a low patronage and hence low consumption. To tap into the nutritious and health benefits in these colours, a conscious effort has to be made to encourage their consumption through public sensitization campaign measures.

White colour is seen in banana and mushroom, green in guava and okra, red in red grapefruit and red pepper, yellow in oranges and sweet corn, black in black currant and black pepper and blue is seen in eggplant. These different colours in fruits and vegetables contain different nutrients, to get the full benefits in them, it is important to eat a wide range of them (Stanley, 2011). Eating rainbow of fruits and vegetables (different colours) maximizes the intake of a broad range of nutrient for all-round health benefits (Miller, 2012). The chemical substances inherent in fruits and vegetables that give the characteristics colours are known as phytochemicals. They are promoted for the prevention and treatment of many health conditions.

Certain phytochemicals may help prevent the formation of potential carcinogens, block the action of carcinogens on their target organs or tissue, or act on cells to suppress cancer development. Carotenoids, which give carrots, yams, cantaloupe, squash, and apricots their orange color, are also promoted as anticancer agents. Tomatoes, red peppers, and pink grapefruit contain lycopene, which is a powerful antioxidant. Lutein and zeaxanthin, found in spinach, kale, and turnip greens, may reduce the risk of some cancers. Allyl sulfides, which are found in garlic and onions (white colour) may stimulate enzymes that help the body get rid of harmful chemicals. They may also help strengthen the immune system. Grapes, eggplant, red cabbage, and radishes all contain anthocyanidins, flavonoids that act as antioxidants and may protect against some cancers and heart disease. Quercetin, another flavonoid with antioxidant properties, is found in apples, onions, teas, and red wine. Ellagic acid, found in raspberries, blackberries, cranberries, strawberries, and walnuts, also is said to have anti-cancer effects. (American Cancer Society, 2011). To maintain these unique properties, fruits and vegetables must maintain their natural colours.

Table 4: Ranking of colour preference for fruits among the respondents

Colours	Score	Rank
Orange	344	1
Green	303	2
Yellow	245	3
Red	118	4
Purple	102	5
White	111	6
Black	78	7
Pink	101	8
Blue	70	9

Table 5: Ranking of Colour Preference for Vegetables among the Respondents

Colours	Score	Rank
Green	358	1
Orange	106	2
Red	87	3
Purple	83	4
Yellow	78	5
White	75	6
Black	72	7
Pink	66	8
Blue	62	9

Relationship between their knowledge about fruit and vegetable consumption and their selected personal characteristics

There was a significant relationship between their knowledge about fruit and vegetable consumption and their level of education, awareness about health and nutritional benefits and age (Table 6 and Table 7). However there was no significant relationship between their knowledge about fruit and vegetable consumption and their religion, marital status and number of children. The implication of this is that as the level of education, awareness of the health and nutritional benefits as well as age increase their knowledge also increases. Conversely, whatever their religion, marital status and number of children their knowledge about fruit and vegetables is not affected.

Table 6: Chi square Analysis of the relationship between their knowledge about fruits and vegetables and their selected personal characteristics

Personal Characteristics	X2	Degree of freedom	Correlation coefficient	P	Decision
Education	26.19	10	0.42	0.00	Significant
Religion	3.41	3	0.17	0.33	Not significant
Marital status	0.85	2	0.08	0.65	Not significant
Awareness of health benefits	17.88	3	0.36	0.00	Significant
Awareness of nutritional benefits	9.53	3	0.27	0.02	Significant

Table 7: Correlation Analysis of the relationship between their knowledge about fruits and vegetables and their selected personal characteristics

Personal characteristics	R	P	Decision
Age	0.220	0.015	Significant
Number of children	0.005	0.961	Not significant

CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION

The respondents were young with high literacy level. Many of them were aware of the health and nutritional benefits in fruits and vegetables. Fresh fruits were frequently consumed while in season packaged fruit juice was occasionally consumed by the respondents. The most preferred colours for fruit among the respondents were orange, green and yellow while the most preferred colours for vegetables were green, orange and red. Pink, black and blue colours were not so much appreciated among the respondents. Significant relationship existed between their knowledge about the benefits in consumption of fruits and vegetables and their age, level of education and their awareness of the nutritional and health benefits in fruits and vegetables. Research efforts should also be concentrated on improvement of the preferred colour attributes in fruits and vegetables. To encourage the consumption of fruits and vegetables with the less preferred colours, awareness campaign should also include the relationship between colours and the beneficial substances inherent in fruits and vegetables.

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ASSESSMENT OF NUTRITIONAL STATUS OF UNDER SIX CHILDREN IN IFE CENTRAL LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA OF OSUN STATE

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ABSTRACT

This research was carried out to investigate the nutritional status of 'under six' children in Ife Central Local Government Area of Osun State. There were 43,426 houses in the Local Government Area. Fifty houses were selected randomly from each of the four wards and subsequently a mother from every other house was selected to arrive at one hundred mothers who responded to the questionnaire on behalf of their 'under six' children. A questionnaire of an adapted 24-hr dietary record form was used to collect the dietary recalls and some other measuring items were used to collect anthropometric data of the children. Simple descriptive statistics and Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS) version 17.0 software were utilized to analyze the data collected. Z scores were calculated to determine the incidence of wasting and stunting. Major findings revealed that many of the 'under six' children consumed carbohydrate-rich foods in five out of six meals taken daily while other food nutrients such as vitamins and proteins were taken in small quantity. These set of subjects are apt to be at risk of under-nutrition. The risk of high stunting (92.1%) and high wasting (90.8%) were discovered at 3 to 4 years age respectively among the children. It was recommended that government and public health sectors should organize health talks and seminars for the mothers to enlighten them on how to use cheap locally available protein-rich and vitamin-rich foods in preparing meals for their children.

Key words: Children, Nutritional status, Malnutrition, Stunting and Wasting

INTRODUCTION

Children are known to be the heritage of parents. It thus implies that they are precious and should be taken care of in all aspects of their lives. Lutter, (2003) stated that for the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) to be achieved in respect of child survival, adequate nutrition and good health care are needed for the first several years of life. However, the World Health Organization (WHO) has identified poor quality complimentary food with low nutrients density and inappropriate feeding practices as probable causes of malnutrition (WHO, 2003). The Mother and Child Health and Education Trust (MCHET) has equally indicated that an estimated number of five million children are being killed by malnutrition every year and as a result advocated that children under six years of age would need good nutrition, education and care in order to meet their full potential of health, well-being and capacity for the rest of their lives (MCHET, 2012). Furthermore, in a study carried out by Kigutha, (1997) and USDA, (2009) chronic under-nutrition has been said to be a major cause of morbidity and mortality among children. In the same vein, Abdul Aziz and Devi (2012) found out in a study that most children around the world are at risk of over nourishment, which could lead to overweight or obese. Abdul Aziz and Devi (2012) are of the opinion that malnutrition, overweight and obesity are challenges to the health of the child and solutions to them are being proffered all over the world today. In the same vein, The Food Consumption and Nutrition Survey (Maziya-Dixon, 2004, Opara et al, 2010) in Nigeria revealed that four out of every ten children are stunted or have low height for their age. This implies that the height/length deficient of linear growth could have failed to reach genetic potential as a result of poor diet and nutritional diseases. An increasing body of evidence suggests that appropriate nutritional interventions are now needed to reduce morbidity and mortality from diet related chronic diseases (Barker, 2004 and Barker et.al.2005). It should however be noted that children are citizens with rights and the society has the responsibility of ensuring that they are given adequate and appropriate care. The three crucial age groups of a child are as follows:

- Children 0 to 6 months of age – the period of recommended exclusive breastfeeding
- Children 6 months to 3 years – the period of food supplement, and
- Children 3 years to 6 years – the period of solid food of balanced diet

The nutritional status of children is an important determinant factor in the growth and development of the children in the above indicated age range of 0-5+ years (under-six).

Hence, this study was undertaken to assess the nutritional status of under-six children in Ife Central Local Government Area, Ile-Ife, Osun State. Ile - Ife is an ancient city of the Yorubas and the source from which Yorubas migrated to other areas of Nigeria including Benin Republic. The main purpose of this study was to:

- (i) determine the food consumption pattern of under six children in Ife Central Local Government Area;
- (ii.) determine anthropometric status (weight, height and head circumference) of the under six children in Ife Central Local Government Area;
- (iii.) determine the incidence of wasting and stunting among the under six children in the Local Government; and
- (iv) suggest ways by which nutritional status of under six children in Ife Central Local Government can be improved upon.

Research questions

The following research questions were formulated to find solutions to the problems under investigation:

- (i) What is the food consumption pattern of under- six children in Ife Central Local Government Area?
- (ii) What is the anthropometric status (weight, height and head circumference) of the under-six children?
- (iii) What is the incidence of wasting and stunting among the under six children?
- (iv) In what ways can the nutritional status of under- six children in Ife Central Local Government Area be improved upon?

METHODOLOGY AND DESIGN

Study area and Population

Ife Central Local Government Area is one the four Local Government Areas in Ile-Ife. Its headquarter is located at Ajobamidele in Ile-Ife. According to 2006 census (Ajobamidele Secretariat), Ife Central Local Government Area consists of 88,403 males and 78,801 females (making a total of 167,204). Also, according to 2006 house counting figure, the Local Government Area consists of four wards which are:

	Ward	Houses
Iremo ward	1 to 5	13,202
Ilare ward	1 to 4	12,621
Moore Ojaja Ward		9,504
Akarabata ward		8,099
Total		43,426

The target population for this study was under-six years children in Ife Central Local Government Area of Osun State. However, since mothers are responsible for the feeding of these children and concurrently create the eating practices of their children, mothers in the study population were asked to respond to the research instrument of the study. For the fact that there were four main wards in Ife Central Local Government Area, fifty (50) houses were selected from each main ward making a total of two hundred (200) houses sampled for the study. Thereafter, mothers of under- six children were selected from every other house to serve as the subjects for the study. In all there were one hundred (100) mothers who served as the subjects for this study.

Data collection procedure

- (i.) **Weight:-** A Salter scale (bathroom scale) was used to measure the weight of the children.
- (ii.) **Height:-** A standard ruler marked in meters was used to measure the height of the children.
- (iii.) **Head Circumferences:-** A tape measure was used to measure the head circumference of the children.
- (iv.) **Research questionnaire:** An adapted format of the 24-hour dietary recall form was used by the researchers to collect information from the mothers of under-six-children. The questionnaire consisted of two sections. Section A was designed to solicit information on the personal data of the children such as Name, Age, Sex; as well as the Occupation and Age of the parents. Section B consisted of questions soliciting responses from mothers on the frequency with which their children take foods rich in carbohydrate, protein and vitamins in respect of Breakfast, Evenings, Lunch, Mid-Afternoon, Dinner and Bedtime.

The draft of the questionnaire was validated by two experts in food and nutrition in the Department of Home-Economics, Adeyemi College of Education, Ondo.

Copies of the validated questionnaire were distributed by the researchers to the literate parents while the few illiterate parents were assisted by interpreting and recording what such parents have recalled in respect of their children. The one hundred filled copies of the questionnaire were collected back immediately. The researchers recorded the results of the anthropometrical measurement appropriately in respect of weight, height and head circumference.

Method of data analysis

The demographic characteristics of the population were reflected by the use of frequencies and cross tabulations. Other data collected were entered into Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS) worksheet and analysis done using the SPSS version 17.00 software. Frequencies and percentages were generated to reflect the nutrition practices of under-six children as recalled by their mothers and thereafter put into tables. For the various measurement obtained the Z scores were calculated to reflect the incidence of wasting and stunting. Growth stunting was identified by comparing measurement of children's height to the NCHS growth reference population. Children who fall below the fifth percentile of the reference population in height for age are defined as stunted. While Wasting was classified in children's weight - for height (WFH).

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Result

Mother's age group and occupation: In respect of age of the respondents, Table 1.1 revealed that 4.0% of mothers were above 50 years of age, 6.0% were less than 20 years, 15.0% were 40 to 49 years, 36% were 20 to 29 years while 39.0% were 30 to 39 years. This implies that majority (75%) of the mothers of under- six children in Ife Central Local Government Area were in the age range of 20 to 39 years. Similarly, in respect of occupation of the respondents, Table 1.1 showed that 3.0% of the mothers were house wives, 7.0% were farmers, 24% were traders while 66.0% were civil servants. It thus implies that majority (66.0%) of the mothers were civil servants and literate. This gives the assumption that the majority of the caregivers have adequate knowledge of correct nutrition.

Table 1: Demographic characteristics of respondents
1.1 Percentage distribution of respondents by mother's age and occupation

Age group	Frequency	Percentage
Less than 20	6	6.0
20-29	36	36.0
30-39	39	39.0
40-49	15	15.0
50 and above	4	4.0
Total	100	100
Occupation		
Farming	7	7.0
Trading	24	24.0
Civil Servant	66	66.0
House wife	3	3.0
Total	100	100.0

Child's age and sex: Table 1.2 showed that 12.0% of the children were 1 year, 17.0% of them were 5 years+, which implies that some of the children (51.0%) were between the ages of 3 to 4 years. Similarly, data analyzed in the table 1.2 showed that 54.0% of the children were female while 46.0% were male.

1.2 Percentage distribution of respondents by child's age and sex.

Age	Frequency	Percentage
1.00	12	12.0
2.00	20	20.0
3.00	27	27.0
4.00	24	24.0
5.00+	17	17.0
Total	100	100.0
Sex		
Female		54 54.0
Male	46	46.0
Total	100	100.0

Food Consumption Pattern of under- six children

Result in Table 2.1 show the breakfast of children in Ife Central Local Government Area. The table indicates that 14.5% of the children consumed protein-rich foods for breakfast, 23.4% consumed vitamin-rich foods while 62.1% consumed carbohydrate-rich foods. This implies that majority of the children consumed carbohydrate rich foods as breakfast. Also, Table 2.2 indicates that 12.0% of the children consumed protein-rich foods, 13.0% consumed vitamin-rich foods and 75.0% consumed carbohydrate-rich foods as elelences. Therefore most of the subjects consumed carbohydrate rich foods as elelences.

Table 2: 24-Hours Dietary Record
2.1 Breakfast (8am)

Food	Frequency	Percentage
Protein (Moinmoin,Beans,Eggs,Fish)	3+16+1+1=21 14.5	
Carbohydrate(Bread, Rice, Dodo, Indomie,Yam,Eko,Spaghetti,Eba,Custardand Pap)	34+25+4+4+8+1+2+2+10=90	62.1
Vitamin(Beverages,Vegetables and Breast Milk)	27+5+2=34 23.4	
Total	145	100

2.2 Elelences (11am.)

Food	Frequency	Percentage
Carbohydrate(Bread,Rice,Indomie,Yam,Garri, Snacks and Eba)	7+12+4+4+45+3=75	75%
Protein(Beans)	12=12	12%
Vitamins(Beverages, Fruits and Breast milk)	7+1+5=13	13%
Total	100	100

Table 2.3shows that 3.40% of the children consumed vitamin-rich foods, 17.05% consumed protein-rich foods while 79.55% consumed carbohydrate-rich foods as lunch. This implies that majority of the children consumed carbohydrate-rich foods as lunch.

From Table 2.4, it was revealed that 21.43% of the subjects consumed protein-rich foods, 9.18% consumed vitamin-rich foods while 69.39% consumed carbohydrate-rich foods as their mid-afternoon meal. This shows that many of the children consumed carbohydrate-rich foods as their mid-afternoon meal.

2.3 Lunch (2pm.)

FOOD	FREQUENCY	PERCENTAGE
Carbohydrate(Pap,Bread,Rice,Indomie ,Yam,Garri, Snacks, Fufu,Amala,Eba and Custard)	1+5+21+4+13+2+4+2+9+4+1+4=70	79.55
Protein(Moinmoin, Beans, Egg and Fish)	2+11+1+1=15	17.05
Vitamins(Beverages,Dodo)	1+2= 3	3.40
Total	88	100

2.4 Mid-Afternoon (5pm.)

FOOD	FREQUENCY	PERCENTAGE
Carbohydrate(,Bread,Rice,Yam,Garri, Snacks, Amala,Eba and Pounded Yam)	6+3+2+4+42+5+3+3=68	69.39
Protein(Moinmoin, Beans, Breast Milk)	6+8+7=21	21.43
Vitamins(Beverages,Dodo and Fruits)	1+2+6= 9	9.18
Total	98	100

It was realized that 19.2%, 13.6%, and 67.2% of the children consume vitamin-rich, protein-rich and carbohydrate-rich foods respectively as their dinner (Table 2.5). This shows that many of the children consumed carbohydrate-rich foods as their dinner. It was observed from Table 2.6 that 18%, 6.0% and 22% of the children consumed carbohydrate-rich foods, protein-rich foods and vitamin-rich foods respectively as bed time meals while 54% did not have access to bedtime food. This revealed that slightly above half of the number of children (54%) in Ife Central Local Government Area often missed their bed time meals.

2.5 Dinner (7pm)

Food	Frequency	Percentage
Carbohydrate(Pap,Bread,Rice, Yam, Eko, Spaghetti,Garri, Snacks, Fufu,Amala, Eba and Pounded Yam).	2+1+7+7+8+3+1+2+8+23+11+11=84	67.2%
Protein(Moinmoin,Beans,Egg and Fish).	8+4+3+2=17	13.6%
Vitamins(Beverages,Dodo, Vegetable Breast milk and Milk)	5+2+15+1+1=24	19.2%
Total	125	100

2.6 Bed Time (9pm.)

Food	Frequency	Percentage
Carbohydrate(Pap,Bread,Rice, Yam,Garri, Snacks).	1+1+7+1+1+7=18	18%
Protein(Moinmoin,Beans).	3+3=6	6%
Vitamins(Beverages,Fruits Breast milk and Milk)	7+9+5+1=22	22%
No bed time food	54	54%
Total	100	100

Stunting and wasting data characteristics: Data in Table 3 show that 92.1 of the respondents between ages 3 to 4 years are at high risk of stunting. Again, 90.9% of the respondents between 3 to 4 years are at high risk of wasting.

Table 3: Stunting and wasting data characteristics

Age	Standard height of the age	Average weight	Stunting
1-2	29	25.0	88.1
3-4	38	35.0	92.1
5-6	42	37.0	80.0
Age	Standard weight of the age	Average height	Wasting
1-2	9	7	77.8
3-4	11	10	90.9
5-6	15	12	80.0

Belief of mothers that fish, meat, milk & egg consumption make children steal: From Table 4.1, 84.0% of the respondents believed that egg, fish, milk & meat do not make children steal while 16.0% believed that fish, meat, egg and milk make children steal. This implies that majority of the caregivers in this study will provide fish, eggs, milk and meat for their children where such foods are available.

Times eaten fruits per week: Table 4.2 indicates that 2 percent did not give fruit to their children at all, 2.0%, 2%, 3%, 8%, 22%, 23% and 39% gave fruits once, seven times, five times, twice, four times, thrice and six times a week respectively. This shows that majority of the children i.e. 39.0% consumed fruits six times a week which is very low because fruit is supposed to be taken along with meals.

Table 4.1: Belief of mothers that fish, meat, milk & egg consumption make children steal

Belief	Frequency	Percentage
No	84	84.0
Yes	16	16.0
Total	100	100.0

Table 4.2: How many times does your child eat fruits per week?

Weekly	Frequency	Percentage
0.00	1	1.0
1.00	2	2.0
2.00	8	8.0
3.00	23	23.0
4.00	22	22.0
5.00	3	3.00
6.00	39	39.0
7.00	2	2.0
Total	100	100.0

Types of fruit consumed: Table 4.3 shows that 1.0%,2%,3%,6%,8%,34% and 38% of the children consumed watermelon, pawpaw, mango, pineapple, apple, banana, any fruit and orange respectively. This shows that majority of the children consumed orange.

How often children are sick: From Table 4.4, it is obvious that1.0%, 11%, 15%, 21%, 52% of children took ill once a week, always, once a month, twice a year, never respectively . This shows that majority of the children did not get ill at all.

4.3: Types of fruit consumed

Fruits	Frequency	Percentage
Orange	38	38.0
Apple	8	8.0
Mango	3	3.0
Pineapple	6	6.0
Banana	8	8.0
Watermelon	1	1.0%
Pawpaw	2	2.0%
Any Fruit	34	34.0%
Total	100	100.0

Table 4.4: How often children are sick?

	Frequency	Percentage
Always	11	11.0
Once a week	1	1.0
Once a month	15	15.0
Twice a year	21	21.0
Not at all	52	52.0
Total	100	100.0

Discussion

From this findings, 54.0% of the under -six children were female while 46.0% of the children were male. 39.0% of their mothers were 30 to 39 years. 66.0% of them were civil servant. This shows that the mothers were young and educated. They should have enough strength and nutritional knowledge to cater for their children especially those who were still under six years of age. This agrees with Ebbs (2001) who stated that mothers were in the right position to provide adequate meals for their children. Furthermore, 84.0% of these mother did not believe that fish, milk, meat and egg makes children steal but despite this belief, 90.0% of ages 3 to 4 were suffering from wasting while 92.1% of the same age were stunted. This implies that these children lack enough of nutritional food to promote their growth and may die of nutritional diseases. Wikipedia the free encyclopedia (2007) explained that stunted and wasted children were liable to die prematurely in life because of vital organs that were never fully developed during childhood as a result of under nutrition.

The findings in this study showed that most children were low in weight, height and head circumference. It was also discovered that despite the fact that mothers did not believe that proteinous food like fish, meat, egg and milk make children to steal, they still failed to include them in their children's meals as required. This research makes us to understand that children from Ife Central Local Government Area did not miss their meals but they often consumed mostly carbohydrates rich-foods.

CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Conclusion

It can be concluded from this research work that nutritional status of the under six children (especially 3 to 4 years) in Ife Central Local Government Area still need to be improved upon. From the findings of this study, it is obvious that high consumption of carbohydrates was still affecting the children's weight and height (as children in this study were found to consume carbohydrate-rich foods in five out of six meals). In addition, it was equally discovered that their vitamin-rich and protein-rich foods were poorly consumed by the children in this study.

Recommendations

Based on the findings of this study, the following recommendations were made with a view to improve on the nutritional status of under six children in Ife Central Local Government Area

- i. Balanced/adequate diet should be provided in the meals of the children (especially 3 to 4 year old)
- ii. Parents should endeavour to provide six meals (breakfast, eleveneces, lunch, mid-afternoon, dinner and bed time) for their under six children.
- iii. Mothers should increase the provision of protein-rich and vitamin-rich meals for their children.
- iv. Government and public health sectors should organize seminars and health talks for the mothers to enlighten them on how to use cheap locally available protein-rich and vitamin-rich foods in preparing meals for their children.

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ASSESSMENT OF ENTREPRENEURIAL UTILIZATION OF BAMBOO IN OSOGBO, OSUN STATE, NIGERIA.

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ABSTRACT

The entrepreneurial utilization of bamboo tree was assessed in Osogbo, Osun State. The objective was to encourage the creative utilization of bamboo to unlock its potentials for employment and income generation as a free growing tree in the tropical forest vegetation zone of Nigeria. The study used survey methods to collect data in the study area. About 250 copies of questionnaire were administered on randomly chosen respondents in Osogbo, with a retrieval return rate of 90%. Frequency distribution and percentages were used to analyse the data collected. Results revealed that 80 percent of respondents agreed that bamboo could be utilized to generate employment. The study indicated low level of entrepreneurial creative utilization of bamboo, but if encouragement and support are given, the creative utilization of bamboo can result in income and employment generation which will boost the family income. The study recommends amongst others that collaborative efforts with the creative artists, basic technical skills like carpentry and marketers.

Keywords: Bamboo, employment, creative skills, renewable and entrepreneurial.

INTRODUCTION

Bamboos are a group of woody perennial evergreen plants. Botanists place them in the tribe Bambuseae within the grass family Poaceae. The giant bamboos are the largest members of the grass family. Bamboos, according to Wikipedia (2009) are the fastest growing woody plants in the world. They are more than 70 genera divided into about 1,000 species. They are found in diverse climates, from cold climates to hot tropical regions. They are found almost everywhere in the globe with exception of Europe and Antarctica. According to Wayne (2011), bamboos are very important plants, both ecologically and economically. They are often most useful and valuable plants for people and provide the primary diet for the giant Pandas. The bamboo is a very versatile material and is widely used in rural areas. Bamboos are extremely fast growing grasses, with most species being harvested in 3 -5 years, and some species reaching maturity in a year. It is therefore a low cost material that is strong and durable and can be used to make any household materials, from house building to functional and decorative objects (Bamboo Inspiration, 2009). Bamboo is so flexible, it can be bent round and curved shapes.

Bamboo has a rich history, and a promising future as a part of the solution to 21st century challenges. A giant, fast growing, wood like grass and one of earth's oldest and most precious plant materials, it has benefitted human societies since times before recorded history. Today, it helps in one way or the other more than two billion people to meet their basic needs, and – as a widespread, renewable, productive, versatile, low or no-cost, easily accessed, environment-enhancing resource – it has great potential to improve life even more in the years ahead, especially in the villages and countryside of the developing world (Sastry, 2003).

Bamboo is a forest based renewable resource that can facilitate the economic advancement of rural populations in our country. It is higher in density than a bird but is strong as steel. It takes more carbon dioxide (CO₂) and produces thirty percent oxygen per day and thirty percent oxygen more than a tree. It grows as much as a meter per day and is fully mature in 3 years.

The World market for bamboo is valued at US\$10billion of which China's share alone is to the tune of US\$5billion. Global market for bamboo is expected to touch about US\$29billion by 2015.

The quality of craftsmanship for bamboo is generally poor due to several reasons: bamboo used for construction is not mature enough, bamboo is not treated, improper handling, lack of finishing materials and skills.

Bamboo based industries are many such as Food products, Medicinal, chemical products and alcohol beverages, craft, handicraft and art products and value added products and wood substitutes such as ply, flooring tiles, shuttering.

Utilisation of bamboo

Bamboo grows fast and measures early. The output of bamboo plantation in countries where it is practiced is great and the use of bamboo stem is wide. Zhang, Jiang and Tang (2003) stated that the annual selective cutting and sustainable utilization of bamboo can be implemented without damaging ecological environment. The world is facing rapid increase of forest resources and suffering from negative deterioration of our ecological heritage. Therefore, the development and exploitation of bamboo resource is of considerable importance. Jules (2000) asserts that one of the earliest and perhaps, the most widespread use of bamboo is in building construction. The cylindrical structure and ready finish of bamboo predispose it as a natural building material. The high strength and low weight add to its utility. Bamboo's capacity for regeneration and environment friendliness project it as “tomorrow's timber”. Its production-to-consumption patterns and its role in the daily lives of millions of people place the plant in the position of a potential catalyst for socio-economic betterment. Bamboo is set to become the medium and the message. Nadia and Igor (2004) claim that bamboos are distinct and fascinating plants, with many values and uses, ranging from construction to irrigation systems, musical instruments to food and fuel. But we still know relatively little about most bamboos in the world. As forest ecosystems shrink under human pressure, the survival of many potentially important bamboo species may be threatened.

The widespread economic degradation caused by the intensive brick mining, improve the socio-economy of communities, providing income and employment benefits to its communities.

Properties and uses of bamboo

The characteristics/properties of bamboo make it an enduring, versatile and highly renewable resource. Bamboo has more than 1,500 documented uses, ranging from firewood to light bulbs, medicine, poison and toys to aircraft manufacturing. Over 1,000 million people live in houses made of bamboo or with bamboo as the key structural, cladding or roofing element.

- * Its biological characteristics make it a perfect tool for reducing carbon dioxide levels in the atmosphere. It generates more oxygen than equivalent strands of trees, lowers light intensity, protects against ultraviolet rays and is an atmospheric and soil purifier.
- * Bamboo is a versatile natural resource. The great diversity of species make bamboo adaptable to many environments. It tolerates extreme precipitation from 30 to 250 inches of annual rainfall. A dense bamboo cover also offers stake to trees, fodder to animals and food to humans.
- * Bamboo grows very fast and has a short growth cycle. Bamboo grows much faster than wood, and needs relatively little water. It is the fastest growing plant, growing three times faster than most eucalyptus species. Commercially, important species usually mature in four to five years (versus 10 to 25 years for most soft woods). It can be harvested/cut annually.
- * Bamboo prevents soil erosion. Its anti-erosion properties create an effective watershed stitching the soil together along fragile river banks, deforested areas, and in places prone to earthquakes and mud slides. Thus, bamboo helps control landslides, keep flooded rivers along their natural course and slow the speed of the water flow.
- * Bamboo is foremost in biomass production, with up to 40 tonnes per hectare per year in terms of culms only in managed stands. An estimated one-quarter of the biomass in tropical regions and one-fifth in subtropical regions comes from bamboo.
- * Bamboo has been used in ancient medicine. Bamboo has for centuries been used in Chinese acupuncture. The powdered hardened secretion from bamboo is used internally to treat asthma, coughs and can be used as an aphrodisiac. In China, ingredients from the root of the black bamboo help treat kidney disease.
- * Bamboo is one of the world's best natural engineering materials. Due to its high tensile strength, it is essential structural material in earthquake architecture and is one of the strongest building materials. Its strength-to-weight ratio is better than that of teak wood and mild steel. This makes bamboo wood a potential alternative, at least in some applications, to steel which requires more energy for manufacturing/production. Its strength and flexibility make it a viable material for building shelters that offer protection against hurricanes and earthquakes. In Bangladesh, 73% of the population lives in bamboo houses. Bamboo based pre-fabricated houses can be constructed quickly with new and emerging

- techniques and is thus an important post-disaster relief material. It is extensively being used in Tsunami rehabilitation in India. Bamboo reinforcement in concrete piles is used by the Indian Railways.
- As a food source, bamboo shoots have provided nutrition for millions of people worldwide. In Japan, the antioxidant properties of pulverized bamboo bark prevents bacterial growth and is used as a natural food preservative. Taiwan alone consumes 80,000 tons of bamboo shoots annually constituting a \$50 million industry.
 - *. Bamboo is a viable replacement for wood. Its qualities of strength, light weight and flexibility make it a viable alternative to tropical timber that is used in the furniture and building material industries.
 - It is a critical element of the economy. Bamboo and its related industries provide income, food and housing to over 2.2 billion people worldwide.
 - Bamboo is a high-yield renewal natural resource. Bamboo is now being used for wall paneling, floor tiles, for paper making, briquettes for fuel, raw materials for housing construction, and rebar for reinforced concrete beams. It can be used to produce many items of daily use that are currently made out of plastic or other less eco-friendly materials.
 - *. Bamboo is being used as an input or raw material in certain industries. It has been primarily been used in the paper industry in bulk quantities as a raw material for paper pulp. Bamboo is also used in manufacturing wood substitutes, composites, utility products including Venetian blind and Agarbatti (incense sticks).
 - Bamboo is also a source of energy. Gasifier can produce electricity using bamboo as fuel. These can also be used for thermal applications replacing furnace and diesel oil. Charcoal and its processed form in powder and briquettes can also be manufactured. It is superior to other sources of charcoal in terms of calorific value. Bamboo charcoal can also be used as a raw material for activated carbon manufacturing which is used as absorbent in different industries like genetable oil beverage; pharmaceuticals etc goldsmiths prefer bamboo charcoal in making jewels (Ajayi, 2008).

What makes bamboo unique?

- Bamboo is 17% stronger in tensile strength than steel.
- Bamboo is 27% stronger than red oak.
- Bamboo is 13% harder than hard maple.
- Bamboo is as good as (or better than) timber in strength, compression and flexion.
- Bamboo is resistant to moisture and colouration.
- Everything in wood can be produced from bamboo (Sanjay, 2008).

Furthermore, many nutritious and active minerals such as vitamins, amino acids, flavine, phenolic acid, polysaccharide, trace elements and steroid can be extracted from bamboo culm, shoot and leaf. And all these have anti-oxidant, anti-aging, anti-bacterial and anti-viral functions. These are valuable in heath care, and can be processed into beverage, medicines, pesticides, or other household items like toothpaste, soaps, etc and at present; quite a few products have found their way into markets:

- * Bamboo leaf contains 2% to 5% flavine and phenolic compound that have the power to remove active oxy-free-radicals, stooping sub-nitrification and abating blood fat. Flavine beverage and beer have been widely accepted particularly in East Asian countries like China, Korea and Japan mainly because of their value in health care.
- *. Some materials extracted from bamboo can be used in fresh flavour preservation or food storage application.
- *. Some additives obtained from bamboo are used in food such as bamboo juice, beverage, bamboo flavoured rice, etc.
- *. Bamboo shoot is one kind of ideal vegetables free in pollution, low in fat, high in edible fibre and rich in mineral. It functions well in removing sputum, enhance digestion, relieve toxicity, improves dieresis and often used for healing swollen state of tissues or edema and abdominal disease in which watery fluid collects in cavities or body tissues called ascites. Shoot also contains saccharine which can resist little white mouse tumour and tumour-180 also has anti aging elements.

Bamboo is naturally distributed in the tropical and subtropical belt between approximately 460 North and 470 South latitude, and is commonly found in Africa, Asia and Central South America. Some species may also grow successfully in mild temperate zones in Europe and North America.

Bamboo acreage	Area (million ha)	% of forest cover
Worldwide	36	3.2
Asia	24	4.4
*Africa	2.7	-
*Latin America	10	-

Source: FAO, YES BANK analysis. *Data not very exact

Future trends

The market for bamboo products seems healthy and growing. There is room for more volume, and there is room for new products. This offers exciting possibilities for the sector. Bamboo can replace wood, an ever diminishing resource. Bamboo is rural-farmer-friendly, both for cultivation and processing. And bamboo fits very well in sustainable approaches to natural resource management, providing the consumers with a “green” product. Most recently discussions about bamboo for bio-fuels have started seriously.

Statement of the problem

Bamboos grow wildly in the rain forest and derived savannah forest areas of Nigeria. Economic utilization of bamboo can trigger such economic benefits as employment and income opportunities. How can we entrepreneurially utilize the economic benefits of bamboo?

Aims and objectives

The general aim of this study is therefore to assess the level of entrepreneurial utilization of the economic opportunities offered by bamboo. The specific objective is to find out if there are any conscious efforts to apply skill in the use of bamboo to unlock its economic potentials to create income and employment opportunities.

METHODOLOGY

The study area

Osogbo is the capital city of Osun State, one of the 36 states of Nigeria. Osogbo has two local government areas- Olorunda and Osogbo. Osogbo is located on latitude 4034IE , longitude 7046IN , and it is about 47km2. Osogbo is an acclaimed arts and cultural centre. It is a world heritage site. It is the home of adire and its many creative human endowments. The Osogbo people are generally farmers and hunters when they are not into creative arts and trading. As a major tourist destination in the southwest, Nigeria, Osogbo employs a lot of creativity to attract tourists and visitors.

Sample and sampling technique

Purposive random sampling was used to collect data to have the view of users of bamboo.

Data collection

Structured questionnaire survey was used to collect data.

Data analysis

Simple percentages was used to analyse data collected

RESULTSAND DISCUSSION

Table 1: Entrepreneurial utilization of bamboo in Osogbo, Nigeria.

	Respondents (Yes)	Percentage
Artifacts	30	13
Souvenirs	80	35
Gift items	50	22
Household furniture	70	31
Ceiling finishing	45	20
Wall finishing	20	08
Floor finishing	20	08
Paratourism (mementos)	100	44
Office utensils	50	22
Home utensils	30	13

Source: Field Survey, 2011.

Table 2: Perception/Attitude to entrepreneurial utilization of bamboo in other areas in the world.

	Respondents	Percentage
Food/Culinary items	120	53
Clothing/wearing material	110	48
Handbags, Purse	130	57
Wine production	80	35
Basket and Ornaments	60	26
Carvings	90	40
Necklace and Pendants	180	80
Interior decoration	100	44
Water fountain	30	13
Paper Pulp	10	04

Source: Field Survey, 2011.

Table 3: Actions expected to effect positive change in entrepreneurial utilization of bamboo in osogbo

Activities	Respondents	Percentage
Create awareness/Publicity	190	84
Training / Skill acquisition	170	75
Support from global and regional bodies	119	53
Research on utilization and technology adoption	120	53
Government Policy Initiatives and Support	200	88
Incorporate Bamboo into Environmental conservation efforts, Health Issues, Poverty Alleviation, Employment generation and Industrialization.	150	66

Source: Field Survey, 2011.

Table 4: Expected benefits of entrepreneurial utilization of bamboo in Osogbo, Nigeria.

Benefits	Respondents	Percentage
Employment generation	180	80
Income generation	165	73
Environmental sustainability	130	57
Skill acquisition	175	77
Increased business opportunities	120	53
Awareness-public, Govts. and NGO	135	60
Product development	80	35
Poverty alleviation	125	55
Reduction in socio economic programs	85	37
More united families-stronger nation	100	44

Source: Field Survey, 2011.

Findings and Discussion

In Table 1 above, 30 respondents out of the 225 copies of the questionnaire representing 13 percent responded positively to the question of whether they are aware of bamboo is used as artifacts. 100 respondents in the same table representing 44 percent of the respondents responded positively to the question on utilization of bamboo for paratourism (mementos) which are small pieces of items that are pocket-friendly that tourists buy and take away as mementos of their visit. Only 22 percent know that bamboo can be used as office utensils, whereas 35percent are aware of its being used as souvenirs. The knowledge of its being used as floor and wall finishing is not known to people in and around osogbo, as only 8 percent of the respondents positively responded to this. Only 31 percent of the respondents are aware of bamboo being as household furniture (living room, dining room or even kitchen furniture). Home utensils like drinking cup, eating plate, chop sticks are known to only 13 percent of the respondents. But quite interestingly, 20 percent are aware that it is good as ceiling products. In table 2, respondents were generally happy and interested in the utilization of bamboo in other areas of the world. About 80 percent of the respondents were interested in knowing that bamboo can be used as necklace, pendants, bangles and other body ornaments. 120 respondents representing 53 percent of the retrieved copies of the questionnaire were interested and aware that bamboo can be used as food culinary related items. Only 35 percent know or aware of its being used for the production of wine, while 26 percent know or aware of its being used for basket weaving and ornaments. About 57 percent of the respondents were interested in its being used as handbags and purse whereas only 04 percent and 13 percent respectively are aware or interested in its usefulness as a paper pulp (raw material for paper production) and water fountain. Respondents are not aware or interested in its being used as ceiling finishing, wall finishing and floor finishing hence their positive responses to these were 20 percent, 08 percent and 08 percent respectively. Table 3 shows the actions or activities that the respondents expect to effect positive change in entrepreneurial utilization of bamboo in Osogbo. 84 percent want creation of awareness and publicity in all its ramifications while 75 percent believe training and acquisition of skills in bamboo creative utilization and marketing will achieve positive change. About 119 respondents representing 53 percent of the retrieved copies of the questionnaire expect support from global and regional bodies to transform the present negative outlook of entrepreneurial utilization of bamboo in Osogbo. About 88 percent of the respondents want government to initiate policies and support to change the situation of bamboo while 66 percent want bamboo to be incorporated into the environmental conservation efforts, health issues, poverty alleviation, employment generation and industrialization. Table 4 presents the respondents expected benefits of entrepreneurial utilization of bamboo in Osogbo. About 80 percent of the respondents believe it will bring about employment generation while 73 percent expect it lead to income generation. Only 44 percent expect it to lead to more united families which will lead to stronger nation. Majorly 77% expect skill acquisition to be one of the expected benefits, while 57 percent desire environmental sustainability as benefit of entrepreneurial utilization of bamboo in Osogbo. 120 respondents representing 53 percent expect it to lead to increased business opportunities while 60 percent believe awareness by the members of the public, government functionaries and non-governmental organizations will be an expected benefit. Only 35 percent expect new product development, 55 percent expect it to usher in poverty alleviation while 37 percent expect reduction in socio-economic problems.

Bamboos grow well in the wild in Osogbo. It has always been used as fuel (fire wood), construction materials as scaffolding or support for concrete works, the leaves are used medicinally and culm or stem is used as musical instrument. People use it in sub-urban and rural areas as kitchen wall, fence wall, and animal house construction and so on. The entrepreneurial utilization of bamboo in Osogbo, a city that is known for its creative and artistry productivity can be said to be low and for now, commercially unviable because of the almost zero entrepreneurial utilization. The little utilization observed is mainly as source of energy (fire wood), construction materials, fencing, thatch huts and so on (Sonubi, 2009). Whereas, it can be effectively utilized as household furniture, wall and ceiling finishing, office equipment, souvenir, mementos and other craft works which is more economical and socially benefiting as it can generate income as well as employment opportunities both in the urban and rural areas. Some of the literature materials used in this paper established the industrial use of bamboo as bio fuels, sustainable thermal energy generation resource. Its biomass can be utilized in the production of bio gas as an alternative energy resource. India, China are world leaders in bamboo cultivation, utilization and exportation of its processed products and services. Bamboo, an eco-friendly, natural vegetative resource with a strong regenerative power should be used to improve the well being of the people of Osogbo and indeed all Nigerians.

CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Conclusion

Bamboo entrepreneurial utilization in the study area is low and uneconomic. Bamboo uses are varied and rewarding. It can be used economically when skillfully utilized.

Bamboo resource producers are mainly those who utilize it for construction purposes as scaffolding and support systems in construction sites. Bamboo resource marketers are mainly those who sell finished products as household utensils, office products, souvenirs and paratourism. Bamboo resource users are those individuals, families, corporate organizations that find finished bamboo products attractive, useful and of utility value to their lives, homes and work places.

Recommendations

This study on the entrepreneurial utilization of bamboo in Osogbo has thrown more light into the grass plant, bamboo – a gift of nature and it is therefore, recommended that the two local governments in Osogbo (Osogbo local government and Olorunda local government) should harness their resources in collaboration with other local governments in the state with the assistance of the state government undertake the resource survey of bamboo plants in their areas of jurisdiction and facilitate the research into the appropriate research into the economic utilization of bamboo. Facilitate the training and skill acquisition of talented enterprising young men and women of Osun State. Facilitate the sourcing of capital and equipment for utilization from development agencies, at national, regional and global levels. Encourage and promote necessary policy issues that will support the entrepreneurial utilization of bamboo. The organized and the un-organized private sector should collaborate and use the power of synergy to unlock the potentials in bamboo production and utilization both for economic and domestic purposes.

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CREATIVITY, WEALTH CREATION AND EMPLOYMENT GENERATION THROUGH HOME ECONOMICS EDUCATION IN NIGERIA

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ABSTRACT

The study assessed how creativity influences wealth and employment generation in the various areas of Home Economics. The concepts of creativity, Home Economics, wealth creation and employment generation were discussed in addition to theories in creativity. Three research questions were raised to guide the study. The survey research design was adopted for the study. Eighty-six Home Economics students in their third and fourth years of study were used for the study using purposive sampling technique. A structured questionnaire titled Creativity, Wealth Creation and Employment Generation in Home Economics Questionnaire (CWCEGHEQ) developed by the researchers was used for the study. Data collected was analysed using frequency and simple percentages for clarity of results. Some of the results showed that, the present Home Economics curriculum in use in Nigerian Universities is not capable of fostering wealth creation in all the areas of the discipline; creativity could be used to foster wealth creation in many ways. Lack of funds, inadequate skills in relevant areas, lack of specialization in specific areas were given as impediments to wealth creation and employment generation in Home Economics Education. In conclusion, innovation and creativity must be implored in Home Economics Education for wealth creation and employment generation. Based on the findings, the researchers recommend amongst others, a review of Home Economics curriculum in tertiary institutions at undergraduate levels to incorporate entrepreneurship.

Key words: Creativity, Wealth creation, Employment generation, Home Economics Education

INTRODUCTION

Nigeria has been identified as the giant of Africa because it is a great country with vast human and material resources. The National Population Commission (NPC, 2004) estimated the population of the country to be about 125 million in 2001. It is expected that by now, the population may be more than this figure. Given the huge resources both human and material inherent in the country, one would expect that there should be fair distribution of wealth, but on the contrary, this is not so. Nigeria like most other developing nations of the world is faced with the issue of poverty. Reports reveal that more than two thirds of Nigerians are poor. The incidence of poverty has been increasing at a significant rate since independence (nigeriafirst.org, 2008). Statistics further reveal that seven out of ten Nigerians live on less than one dollar a day (NPC, 2004). This situation has persisted despite the huge revenue accruing to the Nation from her oil revenue. Poverty has therefore been a source of concern to several governments not just in Africa alone but all over the world.

The United Nations in 2001 recognized the need to assist impoverished nations in a very aggressive manner which led to the enactment of the eight Millennium Development Goals with the aim to spur development by improving social and economic conditions in the world's poorest countries. The first goal is about the eradication of extreme poverty and hunger (<http://www.un.org/millenniumgoals/bkdg.shtml>).

The Nigerian government under various leaders has for decades sought different strategies and measures to alleviate poverty among its citizenry. The General Sanni Abacha led administration employed the National Directorate for Employment (NDE) as a means of tackling unemployment among the youth in the country. Under the administration of President Olusegun Obasanjo, an economic policy was evolved to checkmate poverty in the nation and strive to achieve the millennium development goals. The economic policy was referred to as National Economic Empowerment and Development Strategy (NEEDS). The NEEDS document focused on poverty reduction, wealth creation, employment generation and value re-orientation. The

programme was stepped down to the States and the Local government levels as SEEDS and LEEDS . The President Yar'Adua led administration promulgated seven points agenda to address the issue of poverty in the nation. One of the issues addressed by the President's was wealth creation and employment generation as a means of alleviating poverty and advancing the nation's course.

Wealth creation is seen as the combination of materials, labour, land and technology in such a way as to capture a profit (excess above the cost of production). It can also be viewed as the science and arts of converting income into asserts with the ability of passively creating wealth for the insurance of financial freedom through out one's entire life time and even after death (Njoku, 2006). The process of wealth creation means converting intangible wealth into various forms of tangible wealth which becomes only possible when everyone can have opportunities to sell his or her creative ability as a product or service and make good profit (Tawari, 2003). Wealth creation is therefore dependent on creativity. Humans rule the world because of creativity, creativity is inspiration, and it entails breeding new life into something which is exactly what is done when creating (Macfarlane, 2008). Creativity is something to be nurtured at all cost, some disciplines in tertiary institutions promote creativity, while others do not. Home Economics Education is one of the disciplines that implore creativity and entrepreneurial skills which foster wealth creation and employment generation and is capable of generating employment for the teeming unemployed youth population in Nigeria.

Home Economics is a multi- disciplinary course capable of providing its graduates at various levels with a wide range of entrepreneurial skills. In Nigeria, Home Economics is taught from primary schools to secondary and tertiary institutions. For the purpose of this paper and in consonance with the theme of this conference, this paper assesses how creativity can be implored for wealth creation through Home Economics education.

Concept and areas of Home Economics Education

According to Ene-Obong (2006) Home Economics is a field of study that evolved out of the concern for the family and raised by the conditions of a society becoming increasingly dominated by commercial and industrial interest. It is concerned with ways in which the quality and content of family life can be enhanced maximally through optimum utilization of its human and material resources. Home Economics brings together knowledge and skills from different disciplines within the pure, applied and behavioural sciences, arts and agriculture to bear upon the family and its environment.

International Federation of Home Economics (1988) refer to Home Economics as a body of theoretical knowledge, based on exact sciences and Humanities, and forms of practice, backed up by appropriate technologies. Its area of activity is the development, use and management of human and material resources for the greater welfare of individuals, families and human societies in its entirety.

Home Economics is multi disciplinary in nature, made up of four major areas namely; Food and Nutrition, Clothing and Textiles, Home Management and Family Living and Human and Child Development. Each of these areas can lead to a wide range of occupation for the Home Economist. Clayton (1994) identifies the following:

•**Food and Nutrition:** Catering Services, Product development and testing, Food management (nutritionist, dietician, food technologist, bakery work, food processing, tester etc.).

•**Clothing and Textiles:** Fashion designer, textile designer, chemist and engineers, tailors, illustrators, cosmetologist, pattern makers, clothing store attendant etc.

•**Home Management and Family Living:** Interior designer, consumer service worker, extension worker, house keepers, entrepreneurs etc.

•**Human and Child Development:** Institutional care attendant, social service worker, health care workers, counselor, psychologist, elementary and secondary school teachers etc.

The concept of creativity

Creativity is a psychological construct. Feldman (2005) sees creativity as the combining of responses or ideas in novel ways, while the Luterist (2002) refers to creativity simply as the ability to look at one thing and see another. It is typically, an act of producing new ideas, approaches or actions. Creativity and innovation go

together. Innovation is the process of generating and applying creative ideas within specific contexts. Innovation begins with creative ideas (Amabile, Barasade, Muller & Staw, 2005) while “creativity by individuals and teams is a starting point for innovation; the first is necessary but not sufficient condition for the second” (Albert & Bruce, 1999). Creativity is also seen as an action, as well as a result of imagination and ingenuity, which is the ability to relate previously, unrelated ideas or things (Cherwitiz, 2006). Onu (2006) views creativity as the application of ability and curiosity to discover something new. In some cases, one may have the ability but lacks the wisdom of application in an innovative way for it to result in something new or novel.

Literatures have isolated some factors which are associated with creativity (Csikszentmihalyi, 1997; Simonton, 2000; Niu & Sternberg, 2003). These include divergent thinking, curiosity, non- conformity, cognitive complexity, persistence and encouragement of intrinsic rather extrinsic motivation. Amabile (1983) adds that giving people a free hand in tasks accomplishment or problem solving encourages independence which enhances creativity.

Theories of creativity

The three major theoretical framework of creativity are the Behaviourist, Personality-based, and Cognitive Processes. The Behaviourists state creativity as a product of one's environment and genetic make-up. To induce creative behaviour, one must set up an environment to allow creativity to occur. The Personality-based view states that creativity is a special perceptiveness on the part of certain individuals. Finally, the Cognitive Process framework describes creativity as a thinking process implying it is learned behaviour that can be improved.

In summary, it is obvious that there are differing views of creativity depending on the different perspectives. Certain common elements can also be identified such as the involvement of divergent thinking to arrive at something new. Many creativity theories, excluding the behaviourist view, see creativity as a process by which an individual establishes a relationship with the environment. Creativity can therefore be applied to the discipline of Home Economics in order to come up with novel practices in the profession.

Statement of the problem

The problem of eradication of poverty and employment generation has been of utmost concern to several governments in Nigeria. Many programmes have been formulated to curb poverty in the country such as the Green Revolution, the National Directorate for Employment (NDE), National Economic Empowerment and Development Strategy (NEEDS) and the seven point agenda of the Yar'adua administration which the present administration is building on. Wealth creation and employment generation are key features of the seven point agenda. The Federal Ministry of Youth Development has emphasized on self employment for Nigerian youths through the establishment of skills acquisition center for the development of entrepreneurial skill in the youth for wealth creation. There is a general shift in the educational policy in Nigeria as government and policy makers have realized that the education of the youth should incorporate practical and entrepreneurial skills for sustainable development.

Home Economics education which is education for family living incorporates practical/entrepreneurial skills not only for the family, but such that can be employed for commercial ventures and wealth creation. However at the tertiary level, the programme is devoid of specialization. It is therefore uncertain whether the Home Economics curriculum that is operated can develop in the student entrepreneurial skills that are necessary for wealth creation. In view of this, one may rightly ask some pertinent questions: can Home Economics education foster wealth creation? How can creativity be employed in Home Economics education to create wealth for the individual student as well as the society? What are the impediments to wealth creation in Home Economics? This study is therefore carried out to provide answers to the above questions.

Objectives of the study

The study was guided by the following specific objectives:

- (I) To assess the areas of Home Economics curriculum in tertiary institutions that foster wealth creation and employment generation.
- (ii) To identify the ways in which creativity can be implored for wealth creation through Home Economics education.
- (iii) To identify factors that militates against wealth creation through Home Economics education.

Research questions

The study sought to give answers to the following research questions:

- (I) Which areas of Home Economics curriculum in tertiary institutions foster wealth creation and employment generation?
- (ii) In what ways can creativity be implored for wealth creation and employment generation through Home Economics education?
- (iii) What factors militate against wealth creation and employment generation through Home Economics education?

METHODOLOGY

A survey research design was adopted for the study. The study was conducted in the Departments of Home Economics, in both faculty of Agriculture and Vocational and Technical Education (VTE) in University of Uyo, Akwa Ibom State , Nigeria . Purposive sampling technique was used to draw eighty-six students in the third and fourth level in the programme and used as sample for the study. A structured questionnaire titled Creativity Wealth Creation and Employment Generation in Home Economics Questionnaire (CWCEGHEQ) was developed by the researchers and used to obtain information for the study. The questionnaire comprised of four sections. Section A sought information on the bio-data of the respondents; Section B assessed Home Economics curriculum, wealth creation and employment generation; Section C required information on ways that creativity can be implored for wealth creation through Home Economics while Section D sought information on the factors militating against wealth creation and employment generation through Home Economics education. The questionnaire had seventeen items with options from which the respondents were expected to choose from. The face and content validity of the instrument was validated by two lecturers; one in the Department of Home Economics and another in Test and Measurement. They read through and made corrections, while the reliability was ensured through a test- re-test procedure which yielded a reliability coefficient of 0.86. Data obtained was analysed using frequency, simple percentages and descriptive analysis.

RESULTS

Eighty-three (96.5%) of the respondents in the study were females while three (3.5%) were males. The result also showed that (46.5%) of the sample were aged between 18 and 25 years of age; (33.7%) were aged between 26 and 30years; (10.5%) were aged between 31 and 35years while (9.3%) were aged 36years and above.

Research question 1: What areas of Home Economics curriculum in tertiary institutions foster wealth creation and employment generation?

Table 1: Percentage analysis of areas of Home Economics curriculum in tertiary institutions that foster wealth creation and employment generation

Areas of Home Economics that foster wealth creation and employment generation	Frequency	Percent (%)
Food and Nutrition	86	100
Textile and clothing	32	37.2
Home Management	25	29.1
Human & Child Development	15	17.4

Table 1, shows the percentage analysis of the responses in the areas of Home Economics that foster wealth creation and employment generation. All the respondents 86 (100%) indicated that the knowledge they had acquired in the area of Food and Nutrition was sufficient to help them create wealth and employment generation; only thirty-two respondents (37.2%) agreed they could acquire wealth through the area of clothing and textile; twenty- five respondents (29.1%) consented that the area of Home Management could foster wealth creation while only fifteen (17.4%) agreed that the knowledge they had acquired in the area of Human and Child Development could foster wealth creation and employment generation. Based on this result, there is need to restructure the Home Economics curriculum currently in use in the University of Uyo to build in entrepreneurial skills in all the areas of Home Economics.

Research question 2: In what ways can creativity be implored for wealth creation and employment generation through Home Economics education?

Table 2: Percentage Analysis of how Creativity can be implored for wealth creation and employment generation through Home Economics

Items	Frequency	Percent (%)
1. Sufficient independence in Home Economics Lectures/ practical for students	50	58.1
2. Financial support from the University to students	65	75.6
3. Seeking students opinion on a wide range of departmental activities	60	69.8
4. Students encouraged to write projects on topics of local relevance	70	81.4
5. Students being encouraged to take part in external projects	55	64
6. Practical and Lecture classes are made interesting and real	63	73.3

Table 2 shows the various ways that creativity could be implored for wealth creation through Home Economics. Fifty (58%) of the respondents indicated that they were given sufficient independence during Home Economics practicals and lectures; sixty-five (75.6%) indicated some form of financial support from the university for their activities; sixty (69.8%) stated that their opinion were sought on a wide spectrum of departmental activities; seventy (81.4%) of the respondents indicated that they were encouraged to write projects on topics of local relevance; fifty-five (64%) indicated that they were encouraged to take part in external projects while sixty-three (73.3%) of the respondents subscribed to academic staff making their lectures and practical classes interesting and real. This result implies that generally students have been exposed to creative avenues for wealth creation and employment generation. However, there is need to make allowance for more independence in Home Economics lectures and practical while encouragement of students to write projects on topics of local relevance should be upheld.

Research question 3: What factors militate against wealth creation and employment generation through Home Economics education?

Table 3: Percentage Analysis of factors militating against wealth creation and employment generation through Home Economics education

Factors	Frequency	Percent (%)
1. Inadequate skills in relevant areas	86	100
2. Lack of capital to start business	44	51.1
3. The general nature of the curriculum	77	89.5
4. Insufficient exposure to Entrepreneurship skills e.g. writing of business plans, field trips etc.	61	70.9

Table 3, shows the percentage analysis of the responses on the factors militating against wealth creation and employment generation through Home Economics Education. All the respondents 86 (100%) indicated that inadequate skills in the relevant areas is a major contribution to inability to create wealth and generate employment in Home Economics. Other factors indicated were; lack of capital to start business (51.1%); the general nature of the curriculum (89.5%) insufficient exposure to entrepreneurship skills like field trips, proposal writing, computer application and writing of business plans was consented to by (70.9%) of the respondents. In view of the above result, it is expedient that students should be taught adequate skills in relevant areas of Home Economics, as well as expose students to entrepreneurial skills such as writing of business plans and field trips among others. In addition to these, efforts should be made to introduce specialization in the various areas of Home Economics at the undergraduate level.

Discussion

From the result of the analysis of research question one, it could be deduced that only the curriculum in Foods and Nutrition has the highest percentage (100%) of creating wealth and employment generation for Home Economics graduates as indicated on table one. Other areas of the discipline although relevant, do not seem to possess the ability to foster wealth creation (Textile and Clothing, 37.2%; Home management, 29.1%; Child Development, 17.4%). This result is in agreement with the assertion of Ene-Obong (2006) that the Home Economics curriculum that is operated in tertiary institutions in Nigeria is general in nature, without specialization in any area and therefore cannot develop in the student entrepreneurial skills that are necessary for wealth creation and employment generation.

The result of the analysis of research question two, portrays that creativity could be implored for wealth creation through allowing students sufficient independence during lectures and practicals; providing financial support to students; engaging students on a wide range of departmental activities; encouraging students to write projects on topics of local relevance; encouraging students to take part in external projects and making practical and lecture classes interesting and real. This result is in line with the views of Feldman (2005); Onu (2006) Niu and Sternberg (2003). They all agree that the application of innovative and creative ideas could result in best practices.

The result of the analysis of research question three showed that there are several factors that militate against wealth creation and employment generation in Home Economics. These factors as revealed from the study are: inadequate skills in relevant areas; lack of capital to start business; general nature of the curriculum and insufficient exposure to learning tools for entrepreneurship for example, writing business plans, field trips and computer application. Kautz (2003) posits that learning tools for entrepreneurship education include business plans, students' business start-ups, field trips amongst others. The author asserts that an effective programme must show students “how” to behave entrepreneurially and should introduce them to people who might be able to facilitate their success. This is termed “Strategic alliance” and this is what Home Economic students need to feature effectively as entrepreneurs thereby generating employment for themselves and others.

CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The findings from the study have portrayed that creativity can be implored in Home Economics Education for wealth creation and employment generation. The curriculum in the various subject areas of Home Economics in tertiary institutions should be strengthened through entrepreneurship education for best practices in the discipline. In view of this, the researchers make the following recommendations:

- (I) Home Economics curriculum in tertiary institutions at the under graduate level should be reviewed to allow students specialize in specific areas so that they could develop entrepreneurial skills for wealth creation.
- (ii) Students should be allowed sufficient independence in Home Economics classes and practicals and encouraged to write projects on topics with local relevance as well as participate in external projects.
- (iii) Home Economics lecturers should endeavour to make their lectures and practicals interesting and real by imploring the use of field trips and the application of computer to the discipline.
- (iv) There should be proper funding of Home Economics programmes by all stake holders.

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EVALUATION OF FOOD HYGIENE PRACTICES AMONG FOOD OPERATORS
IN IFE CENTRAL LOCAL GOVERNMENT, OSUN STATE, NIGERIA

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ABSTRACT

The study evaluated food hygiene skills practices among food operators in Ife Central Local Government Area of Osun State. It specifically identified the personal and socio-economic characteristics of food operators, examined the level of food hygiene knowledge among respondents, and investigated food hygiene skills possessed and used by the food operators. Data were collected from 125 food operators who were selected using simple random sampling technique. Data were summarised using descriptive statistics. At $p < 0.01$ correlation analysis revealed a significant relationship between food hygiene and socio-economic characteristics of food operators such as age ($r=0.61$), occupation ($r=0.93$), scope of business ($r=0.88$), education ($r=0.48$), job experiences ($r=0.97$), and numbers of employees ($r=0.62$). Also, at $p < 0.01$, there was a significant relationship between food hygiene and skill practices such as; presence of hand washing basin ($r=0.65$), wash hand before food preparation ($r=0.99$), wash hand after a rest period ($r=0.46$), wash hand after using toilet ($r=0.96$), wash hand after handling money ($r=0.73$), wash hands after blowing nose ($r=0.91$), no touching of food after touch of hair ($r=0.72$), among others. It was concluded that skill practices among the food operators was poor. It is then recommended that government through its relevant agencies should regularly provide necessary training for the food operators and also ensure strict and absolute compliance to food hygiene practices.

Key words: Food handlers, Food hygiene, food operators, health, skill practices.

INTRODUCTION

Food being one of the basic human needs that furnished an organism with major substances essential for sustainable existence and living. Shubhangini (2005) described food as a group of substances consumed normally in response to the stimulus of hunger, and most of which is digested as well as assimilated in the body for growth and maintenance. In essence food could be any substance that can be any substance that can be met abolished by an animal to give nutrients and build tissues. As food undergoes various processes of treatment with insecticides and pesticides from planting to harvest, farm storage, transport, warehousing, distribution, processing, packaging among others, it becomes highly exposed and vulnerable to contamination with various types of foreign matters. Hence, hygiene and good handling practices are so important to prevent food from becoming contaminated. Hygiene refers to a set of practices associated with handling of food for the purpose of preservation of health and healthy living. It is associated with cleanliness and preventive measures. Food hygiene means all measures necessary for ensuring the safety and wholesomeness of food at all stages from its final consumption. Food hygiene practices vary widely, and what is considered acceptable in one culture might not be acceptable in another (Raheena 2007). Food production involves several operations with different specialties such as food operators which encompasses food handlers and vendors. A food handler is any person who directly handles packaged or unpackaged food, food equipment/utensils or food contact surfaces, while food vendors are the intermediate between food handlers and the consumers. Food handlers have a major responsibility in the prevention of contamination associated with the spoilage and food poisoning during production and distribution, while the vendor's preventive responsibility starts at the point of transfer to the consumers. Since eating from fast foods and other outlets is inevitable especially in an industrialized world, a required level of food hygiene should be maintained by food operators because low standard in food handling practices can lead to various kinds of harms from mild to serious illness, and even death in severe cases. A typical incidence of food poisoning leading to death is the one of 'killer beans' which we had experienced in Nigeria in the past, and this occur as a result of the use of chemical called 'phostoxin' in preserving the beans. Food can be said to be free when it contains no hazardous substance that could be injurious to health. (Wallace, 2006 and Codex Alimentarius, 2009)

The high incidence of food borne illness led to an increase in global concern about food hygiene. Several food borne diseases outbreak have been reported to have been with poor personal hygiene of people handling food stuff (Balogun 2005). Food operators have a major responsibility in the prevention of contamination associated with food spoilage and food poisoning during its production and distribution. In the society today, there are lots of sicknesses that men suffer due to poor food hygiene. While Akinpelu (2000) reported that the use of chemicals (insecticides and pesticides) had helped in improving the safety of food among food operators, Oluoma (2004) asserted that though the effort of the ministry of health in ensuring the safety of food consumed in Nigeria is worthy of commendation, however it is not effective enough.

Statement of the problem

Food safety is a corporate social responsibility. Food is a product where consumption is not just a matter of choice, but is ultimately a matter of life and death. Safety is a non-negotiable priority to the food industry. Food safety remains a critical issue with outbreak of foodborne illness resulting in substantial costs to individual, the food industry and the economy. Mishandling of food is a contributing factor to the occurrence of food borne illness. Food handlers may be asymptomatic carriers of food poisoning organisms. They are important people when considering food safety, their hygiene practices affect a larger part of the population who depend on them for their meals. Food vendors who sell ready to eat meals on the streets are also important factors contributing to food borne related diseases as literature revealed that they are of very little or no educational background and hence have low understanding of food safety issues. Having established the essential roles play by food handlers and vendors in the distribution of foods to the final consumers, it is worthwhile studying the hygiene practices of food operators in Ile – Ife where a case of epidemic of cholera had been reported in the past two years.

Objectives: The main objective was to evaluate food hygiene skill practices among food operators. Specific objectives include to:

- i. assess the personal and socio-economic characteristics of food operators.
- ii. investigate food hygiene practices among food operators.

METHODOLOGY

The study was conducted in Ife Central Local Government Area which is one of the four local government areas that made up Ile – Ife and its environs. Simple random sampling technique was used to select one hundred and twenty five food operators across the length and breadth of the local government area. Descriptive research design was adopted. Simple descriptive statistics such as frequency and percentage were used to analyze the data collected and inferential statistics (correlation) was used to draw conclusion.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Socio-economic characteristics: Data in table 1 indicated that 44.8% of the respondents fell within the age range of 21-30 years. This implied that a good number of the respondents were in the active age range of the labour force and have the potentials to make the food industry perform to expected standard. Majority (72.8%) were married, 54.4% had secondary education, about 68.8% had a household size of between 1-5, and 58.4% had between 1-3 staff employees. Hence, majority (58.4%) were operating on a low scale.

Table 1: Distribution of respondents by personal and socio-economic characteristics

Characteristics	Frequency	Percent
Age		
20 and below	18	14.4
21 – 30	56	44.8
31-40	26	20.8
40 and above	25	20
Total	125	100
Marital status		
Married	91	72.8
Single	34	27.2
Total	125	100
Formal education		
None	16	12.8
Below secondary school	4	3.2
Secondary education	68	54.4
Tertiary education	37	29.6
Total	125	100
Household size		
1-5	86	68.8
6-10	38	30.4
11-15	1	0.8
Total	125	100
No of employees		
1-3	73	58.4
4-6	24	19.2
7-9	12	9.6
9 and above	16	12.87
Total	125	100

Registration of food business: Data in Table 2 revealed that 35.2% of the food operators did not register their businesses. The probability that these outlets may be oblivious of hygiene practices, and consequently supply consumers with contaminated food is high.

Table 2: Distribution of respondents by registration of businesses

Registration of food business	Frequency	Percentage
Yes	81	64.8
No	44	64.8
Total	125	100

Source: Field survey 2009

Table 3 revealed a significant relationship between food hygiene and skill practices such as, presence of hand washing basin (r=0.65), washing hand before food preparation (r=0.96), wash hands after use of toilet (r=0.96), cook food thoroughly (r=0.96), awareness of staff state of health (r=0.9), good condition of the floor, ceiling and wall (r=0.99) among others at p < 0.01. This implies that the above listed skill practices are necessary conditions for ensuring food hygiene.

Table 4 showed significant relationship between food hygiene and socio-economic characteristics such as age (r=0.61), occupation (r=0.62), marital status (r=0.62), household size (r=0.93), scope of business (r=0.88), education (r=0.48), job experience (0.97), and number of employees (r=0.69). This result shows that the better the food operators are at the above tested variables, the higher their food hygiene practices.

Table 3: Correlation analysis showing linear relationship between food hygiene and skill practices among food operators

Variables	Correlations coefficient (r)	Coefficient of determinant (r2)
Presence of hand washing basin	0.65	0.42
Washing hands before food preparation	0.99	0.98
Washing hands after a rest period	0.46	0.21
Wash hands after usage of toilet	0.96	0.92
Wash of hands after handling of money	0.73	0.53
Wash hands after blowing nose	0.891	0.82
No touching of food after touch of hair	0.72	0.51
Wash of hands after touch of raw food items	0.87	0.75
Wash of hands during food preparation	0.96	0.92
Wash of hands before eating	0.60	0.36
Cooked food thoroughly	0.96	0.88
Training	0.33	0.77
Pest control	0.72	0.51
Food temperature control	0.87	0.75
Awareness of staff state of health	0.90	0.81
Health allowances to staff	0.91	0.82
Good condition of the floor, ceiling and wall	0.99	0.98

Table 4: Correlation analysis showing linear relationship between socio-economic characteristics of food operators and food hygiene

Variables	Correlations coefficient (r)	Coefficient of determinant (r2)
Age	0.61	0.37
Occupation	0.72	0.51
Marital status	0.62	0.38
Household size	0.93	0.86
Scope of the Business	0.88	0.77
Education	0.48	0.23
Job experience	0.97	0.94
No of employees	0.69	0.47

CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION

Food is a basic need of life and it is indispensable, consequently, government and other stakeholders should not handle any issue relating to food with levity. This study revealed that a good number (35.2%) of the food operators did not register their businesses, 36% of the respondents had a nonchalant attitude towards pest control, and that the food operators were found guilty of hygiene practices such as; lacking required training, presence of hand washing basin, washing hands after a rest period, food temperature control, and giving health allowances to staff among others. Government through its relevant agencies should ensure that no food operator is allowed to operate without satisfying the conditions required for registration. Regulatory bodies should also embark on regular visit and checking of the premises of the food operators to ensure compliance with the established guidelines and punish defaulters when necessary accordingly.

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ANALYSIS OF HOUSE HELP WORK AS A FORM OF EMPLOYMENT IN BENUE STATE

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ABSTRACT

There are a large number of children that are now economically active and engaging in various types of paid employment including house work. This study therefore sought to analyse house work as a form of employment. It was guided by two research questions and one hypothesis. Descriptive survey research design was used to generate data through the Economics of House Work Questionnaire, (EHWQ). A sample of three hundred (300) respondents was drawn from staff of the University of Agriculture, Makurdi. Stratified and random sampling technique was used to generate the sample for the study. Results of the study showed all the respondents indicating that house helps engage in cleaning and mopping the floor, running errands, entertaining and waiting on guests, waiting on members of the family and other duties as may be assigned. Also, 83% of house helps engage in care for the sick, 26.6% care for the aged, 22.6% are child minders /nanny, while 86% serve as security guards at home. Furthermore, the wages of house help fall within ? 1,000 - ? 6,500 monthly (60%), 25% of the respondents receive ? 6,500-? 10,000. While, only 14.6% are paid ? 10,000 - ? 15,000. None of the respondents pay the approved minimum wage of #19,500. Other material benefits enjoyed by house helps includes schooling in the afternoon session, (68%), morning session (8%), seasonal clothing (61%), health care (36%), own a phone (27%), leisure (20%), holiday to family (13%) and holiday with the family of residence (16%).Results of the hypothesis reveals that, there is no significant relationship between house work and cash benefits of house helps, therefore the null hypothesis was rejected $2=21.3 < x^2=12.5$. Recommendations were made based on the need for the intervention of the Nigerian Labour Congress, Parental involvement and employers role.

Keywords: House help, Housework, Employment, Wages, Benefits,

INTRODUCTION

The home functions as the economic unit contributing to the production of goods and services for the wellbeing of its members. For the household to be effectively managed there is need for the management of the essential activities, provision of essential services with the use of human and non-human resources within and outside the family. House work encompasses different tasks, the amount and types depend on household size, composition and cultural expectations (Iwuchukwu, 2008). If children are present, caring for them is a primary household task which brings with it a range of other house work and other related duties and household chores. In the past, it was the responsibility of woman to engage in housekeeping roles such as bearing and raising children, cooking, cleaning and tending to the physical and emotional needs of family members. Indeed, women were seen as the burden bearers of all household chores and the test of a good wife is her ability to be able to conduct all activities to facilitate the smooth running of the house. With the advent of education, urbanization and technological changes, women have moved from these traditional roles to other external work functions outside the home and family. These are some of the reasons which have compelled couples to employ the services of house help.

The term house help is all embracing and could mean the following: house maid, domestic servant, house girl/boy, and slave and in Nigeria parlance 'boy- boy'. This generally means the use of people for work at home or in other business. Oloko (1999) explains that domestic work may be injurious to the physical, moral and social development of a child especially if such a person is below 15 years. Indeed, it is well known that any situation that threatens the survival and comfort of the child will not support proper growth. The issue of house help work as a form of employment has taken a new dimension now than ever before with the various calls for the protection of the rights of women and children.

Increasing technological changes have affected the operations of housework. Economic productions have now moved away from the household to factories. Men and Women are working far away from their homes in

more lucrative work other than housework; (Kembe, 2003). Globally, economic dynamics have redefined home roles such that there are now evolving roles between men and women and new roles for children with additional roles for house help.

UNICEF (2003) describes a house help as a person who performs various types of services for an individual or a family, from providing care for children and elderly dependent to cleaning and other household chores. Responsibilities may also include cooking, laundry and ironing, shopping and other household errands. Omoklodum (2008) describes house help as individuals who work for wages in households better than their own and who are employed to work for families from higher socio-economic status than their own. The family promises to pay a wage in cash and other material benefits such as training the child in school, clothing, feeding, health care and other benefits that the family is able to provide for the general upkeep of the child.

The International Labour Organization (ILO, 2011) reported that 80% of children are working mostly in labour performed in households, 41% of these children are under the age of 14 years. Participation rates of children in economic activities are much higher in rural areas than in urban centres, especially in agricultural activities. According to Ashagrie (1997), 20% of economical active children are in the rural areas with only 5% in the urban centres. These percentages of workers are found in trade services like domestic work and in the manufacturing sector.

The conditions faced by domestic workers have varied across continents and within the country. Within Nigeria, domestic work is in the informal sector. Urban relations and sometimes other people needing help for house work and child minding would request a relation to come assist for a promise for a better quality of life such as opportunity to go to school and further education, improved health care, good clothing and exposure to urban life, (Iwuchukwu, 2008).

These were promises that are attractive to families especially in the rural areas. Report has shown that these promises are not met and there have been complaints from both ends (UNICEF, 2003). This calls for the need to have a statutory organization and professional out fit for house help jobs. Recent International Labour Organization (2011) national surveys place the number of domestic workers globally at 306 million. Experts say it might be a figure higher than this.

Statement of the problem

Children serving as domestic workers are not a new phenomenon in Nigeria; some families driven by poverty have often sent children to work for paid employment. The most common type of work engaged by the children (Ebigbo, 1995 & Bates, 2004) shows the following: domestic servant, shop keepers, bus conductors, hawkers, food vendors, touts at the motor parks, and street children.

The Nigerian children over the years have suffered because of violation of her rights by individuals, families and institutions (Kembe, 2010). The United Nations Convention on the rights of the child has included the right to protection from economic and sexual exploitation, prostitution and trafficking of children as one of its cardinal concerns.

Important issues are raised in this study concerning the work and wage earning of house help: the type of work done compared to the age of the child, the accrued benefits according to the type of work done and conditions of service of the worker.

Objective of the study

- * The study was guided by the following objectives:
- * To determine the age and type of house work done by house helps in Makurdi metropolis; and
- * To identify the benefits (cash and other material benefits) enjoyed by house helps in Makurdi metropolis.

Research questions

- * The study is guided by the following research questions:
- * What is the age range of the house helps and the type of work done by house helps in Makurdi metropolis?
- * What are the payments for house work done by house help in Makurdi metropolis?

Hypothesis

The study was guided by the following null hypothesis:
There is no significant relationship between type of house work and cash benefits for house work in Makurdi metropolis?

METHODOLOGY

The study was basically a survey research design, which was able to collect data from a population of working class people who have house helps in their household, the opinions and practices of a subset of the population was used for generalization for the entire population of people who enjoy the services of house help. Three hundred respondents were drawn from staff of the University of Agriculture, Makurdi. This formed the sample of the study. The population of staff with house help was put at two thousand and thirty staff only (2,030). The stratified sampling technique and simple random sampling technique were used to draw the required number of sample. Stratification was based on availability of house help .The respondents were expected to answer the research questions using the Economics of House Work Questionnaire (EHWQ). Twenty eight items were developed to address all the issues raised in the research questions and the hypothesis. Simple percentages were used to analyse the research questions, while the chi-square statistics was used for the hypothesis. Results are presented in a tabular form.

RESULTSAND DISCUSSION

Results: The bio data information of the respondents show that 70% of the house help are girls, 85% are not related to the family of residence and were brought to serve as house helps by family, friends, neighbours, colleagues and other relations.

Table 1: Age of house helps in Makurdi metropolis.

Age range (years)	Frequency	Percentage (%)
5 -10	77	25.7
10-15	168	56
15-20	55	18.3
Total	300	100

Table one, show the age of house helps, indicating that 56% are in the range of 10-15 years, 25.7% between the age of 5-10 years and 18% in the range of 15-20 years.

Table 2: Type of work done by house helps in Makurdi metropolis

* Type of work	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Cleaning/mopping the floor	300	100
Cooking-breakfast/lunch/supper	120	40
Shopping	108	36
Gardening	180	60
Child minding /nanny	68	22.6
Picking/Dropping children in school	60	20
Washing clothes daily	180	60
Washing clothes weekly	180	60
Washing car daily	200	66.6
Care for the sick(Convalescence)	250	83
Care for the disabled at home	50	16.6
Care for the aged at home	80	26.6
Running errands	300	100
Waiting on members of the household	300	100
Entertaining /waiting on guests	300	100
Serving as security guard	260	86.6
Other duties as may be assigned	300	100
*Multiple responses		

Table two shows the type of house work, including cleaning and mopping, running errands, waiting on members of the family and waiting on guest recording 100%. Serving as security guards (86.6%), care for the sick at home, that is, convalescent (83%), washing clothes daily and weekly, (60%) respectively, while, washing car daily (66.6 %) and gardening, (60%).

Table 3: Benefits enjoyed by house helps in Makurdi metropolis

A. Cash (monthly emolument N)	Frequency	Percentage (%)
1,000- 6,500	180	60
6,550-10,000	76	25.3
10,050-15,000	44	14.6
15,050-19,500	Nil	00
19,550-25,000	Nil	00
B. *Material benefits		
Schooling in the morning session	25	8.3
Schooling in the afternoon session	205	68.3
Seasonal clothing provision	185	61.6
Clothing, according to the need arising	55	18.3
Health care	108	36
Leisure/recreation	60	20
Holiday to family	40	13.3
Holiday with family of residence	50	16.6
Enjoy bonuses(extra cash, materials)	30	10
Own a phone	80	26.6

*Multiple Responses

Table three shows both cash and material benefits enjoyed by house helps. 60% of the respondents pay as much as between ? 1000 - ? 6500 only, 25% pay ? 6,550 - ? 10,000 and 14.6%, ? 10,050 - ? 15,000. On the aspect of material benefits, majority of the respondents make the house helps go to school in the afternoon session (68%), seasonal provision of clothing (61%), health care provision was enjoyed by 36%, while 26.6 % own a phone.

Hypothesis

H0: There is no significant relationship between type of house work and cash benefits for house work in Makurdi metropolis.
The Chi- Square (χ^2) statistics was used in the test of the hypothesis.

Table 4: Relationship between type of work and cash benefits of house work in Makurdi metropolis

Cash(N)	Cleaning and mopping	Running errands for members of the family	Entertaining guests/waiting on guest	Waiting on members of the family	Total
1000 -6500	25	45	25	50	145
6550-10,000	25	20	18	25	88
10,050-15,000	15	17	20	15	67
Total	65	82	63	90	300

The null hypothesis: $H_0: [p_{ij}=p]_{(i).p_{.(j)} \quad i=1,2,...,I; j=1,2,...,J}$
Alternate Hypothesis: $H_1: [p_{ij} \neq p]_{(i).p_{.(j)}}$
Test Statistic;
 $\chi^2 = \sum_{(i=1)}^I \sum_{(j=1)}^J \frac{(n_{ij}-e_{ij})^2}{e_{ij}}$
Where p_{ij} = the proportion of individuals in the population who belong in category I of factor 1 and category j of factor 2
 $e_{ij} = P(\text{a randomly selected individual falls in both category i of factor 1 and category j of factor 2})$
 $p_{.(i)} = \sum_j p_{ij} = P(\text{a randomly selected individual falls in category i of factor 1})$
 $p_{.(j)} = \sum_i p_{ij} = P(\text{a randomly selected individual falls in category j of factor 2})$
 $e_{ij} = ((i^{\text{th}} \text{ row total})(j^{\text{th}} \text{ column total}))/n$
Rejection region: $\chi^2_{(\alpha, (I-1)(J-1))}$
Thus $\chi^2=10.47$ But $\chi^2_{(0.05, 6)}=12.59$
Since $\chi^2=10.47 < \chi^2_{(0.05, 6)}=12.59$

We accept the null hypothesis and conclude that there is no significant relationship between type of house work and cash benefits for house work in Makurdi metropolis.
Discussion: The use of house help is not a new phenomenon, from the ancient times; people keep slaves to wait on members of the family. Today, house helps are used to attend to the functions of housekeeping and other ad-hoc functions. Result on table one show the various chores performed by house helps to include cleaning/ mopping/running errands/ entertaining guests/ waiting on members of the family, washing of clothes daily and weekly and daily washing of the car and other duties assigned by the family. There have been reported cases of abuse (Kolo, 1998, Oloko, 1999 & Kembe, 2010) associated with some of these chores mentioned. For example, the media report of a case of a house help who was burnt for failing to wash the car on time for the madam (The Nation, 2010) and other reported cases of domestic violence explains some of the challenges being faced by house helps. Indeed, UNICEF (2000) views it as a form of abuse if work results in physical, sexual or psychological harm or suffering of the child. Looking at the age range of the house helps, 56% are in the age bracket of 10-15 years and this coincides with the period of primary school and secondary school education. Basic distinction in the ILO (2011) report shows that the minimum age at which light work is permissible can be set at 12, or 13 years. Light work is described by ILO (2011) as any work that allows for compulsory schooling and considers the age, type of work and conditions of the work. According to Ebigbo (1998), more girls than boys perform full time house work of non- economic nature. Such work is reported to be the main reason for young people who do not attend school. Either they were never enrolled or were obliged to drop out of school because of house work.

Ashagrie (1999) reveals that work can be hazardous under particularly difficult conditions such as for long hours or during the night or work where the child is unnecessarily confined to the premises of the employer. In this view, ILO (2011) indicated that work situations must fulfil the following:

- It is an occupational health and safety issue
- It is an economic development issue, eliminating hazardous work of children and preserving the health of young people.
- It is a global chain issue
- It is a community issue.

Occupations prohibited by the Fair Labour Act as reported by ILO (2011) shows among others manufacturing occupations requiring the performance of any duties in work rooms or work places that involves operating, tending, cleaning, oiling and repairing any power driven machinery. All baking and cooking activities, youth peddling which entails the selling of goods or services to customers, errand and delivery work by foot, bicycle and public transportation. That is why, Iwuchukwu (2008), reveal that issues on child labour are relative to the location, time and age of the child. Some of the works listed by the Fair Labour Act are acceptable in Nigeria as 'good training'. On the aspect of cash and material benefits being enjoyed by house helps, majority of the house helps receive a pay of ₦ 1000 - ₦ 6500 (60%), this clearly shows that most of these employers do not follow the approved minimum wage by the government of Nigeria of ₦ 19,500. According to International Labour Organization (2011) and Nigerian Labour Congress (2012), about 70% of working children toil as unpaid family workers.

Most of those working as paid employers are paid wages much less than the prevailing rates in their localities. Furthermore, there seem to be no written agreement on the conditions of work that will be beneficial to parties, the employer and the employee. The US department of labor (2011) revealed that in the United States, a certificate is required for employment before a minor can be engaged; this ensures that the prospective employer is protected by law and also protects the rights of the employee against hazards and discriminatory situations. Information on the agreement includes all the bio data (sex, age, parents name and address or name of sponsors). In Nigeria, it is widely observed that people get house helps from familiar and unfamiliar persons such as friends, neighbours and colleagues.

Indeed, ILO (2011) observes that employing young people not only affects the healthy development of these people but it also destroys the productivity and economic growth of such businesses. It should be noted that aside from the fact that these house helps are assigned work in the house, some of them are also engaged in the businesses of the family such as shop keeping, hawking and in the processing of potable sachet water and food vending businesses,(Kolo,1998 & Oloko, 1999).

Result of the hypothesis show that the null hypothesis was accepted, which means that there is no significant relationship between type of work and cash benefit of house helps in Makurdi metropolis. The facts are clear, the minimum wage is not adopted by any of the employers, most of the house work is done by the house helps, there is no form of employment agreement on the conditions of work and it is possible that there may be **incidence of child abuse**

RECOMMENDATION AND CONCLUSION

The following recommendations are made:
Nigerian Labour Congress Intervention
There is the need for the Nigerian labour Congress to throw its search light on the informal and private sector of the economy. This will ensure that workers at this level are protected from exploitation. There should be some form of work permit that can be used to certify that both the employer and the employee are duly protected.

Parental involvement

In as much as youth employment should be encouraged, especially during the non-school season, parents should show some concern on the type of work and the condition of work of the children. Poverty is a contributory factor in domestic work, but the dignity associated with hard work and dedication should not be thrown to the dogs.

Employers' role

Employers should inculcate organizational and management principles at any structure of management whether at home or in a company. A successful manager empathises with the workers.

Conclusion

House helps also known as domestic servants have provided employment for both skilled and semi-skilled youths, however, the employment of house help has continued to remain in the private and informal sector, making it difficult for house helps to receive wage that is commiserate to the work. Most importantly is the fact that the age range of these house helps fall within the school age, therefore there are far reaching implication.

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SOCIAL INFLUENCES AS DETERMINANTS OF SEXUAL ATTITUDES AND BEHAVIORS AMONG ADOLESCENTS OF REPRODUCTIVE AGE IN NIGERIA

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ABSTRACT

This study established the influence of parenting style, siblings, sexual partners and friends/peers interactions on adolescents' sexual attitudes and behaviors. A total of five hundred and forty secondary school adolescents from three senatorial districts in Oyo State were randomly involved in the study. Their ages ranged between 15 and 21 years with a mean age of 18.2 years and standard deviation of 4.2. The two instruments used were author-constructed questionnaires with 0.81 and 0.79 reliability coefficient respectively. The data obtained were analysed using multiple regression analysis. The result indicated that significant relationship existed between parenting style($B=0.40$; $t=11$; $p<0.05$), friends/peers interactions($B=0.4$; $t=11$; $p<0.05$) and sexual partners($B=0.11$; $t=3$; $p<0.05$) but not with siblings($B=0.03$; $t=-0.67$; $p>0.05$). The results further indicated that, a combination of the independent variables significantly predicted adolescent sexual attitudes and behaviors($F\text{-ratio}= 223.605$ $p<0.05$). Based on the findings, it was recommended that, those in the helping professions should take cognizance of those variables that have been found to influence adolescent sexual attitudes and behaviors.

Key Words: Parenting Style, Sexual Partners, Adolescents, Siblings, Sexual attitudes & Behaviors, Friends/Peers.

Introduction

Background to the study

In the last few decades adolescents' sexual attitudes and behaviors have changed dramatically, resulting in an increased incidence of adolescent sexual intercourse and a decreased age at the first intercourse for both boys and girls (Forrest & Singh, 1990; Zelnik & Kanter, 1980). The proportion of adolescents who are sexually experience has decreased in recent years (Kann et al, 2000), but 34% of early adolescents and 61% late adolescents report ever having had sexual intercourse, and 7% of high school students say they first had intercourse before age 13 (Grunbaum et al 2002). Every year, approximately 900,000 females aged 15-19 become pregnant (Henshaw, 2001), and three million adolescents (one in four sexually active teenagers) acquire an STD (AGI, 1994). Adolescents who initiate sexual activity at young ages tend to have more sexual partners and to use condom less than those who initiate sex later, and are at increased risk for STDs and pregnancy during the teenage years (Coker, et al, 1994). Therefore, understanding influences on early initiation of sexual attitudes and behaviors and identifying possible strategies for delaying sex have important implications for adolescent health.

A recent study of adolescents in Nigeria revealed that boys in and out of school constitute a prominent group among most sexually active adolescents in the world (Airiohuodion, 1997). A higher percentage of the samples of between 14 and 19 years show signs of having had sexual intercourse. Also in the study, which focused on “Reproductive Health Nigerian Adolescents – Knowledge, Attitude and Practice” - the experts indicated that 68% of Nigerian males aged between 14 and 19 years showed signs of ever having sexual

intercourse while 43% of the female counterparts were sexually experienced. This shows that Nigerian adolescents like their counterparts in the world are sexually active. Studies also confirm the high emotional sexuality of the Nigerian adolescents who conversely lack knowledge on reproductive health.

Donovan (1990) writing about the situation in Britain said that adolescents' sexual behaviour is causing a great concern among the medical circle. As at 1990, nearly 1 out of three women become pregnant before age 20 and there were about 40,000 abortions among adolescents each year. Wellings, et al (1995) also affirmed that the age at which people become sexually active has fallen sharply and drastically. These past few decades have seen a progressive reduction in the age at which sexual attitudes and behaviour takes place and an increase in the proportion of young people who had sexual relationship before the consent age.

In the same vein, Makinwa-Adebusoye (1997) confirmed that several studies have indicated that sexual relationship is particularly high among unmarried youths and this premarital sexual behaviour is more common among urban girls (Omu et al, 1989; Feyisetan & Pebley, 1989; Gyepi-Garbrah, 1985; Nichols et al, 1986; nwuamana, 1982; Makinwa-Adebusoye, 1991; Odujirin, 1991).

The Nigerian Demographic Health and Survey (NDHS, 1990) confirmed that sexual relationship is very high in urban centres; it has also revealed that it is not limited to such places alone. While we have 30.9% of never married urban women aged between 15 and 19 years having had sexual relationship, there is also 21.3% in rural areas. Furthermore, 48.4% of both rural and urban girls have had sexual relationships by age 15.

Socio-psychological theories of health behavior (Jessor, 1991) and empirical research (Resnick, 1997) suggest that timing sexual relationship and behavior is influenced by a broad array of individual and social environmental factors. Among the most powerful sources of social influence are the parents, siblings, sexual partners and peers/friends (Miller & Families, 1998). Reviews of recent research highlight aspects of adolescents' friendships that are key influences on their sexual risk behaviors: friends' sexual behaviors, adolescents' perceptions of friends' behavior and attitudes, and level of involvement with friends (Brown & Theobald, 1999). A consistent finding across studies of young black teenagers, and of urban sixth grader from diverse ethnic background (Jaccard, Dittus & Litardo, 1999) is that young, sexually experienced adolescents are more likely than their sexually experienced counterparts to report that their friends are also sexually experienced.

Longitudinal studies have found that adolescents who perceive that their friends favour postponing sexual relationship are themselves more likely than others to do so (Kinsman, et al 1998). These perceptions may be shaped by a combination of friends' attitudes and adolescents' own attitudes (Wilcox & Udry, 1984). Adolescents who are highly involved with their friends may find themselves in social contexts that encourage early dating and entry into romantic relationship (Connolly, Furman & Konarksi, 2000) which have been linked to earlier sexual initiation (Miller & Schvaneveldt, 1997). In addition, an individual's close circle of friends may influence sexual debut more than a single best friend does, possibly because an immediate network of friends is more stable over time than a specific best friendship (Bearman & Bruckner, 1999).

To date, very few studies have prospectively tested the relative power of multiple forms of friend influence on adolescents' initiation of sexual relationship and behaviour. And few have examined how various forms of friend influence may operate jointly. In addition, many studies have been based exclusively on adolescents' perceptions of friend attitudes and behaviours, which may bias estimated associations with sexual debut because of a “false consensus” effect (Marks & Miller, 1999). Some studies examining relationships between friend variables and adolescent sexual relationships have not controlled for other known influences on sexual debut; therefore, observed associations may be confounded by unmeasured factors.

The quality of relationship between parents and their children adolescent predict sexual behavior involvement. Poorer quality family relationships are associated with more adolescents' involvement in sexual behavior like necking, petting, kissing, (Wagner, 1980) and intercourse (Crockett, et al, 1996; Wagner, 1980). Adolescent boys, Billy et al (1988) said are closer to their fathers after their first sexual intercourse, distant to their mothers and select their friends from sexually experienced peers.

Parental style and influence as a major factor in adolescent's pre-marital sexual involvement cannot but be noticed. No other social institution has a great influence throughout human development than the family. Most studies indicate that most adolescents have few, if any, serious disagreement with parents (Steinbeing, 1991). Moreover, adolescents typically gravitate towards those who exhibit attitudes and values consistent with those maintained by their parents for their peers (Guemey & Arthur, 1983). Poor parental monitoring, guidance, or communication are indices of the development of problem behaviours like pre-marital sexuality. Parental rejection (Simons et al, 1989) and ineffective parenting services, Pattersons (1989) argued are the original sources of problem behaviours. Hence associated with conduct problem is ineffective parenting (Haapasalic & Tremblay, 1994). Abnormally strict parents also make criminals out of their children (Ononye & Morakinyo, 1996). Walsh (1995) noted that poor parental attachment encourages drug use and promiscuity.

Peer of friend influence is widely and popularly believed to be one of the major sources of involvement in negative relationships for adolescents. Lightfoot (1992) viewed peer pressure as rooted in the adolescents' desire to participate in experiences that are relevant to the group. Engaging in the premarital sex gives the adolescent a sense of independence from parents and at the same time win popularity with the approval of peers, a phenomenon highly valued by adolescents. Adolescent sexual relationship is an expression of non-conformity to adult values (Owuamanam, 1984). Ecket (1989) and Echerem (1977) in a re-analysis of the Coleman (1961) data set, found evidence of influence from friendship studied. Jenson (1976) also found out that some adolescents engage in sexual relationship in order to gain acceptance from their friends. Thus peers involved in risky behavior will negatively affect each other. Peer influence seems greater than parental influence during adolescence.

Most studies on adolescent sexual attitudes and behavior have been based exclusively on adolescents' perceptions of friend attitudes and behaviors, which may bias estimated associations with sexual debut because of a “false consensus” effect (Marks & Miller, 1999). It is therefore not to the knowledge of the researcher that studies linking social influences to adolescent sexual attitudes and behaviors have been carried out. It is against this background that this study becomes relevant in filling such missing gaps in our knowledge in the issue of social influences and sexual attitudes and behaviors among adolescent of reproductive age in Nigeria.

Purpose of the study

The purpose of this study is to examine the relationship between social influences such as peer/friends influence, parental style and influence, sibling's support and participation, and sexual partner roles and adolescent sexual attitudes and behaviours in Nigeria.

In order to achieve the purpose of this study, the following research questions were answered at the probability of 0.05 alpha levels.

1. To what extent would social influences (as the parenting style and influence, sibling's support, sexual partners and friends/peers influences) when combined predict sexual attitudes and behaviours among adolescents of reproductive age in Nigeria?
2. What is the relative contribution of each of the factors to the prediction of sexual attitudes and behaviours of the adolescent?

METHODOLOGY

This study employed a descriptive survey research design in which data were collected through questionnaire from the respondents on the variables studied.

Subjects

The target population for the study comprised secondary school adolescents in senior schools in Oyo State, Nigeria. A total of five hundred and forty (540) subjects were randomly drawn from ten (10) participating senior secondary schools from three senatorial districts of Oyo State, Nigeria. A total of 180 adolescents from each of the senatorial districts were involved in the study. In all, 391 female adolescents and 149 male adolescents were involved in the study. The ages of the subjects ranged from 15 years and 21 years with a mean age of 18.2 years and the standard deviation of 4.2.

Research instrument

The two instruments used to collect data for the study were: (i) Adolescent Sexual Attitudes and Behaviour Inventory (ASABI), and (ii) Self-Reporting Questionnaire on Social Influence (SQSI).

Adolescent Sexual Attitudes and Behavior Inventory (ASABI) is a researcher-constructed instrument, developed with the assistance of experts in psychometrics. The inventory measures adolescent sexual involvement, reasons for involvement, knowledge of the consequences and attitudes and behavior in sexual intercourse and initiation. The inventory contained 36-item responses ranging from strongly agreed to strongly disagreed. The internal consistency and test-retest reliability of the instrument was found to be 0.81 and 0.85 respectively.

Self-Reporting Questionnaire on Social Influences (SQSI) was also author-constructed questionnaire with the support of expert in psychometrics. The questionnaire measures friend/peer perception and influence on premarital sexual involvement, parental monitoring, guidance and communication as indices for adolescent sexuality. The instrument also highlights adolescents' sexual partners that influence sexual risky behaviours, and the siblings' support and participation in encouraging sexual risky behaviours and attitudes. The questionnaire is made up of 25-item responses ranging from very true to very untrue. It has 0.69 and 0.74 as the internal consistency and test-retest reliability respectively.

Procedure for data collection

The subjects for the study were administered the two sets of questionnaires in their respective schools in the three senatorial districts of Oyo State, Nigeria, with the assistance of the school counsellors. The collected questionnaires were scored and the data obtained were analysed to answer the research questions raised and tested. On the whole, 450 copies of questionnaires distributed were returned fully filled, giving a return rate of 100%.

Data analysis

Data analysis involved using Multiple Regression analysis procedure to examine the relationship between Adolescent Sexual attitudes and behaviors (Dependent Variable) and social influences factors as the parental style and influence, sibling's support, peer/friends influences and sexual partners (Independent factors).

RESULTSAND DISCUSSION

Research question 1

\To what extent would social influences as the parent style and influence, sibling's support, sexual partners, and peer influence when combined predicts sexual attitudes and behaviors among adolescent of reproductive age?

Table 1:Regression analysis on sample data using a combination of independent variables to predict sexual attitudes and behaviours of the adolescents

Multiple R = 0.7456					
Multiple R-Square = 0.5559					
Standard Error Estimate = 0.5756					
Analysis of Variance					
Sources of Variation	Sum of Square	Mean Square	df	F	P
Regression	28400.908	94666.970	3	223.605	<0.05
Residual	226924.685	423.367	536		
Total	34290.835		539		

Table 1 indicate that the combination of the four independent variables (parental style and influence, siblings, sexual partners, and friends/peers influence) as predictors of adolescent sexual attitudes and behaviors yielded a co-efficient of Multiple Regression (R) 0.7456 and a Multiple R-square of 0.5559 accounting for 55.6% of the variation of adolescent sexual attitudes and behaviour. The table shows a significant F-ratio of 223.605, which implies that R2 value is not due to chance. This in essence means that the combination of the variables is capable of predicting adolescent sexual attitudes and behaviours.

Research question 2

What is the relative contribution of each of the factors to the prediction of sexual attitudes and behaviours of the adolescents?

Table 2:Testing the significant contributions of social influences as the parents, siblings, sexual partners, and peers to the prediction of adolescent sexual attitudes and behaviours

No.	Variable Description	B	SEB	Beta	T-value	Sig. T
1	The Parents	1.2092	0.1060	0.4012	11.406	<0.05
2	The Siblings	-0.02079	0.03105	-0.03076	-0.669	>0.05
3	Sexual Partners	0.3507 0.	0.0930	0.1166	3.603	<0.05
4	Friends/Peers	111.3671	0.1191	0.3889	11.480	<0.05
	Constant	-6.0709	5.2369		-1.159	

* Level of Significance at 0.05 alpha

The results on Table 2 showed that, parenting style and influence contributed significantly to adolescent sexual attitudes and behaviour (B = 0.40; t = 11; p <0.05). The result of the Regression Weight implies that parenting style and influence accounted for 40% in the prediction of adolescent sexual attitudes and behaviours. The result further showed that, sexual partners had a significant contribution to adolescent sexual attitudes and behaviour (B = 0.11; t = 3; p < 0.05). The findings also indicated that sexual partners accounted for 11%. The influence of friends/peers was also significant in the prediction of adolescent sexual attitudes and behaviors (B = 4; t = 11; p <0.05).

However, the result indicated that the sibling's support (B = -0.03; t = -0.67; p >0.05) was not a significant predictor of adolescent sexual attitudes and behavior.

Discussion

The results obtained from the statistical analysis of the research questions indicated that, parenting style and influence, sexual partners, siblings and friends/peers influence variables made significant contributions of about 55.6% to the prediction of adolescent sexual attitudes and behaviors. This joint contribution could not have come by chance factor because the F-ratio value of 223.605 lends credence to the effectiveness of the four independent variables predicting adolescent sexual attitudes and behaviors. On this premise, it could be conveniently concluded that about 55.6% of the variance in adolescent sexual attitudes and behaviors is accounted for by the combination of the four factors. The outcome of the research question in effect confirmed the submission of Coker et- al (1994); Brown & Theobald (1999); and Jaccard, Dittus & Litardo (1999) who reported the effectiveness of the social influence factors in the explanation of adolescent sexual attitudes and behaviors.

The result on Table 2 revealed that the contribution made by each independent variable to the prediction of adolescent sexual attitudes and behaviours is shown by the T- values associated with the different variables shown on Table 2. From the results, three of the four independent variables made significant contribution to the prediction of adolescents' sexual attitudes and behaviours in different degrees. The most potent predictor is friends/peers influence factor (T-ratio = 11.480) closely followed by parenting style factor (T-ratio = 11.406) and the sexual partners factor (T-ratio = 3.603) while the sibling factor could not predict adolescent sexual attitudes and behaviours (T-ratio = 0.669). This discovery did not come as a surprise because it upheld

Lightfoot (1992) earlier findings that friends/peers influence negatively is believed to be one of the major adolescent sexual attitudes and behaviours predictors. This position is further upheld by Guemey & Arthur (1983); Ononye & Morakinyo (1996); Walsh (1995) who noted that, abnormal parents make criminals out of their children, poor parental monitoring and guidance are indices of adolescent sexual attitudes and behaviour. This assertion is further confirmed by Millers (1998) that the most powerful sources of social influences are the parents, sexual partners and the friends/peers. Also, Miller and Schuvaneveldt (1997) have linked sexual initiation to adolescent sexual attitudes and behaviours.

The outcomes of these two research questions are not unexpected. This is because sexual attitudes and behaviours of the adolescents is a complex and multi-dimensional phenomenon. The outcome of this study, which confirm the combine, and separate contributions of the four diverse factors only affirm its complexity and multi-dimensional nature. In Nigeria, the problem of adolescent sexual attitudes and behaviors is further compounded by the effects of urbanization, westernization and the mass media (Miller and Schuvaneveldt (1997)).

Implications for Counselling and Recommendations

The findings of this study have a number of implications for those in the helping professions – the psychologists, social workers and guidance counsellors. One, it has clearly demonstrated that a single factor cannot adequately explain the incidence of adolescent sexual attitudes and behaviors. Millers (1998) stressed this when he succinctly stated that powerful sources of adolescent sexual attitudes and behaviors are the parents, the siblings, sexual partners and friends/peers.

Similarly, the fact that, the joint contribution of the parents, siblings, sexual partners, and friends/peers variables could only be used to explain about 56% of the incidence of adolescent sexual attitudes and behaviours implies that there are other variables masterminding its occurrence apart from those identified by the study. On this premise, it is recommended that:

1. The guidance counsellors, psychologists, and social workers should take cognizance of the variable tested, as they have been capable of predicting adolescent sexual attitudes and behaviours.
2. Those in the helping professions, whose responsibility is to correct maladaptive behaviour of the adolescents, should engage in further studies that would expose all variables that are capable of predicting adolescent sexual attitudes and behaviours.
3. Guidance counsellors should develop packages that would educate and inform the adolescents of the inherent dangers of engaging in premarital sexual relationship.
4. Adolescents in the secondary schools should be taught family life education and conferences and seminars should be organized to occupy the leisure hours of the adolescents.

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STEMMING THE TIDE OF MASS UNEMPLOYMENT THROUGH SUSTAINABLE JOB OPPORTUNITIES IN CLOTHING AND TEXTILE DESIGNS

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ABSTRACT

Clothing and textile design is a practical, professional and self-sustaining discipline that is viable enough to address unemployment problems in developing countries. The paper focused on the various entrepreneurial opportunities in garment construction, fabric designs, fashion illustration, merchandising, pattern drafting, handcrafted textiles (weaving, dyeing, and knitting) among others. Handcrafted textiles are in constant demand as they meet the clothing needs of the masses and serve as sources of income to the designers. The paper recommends that vocational education should be encouraged in primary, secondary and tertiary institutions so as to drastically reduce the rate of unemployment.

Key Words: Stemming, unemployment, sustainable jobs, clothing and textile

INTRODUCTION

Clothing and textile is an option in Home Economics. This is a field that deals with the management of human and material resources to meet individual and family needs. Clothing is one of the basic needs of man. It is needed for various purposes such as protection, aesthetics, modesty, status and prestige as well as job differentiation. It is an important area of personal satisfaction and a source of social identification. The importance is such that there is no aspect of human life that can go smoothly without clothing and textile. Textile is a big business all over the world. The global textile market is worth more than \$400 billion and it is still growing (WTO, 2004).

The nature of the textile industry is such that it has marked influence on the nation's economy both at the macroeconomics and microeconomics perspective. Economic and industrial giants like United States of America, United Kingdom, Japan and China began their economic and industrial growth through the establishment, development and protection of viable textile and clothing industry (Hildegunn, 2004).

Among the areas that the National Economic Empowerment and Development strategies (NEEDS) addresses is the utilization of skills and technical know-how to combat poverty and enhance economic development. Mayoux (2005) opined that equipping youths for self-reliance through entrepreneurship is an effective way of addressing the challenges of unemployment and promoting economic survival.

The society is faced with such problems as increasing unemployment, corruption, poverty and many other vices (Anyakoha, 2002). One of the visible outcomes of unemployment is poverty. The average Nigerian live below poverty line using the United Nations index for people earning less than one dollar (US) a day (Human Development Index, 2000). With the low rate of capital formation, it becomes very difficult for the less developed countries with high population growth rate and high absolute population figure to support additional increase in their numbers (Dibua, 2001).

The aims of clothing and textile are centred on the acquisition of knowledge and skills that can be applied for purposeful living as well as enhancing the capabilities of graduates and trainees for self empowerment. The garment construction establishment is one of the vibrant sectors that provide employment opportunities for both male and female who are involved as skilled workers in Small Scale (SS) and Medium Scale (MS) garment construction industries. In Benue State, garment construction is a great source of income generation, but the involvement in the enterprise is very low (Agbo, 2009).

Skill in clothing and textile is acquired through formal educational system (schools and colleges) or through apprenticeship. Various institutions offering Vocational Education like Home economics, Fine and Applied Art offer related courses in clothing and textile. The National Policy on Education (2004) emphasized the inclusion of vocational education subjects in the country's educational system. There are also various training centres

where the skill can be acquired through apprenticeship. According to Ochiagha (1995), apprenticeship is the most common method of acquiring the skill and the surest way through which young people can find their way into the labour market. The study examined various opportunities that clothing and textile provides to the unemployed with consideration of constraints and strategies to start up the businesses. Sustainable job opportunities in clothing and textile designs

Wehmeier (2001) defined sustainable jobs as jobs that can continue for a long time. They are jobs that yield income that can meet basic, social and emotional needs. Osho and Chama (2008), Awaokaomah (2010) and Ebute and Paul (2008) identified the following areas as national economic activities:

1. Raw material (cotton, linen etc) production by small and large scale farmers
2. Textile production which provides the major input to the clothing sector of the industry
3. Garment constructions
4. Distribution and sale outlets (supermarkets, market traders etc)
5. Retailers
6. Laundry and maintenance services

Sustainable jobs are available in the following areas:

Designing: There has been a bloom in the fashion industry in recent times. Philipe (2003) asserted that the industry is important to economic development of any nation. Individuals in this business usually create new designs for garments. There are designers for fabrics as well as clothing accessories (Anyakoha, 2007). Handcrafted textiles (woven, dyed, and knitted fabrics) are in vogue. Different job opportunities in designing of fabrics in clothing and textiles are:

Tie and dye: Dyeing of cloth is a popular craft which the unemployed can be involved in. Apprenticeship training for professionals may last between six months to three years depending on the learner. Various training centres are available within the country. The craft is popular in places like Abeokuta (particularly Itoku and Asero markets), Zaria, Oshogbo, Ogbomosho, Sokoto, Kano etc (Eicher, 1976). The craft involves the resisting dye solution from penetrating some areas of the fabric by tying with raffia, nylon, twine and other materials that are water resistant. Various patterns can be created through folding, stitching, marbling, knotting and pleating. Other techniques are developed through constant practice (Ebute and Paul, 2008). Dyeing of faded buba and sokoto into a new colour costs between N1,500 and N3,000 based on the dexterity of the design.

Batik design: This is a resist dyeing technique that make use of paraffin wax or beewax. Paul (2007) established that batik consist of drawing on fabric with wax so that when the fabric is dipped in dye, only the parts without the wax accept dye. Tools used in waxing includes brush, tjanting, wooden stamps and shaped foam. The fabric to be dyed must be soaked to remove industrial finishing. The wax is allowed to cool on the fabric before dyeing in cold dyeing bath. After the completion of the dyeing, the cloth is oxidized and hot water is used to de-wax the fabric before the finishing processes. This process enhances creating geometrical shapes, patterns and African mortifs on fabrics. Readymade fabrics costs N1,000 to N2,500 per yard based on the quality of the material used. This is no doubt a good means of income generation.

Dress making/ clothing construction: Dress makers are those who design, cut and sew different components of dresses. The skills in dress making are acquired in primary, secondary and tertiary institutions through courses in needlework, clothing construction, fashion designs, pattern drafting etc. In this area, the sewing mistress or tailor takes the measurement of the client, draft the pattern and sew to fit. School uniforms, work cloth, ceremonial dresses for wedding and other functions are designed through this means. Charges for clothing construction varies based on the occasion, design and social status. It can be as much as N25, 000.

Dry cleaning and laundering: Many people (civil servants and workers in the private sector) engage the services of dry cleaners. Various dress items like suit, shirts, skirts and traditional attires are laundered with consideration of fabric types and properties. They engage in the production and selling of cassava starch and home chemicals for stain removal (Nwaokaomah, 2010). Graduates in clothing and textile education can engage themselves in this lucrative business and become employers of labour.

Weaving: This is the interlacing of warp and weft yarns at right angles using a loom. A loom is a machine used for weaving. Various types of loom are vertical, narrow band, inkle, floor and box looms. The indigenous aso-oke, and akwete are woven fabrics. Woven fabrics are used for ceremonial purposes like traditional wedding, naming, birthday, burial and chieftaincy. A six inches strip of woven aso-oke costs N500 – N1000 and several strips will be needed to make a dress. Various weaving centres are available within the country especially the aforementioned places.

Print making: This is the process through which mortifs are transferred on fabrics, paper or leather ((Ebute and Paul, 2008). This can be achieved using wood, lino, stencil or screen. Printmaking creates room for corporate design to be executed on commissioned jobs. Examples of relevance of printmaking is found on printed (customized) T-shirts and face caps; souvenirs such as bags, cups and handkerchiefs used in conferences and functions; banners, billboards and so on. Various centres in Lagos State like Mushin, Ikeja, Iyana Ipaja are well known for this craft. These are means of income generation that can stem the tide of unemployment.

Modeling: This entails wearing of newly designed dress for people to see and buy (Anyakoha, 2007). Various magazines, journals and dailies are looking for models that can showcase new designs even online.

Fashion merchandising: This involves selecting, buying and selling textiles, apparel, and other clothing accessories to earn a living. Some workers in offices patronize merchandisers who would be paid at the end of the month or as the case may be. Clothes in this category ranges from Nigerian wax products and materials for making suit and other garments.

Pattern illustration: This is the process of drafting or constructing pattern for fabric construction. Lamechi (2002) pointed out that patterns are made for male, female, children and adults for sale.

Knitting and crocheting:Cardigan, towel, baby wrappers, headrests and other household textiles are knitted. This can be manual or mechanical.

Constraints to the development of the industry

Ebute and Paul (2008), Diyaolu (2002) discussed some of the constraints to the growth of indigenous clothing and textile industries and noted the following:

- I. **Lack of Funds:** skilled and unskilled textile/clothing entrepreneurs are always constrained with lack of fund, especially the start-up capital. In most cases there are professionals with very good creative abilities in both design and merchandise. Most banks request for collateral before disbursing loans which some entrepreneurs lack. Thus, with adequate funding from governmental and non-governmental organizations, talented youths can be gainfully employed.
- ii. **Poor Infrastructure:** Epileptic power supply which is a major factor in any production sector is another obstacle. Electricity is needed to power computer for prototype and computer aided designs. The tailors need light to power electric machines. The cost of fuelling generators increases cost of production which eventually influences patronage.
- iii. **Limited Market:** indigenous textile merchants have difficulty in marketing their products due to competition. Imported materials dumped into the country is paralyzing both the small and medium scale enterprises. This singular factor led to the folding up of majority of Nigerian textile mills as they could not meet up with production cost. The various “bend down” markets in the country where second hand materials are displayed are a great threat to national development.
- iv. **Government Policies:** some policies do not encourage sustainable job opportunities in clothing and textiles.
- v. Other constraints include economic deregulation and foreign dominance

CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Clothing and textiles studies offer innumerable choices for the unemployed. With little capital, graduates and trained individuals can start the business which has great potential for growth and expansion. The unemployed are therefore employed to harness these opportunities and break the yoke of unemployment.

The following recommendations are suggested:

1. Government, donors and proprietors of institutions should fully equip clothing and textile laboratories with machines and materials that will influence effective teaching and learning.
2. Offering institutions should encourage students to study clothing and textile in higher institutions through seminars and symposium.
3. As a sort of motivation, loan facilities should be made accessible to graduates to kick off their enterprise.

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ASSESSMENT OF YOUTHS' PERCEPTION OF INTERIOR DECORATION IN EKITI STATE

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ABSTRACT

There are many unemployed Home Economics graduates who naturally should have taken to interior decoration because of the skills they have acquired but this is the reverse. Interior decoration is making an apartment pleasing to the inhabitants which can be achieved through the use of soft furnishings. Due to high rate of unemployment of youths it can be a source of income generation. In carrying out this research the following objectives were stated: To identify the different soft furnishings, state the importance of interior decoration, explain techniques to be used and care. Two hypotheses were stated: hypothesis 1 states that there is no significant difference between interior decoration and creativity, hypothesis 2 states that there is no significant difference interior decoration and income generation. 200 questionnaires were given out while 180 were returned. The data collected was analyzed using the chi-square statistical test at a 0.05 level of significance. The findings were as follows: there is no significant difference between interior decoration and creativity and there is no significant difference between interior decoration as a career and income generation. Therefore to empower the youths these recommendations were made: youths should be made to be aware that there is dignity in labour through enlightenment programmes and mentoring.

Keywords: Youth, perception, interior decoration, home economics graduates, empowerment

INTRODUCTION

Interior decoration is the making of an apartment pleasing to the inhabitants. One of the means of achieving this is with soft furnishing which is the art and science of beautifying a space to enhance both its aesthetic and functional uses. The interior decorator must be creative in the use of colours, fabrics and techniques. Ideas can be sourced from fabrics, gardening and interior magazines. In this period of unemployment youths need to channel their energies into something useful by becoming interior decorators. This will become a source of empowerment as well as moving them away from social malaise currently bedevilling the country.

Empowerment is giving control, power or authority to people and will the high rate of unemployment in Nigeria for ages 15 and 24years, it has deprived the country of the services of the most energetic segment of its population which can also helped in lowering their self-worth, happiness as well as heightened depression which can lead them to high rate of insecurity and social upheaval such as currently experiencing in the country now. These situations can be served through interior decoration. However, they need to know what soft furnishings are, (Ekwere, 2011), types, where to decorate, equipment and materials needed for the job, (Collins 2002), the importance of interior decoration as well as the techniques involved and care of soft furnishings. With this the would-be –interior decorator is on his way to empowerment.

Objectives

In view of the above the following objectives are given:

- * To assess the different soft furnishings needed for interior decoration.
- * Examine the different fabrics suitable for interior decoration.
- * To investigate the different techniques involved in the sewing of soft furnishings.

Research hypothesis:

To test the hypothesis the chi-square statistical test will be employed and tested at 0.05 level of significance. The following hypothesis were formulated

Hypothesis I

There is significant difference between interior decoration and articles made.

Hypothesis II

There is significant difference between interior decoration as a career and income generation.

Research questions

- * Do you agree that a well furnished apartment is as a result of soft furnishings?
- * An interior decorator need to be creative in making an apartment pleasing?
- * Is it true that the interior decorator must be able to co-ordinate fabrics?
- * The interior decorator must identify suitable techniques to be used considering the function of the article?
- * An interior decorator should enroll in a school to improve her creativity?
- * As a youth one can use the skills acquired in the school in the making of soft furnishings to augment whatever she has?
- * The knowledge of making soft furnishings can be a money saver to home makers?
- * Do you agree that people with taste can acquire the skill from soft furnishing making for a fee?
- * If well finished and packaged the soft furnishing maker can have a well established business of her own?

Empowering youths through skill acquisition in interior decoration to reduce unemployment Empowerment is giving more control, power or authority to people over their own life or situation they are in which can be done through skill acquisition. This can help reduce unemployment especially among the youths.

The Editor (2011) stated that, the rate of unemployment in Nigeria is worrying and requires greater attention than it is currently receiving. According to the recent statistics the number of Nigerians out of job was 32.5 million by 2010. It could be that by 2011 a far higher number of Nigerians of working age are actually in the labour market. In the same vein the Governor of the Central Bank of Nigeria Lamido Sanusi recently put the number of unemployed youths at 41 percent and warned on the dangers of leaving the youths behind the economic plans of the government. There is an undeniable link between the ages of 15 and 24 years and the high rate of poverty and social malaise currently bedevilling the country. Experts have noted that, unemployment lowers a person's self-worth and happiness while also heightening depression. It deprives a country of the services of the most energetic segment of its population, high unemployment also lead to high rate of insecurity and social upheaval such as the country is currently experiencing. The situation is no doubt becoming a time bomb. To tame this time bomb, this is where interior decoration comes in. Interior decoration can help the youth in poverty reduction, generate employment and improve the leadership qualities among them.

If one is creative, enjoy looking at beautiful well designed public buildings or homes, have an eye for colours and furnishings and furniture, then the person can launch an interior design business. The business can be run from home since most of the work will be done onsite and one can visit the clients to inspect the property and give advice. Once the enterprise is established and one starts making profits, then there is need to move into an office or studio and even hire people.

The concept of soft furnishing

Ekwere (2011) opined that, soft furnishing is the art and science of beautifying a space to enhance both its aesthetic and functional uses. Soft furnishing refers to every decoration in the homes that have some sort of fabrics in them. Interior decoration will be incomplete without soft furnishing because the space will be hard and noisy. Soft furnishing involves the making of articles like beddings, throw pillows, bolsters, bean bags, floor mats, baby bumper, table covers, place mats and tumbler covers, tea cosy, centre piece, head and arm rest, pouffe, window blinds, napkins among others.

Collins (2002), Barnard (1995), Robert (1998) supported this view and stated that soft furnishings are furnishings made from materials to decorate the home and offices. Childs (1999) observed that, the home or office is a reflection of the person, who he or she is and the things she loves. Whether the decoration style is traditional, modern, elegant, casual, or an eclectic combination any room decorated should be a place of comfort and refuge.



Deciding to decorate

Eaton and Lawrence (1999) noted that the hardest part of home decoration is deciding precisely what is wanted and planning how to achieve it. The decision may involve simply redecorating the walls and floors with a new choice of colour or pattern or may be more complex, perhaps involving major changes to the style, layout, features and fitting of a room or rooms. The secret of success lies in understanding the basic rules of colour scheming and in learning how to make the best use of the wide range of materials and techniques available to the interior designer today. It also means taking a close look at what soft furnishings can contribute to the scheme. New curtains, covers, and cushions in bright and complementary colours give instant life to a room without major upheaval and expense as well as simple techniques for making the soft furnishings. Ekwere (2011) noted that, running this business needs talent, creativity, hard work and dedication and above all passion and treat every client specially.



Where the interior decorator can decorate

An interior decorator works with the insides of building including homes and businesses and focus mainly on surface decorations. She or he concentrate on space planning, which includes layout, colour schemes, furniture, paint, wallpaper, window coverings, fabrics, flooring, carpeting, lighting, art, etcetera. The decorator should be able to review and measure space, prepare room layout proposals, obtain cost estimates, present samples to clients, arrange and oversee painting, wall papering, flooring, select and purchase furnishings and accessories and more. The decoration of residential and commercial design covers entertainment such as movies, theatres, videos, theme park, clubs, dramatic and musical theatre. Offices, health care such as hospitals, nursing homes, long term care facilities. Also retail or store planning like boutiques, department stores, malls, food retailing centres and hospitality centres and restaurant, such as country clubs and hotels. All these areas are furnished by the interior decorator using fabrics to sew articles known as soft furnishings.

Creativity and home furnishings

Creativity as observed by Maltin (2002) is a type of problem solving since it deals with imagination and ones thinking are equated with information, then understanding thought is the problem of discovering the software of the human brain. Sinha (2002) opined that, creativity is a very emotive issue. However, there are things that help to nurture creativity. Sagoa (2008) said cultures, traditions from other lands, history and research, the ability to alter textures and make things that are unusable to be usable, to be globally accepted is creativity in itself. Inspiration can come from works of art or nature, colour and texture sourced from fabrics, gardening and interior magazines.

What to know when making soft furnishing

Collins (2002) opined that before starting any home furnishing projects it is important that all the necessary equipment for the job is properly assembled. Basic items include a tape measure, tailors chalk, pins, a pair of sharp cutting scissors and the right needles and thread for the fabric being used. Keep all together in a handy place a good-sized-sewing box is ideal. Barnard (1995) stated that to achieve professional finish for soft furnishings, prepare equipment and a well ordered work surface are essential. Keep sewing equipment separate from other household tools and use it only for sewing tasks. Ekwere (2011) added that fabric, fibre, a five-thread sewing machine, straight sewing machine and foam crumbs are all she needs.

Next is the work surface. According to Barnard (1995), the surface should be large enough for the task especially when making curtains the floor may be the only suitable surface to work with. Bear in mind comfort when establishing a work area. Sit on a chair with firm support and position on the table high enough to avoid back ache. Work in well-lit-room, particularly when there is limited day light available. Then she will decide on the choice of fabric. Choice of fabric as stated by Barnard (1995) depends on its use and on how it will affect a room's character. Natural fibres are available in more textures, colours and patterns as well as synthetic fabrics. When choosing fabrics bear in mind that texture and the way a fabric drapes are as important as colour and pattern. Collins (2002) added that fabrics are available in more colour, patterns and textures than ever before, providing tremendous scope for creativity when it comes to making things for the home and it is not so much the quality of a fabric that is important as how it is used and how things are finished off that makes all the difference. This is to do with the trimmings used.

Trimmings as Collins (2002) noted add finishing details to home furnishings and include binding, piping, frills, pleats, gathers, lace, piping cord, bullion fringe, cord, tasselled fringe etcetera and helps to give a professional touch to the work.

Techniques to use in making soft furnishings

There are techniques that will add a professional touch to the soft furnishings. They include: Appliqué, drawn work, embroidery, patch work, mitred corner and quilting and creative mind can incorporate weaving techniques.

How these techniques work

Appliqué: Appliqué offers the perfect opportunity to co-ordinate colour schemes and produce a designer's touch. It can also be used to produce attractive items with which to personalise soft furnishings garment and gifts (kingdom 1994) it is a French term which means “put on”, “apply” or a thing that has been “applied”. In the context of sewing appliqué refers to a needlework technique in which pieces of fabric, embroidery or other materials are sewn into another piece of fabric to create design patterns or pictures. It opens a whole new design world to the quilter, allowing for many possibilities than just one piecing along none-woven interfacing and fusing web are useful aids in stabilizing and securing fabrics to give a professional finish which also helps to eliminate distortion when fabric is applied.

Drawn work: Threads are removed from the fabric depending on the position, how wide and how long the decorator wants. It is then finished by hand using hem stitching or with machine to prevent the edges from fraying.

Embroidery: Nicholson (1999) observed that the most important quality needed in a competent embroideress is an inquiring mind an awareness of things. Today the embroideress has at her disposal, an enormous material

to work with for modern science has made it possible to produce dyes in different hue and the fabrics on to which to execute them are available in fabulous and infinite variety. Embroidery was the only embellishment to articles until the industrial revolution which brought with it the introduction of cheaper woven and printed fabrics. The introduction of the sewing machine and the manufacture of clothing and household goods in the factory instead of the home had their effect in doing away with the carefully hand-embroidered personal belongings that people cherished. In these days of mass production, the assertion of one's individuality is very important. Embroidery has been given to the machine to do, but the only embroidery worthy of the name is that done by hand. Anyone who has the creative ability necessary to perform to create something beautiful out of everyday things has the gem of an artist in her make-up. All that is necessary is a pause with a needle and thread in one hand and the material in another hand. It is at that moment that the special qualities so valuable to the artist awareness and inquisitiveness are required.

Patch work: Campbell-Harding and Walker (1988) stated that, patchwork is the joining together of pieces of fabric to make a whole. The basic stimulus has always been economy but patchwork has never been just a question of joining scraps of material but also of conscious artistry in the assembling of the shapes, colours and patterns. In the beginning skins were patched together to make tent. Kingdom (1994) opined that patchwork is always a delight to the eye, almost always unique but accuracy is essential to create patches of an equal size. A medium non-woven interfacing is a good and expensive backing fabric for patchwork. Shapes such as square, rectangle, triangle, and hexagon are easy to patch than oval or round.

Quilting: Barnard (1995) stated that quilting is a simple technique that involves layering wadding between two fabrics which are the upper lay and underlay. After this the three layers are stitched together depending on the choice of design. Sometimes a template especially when working with shapes. Quilting the fabric provides effective insulation for the cover.

The need for youth empowerment through interior decoration

Empowerment is giving more control, power, authority to people over their own life or situation but this is lacking in the youth due to lack of employment. The Editor (2011) noted that the rate of unemployment in the country is worrying and requires greater attention because it deprives a country of the services of the most energetic segment of population. The situation is no doubt becoming a time bomb but this can be reversed using interior decoration by the youths. The ability to be able to make things by oneself is a joy that never ends, it can be a money saver, or income generation as well as expressing ones creative instinct. Sagoa (2008) opined that, creativity is the ability to alter textures and make things that are unusable to be usable to be globally acceptable. The creativity can be achieved through interior decoration by the choice fabric to use. Barnard (1995) noted that, choice of fabric depends on its use and how it will affect a room's character. Collins (2002) observed that, colours are available in more colours and pattern and textures and provide tremendous scope for creativity when making things for the home and interior decoration has to do with choice of fabrics. When youth are able to combine colours, pattern and textures to produce beddings, throw pillows, bolster. Bean bags and other soft furnishings that people will admire and buy them, then this will result in empowerment.

The choice of equipment to produce faster and neater soft furnishing are also important as noted by Collins (2002) and Barnards (1995). Empowering youths through interior decoration also involves equipping themselves with the skills and the techniques to be used such as appliqué (Kingdom 1994), Embroidery (Nicholas 1999), Patchwork (Campbell-Harding and Walker 1988), Quilting (Barnard 1995) which will give their work a touch of class. The youths should be away that, an interior decorator works with the insides of building including homes, business and focus mainly on surface decorations. Knowing where to decorate, how to decorate and what to decorate will afford them the much needed empowerment. Ekwere (2011) noted that, running this business needs talent, creativity, hardwork and dedication and above all passion and treat every client specially.

Therefore, interior decoration affords the decorator an opportunity to express her artistic impulses and to satisfy his aesthetic needs of creating a beautiful and fitting home. It involves the adaptation of decorative objects, materials, processes and ideals to particular needs and this requirement of a particular house. This involves the matching of colours, bits of furniture and accessories. The mind of the decorator is trained to

observe, to automatically collect relevant data and use information to effect professional training, experience and knowledge of history, of art, styles, function of spaces, human proportions, technical data and so on which give the designer the unique ability to process information. Interior decoration give the decorator the ability to observe, listen, and ask the right questions are just some of the qualities of good designer. It therefore goes to show that like every other profession. Interior decoration trains the hands as well as the mind of the designer. The interior designer should however be able to offer care tips to her clients.

Care of soft furnishings

Collins (2002) stated that soft furnishing if well cared for will keep looking good for years to come. Wash and dry clean fabrics as often as they need it and do not forget to always follow the manufacturers' cleaning instructions. Treat stains as soon as they occur, using appropriate method for the fabric. Do not forget the proverb “a stitch in time saves nine”. If a small hole or tear is discovered anywhere, mend as soon as possible or later one finds she has a major repair on her hands. Barnard (1995) observed that fabric should be protected from intensive wear and tear to increase the life span of any soft furnishing because direct sunlight fades the colours and patterns of many fabrics are eventually weakened. The best way to keep soft furnishings in good condition is to ensure they are regularly cleaned.

METHODOLOGY

The study was carried out using the descriptive survey research design. The youths in Adeniran Ogunsanya College of Education degree programme (affiliated to Ekiti State University) in the departments of Home Economics constituted the study population which comprises 200 respondents. Of the 200 copies of questionnaires distributed 180 copies were returned. Percentage and chi-square statistical tools were used.

Findings:

The analysis is presented in Table 1

Hypothesis 1: There is significant difference between interior decoration and articles made

Table 1: Frequency Count of Responses and Percentage Ratings On The Significant Difference Between Interior Decoration And Articles Made.

Item	Statement	SA	A	SD	D	Total
1.	Well furnished apartment is a function of soft furnishing.	87 (48.3%)	63 (35%)	21 (11.67%)	9 (5%)	180
2.	An interior decorator needs to be able to coordinate fabrics.	90 (50%)	60 (33.3%)	30 (16.67%)	-	180
3.	The interior decorator must identify Suitable techniques to be used considering the function of the article.	60 (33.3%)	96 (53.3%)	24 (13.3%)	-	180
4.	An interior decorator needs to be creative in making an apartment pleasing.	70 (38.88%)	80 (44.44%)	27 (15%)	3 (1.7%)	180
5.	An interior decorator should enrol in a school toImprove her creativity	81 (45%)	45 (25%)	24 (13.3%)	30 (16.67%)	180
Column Total		390	351	117	42	900
Average Total		195	175.5	58.5	21	450
Percentage (%)			43.33	39	13	4.66

The result revealed that the observed value of (30.23) is greater than the critical table value (21.03) given 12 degree of freedom at 0.5 level of significance. The result is therefore significant, which shows that there is a significant influence between interior decoration and articles made.

Hypothesis 2: There is significant difference between interior decoration as a career and income generation.

Table 2: Frequency Count of Responses and Percentage Ratings on the Significant Difference between Interior Decoration as a career and income generation,

Item	Statement	SA	A	SD	D	Total
1.	Making soft furnishing is a source of income generation	93 (51.66%)	72 (40%)	12 (6.66%)	3 (1.66%)	180
2.	The knowledge of making soft furnishing saves money for Homemakers.	78 (43.33%)	69 (38.33%)	15 (8.33%)	18 (10%)	180
3.	Soft furnishing making skills acquired can be used to augment their source of income	93 (51.66%)	42 (23.33%)	36 (20%)	9 (5%)	180
4.	People with taste can acquire the skill from soft furnishing for a fee.	39 (21.66%)	96 (53.33%)	21 (11.66%)	24 (13.33%)	180
5.	Soft furnishing maker can have a well established business of her own if the product is well finished and package.	114 (63.33%)	45 (25%)	21 (11.66%)	15 (8.33%)	180
Column Total		390	351	117	42	900
Average Total		195	175.5	58.5	21	450
Percentage (%)			43.33	39	13	4.66
Chi-square observed = 112.74		Degree of freedom = 12				
Significance level = 0.05		Critical Value = 21.03				

From the responses in the table it is observed that the chi-square value of (112.74) is greater than that (21.03) of critical value given 12 degree of freedom at significance level 0.05. The result is therefore significant, thus there is an influence of interior decoration as a career on income generation.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Item I of Hypothesis I was on the opinion that a well furnished apartment is a function of soft furnishing. 87 (48.33%) strongly agreed, 63 (35%) agreed, 21 (11.67%) strongly disagreed while 9 (5%) disagreed. The 87 respondents representing (48.33%) that strongly agreed supported what Ekwere (2011) observed that soft furnishing enhances both the aesthetic and functional uses of an apartment. Item 2, was on whether the interior decorator needs to be able to coordinate fabrics. 90 (50%) strongly agreed with the statement, 60 (33.33%) agreed, 30 (16.67%) strongly disagreed.

Item 3, was on identifying suitable techniques by the decorator. 60 (33.33%) strongly agreed, 96 (53.33%) agreed, 24 (13.33%) strongly disagreed, Collins (2002), Eaton and Lawrence (1999),Bernard (1995) opined that, the secret of success lies in the best use of a wide range of materials and techniques available to the interior decorator. Therefore, this techniques needs to be identified by the interior decorator such techniques like appliqué, drawn work, embroidery, patch work and quilting. Item 4 was if the decorator needs to be creative.

70 (38.88%) strongly agreed, 80 (44.44%) agreed, 27(15.%) strongly disagreed, 3 (1.66%) strongly disagreed. Sagoa (2008) opined that the ability to alter textures and make things that are unusable to be usable, to be globally accepted is creativity in itself. Item 5 was for the need to enroll in school to improve creativity. 81 (45%) strongly agreed, 45 (25%) agreed, 24 (13.33%) strongly disagreed, 30 (16.67%) disagreed. According to Sagoa (2008) cultures, traditions from other lands, history and research do help to nurture creativity and these can only be gotten from the school; hence there is need for interior decorators to enroll in school. Item 1 of Hypothesis 2 states that, making a soft furnishing is a source of income generation. 93 (51.66%) strongly agreed, 73 (40%) agreed, 12 (6.66%) strongly disagreed, 3 (1.66%) disagreed. Item 2 ,asked that, the making of soft furnishing saves money for home makers. 78 (43.33%) strongly agreed, 69 (38.33%) agreed, 15 (8.33%) strongly disagreed, 18 (10%) disagreed. Item 3 asked if the soft furnishing making skills acquired can be used to augment their source of income. 93 (51.66%) strongly agreed, 42(23.33%) agreed, 36(20%) strongly disagreed, 9 (5%) disagreed.

The editor (2011) has said that the rate of unemployment in Nigeria is worrying and requires urgent attention. Therefore interior decoration can be used to generate employment and alleviate poverty among the working age in the labour market . Item 4, asked that people with taste can acquire the skill for soft furnishing for a fee. 39 (21.66%) strongly agreed with the statement, 96 (53.33%) agreed, 21 (11.66%) strongly agreed, 24 (13.33%) disagreed. Item 5 was on well finished and packaged product. 114 (63.33%) 30 (16.66%) agreed 21 (11.66%) strongly disagreed, 15 (8.33%) agreed. Items 1,2,3,4,5 has shown that interior decoration can be used by youths for income generation.

CONCLUSION AND RECOMENDATIONS:

Youth unemployment can lead to high rate of insecurity and social upheaval. Therefore interior decoration can be used to reduce unemployment. However they need to enroll in schools to develop their creativity in the use of colours, fabrics and techniques. Therefore, it is recommended that

- Government should build vocational centres in every local government area in the state.
- Youths can form co-operatives through which loans can be made available through the small and medium enterprises (SMEs) as start off fund.
- Youths should be made to be aware that there is dignity in labour through enlightenment programmes and mentoring.
- The foundation for clothing and textiles should be built in the pupil's right from the primary school. This would make youths to be interested in interior decoration.

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THE RELEVANCE OF ENTREPRENEURIAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE HOSPITALITY AND TOURISM INDUSTRY IN AKURE, ONDO STATE

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ABSTRACT

The research study focused on the relevance of Entrepreneurial Development in Hospitality and Tourism Industry through the Concept of Entrepreneur, the Importance of Entrepreneurship, Guidelines for effective Entrepreneurial Development and Hospitality and Tourism Investment opportunities. Nevertheless, the research study sought to match the corresponding increase in number of people travelling nationally and internationally with number of businesses providing essential services for guests / tourists. Meanwhile, the methods adopted include questionnaire administration, oral interview, personal observation and focus group discussion. Some of the findings revealed that 49 respondents representing 89.09 percent were of the opinion that entrepreneurial development was relevant in the Hospitality and Tourism Industry and that 46 respondents representing 83.64 percent agreed that entrepreneurial development had significance impacts in the Hospitality and Tourism Industry and also, 45 respondents representing 81.82 percent agreed that entrepreneurial development act as a recipe for economic prosperity. It was recommended among others that public sector should play the regulatory roles and provide the enabling investment environments and also, the private sector should avail itself of the great entrepreneurial opportunities that abound in and offered by the Hospitality and Tourism Industry.

Keywords: Entrepreneur, Entrepreneurial Development, Entrepreneurship, Hospitality and Tourism Industry.

INTRODUCTION

The term Hospitality and Tourism Industry create more positive and customer's friendly image as it is consented with not only with the provision of food, drinks and accommodation but also with services and opportunities for leisure and relaxation (Smith, 2004).

Hospitality and Tourism Industry consist of broad categories of fields within the service industry which include lodging, restaurant, event planning, theme parks, cruise line, transportation etc. Thus, Hospitality and Tourism Industry are those institutions promoting meals, lodging and other essential services for the satisfaction of people for profit (Ikusemiju, 2009).

Okoli, (2001) states that Hospitality and Tourism is an integrated system of people, materials, equipment and energy that established for the cordial reception and entertainment of guests/visitors either socially or commercially.

Hospitality and Tourism Industry is also defined as those facilities or amenities that make guests/tourists satisfied in their place of visit (Afolabi, 2008).

According to Ball (2001), Small businesses are the life of any nation's economy and the forefront of the government efforts to promote enterprise, innovation, increase productivity and to create jobs. Meanwhile, small businesses such as in Hospitality and Tourism Industry are vitally important due to their roles in the supply - chain, the competition they stimulate and the ideas and products they bring to the market place. Thus, it is widely recognized that the promotion of entrepreneurship is not only necessary for healthy economy but also critical for sustaining prosperity and creating new jobs. Also, the heightened interest in entrepreneurship has been a consequence of diverse range of initiatives and contributory factors that include the belief that entrepreneurship can act as recipe for economic prosperity and that can reduce the rate of unemployment (Hisrich and Peters, 2003).

Nevertheless, entrepreneurship and innovations are central to creative processes in the economy to promote growth, increase productivity and create enormous jobs (Deaking, 1998).

However, entrepreneurial development help to innovate changes and exploit market opportunities in the Hospitality and Tourism Industry through its products and services in order to match the corresponding increase in number of people travelling nationally and internationally with number of businesses (Okoli, 2003).

Therefore, entrepreneurial development in the Hospitality and Tourism Industry covers a long spectrum of organizations ranging from the sole ownership of a souvenir of gift item shop and coffee bar right up to multinational corporations like hotels, transport catering and leisure parks.

The concept of entrepreneurship and entrepreneur

Morrison and Mills (1998) describe entrepreneurship as the process of creating value by bringing together a unique package of resources to create or exploit market opportunities.

Ehi-Ulabor (2008) states that entrepreneurship is an act / process whereby an entrepreneur combines all factors of productions like land, labour and capital for products, services and ability to maximize profit.

Entrepreneurship is also refers to as the capacity and attitude of a person or group of persons that undertake ventures with the probability of success or failure (Anyanwu, 1999).

Leff (2009) describe entrepreneurship as the capacity for innovations, investments and activist expansion in new markets, products and techniques.

However, Entrepreneurs are those individual who sense opportunities and take risks in the face of uncertainty to open market, design new products and develop innovative processes in the knowledge driven of economy (Ehi-Ulabor, 2008).

ccording to Drucker (2003) an entrepreneur is any person who coordinates other factors of production and bears the risk of uncertainty by investing his scarce resources in the business venture.

The importance of entrepreneurship in the growth of hospitality and tourism industry

The Hospitality and Tourism Industry are areas where issues relating to change, development, innovations and employment are increasingly being couched in terms of entrepreneurship. Meanwhile, entrepreneurship is a driver of innovation and employment and is crucial in meeting the rapidly changing demands of Hospitality and Tourism Organizations (Bailey and Baumol, 2005).

An Entrepreneurial approach is relevant and important to the Hospitality and Tourism Industry just as in other sectors. Thus, Hospitality and Tourism can be regarded as prototype entrepreneurial industry employing people ranging from gardens to local museums (Mintel, 2000).

Nevertheless, entrepreneurial activities generally develop newly combined means of production, new products, new markets, new methods of manufacturing / distribution, new sources of material or new forms of organization. Hence, entrepreneurship is the key to gain competitive advantage and as a result of greater financial rewards (Ball, 2001).

The roles of entrepreneurship in Nigeria economy particularly in Hospitality and Tourism Industry is enormous and cannot be over-emphasized in the provision of employment, wealth creation and innovation for growth and profitability (Mintel, 2000).

Guidelines for effective entrepreneurial development in the hospitality and tourism industry

Ball (2001) states that an entrepreneurial approach is no longer as an option but as the only option for managers seeking to enhance the performance of the organizations. This is whether the organization is starting-up, striving to established itself in the market place, an established business seeking to give a boost to itself or a governmental or non-profit organization meeting the opportunity and challenge of the shifting boundaries between the public and private sectors.

Thus, Arowomole and Oyedokun (2006) state that an entrepreneur must weigh the following factors for an effective entrepreneurial development.

- (1) An entrepreneur must be creative to determine how the odds may be changed.
- (2) An entrepreneur must be capable of tactical and strategic planning in terms of effecting the change.
- (3) An entrepreneur must be conscious about the ability and firms capacities.
- (4) An entrepreneur must have drive, energy and enthusiasm to implement the strategy.

Sources of fund for an entrepreneur

According to Arowomole and Oyedokun (2006), an entrepreneur may source for funds from various ways, among others are the following:

1. **Personal Resources:** An entrepreneur may pool his personal resources together to start-up capital and for day-to-day operation of the business. Personal resources may also be used to finance general working capital bridging finance and for acquisition of minor taxed assets of short life span.
2. **Finance through Family and Friends:** Family members and friends can also donate to finance operation \ and for working capital.
3. **Finance through Informal Finance Systems:** These consist of co-operative societies, landlords associations, credit and savings association and moneylenders. Funds from these sources may be used to finance small-scale businesses.
4. **Banking institution:** Development banks and Commercial banks can provide loan and overdraft for business operation. Fund may be used to finance fixed asset acquisition, finding the hard-core elements of overdrafts and for providing increased working capital requirements.
5. **Franchising:** This is an agreement between two firms allowing one firm the right to use the products, equipment and name of the other in carry out services and sales. This helps business expansion with minimum finance. This is one of the easiest ways for enterprises to expand operation. It is also one of the ways for entrepreneur to start their own business with less risk. The franchisor is the company that sells the right to rent or sell its product and to use its name. Thus, franchisee is the firm that has right to rent company's product and to use its name.

Hospitality and tourism investment opportunities

According to Okoli (2003), the present environment in Nigeria appears to be favorable to entrepreneurship in Hospitality and Tourism Industry. Thus, intense prospects for the Hospitality and Tourism Businesses are premised on the following.

- (a) Availability of grossly under exploited abundant natural resources of great Hospitality and Tourism value such as landscapes, scenic beauties, cultural resources, weather, human resources which are complemented with heavy capital resources, existing superstructure and infrastructure such as roads, airports etc.
- (b) Increasing demand for Hospitality and Tourism activities due to
 - (i) Shorter working hours and less time spent on domestic tasks.
 - (ii) Paid holidays or leave allowance
 - (iii) Increasing emphasis on relaxation and the need to get away daily stress especially the executive burn out.
 - (iv) Increase in average take home pay or disposable income
 - (v) Greater mobility due to improved means of transport
 - (vi) Cheaper transport fares
 - (vii) Improved marketing and organization of events and functions

(c)**Favourable Government Policies:** The new thinking in the Government circles are that the economy should be private sector driven. In line with this policy, government is pursuing privatization of public enterprises with vigour so as to reduce the direct involvement of government in economic activities and correspondingly encouraging the increases in the participation of the private sector.

Meanwhile, investors in Hospitality and Tourism should take due advantage of sustained government interest in the promotion and financing of small medium enterprises. Thus, provision of funds to the industrial sector, especially the small, medium enterprises (SME) have received priority attention of the policy makers in both the public and private sectors in view of the increasing awareness of the beneficial role of the SMES in the industrialization process.

In order to realize the benefits of promoting small and medium scale enterprises, the Federal Government has

- continued to apply relevant monetary fiscal and industrial policy measures which include policies and special schemes seeking to provide financial support to the small and medium enterprises. These include:
- (i) Providing local finance through its agencies e.g. Central Bank of Nigeria, Federal Ministry of Industries, Nigeria Industrial Development Bank, Nigerian Bank for Commerce and Industry.
 - (ii) Facilitating and guaranteeing external finance through the World Bank, African Development Bank and other International institutions willing and capable of assisting SMES. (e.g.) World Bank SME loan scheme.
 - (iii) Setting up of National Economic Recovery Fund (NERFUND), which is a source of medium to long term local and foreign loans for SMES.
 - (iv) Liberalization of banking operations, including licensing of new banks.
 - (v) Shifting the focus of public investments from embarking on new investment to rehabilitation, particularly of the deteriorating economic and social infrastructure as a way of raising the overall productivity of investments.

Entrepreneurial development opportunities in the hospitality and tourism industry

Major Sub-group	Community	Traditional	Religion
(a) Accommodation	Hotels, travelers inns, playground, motor parks	Palace building, lodges, strangers room, chiefs / meeting ground	Christian hotels, youth camp
(b) Transportation	Intra-city / inter-campus taxis, buses, motorcycles, bicycle, car hire, tricycle, road and air transport.	Road transport, palace buses, town hall shuttle	Church buses / rentals, road transport
(c)Trade / Travel agencies	Local Travel agencies	-	Touring van and revival caravans
(d) Finance	Micro finance scheme / investment company	Cooperative, scheme venues	Micro finance scheme from churches / mosques
(e) Food Service	Restaurant / fast foods, night clubs, bar, palm-wine joints	Canteens, traditional delicacies shops	Restaurant, camp youth, shopping complexes & stores
(g) Retail Trade	Hawking, kiosks for news-paper, souvenirs, petty traders, motor dealer, motor-cycle and bicycle dealer	Palace museums (monument), art and craft museum	Display of Biblical / Quranic posters / shops for crusades and revival, Revival grounds
(h) Recreation	Games Field, amusement park and many recreational facilities	Ayo sports, folktales and play sports	Showing of Christian / Islamic films and play areas
(i) Culture / music and entertainment	Botanical gardens, courtyard, art shops, theatres, society and clubs	Shrines of gods of various festival	Music and Christian carols , Christian drama, Islamic drama and music and Christian / Islamic Cinema Shows
Ancillary	Media houses, advertising agents, dry cleaners	Advertising agencies for place events and standby repairers	Alms giving arrangement, public relations and gift shops

Source: Adapted from Ikusemiju (2009).

The gains of entrepreneurial development in hospitality and tourism industry in Nigeria According to Arowomole and Oyedokun (2006), the gains of entrepreneurial development in Hospitality and Tourism Industry include the following.

- (1) Stimulation of Economic Growth**
It has been established (especially by the Economists) that small businesses entrepreneurship provides most of the new jobs in Hospitality and Tourism industry especially in the nation's economy. Meanwhile, studies have shown that small entrepreneurial firms' / organizations like Hospitality and Tourism either private or public employ more workers and provide the needed service to big firms.
- (2) Increased Productivity**
This is the ability to produce more products and services with less labour and other inputs. It is regarded as most functional sector of the economy. The greater interest arising from encouraging people to undertake entrepreneurial job in Hospitality and Tourism Industry is the increase in recognition of entrepreneurship as a major phenomenon for maximizing productivity.
- (3) New Technologies, Products and Services**
Entrepreneurs play an important role in the course of promoting innovative technologies, product and service. Thus, many individuals have developed new technologies, products and services as a result of being abandoned by large firm.

- Objectives of the study**
- To know the relevance of entrepreneurial development in the Hospitality and Tourism Industry.
 - To reveal the significance impacts/gains of entrepreneurial development in the Hospitality and Tourism Industry.
 - To reveal that entrepreneurial development act as a recipe for economic prosperity.

METHODOLOGY
The population of the study was Service Providers, Operators, Staff and other Stakeholders in the Hospitality and Tourism Industry in Akure, Ondo State. Thus, the researcher adopted the use of Stratified Sampling Method of which the Sample Size was Fifty-Five (55) respondents. For the purpose of the study, the data gathered through the administration of structured questionnaire were presented and analyzed with the use of simple percentage method that assist in a logical conclusion.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS
Table 1: Is entrepreneurial development relevant in the Hospitality and Tourism Industry?

Option	Respondents	Percentage (%)
Has relevance	49	89.09
Do not has relevance	6	10.91
No Response	-	-
Total	55	100%

Source: Fieldwork (2011).

The above table indicated that 49 respondents representing 89.09% agreed that entrepreneurial development is relevant to the Hospitality and Tourism Industry while 6 respondents representing 10.91% did not agreed.

Table 2: Does entrepreneurial development has significance impacts / gains in the Hospitality and Tourism Industry?

Option	Respondents	Percentage (%)
Has impacts/gains	46	83.64
Has no impacts/gains	9	16.36
No Response	-	-
Total	55	100%

Source: Fieldwork (2011).

The above table show that 46 respondents representing 83.64% agreed that entrepreneurial development has significance impacts /gains in the Hospitality and Tourism Industry while 9 of the respondents representing 16.36% did not agreed.

Table 3: Does entrepreneurial development act as a recipe for economic prosperity.

Option	Respondents	Percentage (%)
Act as a recipe	45	81.82
Do not act as recipe	8	14.55
No Response	2	3.63
Total	55	100%

Source: Fieldwork (2011).

The above table indicated that 45 of respondents representing 81.82% agreed that entrepreneurial development act as a recipe for economic prosperity, 8 respondents representing 14.55% did not agreed while 2 respondents representing 3.63% did not respond.

Thus, it is now widely recognized that the promotion of entrepreneurship is not only necessary for a healthy economy but also critical for sustaining prosperity and creating new jobs. Also, entrepreneurship is critical to the Hospitality and Tourism Industry as it's rapidly change consumer demands and expectations, constant innovations to meet and hopefully exceed the evolving customers demand and expectations (Anyanwu, 1999).

CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

In view of the above, entrepreneurial development is relevant in the Hospitality and Tourism Industry and that the significance impacts /gains of entrepreneurial development cannot be overemphasized. Thus, entrepreneurship is essential to the Hospitality and Tourism Industry in the sense that innovations could be offered to the guests on daily basis in order to promote sales. Also, entrepreneurship is very paramount for the growth of the Hospitality and Tourism Industry in order to match the corresponding increase in the number of people travelling nationally and internationally with number of businesses providing essential services for guests / tourists and thus act as a recipe for economic prosperity.

Therefore, this study, the researcher recommended as follow:

- i. Potential individual entrepreneur and management should always be focused and have vision on what the establishment can offer to the guest that can bring about increase in sales.
- ii. The public sector should play the regulating roles, provide necessary infrastructure and also enabling environment that are conducive to sound investment.
- iii. When proposing for approval and certification for the innovations to become realistic, the risk bearer should exercise patience in execution of plans so that it can serves intended purpose.

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PERCEPTION OF RURAL DWELLERS ABOUT RABBIT MEAT CONSUMPTION IN IFE NORTH LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA OF OSUN STATE.

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ABSTRACT

The significance of rabbit has not been well appreciated by Nigerian populace which might not be due to inadequate information about the inherent advantage of rabbit meat as compared with the red meat from cattle, pig, sheep etc. The study focused on the perception of rural dwellers about rabbit meat consumption in Ife North Local Government area of Osun State. It described the respondents' demographic characteristics, assessed the level of awareness about its consumption and some possible solutions to increase its consumption. One hundred and fifty respondents were selected through random sampling technique. Some of the results revealed that (34.7%) of them were between the age range of 30 and 39 years while (26.7%) were between 20 and 29 years and (18.7%) accounted for respondents between 40 and 49 years. Most of the respondents (80%) were aware of rabbit meat consumption. About (73%) of them perceived that rabbit meat was more palatable than other meat: they were however undecided that rabbit meat had more health advantage than other meat. There was a significant relationship between awareness and perception of the respondents ($r = 0.267$, $p < 0.01$). The consumption of rabbit meat could increase the protein intake of the consumers and thus better healthy living for the people. Efforts should be made by the health sector to increase the awareness of the rural populace on the advantages that could be got from its consumption.

Key words: perception, rural dwellers, rabbit, meat consumption

INTRODUCTION

Perception varies from person to person. It is the way people regard something and their belief about what they like (Longman Contemporary English Dictionary, 2007). Different people perceive different things about the same situation. But more to that, we assign different meanings to what we perceive and the meaning might change for a certain person, that is, one might change one's perspective or simply make things mean something else. Awareness means knowing something, having knowledge of something from having observed it or being told about it, noticing or realizing that something exists because one notices it or realizes that it is happening.

Recent studies indicate that consumer's food choice is influenced by health, taste, convenience, visual appeal, and reasonable prices (Mermelstien, 2002; Stillings, 1994). Although Nigeria has rich resources, it has however not done away with the rural setting. A rural area or country side is an area that is not urbanized, has low population density, and typically much of the land is devoted to agriculture (Wikipedia, 2007). In Nigeria, the term rural is defined as an area or settlement in which half of the adult male working population is engaged in farming, then a greater proportion of the country is included irrespective of the settlement pattern (Ekong, 2010).

The three basic needs of man are food, clothing and shelter. In these three, of which food is the most important, agriculture plays a major role. According to Adesoji and Farinde (2006), food is man's first and most important necessity of life. The development, growth and survival of a nation depends on the supply of food, therefore the role of food in any country cannot be overemphasized. Food is any substance consumed to for the growth and repair of organisms and the maintenance of life. It is usually of plant or animal origin, and contains essential nutrients, such as carbohydrates, fats, proteins, vitamins, or minerals. The substance is ingested by an organism and assimilated by the organism's cells in an effort to produce energy, maintain life, or stimulate growth (Webster Comprehensive Dictionary, 2007).

Rabbits are small mammals in the family Leporidae of the order Lagomorpha, found in several parts of the world. There are eight different genera in the family classified as rabbits, including the European rabbit (*Oryctolagus cuniculus*), cottontail rabbits (genus *Sylvilagus*; 13 species), and the Amami rabbit (*Pentalagus furnessi*, an endangered species on Amami Ōshima, Japan). There are many other species of rabbit, and these, along with pikas and hares, make up the order Lagomorpha (Wikipedia, 2007). The male is called a buck and

the female is a doe; a young rabbit is a kitten or kit. Rabbits are ground dwellers that live in the environment ranging from desserts to tropical forest and wetland. Rabbits are medium sized hopping animals with long ears, short tail, large caeca and colon. They are docile animal weighing between 1kg for small breed like Netherlands dwarfs to 9kg for the giant breed like Flemish giants gestation length of 30-31 days. They have good growth rate and the reproduction rate when raised on the diet made entirely of the mixture of good quality forage. They are gregarious nocturnal animals that feed on grasses and herbaceous plants. Rabbits are best known for being prolific which efficiently convert fodder to food. The whole point of meat production is to convert plant protein of little or no use to man as food into high-value protein, and in attempt to find a lasting solution to the problem, there is the need to emphasize production of small scale stocks that are prolific (5-8 litter size), of short gestation period (30-31 days) which can be established with meager capital to serve as a rapid source of meat for the farmers. Cellulose-rich plants can be converted to available protein by rabbit when fed with it. Rabbits are good source of iron, niacin, phosphorus and vitamin B12. Available literature shows that the lean meat of rabbit is very nutritious, easily digestible, extremely low in cholesterol, and sodium level (Omole et al, 2005). In efficient production systems, rabbits can turn 20 percent of the protein they eat to edible meat. Comparable figures for other species are 22 to 23 for broiler chicken 16 to 18 percent for pigs and 8 to 12 percent for beef. The traditional grain and soybean cakes fed to these domestic poultry put them into direct competition with humans for food. Hence for countries with no cereal surpluses; rabbit meat production and / or consumption is thus especially interesting. Meat is definitely the main goal of rabbit production with its by-products like skin, which is the pelt and shorn hair, with no particular production constraint.

Presently, Nigeria is faced with food problems which seem to be aggravated by rapid increase in population and insufficient food production (Odeyinka et. al., 2005). Animal protein which is an important part of man's diet, a product from livestock industry has its own share of problems just like any other industry. In addition to this, many of the ingredients such as soybeans, dry grain, palm kernel cake, fishmeal, groundnut cake, bone meal and so on used in feeding livestock have become expensive due to large usage of these items. Inadequate animal protein in the diet is therefore one of the problems faced by most developing countries like Nigeria. Hence, production of livestock in large quantities depends on the ability to utilize feed that do not directly compete with man for food. Also, low productivity of animals as a result of disease and poor quality feed has led to insufficient animal protein intake in Nigeria (Odeyinka et. al., 2008)

The significance of rabbit has not been well appreciated effectively by farmers and people in general. This is due to lack of proper information about the inherent advantage of rabbit meat or lean meat as compare to red meat from cattle, pig and sheep and white meat from turkey, chicken pigeon and guinea fowl. There has been little information about the perception of people about rabbit consumption, hence the need to the look into the perception of rural dwellers about rabbit consumption.

Objectives of the study

The specific objectives of the study were to:

1. describe the demographic characteristics of rural dwellers in the study area.
2. access the level of awareness of respondents about rabbit meat consumption in the study area.
3. find out the perception of rural dwellers about consumption of rabbit with respect to its size, taste, and availability in the study area.

Hypotheses of the study

From the objectives the following hypotheses stated in the null form in the study were:

1. There is no significant relationship between the perception of rural dwellers or people in general towards rabbit meat consumption and some identified demography and economic characteristics such as age, sex, religion, marital status, family size, level of education, major occupation, farming combination, annual income, and introduction to rabbit meat consumption
2. There is no significant relationship between levels of awareness of rabbit meat and perception of rural dwellers.

METHODOLOGY

The study was conducted in Ife North Local Government area of Osun state. Six communities and villages were randomly selected; these were Moro, Ipetumodu, Yakooyo, Asipa, Akinlalu, and Edunabon. A total of 150 respondents were sampled through snow ball technique. This was because respondents who had at one time or the other eaten rabbit meat were difficult to locate since they were scattered around in the study area. In

each community, 25 interview schedules were administered to make a total of 150. Frequency counts, percentages, mean scores, and standard deviation were used to summarize the data collected while chi-square and correlation analyses were used to test the hypotheses stated.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Demographic characteristics of the respondents

Data in Table 1 show that majority, (34.7%) of the respondents were between the age range of 30 and 39 years, majority, (72.2%) were males, majority, (65.3%) were married, majority, (72.0%) were Christians, majority, (88.0%) had a family size of between 3 and above 10, majority, (92.0%) had formal education, majority, (54.0%) of the respondents combined farming activities with their staple occupation.

Table 1: Distribution of respondents by demographic characteristics (n=150)

Variables	Frequency	Percentage
Sex		
Male	109	72.7
Female	41	27.3
Marital status		
Single	35	23.3
Married	98	65.3
Divorced	1	0.7
Separated	3	2.0
Widowed	13	8.7
Religion		
Christianity	108	72.0
Islam	35	23.0
Traditional	7	4.7
Age in years		
(Btw 20-29)	30	20.0
(Btw 30-39)	52	34.7
(Btw 40-49)	28	18.6
(Above 49)	40	26.7
Household Size		
1-2	18	12.0
3-5	61	40.7
6-8	44	29.3
10 and above	27	18.0

Distribution of respondents by demographic characteristics (n=150) cont'd

Variables	Frequency	Percentage
Level of education		
No formal education	12	8.0
Primary education	21	14.0
Secondary education	45	30.0
OND	22	14.7
Others (B.Sc and above)	50	33.3
Major Occupation		
Farming	34	22.7
Business	21	14.0
Civil Service	38	25.3
Self employment	44	29.3
Others	13	8.0
Combined farming (with crops or livestock)		
Yes	83	55.4
No	67	44.6

Source: field survey, 2009

The extent and level of awareness of the rural dwellers about rabbit meat consumption in the study area Data in table 2 show the mean scores of various responses of respondents on their awareness about rabbit meat consumption with a mean score of 36.99 and standard deviation of 3.66.

Table 2:Extent of awareness of respondents about rabbit meat consumption

Statements		Mean scores (5)
*	I am not aware of rabbit meat in my area	2.8
*	Rabbit meat is commonly eaten in this area	2.2
*	Rabbit meat serves as supplemental protein for the household	2.6
*	Occasional sales of rabbit can generate income for the household	2.9
*	There is lack of proper information about the inherent advantage of rabbit meat	2.6
*	Rabbit meat is socially acceptable in my area	2.5
*	There are no religious nor taboo associated with rabbit meat consumption	2.5
*	Rabbit is an ideal animal for keeping and is non smelling or noisy animal	2.7
*	They are herbivorous that is they feed on grass, forbs and leafy weeds	3.0
*	It's a source of low cost high quality meat that uses only forages and food waste that is of no direct value to human beings	2.5

Mean score=36.9

Standard deviation=3.66

Source: field survey, 2009

Level of awareness of respondents about rabbit meat consumption

Data table 3 shows the level of awareness of respondents, the data in table 3 revealed that 16% of the respondents were at high level of awareness, 62% were at medium level of awareness and 22% were at low level of awareness.

Table 3:Level of awareness of respondents about rabbit meat consumption (N=150)

Level of awareness	Values	Frequency	Percentage
High	> 40.56	24	16.0
Moderate	Btw 40.56 and 33.24	93	62.0
Low	< 33.24	33	22.0
Total		150	100

Source: Field survey, 2009

The extent of perception of the rural dwellers about taste, size, and availability rabbit meat consumption and level of perception.

Data in Table 4 show that the respondents strongly agreed that rabbit consumption can be increased based on the variables considered with more extension services and training (4.5), that rabbit is an excellent vocation and source of income (4.4), that proper information about rabbit meat can increase its consumption (4.4), that rabbit meat is more palatable than other meat (mean score = 4.2), The respondents were generally undecided on the statement that rabbit meat is not always available in the area (mean score of 3.9), that rabbit meat has more health advantage than other meat (3.8) the respondents disagreed that small size of rabbit prevents them from eating the meat (mean score - 2.1) and lastly respondents strongly disagreed that physical look of rabbit puts me off from eating it (1.8), that rabbit meat does not taste nice as other meat (mean score - 1.7), that rabbit related information dissemination from extension agent to respondents is a waste of time and resource (mean score = 1.7).

Table 4:Distribution of Respondents by Their Perception about Rabbit Meat Consumption With Respect To Taste, Size and Availability

Perception	Strongly agree		Agreed		Undecided				DisagreeStrongly	
	Freq	%	Freq	%	Freq	%	Freq	%	Freq	%
1.rabbit meat more palatable than other meat	87	58.0	21	153	16	10.7	23	15.3	1	0.7
2. rabbit meat does not taste nice as other meat	3	2.0	5	3.3	6	4.0	33	22.0	103	68.7
3.small size of rabbit prevents me from eating the meat	7	4.7	8	5.3	11	7.3	48	32.0	76	50.7
4. rabbit meat is not always available in my area	50	33.3	64	42.7	11	7.3	16	10.7	9	6.0
5. physical look of rabbit puts you off from eating it	5	3.4	4	2.7	15	10.0	37	24.7	89	59.3
6.rabbit meat has more health advantage than other meat	56	37.3	45	30.0	11	7.3			11	7.3
7.rabbit is an excellent vocation and and source of income	78	52.0	63	42.0	3	2.0	3	2.0	-	-
8.rabbit consumption can be increased can be increased with more extension services and training	89	59.3	52	34.7	4	2.7	4	2.7	-	-
9.rabbit related information from extension agents to farmers is a waste of time and resources	1	0.7	14	9.3	8	5.3	24	16.0	103	68.7
10. Proper information about rabbit meat can increase its consumption	95	64.0	35	3.3	4	2.7	8	5.3	7	4.7

Mean score = 32.37
Standard deviation =3.38
Source, field survey, 2009

Level of perception of respondents about rabbit meat consumption

Data in Table 5 shows the level of perception of respondents, the data in table 5 revealed that 15.33% of the respondents were at high (favorable) level of perception, 69.33% were at medium (moderately favourable) level of perception and 15.33% were at low (unfavourable) level of perception.

Table 5 (N=150)

Level of perception		Values Frequency	Percentage
High	> 35.75	23	15.33
Moderate	Btw 35.75 and 28.99	104	69.33
Low	< 28.99	23	15.33
Total		150	100

Source: Field survey, 2009

Testing of hypotheses

Ho1. There is no significant relationship between the perception of rural dwellers or people in general towards rabbit meat consumption and some identified demography and economic characteristics such as age, sex, religion, marital status, family size, level of education, major occupation, farming combination, annual income, and introduction to rabbit meat consumption.

Result of the hypothesis which is shown in Table 6 indicates that there was positive and significant association between some selected demographic characteristics such sex ($\chi^2 = 39.174$), marital status ($\chi^2 = 131.971$), religion ($\chi^2 = 41.665$) major occupation ($\chi^2 = 108.021$), level of education ($\chi^2 = 108.289$) at 0.05 level of significance and perception of rural dwellers about rabbit meat consumption. From the table, it can be seen that selected demographic characteristics such as sex, level of education, major occupation, have significant relationship but marital status having a very strong relationship hence the null hypothesis is rejected. It implies that there is no bias with sex, marital status, level of education, major occupation of the respondents and their perception about rabbit meat consumption.

Table 6: Chi square analysis, showing association between the perception of rural dwellers about rabbit meat consumption and some selected demographic characteristics of respondents in the study area.

VARIABLE	χ^2	Level of Significance	Decision
Sex	39.174	0.006	S
Religion	41.665	0.966	NS
Marital status	131.971	0.000	S
Level of education	108.289	0.019	S
Major occupation	108.021	0.020	S

Significant at p < 0.05 level
Number of independent variables = 5
Number of respondents = 150
Source: field survey, 2009

Ho2. There is no significant relationship between levels of awareness of rabbit meat and perception of rural dwellers.

Results of hypothesis in Table 7 shows that there was positive and significant relationship between the level of awareness of rabbit meat and perception of the rural dwellers at (r = 0.267**) and 0.01 level of significance. The positive correlation may be whatever the respondents know or are aware of as to what they will want to put

to practice, this can lead to change in attitude, skill and practice of the respondent which will affect their overall perception about rabbit meat.

Table 7: Correlation Analysis Showing Relationship between Awareness and Perception of Rural Dwellers about Rabbit Meat Consumption

Variable	Correlation coefficient (r)	Coefficient of determination(r ²)
Awareness	0.267**	0.071
** Correlation is significant at the 0.01 level (2-tailed).		
Number of independent variable = 1		
Number of respondents = 150		

Source: field survey, 2009

CONCLUSION

The study concluded that; there is no bias with sex, marital status, and level of education, major occupation of the respondents in the study area and their perception of rabbit meat consumption. Perception of rural dwellers about rabbit meat consumption increases as awareness increases this may mean that whatever the respondents know or are aware of will influence what they will want to put to practice, this can lead to change in attitude, skill and practice of the respondent which will affect their overall perception about rabbit meat. Majority of the respondents, (92%) had formal education and agreed that rabbit has nutritive values which can be further published through extension services, mass media and government since there is a favourable perception about rabbit farming.

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