



Development of Entrepreneurial Skill for Youth: Using Fabrics in Making Footmat for Homes and Offices

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Abstract

The study is based on the development of entrepreneurial skill for youths using fabric in making football for homes and offices. Six research objectives were formulated for the study. Research and development design was used for a systematic and logical procedure for identifying and evaluating the relationship between variables. The training covered seven hundred and fifty [750] youths randomly selected throughout Ibarapa community, the study area. Descriptive statistics of frequency distribution, percentage, means and standard deviation used for the data analysis. The findings revealed that the youths in the study area show interest in the production of that foot mat using fabrics. The study also revealed that recycling of cut fabric from tailors and designers generated resources for the practicing tailor in the community. Recommendation were made, some of which include the need for government to encourage the youth in the community through training centers to develop entrepreneurial skills using fabric in making foot mat for homes and offices for self-employment

Keyword: Youth; foot mat; entrepreneurial skill; homes offices.

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1. Introduction

African Print [Ankara] is a general term employed by Nigerian textile Millers to include fabrics that are printed using resins and dyes in order to achieve a batik effect on both sides of the cloth which are distinctive of some indigenous handcrafted Nigerian prints. The Nigerian consumers call the prints by such names as “abada”, “ankara” and “atamfa” to mention but a few [1]. Ankara are omnipresent and common materials for clothing in Africa, especially West Africa. They are industrially produced colourful cotton cloths with batik-inspired printing. African print fabrics emphasized the aesthetic sensibilities and consummate skills involved in the creation of various fabrics used by the consumers. The machine made wax print was first introduced to West Africa by the Europeans [1, 2]. African prints were purposely made for the Africans. As early as 1950’s, wax and non-wax prints were called by the name ‘Ankara’ because they were brought in a large quantity through Ghana Ports hence Yoruba associated the name with Accra, the Capital of Ghana. Abada appears to be a new name coined by the textile traders from the Eastern parts of Nigeria and Atafa in the Northern parts of the country. Redesigning refers to the taking in of an already existing fabric and changing to meet another better needs of a man. It also offers one the opportunity to be creative. It saves money by using one’s time and skills to be an entrepreneur. Recycling means to reclaim items for another use. You can recycle clothes by making something new out of them. One can utilize old fabrics for new projects at no cost. It is a powerful green living and cost saving strategy.

Foot mat on the other hand is a piece of thick material that is put on the floor by a door, used to clean or wipe one’s feet when moving into a particular room or coming out from the washroom.

Unemployment and underemployment rate are more than 30% in Nigeria owing to large number of graduate turnouts from tertiary institutions and the shutdown of several companies [3, 4]. No nation has ever survived successive high rates of unemployment because of the attendant waste of human resources which it breeds [5]. Entrepreneurship is an act and practice of being an entrepreneur - the person that coordinates, controls and organizes the production process to obtain maximum cost with a view of making profit [6]. In this research, we will focus on developing entrepreneur skills in youths [graduates] by training them on the production of foot mats using African prints. It is expected that this will help in reducing idleness amongst youth, reduce crime rates and increase self-employment rate in the region. In addition, we would contribute to the attainment of SDG 8, Decent Work and Economic Growth. The nation cannot survive if there is a high rate of unemployment. What occurs when an individual develops a new venture or a new approach to an old business or idea or a unique way of giving the marketplace a product or service by using resources in a new way under conditions or risks [5]. The innovation in this research is the use of computer aided design in the production of the foot mats. As a result, the produced foot mat is expected to be more attractive and fluffy. Also, the youth [entrepreneur] can start from zero to begin the production-move around to collect scrap from the Tailoring Centers, assemble for proper arrangements and begin the production.

2 Problem statement/justification

In spite of a rich endowment of natural and human resources, most people in Nigeria live below the poverty line

[7]. Poverty in Nigeria has many manifestations and dimensions, which include unemployment. This unemployment complicated youths' behaviour and it is a fact of life for many families in this country. Nigeria's future prosperity is a function of producing youth who are well prepared and well equipped to take part in tomorrow's society. The youth and adults must be equipped with saleable skills that can enable them to become gainfully employed and self-employed [5]. One can be creative in fabric choices, combining colors and bringing that blend or contrast. We set out to employ resource utilization, using African print fabric in making foot mats for Homes and Offices as entrepreneurial skills for Youths.

3. Objective[s] of the study

The main objective of the study is entrepreneurial skills development for youths using African Print [Ankara] fabrics in making Foot mats for Homes and Offices.

Specifically, the study objectives are to:

1. design foot mat patterns using Ankara offcut for Home and Offices.
2. collect and select African Print [Ankara] offcut fabric and procurement of diverse fabrics from market and tailoring institutions.
3. construct foot mats using African Print [Ankara] Fabrics.
4. ascertain socioeconomic characteristics of sampled youth trainees
5. make sequential training for the youths sampled in each of the three local governments in the study area.
6. package and merchandize the foot mats produced to determine its consumer acceptability

4. Material and method

This study was carried out in the Ibarapa community. Ibarapa community consists of seven ancient towns [Igangan, Idere, Igboora, Tapa, Aiyete, Eruwa and Lanlate] in Ibadan Ibarapa Senatorial district of Oyo State of Southwest Nigeria. The name is derived from a local cultivar of the melon plant known locally as Egusi Ibara.

The Population of the study Area is 749,969 [8]. Therefore, one percent of the population was randomly chosen making 750 youths [9]. This gives two hundred and fifty [250] respondents in each local government area trained. Samples for the demonstration consist of Cotton African Print [Ankara] fabric and synthetic African print [Ankara] fabric produced in Nigeria. The sample was selected from the two fabrics according to the colour for aesthetics. The fabric will be cut into pieces of 1 inch by 3 inches length and the pattern was drawn using Computer Aided Design. Data will be collected from respondents on their perceived functionality, satisfaction, texture, and aesthetics of the foot mats produced. The data collected was subjected to descriptive statistical analysis using frequency counts, percentages, means and standard deviation to describe the various items involved in the study.

Training and Demonstration method using Materials and Methods for the production of Foot mat for Home using and Office fabric

Table 4

Materials	Quantity[s]
Ankara fabrics	300 pack
Fibre	150 yards
Calico	150 yards
Leather	300 yards
Jute sack	150 pieces
Mako	50 sheets
Evostick gum	5 gallons
Knitting wool	10 packs
Crocheting hook	760 pieces
Tape measure	760 pieces
Scissors	760 pieces

Measurement for homes and offices foot mat

Length 56cm [22'']

Breadth 38.2 [15'']

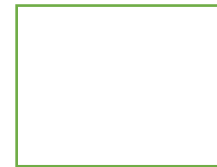


Figure 1: Materials

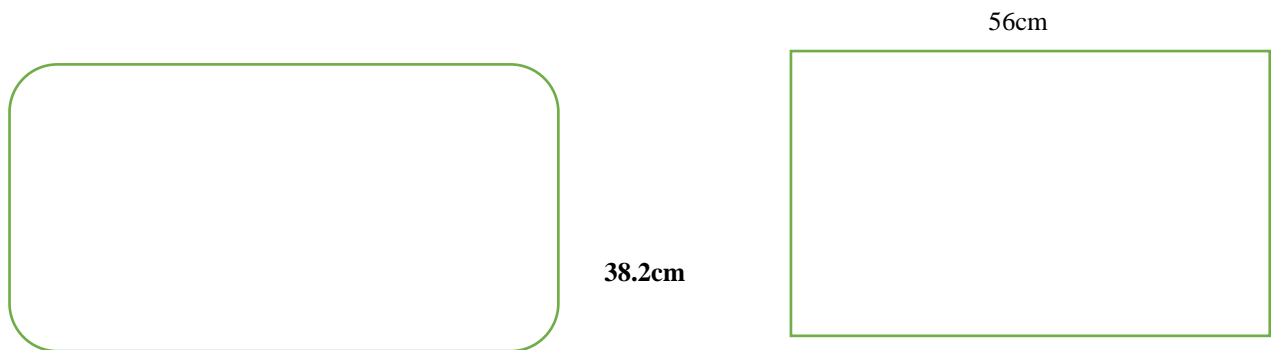


Figure 2: Pattern adaptation after the measurement to ensure accuracy using computer aided design {CAD}

Procedure for making Homes and Offices foot mat.

1. Wash the jute and allow it to dry.
2. Cut out jute sack, calico, leather, fibre and mako using desired measurement.
3. Sew the edges of the jute sack using calico to avoid splitting.
4. Measure and cut the thrums into strips of 2.5cm by 7.75cm length.
5. Insert the strips at a time, press the flat jute using a crochet hook to pull the strip from bottom to the top surface of the jute sack forming a knot until the entire surface is covered.
6. Padding – place a piece of foam or fibre underneath to pad the worked foot mat.
7. Place soft leather and mako that serve as the underlay as well as protection for the foot mat base and sew

round.

8. Package ready for market.



Figure 3: Finished footmat

5. Result

The details in table 1 showed the highest percentage of youth are 241 [32.13%] between the age of 18-24 years. The result also showed that there are more male than females in the study. Most of the youths are OND/NCE/HND/DEGREE 320 [42.67%] holders. The highest majority of respondents has not less than three 654 [87.2%] household size.

5.1 Presentation of Results

Table 1: Distribution of Respondents by Socioeconomic Characteristics of Youth in Ibarapa Community, Igboora, Nigeria

Age	Frequency	Percentage
18-24	241	32.13
25-30	224	29.87
31-35	190	35.13
36-40	95	12.67
Total		99.8
Gender		
Male	429	57.2
Female	321	42.8
Total	750	100.0
Educational Qualification		
No formal education	47	6.27
Primary education	202	26.93
Secondary education	181	24.13
Tertiary education	320	42.67
Total	750	100.0

Table 3

Variables	Frequency	Percentage
1-3	654	87.2
4-6	91	12.13
7-9	05	0.67
10	-	0.00
Total	750	100.0

Table 2: Qualitative analysis of Footmats, Using African Print Fabrics for Homes and Offices.

Texture		Colour		Functionality		Innovation		Overall acceptability		Rate
F	%	F	%	F	%	F	%	F	%	
640	85.3	720	96	595	79.3	703	93.7	635	84.67	Excellent
99	13.2	28	3.7	123	16.4	46	6.1	97	12.9	Very good
11	1.5	2	0.3	32	4.3	1	0.1	18	2.4	Good
750	100	750	100	75	100	750	100	750	100	Total

Table two reveals the respondents scores on the production and acceptability of foot mat for homes and offices.

Texture: the texture of foot mats for homes and offices, from the table was related excellently by 640[85.3%]. Some of the respondents 99[13.2%] rated its texture very good and just few of the respondents 11[1.5%] rated its texture good, the texture of cotton that is used for African dress print fabric is soft and fluffy, cool, known as breathable and absorbent that can hold water. It can stand against abrasion wear and high temperature. It is comfortable.

Color: according to the table 720[96%] and 28[3.7%] of the respondents rated the color of foot mats for homes and offices excellent and very good. The fabrics used are industrially produced colorful cotton cloths with batik-inspired printing. This will attract the consumers to foot mats for homes and offices.

Functionality: 595[79.3] and 123[16.4%] believe that foot mats produced from African dress print are useful and function well in the home and offices. It helps to maintain a clean environment in the homes and offices.

Innovation: 703[93.7%] and 46[6.1%] respondents believe that it is an excellent innovation.

Overall acceptability: in this table, it reveals that the majority 635[84.67%] and 97[12.9%] rated the development of entrepreneurial skill for youths using fabric in making foot mats for homes and offices.

6. Conclusion

This study investigated the development of entrepreneurial skills among youth through the production of footmats using fabrics. The results showed that the training programme was effective in enhancing the entrepreneurial skills of the participants, particularly in areas such as creativity, innovation and risk-taking. The footmat production business was also found to be a viable venture for the youth, providing them with a source of income and employment.

The study also highlighted the importance of entrepreneurship education and training in equipping youth with necessary skills to succeed in the business.

7. Recommendation

Based on the findings of this study, the following recommendations are made:

- Efforts should be made to establish markets for the footmats produced by the youth entrepreneurs, both locally and internationally
- The training programme should be scaled up to reach more youth, particularly in rural areas where unemployment is high
- Youth entrepreneurs should be provided with access to funding to enable them to start and grow their business
- Above all, government should establish footmats training centres in each local government areas in order to encourage the youth in the community to develop entrepreneurial skills using fabric in making foot mat for homes and offices for self-employment

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