

ASSESSMENT OF INTRINSIC AND EXTRINSIC QUALITIES OF CUSHION-CHAIR COVER PRODUCED WITH TIE/DYED FABRIC FOR INTERIOR DECORATION

Ezechi Lilian O

Department of Home Economics
Federal College of Education (Tech.) Akoka, Lagos, Nigeria.
lilyver2002@yahoo.com

Awe Folasade F

Department of Home Economics
Federal College of Education (Tech.) Akoka, Lagos, Nigeria.

Akinlolu Oluwaseyi E.

Department of Home Economics
Federal College of Education (Tech.) Akoka, Lagos, Nigeria.

Abstract

Interior decoration is both an art and a science focused on designing and arranging living spaces in a way that is both aesthetically pleasing and functional. This study aims to explore the practical application of Home Economics skills in interior decoration, with a particular focus on the production of tie and dye cushion chair covers. To gather data, a descriptive research survey design was employed, using a questionnaire to elicit responses from a sample of sixty (60) staff and students of the school of vocational education, Federal College of Education Technical Akoka, Lagos who are regular users of fabrics. Data analysis involved using frequency counts and simple percentages to determine the overall extent to which participants either liked or disliked the intrinsic and extrinsic qualities of the cushioned chair covers. The findings of the study revealed that the inherent characteristics, namely style, design, texture, finishing (sewing), durability, and comfort of the cushion chair cover, received favorable evaluations from the respondents. A greater proportion of the respondents, that is, 43.33%, rated the style of the product as good, while 25% assessed it as average and 23.33% concluded it as excellent. This indicates that tie-dye fabrics can be utilized to create high-quality household decorative items. In conclusion, this research has determined that incorporating indigenous fashion designers' locally designed fabrics can enhance the aesthetic of interior decoration. Nigerians should be encouraged to appreciate locally produced articles instead of patronizing imported goods.

Keywords: Home Economics Skills, Interior decoration, fabric, Intrinsic, Extrinsic

Introduction

The progress and growth of any nation is dependent on its level of development. Low and Medium-income countries (LMICs) such as Nigeria are presently witnessing several challenges such as high rates of youth unemployment, poverty, acts of terrorism and violence, kidnapping, and robberies. The

worsening economic situation is further characterized by widespread hunger. These

challenges can be linked to a lack of proper education and inadequate skill acquisition, especially by the youths in all aspects of human endeavors. Skill refers to someone's ability to carry out activities effectively. Skills are acquired aforetime by the ability to utilize and control thinking and attitudes in a

given task being performed. These relevant skills are learned in Home Economics courses studied in tertiary institutions to achieve the objectives. The acquisition of these skills makes learners globally relevant as they are acquainted with information from around the globe beyond their immediate environment. (Azonuche, (2020). This encourages education beyond the classroom to foster self-reliance and promote sustainable growth and development. Tertiary institutions are all levels of post-secondary education such as Universities, Polytechnics, Monotechnics, and colleges of education. (FRN 2013). Home Economics education at this tertiary level provides intellectual reliance, national development, and global competitiveness.

Despite these parts played by Home economic education evidence shows that the rate of unemployment is high in Nigeria. National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) (2023) report for the second quarter of 2023 indicated the unemployment rate at 4.2% which is about 5.9 million people.

Home Economics Education as a vocational subject equips individuals with saleable skills and competencies required to live and contribute effectively to the economic development of a nation as it offers numerous career opportunities. Rakia, Gaite, and Salami (2017) observed that Home Economics education being a skill-oriented programme equips learners with saleable skills needed for self-employment. According to Fabusuyi (2012), the skills acquired through Home Economics education can equip individuals with the technical know-how and knowledge for self-reliance, help to reduce the problem of

unemployment as well as help to enhance economic development through job creation and poverty alleviation. The skills in Home Economics Education can generally be useful as highlighted by Fabusuyi, (2012) as follows: It equips individuals with the technical know-how and knowledge for self-reliance. It helps to reduce the problems of unemployment, as more people tend to become entrepreneurs. Home Economics skills enhance technology and economic development through job creation in production, distribution, and services. The skills acquired in Home Economics Education enhance the alleviation of poverty, especially among family members.

Williams (2009) defines skills as expertness, practical ability, dexterity, and tact, an organized sequence of actions, competencies, and proficiencies executed in carrying out a given task. According to Elija (2006), skills are a well-established habit of doing things. It involves the acquisition of performance ability. Williams and Offiong (2007) maintained that skills acquisition is essential for the development of intrinsic potential in an individual. Acquisition of skills has long been recognized as the basis for wealth creation in any nation. A graduate of Home Economics education is expected to become a job giver rather than a job seeker because the various practical aspects of Home Economics expose students to different manipulative skills that enable them to expand their knowledge and acquire the necessary skills needed for sustenance (Onyeukwu, Agbe & Pepple, 2010). The key functional areas of Home Economics where different, profitable skills can be acquired include food and nutrition, clothing and

textile, home management, child development and family relations, and consumer education. These functional areas of Home Economic Education have their peculiar skills. Hence, for this study, the skills acquired in clothing and textile and Home-Management including their applications in interior decoration are the central focus. Liu, Bo, and Huang (2021) define interior decoration as the beautification of a building or room, especially with regard for color combination and artistic effects. It is also a term that refers to the decorating and furnishing of interior spaces in homes and offices to meet the needs of contemporary people for social activities and the urgent needs of daily life and to create a beautiful, comfortable, and convenient indoor living environment.

There are various perspectives on the impact of quality on the durability of clothing and textiles. Quality, along with

aesthetics, is often considered crucial in the clothing purchase decision-making process (Niinimäki, 2010), and the perceived value of clothing is important for consumers when they try to make their garments last longer. (McNeill et al., 2020). Quality is often cited by sustainable fashion designers as a fundamental aspect of clothing when considering sustainability (Karell & Niinimäki, 2020). Research on consumer preferences has shown that When assessing a product's quality, both intrinsic and extrinsic cues are vital. (Shukla, Shridhar, & Cabigiosu, (2022). Intrinsic cues are product attributes inherent to the product itself, such as the materials used in a ready-to-wear clothing item while extrinsic cues are pieces of information about the product that are not part of the product itself, such as the price or the label displayed on it, e.g. brand. (Baek, Huang, & Lee, (2021).

Statement of the Problem

Nigeria, despite her various challenges is undergoing a series of developmental changes in all the aspects of the National Economy. Among the developmental changes that have received significant boost and attention, especially from the government the aspect of poverty, food insecurity, creation of employment opportunities, and empowering the youth towards developing an entrepreneurial mindset. However, despite these developmental efforts by the government, significant progress has not been made simply because most school graduates lack entrepreneurial skills. Buttressing this, Awe, et al (2021) stated that “Nigeria has a well-

documented record of a shortage of properly trained and skilled youths across occupational and career areas’’. The research conducted by Succi & Canovi (2020). in European countries revealed that employers have difficulties in recruiting skilled manpower simply because they cannot find people with the right skills for the job. There are also insufficient skills amongst the existing workforce resulting in low performance of tasks. (McGuinness, Pouliakas, & Redmond, (2018), Ayodele, Chang-Richards, & González, (2020). Many graduates of Home Economics Education who are supposed to convert the skills acquired into productive ventures in their areas of interest have also complained of a

lack of white-collar jobs. Hence, it is important to investigate how the skills acquired through Home economics education

Purpose of Study

This study was aimed at assessing the application of Home Economics Education skills in interior decoration. Specifically, the objectives of this study include the following:

1. To assess the acceptance and perspective of the participants on the extrinsic properties of locally produced tie-dyed fabrics.
2. To assess the acceptance and perspective of the participants on the intrinsic properties of locally produced tie-dyed fabrics.

Research Questions

The following are the research questions answered in the study.

1. What are the participants' ratings of acceptance and perspective of the extrinsic properties of locally produced tie-dyed fabrics?
2. What are the participants' ratings of acceptance and perspective of the intrinsic properties of locally produced tie-dyed fabrics?

Methodology

For the execution of this study, both experimental and survey research design was (used for the study) employed. It is experimental because it involves the production of tie and dye fabrics, mixing of salt and chemicals, cutting, designing, and sewing of the fabric to make cushion chair covers. It was a survey because a well-structured questionnaire was used to elicit responses on the intrinsic and extrinsic

can be applied to interior decoration, which is the premise on which this study is based.

characteristics of the cushion chair cover when used to decorate an office. The population of the study comprised all staff and students of school of Vocational Education, Federal College of Education (Technical) Akoka Lagos. There are one hundred and eighty-180 staff and students in the School of Vocational Education. The sample for the study comprised sixty (60) staff and students selected using a simple random sampling technique. The components of this sample include 15 students and 5 staff in each of the Home Economics Department, Agriculture Education Department, and Fine and Applied Art Department. A well-structured questionnaire that was developed based on the specific objectives of the study was used to get feedback from the participants on the intrinsic and extrinsic characteristics of the product (cushion chair covered with tie and dye fabric). The questionnaire focused on qualities such as design style, sewing, finishing, packaging, texture, colour combination, and much more about interior decoration. The instrument was administered to all the selected participants who observed the intrinsic and extrinsic qualities of the cushion chair in an office. The completed copies of the questionnaire were collected immediately for analysis. The analysis employed frequency count and simple percentages to determine the extent to which the respondents liked or disliked the product's intrinsic and extrinsic attributes.

Results

The respondents were to look at the chair cover designed with tie and dye material and determine its extrinsic and intrinsic properties. (Meanwhile, the authors described intrinsic attributes as characteristics directly linked to the products

which cannot be changed while extrinsic attributes are external characteristics of the products that can be modified) concerning how it is packaged, labeled, and the display of the price tag. Their responses are shown in Table I & II.

Table I: Respondents' Rating of Extrinsic Properties of Locally Produced Tie-dyed Fabrics for Cushion Chair Cover

Extrinsic Attributes	Excellent Freq. (%)	Good Freq. (%)	Average Freq. (%)	Fair Freq. (%)	Poor Freq. (%)	Total Freq. (%)	Mean (x)	Decision
Price tag	10 (16.67)	25 (41.69)	18 (30)	7 (11.67)	0 (0)	60 (218)	3.36	Average
Labeling	15 (25)	22 (36.69)	15 (25)	8 (13.33)	0 (0)	60 (224)	3.73	Good
Packaging	20 (33.33)	28 (46.67)	10 (16.67)	2 (3.33)	0 (0)	60 (246)	4.1	Good

4.5-5 = Excellent, 3.5-4.49 = Good, 2.5-3.49 = Average, 1.5-2.49 = Fair, 1-1.49 = Poor

Table I shows the Mean scoring of the extrinsic properties of the tie-dyed fabric for the cushion cover. The price tag on the product received an average score having a mean score of 3.36, while the Labeling of the product attracted the respondents to the extent of scoring it “good” with a mean score of 3.73. Meanwhile, the packaging of the

product was judged to be the best with a mean score of 4.1. The overall extrinsic attributes of the product indicated that they are well labeled, tagged, and packaged, and with this, it is expected that users (consumers) will appreciate them and may show interest in purchasing them.

Table II: Respondents' Rating of Intrinsic Properties of Cushion Chair Cover Produced from Tie-Dyed Fabrics

Intrinsic Attributes	Excellent Freq. (%)	Good Freq. (%)	Average Freq. (%)	Fair Freq. (%)	Poor Freq. (%)	Total Freq. (%)	Mean(x)	Decision
Style	14 (23.33)	26 (43.33)	15 (25.00)	5 (8.33)	0 (0.00)	60 (229)	3.82	Good
Design	17 (28.33)	30 (50.00)	12 (20.00)	1 (1.67)	0 (0.00)	60 (243)	4.05	Good

Texture	22 (36.67)	32 (53.33)	6 (10.00)	0 (0.00)	0 (0.00)	60 (256)	4.26	Good
Finishing	10 (16.67)	29 (48.33)	20 (33.33)	1 (1.67)	0 (0.00)	60 (228)	3.80	Good
Durability	12 (20.00)	39 (65.00)	6 (10.00)	3 (5.00)	0 (0.00)	60 (204)	3.40	Average
Comfort	16 (26.67)	25 (41.67)	15 (25.00)	4 (6.67)	0 (0.00)	60 (233)	3.88	Good

4.5-5 = Excellent, 3.5-4.49 = Good, 2.5-3.49 = Average, 1.5-2.49 = Fair, 1-1.49 = Poor

Table II shows the rating of intrinsic properties of cushion chair covers produced from tie-dyed fabric. From the table, the style of the tie-dyed fabric, the design pattern, and the finishing (sewing) received good ratings having mean scores of 3.82, 4.05, and 3.80 respectively. The texture, durability, and comfort of the product as an interior

decoration element received good, average, and good ratings having a mean (x) score of 4.26, 3.40, and 3.88 respectively. These ratings showed that the judges (respondents) liked the intrinsic qualities of the cushion chair cover produced from tie-dyed fabric. The overall intrinsic assessment of the product is therefore good.

Discussion

The study investigated the application of Home Economics Education skills in interior decoration using locally-made fabric. The various findings revealed that tie and dye fabrics can be used in the production of cushion chair covers for offices and in different households. The study also revealed that the fabric users (respondents) of this study appreciated the extrinsic and intrinsic qualities of the product. The consumers (users of fabric products) are becoming increasingly demanding in what they look for in clothing articles/products and increasingly discerning what they find acceptable. Consumers also sometimes find it difficult to accept and embrace new clothing articles particularly when the quality inherent cannot be ascertained.

This study investigated the consumer's acceptance of the intrinsic and extrinsic attributes of cushion chair covers made and designed using tie-dyed fabric. The findings of the intrinsic attributes of the products showed that the respondents generally liked the style, design, texture, finishing, durability, and comfort of the product having rated it as good. This implies that a well-designed and produced tie-dyed fabric may equally be used to produce other interior decorative articles with acceptable qualities. Adetoun (2013) found similar results in her study of intrinsic and extrinsic attributes of locally produced garments.

The assessment of the extrinsic attributes of the products which assessed the packaging, labeling, and the price tag of the fabric showed that the judges rated these well. This implies that an individual can embark on a creative venture in the production of interior decoration articles using tie-dyed fabrics.

Aakko & Niinimäki (2022) and Connor-Crabb & Rigby (2019) have argued that users of good clothing products assess quality by looking at the intrinsic and extrinsic nature of the attributes or based on the knowledge that they have. The authors described intrinsic attributes as characteristics directly linked to the products that cannot be changed while extrinsic attributes are external characteristics of the products that can be modified.

Conclusion

The various findings of the study revealed that tie and dye fabrics can be used in the production of cushion chair covers for offices and in different households. The study also showed that the fabric users (respondents) of this study appreciated the extrinsic and intrinsic qualities of the product.

Clothing and textiles are a technical and very lucrative aspect of Home Economics Education. This is because the garment and clothing industry is very competitive and innovative. Therefore, in order to increase demand for tie-dyed interior decorative articles by consumers (users) and remain competitive not only in the Local Market but also globally extrinsic and intrinsic qualities will play a vital role particularly as new trends are emerging in the world of fashion.

Recommendations

Based on the findings of the study, the researcher made the following recommendations:

- Fashion designers at the local level must step up their knowledge about current fashion and use their skills to design quality products that can

compete internationally concerning intrinsic and extrinsic qualities.

- Vocational institutions offering clothing and textiles must be properly funded by the education authority such that tools and equipment that can encourage the acquisition of skills are provided.
- The government should encourage the growth and sustainability of local fabric industries in Nigeria so that graduates of clothing and textile can be gainfully employed to utilize all the skills learned in school. This will enhance economic growth.
- Nigerians should be encouraged and empowered to appreciate locally produced articles instead of patronizing imported goods.

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