

APPRAISAL OF TECHNICAL SKILL OF PROFESSIONAL TAILORS AND TAILORESS IN IDO/OSI LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA OF EKITI STATE

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Abstract

This study investigates the skill rendition of Tailors and Tailoress as an aspect of Applied Art. It discusses the improvement of skill rendition through clothing and Textiles education for self reliance. The study adopted descriptive research of the survey type. The population comprises all the registered Tailors and Tailoress in Ido/Osi Local Government Area of Ekiti State using percentages, frequency count and Pearson product moment correlation statistics. the result of the study revealed that tailoring could be considered as a skilled job, the quality of facilities used affects the output of their production and there are more tailoress than tailors in Ido/Osi L.G.A. Based on these findings, it is recommended that tailoress and tailors in Ido/Osi should create a prevalent fashion style rather than copy from fashion catalogues and learn how to keep to customers dead-line rather than disappointing them. However, the general conclusion is that tailoress are more skilful, competent and devoted to work than tailors in Ido/Osi local Government Area of Ekiti State.

Technical skills are pertinent in the practice of Applied Arts. It is impossible to conceive a modern nation without relying on the characteristics of the professional behaviours of designers, artisans and craftsmen who are indispensable to community growth and development. Applied art is an aspect of vocational education which geared towards employment, development of skills and income generation among the artisan

According to Combe (1988), vocational education programme should be realistic towards economic conditions and prospects. He posited that Education should not be taken for granted by the manager of the training programme, and if the young people are properly trained in new skills, they would automatically be absorbed productively into the economy. This shows that, good vocational education does not automatically guarantee employment but the skill acquisition and knowledge in clothing and textiles construction should be of a good help to be self employed (Fadoju,

2011).Textiles and clothing as noted by Akinlami (1999) as dynamic, social and economic activities shows that the technical skill of tailors and tailoress in the provision of comfort parameters could not be over-emphasized in the world of fashion and design. Scribe (2009) noted that tailor refers to male in the tailoring and sewing while tailoress refers to their female counterparts. How-ever, tailoring skills could not be separated from other technical and vocational skills which is also been considered as important to creativity and socio-economic development of mankind. Clothing and textiles is an ancient professional practice, but it has moved into fashion vogues and fashion is a profile of tailors and tailoress which has re-surgent and cyclic in styles and skills.

Akinbogun (2000) expresses that man in his quest for aesthetic satisfaction will always discover new skills for new life in an old world and thus his aesthetic appreciation will continue to swing back and front like pendulum. The practice of tailoring and fashion skill has transformed the value changes in the society.

Tailors and Tailoress as a Skill Acquisition:

Collins (1974) noted that skill is a practical, ability and dexterity to knowledge, understanding and expertness in ones skill in order to make one self employed. To be skillful and self employed, the learner must be trained on how to identify the essential goods and services by man in his society and how the goods and services could be provided.

Akinlami (1999) noted that man, in history has distinguished himself from other creatures by being skillful, creative and inventing tools to suit his comfort. Comfort which embraces food, good health and privacy by way of shelter, clothing and protection among other things. If all these cease, man would have little or no comfort. To achieve these relevant skills, Alabi (2004) was of the opinion that the training skill must be used as solutions to human needs in goods and services, so that they could be meaningful to the society at large.



Plate 1 Tailoress at Work



Plate 2: Tailor at Work

Importance of Skill Acquisition

Fadoju (2011) noted that skill is the ability to do something expertly well in an organized sequence of actions. She reiterated that skills are to demonstrate the habit of acting, thinking and behaving in a specific activity in such a way that the process becomes natural to the individual through practice. Skill acquisition helps in developing intrinsic potentials in an individual's; that is, the habit of behaving in a specific way which has become natural to an individual with the aim of giving him an additional income. Socially, the skill plays an important role in the life of individual. It helps to prevent the youths from becoming social misfit in the society. It also allows the youths to be gainfully employed thereby reducing armed robbers and other social vices in the community. Economically and politically, current issues are reflected in the skills provided through tailoring and they serve as historical record of cultures, and the life style of people and what has occurred in the society from the earliest time – date.

Objective of the Study:

The objectives of the study are to find out ways to improve skill acquisition through clothing and textiles. The study identifies

- (1) the skill and competence of tailors and tailoress in handling prevalent fashion styles of modern times in Ido /Osi Local Government Area.
- (2) the state of the art of tailoring facilities used by tailors and tailoress.

Research Questions:

- (1) Do tailors and tailoress in Ido/Osi L.G.A. have necessary skills and competence to meet with the demands of modern times?
- (2) Do the tailors and tailoress have appropriate and relevant sewing facilities and equipment?

Methodology:

Research Design: The study is a descriptive survey research design. It used questionnaire to survey the opinion of respondents on the state of technical skills of tailors/tailoress in Ido/Osi Local Government Area of Ekiti State, Nigeria.

Population: The target populations for this study consist 1500 tailors and tailoress in Ido/Osi Local Government Area of Ekiti State.

Sample and Sampling Technique: The sample size for this study consisted of 577 subjects made up of 371 tailors/tailoress and 206 end users. Simple and Stratified random sampling techniques were used to select the sample for the study. The stratification was by gender and location, later Hat and Draw method was used to select from each stratum.

Data Collection Instrument:

The data collection instrument that was used for this study was a self structured questionnaire developed by the researcher. It was fashioned in the Likert scale model and organized in two sections. Section A elicits information on the respondent while section B asked for the specific information concerning technical skills of tailors and tailoress in Ido/Osi Local Government Area of Ekiti State. There are 42 items in the questionnaire which was subdivided into seven subscales. Subscale 1 with five items measured quality. Subscale 2 has six items on skill, subscale 3 has nine items which measured patronage, subscale 4 with eight items centered on styles, subscale 5 with five items on deadlines, subscale 6 measured educations with five items while the last subscale measured interest with 4 items. The instrument was given to experts in textile and clothing technology to see if the items measured what they supposed to measure. Some of the items were deleted while some were added. This process ensured the content validity of the instrument. To ensure the reliability, a pilot study was conducted by administrating the instrument to 30 subjects in Abeokuta made up of 15tailors/tailoress and 15 end users twice within an interval of three weeks. The results of the two administrations were correlated using Pearson Product Moment Correlation method. The coefficient index yielded ranged from 0.68 -0.73. These results were high enough and therefore the instrument is considered to be reliable for the study as it was found to be stable over time. Six hundred copies of questionnaire were distributed out of which five hundred and eighty-three were retrieved out of which 588 were filled appropriately and used for the study,

Method of Data Analysis

Considering the nature of this research design. The data collected from samples through questionnaire were subjected to statistical analysis, t-test was used to test the hypothesis. The hypothesis was tested at .05 level of significance.

Data Presentation and Discussion:

The data collected for this study and discussion of the findings were based on the research questions and hypotheses generated for the study. The results were presented below:

Research Question 1

Examine consumer opinion on sewing skill of both tailor and tailoress

Table 1

Key: Undecided – U, SD – Strongly Disagree, D – Disagree, A – Agree, SA – Strongly Agree															
S/N	TAILORING					END-USERS					TOTAL				
	UN	SD	D	A	SA	UN	SD	D	A	SA	UN	SD	D	A	SA
V1	8	27	59	45	44	29	37	87	87	135	37	64	146	132	179
	4.3%	14.8%	32.2%	24.6%	24.0%	7.8%	9.9%	23.2%	36.0%	63.0%	6.6%	11.5%	26.2%	23.7%	31.1%
V2	18	32	51	41	41	31	53	85	91	115	49	85	136	132	156
	9.8%	17.5%	27.9%	22.4%	22.4%	8.3%	14.1%	22.7%	24.3%	30.7%	8.8%	15.2%	24.4%	23.7%	28.0%
V3	22	34	46	42	39	28	57	84	98	108	50	91	130	142	147
	12.0%	18.6%	25.1%	23.0%	21.3%	7.5%	15.2%	22.4%	26.1%	28.8%	9.0%	16.3%	23.3%	25.1%	26.3%
V4	4	26	62	61	30	11	41	110	112	101	15	67	172	173	131
	2.1%	14.2%	33.9%	33.3%	16.4%	2.9%	10.9%	29.3%	29.9%	26.9%	2.7%	12.0%	30.8%	31.0%	23.5%
V5	41	37	30	32	43	44	51	80	104	96	85	88	110	136	139
	22.4%	20.2%	16.4%	17.5%	23.5%	11.8%	13.6%	21.3%	27.7%	25.6%	15.2%	15.8%	19.7%	24.4%	24.9%
V6	14	13	34	33	89	19	34	81	88	153	33	47	115	121	242
	7.7%	7.1%	18.6%	18.0%	48.6%	5.0%	9.1%	21.6%	23.5%	40.8%	5.9%	8.4%	20.6%	21.7%	43.4%
Average	18	28	47	42	48	27	46	88	97	118	45	74	135	139	166

Author Field Work

Key To Parameters

- V1 - Tailors and Tailoress in Ekiti are skillful.
- V2 - Tailors in Ekiti are more skillful in men’s wears than ladies wears.
- V3 - Tailoress in Ekiti are more skillful than tailors.
- V4 - Can tailoring still be considered as a lucrative vocational skill?
- V5 - Tailors in Ekiti do not have appropriate and relevant sewing facilities.
- V6 - Tailors and Tailoress in Ekiti prefer to copy skills from fashion catalogues.

Discussion:

Table 1 presents the response of samples to the lucrative nature of tailoring in Ido/Osi LGA Out of the total number of 558 respondents, 311 (55.8%) agreed that tailors in Ido/Osi are skillful, 210 (37.6%) disagreed while 37 (6.6%) were indifferent. On the question of whether or not the tailors in Ido/Osi specializes in male than female wears, 288 (51.6%) agreed that tailors in Ido/Osi are more skillful in men’s wears than ladies wears, 221 (39.6%) disagreed, while 49 (8.8%) were undecided in their responses. On the question of whether tailoress are more skillful than tailors, 287 (51.4%) agreed that tailoress are more skillful than tailors while 221 (39.6%) disagreed and 50 (9.0%) were indifferent. On the question whether tailors is a lucrative vocational skill or not, 304 (54.5%) agreed that tailoring is a lucrative vocational skill, 239 (42.8%) respondents disagreed while 15 (2.7%) were undecided in their response. On the question whether tailors in Ido/Osi have appropriate and relevant sewing facilities, 363 (65.1%) agreed, that tailor/seamstresses preferred to copy skills from fashion catalogue, 162 (29%) disagreed while 33 (5.9%) were undecided in their responses. The above result shows that both male and female tailors in Ido/Osi are skillful based on the responses of agreement versus disagreement on the table.

Research Question 2

Investigate the quality of tailoring facilities used in Ido/Osi LGA

Table 2

Key:	Undecided – U, SD – Strongly Disagree, D – Disagree, A – Agree, SA –					Strongly Agree									
S/N	TAILORING					END-USERS					TOTAL				
	UN	SD	D	A	SA	UN	SD	D	A	SA	UN	SD	D	A	SA
V7	10 5.1%	15 8.2%	78 42.6%	68 37.2%	12 6.6%	23 12.6%	21 11.5%	87 46.6%	136 72.3%	108 58.8%	33 17.8%	36 19.6%	165 88.5%	204 111.6%	120 65.8%
V8	25 13.3%	92 49.6%	34 18.6%	35 19.1%	79 43.2%	26 14.0%	17 9.2%	48 25.8%	79 42.9%	123 66.9%	51 27.5%	109 59.0%	82 44.4%	114 62.4%	202 111.4%
V9	12 6.6%	24 13.1%	62 33.9%	37 20.2%	48 26.2%	19 10.5%	33 18.0%	98 53.3%	115 63.0%	110 60.6%	31 16.9%	57 31.1%	160 87.0%	152 83.6%	158 87.2%
V10	30 16.6%	42 23.0%	40 21.9%	45 24.6%	26 14.2%	45 24.8%	43 23.5%	50 27.4%	140 77.0%	97 53.3%	75 41.1%	85 46.4%	90 49.4%	185 102.2%	123 67.3%
V11	11 6.0%	23 12.6%	26 14.2%	46 25.1%	93 50.8%	15 8.2%	53 28.8%	53 28.8%	116 63.6%	176 96.6%	26 14.2%	22 12.1%	79 43.3%	162 89.0%	269 148.3%
Average	18	36	22	46	52	26	25	67	117	122	43	61	115	163	174

Author Field Work

Key to Parameters

- V7 - The tailoring accessories sold in Ido/Osi are poor in quality.
- V8 - The quality of sewn dresses from Ido/Osi is poor.
- V9 - End users complain of poor production of tailors.
- V10 - Only few individuals in Ido/Osi consider quality before buying their clothing.
- V11 - Poor tailoring output affects the business of tailors/tailoress.

Discussion:

Table 2: present the responses of tailoring accessories sold in Ido/Osi LGA are poor quality. Out of 558 respondents, 324 (58.1%) agreed that the tailoring accessories sold in Ido/Osi are poor in quality 201 (36.0%) disagreed while 33 (5.9%) were undecided. On the question whether the quality of sewn dresses from Ido/Osi are poor 316 (56.6%) agreed that the quality of sewn dresses from Ido/Osi are poor, 191 (34.2%) disagreed while 51 (9.2%) were undecided in their responses. On the question whether the end users complained of poor quality of tailors, 310 (55.5%) agreed, 217 (38.9%) disagreed while 31 (5.6%) were indifferent. On the question whether only few

individuals in Ido/Osi consider quality before buying their clothing, 308 (55.2%) agreed, 175 (31.4%) disagreed while 75 (13.4%) were undecided. On the question whether poor tailoring output affects the business of tailors/seamstresses, 431 (77.2%) agreed that poor tailoring output affects the businesses of the tailor/tailoress, 101 (18.1%) disagreed while 26 (4.7%) were indifferent in their response. The result of the responses on agreement versus disagreement to the consideration to the investigation of the quality of tailoring facilities used in Ido/Osi, shows that the quality of facilities used affected the output of tailoring in Ido/Osi.

Research Hypothesis

Research hypothesis 1 states that there is no significant difference in the sewing skill proficiency of male and female tailors in Ido/Osi. In testing this hypothesis, the aspect of the instrument that deals with skill acquisition, proficiency and display was addressed, scored and summed up while the obtained mean and standard deviation were then analyzed with t-test statistics. The hypothesis was then tested at .05 alpha levels. The result is as presented in table 3 below.

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Table 3: t-test of Significance of Difference Between Male and Female Tailors’ Proficiency

Variables	N	\bar{X}	SD	df	t-cal	t-tab	Decision
Professional skill proficiency of male tailors	322	21.01	3.88	556	1.510	±1.96	NS
Professional skill proficiency of female tailors	236	21.49	3.55				Reject Ho1

$P \leq 0.05$ (Significant result)

Table 3 reveals that the mean and the standard deviation from the professional skill proficiency of male were 21.01 and 3.88 respectively while the mean and standard deviation for the professional skill proficiency of female tailors were 21.49 and 3.55 respectively. The table indicates further that the t-calculated value is 1.510 while at df of 556 and with the alpha level of 0.05, the t-critical value is 1.960. An observation of the t-calculated value and the t-critical value shows that t-critical value (1.960) is greater than the t-calculated value (1.510) hence, the hypothesis that says there is no significant difference in the professional skill proficiency exhibited by male and female tailors in Ido/Osi is upheld. This is to say that there is no significant difference in the skilful way of both male and female tailors as they displayed their professional skill proficiencies in Ido/Osi Local Government Area of Ekiti State.

Conclusion:

Skill is important in the practice of tailoring. To be tailor /tailoress means that one is either a male or female artisan involved in sewing clothes for men, women and children. The earliest appearance of sewing resided in the quest of man to cover his body and to feel comfortably. Clothing remains ever important for protection, adornment and for fashion. It is apparent that tailors are relevant in the accomplishment of these social values and it is discovered that not much education is required to foster very well in the trade.

The result of this study reveals that female tailors despite the fact that they are numerically more than their male counterparts in Ido/Osi, are more skilful, competent and more devoted to work. Notwithstanding, the data gathered and analyzed shows that the vocation is lucrative and the quality of machine used by tailors in the town have helped their works so far.

Recommendation:

The following recommendations are pertinent for better improvement of Tailors/Seamstresses in Ido/Osi in order to meet the present day tailoring prevalent styles and techniques:

1. Tailors/Tailoress in Ido/Osi should be encouraged to make use of modern day sewing machines and other finishing equipments rather than outdated sewing equipments.
2. Tailors/Tailoress in Ido/Osi should have adequate educational background in order to meet present day tailoring demand.
3. Tailors/Tailoress should learn how to keep to customers' deadline rather than disappointing them.
4. Tailors/Tailoress in Ido/Osi should be able to create a prevalent fashion style rather than copy styles from fashion catalogues

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