

Investigation on the Effective Use of Local Fabrics for Interior Decoration in Catering Industry for National Economic Growth in Kaduna Urban Area

ELIZABETH A. AJAYI*¹, VIVIEN, O. OREDE² AND MARYAM A. DAUDA¹

¹Kaduna Polytechnic, College of Science and Technology, Department of Hospitality Management, P.M.B. 2021, Kaduna, Nigeria

²Department of Home Science and Management, Federal University Gashua, Yobe State Nigeria

ABSTRACT

Catering establishment is a common feature of both urban and rural areas. They serve as a major source of income generation both to individuals and the economy of the nation at large. This research investigates the effective use of local fabrics for interior decoration in the catering industry. It also tried to identify the various types of local fabrics in use and how they could be utilized effectively to suit the various sections of the catering industry. The theoretical basis for the study was obtained through review of related literature. The targeted population size was 500 although the sample size of the study was 10% of the population equating 50 respondents. The instruments used for the collection of data was a well-structured questionnaire using a 4-point Likert scale ranging from with Strongly Agree (SA) to Strongly Disagree (SD). Five research questions were formulated to generate data for the research. Major findings revealed that dyed and printed fabrics were the local fabrics commonly used in the catering industries, this indicates that operators of catering industry have little awareness on how to effectively utilize other local fabrics for interior decoration. Results from suggestions of respondents identified that crochets can be used for place mats and tea clothes while the printed fabrics can be used for throw pillow, serviette, skirting and table cloths while the knitted fabrics could be used as foot mat, towel and tray cloths. This study therefore recommends trainings towards upgrading the skills of the local fabric producers towards perfect finishing of fabrics for better aesthetic appeal, creation of more awareness and exploration of other local fabrics to fit into interior decoration in the catering industries, empowering individuals in the catering establishments with skills for sustainable growth and national economic development

Key Words : Effective, Local fabrics, Interior decoration, Catering Industries, Economic growth

INTRODUCTION

In Nigeria both silk and cotton are used for local fabrics because of their long-standing traditions. The varieties of local fabrics available in Nigeria are either hand woven, knitted, printed cloths and dyed. The hand-woven fabrics are fabricated on vertical or horizontal looms. Examples are Akwete cloths from Ibo land, Aso Oke from Yoruba land, Kpasa and Edeko from Nupe land. Local fabrics are materials made through the use of silk and cotton fibres. The local fabrics are not only

meant for clothing's but they can also be effectively used for interior decorations and as centre pieces. All these above-mentioned local fabrics can be used effectively for interior decoration of various sections in the hotel industry. The highly decorated local fabrics can be used in the restaurants during functions, the Aso Oke can be used as wall hangings and head rest, and crochets can be used for table mats, and knitted fabrics for tea cloths. The dyed fabrics as curtains, table cloths and table serviettes. In the bedrooms, suites and bathrooms, the knitted fabrics for toweling (face and hand) and foot mats,

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dyed fabrics for curtains, duvets bed spreads, woven fabrics for, blankets upholstery materials and bed linen. The dyed fabrics can also be used for throw pillows Ogunmor (1993). Local fabrics are made from locally produced and grown cotton and silk fibres, by weaving, knitting, dyeing and printing. McKinney and Eicher (2005) reported that resources for local fabrics are plentiful in Nigeria and include cotton, silk and a range of dyes especially varieties of indigo, for dyeing. He also stated that there are varieties of designs that can be used to neatly finish these local fabrics, which includes, embroidery, applique and printing Picard *et al.* (2021) had shown that interior decoration is the internal dressing of homes and offices to look attractive, comfortable and useful. It was further stated that carpets, curtains, furniture, lighting, paint, wall coverings and many other items also contribute to creating good interior decoration. Rana (2017) stated that interior decor, is a style of furnishing and decorative items chosen for a room or house so that they become attractive, comfortable and useful with the use of ornaments, flowers and work of art. According to Rahman (2023) interior decoration is the act of beautifying rooms and other indoor areas in the catering establishment so that they become alternative, comfortable, and useful. Floors, Walls and a ceiling are often decorated using furniture's and fittings, carpets, curtains, paints, wall paper and coverings, hangings as we" as many other items that may contribute to the creation of an interior that is beautiful. Adebisi *et al.* (2020) says that some of the Nigerian made local fabrics can be used as soft furnishing; although, there are exceptions like Akwete cloth produced from dyed spun and twisted cotton yarn in South East Nigeria which is too expensive to be used as soft furnishing. So also, the applique, which is worn by the royal houses and not for interior decoration. Sewport Support Team (2023) states that the purpose for which fabrics are required varies so also does the wear and tear put on them, they may be subjected to much soiling and the consequent frequent laundry to abrasion or the possibility of snagging, creasing or fading. Ekpe and Nnochiri (2009), stated that woven fabrics are thick and hard, it is also neat and can withstand frequent washing. Many of the fabrics can be hung immediately after washing and can be adjusted when hung correctly and they will gently dry to the original shape. A few of these fabrics will require a light touch up with iron. Dyed fabrics don't require frequent laundry as they may lose their colour, while knitted fabrics will

stretch due to frequent laundry (Das, 2006). It is therefore essential, if the maximum use is to be obtained from these fabrics, that they are chosen with a view to the purpose for which they are required. The suitability for a particular purpose will depend on the raw materials from which the fabrics are made and on the method of manufacture.

Statement of Research Problem:

This research investigates the effective use of local fabrics in the catering industry. There is a great outcry from fashion designers, leaders and the general public of the bad finishing associated with made in Nigerian fabrics, most local fabrics in Nigeria are not labeled, as such, no instruction of sizes, quality of materials used and care, when these local fabrics are used for interior decoration. There are a lot of observable defects on our local fabrics, such as unwanted folds in odd places and improper fittings. Texture and colours are not always considered in designing and production of most local fabrics. The local fabrics do not have appealing force resulting from low level of creativity impact of weavers and designers. It is based on the above mentioned assumption that the researcher intends to investigate into the effective use of local fabrics in the catering industry.

Objectives:

The objective of this study is to investigate into the effective use of local fabrics for interior decoration in catering industry. The specific objectives are:

1. To identify the various local fabrics.
2. To look into the uses of local fabrics for interior decoration.
3. To effectively utilize these local fabrics to suit the various unit and section in the catering industry.
4. Identify the problems associated with the use of local fabrics and proper possible solutions.

Research Question:

1. What are the types of local fabrics?
2. How can these local fabrics be used for interior decoration?
3. How can these mentioned local fabrics be utilized to suit the various sections of the catering industry?
4. Identify the problems associated with the use of local fabrics and possible solutions?

METHODOLOGY

The research design for this study is survey. The

study is designed to collect data, analyze it and use the analysis to discuss on the effective use of local fabrics for interior decoration in catering industry. The researchers used 500 people as size of the population for the purpose of the study. The catering organization entirely visited was issued the questionnaire. Sample size is 50, that is 10% of the population size and the technique used is questionnaire administered to various establishment. The researchers resorted to use of test-re-test method in order to determine the reliability of the instrument used. In doing that, 25 of the respondent representing 25% were given same questionnaire three times at an interval of 2 weeks in each case. At all the 3 different times, their responses were found to be consistent, thus indicating how reliable the instrument was. The questionnaire designed by the researchers was moderated by experts and were distributed to selected sample in the catering industry.

Mean statistics was used in analyzing the data since the questionnaire is in a likert type of rating scale.

$$x = EFX$$

$$N = \frac{4 + 3 + 2 + 1}{4}$$

$$= 10 \div 2.5 = 4$$

Mean range for acceptance is 2.5, to determine the decision point-

- Strongly Agree 4 -5
- Agree 3 - 2
- Disagree 2 - 1
- Strongly Disagree 1 - 0.9

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The percentage of respondents on Hamada Hotel is 30%, in Tafawa Balewa is 10%, in Madina and Asaa pyramid is 10% each (Table 1).

Table 1: Establishment		
Variables	No of respondents	& of respondents
Hamdala hotel Kaduna	30	60
Tafawa Balewa guest inn Kaduna	10	20
Madina hotel Kaduna	5	10
Asaapyramid Kaduna	5	10
Total	50	100%

Source: Field survey, 2022

The Table 2 shows that 20 respondents representing 40% are executive housekeeper, 15 respondents representing 30% are Banquet managers, 10 respondents representing 20% are food and beverage manager and 5 respondents representing 10% are room maids/ receptionist/waiters.

Table 2 : Rank of the catering industry staff		
Variables	No of respondents	& of respondents
Executive housekeeper	20	40
Banquet manager	15	30
Food and beverage manager	10	20
Room maid/ receptionist/ waiters	5	10
Total	50	100%

Source: Field survey, 2022

Table 3 : Research question 1: Type of local fabrics used in catering industry							
Sr. No.	Items	SA	A	D	SD	X	Remarks
1.	Woven fabrics	3.00	1.60	0.32	0.02	4.94	S/Agree
2.	Dyed fabrics	1.96	1.04	1.44	0.56	5.00	S/Agree
3.	Printed fabrics	3.00	0.8	0.8	0.40	5.00	S/Agree
4.	Knitted fabrics	3.00	1.20	-	-	4.20	S/Agree
5.	Crocheted fabrics	2.80	1.60	-	-	4.40	S/Agree

Source: Field survey, 2022

Table 4 : Research Question 2: Uses of local fabrics in catering industry woven fabrics							
Sr. No	Items	SA	A	D	SD	X	Remarks
1.	Cushion covers	2.60	0.8	0.72	0.24	4.36	S/Agree
2.	Bed spreads	1.02	0.32	0.8	1.60	3.74	Agreed
3.	Arm rest	3.40	0.8	-	0.40	4.60	S/Agree
4.	Wall hangings	1.60	1.40	1.04	0.40	4.44	S/Agree

Source: Field survey, 2022

Section B:

From the Table 3 drawn from responses to questions, the table shows that respondents strongly agreed with all the suggested local fabrics used in the catering industry.

Section C:

The Table 4 shows that respondents strongly agreed with all the suggested items which this local fabrics can be used for except one which is agreed.

From the Table 5 drawn from responses to questions, the table shows that all the items are strongly on.

The Table 6 shows that two items were strongly agreed on and two were agreed on by the respondents on the use of crochet for interior decoration in catering industry.

The Table 7 shows that respondents strongly agreed with all the suggested items on the use of printed fabrics for interior decoration in catering industry.

From the Table 8, it shows that three items were strongly agreed and one item was agreed upon by the respondents on the use of knitted fabrics for interior decoration for catering industry.

From the Table 9, it shows that two respondents the table strongly agreed that dyed fabrics can be used in

Table 5: Dyed fabrics

Sr. No.	Items	SA	A	D	SD	X	Remarks
1.	Sketting	2.60	0.8	0.48	0.40	4.20	S/Agree
2.	Curtains	3.40	0.8	0.40	-	4.60	S/Agreed
3.	Duvet	2.86	0.30	0.8	0.40	4.36	S/Agree
4.	Serviette	3.40	1.20	-	-	4.36	S/Agree

Source: Field survey, 2022

Table 6 : Crocheted fabrics

Sr. No	Items	SA	A	D	SD	X	Remarks
1.	Place mat	2.86	0.30	0.8	0.40	4.36	S/Agree
2.	Tea cloths	1.02	0.32	0.8	1.60	3.74	Agreed
3.	Doily set	4.2	0.8	-	-	5.00	S/Agree
4.	Table runner	1.16	0.24	1.20	0.8	3.40	S/Agree

Source: Field survey, 2022

Table 7 : Printed Fabrics

Sr. No.	Items	SA	A	D	SD	X	Remarks
1.	Throw pillow	3.40	1.20	0.40	-	5.00	S/Agree
2.	Serviette	2.16	0.24	0.8	1.20	4.40	S/Agree
3.	Pleated skirting	4.2	0.8	-	-	5.00	S/Agree
4.	Table cloth	3.40	1.20	-	-	4.60	S/Agree

Source: Field survey, 2022

Table 8 : Knitted fabrics

Sr. No.	Items	SA	A	D	SD	X	Remarks
1.	Foot mat	-	0.40	0.8	3.40	4.60	S/Agree
2.	Toweling	2.60	0.08	0.46	0.42	4.28	S/Agreed
3.	Blankets	1.06	0.28	0.8	1.60	3.74	S/Agree
4.	Tray cloths	1.2	3.2	0.6	-	5.00	S/Agree

Source: Field survey, 2022

Table 9 : Research Question 3: Effective use of local fabrics to suit the various sections of catering industry

Sr. No.	Items	SA	A	D	SD	X	Remarks
1.	Restaurant	1.22	2.8	0.6	-	4.18	S/Agree
2.	Lounge	4.28	0.42	0.28	0.2	5.00	Agreed
3.	Bedroom	2.60	0.28	0.08	0.04	5.00	S/Agree

Source: Field survey, 2022

the restaurant and bedroom and only one item was agreed upon which is lounge.

The Table 10 shows that respondents strongly agree with all the suggested items on the effective use of woven fabrics in various sections of the catering industry.

The Table 11 shows that respondents strongly agree with two of the suggested items and one agreed on the use of crochet to suit the various sections of the catering industry.

The Table 12 shows that all the three suggested items were strongly agreed upon by the respondents. Hence, knitted fabrics can suit this various sections.

From the Table 13, two of the respondent strongly agreed on the suggested points on how printed fabrics

can be effectively used to suit the various sections in the catering industry and one respondent agreed.

The Table 14 shows that two respondents strongly agree while two agree on the problems encountered while using local fabrics.

From the Table 15 drawn from responses to questions, the table shows that respondents strongly agreed with all the suggested solutions to the problems associated with use of local fabrics.

Discussion:

The analysis in the research question one, which is the type of local fabrics used in catering industry. From the responses, it shows that, dyed fabrics and printed

Table 10 : Woven Fabrics

Sr. No.	Items	SA	A	D	SD	X	Remarks
1.	Bedroom	4.2	0.8	-	-	5.00	S/Agree
2.	Bar	2.40	2.20	-	-	4.60	S/Agreed
3.	Lounge	1.16	1.24	1.20	0.8	4.30	S/Agree

Source: Field survey, 2022

Table 11 : Crochets

Sr. No.	Items	SA	A	D	SD	X	Remarks
1.	Restaurant	1.24	0.16	1.20	0.8	3.40	S/Agree
2.	Bar	2.20	2.40	0.40	-	5.00	Agreed
3.	Conference	2.20	2.40	-	-	4.60	S/Agree

Source: Field survey, 2022

Table 12 : Knitted fabrics

Sr. No.	Items	SA	A	D	SD	X	Remarks
1.	Bathroom	3.40	0.8	0.40	-	4.60	S/Agree
2.	Lounge	3.2	1.8	-	-	5.00	S/Agreed
3.	Bedroom	2.60	0.8	0.48	0.40	4.28	S/Agree

Source: Field survey, 2022

Table 13 : Printed Fabrics

Sr. No.	Items	SA	A	D	SD	X	Remarks
1.	Bedroom	1.0	0.3	0.8	1.6	3.7	Agree
2.	Banquet hall	2.56	1.8	-	-	4.36	S/Agreed
3.	Restaurant	2.40	1.8	-	0.40	3.28	S/Agree

Source: Field survey, 2022

Table 14 : Research Question 4: Problems encountered with the use of local fabrics

Sr. No.	Items	SA	A	D	SD	X	Remarks
1.	Local fabrics lack good finishing	2.60	1.44	0.16	-	4.20	S/Agree
2.	Knitted fabrics are not easy to get	2.76	0.8	-	3.20	4.4q	S/Agreed
3.	Woven fabrics expensive	1.24	0.16	1.20	0.8	3.40	Agree
4.	Dyed fabrics easily shrink	3.16	0.2	0	0	3.36	Agree

Source: Field survey, 2022

Table 15 : Possible solutions

Sr. No.	Items	SA	A	D	SD	X	Remarks
1.	Fabrics should be pre-shrink	3.40	0.8	-	0.40	4.60	S/Agree
2.	Upgrade the skills of designers	2.60	0.8	0.48	0.40	4.28	S/Agreed
3.	More awareness should be created on the importance of this local fabrics	2.60	0.40	1.04	0.40	4.44	S/Agree

Source: Field survey, 2022

fabrics are the local fabrics commonly used in the catering industries. This supports the assertions made by Ajiginni (2019). Based on the analysis in research question two, woven fabric can be used for cushion covers, arm rest and wall hangings. Dyed fabrics can be used for skirting, curtains, duvet and serviettes. From the responses, crochets can be used for place mats and tea cloths. And the printed fabrics can be used for throw pillow, serviette, skirting and table cloths. Lastly the knitted fabrics which the respondents agreed that it can be used as foot mat, towel and tray cloths. This is in agreement with the works of Adebisi *et al.* (2020).

Research question three shows that dyed fabrics are best suited in the restaurant, and bedrooms, woven fabrics are suited in the bedrooms, bar and lounge, crochets in restaurant and bar, knitted fabrics in the bathroom, lounge and bedrooms. While printed fabrics are better used in banquet hall and restaurant respectively. Furthermore, based on the analysis in question four, which is the problem associated with the use of local fabrics. The respondents suggested that lack of good finishing, knitted fabrics are not easy to get, woven fabrics are expensive, dyed fabrics easily shrink. These assertions support the works of Cooper and Claxton (2022). The possible solutions as suggested by the respondents are upgrading the skills of the producers of local fabrics, more awareness should be created on the importance of these local fabrics and dyed fabrics should be pre-shrunk before designing into soft finishing for interior decorations.

Conclusion:

Based on the findings from the data analyzed, the researcher arrived at the following conclusions. Since the respondents mostly use printed and dyed fabrics for interior decoration, this indicates that operators of catering industry are not aware of how effectively other local fabrics can be used for interior decoration. Concerning the obvious defects associated with locally produced fabrics, the data analyzed shows that the respondents unanimously agreed that locally made fabrics have poor finishing as such are not attractive and do not give the

required appeal.

Recommendation:

- (i) Catering industries should also patronize made in Nigerian fabrics because they can be used to make items for interior decoration just like the foreign fabrics by doing this more cotton will be needed for production of this fabrics there by creating job employment for farmers and improving national development.
- (ii) Fashion design should be taught as a distinct area of specialization in higher institution and should be given all necessary facilities and staff.
- (iii) Stakeholder in catering industry should adequately organize public awareness programmes like seminar/workshops, and professional bodies to enlighten the catering industry and the public about the uses of these local fabrics.
- (iv) Weavers, dyers and other producers of local fabrics should be given sponsorship by the government to boost their skills and techniques.
- (v) Designers of these local fabrics should come up with acceptable home growth designs that are within the reach of both the poor and the rich.
- (vi) Standard Organization of Nigeria (S.O.N.) is the only statutory body recognized in Nigeria in the application and enforcement of quality regulations and activities. S.O.N. therefore should lay more emphasis on the fashion industries, starting from the raw materials to finished fabrics in order to meet up quality and standard.

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