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## LIFE LONG LEARNING IN FINE AND INDUSTRIAL ARTS: THE TEXTILES EXPERIENCE

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### ABSTRACT

*In years past, education had been a difficult asset to dream of, behold, not to talk about learning a course like textiles. Although textiles had been sought after since the time of Adam and Eve on the discovery of their nakedness, they never knew how to produce materials (clothes), and they only depended on using fig leaves for coverage. The exploration of fibre potentials ranging from Musa species, raffia, applique techniques, ndidi, jute, tie and dye, batik, and weaving of all sorts including Asoke and Akwete in Nigerian society is an attempt to turn around the socio-economic life of Nigerian people who happened to have been dependent on the importation of foreign clothes, even second-hand clothing, from the highly industrialized countries of the world for many decades. This paper examines the production of clothing beginning from the making of paper work, where designs are created in pencils and colour rough, to the process of doing tie and dye, batik, Printing, applique and weaving unique Styles with reference to the development of fashion industries . This paper therefore, maintains that the controversy that learning of textile skills in education environment and native weaving of arts of old have nothing to do in common is completely unfounded. Indeed, art skills in Textile education sectors and weaving done locally are inseparable, exploiting the enormous Potentials that exist in the textile (fashion) world, life Long Learning merge together in both textiles industries and educational skills as field of Textiles.*

**KEYWORDS:** Textiles Experience, Life learning.

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### Introduction

In years past, education had been a difficult asset to dream of, behold, not to talk about learning a course like textiles. Although textiles had been sought after since the time of Adam and Eve on discovery of their nakedness but they never knew how to produce materials (cloths), they only depended on using fig leaves for coverages. The exploration of fibers potentials ranging from Musa species, raffia, applique techniques, ndidi, jute, tie and dye, batik, weaving of all sorts including Asoke, Akwete in the Nigerian society is an attempt for a turn-around in the socio-economic life of Nigerian people who happened to have been dependent on the importation of foreign clothes even the second handed clothing from the highly industrialized countries of the world for many decades. This paper examines the production of clothing beginning from the making of paper work, where designs are created in pencils and colour rough, to the process of doing tie and dye, batik, printing, applique and weaving unique styles with reference to the development of fashion industries. This paper therefore maintains that the controversy that learning of textile skills in the education environment and native weaving of arts of old have nothing to do in common is completely unfounded. Indeed, art skills in textile

education sectors and weaving done locally are inseparable, exploiting the enormous potentials that exist in the textile (fashion) world, lifelong learning merge together in both textiles industries and educational skills in the field of Textiles.

### **The Learning Impact In Education**

According to Fiske (2019) the impact of the art learning is enormous and should be noted by parents, teachers, and school administrators. The interdependence of education and arts in human development could be observed in the following areas: (1) It changes the learning environment to one of discovery, that is, re-ignites the love of learning in students. (2) Art provides challenges to students of all ages and helps each student to find his or her own level and values. (3) Students armed with art skills often learn to become sustained and self-directed learners. Education is the act of learning and in learning information, self-actualization and maturity is achieved (Precious 2021). Education is essential for everyone, however, it is the level of education that helps people to earn respect and recognition. Education also helps people to gain knowledge and enlarge their world view.

### **The Concept of Arts**

According to Udoh (2019), art is the ability to create, re-structured God's nature to reality. Art is the visual determination of bringing or establishing into nature with hands the purpose of copying the greatness of God. Ogunmor (2018) defines art generally as a way to life. This means that any skill, trade and craft are acquired. Art is the skilled manipulation of tools and materials to create a pleasing sensation of object of aesthetics in the eye of the beholder. Egonwa (2017) views art as the stimulation of experience in forms and images expressed in fashion that is the result of the manipulative skill applied by man, usually a gifted person. However, art serves many functions and adds many values to the society. It is a universal language and a means of communication through illustrations. Akpan (2021) is of the opinion that art is a means of self-expression, a human conception made manifest by skillful use of medium. Essien (2019) explains that for this self-expression to be really artistic, it must create pleasing forms which satisfy our sense of beauty. Also, arts first function is to be pleasing to the eye. However, in order to recognize the meaning of arts, one has to appreciate the properties of representation and expression, which is an important factor that must be understood by the appropriate audience. According to Mittler (2018) art is a powerful language, through it, artists communicate thoughts, ideas, and feelings. Like most language, the language of art has its own special vocabulary, which is not made up of words, rather it is made up of lines, colour, shape and texture. How-be-it, art is emerged into diverse dimensions, textiles are not left behind. People made, create, wear, and decorate their spaces as well.

### **The Concept of Textiles**

Bob (2017) views textiles as a process of creating designs, patterns and structures on materials. Akpan (2021) suggests that most designs are created by machines in large quantities while others used traditional techniques. Although Austin (2021) is of the opinion that some designs take time, also changes can be repeated after a decade. Essien (2019) opines that textiles and clothing go hand in hand. Moreso, older fashion resurfaces a period of time, with little or more adjustment added to them. Udoh (2019) views that afro, buba, adore (tie and dye materials) had been out before now. Therefore, fashion is not permanent, but it

comes out for a period of time, before we could really embrace it. Moreso, another fashion is out and people, individuals will rush for them.

### **Some Factors To Consider Before Initiating Textile Business**

Textile business, one has some factors to consider before starting it, they are as follows: (1) Knowledge and Expertise (2) Market and Demand (3) Total Project Costs (4) Financing and Capital (5) Competition (6) Location (7) Laws, Rules and Regulations (8) Staff and Manpower (9) Technology (10) Have a great idea (11) Do not settle for less. According to Egubule (2018), in business one must consider the following factors carefully and be serious towards them.

- (1) **Knowledge and Expertise**, you must have knowledge about the product or service, are keys to successful business. In case of limited knowledge, the owner may not be able to sustain the business and can be fooled by the vendors, suppliers and competitors.
- (2) **Market and Demand**: Once a decision is made on the business you intend to start, the next step is to explore the demand and market for the product and service. However, certain products will only have a domestic market, whereas others can be successful on an international level. The key question is, "Who are the customers?" However, James (2020) opines that a market survey should be conducted to identify the market for the business to be started. Although the product and service are expected to be sold locally, the demand for them needs to be assessed.
- (3) **Total Project Costs**: Austin (2000) maintains that it is important to correctly assess the total project costs required to set up and run the business successfully. In a capital-intensive business such as starting a manufacturing plant, the startup cost can be very high. You need to identify the total amount that will be spent on the land and building, plant and furniture, office equipment, and vehicles. Bob (2017) asserts that if the business is of a retail nature, you will need to identify the cost of the store and furniture. Moreso, the amount required for the decoration of the store needs to be assessed.
- (4) **Finance and Capital**: James (2020) suggests that after identifying the initial costs required for starting the business, the financing pattern will need to be decided. Egubule (2018) opines that the finance pattern will involve the introduction of capital by the owner and borrowing funds. Also, funds borrowed can be either short-term loans or long-term loans. However, short-term funds should be used to meet the working capital requirement. The logic is that if short-term funds are used to purchase fixed assets, it may be difficult to repay the short-term loan if the business has not progressed.
- (5) **Compositions**: According to Williams (2019), before entering a new business, information about market competition needs to be found out. In case a product is a monopoly, then the Monopoly, then the competition will not matter. Otherwise, the success of the business will depend on the demand and supply gaps. Thus, if there is a huge demand, you can enter the business in spite of the market competition.

- (6) **Location:** The process of deciding on an optimal location for the business is strategic and important. A good location goes a long way toward making the business successful. The location needs to be carefully chosen. Egbule (2018) asserts that some places have advantages over others.
- (7) **Laws, Rules and Regulations:** Obot (2020) believes that setting up a new business would require compliance with various laws and regulations. Williams (2019) is of the opinion that each country is governed by separate laws and regulations that require that new businesses be registered with certain authorities and meet certain compliance requirements. Thus, registration of the name of the company may be required with the Ministry of Commerce.
- (8) **Staff and Manpower:** Any business requires efficient manpower to succeed. The staff needs to be carefully chosen since they are the ones who launch the business into initial success. The cost of manpower varies depending on the location of the business, and thus this needs to be well planned.
- (9) **Technology:** Akpan (2020) opines that it is always better to invest in the best technology at the time of startup itself. Williams (2019) states that post-investment monitoring of the technology adopted or purchased is required.
- (10) **Have a Great Ideas:** Egubule (2018) is of the opinion that the first step in a long journey to a viable venture is developing a great idea. The first question that should and must come to the mind of a beginner is, "What business shall I start?" Also, "why do I want to start the business"? You need to get a convincing reply about what you intend to do and how you will go about it.

### **A Textile Entrepreneurship**

According to Akpan (2021), a textile entrepreneur is a person or a designer who needs business in textiles and is determined, focused, and has the right set to operate and manipulate it to work. Moreso, having learned much about factors needed for business, one will then be curious to know, "What is an Entrepreneur, focused, and has the right set to operate and manipulate it to work. Moreso, having learned much about factors needed for business, one will then be curious to know, "What is an Entrepreneur?"

### **The Concept of Entrepreneur**

The word Entrepreneur originated from the French word, "entreprenre", which means "to undertake". Vesper (2018) views an entrepreneur as an ally, a source of supply, a customer, or someone who creates wealth for others as well as finds better ways to utilize resources, reduce waste, or produce jobs others are glad to get. Hisrich (2019) observes that an entrepreneur is a person who makes money by running a business, especially when it involves taking financial risks. Egubule (2018) defines an entrepreneur as someone who can run a business, start a business, be independent, create value, and, most importantly, contribute to their family or society. According to Egubule (2018), ten steps can help plan, prepare, and manage a business. They are as follows:

- (1) Write a business plan

- (2) Get business assistance and training
- (3) Finance your business
- (4) Choose a business location
- (5) Determine the legal structure of your business
- (6) Register a business name
- (7) Obtain business license and permits
- (8) Understand employer responsibilities

### **Conclusions and Recommendations**

This paper has attributed the high youth unemployment rate in Nigeria to the disconnection between effective vocational education and the development of an entrepreneurial culture. Moreso, this paper considers the learning process, procedure, and ability to acquire success in starting a business. The environment given to man was for him to control, enjoy, and manage the ups and downs associated with it. The world was created for man to conquer and subdue in every field of endeavor. This paper maintains the privileges, uniqueness, and super creation ability found in the arts compared to the fashion world. The lack of separation between arts, fashion, and how the clothes are utilized to earn foreign exchange contributes to unemployment. It can ensure economic stability in the country. Also, in light of their great potential, textiles and designers should be able to develop into big industries. Also, the socio-economic transformation of this country will be improved. As a result, the following recommendations are made in this paper:

- (1) Government should encourage the teaching of arts in schools.
- (2) Exhibitions should emerged regularly, sponsored by the government
- (3) Both governments and individuals should embark on a massive and aggressive publicity campaign about fashion.
- (4) Government on regular basis should advertise both arts and fashion with the view of generating foreign exchange, and generate employment.
- (5) A multi- technology, unique complicated designs should be encouraged with foreign (exotic) technologies blended together for better results.
- (6) Nigerian textile technology and fabric out- fits should be exhibited in international exhibitions by Nigerian industries and commerce to attract foreign exchange and promote tourism.

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