

THE PAST AND PRESENT USAGE OF ADIRE AMONG WOMEN IN ABEOKUTA METROPOLIS

Braide, O.O. and Oyedele, A.Y.

Department of Home Science and Management,
Federal University of Agriculture, Abeokuta, Nigeria

Corresponding Author: Braide, O.O.

ABSTRACT

This comparative study tends to investigate the past and examine the current usage of adire among women in Abeokuta. Adire, a traditional clothing type found among the Yorubas especially the Egbas in Abeokuta is now taking a new dimension in the way it is being used. Having suffered depreciation in quality due to modernization, this resulted in a decline in the use of Adire. A sample survey of 100 respondents in Abeokuta metropolis was conducted and less than 40% of the sampled population use adire which further buttresses the fact that a lot of improvement has to be done to improve the quality of Adire in order to make it more acceptable to people. The study realized that adire was used more in the past than in the present with the medium class constituting the highest number of users both in the past and present. The study updates the knowledge of producers, traders and users on the state of the art and the innovation that has taking place over time particularly in the usage pattern of the traditional craft It also create

© Ideal True Scholar

KEYWORDS: modernization, handmade, colouring substances, medium class, past and present

INTRODUCTION

From historic times, people use colouring substances obtained from plants and animals to make their bodies and clothes more attractive Esther, C. S. (1981). Indigo was first used to dye handmade cotton thread which was woven into clothes, Nancy, S. et al (1971), Oyelola, P. (1981). Although Europeans traded in the blue and white cloth in the sixteenth century, till date, indigo dyed thread are still being used by Hausa and Tiv weavers and ETU, which is one of the most prestigious clothes of the Yorubas usually have deep blue strips and thin strips of pale blue.

Resist dyeing techniques consisted of protecting certain areas of the fabric from penetration by the dye to create light pattern on the dark background. Dyeing was a profession in itself and those that engaged in it did not usually tie or print clothes.

For a century, Abeokuta was noted for high quality Adire because of the fast rich dye produced by indigo plants in the area. Eicher, J.B.(1976).

Today, most of the fabrics dyed are commercially woven fabric, either domestic or imported. Indigo dyeing continues but synthetic dye is used to speed up the production process. This now relegated indigo dyed fabrics to what is mainly worn by elderly women in rural areas. This therefore poses a problem that needs attention. The study therefore see it as a step in the right direction to examine the effect of

technology and the various innovations like change in colouring material, fabric type, designs and production techniques.

The main objective of the study is to examine The past and the Present Usage of Adire Among Women in Abeokuta Metropolis.

- ❖ To determine the demographic characteristics of women using adire
- ❖ To explore the usage pattern presently and in the past and
- ❖ To determine the occasion adire is used for

THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE STUDY

Though, much study has been carried out on adire but not much has been done on the usage. This study will therefore shed some light on the use past and present uses of adire fabric. It will also add to the review of literature in the field of textile. It may also lead to social revival in the use of the fabric among women due to the awareness created through the study. It may likely encourage entrepreneurs to create a new outfit that may positively affect patronage among women.

METHODOLOGY

Study Area

The study was carried out in Abeokuta South Local Government area, the capital area of Ogun state, Nigeria which is made up of rural, semi-urban and urban areas. The study area has the largest number of Adire makers in Nigeria with the majority of them

concentrated in Itoku, the major adire market in the nation.

Population and Sampling Procedure

Women in Abeokuta metropolis which consist of the sellers, makers, campus women, and designers in Abeokuta

Method of Data Collection

Data was collected using oral interview, primary data, secondary data, and observation method was used in the campus, town, and occasions. Purposive random sampling was used to select respondents.

Data Analysis

The opinions of these respondents were collected, coded, and analyzes using chi square test. Tables, cross tabulation percentage, and charts were also used.

RESULTS

Demographic Data

Demographic data of the age distribution of respondents is presented in table 1. It showed that 6 respondents are under the age of 15 which represents 6.3%, 75 respondents are within the 16-45 years age range which represents 78.1%, and 15 respondents are above 45 years which represents 15.6%.

Table 2 also shows demographic data of the marital status distribution of respondents. 37 respondents are revealed to be single representing 38.5% of the total number, 51 respondents are married representing 53.1%, 6 respondents are widowed representing 6.3%, while 1 respondent is divorced.

In table 3, demographic data of respondents who wear adire is shown. From the table, 60 respondents do not wear adire; this represents 62.5% of the sampled population, while 36 respondents wear adire, representing 37.5% of the sampled population.

The distribution of years of wearing adire is shown in table 4. From the table, 10 respondents, which represents 10.4% of the sampled population have been wearing adire under a year, 18 respondents, which represents 18.8% of the sampled population have been wearing adire between 2-5 years, 15 respondents, which represents 15.6% of the sampled population have been wearing adire between 6-10 years, while 39 respondents, which represents 40.6% of the sampled population have been wearing adire for over 10 years.

Data on Past Usage of Adire

Table 5, showing the distribution of people using adire revealed that 24.5% of individuals using adire belong to the high class, 49.0% of individuals using adire belong to the middle class, 7.1% of individuals using adire belong to the low class, and 19.4% of individuals belong to other classes.

Assessing the usage of adire, information in table 6 presents 40.4% of respondents as those who use adire for casual wears, 48.5% of respondents as those who use it for occasions, 2% of respondents as those who use it for interior decoration, 8.1% of respondents as those who use it for group party, and 1.0% of respondents as those who use adire for all purposes. From this distribution, it can be noted that adire has not been explored, and has less usage in interior decoration unlike other African fabrics.

The distribution explaining the types of adire is presented in table 7. From this table, adire eleko was mostly used, while stitch and dye was the least used in the past.

In table 8, distribution on the types of fabrics used for adire is shown. Kaduna was pegged at 3.1%, Gaski takes 7.2%, Bureke takes 2.1%, Guinea Brocade takes 18.6%, while Teru takes 69.1%. This shows that Teru was mostly used for adire while Kaduna was the least used.

Table 9 shows the factors that affected the use of adire. From the table, the price factor (37.5%) had the greatest effect on the use of adire produced in the past, followed by quality (22.9%), availability (21.9%), and interest (1%) which did not really have much effect.

Data on the Present Usage of Adire

Table 10, showing the distribution of people using adire revealed that 19.1% of individuals using adire belong to the high class, 46.8% of individuals using adire belong to the middle class, 13.8% of individuals using adire belong to the low class, and 20.2% of individuals belong to other classes.

Assessing the usage of adire, information in table 11 presents 48.4% of respondents as those who use adire for casual wears, 34.7% of respondents as those who use it for occasions, 2.1% of respondents as those who use it for interior decoration, 10.5% of respondents as those who use it for group party, and 4.3% of respondents as those who use adire for all purposes. From this distribution, it can be noted that just like it was in the past, the percentage of people who used adire for interior decoration has not increased considerably, thus, it can be established that adire has not been explored in interior decoration unlike other African fabrics.

The distribution explaining the types of adire is presented in table 12. From this table, 35.4% of the respondents use more of batik, 34.7% use tie and dye, 22.9% use adire eleko, while 6.9 of the respondents use stitch and dye. Presently, batik is mostly used, while stitch and dye is the least used.

In table 13, distribution on the types of fabrics used for adire is shown, Guinea Brocade takes 67.3% and, Linen takes 19.1%, while Chiffon, Teru and Sack take 4.5% each. This shows that guinea brocade is mostly used for adire while Chiffon, Teru and Sack are the least used.

Table 14 shows the factors that affect the use of adire presently. From the table, the use of adire is greatly affected by quality (63.8%), followed by price (19.1%) and availability (16.0%) respectively. Civilization (1.1%) is the least factor that affects the use of adire with impact.

CONCLUSSION

Comparing the usage of adire in the past and present, it can be inferred that the medium class of the past used adire more than the medium class of the present. However, the medium class still consist the highest number of user of adire from past to present. On the other hand, the lower class constitutes the lowest user of adire both in the past and in the present.

Adire is mostly used for both occasion and as casual wears although it is used more as casual wear and less as occasional wears now. However, adire is slightly used as interior decoration both in the past and in the present. Others constitute those that use it to make toys and those that keep it for archival purposes like museums and exhibitions.

The study revealed that adire eleko and tie and dye was used more in the past than now while people use more of batik presently. However, batik and tie and dye are being used more nowadays than in the past.

Assessing the factors that affect the use of adire both in the past and present, the study reveals that quality affects the use of adire nowadays unlike the past when price was the major factor that affected the use of adire. However, availability has little impact on the use of adire both in the past and present when compared to the other factors earlier mentioned.

The study realized that adire was used more in the past than in the present with the medium class constituting the highest number of users both in the past and present. This is followed by the high class who use it lesser in present times as casual wears unlike in the past when it was used as occasional and commemorative wears. However, very few people use it for interior decoration both in the past and present. This suggests that the usage of adire is yet to be explored in interior decoration.

Adire eleko had the highest patronage in the past unlike fold and dye, and batik which are being patronized more now. On the other hand, tie and dye had the highest number of production both in the past

and present time, with stitch and dye being the only one still under produced.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The authors acknowledge and appreciate all respondents and participants for their valuable time, advice, and support during the study process.

REFERENCES

Esther, W.D. (1994): African fabric crafts. Source of African Design and Techniques. Univesity Press Limited.

Eicher, J.B. (1976): Nigeria Handcrafted Textiles. Oxford University Press.

Larsen, J.L. (1986): The Dyers Arts. Van Ni Rein Press, New York.

Nancy, S., Oke, O.L., Jane Barbour, George Jackson, Bisi Akpata (1971): Adire Cloth in Nigeria. Nancy Stanfield, University of Ibadan. Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria.

Oyebola P. (1981): Nigerian Crafts. Institute of Education Press, Oyo.

APPENDIX

Data on the past usage of adire

Table 1: Age Distribution of Respondents

| | Frequency | Percent | Valid Percent | Cumulative Percent |
|-------------|-------------|---------|---------------|--------------------|
| Valid years | Under 15 | 6 | 6.3 | 6.3 |
| | | 75 | 78.1 | 84.4 |
| | 16-45 years | 15 | 15.6 | 100.0 |
| years | Above 45 | 96 | 100.0 | 100.0 |
| | Total | | | |

Table 2: Marital Status Distribution of respondents

| | Frequency | Percent | Valid Percent | Cumulative Percent |
|---------|-----------|---------|---------------|--------------------|
| Valid | Single | 37 | 38.5 | 38.9 |
| | Married | 51 | 53.1 | 92.6 |
| | Widowed | 6 | 6.3 | 98.9 |
| | Divorced | 1 | 1.0 | 100.0 |
| | Total | 95 | 99.0 | 100.0 |
| Missing | System | 1 | 1.0 | |
| Total | 96 | 100.0 | | |

Table 3: Distribution of respondents who wear adire?

| | Frequency | Percent | Valid Percent | Cumulative Percent |
|-------|-----------|---------|---------------|--------------------|
| Valid | No | 60 | 62.5 | 62.5 |
| | Yes | 36 | 37.5 | 100.0 |
| | Total | 96 | 100.0 | 10.0 |

Table 4: Distribution of years of wearing adire?

| | | Frequency | Percent | Valid Percent | Cumulative Percent |
|------------|----------------|-----------|---------|---------------|--------------------|
| Valid year | Under a | 10 | 10.4 | 12.2 | 12.2 |
| | 2-5 years | 18 | 18.8 | 22.0 | 34.1 |
| | 6-10 | 15 | 15.6 | 18.3 | 52.4 |
| years | 14 | 39 | 40.6 | 47.6 | 100.0 |
| | Above 10 | 82 | 85.4 | 100.0 | |
| years | Total | 14 | 14.6 | | |
| | Missing System | 96 | 100.0 | | |
| Total | | | | | |

Table 5: Distribution of people using adire

| | Responses | | Percent of Cases |
|-----------------------------------|-----------|---------|------------------|
| | N | Percent | |
| High class | 24 | 24.5% | 25.3% |
| Medium class | 48 | 49.0% | 50.5% |
| Low class | 7 | 7.1% | 7.4% |
| General/All classes | 14 | 14.3% | 14.7% |
| Those that take it as our culture | 3 | 3.1% | 3.2% |
| Theatre | 1 | 1.0% | 1.1% |
| Small boys | 1 | 1.0% | 1.1% |
| Total | 98 | 100.0% | 103.2% |

Table 6: Distribution of what adire was used for

| | | Responses | | Percent of Cases |
|------------|------------------|-----------|---------|------------------|
| | | N | Percent | |
| decoration | Casual wears | 40 | 40.4% | 42.1% |
| | Occasional wears | 48 | 48.5% | 50.5% |
| | Interior | 2 | 2.0% | 2.1% |
| | Group party | 8 | 8.1% | 8.4% |
| | All uses | 1 | 1.0% | 1.1% |
| | Total | 99 | 100.0% | 103.2% |

Table 7: Distribution of the types of adire

| | | Responses | | Percent of Cases |
|-------|--------------|-----------|---------|------------------|
| | | N | Percent | |
| above | Batik | 12 | 11.4% | 13.0% |
| | Tie and Dye | 42 | 40.0% | 45.7% |
| | Adire Eleko | 45 | 42.9% | 48.9% |
| | Stitch & Dye | 5 | 4.8% | 5.4% |
| | All of the | 1 | 1.0% | 1.1% |
| Total | | 105 | 100.0% | 114.1% |

Table 8: Distribution on the types of fabrics

| | | Responses | | Percent of Cases |
|---------|--------|-----------|---------|------------------|
| | | N | Percent | |
| Brocade | Kaduna | 3 | 3.1% | 3.4% |
| | Gaski | 7 | 7.2% | 8.0% |
| | Bureke | 2 | 2.1% | 2.3% |
| | Guinea | 18 | 18.6% | 20.5% |
| | Teru | 67 | 69.1% | 76.1% |
| | Total | | 97 | 100.0% |

Table 9: Distribution of factors that affected the use of adire

| | | Frequency | Percent | Valid Percent | Cumulative Percent |
|----------------|---------|-----------|---------|---------------|--------------------|
| Availability | Price | 36 | 37.5 | 45.0 | 45.0 |
| | Quality | 22 | 22.9 | 27.5 | 72.5 |
| Interest | 21 | 21.9 | 26.3 | 98.9 | |
| | 1 | 1.0 | 1.3 | 100.0 | |
| Total | 80 | 83.3 | 100.0 | | |
| | 16 | 16.7 | | | |
| Missing System | | 96 | 100.0 | 103.2% | |
| Total | | | | | |

Data on the present usage of adire

Table 10: Distribution of people using adire

| | | Responses | | Percent of Cases |
|---------|-------------|-----------|---------|------------------|
| | | N | Percent | |
| class | High class | 18 | 19.1% | 19.6% |
| | Medium | 44 | 46.8% | 47.8% |
| | Low class | 13 | 13.8% | 14.1% |
| | General/All | 18 | 19.1% | 19.6% |
| classes | Old women | 1 | 1.1% | 1.1% |
| | Total | 94 | 100.0% | 102.2% |

Table 11: Distribution of what adire is used for

| | | Responses | | Percent of Cases |
|-------|---------------------|-----------|---------|------------------|
| | | N | Percent | |
| Total | Casual wears | 46 | 48.4% | 51.1% |
| | Occasional wears | 33 | 34.7% | 36.7% |
| | Interior decoration | 2 | 2.1% | 2.2% |
| | Group party | 10 | 10.5% | 11.1% |
| | All uses | 3 | 3.2% | 3.3% |
| | Market | 1 | 1.1 | 1.1% |
| | Total | 95 | 100.0% | 105.6% |

Table 12: Distribution of types of adire

| | | Responses | | Percent of Cases |
|-------|--------------|-----------|---------|------------------|
| | | N | Percent | |
| Total | Batik | 51 | 35.4% | 63.0% |
| | Tie and Dye | 50 | 34.7% | 61.7% |
| | Adire Eleko | 33 | 22.9% | 40.7% |
| | Stitch & Dye | 10 | 6.9% | 12.3% |
| Total | | 144 | 100.0% | 117.8% |

Table 13: Distribution of types of fabrics

| | | Responses | | Percent of Cases |
|-------|----------------|-----------|---------|------------------|
| | | N | Percent | |
| Total | Guinea Brocade | 74 | 67.3% | 86.0% |
| | Linen | 21 | 19.1% | 24.4% |
| | Chiffon | 5 | 4.5% | 5.8% |
| | Sacks | 5 | 4.5% | 5.8% |
| | Teru | 5 | 4.5% | 5.8% |
| Total | | 110 | 100.0% | 127.9% |

Table 14: Distribution on factors that affect the use of adire

| | Responses | | Percent of Cases |
|--------------|-----------|---------|------------------|
| | N | Percent | |
| Price | 18 | 19.1% | 20.0% |
| Quality | 60 | 63.8% | 66.7% |
| Availability | 15 | 16.0% | 16.7% |
| Civilization | 1 | 1.1% | 1.1% |
| Total | 94 | 100.0% | 104.4% |

Figure 4

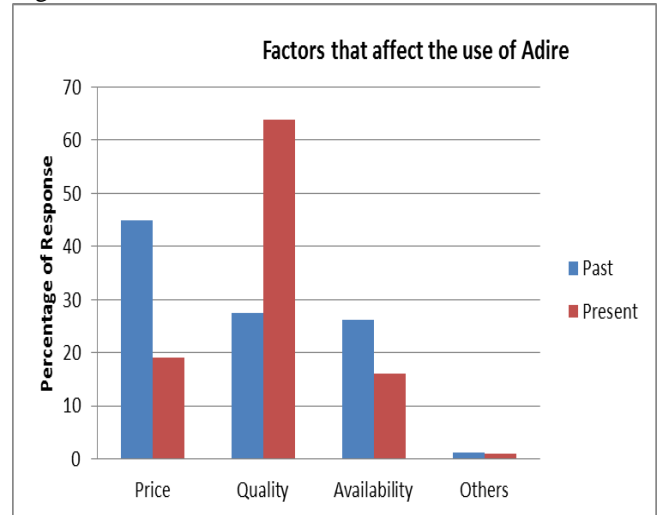


Figure 1

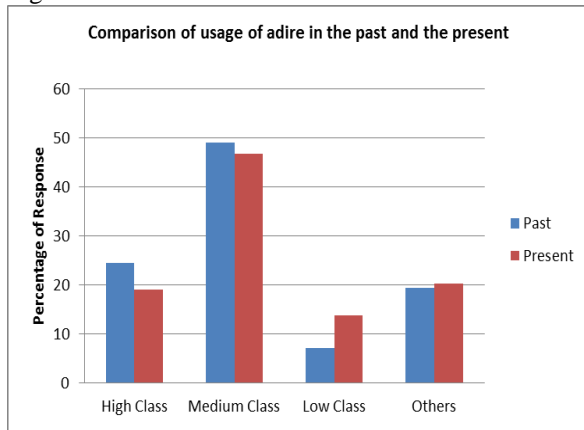


Figure 2

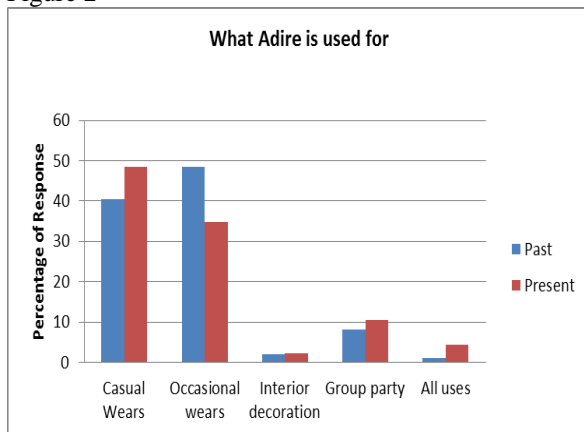


Figure 3

