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Home Economics Undergraduates' Perception on Paper Collage as Income Generating Venture: A Case Study of University of Ilorin

Adebisi, T. T; Yusuf, A. O; Johnson, W.O.; Abdulkadir, S.O. & Arubayi, D.O.

Department of Home Economics and Food Science, Faculty of Agriculture,
University of Ilorin, Ilorin & Delta State University, Faculty of Education,
Abraka.

Abstract

The paper investigated views of Home Economics undergraduates on paper collage as an income generating venture. Specifically, the study determined demographic information of Home Economics undergraduates of the University of Ilorin, Ilorin, the undergraduates' perception of paper collage, and the undergraduates' perception on paper collage venture as possible income generating opportunity. Three research questions were raised. Survey design was adopted. The total population of the 2018/2019 session of 300 and 400 levels (109) Home Economics students were used. Questionnaire was used for data collection. Data were analyzed using frequency, percentage, mean, standard deviation. Findings reveal 16 perceptions of paper collage by the undergraduates. These include that paper collage can be used by anyone, the producers can use them to prevent boredom, it displays principles of design for people's appreciation. Also six perceptions of paper collage as income generating venture were identified. These include the money realized from sales can sustain the producers, paper collage as a venture can yield money for the producers and sellers and money can be used for solving problems and family needs. Based on the findings four recommendations were made, these include that materials used in the production should be of good quality to ensure more patronage, and paper collage should exhibit appreciable quality that will attract people for enhancement of awareness and utilization.

Keywords: Craft, Paper, Collage, Income, Venture, Undergraduates, Home Economics.

Introduction

Undergraduates' resources need to be managed effectively to achieve outstanding goals. With unemployment challenges in society they should try to acquire many skills

so that after completion of their programs, they can embark on income generating skills they acquired when they were in school and thus become entrepreneurs. Anyakoha (2015), observed that employment of

graduates both in government and private areas are becoming very difficult. Youth employment in public sector is increasingly becoming very difficult. Most graduates are now liabilities to their parents and relatives which is contrary to the goal of attending university. Income-generating ventures, whether through basic education or apprenticeship that promote skill acquisition need to be explored. Acquisition of necessary skills needed to be self-reliant will enable youths be productive members of society thereby contributing to nation-building. Handicrafts are becoming more popular in their utilization. Skills in handicrafts can be utilized for income generation.

Handicrafts are the artworks of culture in a community. With increased globalization, the products are becoming more popular and artisans find them more competing in various societies. Mahgoub & Alsound (2015) asserted that globally, there is competition in handicrafts since consumers want to feel more connected with indigenous products. Can (2012) opined that craftsmanship is the skill, ability, or technique acquired and burnished overtime. Pollanen (2009) sees craftsmanship as pleasant and satisfactory activities that also produce concrete and economical products. They occupy time and prevent boredom. She explained further that crafts making serves as entertainment. According to Schofield-Tomschin & Littrel (2001), crafts are embedded with meanings through their creation; they carry the

symbolism of the makers and relationship with other people. Johnson, Josephson & Kielhofner (2005) viewed crafts as media of displaying traditions. They may provide links between and within generations serving as gatekeepers to friendships. Pollanen (2012) opined that crafts have stayed throughout the years making it well known. In modern world, people make crafts as a hobby for varieties of reasons and purposes.

Creative individuals have impressive psychological adaptability, communicate effectively, mentally inquisitive, and will, in general, let their motivations stream unreservedly (MacKinnon 2005). Also, creativity entails following one's passion and being self-directed (Birgili, 2015). Creativity is an attribute of entrepreneurship. Entrepreneurs exhibit traits of social and economic change. They help to equip the people with skills for constant improvements and innovation. The venture of crafts exhibited interestingly might yield income to earn a living. Paper collage, one of the indigenous handicrafts can be learnt and produced by Home Economics students to earn income that will make them useful in the society.

Collage is one of the crafts products available in society that the raw materials could be from waste paper or cardboard. Griffiths & Corr (2007) see paper collage to influence better moods, health, and well-being. Collage is an art creation technique, essentially utilized in the visual arts,

where the artwork is produced using an array of various structures, consequently making another entirety. According to Malchiodi (2006), clarifies collage as visual works of art that are made by choosing magazine pictures, finished papers or altering elements, organizing and joining them to support, for example, paper or cardboard. The term 'collage' originated from the French word collage- meaning glue. Collage impended traditional thoughts that a canvas speaking to a uniform reality. Conversely, a collage pieces space and repurposes articles to contextualize numerous reality. Collage has become increasing popular in arts-based (Butler- Kisber&Poldma (2010), Vaughan (2005) and Butler-Kisber 2008).

Walsh (2006) & Seiden (2001) asserted that collage provides safe and structured resources in the difficult self-expressive process. Deliveli (2012) sees it as an activity of cutting and tearing paper, attaching, folding using scissors, sketching and colouring take place. Knowels & Code (2008) posit that the visual arts can open up dialogues among diverse people, offer new insights and reflection. It also provides new ways to critique a subject. Vaughan (2005), asserted collage can be used as a way to create meanings from selected images and as a method of gathering, analyzing, and presenting ideas. Some unwanted or waste materials can be used in the production of collage for wealth creation and sustainability

According to Ezejiofor, Enebakun, & Ogueke (2014), waste could be by-products of households or factory activities. Jennifer & James (2010), also viewed waste as any material used and rejected as worthless or unwanted, although, waste may have different connotation. This means that some wastes may be reused. Such relevant wastes could produce paper collage to generate income if elements of design: colour, shape, texture, and line are used effectively and adequately. Waste is also viewed as an unavoidable material resulting from domestic activity or industrial operations for which there is no economic demand and which must be disposed of (Sridhar & Hammed 2014). This means that some wastes may not be useless, some may be reuse and relevant. Such relevant wastes could be used to produce paper collage to generate income if elements of design: colour, shape, space, texture, and line are used effectively. This can be used to create wealth.

Waste to wealth aims at environmental sustainability by substituting raw materials inputs and redirecting waste outputs into the economic system (Geissodoerfer 2017 and Lambert 2011). These materials include used plastic, glass, tires, textiles, paper, cardboard, metals, batteries, and electronics. Materials are either delivered to a household recycling centre or picked up from the factory, curbside bins, then sorted, cleaned, and reprocessed into new materials destined for manufacturing new products. Creativity is important

to produce articles that can be attractive and acceptable. Waste papers or unused papers and cardboard can be pieces and glued together to produce a paper collage. If it can be handled with creative ideas and combine adequately, attractively, and meaningfully they can be used for decoration and any other household ornaments

The materials used in the production of paper collage samples are: board, paint, colouring pencils, glue, paintbrush, cardboard/paper, ruler, scissors, cello tape, small nail, and frame. Procedures are as follow: Obtain the desired design; Sketch the design on a required size on the cardboard/cartoon as a base; Cut pieces of cardboard/cartoon into different shapes and sizes as required; Layout the motif with pieces of cut-out cardboard/cartoon; Embellishment with painting and coloring pencils with a paintbrush; Allow to dry; Insert the designed motif into a frame; Cello tape and nail to hold them firmly; Ready for use and hang in a desirable place.

The importance of paper collage are numerous. It increases students understanding on the various manufacturing processes and the use of different materials in crafts. Furthermore, the products aim to encourage them to make their own decision in designing and allowing them to assess their ideas on products. The practical work is the product oriented and based on experimentation in accordance with the development of individual personality.

General objective

The general objective investigated home economics undergraduates' perception on paper collage as income generation venture: a case study of university of Ilorin, Ilorin. Specifically, the study determined:

- (1) demographic information of Home Economics undergraduates of the University of Ilorin, Ilorin.
- (2) Home Economics undergraduates' perception on paper collage.
- (3) Home Economics undergraduates' perception on paper collage venture as income generation in the study area.

Research Questions

Three research questions sought answers to the questions raised.

- (1) What are the demographic information of selected undergraduates of the University of Ilorin, Ilorin?
- (2) What are the undergraduates' perceptions on paper collage?
- (3) What are the home economics undergraduates' perceptions on paper collage venture as income generation?

Methodology

Design of the study: This study adopted the opinion survey method. It entails careful attention to the methodology and administration to gain valid, reliable, and precise information. Clear reporting will help readers understand and appreciate the study. A scientific approach to survey design and conduct will ensure that

both knowledge and opinion are shaped accurately (Bryson, Turgeon,& Choi 2012).

Area of the study: The study was conducted in the department of Home Economics and Food Science, University of Ilorin, Ilorin, Kwara State.

Population of the study: The total population of the 2018/2019 session of 300 and 400 levels of Home Economics students (109) were used (Hand book: Department of Home Economics and Food Science 2016-2018).

Sample for the study: All the 109 students were used for the sample size due to limited number of enrollment for 2018/2019 session.

Instrument for data collection: The was used for data collection. It was developed based on the research questions. It had a 5-Likert Scale of SA= Strongly Agree= 5, A=Agree=4, UD= Undecided=3, D= Disagree=2 and SD=Strongly Disagree=1 were used. It was validated by three experts I collage production.

Data collection method: Two research assistants were engaged in the

administration of the questionnaire. Three days were used in the administration of the questionnaire. Three days were used to administered the questionnaire with self-produced collage exhibited in the clothing laboratory room for the student's perception. A total of 109 copies of the questionnaires were administered. All the 109 copies were retrieved.

Data analysis techniques: Their opinions were analyzed using SPSS version 21.0. Frequency count, percentage, mean, and standard deviation were used to analyzed research questions while t-test and Pearson Product Moment Correlation Coefficient were used for null hypotheses.

Results

Demographic information of respondents: Data analysis reveal that majorities are male:57(52.3%), 61(55.9%) are single, 56(51.4%) respondents are of 21-30 years of age. Also, 27(24.8%) respondents are self-employed and 84(77.1%) respondents are in 400 level of their chosen careers.

Table 1: Mean Responses and Standard Deviations on General Perception of Paper Collage by the Respondents. N=109

S/N	Perceptions on paper collage	$\bar{X}$	SD	Remark
1	Paper collage is a form of decoration place on the wall of a room	4.25	0.84	Agreed
2	It displays principles of design for people's appreciation.	4.07	0.87	Agreed
3	It shows that pieces of paper can be utilized creatively to display impression.	3.90	0.98	Agreed
4	Paper collage can be used by anyone.	3.83	1.00	Agreed
5	It worth's any amount anyone can buy for its utilization.	3.73	1.00	Agreed

6	The producers can use them to prevent boredom.	3.50	1.07	Agreed
7.	Materials for making a paper collage are readily available and cheap.	4.41	0.69	Agreed
8	Talented individuals use it to display their gifts.	3.42	0.98	Agreed
9	The skill can be learnt, inborn or acquired.	4.47	0.68	Agreed
10	Irrespective of the educational status, an individual can produce, use, and sell.	3.86	0.91	Agreed
11	The apprentices of the skill pay for the acquisition because of its relevance.	4.10	0.86	Agreed
Grand Mean Score		3.96		Agreed

Source: Field Survey, 2019

Table 1 shows perceptions of paper collage by the respondents. They agreed on the eleven perceptions of paper collage with the grand mean score of 3.96 that is higher than the benchmark of 3.00. The respondents perceived that the skill of this handcraft can be learnt, inborn or acquired with a mean score of 4.47 and these products are forms of decorations with a mean score of 4.25. Also, the apprentices of the skill pay

for the acquisition because of its relevance with a mean score of 4.10 while, the products also display principles of design that vary in qualities with a mean score of 4.07. The grand mean of 3.96 shows the perceptions of respondents on paper collage. This implies that the respondents perceived that paper collage can be produced as one of the handicraft articles.

Table 2: Mean Responses and Standard Deviations on Perceptions of Paper Collage as Income Generating Venture by the Respondents N=109

S/N	Paper collage as income generation venture	$\bar{x}$	SD	Remark
1.	Paper collage as a venture can yield money for the producers and sellers.	3.83	0.96	Agreed
2.	The money realized from sales can sustain the producers.	3.55	1.00	Agreed
3.	Production of paper collage helps to understand and visualize other areas that can generate money for sustainable living.	3.61	2.80	Agreed
4.	Money realized can be used for solving problems and family needs.	3.64	1.08	Agreed
5.	Talented individuals through their imaginations and creativity go viral and realize more money from the sales.	3.87	0.96	Agreed
6.	The producers can realize much money since the products have no fixed amounts; it depends on individual perception of appreciation of handicrafts.	3.78	0.84	Agreed
Grand Mean Score		3.71		Agreed

Source: Field Survey (2019)

Table 2 shows the paper collage as income generation venture by the respondents. They agreed on the stated statements with the grand mean score of 3.71 that is higher than the benchmark of 3.00. The respondents agreed that the paper collage can be sold to generate income with a mean score of 3.83, talented individuals through their imaginations and creativities can go viral and realize more money from the sales of their products with a mean score of 3.87 while 3.7 was the mean score on the producers can realize much money since their products have no fix amounts, they depend on individual perception of appreciation of the work of handicrafts.

Discussion

According to Elebute & Odokuma (2016) asserted, craft is a physical skill that involves the manipulation of hands, machines, and tools to create something new and interesting. Nwanko & Odubo (2019) opined craft to involve a sense of aesthetic and artistic values to create new and unique things. This will enable undergraduates to develop manipulative skills that will enable them to function effectively in society. Crafts works enable the undergraduates to make use of their psychomotor domain and produce something meaningful for people to appreciate. Nwazor (2012) mentioned that there is a need to provide opportunities for undergraduates to move beyond being theoretical

oriented and become builders capable of creating solutions to problems. The undergraduates should also be equipped with all the requisites knowledge and skills to solve problems of the present age. Oga & Ejinkeonye (2017), asserted that the training of this skill leads to the development of survival competencies. Acquisition of such skill as income generation venture will assist Home Economics graduates to exhibit available resources to earn a living. Income generation ventures are very vital and the business stage of life for building human capital that allows people to avoid poverty and leave a better life. People's involvement in capacity building, skill empowerment, and income-generating ventures may help individuals to be empowered and escape financial lack (Ibitoye, Atoyebi, & Sufian 2015). Creativity is needed as one of the attributes of paper collage as an income generation venture.

Kembe (2014) and Saheed & Alofun (2011) asserted that creativity is the knowledge, skills, and imaginative activity that is applied in new ways to achieve value outcomes and products that are both original and of value since paper collage is valuable. Respondents agreed that paper collage can be for decoration of surface areas. Also, its production helps in understanding and visualizing paper collage as income generating venture.

Undergraduate's data on paper collage as a means of income generation venture shows the grand mean score of 3.96 which is higher

than the benchmark of 3.00. This implied that the respondents agreed with the eleven statements, this is in line with Butler-Kisbe et al (2010), who asserted, collage can be utilized as an approach to make implications from chose pictures and as a strategy of gathering, analyzing, and presenting ideas. When the collage is produced creatively, it might's yield various importance. Among them are beautification and income generation. According to Jovita (2018), paper collage also develops imagination and aiding individuals to visualize objects, decision, making and in solving problems concerning values, this is the more reason that collage displays principles of design which varies in quality and prices. This agreed with the respondent's opinion that: the article can be bought by an individual as a gift for others to use and thereby generate income from the sales. Digler (2012), indicated that paper collage helps to improve the psychomotor skills learned about the texture and forms of three-dimensional work on a less complicated flat surface. Mackinnon (2005), in his opinion, asserted that creative individual has considerable cognitive flexibility communicate easily, intellectually curious, and tend to let their impulses flow freely. Used cardboard is also good for re-use to produce interesting images that can be used to generate income to take care of financial needs.

Producers and sellers of paper collage also involved themselves in entrepreneurial development. Raynolds (2010), thought business

venture is the limit and eagerness to create, sort out, and deal with an undertaking alongside any of its dangers to make a benefit. Adebisi & Oduneye (2016) declared business is the eagerness to look for venture openings, build up and run it effectively.

To run a business, money must be involved and should be profit oriented. The undergraduates might receive income from the production and when the acceptance increases, the profits realized take care of one's need thereby free from financial lack. Life becomes more meaningful, interesting, and becomes independent. The importance of paper collage is vital in virtual artworks. Leavy (2009) asserted that collage involves materials of gluing magazine together and is generally made accessible to all and they can cut, tear, and adhere to selected images on completion, it can be used by oneself, or sell to others to maximize profit thereby involving in a venture that can generate income.

Conclusion

Paper collage as handicraft exhibits the art of creativity for decoration and generates income that can sustain the producers and the sellers. In addition, it comprehends a part-whole relationship. Besides, it helps to learn about textures and forms of three-dimensional work on a less complicated flat surface. Paper collage can be appreciated by the individual, can be purchase and give it out as a souvenir to friends and colleagues on a special occasion for household

decoration to display the culture, mood and teaching aids.

Recommendations

The study suggests:

1. Laboratories/workshops, related tools and equipment should be provided for effective more teaching and learning of handicraft something using the hands as basic tool and could be taken as a rudimentary attempt at initiating something with the possibility of advancement later in the process particularly when planned and administered under the auspices of a school.
2. Handicraft could be seen as a manual skill in making various articles. The expression on the paper collage should be more meaningful for all to understand, serves as decoration and yield income to the producers and sellers.
3. The materials used in the production should be of good quality to ensure more patronage.
4. Paper collage should exhibit appreciable qualities that will attract stake holders for awareness -and utilization.

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