

**ENTREPRENEURSHIP COMPETENCIES POSSESSED BY NCE STUDENTS IN
GARMENT CONSTRUCTION FOR ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT, AMONG 2019
AND 2021 GRADUATES OF FEDERAL COLLEGE OF EDUCATION STUDENTS
YOLA, ADAMAWA STATE**

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Abstract

This study was designed by the researchers to evaluate the entrepreneurship competencies required by NCE students in Garment construction for economic empowerment among 2019 and 2020 graduates of federal college of education Yola. To get what is required in this study, one objective, one research question and one hypothesis were raised. Descriptive survey research design was adopted. The study convened only 2019 and 2020 graduates of home economics. Questionnaire was the instrument used in collecting data, 58 Questionnaire was distributed and 50 was retrieved. Data was analyzed using mean and standard deviation and t-test statistic was used to test the hypothesis. From the findings of the study, it was discovered that NCE graduates possessed entrepreneurship competencies for economic empowerment, there were no significant differences in the mean ratings of competencies required in the study area. Therefore, it was recommended that the NCCE Board should make it a mandate for lecturers and facilitators of clothing and textiles to adopt proper teaching methods in teaching and learning of Garment construction in states and federal colleges of education. Also, the findings of this study be included in the curriculum.

Key words; Entrepreneurship, Competencies, Graduates, Economic empowerment, Garment.

Introduction

Entrepreneurship has created a new order for going into business, new skills are acquired and they have drastically changed the way young NCE graduates live, learn, work and think about how to establish businesses to be self-reliant not minding the risk and responsibilities. The synergy of combining societal issues and new ideas of coming up with skills for entrepreneurship for economic empowerment has brought huge impact on individual and family economy. A significant number of young NCE graduates are unemployed. Bassey (2011) opined that young people are the most affected in economic misfit, skills polarization between mind and knowledge has increased in income inequalities.

These changes have caused quite number of challenges among NCE graduates, these changes have created new opportunities for economic empowerment and innovation. The previous experience and condition of graduates of NCE in garment construction needs be given much attention towards proper training of the undergraduates to acquire competent skill after

their graduation to build their potentials to be self-reliant and also contribute to the society where they live. However, in this globalization where human resources or human capital has become a critical atmosphere in achieving a comparative advantage, skills for entrepreneurship can now aim to reach its full potential according to Forster (2016) Entrepreneurship is the process of establishing and managing a business, it may be explained as an art of using personal initiatives to engage in calculated risk-taking venture, to create a new business by raising resources such as land, labour, capital and knowledge to apply innovative ideas and to develop products or services in order to solve problems or satisfy the needs of a clearly defined market. Garment construction in this study draws its fuel from human resources, the in-born traits or potentials. Economic empowerment depends on brain and skills acquired, rather than drawn and value is created by employing knowledgeable workers. The need for gainful entrepreneurship skills is an important avenue for the changing labour market in this economic era. Skills acquired and Garment construction may, therefore, be of help in this regard.

Garment construction can play a critical role in removing poverty from the society and develop a lifelong learning culture among NCE graduates. In spite of this potential, little is known regarding the usage of practical skill consistently in teaching and learning of clothing and textiles in the study area. This study is therefore intended to bridge the knowledge gap between the theory and practical skills through development of Entrepreneurship competencies among NCE students. The area of the study is federal college of education Yola, Adamawa State, located in North East geopolitical zone of Nigeria, it is the capital of Adamawa State. The state is bounded by Borno, Gombe, and Taraba States. It is a state known for its beautiful landscapes. The state has 21 Local Government Areas, respectively.

Garment Construction Entrepreneurship Development

Forster (2016) stated that, setting up a Garment enterprise is a big challenge, but when one knows what it takes to start, a smoother take off could be assured. For an enterprise to grow or expand, there should be an expert to manage who knows how to take appropriate body measurement, proportionately, who delivers at exact time promised, and who can bring out figure of clients as expected and agreed on. And also who have skills for the garment construction industry to thrive, because garment construction enterprise is an economic venture, which makes use of labour, materials, tools, and equipment to produce goods and services for sales, it could start on a small scale and grow through the years to become bigger. Many successful entrepreneurs began the garment construction business in their rooms as small sewing enterprises but there have become keys to successful healthy economic empowerment.

Anyakoha (2015) explained, how the world is fast changing environmental degradation, families and individuals have to find ways of solving their problems. People needs creative problem-solving skills and entrepreneurship. The rate at which students are graduating keeps increasing at a light speed and these students have no competent skills in garment construction to start up a business of their own. Teaching method can enhance learning in garment making;

it has the potential of being cost-effective as it offers opportunity of building the in-born traits in people. Additionally, teaching methods may facilitate institutional policy regarding access and equity. Skills acquisition also provides greater flexibility to adapt teaching and learning to meet learners cognitive and learning styles.

Thomas, (2001) had earlier noted that, although garment construction by an expert is outstanding, there are areas that are most significant element under guiding the foundation of NCE students there is a paucity of literature and research regarding the implementation of new skills in garment construction and use in the classroom. Whilst there is a wealth of studies and debate on the use of catalogue and the internet to draw new ideas on garment making. Old styles of teaching have been in existence and this has been a limited work on building potentials of NCE students. Old method of drafting patterns and Mary Slezor's garment patterns have limited students of NCE to acquire competent knowledge and skills to be self-reliant (Akinsola and Tella, 2003).

Kindersley (2003) had identified ways teaching and learning of garment could be improved to gain more knowledge and skills. One of the way is involving students/learners in the practical aspect rather than only the teacher teaching. Draxler (2002) stated that lifelong learning and training for any kind cannot be confined to traditional classroom because it is unrealistic and unaffordable to continue to ask learners to come to designated place every time they have to engage in learning. Garment construction allow the delivery of talents to adapt to an individual need as opposed to having the individual adapt to have the skills delivered. Practical methods in teaching garment will not be confined to the four walls of a classroom but wherever the learners deem appropriate. Education will not be a location any more, but an activity. Haddad and Draxler (2002) claimed that students learn better through experimental emotion learning rather than through memorizing names and dates. Thus, educators should come up with new ways of teaching to stimulate the environment. From the foraging discussion, it became imperative to determine the entrepreneurship competencies required by NCE graduates.

Statement of the Problem

The synergy of bringing together global issues and entrepreneurship skills has created opportunities and challenges. Many NCE graduates has been running from one ministry to the other in search for job. However, skills grouping between graduates with competent garment construction skills and unskilled graduates has increased the gap in economic inequalities. Young men and women are mostly vulnerable entrepreneurship interest have brought a lot of considerable challenges to NCE graduates in home economics and so it has created new opportunities for changes and innovation.

Condition and status of entrepreneurship does not go with the significance of its potential contribution to the society. However, environment where human capital has become the most critical atmosphere or element in achieving a comparative advantage.

Entrepreneurship can now aim to reach its full potential based on these conditions of misplacement and unemployment of young NCE graduates that the researchers intended to determine the entrepreneurship competencies required by the NCE graduates in Federal College of Education Yola, Adamawa State.

Significance of the Study

This study will benefit all NCE graduates, young men and women in garment construction industries, tailors of any kind, and fashion designers. The findings of this study, if published, will benefit all lecturers in the sense that, they will make sure students have acquired reasonable entrepreneurship skills to enable them have requisite competencies for gainful self-reliance.

Objective of the study objective of this study is to examine the entrepreneurship competencies possessed by NCE graduates in garment construction for economic empowerment.

Research Question1: What are the entrepreneurship competencies possessed to equip NCE graduates in garment making.

Research Hypothesis1: There is no significant differences in the mean responses of male and female NCE graduates on entrepreneurship competencies possessed in garment construction for economic empowerment in the study area

Methodology

Based on the objectives of the study, one research question and one hypothesis were raised to guide the study. Descriptive research design was adopted, structured questionnaires was developed with 10 items statement, with response 4 points response options of very highly possessed, moderately possessed, lowly possessed, and very lowly POSSESSED by the researchers and was utilized. Target population comprises of 58 2019 and 2021 NCE graduates of Federal College of Education Yola, 50 were completed and returned. The instrument used for data collection was questionnaire which was developed by the researchers. The copies of the questionnaire were distributed to the respondents with the assistance of two research assistants. Out of the 58 questionnaires distributed 50 were completed and returned. Data collection were analyzed by the use of mean and standard derivation. T-test statistics was used to test the hypothesis at 0.05 level of significance.

Results

Research Questions 1: What are the entrepreneurship competencies required to equip NCE graduates in garment construction in the study area? To answer the research questions below items was presented on Table 1.

Entrepreneurship competencies required in garment construction were presented to the respondents to indicate their opinion based on their disposition. The mean scores of respondents for each of the item was presented in Table 1.

Table 1: Garment construction competencies required for entrepreneurship.

Item No	Garment construction competencies	$\bar{X}$	SD	remarks
1	Student's attitude towards practical skills.	3.01	1.01	Required
2	Interest in developing information skills in entrepreneurship.	3.42	80	Required
3	Student's interest in making effort acquiring competencies required in garment making.	4.04	86	Required
4	Lecturers making effort to give firsthand training in garment construction to prepare young graduates to be self-reliant.	3.77	96	Required
5	Maintain sewing appliances by young graduates.	4.02	75	Required
6	Fashion designing career and guidance.	4.06	1.73	Required
7	Using fashion design catalogue meet customers test.	3.84	79	Required
8	Identifying figure fault and amending by camouflaging with skills required.	3.99	85	Required
9	Use of industrial sewing machine for fast delivery for perceive patronage.	3.62	92	Required
10	Control skills required by the entrepreneurship competencies required.	4.02	75	Required

$\bar{x}$ =mean, SD= standard Deviation N= 50, Source: Field survey, 2022

Research Hypothesis 1: There is no significant differences in the mean responses of male and female NCE graduates on entrepreneurship competencies possessed in garment construction for economic empowerment in the study area

Discussion of Findings

Table one (1) above indicates the mean scores of respondents on entrepreneurship competencies required for NCE graduates of Federal College of Education Yola in garment making. All items have mean score. Anyakoha (2015) agreed with the findings of this study that, there are young graduates who study clothing and textiles but lack garment construction competencies required to establish their own business for self-reliance. Competencies required in the study area has no significant differences in garment construction impacted on the students and methods of teaching used by lecturers in teaching garment construction for economic empowerment. This is consisted with position of Kindersley (2003), who in her opinion explained competencies requirement cut across all segment of entrepreneurship

pursuit, and teaching methods is a key to bringing out students' potentials. It is also in line with the opinion of Akinsola and Tella (2003), who reported that the understanding of practical aspect of teaching builds potentials of individuals and gives room for innovative initiatives, also contributes to the understanding of the theoretical principles that explained customer evaluations of service failure could be lack of competent skills required to venture into entrepreneurship.

Conclusion

From the findings of this study the following conclusion was drawn, graduates in the study area needs garment construction competencies for economic empowerment. This include teaching attitudes of lecturers in clothing and textiles. Competencies required in the study area has no significant influence in garment construction for economic empowerment among NCE graduates of Federal College of Education Yola. This means that there is no significant difference in the opinion of clothing and textiles lecturers on garment construction competencies and what exactly is needed by the NCE graduates for self-reliance in the study area.

Recommendations

1. The study recommended that National Commission for Colleges of Education (NCCE) Board should make it a mandate for lecturers teaching clothing and textiles to adopt proper teaching method in teaching and learning of garment making.
2. National Commission for Colleges of Education (NCCE) Board should include the findings of this study in the curriculum.

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