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## Utilization of Creative Soft Furnishing Products for Youths Empowerment Entrepreneurial Development in Nigeria

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### Abstract

The paper investigated the Utilization of creative soft furnishing products: Quilting, Applique and Patchwork Techniques for Youths Empowerment Entrepreneurial Development in Nigeria. Three research questions and two null hypotheses were formulated and tested. The study employed a descriptive research design that questionnaire was used to solicit information from the respondents. The total population of youths was 324235(100%), 0.5% (162) youths were purposively sampled for the study. The reliability co-efficient of the instrument was 0.859. The instrument was collected on the spot of distribution to avoid misplacement and mutilation. The data was analyzed using simple statistics such as frequency counts, percentages and mean for research questions while chi-square was used to analyze research hypotheses formulated and tested at 0.05 level of significance. The findings showed that majority of the respondents had formal education, unemployed and are Muslims. In addition, majority of them earned ₦27,000 – ₦30,000 (USD 75 – USD 84) monthly. Also, the grand mean scores of articles that quilting, applique and patchwork techniques can be used for are above 1.50 decision rule of 3-Likert scale while the measure of factors that enhanced the production are above 3.00. Furthermore, there was no significant relationship among the production of quilting, applique and patchwork techniques and entrepreneurial development among youths as empowerment skills. Conclusively, the findings showed that the problems of unemployment facing youths can be resolved by utilizing these techniques for soft furnishing production. Among the recommendations stated are: there should be more awareness of its utilization and creations of more markets for salesthrough; sensitization, seminars, workshops and trade fares. In addition, youths should be more creative and equip themselves with more on empowerment skills so as to prevent from nuisance acts in the society and experience more meaningful life.

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**Keywords:** Youths, Empowerment, Soft furnishing Products, and Entrepreneurship

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### INTRODUCTION

The Nigerian Government introduced numerous programmes aimed at improving the lives of youths on management innovation capacity building and entrepreneurship. Different agencies were set in motion. Among them are: the National Directorate of Employment and National Poverty Eradication Programme (NAPEP): Capacity Acquisition Programme. They comprise of various programmes that are meant to impact knowledge and skills that will bring sustainable living to the people in the society. Non-governmental agencies embarked on various programmes also. This is to assist in self-employment in preference to wage employment (Adebisi, Opaleke&Unomah (2015).Countries vary considerably in their definition of youths. The United Nations (UN) considers individuals under the age group of 15 – 24 years as youths. In Nigeria however, a youth is defined by the National Policy on Youth Development as any individual who is a citizen of the Federal Republic of

Nigeria, between the ages of 18 and 35 years (Awogbenle&Iwuamadi, 2010).

Youths occupy a prominent place in any society. They are one of the greatest assets any nation can have. Apart from being the leaders of tomorrow, they outnumber the middle-aged and the aged (Onyekpe, 2007 &Deakins (1998). The youths are particular segment of the national population that is sensitive, energetic, and active, the most productive phase of life as citizens. They are also the most volatile and yet the most vulnerable segment of the population in terms of social-economic, emotion and other aspects (Anasi, 2010).Some of them are unemployed.

Echebiri (2005), Onah (2001) and Falkang&Alberti (2000) opined that unemployment is one of the developmental problems that face every developing economy in the 21st century, and Nigeria is not

exempted. Its impact is felt more by the youths, leading to youth unemployment. Nigeria's unemployment can be grouped into two categories: the older unemployed who lost their jobs through retrenchment, redundancy, bankruptcy or privatization, the younger unemployed and some whom have never tasted what it is to be employed.

Youth unemployment as the conglomerate of youths with diverse background, willing and able to work, but cannot find any. When the supply of labor outstrips the demand for labor, it causes joblessness and unemployment. Given the lack of sufficient employment opportunities in the formal sector, youths may be compelled to engage in casual work and other unorthodox livelihood sources, thus leading to underemployment, this calls for action.

The need for empower arises from the inability of an individual or a group of people to actualize their dreams and reach their greatest potential due to artificial barriers created by individuals and other groups within the same society (Chang & Sung(2009), Olakulein & Ojo(2006) and National Planning Commission, (2004). Youth empowerment is an attitudinal, structural and cultural process whereby young people gain ability, authority and agency to make decisions and implement change in their own lives and the lives of other people including adults (McGregor 2005). Youths are empowered when they acknowledge that they have or can create choices of life, are aware of the implications of these choices, make an informed decision and accept responsibility for the consequences of those actions. Acquisition of special, relevant skills and creation of jobs have remained a focal point in the developing countries Government policy, at least on paper, hence between 1986 to date, various administrations' initiatives to promote self-dependence and self-reliance in the generation of gainful self-employment have been profound. Starting with the capacity acquisition entrepreneurial skills, wealth creation and waste to wealth. It is believed that the education system operated since the post-independence placed emphasis on academic excellence rather than skill acquisition which can prepare the individual for a more useful and fulfilling life within the society. Entrepreneurial skills acquisition was believed would be more relevant to the development of the nation.

In view of the threat of poverty to the individual and national development, many poor countries in the world have evolved various methods of combating it. This is not only to improve the living standard of the citizens but also to accelerate rapid economic development (Arubayi, 2010). Based on this premise, this study aims at investigating utilization of quilt, applique and patchwork techniques on different

products as a means of capacity building skills that can be used for entrepreneurial development. If individual knows how to design, draft, cut and sew various articles using these three techniques, individual might be able to design for himself, others and run a small enterprise thereby filling the gap of unemployment to self-reliance individual. This may also help to improve economic status. In addition, it will enables him to contribute his quota to the economic development process of the country.

Arowomole & Oyedokun (2006) viewed entrepreneurship as an undertaking in which one is involved in the task of creating and managing an enterprise for a purpose. Oriazowanian & Jimoh-Kadri (2010) see entrepreneurship as the process of creating something new and assuming the risk and rewards thereof and also thought of as the art of managing both small and large organization with a view to creating satisfaction on both sides (producers and consumers). Opara (2006) & Olagunju (2008) viewed entrepreneurship as the wiliness and ability of an individual to seek out investment in an environment and be able to establish and run it successfully based on the identified opportunity. To cap it up, Adebisi & Ukpore (2014), see entrepreneurship as creation of new enterprise that gives value to humanity by filling neglected areas. That means the new enterprise created must give value to humanity or fill up yearning vacuum left unfilled. Capacity building programme will enable individual of different educational background to acquire skills and professional training in chosen trades to give the opportunity to play more productive and self-fulfilling roles. It will also enable them to contribute to the development of the country (Anyakoha, 2015, Okeke, 2015 & Forster, 2014).

### **The Concept of Quilting, Applique and Patchwork Techniques**

**Quilting:** Quilting is described as a sewing method done by joining two or more layers of fabrics together to make a thicker padded material. Usually, a quilt is comprised of three layers. The top is either pieces of fabric stitched together to form a pattern or it is a solid piece of fabric. The centre of a quilt contains batting or filler. It is this layer of batting that provides the warmth of a quilt. The final layer of a quilt is the backing. This is usually a solid piece of fabric but some quilts do have pieced backings. Quilting is a creative art which can be done on soft furnishings, wall hangings, clothing and a variety of textile products. (Cerny, Eicher & DeLong (2013), Cerny (1992).

**Appliqué:** Pieces of fabric are applied onto other fabrics for mending and/ or decoration. In appliqué, areas of fabric are cut out in different motifs and applied to a background fabric in a variety of ways

depending on the use of finished work and the materials available. Appliqué work is done on apparels, accessories and household linen, such as table covers, bed covers and bath towels (Forster, 2014).

**Patchwork:** Patchwork is an article made by joining several pieces of fabrics. Patchwork is unique among creative craftwork because it involves the making of beautiful items out of scraps of fabric which would otherwise be thrown away. The use of patched fabric for both male and female apparels and accessories has become fashionable.

According to Forster (2014), Minnesota Quilters (1986) & Webster (1928) In production of Quilting, Applique and Patchwork products, the following are needed: 1) Fabric, 2) Fine pins and needles, 3) Sewing thread, 4) A sharp pair of scissors for cutting the fabric and a second pair for cutting the paper lining, 5) Tailor's chalk or soft lead pencil to mark out the patches, 6) Lining may be Vilene or stiff paper such as cartridge paper and 7) and Templates products from quilting, applique and patchwork include: duvet, oven mitts, pot holders, Apparels, rug, mats and fanciful household linen. Utilization of quilting, applique and patchwork methods for production of different articles among the youths for entrepreneurial development was based.

### Objective of the Study

The objective of the study is to investigate the utilization of soft furnishings using quilting, applique and patchwork techniques for production among youths for empowerment entrepreneurial development in Nigeria.

Specifically, the study:

1. identified the socio- economic characteristics of youths in Ilorin metropolis.
2. Examines importance of quilting, applique and patchwork techniques on soft furnishing for entrepreneurial development.
3. Examined Quilting, Appliqué, and Patchwork techniques as empowerment skills for entrepreneurial development.
4. identified factors that can enhance production of quilting, applique and patchwork articles for entrepreneurial development among youths.

### Research Questions

The research questions sought answers to the following:

1. What are the socio- economic characteristics of youths in Ilorin, Nigeria?
2. How can quilting, appliqué, and patchwork techniques be utilized for empowerment skills for entrepreneurship development?
3. What are the factors that can enhance production of quilting, applique and patchwork articles among youths for entrepreneurial development?

### Research Hypotheses

Two null hypotheses were formulated and tested at 0.05 level of significant.

**HO<sub>1</sub>:** There is no significant relationship among production of soft furnishings using quilting, appliqué, and patchwork techniques and entrepreneurial development.

**HO<sub>2</sub>:** There is no significant relationship among the factors that can enhance production of creative soft furnishings using quilting, appliqué, and patchwork techniques and youth entrepreneurial development.

### Significance of the Study

The study will help youths in developing countries to obtain awareness on the importance of production of creative fabric crafts (soft furnishings) for entrepreneurial development. It will also help in explaining the different creative art works that can be made using Quilting, Appliqué and Patchwork techniques to sew different products like apparels, bags, shoes, bedlinens etc. This study will also help to encourage youths to always seek entrepreneurial knowledge in order to create enterprise for wealth and enhance sustaining living.

### Limitation of the Study

The study was limited to Ilorin, Nigeria. It consists of three Local Government Areas. Consequently, the study can be generalized to other parts of Nigeria even the world since clothing is essential for all. It is one of the basic needs of life. The only thing is that the principles of designs involved in the production of these articles varies but the utilization is vital for creativity.

### Research Methodology

**Study Area:** The study was conducted in Ilorin metropolis, Ilorin, Nigeria. It consists of three Local Government Areas: Ilorin East, West and South. **Ilorin South** is a Local Government Area in Ilorin, Ilorin, Nigeria with Fufu as headquarters. It has a population of 209,251 at the 2006 census and has been increasing since then. Towns in Ilorin South include Offa, Lafiagi, Pategi, Okuta, Kaiama, Jebba, Bode Sadu, Omu-Aran, Yashikera, Ajase-ipo, Suya, Gwasero, Ebukama, Ekpaga, Kemenji, Leaba, Worumokato. **Ilorin East** is a Local Government Area in Ilorin, Ilorin, Nigeria with Oke- Oyi as headquarters. It has a population of 207,462 at the 2006 census and has been increasing since then. Major towns within Ilorin East local government area include part of Ilorin, Iporin, Oke- Oyi, Panada, Agbeyangi, Ile-Apa, Lajiki, Eleshinmeta and Budo Are. **Ilorin West** is a Local Government Area in Ilorin metropolis, Ilorin, Nigeria with Oja- Oba as headquarters. It has a population of 365,221 at the 2006 census and has been increasing since then. The study comprises of some selected towns in the three

local government areas among youths. These include two towns from the South (Fate- Tanke and Oke- Odo), two towns from the East (Oke- Oyi and Ile- Apa), and two towns from the West (Oja- Oba and Oko- Erin). (Federal Republic of Nigeria, 2006).

**Research Design:** This study employed a descriptive research design in form of survey research method where data were collected from youths using questionnaire.

**Population of the Study:** The population of youths in Ilorin South, Nigeria is estimated to be 90,577, Ilorin East is 84,672, and Ilorin West is 148,986. The total population of youths in Ilorin metropolis is therefore estimated to be 324,235 (Federal Republic of Nigeria, 2006). The population of the study consists of some selected towns in the three Local government areas in Ilorin, Nigeria among youths.

**Sample for the Study:** Random sampling technique was used to select the participating youths. It was used to select a total of 162 youths from the six selected towns in the three Local Government Areas using 0.05% of the total youths in the study area. The population of the study consists of some selected towns in the three local government areas in Ilorin metropolis among youths. This include two towns from the South (Fate- Tanke and Oke- Odo), two towns from the East (Oke- Oyi and Ile- Apa), and two towns from the West (Oja- Oba and Oko- Erin). (27 youths in each town of the three Local Government Areas respectively).

**Instrument for Data Collection:** A well-structured questionnaire was used for the study. It was administered to 162 youths in six towns from the three Local Governments (two towns from each). The questionnaire was made up of three sections. Section A was on the socio- economic characteristics, Section B was on Quilting, Appliqué and Patchwork as vocational skills for entrepreneurial development, Section C was on possible factors that can enhance utilization of these products for entrepreneurial development among youths in Ilorin, Nigeria. A five point scale was used to assess the response: 5 Points for Strongly Agree (SA), 4 point for Agree (A), 3 Points for Undecided (UD), 2 Points for Strongly Disagree (SD), 1 point for Disagree (D). A decision rule of 3.00 will be used to draw inferences.

**Validation of the Instrument:** The questionnaire was validated by two other experts in the department of Home Economics and Food Science, University of Ilorin, Nigeria to ascertain if the question measures what it intended to, based on research questions and hypotheses.

**Reliability of the Instrument:** The Cronbach's Alpha method was selected within the Statistical Package for the Social Sciences (SPSS) for testing reliability coefficient to determine the internal consistency of the respondents to the items on the questionnaire used for the study. The instrument was administered to 20 respondents in Gaa- Akanbi, Sango and Gambari, Ilorin, Nigeria. These locations were excluded from the final sample. The reliability coefficient obtained was 0.859. This is in line with the proposition that the average value of correlation coefficient must be around 0.80. By this coefficient the instrument could be said to be reliable.

**Method of Data Collection:** The data was collected on the spot of distribution to avoid misplacement and mutilation of instrument by respondents with two research assistants.

**Method of Data Analysis:** The data was analyzed using simple statistics such as frequency count, percentage and mean to analyze the research questions while Chi- square was used to analyze the research hypotheses.

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

**Table 1:** Frequency and Percentage Distribution of Socio-economic Characteristics of Respondents.

| N= 142 |                           |                                    |     |      |
|--------|---------------------------|------------------------------------|-----|------|
| S/N    | Variables                 | Groups                             | F   | %    |
| 1.     | Gender                    | Male                               | 56  | 39.4 |
|        |                           | Female                             | 86  | 60.6 |
| 2.     | Age                       | 18-25                              | 118 | 83.1 |
|        |                           | 25-30                              | 17  | 12.0 |
|        |                           | 30-35                              | 7   | 4.9  |
|        |                           |                                    | 127 | 89.4 |
| 3.     | Marital Status            | Single                             |     |      |
|        |                           | Married                            | 13  | 9.2  |
|        |                           | Separated                          | 1   | 0.7  |
|        |                           | Divorced                           | 1   | 0.7  |
|        |                           | Widower                            | 0   | 0    |
| 4.     | Educational Qualification | Informal                           | 6   | 4.2  |
|        |                           | Formal                             | 133 | 93.7 |
|        |                           | Apprenticeship                     | 3   | 2.1  |
| 5.     | Employment Status         | Employed                           | 7   | 4.9  |
|        |                           | Under-employed                     | 34  | 23.9 |
|        |                           | Unemployed                         | 71  | 50.0 |
|        |                           | Self-employed                      | 30  | 21.1 |
| 6.     | Religion                  | Christainity                       | 47  | 33.1 |
|        |                           | Islamic                            | 94  | 66.2 |
|        |                           | Traditional                        | 1   | 0.7  |
| 7.     | Income (Monthly)          | Below ₦15,000 (USD 41)             | 7   | 4.9  |
|        |                           | ₦15,000 (USD 41- ₦18,000 (USD 50)  | 16  | 11.3 |
|        |                           | ₦18,000 (USD 50)- ₦26,000 (USD 72) | 4   | 2.8  |
|        |                           | ₦27,000 (USD 75)- ₦30,000 (USD 84) | 99  | 67.7 |
|        |                           | ₦30,000 (USD 84) and above         | 16  | 11.3 |
|        |                           |                                    |     |      |

**Source:** Field Study, (2017).

Table 1 showed socio- economic characteristics of the respondents. It revealed that 86(60.6%) of the respondents are female. It also indicated that 118(83.1%) of the respondents are between the ages of 18-25, 127(89.4%) of the respondents are single and 133(93.7%) of the respondents have formal education.

In addition, the data showed that 71(50.0%) respondents are unemployed, 94(66.2%) respondents are Muslims while 99(69.7%) earned below ₦15,000(USD 41) per month.

**Table 2:** Articles that quilting, Applique and patchwork techniques can be used for.

| S/N | Items                   | Quilting ( $\bar{x}$ ) | Applique( $\bar{x}$ ) | Patchwork( $\bar{x}$ ) |
|-----|-------------------------|------------------------|-----------------------|------------------------|
| 1.  | Apparel of both gender. | 1.82                   | 1.83                  | 1.77                   |
| 2.  | Duvey/ Bedlinen         | 1.78                   | 1.81                  | 1.67                   |
| 3.  | Throw pillows           | 1.65                   | 1.80                  | 1.70                   |
| 4.  | Shoes                   | 1.66                   | 1.65                  | 1.64                   |
| 5.  | Bags                    | 1.57                   | 1.69                  | 1.70                   |
| 6.  | Toys                    | 1.61                   | 1.66                  | 1.63                   |
| 7.  | Table and food covers   | 1.52                   | 1.63                  | 1.63                   |
|     | <b>Grand Mean</b>       | <b>1.66</b>            | <b>1.72</b>           | <b>1.68</b>            |

**Source:** Field Study, (2017).

Table 2 indicated articles that quilting, Applique and patchwork techniques can be used for entrepreneurial development by the respondents. The data revealed the grand mean score of quilting products (1.66), applique products (1.72) and patchwork products (1.68). This

implied that the respondents agreed with all the seven items on the three products as vocational skills for entrepreneurial development. The mean score of 1.5 was used as the decision rule, such that a mean rating of an item by the respondents equal to or above 1.5 was taken as Yes while less than 1.5 were taken as No.

**Table 3:** Mean rating factors that can enhance entrepreneurial development on production of quilting, applique and patchwork techniques by the respondents.

|     |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | N= 142      |              |
|-----|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------|--------------|
| S/N | Statements                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | $\bar{x}$   | Remark       |
| 1.  | Entrepreneurial skills should be made compulsory in school curriculum at all levels to familiarize youths early enough.                                                                                                                | 4.69        | Agree        |
| 2.  | A strong entrepreneurship culture should be built in the youths through Non-Government Organization, Community Based Organization and Institutions like Family, Churches and Uniform groups.                                           | 4.47        | Agree        |
| 3.  | The government should refocus its attention on technical advancement and encourage entrepreneurial skills as a sustainable means of improving entrepreneurship education, self employment and youth empowerment.                       | 4.50        | Agree        |
| 4.  | Government should provide business friendly infrastructure and provide framework of enforceable laws that will discourage monopolies, unfair competition as well as protecting intellectual properties, valuable and knowledge assets. | 4.28        | Agree        |
| 5.  | Higher institutions should partner with government in developing the required strategy for fostering entrepreneurship both at individual and firm level.                                                                               | 4.35        | Agree        |
| 6.  | Micro Enterprise Development should assist in giving soft loan to the youths for entrepreneurial development.                                                                                                                          | 4.09        | Agree        |
| 7.  | Creation of state fund for entrepreneurship education may help in enhancing youths entrepreneurial development.                                                                                                                        | 4.27        | Agree        |
| 8.  | Youth entrepreneur of the year award program could also be organized as an encouragement to get youths excited about entrepreneurial careers.                                                                                          | 4.43        | Agree        |
| 9.  | The communities should be encouraged to work in partnership with the schools (teaching entrepreneurship education) as a 'learning laboratory' where students can put set of acquired skills into practice.                             | 4.46        | Agree        |
|     | <b>Grand Mean</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | <b>4.39</b> | <b>Agree</b> |

**Source:** Field Study, (2017).

Table 3 indicates possible factors that can enhance production of quilting, applique and patchwork products for entrepreneurial development by the respondents. The respondents agreed with all the nine items. The grand mean 4.39 of the 9 items showed that the respondents agreed with the factors that can

enhance production of quilting, applique and patchwork for entrepreneurial development in the study area. The mean result is based on Five- Likert scale of 3.00 and above. A mean rating of an item by the respondents equal to or above 3.00 was taken as agreed while less than 3.00 was taken as disagree.

**Table 4.1.1:** Chi- square analysis on quilting products and entrepreneurial development by the respondents.

| S/N             | Items                                                            | N   | $\bar{x}$ | SD    | DF | Cal $X^2$ value | Table value | Decision  |
|-----------------|------------------------------------------------------------------|-----|-----------|-------|----|-----------------|-------------|-----------|
| HO <sub>1</sub> | Quilting as an empowerment skill and entrepreneurial development | 142 | 1. 66     | 0. 46 | 6  | 43. 997         | 12. 592     | Reject Ho |

**Source:** Field study, (2017).

The Chi-square calculated ( $X^2_c$ ) value for the above table is 43.997, degree of freedom (df) is 6 at 0.05 level of significance and the table value ( $X^2_t$ ) is 12.592. Hence, since the calculated value is greater than the table value, the null hypothesis which states that there is no significant relationship between the production of quilting products and entrepreneurial development

among youths in Ilorin metropolis, Nigeria is hereby rejected and we accept the alternative hypothesis.

Therefore, there is significant relationship between the production of quilting and entrepreneurial development among youths in the study area. Hence, quilting can be produced for entrepreneurial development among youths in the study area.

**Table 4.1.2:** Chi- square analysis on appliqué products and entrepreneurial development by the respondents

| S/N             | Items                                                        | N   | $\bar{x}$ | SD    | DF | Cal $X^2$ value | Table value | Decision  |
|-----------------|--------------------------------------------------------------|-----|-----------|-------|----|-----------------|-------------|-----------|
| HO <sub>1</sub> | Applique as employment skill and entrepreneurial development | 142 | 1. 72     | 0. 44 | 6  | 31.313          | 12. 592     | Reject Ho |

**Source:** Field work, (2017).

The Chi-square calculated ( $X^2_c$ ) value for the above table is 31.313, degree of freedom (df) is 6 at 0.05 level of significance and the table value ( $X^2_t$ ) is 12.592. Hence, since the calculated value is greater than the table value, the null hypothesis which states that there is no significant relationship between the production of Appliqué, and entrepreneurial development among

youths in Ilorin metropolis is hereby rejected and the alternative hypothesis is accepted. Therefore, there is no significant difference between the production of Patchwork and entrepreneurial development among youths in the study area. Hence, appliqué can be produced for entrepreneurial development among youths in the study area.

**Table 4.1.3:** Chi- square analysis on hypothesis one (Patchwork) by the respondents

| S/N             | Items                                                          | N   | $\bar{x}$ | SD    | DF | Cal $X^2$ value | Table value | Decision  |
|-----------------|----------------------------------------------------------------|-----|-----------|-------|----|-----------------|-------------|-----------|
| HO <sub>1</sub> | Patchwork as empowerment skill and entrepreneurial development | 142 | 1. 68     | 0. 46 | 6  | 10. 047         | 12. 592     | Accept Ho |

**Source:** Field work, (2017).

The Chi-square calculated ( $X^2_c$ ) value for the above table is 10.047, degree of freedom (df) is 6 at 0.05 level of significance and the table value ( $X^2_t$ ) is 12.592. Hence, since the calculated value is lower than the table value, the null hypothesis which states that there is no significant relationship between the production of patchwork and entrepreneurial development among youths in Ilorin metropolis is hereby accepted and we reject the alternative hypothesis  $H_1$ s. Therefore, there is

no significant difference between the production of Patchwork and entrepreneurial development among youths in Ilorin metropolis, Nigeria. Hence, Patchwork cannot be produced for entrepreneurial development among youths in Ilorin metropolis. In general, the null hypothesis two which states that there is no significant relationship between production of quilting, appliqué, patchwork and entrepreneurial development among youths in Ilorin metropolis is analyzed to have accepted quilting and appliqué and rejected patchwork for entrepreneurial development.

**Table 5:** Chi- square analysis of the possible factors for production of quilting, applique and patchwork and youth entrepreneurial development by the respondents

| S/N             | Items                                                                                                      | N   | $\bar{x}$ | SD    | DF | Cal $X^2$ value | Table value | Decision  |
|-----------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----|-----------|-------|----|-----------------|-------------|-----------|
| HO <sub>2</sub> | Factors enhancing utilizing of Quilting, Applique and Patchwork techniques and entrepreneurial development | 142 | 4.39      | 0. 83 | 32 | 66.243          | 55. 578     | Reject Ho |

**Source:** Field work, (2017).

## DISCUSSION OF FINDINGS

The findings showed that quilting, applique and patchwork products can be used as vocational skills development. Valrus&Fletcher (2006) asserted that youths can be empowered when they acknowledged that they can create choices of life, aware of the implications of their choices, and accept responsibility. Also Chang & Sung (2009), Olakulein&Ojo (2006) opined the need for empowerment arises from the inability of an individual or a group of people to actualize their dreams and reach their greatest potential due to artificial barriers created by individuals and other groups within the same society. Entrepreneurial skills acquisition is believed would be more relevant to the development of the nation. Furthermore, quilting, applique and patchwork production as vocational skills can be for entrepreneurial development (Anyakoha, (2015), Okeke (2015) & Foster (2014).

## CONCLUSION

In conclusion, this findings show that the problem of unemployment facing youths can be resolved by utilizing quilting, applique and patchwork techniques for different products for entrepreneurial development as there has much importance attached to its production and utilization. It serves as a source of income generation, marketable skills, protection and safety in: homes, industry, hospital, hotel and offices. Also, there are a lot of factors that can enhance entrepreneurship culture, improvement of technical and vocational education and can assist its utilization.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Creation of more markets for these products through campaign, seminars, workshops etc will enhance the utilization.
2. Youths should be more creative and equip themselves with entrepreneurial skills so as to prevent them from falling into the unemployed category.
3. Entrepreneurship education should be made compulsory in school curriculum at all levels to familiarize them with entrepreneurial skills.
4. Youths should familiarize themselves with fabrics or fabric scraps that can be used as a means of sustainable entrepreneurial development which will usher in a panacea to unemployment.
5. Youths should crave for entrepreneurial subjects that exposes and source of self-wealth creation.

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