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Abstract

The study assessed residents' perception on leatherworks for youth's empowerment and entrepreneurial development in Ganmo, Ilorin, Kwara-State. Five research questions were raised. Research and development designs were adopted. A total population of 94,253 residents were recorded and 219 residents were selected purposively. Copies of questionnaires were distributed to the residents of Ganmo community, Ilorin, Kwara State. Thirty respondents were used for pilot study and was found reliable at 0.864. 189 respondents were used for the field survey. Frequency, percentage, mean and standard deviation were used to analyze the data. The findings revealed the socio-economic characteristics of the respondents. Majority of the respondents strongly agreed that some items can be produced from leatherworks that youths can be empowered with had a grand mean score of 4.31. This is above the decision score. Accessibility of leather materials for empowerment skills had a grand mean score of 4.30 and marketability with grand mean score 4.31. Also, the perception of youths on empowerment of leatherworks had a grand mean of 4.44. Conclusively, leatherworks can be one of the potent tools for youth's development. Recommendations among others stated is that, youths should empower themselves on skills acquisition at all levels of their lives for wealth creation and entrepreneurial development regardless of their academic qualifications.

Keywords: *Perception, Residents, Leatherworks, Youths, Empowerment, Entrepreneurs, Ganmo, Ilorin.*

Introduction

One of the greatest challenge facing governments and policymakers in Africa today is how to provide job opportunities for more than 200 million youths in the continent so that they can have decent lives and contribute to the economic development. Considering the huge database of unemployed youths in Africa. Unemployment has become a major challenge in the lives of youths causing frustration, depression and dependency on family members. The high level of unemployment among the population in Nigeria has contributed to the high rate of insecurity, violence in election and poverty (Ajufo and Simkovic 2013). Nwabah and Uko-aviomoh (2006) asserted that most street children are school dropouts who have poor parents and the children do

not participate in the universal basic education. These children are found to be involved in activities that threatens the security of others. If the parents of these street children are empowered when they are youths, this challenge will not occur because they will have a skill to depend on that will generate income to take care of them.

The issue of youth empowerment has understandably taken the front burner in national discourse of many countries especially Nigeria now. This is contingent on the ground that the youths are the engine room of national development and any forward looking nation must take cognizance of the fact that, her youths must be empowered economically, politically and social-culturally. Garba, (2010), interestingly, nature has given the youths the gift of energy, through their young and seemingly indefatigable bodies. Empowering these seemingly indefatigable bodies requires people, programmes, institutions and systems which will provide all the youths with the supports and opportunities they need to facilitate themselves in order to move the society forward. On the strength of the above, Olarenwaju (2011) and Sazama and Young (2006) asserts effective policy and strategy for youths having rights of belonging and ownership, develop self-worth, promote self-discovery, youths developing quality relationships with peers and adults, feeling the pride and accountability that comes with mastery and expanding their capacity to enjoy life and know that success is possible if skills are acquired for entrepreneurial development.

Anyakoha (2015) explained that entrepreneurship as the ability to seek out investment opportunities, establish and run the business enterprise successfully. Egboh, (2009) opined that the motive behind entrepreneurship is to drive and create wealth in the society through putting together various resources that can be beneficial to consumers and anyone who provide innovation to be recognized. Furthermore, Atakpa (2011) submits to one of the strategies of entrepreneurship as to produce individuals that will meet international standard with appropriate knowledge and skills in their fields of study who will be highly employable and be able to employ others. Capacity building, empowerment programme and skill acquisition are the way forward to improve the standard of living.

In most developing countries, tanning operation is a family business carried out in small to rnedium scale semi-mechanized units very frequently grouped tightly in clusters which used to be outside residential areas (Gupta and Tamra 2007). Tanners in such units do not have formal education and any awareness of complexities of leather processing. (Mokhothu-Ogolla and Wanjau (2013) and Iheanacho (1998). Usman, Suleiman, Aminu and Sadiq (2015) and Aminu, Suleiman, Hassan and Bello (2010) asserted that leather has been tanned in Nigeria where it formed an important trading commodity hundreds of years ago. Hides and skins are the basic raw materials for leather production and if these materials are available and accessible, individuals can use the raw materials to produce different articles for utilization thereby generate income.

Leather is produced in the whole world. According to United Nations Industrial Development Organisation, (2010). Table 1 shows the major leather producing countries and the quantities in the world from 1997 to 2006. Availability of leather makes it possible to get leather products around us. There are leather in Africa with an industrial reality of low technological levels where innovations goes slowly and new productive units are installed with old plants and machineries when compared with the stated countries (Cipriani 2002)

Table 1: Major Leather producing countries in the world.

Country	1997	2000	2001	2003	2006
Argentina	721	529	561	561	655
Brazil	602	726	741	1005	1655
China	1969	3005	3312	3546	4000
India	1036	1102	1106	1092	1119
Italy	2020	1922	1926	1902	2039
Republic of Korea	1235	1260	1349	1344	1090
Mexico	614	556	509	511	570
Pakistan	302	323	336	350	359
Russia	660	888	1034	1450	1410
Spain	541	529	528	510	430
Turkey	572	340	470	470	528
USA	560	730	670	558	417

Source: United Nations Industrial Development Organisation (2010).

Value addition has gotten a place in leatherwork business. In Kenya, ability to run a successful leather industry is enormous as it produces huge amounts of hides and skins. The industry is one of the key agricultural sub-sectors in the country and has a high potentials for commodity development, employment and wealth creation (Mhono, (2012), Mwinyihija (2018) and Mwinyhija and Onyango (2012). According to Curtis (2010), most of Kenya's exports have been in the form of unprocessed raw hides and skins. But Kenya can produce much more footwear for her domestic utilization and reduce on cheap imports

Kenya Leather Industry (2015), Khan (2010), Akanni and Ibrahim (2008) asserted that Leatherwork is an aspect of visual art and craft that concerns itself with the production of items and articles with leather as the principal material. It involves various processes of preparing animal skin into leather using the appropriate tools and materials as well as techniques to produce leather articles. According to Economic and Policy Review (2017), Leather has various uses in almost all the undertakings and activities of individuals, societies and the nation as a whole. Its immense use cannot be exaggerated, it can be used as clothing and body items such as belt and jacket, and also for making book covers, hand bags, jewellery, box and shoes. Industriesand other various establishments made use of leather products for many things. Table 2 indicates uses of leather in the world by United Nations Industrial Development Organisation (2010).

Table 2: Leather and uses

Year	Footwear	Clothing	Gloves	Leather works	Upholstery	Automobile
1970	50-70	3-5.0	3-5.0	15.20	No data	No data
1990	67.9	12.4	4.3	8.8	5	1.6
1995	62.6	17.8	4.2	8.7	4.8	1.9
2000	58.0	14.6	4.3	9.4	8.8	4.9
2005	55.0	11.4	4.4	9.2	13.0	7.0
2010	53.3	11.4	4.3	9.1	13.5	8.2

Source: United Nations Industrial Development Organisation (2010).

The acquisition of leather production skill to produce good quality products will enhance marketability. If the price, design and technological advancement are considered, the sales of the products will be enhanced. Therefore, youths can realise money from it as an entrepreneur or working for someone for entrepreneurial development. Table 3 shows leather and shoes market in Africa. This shows shoes imported from China.

Table 3: Leather and shoe market in Africa.

Country	Leather production	Shoe production	Shoe imports from china	Population
	Million sq. ft.	Million pairs	Million pairs	Million
Nigeria	114.2	n/a	22.0	135
Kenya	73.2	8.0	0.5	37
Sudan	72.9	n/a	n/a	39
Ethiopia	68.0		1.9	76
Tanzania	22.6	n/a	n/a	31
Zimbabwe	14.0	3.0	1.3	11

Source: United Nations Industrial Development Organisation (2010).

Statement of Problem: Nigeria faces a major challenge of graduate's unemployment. Young men and women leave the Universities, Polytechnics and Colleges of Education every year with little hope of securing jobs. The most significant factor that has complicated the problem is the slow growth of the economy. Thus, the capacity of economy to absorb products of an over expanding tertiary institutions is severally limited. The Nigeria government is worried on the increasing unemployment rate, poverty, and bad economic condition in the country. It is a statement problem for youths to be able to get the job that can sustain them every time. Covid-19 is another factor that is affecting many establishments that are sacking their staff in this era because of the pandemic of the virus that forced everyone to stay at home. Handcrafts might be a way out. With the availability of animal skins and hides in the community, they are just used for consumption only which are not supposed to be. Majority of these raw materials are under- utilized.

Research Questions

The following five research questions were raised to guide the study.

i. What are the socio-economic characteristics of residents in Ganmo community, Ilorin?
ii. What are the residents' knowledge on the articles that can be produced from leather for youth's empowerment and entrepreneurial development in the study area?
iii. To what extent are leather materials accessible for residents for youth empowerment and entrepreneurial development in the study area
To what extent are leather products marketable for empowerment and entrepreneurial development in the study area?
iv. What are the residents' perceptions of youth's on acquisition of leatherwork for entrepreneurial development?

Methodology

Design of the Study: The research design adopted for this study is survey research design. Survey method of research is concerned with generalized statistics resulting when data which are obtained from part of a large population and used to generalize (Ofo, 2005). This research is suitable for the study as it allowed the researcher to make careful record of what were observed for analysis purpose.

Population of the Study: The total population of 94,253 with 47,890 males and 46,564 females were recorded for Ganmo Community.

Sample and Sampling Technique: Purposive sampling technique was used to for all the members in the community. At the second stage, they were stratified by their socio-economic characteristics to select two hundred and nineteen (219). 30 respondents were used for pilot study while 189 respondents were used for field survey.

Instrument for Data Collection: A well-structured questionnaire was used. The questionnaire was developed based on the objectives and research questions. The questionnaire was made up of five sections. Section A centred on the socio-economic characteristics, Section B is on the residents' knowledge of articles that can be made from leather and Section C centred on the accessibility of leatherwork materials. Section D assessed the marketability of leatherwork while Section E was on residents' perception on the use of leatherwork for youth's empowerment. A five point Likert-scale was used to assess the responses: 5 points for Strongly Agree (SA), 4 po ints for Agree (A), 3 points for Strongly Disagree (SD), 2 points for Disagree (D), 1 point for Undecided (UD) with a decision rule of 3.0

Validity of Research Instrument: Validity of the instrument for data collection was determined using content and face validity through critical review by three colleagues in home economics: (clothing and textiles and child's development) unit. A copy of the questionnaire was also given to them for scrutiny and corrections.

Reliability of Research Instrument: The Cronbach's Alpha method was selected among Statistical Package for the Social Sciences (SPSS) version 12 widows for testing reliability coefficient to determine internal consistency of the respondents to the items on the questionnaire. Editing, coding, entry, scoring and analysis were used for processing the data. It was found reliable at 0.864.

Method of Data Collection: Data was collected from the respondents by administering the questionnaire with three trained research assistants that had been taught the rudiments of questionnaire administration. Completed copies of questionnaire were checked to ensure their completeness and free from mutilation by the respondents.

Method of Data Analysis: Descriptive statistics such as Frequency count, Percentages, Mean ($\bar{x}$), Standard Deviation (SD) and Ranking were used to analyse the research questions. The nl hypothesis were tested with chi-squarer at 0.05 level of significance.

Results and discussions of findings

The tables indicate the data collected from field survey and thus explained the findings as shown:

Table 4: Distributions of Respondents' Socioeconomic Characteristics **N=189**

S/N	Variables	Respondents	Frequency	Percentage
1.	Age (In years)	Below 18 years	23	12.16
		19-23	43	22.75
		24-28	10	5.29
		29-33	45	23.80
		Above 34 years	68	35.18
2.	Gender	Male	103	54.49
		Female	86	45.50
3.	Education	O' Level	50	26.45
		OND/NCE	47	24.86
		HND/BSc	86	45.10
		M.Sc./PhD	6	3.17
4	Marital Status	Single	56	29.60
		Married	121	64.02
		Separated	6	3.20
		Divorced	6	3.20
5	Employment	Student	57	30.15
		Employed	75	39.68
		Unemployed	13	6.87
		Self-employed	37	19.57
		Apprentice	7	3.70
6	Income Realised	Daily	69	36.50
		Weekly	34	17.98
		Bi-monthly	15	7.94
		Monthly	71	37.57

Source: Field Survey, 2019.

Table 4 shows that 23(12.16%) respondents were below 18 years, 43(22.75%) were between 19-23 years, 68(35.18%), which represents the majority, were above 34years. On the basis of gender, 103(54.49%) which form the majority were males. On educational qualification, majority: 86(45.10%) of the respondents were HND/B.Sc. holders. The marital status of the respondents shows that 127(64.02%) of them were married, 56(29.60%) were single; while 6(3.20%) were from separated homes. This implies that majority of the respondents were married. On the basis of employment, majority 75(39.70%) were employed and majority realized their income on daily basis: 69(36.50%).

Table 5: Mean and Rank Order of Respondents' Knowledge on the Articles that can be produced from Leather for Youths Empowerment and Entrepreneurial Development

S/N	Items	$\bar{x}$	SD	Rank
1	Belt	4.91	0.28	1st
2	Bag	4.72	0.53	2nd
3	Footwear	4.59	0.88	4th
4	Purse	4.30	0.87	10th
5	Wallet	4.32	0.75	8th
6	Portfolio	3.87	0.94	17th
7	Jacket	3.97	0.96	16th
8	Bracelet	4.04	0.86	15th
9	Book cover	4.10	1.05	13th
10	Hat	4.34	0.95	7th
11	Upholstery	4.05	1.07	14th
12	Fan Belt	4.21	0.81	11th
13	Throw pillow	4.16	0.92	12th
14	Cap	4.48	0.72	5th
15	Glove	4.30	0.77	9th
16	Key holder	4.34	0.76	6th
17	Slipper	4.61	0.70	3rd
	Grand mean	**4.31**		

Source: Field survey (2019)

Key: $\bar{x}$ = Mean, SD: Standard Deviation

Table 5 shows that all the items on knowledge of articles that can be produced from leather have mean scores that are above the 3.00 decision rule to determine the most area of knowledge of articles that can be produced from leather. However, items 1 ($\bar{x}$ = 4.91 SD = 0.28) , 2 ($\bar{x}$ = 4.72SD = 0.53), 17 ($\bar{x}$ = 4.61SD = 0.70), 3 ($\bar{x}$ = 4.59SD = 0.88) and 14 ($\bar{x}$ = 4. 48 S D = 0.72) took precedence over others and were ranked between 1st and 5t.h. This means that the residents of Ganmo

community have knowledge of articles that can be produced from leather works for entrepreneurial development. Thus, residents in the study area are knowledgeable that belts, bags, slippers, foot wears, caps among others can be produced from leather for youth's empowerment and entrepreneurial development. This aligns with Atakpa (2011) who submitted that one of the strategies of empowerment is to produce individual items to international standards with appropriate knowledge and skills in their field. The producers will have the opportunity to be productive either to work for himself or employed by others. Abdullahi (2006) asserted that leather shoes can help to keep feet warm during winter and cool during summer. When it is cold, the perspiration from our feet is absorbed into the leather and keeps the skin dry. On warm dry days, some of the perspiration vapour travel through the leather and evaporates on the outside, cooling it.

Table 6: Mean and Rank Order of Leather Materials Accessibility for Empowerment and Entrepreneurial Development by the respondents.

S/N	Accessibility to materials used in producing leather work	$\bar{x}$	SD	Rank
1	There is ease of accessibility to the place/market where leather work materials are purchased	4.65	0.68	1st
2	Lack of accessibility to materials (leather, rivets and so on) needed for leather work production affects entrepreneurial development	4.15	0.76	7th
3	Modern materials that are used to produce high quality articles are readily available	4.46	0.74	2nd
4	Modern materials that are used to produce high quality articles are affordable	4.03	0.70	8th
5	Local materials that are used to produce acceptable articles are readily available	4.35	0.86	3rd
6	Local materials that are used to produce acceptable articles are affordable	4.27	0.82	5th
7	Youths have access to training/workshop on the use of modern tools for the production of leatherworks	4.21	0.76	6th
8	Start-up capital/loan for leather work business is easily accessible	4.34	0.88	4th
	Grand Mean	**4.30**		

Source: Field Survey, (2019)

Key: $\bar{x}$ = Mean, SD: Standard Deviation

Table 6 shows that all the items on accessibility to leather materials have mean scores that are above 3.00 decision rule score set to determine the topmost accessibility to materials. However, items 1 ($\bar{x}$ = 4.65SD = 0.68), 3 ($\bar{x}$ = 4.46SD = 0.74), 5 ($\bar{x}$ = 4.35SD = 0.86), 8 ($\bar{x}$ =4.34SD = 0.88) and 6 ($\bar{x}$ = 4.27SD = 0.82) took precedence over others and were ranked between 1st and 5th. This means that the residents in the study area indicated that there is ease of accessibility of leather the place market where leather work materials are purchased, modern and local materials are also readily available, start-up capital/loan for leather work business is easily accessible and the local materials are affordable. This is in line with Egboh (2009) that the motive behind entrepreneurship is to drive and create wealth in the society through putting together various resources that can be beneficial to consumers and anyone who provide the innovation.

Table 7: Mean and Rank Order of Respondents' Responses on Leather Work Marketability as youths Empowerment and Entrepreneurial Development

S/N	Marketability of leather work for entrepreneurial development	$\bar{x}$	SD	Rank
1	There is readily available market for locally made leather work articles	4.56	0.64	1st
2	The price of leather products is moderate	4.38	0.62	5th
3	The price of leather product is affordable	4.03	0.70	8th
4	Demand for leather product by customers is high	4.27	0.65	7th
5	When production is in small-scale, leather products are expensive	4.41	0.68	2nd
6	The use of modern materials in the production of leather articles reduces the market price of the produced articles to customers	4.14	0.83	10th
7	The saleability (being able to be sold or being easy to sell) of local articles matches the foreign articles	4.23	0.86	9th
8	Creativity in leatherwork increases marketability of the finished products	4.32	0.76	6th
9	Durability in leatherwork increases marketability of the finished products	4.41	0.68	2nd
10	Technological advancement improve the existing design	4.41	0.68	2nd
	Grand mean	**4.31**		

Source: Field Survey (2019)

Key: $\bar{x}$ = Mean, SD: Standard Deviation

Table 7 shows that all the items on leather marketability have mean scores that are above the 3.00 (decision rule) score set to determine the topmost leather marketability for economic

development. However, items: 1. ($\bar{x}$ = 4.56SD = 0.64), 10. ($\bar{x}$ = 4.41SD = 0.66), 9. ($\bar{x}$ = 4.41SD = 0.68), 5. ($\bar{x}$ = 4.41SD = 0.74) and 2. ($\bar{x}$ = 4.38SD = 0.62) took precedence over others and were ranked between 1st and 5th respectively. This means that the residents in the study area indicated that there is readily available market for locally made leather works, technological advancement improve the existing design, durability in leather works will increases marketability of the finished products, when production is in small-scale, leather work is expensive and the price of leather products is moderate. Khan (2010), Akanni and Ibrahim (2008) asserted that leatherwork is a craft that concerns itself with production of items that involves various processes. Therefore, residents reported that leatherwork is marketable for youth's empowerment for entrepreneurial development.

Table 8: Mean and Rank Order of Respondents' Perception of Youths Empowerment in Leather Work for Entrepreneurial Development

S/N	Statement	$\bar{x}$	SD	Rank
1	Entrepreneurial empowerment reduces the rate of youth unemployment.	4.63	0.93	1st
2	Leatherwork is one of the skills that grants opportunity to youths for empowerment.	4.24	0.87	6th
3	The skill brings self-reliance.	4.51	0.98	2nd
4	It teaches youths to make the best use of their time.	4.32	1.00	5th
5	If empowered, it reduces crime rate.	4.51	0.92	3rd
6	It provides support for youths to acquaint themselves with the resources available.	4.44	0.92	4th
	Grand Mean	**4.44**		

Source: Field Survey, (2019).

Table 8 shows that all the items on respondents' perception of youth empowerment in leatherworks have mean scores that are above the 3.00 (decision rule) score set to determine the topmost perception of youth engagement in leatherwork for economic development. However, items 1. ($\bar{x}$ = 4.63SD = 0.93), 3. ($\bar{x}$ = 4.51SD = 0.98), 5. ($\bar{x}$ = 4.51SD = 0.92), 6. ($\bar{x}$ = 4.44SD = 0.92) and 4 ($\bar{x}$ = 4.32SD = 1.00) took precedence over others and were ranked between 1st and 5th respectively. This means that the residents in the study area have positive perception of youth empowerment in leatherwork for entrepreneurial development as they believed that it will reduce the rate of youth unemployment, brings self-reliance, reduces crime rate, provides support for youths to acquire themselves with the resources available and teach youths to make the best use of their time. In support of this, Anyakoha (2015) opined that the ability to seek out investment opportunities, establish and run the business enterprise successfully.

Conclusion

The findings show that the challenge of youth's unemployment might be resolved by youth empowerment on leathers production for creative articles that might yield income. Youth empowerment programmes can play a vital role in developing youths mentally, politically and social-culturally.

Recommendations

1. Youths should empower themselves on skills at all level of their lives. It is a source of self-wealth creation and a panacea to unemployment.
2. Youth empowerment programmes should be made compulsory in school curriculum at all levels to familiarize them with entrepreneurial skills that creative use of leather to produce different articles should be incorporated.
3. The government should encourage in preparing the youths for self-employment, ability to harness human and material resources, industrial development and a mind-set towards national integration through leatherworks.
4. There is a need for serious campaign to encourage private sector to participate in youth's empowerment programmes.
5.

Good policies and effective implementation will encourage good entrepreneurs which will create wealth, establish small scale and medium scale industries and increase the rate of youth empowerment for national harmony.

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