



TEXTILE AND CLOTHING NEEDS IN NIGERIA: EFFECTS OF CLIMATE CHANGE ON FAMILIES

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Abstract

This study investigated the effects of climate change on textile and clothing needs and families. Climate change is concerned with the shift experienced in the climate or weather condition in a particular environment. These changes result in temperature, storms, rainfall among others. The purpose of the study was to examine the effects of climate change on textile and clothing need as well as families in Nigeria context. The study adopted qualitative methodological approach where the existing secondary data were employed to undertake the study. The findings of the study revealed that climate change has negative effects on textile and clothing needs as well as families in the country. The effects of climate change on textile and clothing needs hamper on the Nigerian economy and as such lead to poverty and under development. The study argued that strategies such as implementing climate change into educational curricula, acquisition of skill and knowledge, awareness creation, preservation of indigenous knowledge would be useful to revive the loss glory of textile and clothing needs in the country. The study recommended the inclusion of education for sustainability into educational curriculum; government, non-governmental organizations and the economically buoyant persons in the country should take decisive steps to encourage textile and clothing needs to boost socio-economic development in Nigeria.

Keywords: *Climate Change, Clothing Needs, Families, Home Economics Education, Textile*

Introduction

Home Economics Education is concerned with improving the life of family's needs. Entrepreneurship is one of the ways of achieving this goal through small scale or heavy textiles and clothing industry. Olaitan and Agusiobo (2001) argued that the discipline strengthens individual and family life by providing functional knowledge and skills. Textile and clothing is one of the areas that home economists specialized.

As a branch of Home Economics Education, textile and clothing focuses on acquisition and development of practical skills by the beneficiaries. This helps to equip individuals with saleable skills needed for self-reliance as well as provide enormous employment opportunities, such as dress making/clothing construction, designing, dry cleaning and laundering, tie-dyeing and batiking, beauty care and hair dressing, fashion merchandising, pattern illustration among others. Lemechi (2001) observed that home economics education serves as an effective tool for achieving national economic and technological growth and development in the country.

The Nigerian textile industry was rated as one of the largest employers of labour in the 1990s besides government (UNIDO, 2009). According to Oyejide et al. (2013), Nigeria and other countries such as India, China and Thailand have experienced high tariff placed on fabrics between 1995 and early 2000. However, in recent times, these countries have also begun to decline drastically especially Nigeria. This is as a result of significant tariff escalation in these countries.

Lawal (2011) attributed the collapse of the Nigerian textile industry as a result of the influx of cheap and substandard products from China. Other factors associated with the collapse include hasty and unprepared entry of Nigeria into the World Trade Organization in 1995, unstable power supply, poor infrastructure and porous borders (Tigye, 2015).

Scholars like Olaniyi et al. (2013), Ebele and Emodi (2016) and Elisha et al. (2017) have acknowledged that Nigeria's climate has been changing in recent times with evidence of high temperature, variable rainfall, rise in sea level and flooding, drought and desertification, land degradation that are more frequent extreme in weather events. There is no doubt that this climate change affects textile and clothing needs as well as families in different perspectives.

The effect of climate change has led to decline in national economic development in Nigeria. In bid to tackle the problem of climate change in Nigeria, the government in the year 2012 adopted its Climate Change Policy Response and Strategy (CCPRS) as some of drastic measures to ensure an effective national response to the multi-faceted impacts of climate change in the country. The fundamental goals of CCPRS include the following:

1. Implementation of mitigation measures that will promote low carbon as well as sustainable and high economic growth.
2. Enhancement of national capacity to adapt to climate change; raising climate change related science, technology and research and development to a new level that will enable the country to better participate in international scientific and technological cooperation on climate change.

3. Significantly increase public awareness and involve private sector participation in addressing the challenges of climate change.
4. Strengthen national institutions and mechanisms (policy, legislative and economic) to establish a suitable and functional framework for climate change governance (Ogbuabor & Egwuchukwu, 2017).

The above goals are yet to yield significant result in the country. Climate change as a natural phenomenon has continued to affect the life of people in all ramifications especially in Nigeria. Based on climate projections, it was observed that in coming decades there would be a significant increase in temperature over all the ecological zones (Akande et al., 2017). It is against this backdrop that the researcher embarked on this study to point out ways in which climate change has affected textile and clothing needs and the life of families in the contemporary Nigerian society.

Conceptual Clarifications

Textile: The concept of textile is basically concerned with the study of fibres, yarns, construction of fabrics and finishes. The following areas are studies in textile: fibre identification, fabric weaves, textile design (dyeing and printing), and textile laundry, including stain removal. Textile fibres are classified into natural and synthetic (manufactured). The former consists of cotton hair, flax, jute, hemp and rayon, silk, wool, and asbestos. The latter consists of manufactured rayon, nylon, Dacron, acrilan, Teflon and fibre glass (Balogun, 2009).

Clothing: The concept of clothing is primarily concerned with the use and care of a sewing machine, basic and decorative stitches, seams and plackets, fabric selection, clothing (garments) design for functional and age reasons, body measurements, clothing construction and modification, ward robe planning and so on. Put similarly in Professional context, Home Economic Educationists narrow the concept to artful crafting of utilities: curtains, bed spreads and covers, cushion covers, table covers, soft toys, wall hangings among others (Balogun, 2009). Clothing in this perspective is viewed as interior decoration that beautifies the human habitual environment.

Climate Change: Climate is viewed as average state of the weather that is fairly stable and predictable. Considered in another perspective, the concept of climate connotes weather pattern, averages of variables like cold and hot, humid and dry, cloudy and clear, drizzles and downpour, breeze and blizzard, and other variables that can be measured at any given site. Weather on the other hand, is concerned with day to day state of the atmosphere (Olaniyi, Funmilayo, & Olutimehin, 2014). The concept of climate change is concerned with the shift in which it can be experienced in the climate or weather condition in a particular environment. These changes result

in temperature, storms, rainfall among others. Sayne (2011: 2) observes that the Nigeria's climate is likely to grow shifts in temperature, rainfall, storms, and sea levels throughout the twenty-first century.

Methodology

This study adopts qualitative method approach to investigate the effects of climate change on textiles and clothing needs and families in Nigeria context. The researcher made use of existing literature on this discourse. The expository, historical, evaluative and interpretative methods of data analysis were used to examine the data gathered for this study. The expository method was used to expose concepts of textile, clothing and climate change. The researcher employs historical method to trace the textile and clothing industry in Nigeria. The evaluative and interpretative methods were used to examine the effective of climate change on textile and clothing needs in Nigeria.

Textile and Clothing Industry Situation in Nigeria

Before the emergence of modern textile industries in the country, various textiles processes such as textile weaving, spinning and dyeing, ginning carding were well-established occupation in Nigeria during the pre-colonial era. This generated income and improved the lives of the families. To the larger extend, these efforts contributed to developing the national economy.

In order to contribute directly to economic growth and national development, the Nigerian government after the independence emphasized the need for proper utilization of local raw materials in the country. This encourages the modern textile industries in the northern part of country with the first the Kaduna Textile Mill (Onyenekenwa, 2011) established before independence. Sani (2008) notes that the Kaduna Textile Limited was the first textile industry in country which was established in 1957.

Notably, the Nigerian textile industry is more concentrated in major cities such as Lagos, Kano and Kaduna. These three cities, according to Sani (2008), host about 80% of total textile factories in Nigeria. However, it is sad to note that the last two decades, precisely before the year 2002, over 25 textile mills had closed down (UNIDO, 2009). The closure of the textile mills has paved the way for families to experience hardship. In addition, the dream of promoting trading business or entrepreneurship in the country is also far-fetched. It can be argued here that a developing state like Nigeria must make efforts to scheme into liberal trade discovery that would battle with reputable factories in industrialized states with modern technology, better managerial abilities, financial capabilities, and even

intangible assets such as brand-name loyalty to place the country on the high economic footing.

Okenyi (2011) stresses that the Nigerian textile industry had grown to become the third largest in Africa and it had recorded growth of 67 percent between 1985 and 1991. The author notes that there were 37 textile firms in the country, operating 716,000 spindles, and 17,541 looms in 1987. Tigye (2015) maintains that the Nigerian textile industry has the potential of benefiting from globalization through substantial liberated economic environment that provides the right opportunity for Nigeria to tap into and reap the benefits of globalization in that raw material for the textile industry that can be sourced locally. In this approach, the Nigerian textile industry has comparative advantages that place her on better competitive edge over other sectors which can lead to increased productivity and growth of the Nigerian economy.

Slatter (2003) argues that the machinery to produce textiles is not simple. Textile production equipment are massive, complex, expensive and difficult to use in terms of manipulating millions of tiny particles of flexible units at a speed fast enough to satisfy the demand for its products. This point to the fact that textile production uses vast amount of energy that in most cases are not handy or available.

The takeoff of Nigerian textile industries provided a grant good support to the country's economy in diverse ways as acknowledged by scholars. Muhammad (2011) maintains that the Nigerian textile industries were rated third largest in Africa after Egypt and South Africa, with over 250 vibrant factories operating above 50 per cent capacity utilization. Job creation was another important role that the Nigerian textile industries have contributed to solve the problem of unemployment in the country. Suleiman et al. (2012) argue that the Nigerian textile industries were the single largest employer of labour after the government for a significant part of the history of the country, providing direct employment to about 350,000 persons outside millions of indirect jobs and employments. The revenue generation was another important benefit for establishing the textile industries in the country. Government derives as much as N2 billion per annum from textile related taxes and levies (Aguiyi el at., 2011). This shows that anything that affected the Nigerian textile industries has a negative impact on the Nigerian masses.

Effects of Climate Change on Textile and Clothing Needs and Families in Nigeria

Textile and clothing industries can contribute greatly to economic development by increasing or improving the Nigerian economy through jobs creation especially for women. Brenton and Hope (2007) maintain that textile industry has significant

impact on economic development because it absorbs large numbers of unskilled labour, typically drawing them from rural agricultural households to rural locations. In the same line of thought, Bello et al. (2013) argue that the textile industry is also known for its capacity to generate huge employment; hence, serving as a source of livelihood to many households.

The Nigerian textile industry is unique, in the sense that it uses a high percentage of locally produced raw materials such as cotton and polyester, unlike other manufacturing subsectors which depend on import (UNIDO, 2009). This has the advantage of saving foreign exchange. However, climate change has affected the production of the cotton in the country especially when there is high rainfall. This affects the cotton production that in turn will be useful in textile and clothing industries in the country. It is against this backdrop that the current Federal Government administration in the country has launched out campaign to encourage farming of cotton in the country. This development to the large extent is capable of reviving the production of cotton even though if climate change has affected its bountiful harvest; there would reasonable cotton that would be used in textile and clothing industries in the country.

The effect of climate change on textile and clothing needs and families can be felt in various aspects or perspectives. Climate change affects the distribution of rainfall and temperature; as a result, it affects some of the crops that are useful to textile and clothing needs. Excessive rainfall leads to low production and this affects the economy of the state and on the long run families also are not left out. Significant reduction in rainfall on the other hand, may also result to land degradation, reduction in water level in streams and rivers. This necessitates manufacturers to devise means to securing water for production in the textile and clothing industries or factories.

It is important to note that this situation is much more felt in the Northern part of the country where there is a high decrease of rainfall. Scholars have argued that droughts will continue in Northern part of the country arising from a decline in precipitation and rise in temperature (Olapido, 2010; Amanchukwu et al., 2015). This is quite worrisome because this will affect huge production in textile and clothing factories; hence the factories need significant amount of water for its production activities. Elisha et al., (2017) argue that Lake Chad and other lakes in the country are drying up and at risk of disappearing. Sayne (2011) maintains that drought conditions in parts of Northern Nigeria have also resulted in less drinking water. This makes life unpleasant, unbearable and difficult in the given society. This hampers with the fundamental role of Home Economics Education as a tool for improving lives of the people.

The empirical studies conducted to examine the effects of climate change on food productivity, food security and livelihoods in Nigeria show that climate change impacts significantly on all aspects of crop yields, availability of seeds, and access and utilization of foods. The studies noted that there were decreases in crop yields due to decreases in temperatures in the study areas and that most of the farmers had low level of awareness on the dangers of climate change (Ubachukwu, 2005; Efe, 2009). Okoli (2008) points out clearly that the environmental consequences of climate change manifest as physical changes such as sea level rises, higher local temperature and changes in rainfall pattern. Efe (2009) stresses that the implications of climate change induced variability's on food security and livelihoods.

It can be argued here that climate change affects family's need in terms of food provision. When the rainfall and temperature affect the growing plants that are useful for improving the lives of the families it leads to hunger and economic hardship. Accepting this view, Odjugo (2005) agrees that climate change has effects on the socio-economic development of Nigeria, stressing that climatic variability will have harsh effects on the low-income and marginalized poor people, make the process of eradicating poverty more difficult because of the negative effects of climate change on economic growth, poor people's livelihoods and assets and the level of risks to which the people are exposed.

Njoku (2006) discovered that the downward trend in rainy days per annum in Sokoto and Kano, with Kaduna having only a slight reduction in its rain day per annum. The climate change induced variability has a negative effect on annual crop yields. The author concludes that decrease in food crops availability occurred as a result to rainfall and temperatures.

Flooding is one the climate change that affects textile and clothing industry in the country in two perspectives. First, it affects the factory equipment that makes it useless. Second, it also affects the factory raw materials and finished products. In most cases, flooding can undermine economic growth through production and infrastructure losses and the need for extraordinary spending (Federal Government of Nigeria, 2013).

Fundamentally, the rapid climate change in the country has serious health implications for the lives of people in the country. For instance, extreme weather events such as heat waves have a direct human health impacts. Osuafor and Nnorom (2014) and Abdulkadir et al. (2017) strongly believe that malnutrition due to food shortages; the spread of infectious disease and food- and water-borne illness, such as typhoid fever, cholera as well as increased air pollution and from higher temperatures correlated with increased cases of meningitis were caused as a result to

indirect effects of climate change. This shows that climate change has a negative effect on the lives of individuals in the community.

Climate change affects energy generation and natural characteristics of freshwater which both human and manufacturing industries heavily depend on. To be precise, climate change negatively impacted limited electrical power supply in country via impacts on hydroelectric and thermal generation. Lower rainfall in the Northern parts of the country, reduces the availability of trees and biomass for fuel, which affects hydroelectric output in the large extent (Ebele and Emodi, 2016).

It is not a hasty conclusion or fallacious to argue here that climate change affects socio-economic activities in the country. The effects of climate change in recent times in the country lead to poverty and under development. This calls for drastic measures to be taken to address the challenges of climate change in the country as relate to textile and clothing needs.

Strategies for Tackling Climate Change in Nigerian Textile and Clothing Industry

Concerted efforts have been made by environmentalists to advance ways in which climate change can be handled in Nigeria. The concern here is not to repeat what had been said here, however, the researcher desires to show how climate change should be handled primarily as it related to textile and clothing factory in Nigeria, to restore its loss glory in the country. This to the large extent will improve the families' lives in the country.

It is no longer a point of argument that climate change is a national phenomenon; however, the challenges associated with the climate change vary across the country (Federal Ministry of Environment, 2014). Taking a deliberate and urgent step to address these challenges is quite imperative in this regard. Knowledge is power, in the sense, it liberates people from ignorance. Education is the key tool to achieve this fundamental goal. Reviewing or restructuring our educational curricula is indispensable to actualizing this desired dream. The inclusion and integration of climate change in the Nigerian educational curricula is essential. It is very obvious that most of the children and youths are yet to be taught how to deal with situations arising from climate change. There is no doubt that education remains an effective counter-strategy for tackling challenges of climate change in the country. Amanchukwu et al. (2015) aver that alternative methods of teaching and awareness-raising through an effective use of climate change poems and interactive blogs should uphold by teachers.

Creating awareness on issues related to climate change in Nigeria is another factor to promoting strategies of tackling climate change related to textile and clothing

industry in the country. This will create consciousness in the life of people how to take care of their environment. It is sad to note that public awareness related to climate change in the country is at low degree (BNRCC, 2011). Having access to specific weather information, early warning and forecast technologies can be of great importance to factory or industry managers to develop and readjust coping strategies for their production. This of course will help in reducing loss as a result of sudden climate change especially flooding.

Acquiring skills and knowledge is also useful to tackling climate change in our textile and clothing industries. Information and knowledge sharing must be made accessible to managers and workers as well as those who are interesting in operating in textile and clothing industry. Both industry managers and staff should have access to knowledge of what climate change is, how it can impact them and how they can adapt for the specific weather condition to be active and productive in handling the industrial activities. In addition, managers and staff should be equipped with specialised skills to enable individuals, communities and the country to address climate change risks and implement adaptation in general.

Federal Ministry of Environment (2014) document shows that preserving indigenous knowledge is highly paramount to combating climate change. There is a growing awareness of the importance of indigenous knowledge and its value for environmental management and sustainable development. Dimelu et al. (2014) emphasized that indigenous knowledge should be documented, in order to counter its gradual disappearance. Preserving indigenous knowledge in textile and clothing local industry is rested heavily on the role agriculturalists play in tackling the challenges of climate change. This helps in promoting locally made clothes in the country. To ensure comprehensive measures it is highly imperative to incorporate into agricultural education and extension curricula, into policy guidelines to address climate change issues (Dimelu et al., 2014; Nkechi et al., 2016). Achieving these strategies is a combine effort of all Nigerians. You and I have our role to play to minimize the effects of climate change on textile and clothing needs in the country.

Conclusion

The study on textile and clothing needs focuses on acquisition and development of practical skills. This provides self-reliance to individuals with enormous employment opportunities: dress making/clothing construction, designing, dry cleaning and laundering, tie-dying and batik, beauty care and hair dressing, fashion merchandising, pattern illustration among others. This study unveils the effects of climate change on textile and clothing needs as well as families. Climate change deals with the shift experienced in the climate or weather condition in the particular

geographical area. These changes result in temperature, storms, rainfall among others. The study establishes that climate change has negative effects on textile and clothing needs in the country. The effects of climate change on textile and clothing needs hamper the Nigerian economy; this leads to the suffering of the families and under development the country.

Recommendations

Textile and clothing needs are imperative to advancing industrial activities and improving the families in the country. Taking drastic measures to revive textile and clothing need is an indispensable tool for sustainable economic development in any country. Based on the above findings of the study, the researcher has made the following recommendations:

1. Education for sustainability should be introduced in the Nigerian educational sector right from primary to post-secondary school.
2. Government, non-governmental organizations and the economically buoyant persons in the country should take decisive steps to encourage textile and clothing needs to boost socio-economic development in Nigeria.
3. Government should give loan to farmers to help in cultivation of cotton in order to resolve the problem of textile and clothing needs in the country.
4. Government should ban importation of textiles to the country. This will ultimately drive many young graduates into the sector.
5. Government should provide adequate infrastructural facilities that will make the sector to wax stronger and compete globally.

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