

## **CLOTHING AND TEXTILE SKILLS: A STRATEGY FOR OPTIMIZING HUMAN CAPITAL DEVELOPMENT FOR SUSTAINABLE FAMILY LIVING AMID SOCIO-ECONOMIC CHALLENGES IN YOBE STATE**

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**ABSTRACT:** *This study researched on Clothing and Textile Skills: A Strategy for Optimizing Human Capital Development for Sustainable Family Living amid Socio-Economic Challenges in Yobe State. Survey design method was adopted. Four research questions guided the study. Population of the study was drawn from all the families in Yobe State. Simple random sampling was used to select a sample of 200 families, comprising of Home Economics/Scientist, lecturers, teachers and students. Structured questionnaire was used to elicit data from the respondents. Data collected were analyzed using mean and standard deviation. The findings of the study revealed that, if Clothing and Textile skills were optimized, it will boost human capital development in entrepreneurship skill acquisition, business venturing, innovation and creativity amongst others. This can sustain and stabilize families financially amid socio-economic challenges facing Nigeria presently. Based on the findings, recommendations were made.*

**KEYWORDS:** clothing and textile skills, strategies, optimizing, human capital development, sustainable family living, socio-economic challenges.

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### **INTRODUCTION**

The family is a group of people who are closely related by both, marriage or adoption such as mother, father and their children (walter, 2016). These members of the family occupies a particular home and is manage by the father and mother. It is the basic social group united through bond of kinship or marriage, present, in all societies. It is the smallest unit of the larger society because community and nations springs out of it. The family provides some basic primary functions to its members such as protection, companionship, socialization and security such as financial security.

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The structure and needs / functions of the family may vary from society to society (Simpson, 2008). The financial security provided by the family to its members and the society at large originally befalls on the fathers (Men). In recent decades, women have joined the workforce in record numbers putting increase pressure on any adult in the family to contribute to provision of economic resources for the family.

Clothing and Textile education teaches the acquisition of specific skills for self-employment or career skills in clothing related instruction for example clothing and textile construction, maintenance and care, Knitting, crocheting, darning, dressmaking, laundry as well as working in the clothing and textile industries. Clothing and Textile education creates a great impact on human resource development, productivity and economic growth Van Ark (1992). Subsequently, sustainable family living can be achieved through the proceeds of clothing and textile educational skills acquisition, with career opportunities such as teaching, textile design, fashion design, clothing construction, apparel merchandizing, establishment of clothing stores, weaving and knitting centers, laundering and renovation services, tailoring, clothing production and costume, interior design and decoration etc.

Skill is the ability to do something expertly and well. It is an organized sequence of actions proficiencies executed and usually displaying a flexible but, systematic temporally patterning Okorie (2000). According to Njoku (2002), to possess skill is to demonstrate the habit of acting , thing and behaving in a specific activity in an individual through repetition or practice . Skill development is very important in harnessing ones level of acquisition in a particular task or group of task Ojo and Adedokun, (2010). A skill can be defined as an act or task such as clothing construction, typing or drawing, or in the instance of technical, cooking, welding, capentry. A skilled person must be able to perform a predetermined task or goal. Such as getting the cloth sewn correctly with its seam and stitches neatly done.Skill acquisition refers to the process that student use to learn or acquire a new skill through motor learning.

Strategy according to Walter (2016) is a detailed plan or skill for achieving success in situations such as war, politics business, industry and sports. However, the family needs to devise workable strategies for sustaining its finances through skill acquired vocation such as Clothing and Textile. To achieve this, focus must be shifted to family participation and involvement into sustainable capacity building on business ventures that will sustain the family financially and ensure its stability. Molokwu (2007) opined that the knowledge and skills from clothing and textiles can be adopted in the home, formal or non-formal setting, as a self-reliance or employer of labour.

### **Strategies for Improving Skills Acquisition in Clothing Construction in Tertiary institutions of Yobe State**

For families to achieve any change in its socio economic challenges, they must find ways of optimizing its human capacity development through clothing and textile skill acquisition approach of vocational educational system particularly Home Economics education, through:

i. Funding: proper funding of clothing and textile skill education is an important tool, since clothing and textile skill passes knowledge and skills from the grass root of home and the family.

Focus in funding must be shifted to family development in sustaining capacity building which can be attained through clothing and textile education,

ii. Hence the national Policy on Education places much emphasis on inculcating the National consciousness, Unity and diversity on the acquisition of appropriate knowledge, ability skills, competence and self-reliance. Clothing and textile is a tool in that direction,

iii. Personnel - Trained and qualified personnel full fledged clothing and textile technologists should be always considered in positions to explore their domains,

iv. Proper facilities and technical knowledge of each will facilitate better understanding and motivation in skill development,

v. Placement of student to be trained, re-addressing their capabilities and area of specialization, will make training successful and useful.

Incorporating relevant subjects that emphasize work practical skills like present weaving knittingcrocheting education and more entrepreneurial courses in the field of home economics, like Event decoration, leathers making and beads making and tie and dye thus practical oriented courses has to be more emphasized rather than the theoretical knowledge to create jobs.

Agwasim (2000), states that with developments in technology and increased demand for improved standard of living people have started to experience home and health problems attendant upon technological sophistication. Home economics education is important especially when one considers the role expectation required of home economics as the society grows and becomes more complex; as the youths become more and more jobless and addicted to drugs and crimes, people with ingenuity, intelligence and alertness will find a challenge in home economics education as the way of sustaining the economy of a nation. However, improving skills in clothing textile education in tertiary level is through helping student to gain such level of occupational proficiency that they enter easily and quickly into productive, rewarding and interesting careers through work experiences programmes which allows for learning first-hand about the work while still in school which was referred to Student Industrial Work Experienced Scheme (SIWES) in Vocational Home Economics Education. According to Gray and Herr (1998),

### **Contributions of Acquired Skill in Clothing Construction to Human Capacity Building, Family Sustenance, Social and Economic Development**

Clothing and textile skill development in Home economics education contribute effectively to optimal capacity building for family sustenance and national development through proper utilization, processing and weaving techniques, adequate knowledge and application of design principles and techniques of clothing construction.

Acquired skills for human capacity development through creativity and innovation in clothing construction as a practical oriented field will handle skills effectively in both methods and motivations which will encourage interest and curiosity towards skill development. Clothing and textiles skills acquired can be helpful tools in facing social and economic challenges through exploring the social growth crucial to the acquisition of skills in clothing construction will enable the exploration of the socialization pattern to become easier to manipulate different skills towards entrepreneurial development.

Clothing and textile improves access to modern facilities of clothing construction and enhance skills for human capacity development, for sustenance of the family living. Functioning of equipment and gadgets if properly and sufficiently replaced and well maintained will produce technical knowledge in skill acquisition for social and economic development. Acquired clothing and textile skills strategy equips individual in the family with the techniques and abilities essential for both group and independent living. Acquisition of clothing construction skills will promote quality of life of the family and the community and exposes people to areas of skills in clothing, textile, laundry and dry cleaning, interior and event decoration, material and childcare, consumer education and home management.

Clothing and textile skills acquisition is a possible strategy for human capacity development for family sustenance and social and economic development as its impact can be felt in the sphere of modern day manufacturing industries in many ways uses, more especially in the field of textile and clothing in their manufacturing processes and new product designs.

Human capital is the stock of competences, knowledge and personality attributes embodied in the ability to perform (labour) so as to produce economic value. It is the attributes gained by an individual through education and experience. Human capital is a means of production, into which additional investment yields additional labour. Human capital is human resources including knowledge, skills, attitudes and motivation belonging to an enterprise or society and engaged in the development of that enterprise or society to fulfill its objectives and to enhance the quality of life of its members. It is human capacity and productivity engendered through knowledge and skills acquired from education, training and experience; and facilitated by an enabling environment. Human capital can also be defined as that intangible factor of the production process that contributes human intellect, skills and competencies in the production and provision of goods and services. Anything that contributes to the improvement of human productivity, stimulate resourcefulness and enhance life while refining attitudes, is an integral part of human capital of any nations (Akingbade, n.d).

Human capital development means building an appropriate balance and critical mass of human resource base and providing enabling environment for all individuals to be fully engaged and contribute to national development efforts. It involves providing opportunities to all citizens to develop to their fullest potentials through education, training and motivation as well as creating the enabling environment for everyone to participate fully in National development. Any effort to increase human knowledge, enhance skills and productivity and stimulate resourcefulness of citizens is an effort in human capital development. Human capital development also refers to human capital formations or Human-Resource development. Human capital development according to Jhingan (2007: P 387) "is the process of acquiring and increasing the number of persons who have the skills, education and experience which are critical for economic and political development of a country". Human capital development is associated with investment in man and his development as a creative and productive resource. Schultz as cited in Jhingan (2007) noted that in wider sense, investment in human capital means expenditure on health education and social services in general; and in its narrowed sense, it implies expenditure on education and training.

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Human capital development corresponds to the development of any stock of knowledge or characteristics the worker has (either innate or acquired) that contributes to his or her productivity. For any organisation to function efficiently and effectively, it requires human intervention in one form or the other either as managers or as operators. Human capital or human resources refer to employees or owners of businesses in profit making organisations. In non-profit making organisations, they can be viewed purely as employees at all the various levels. When these employees are considered as human capital, it connotes that the social and economic development rest ultimately upon the development of people and the effective commitment of their energies and talents (Sankay, Ismail & Shaari, 2010). Harbinson (1973) aptly summarized the importance of human capital to economic and development by stating that human resources constitute the ultimate basis for the wealth of nations. Capital and natural resources are passive factors of production whereas, human beings are the active agents who accumulate capital, exploit natural resources, build social, economic, and political organizations, and carry forward national development.

This then implies that a country which is unable to develop the skills and knowledge of its people and utilize them effectively in the national economy, will be unable to develop other resources. Sustainable according to Encarta Dictionary is being able to be maintained, to continue over a period of time. From the point of view of this research, sustainable financial stability is viewed as the ability to maintain a family financially amid social economic challenges facing the country presently amid this corona economic pandemic. Family financial stability is the condition of having a stable family finance over a period of time.

Socio economic challenges is a problematic economic trying period when the economy of a country is not successful and condition for business are bad (Walter 2008 in Shaffer. 2016). During socio-economic challenges, family financial stability is often challenging to maintain, therefore human capital development for sustainable family living ranges from inaction of cutting down some money consuming practices that are not necessary to action of taking practical steps of learning money business inflow ventures and skills that that will ensure family financial stability. Clothing and Textile Vocation can furnish the Family and the nation as a whole with human capital development for financial stability. This is crucial because the stability of the family to a great extent depend on the financial resources of the family and its continuous and steady flow. Innovation is a major factor in the scope of clothing and textile vocation and is first and foremost important for the clothing vocation with its complex economic, cultural and aesthetic dimension. Clothing and textile entrepreneurs innovate inside these dimensions with creativity and constant change. Clothing and textile vocation such as fashion designers need to be creative. , goal oriented if they want to be sustainable.

Income and family finance are in extricable linked: Nwogwugwu (2011) states that global financial crises brought about prices of commodities such as oil, as well as reduction in financial flows to the country through foreign direct investment, remittances trade finance and aid.

Recession has been noted to cause hardship to families and citizens in every world over. The increased interconnected of the global economy means that financial crises pose great changes to families. Economic recession has disrupted the lives of individual and families in Nigeria because it has led to both decrease in revenue and increase revenue automatically lead to increase welfare spending by individual, families and government.

### **Statement of the problem**

It has been observed that most clothing and textile vocation are not sustained for decades of period and do not have a stable source of finance. This has been marred by a social and psychological receding economy making it too difficult and challenging for family heads (parents and caregivers) to financially sustain and stabilize their families. So many parents in Yobe State find it difficult to provide just the basic needs of their children. This has been characterized by the early morning cry and knocks at different gates by children begging for food and every needs deemed. It has also become incessant occurrence for students of FUGA to drop a semester of academic session to go work and generate fund for their school fees. In a period of recession, clothing becomes the third priority after food and shelter. Therefore, recession and its effect on family finances, both flow and manage if not checkmated by families through better vocation such as clothing and Textile skills acquisition and vocation and management strategies is capable of destroying the stability of the family as well as the peace and tranquility in the Nation as a whole.

### **Purpose of the Study**

The main objective of the study is to contribute to the research of clothing and textile and to support and identify clothing and textile skills as a; a strategy for optimizing human capital development for sustainable family living amid socio-economic challenges in Nigeria. The specific objectives are:

- The role of clothing and textile skills towards optimizing human capital development to national development
- Human capital development skills acquisition and service available in clothing and textile for sustainable family living amid socio-economic
- Business venturing programs in clothing and textile for optimizing human capital development and sustainable family living amid socio-economic challenges in Yobe state.

**Research Questions:** The following research questioned were formulated to guide the study

- What are the roles of clothing and textile skills towards optimizing human capital development to national development?
- What are the human capital development skills acquisition and service available in clothing and textile for sustainable family living amid socio-economic?
- What are the available business venturing programs in clothing and textile for optimizing human capital development and sustainable family living amid socio-economic challenges in Yobe state?

### **Significant of the study**

Human capital development is very important for sustainable family living more especially during socio-economic challenges like the one currently faced due to corona pandemic. Clothing

and textile skills ,its acquisition and business venturing will be critical to parents, youths, adult family members, leaders, government and the entire society. The findings will: Bring to limelight the possible roles of clothing and textile skillswhen learnt as a vocation as it will proffer solutions towards optimizing human capital development to state and national development.Parents, youth’s teachers will learn the types and importance of clothing and textile skill acquisition, business venturing and management amongst others to optimizing human capital development and sustainable family living amid socio-economic challenges in Yobe state?

### **Delimitation of the Study**

The study is delimited to the response of individual family members and the opinion of the family leaders and the youths from various local government area of Yobe state.

### **Research Design and Methodology**

Descriptive survey research design was used for this study. This method was adopted as it was best suited for collecting data from both large and small population located at different places of the study area (Osuala 2001). The population for the study comprises of all family members that are 18 years and above both working class and present business owners. Also members from nuclear and polygamous and extended family were included.

**Sampling Size and Procedure:** A total of 200 family members, heads, managers and financial resources contributions up to 18 years and above of age were sampled and selected for the study through purposive sampling in line with sampling size stipulated by Odagboyi Jonathan and Mallam (2009). Who stated that purposive sampling involves selecting individuals known to meet contain criteria. This sampling technique allows the researcher to pick-pick the sample for the study because they satisfied the researcher’s needs.

### **Instrument for Data Collection**

The instrument for data collection is the researchers made structured questionnaire. Fifteen items questions arranged in three clusters of the five research questions. The questionnaire is developed on a four point likert scale rating of strongly disagree to agreed items. The questionnaires were designed from the review of related literature. The instrument was face validated by two lecturers in Home Science and Management department of Federal University Gashua, Yobe State.

### **Procedure for Data Collection**

The instrument was administered to the respondents through contact by the researchers. This was to ensure a high return rate of the questionnaires.

### Procedure for Data Analysis

The data collected were sorted, tabulated and subjected to the statistical methods of mean and standard deviation. Where the mean rating is equal or greater than 2:5, such an item is regarded as agreed.

## RESULT

**Table 1:** Mean and standard deviation of opinion on the role/ contributions of clothing and textile skills towards optimizing human capital development and sustainable family living amid socio-economic challenges in Yobe State.

S/N	VARIABLES	N	SA	A	D	SD	X	SD	DECISION
1.	Provides employment for optimizing human Capital development and sustainable family living amid socio-economic challenges	120	112	5	3	3.91	0.37	Agreed	
2.	Clothing and textile skill provide social and psychological satisfaction	120	99	19	1	3.80	0.48	Agreed	
3.	Sharpens creativity and innovation	120	89	24	5	3.67	0.64	Agreed	
4.	Furnish skill acquisition for entrepreneurship	120	66	38	9	3.36	0.85	Agreed	
5.	Provide economic/financial sustenance of family amid socio-economic challenge	120	113	2	5	3.93	0.87	Agreed	

Table 1 above shows that respondents agreed that clothing construction plays a veritable strategy / role for family and national development or financial stability through its various tools such as skill acquisition, entrepreneurship innovation and creativity and business vetting. These agreement are indicated in the mean response of 3.9, 3.80, 3.67, 3.36, and 3.93 respectively in items number 1 - 5

**Table 2:** Mean and Standard deviation of responses of opinion on the human capital development skills acquisition and service available in clothing and textile for sustainable family living amid socio-economic challenges in yobe state.



S/N	VARIABLES	SA	A	D	SD	X	SD	DECISION	
6.	Clothing construction skill is a strategy For human capital development and Family Sustenance amid socio-economic challenges	120	119	1	0	0	3.39	0.00	Accepted
7.	Laundry and dry-cleaning skill is a human capital development skills that can sustain families amid socio-economic challenges	120	101	11	4	4	3.74	0.68	Agreed
8.	Knitting/Crocheting construction skill is a strategy for human capital development for family sustainability amid socio-economic challenges	120	91	22	4	3	3.68	0.66	Agreed
9.	Pattern drafting skill is a strategy for optimizing human capital development for family sustenance amid socio-economic challenges	120	45	69	4	2	3.31	0.02	Agreed
10.	Tie and dye/Batik/Printing skills is a strategy for optimizing human capital development for family sustenance amid socio-economic challenges	120	103	12	3	2	3.30	0.56	Agreed

Table 2 above shows that developing and utilizing the skill of clothing and textile such as construction, knitting and crocheting, laundry and dry-cleaning, tie and dye, pattern drafting, textile material sales and merchandizing, are all strategies for human capital development for family sustenance amid socio-economic challenges in Yobe state. This is observed in the mean agreement response of 3.39, 3.74, 3.68, 3.31, 3.30, respectively in items numbers 6 - 11

**Table: 3** Mean and Standard deviation of responses of opinion on the professional/business venturing programs in clothing and textile for optimizing human capital development and family sustenance amid socio-economic challenges in Yobe state.

S/N	VARIABLES	N	SA	A	D	SD	X	SD	DECISION
	11.Skill acquired from clothing and textile education can be used to teach in primary, secondary, tertiary or vocational institutions	120	105	13	2	0	3.85	0.39	Agreed
	12.Laundry and dry-cleaning services can optimizing human capital development and sustain family socio-economically	120	101	11	5	3	3.75	0.65	Agreed
	13.Interior/Event decoration are professional/business venturing programs in clothing and textile for optimizing human capital development	120	106	11	2	1	3.99	0.46	Agreed
	14.Sales of clothing and textile material And machineries is a business venturing programs in clothing and textile for optimizing human capital development	120	93	22	3	2	3.84	0.59	Agreed
	15.Tailoring professional/business venturing programs in clothing and textile	120	109	12	3	1	3.75	0.52	Agreed

Table 3 shows that entrepreneurship and business venturing in clothing and textile responses of opinion on the professional/business venturing programs in clothing and textile for optimizing human capital development and sustainable family living amid socio-economic challenges in Yobe state. These are indicated in item numbering 11 – 15 with a mean response of 3.85, 3.75, 3.99, 3.84 and 3.75 respectively indicating agreement.

The result from Table 4 indicated that all the respondents in item numbers 15 – 20 agreed that clothing and textile skills contribute to optimizing human capital development and sustainable family living amid socio-economic challenges in Yobe State. They also agreed that clothing and textile skills provides employment, social and psychological satisfaction, sharpens creativity and innovation and empowers economically and financially.

## CONCLUSION

Base on the findings of the study, the researcher concludes that:

- Clothing and Textile skills are strategies for optimizing human capital development for family sustenance amid socio economic challenges in Yobe State

- Clothing and textile education, skill and experience are critical strategy for social and economic development in Yobe state and Nigeria as a country.
- Human capital developments in Yobe state, Nigeria are faced with enormous challenges. These challenges include: inadequate funding; lack of equipment facilities and material, lack of awareness, lack of implementation of research results, low rating in human capital indices, Brain-drain, etc. To be able to meet these challenges there is the need for a drastic and far skill reform in education policies and programmes of Yobe state, Nigeria.
- Skill acquisition in Clothing and Textile if practiced is also an important strategy to family sustainability during economic challenges like such caused by corona pandemic.
- Entrepreneurship and business venturing into clothing and textile material and machineries is also a sustainable strategy amid social and economic challenges
- Investment in clothing and textile skill education brings a positive response in human capital development enabling family social and economic sustenance.
- Clothing and textile skills sharpen innovative and creative abilities in human capital development.

### **Recommendations**

The study therefore recommends that:

1. Government at all levels should provide grant for youths in institutions of higher learning where clothing and textile skill education and training is carried out every year.
2. There is need for adequate provision of special equipment, facilities and materials needed for meaningful clothing and textile skill acquisition.
3. Clothing construction equipment's for practical in the laboratory should be provided.
4. There is need for extensive programme and staff training on skills acquisition. This can be done through frequent seminars, conferences and workshops.
5. There is need for effective public awareness on the benefit and contributions of clothing and textile skill acquisition to optimal human capital national development.
6. There is need for legislation to back up policies on skill development and efforts. Government should go beyond policy statements and come out with effective document that can promote implementations of innovative skill products developments.
7. There should be drastic and far reaching reforms in educational policies and programmes of the country to meet the human capital development need of the 21<sup>st</sup> century and beyond.
8. Government should put in place and faithfully implement policies and programmes to ensure that school curricula at all levels are functional, relevant, and are matched to the resources and needs of the nations.
9. Government should create employment opportunities for our teaming graduates. A conducive environment should also be created by government for the products of our educational system to be engaged meaningfully.
10. Families should learn Clothing and Textile skills as a source of human capital empowerment strategy and acquire relevant, current and vogue skills in clothing and textile construction, production and consumption.

11. Start up a Clothing and Textile venture business as a source of sustaining and stabilizing family finance and be creative and innovative in their vocation so as to have the lead role and always stay ahead of their counterparts.
12. Finally, there should be adequate financial provision, particularly by all arms of government for clothing and textile skill training. Government should support family members with loan for starting clothing and textile venture where necessary. These recommendations, if applied, will go a long way towards achieving optimal human capital development that can sustain families during these present global social and economic challenges.

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