

EVALUATION OF INDIGENOUS FABRIC PRINTS FOR URBAN HOME DESIGN IN SOUTHWEST STATES OF NIGERIA

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ABSTRACT

The study analysed indigenous fabric prints for livable urban home design. Specifically, it assessed the performances of indigenous fabric prints, analysed the psychosocial value of these prints, and investigated the socio-technical values of the fabric. The study was conducted in the southwest states of Nigeria and four states (Lagos, Ondo, Oyo, and Ogun) were randomly selected from the region. Ten percent of Local Government areas in each selected state, and three urban communities in each sampled Local Government Area were purposely selected. A snowball sampling procedure was employed to select 1,147 indigenous fabric print consumers for the study. Structured and pre-tested interview schedule, questionnaire, key informants and focus group discussions guides were employed in collecting data. While descriptive statistics were used to describe the data, correlation analysis was applied to establish the direction of the relationship between livable home design and the variables of indigenous fabric prints. The study established that, aesthetic values of indigenous fabric prints changed with use in home design, but the comfort and safety capacity of the fabric in terms of absorbency and temperature, among others, do not change. Indigenous fabric prints were affordable but needed high-maintenance ethics relative to foreign fabrics. Correlation analysis confirmed a significant relationship between livable urban home design and indigenous fabric prints, selected variables such as: Psychosocial characteristics [comfortability value ($r=0.613$); performance value [hygroscopic ability ($r=0.644$)]; and socio-technical variables [compatibility ($r=0.621$), visibility ($r=0.682$), and communication capacity ($r=0.694$)]. Major identified limitations in the functionality of indigenous fabric prints for urban livable home design were rooted in the fabric's low resistance to wrinkles; ease of odour generation and short aesthetics lifecycle of diminished surface-appearance via rapid desizing, and weakened under sun and heat. It is therefore suggested that research work should be intensified towards preserving the aesthetic values of indigenous fabric prints for use. Besides, indigenous fabric prints producers need training on special fabric finishing's mostly wrinkles and desizing resistance, colourfastness, and bacteriostatics. Consumers need training on techniques for handling indigenous fabric health care. This could be achieved in workshops, seminars, and by creating awareness through mass media by extension agencies and other related textile organisations.

Keywords: *Indigenous, fabric prints, livable, urban, home design.*

INTRODUCTION

A livable home implies a satisfied environment engineered by a noble private order of life. According to Pleace and Bretherton (2013), described home as a key bedrock for psychosocial well-being that nourishes an individual's sense of peace. Generically, the human public order of life as relates to behaviour, performances and achievements anchors on an acquired sense of peace (SOP). Spence (2020) showed that a home is neither livable nor sustainable until it provides the necessary comfort and relief from the outside strain, as well as privacy that cannot be gained or sought outside the home. Vartanian et al. (2015) identified home design as an essential factor in the enrichment of human private order of life, where home planning, furnishing, landscaping, and maintenance represent key phenomena. According to Easthope et

al (2020), home design represents a social act that brings transition between a shelter and a home. UNDESA (2018) described home design as wangle around spaces of relaxation, sleeping, cooking, eating, studying, and entertaining, among others. In accordance with Aubry, Nelson, and Tsemberis (2015), a liable home must nurture and give value to education, economic, protection, privacy, religion, socialisation, affection, and status giving, among others. The above-mentioned are indicators of home livability and require particular devices that must be harmonised into coherent and pleasing schemes (Bell and Walsh, 2015). Examples of such devices include furniture that encompasses curtains and dividers, tables and chairs, beds and beddings, cabinets, and rugs, among others (Figure 1).

The foundation of most furniture was in woods, iron

or stone, but then, texture represents a foremost complementary factor in furniture's accoutrements. Arsell (2012) illustrates that texture is enhanced mainly with the use of textiles in furniture.

Mazharul (2021) highlights that textiles provide several utilitarian purposes and humanise the home more than any other object, which is rooted in their responsiveness to human needs. Examples of utilitarian functions of textiles include providing privacy without solid walls, controlling and modulating light coming through windows, insulating men and houses against heat and cold, as well as acoustic control. Further, textiles enhance attraction, protection, and represent a prime source of beauty (Angie, 2023). The most outstanding characteristic of textiles in housing is that it links

together furniture and architecture as no other material does and has the highest quantitative application values in a home. So, it not only serves as a connecting link but also a dominant factor that complements housing functionality.

The emergence of ore boom in the mid 70 influenced Nigeria's economic growth with a positive standard of living, which resulted in heightened consumer satisfaction with imported products (Ajila and Farinde, 2023). After which, the serviceability of locally produced textiles and goods was perpetually adjudged low by the citizens NUTGTWN (2017), mainly the indigenous fabric products such as adire, batik, aso-oke, kente, leather and others (Figure 2).



Fig. 1: A home design



Fig. 2: (a) Adire, (b) Batik, (c) Aso-oke, (d) Kente and (e) Leather

However, the external forces of explosion in the global technology of the 20th century spawned several innovations in the textile industries. The explosion enables inter-cultural linkages of creative ideas, innovative skills and inputs that enabled locally made products to compete with goods from the developed world. Technological growth in the textile industry during this period attracted a relatively significant but less than expected upturn in the adoption of locally made textile goods among Nigerians, in which indigenous fabric prints almost went into extinction. Ope (2023) identified that the low adoption of locally made Nigerian products further deepened a generational vacuum that erodes the nation's economy and cultural heritage.

Makinde et al. (2016) expressed that indigenous fabric (IF) was produced and used for house embellishment as well as wear of different kinds in Nigeria. No other continent in the world has ever transcended Africa in IF artistry work, and has become an identity heritage of the southwestern region of Nigeria (see: Ogunjobi, 2007; Southwestern States Council for Arts and Culture, 2009; Adeniran, 2023). People in the region produce indigenous fabric for economic, sociological, educational and aesthetic needs and the socio-cultural importance of IF in the region was displayed in the people's dress and home wear (Makinde et al, 2016).

The recent high rate of unemployment in Nigeria further strengthened poverty when the country's development indicators became issues of international embarrassment (Bruno, 2013; Olla, 2021). For instance, poverty in Nigeria in the mid-2000s stands at over 70 % as a contradiction to the nation's rich material, cultural and human resources, and the occurrence has increased steadily to date (FMWASD, 2007; Earnest, 2024).

The current cashless policy and removal of petroleum subsidy, hinged on a high currency exchange rate in Nigeria, have further emboldened low flow and scarcity of capital currency. These phenomena ushered the nation into another phase of economic austerity, whereby foreign goods, including industrially manufactured textile products, became unaffordable.

The facts still remain that a livable home represents a vital necessity in human life. With the improved level of civilisation and globalisation, Nigerians, mostly the metropolitans, have become more conscious and concerned with home furnishing for prestige boosting and decent livelihood. Whether the type desired or not, a certain degree of home

furnishing is a necessity, and such a situation then calls for an in-depth study on meeting fabric needs in housing. The study focused mainly on the functionality of indigenous fabric prints (tie and dye, batik, and others) in urban home furnishing. It exclusively examined performances of indigenous fabric prints, analysed the psychosocial value of IFP and assessed the socio-technical values of IFP influencing livable home design.

METHODOLOGY

Study area

Nigeria is divided into six geopolitical zones designated as political administration blocks. Thus, the study was conducted in the south-west political region (Figure 2).



Fig. 3: Map of Nigeria indicating the six geopolitical regions.

Source: Adapted from <http://www.nigeriagallery.com/Nigeria-States>

The area originally comprises six states. Major economic activities in the region are agriculture and handicrafts. People in the region are highly proficient in farming, trading, textile arts and craft work.

Sample selection and research instrument

A simple random sampling technique was employed in selecting four states and these are Lagos, Ogun, Ondo, and Oyo from the south-western geo-political region.

Ten percent of the Local Government Areas (LGAs) in each selected state, and three urban communities in each sampled LGAs were purposely selected.

Data were obtained in July 2023 – January 2024.

Snowball sampling procedure was used in selecting 1,157 IFP consumers and interviewed across the region for the study, and 1,140 respondents who adequately responded to the questions were analysed for the study. Structured and pre-tested interview schedule, questionnaire, personal observation, key informants and 74 Focus Group Discussions (FGDs) sessions were employed in collecting quantitative and qualitative data from the respondents. While 39 sessions of the FGDs were held at community town halls, 21 were held at the community leader's squares and 14 at the LGAs head offices. A test-retest method was used to test the instruments for reliability within the interval of twelve weeks. While descriptive statistics were used to summarise and describe the data, correlation analysis was applied to establish the direction of the relationship between indigenous fabric prints and efficient and livable home furnishing

Measurement of variables

Operationalised variables for this study were dependent (livable home design) and independent variables (indigenous fabric prints). The dependent variable (Y) was measured by home serviceability as related to experienced socio-economic values, protection and privacy capacity, religious and socialisation potency, affection and status given ability, among others.

The total score for each respondent was calculated as a livability index. Using the average score and standard deviation value, the scores were then categorised into 'highly livable', 'moderately livable' and 'not livable'. The independent variables(X) were measured by indigenous fabric' print performances, psychosocial values, and socio-technical related variables.

For example, socio- socio-technical related variables include the IFP compatibility, relative advantages, communication capacity and, visibility (affordability, availability, and accessibility) among others. Respondents were requested to respond to 15 indicators as relates with IFP compatibility on a 3-point Likert scale of agreed (A= 3); undecided (U=2), and disagreed (D=1). A compatibility index was the summation of all the scores on the fifteen statements. The individual maximum score was 45, and the minimum was 15. Also, each respondent's positive response to the visibility of IFP was assigned (2) points and a negative response was scored (1) point.

The expected mean value and standard deviation of accessibility were determined. Responses were also categorised into three levels of visibility, based on the expected visibility mean score and standard

deviation. IFP performance, such as hygroscopic, bacteriostatic, flammability and other indicators, was measured.

Data analysis

Descriptive statistics such as frequency, percentages, mean and standard deviation were used to summarise the data. Correlation analysis was applied in monitoring the efficiency of IFP in livable urban home furnishing.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

Consumers' personal and socio-economic characteristics

In-depth analysis recognised 69.6 % of IFP consumers in urban areas of the southwest states of Nigeria as above 60 years old, while 16.3 % were within the age limit of 37- 60 years of age, 13.1 % were less than 37 years, with a male-to-female ratio of 4:1. Ninety seven percent were married, with an average household size of 5+1. Fifty-eight percent were indigenes of the studied area, and while 81.4 % had lived in the region more than 40 years, 82.9 % were pragmatic about the community's cultural traditions. Analysis documented IFP consumers in the area as educated with higher external exposure, of which 49.0 % possessed a tertiary education certificate, 41.2 % were secondary school certificate holders, and 9.8 % were secondary school dropouts. All (100%) were active members of social groups, and just as 32.4 % were Traditionalists, 29.0 % were Free thinkers, 18.2 % were Christians, and 21.4 % practices Muslims.

About 33.0 % of the consumers are civil servants, 36.6 % majored in politics and 30.2 % were engaged in trading. Seventy five percent transcend the poverty line of \$1.00/day. This was revealed in the consumers' average income per month (N88, 163+ N21, 295); type of building and environment; accessible infrastructure and social amenities possessed. The consumers reside in a modern building, with 61.0 % who dwell in a block of flats, 23.6 % inhabit a bungalow, and 15.4 % reside in a room and parlour style of building.

Consumers' disposition to indigenous fabric prints revealed that 89.2 % displayed a favourable attitude, and 10.8 % exhibited an unfavourable attitude but were compelled to use the fabrics by acquired social status and orientation. The above is in tandem with Makinde et al (2009). Just as 32.3 % had training on IFP, 67.7 % did not but acquired knowledge on the fabric care handling through customary orientation of physio-social proof. Fifty six percent displayed low knowledge on fibre identification and 44.0 % was average.

Study established that IFP consumers in the south-west urban area of Nigeria possessed good knowledge of home livability. While 19.7 % had formal training in home furnishing, 80.3 % acquired informal training from parents and custodians. All (100%) the consumers agreed that a livable home must provide relief from stress and strain, ninety six percent agreed it must cheer up and calm pain and loss, including reassure self-esteem and assertiveness. They also agreed that a neat, supple and quiet environment augments quality sleep, peace and coherence of mind. The consumers strongly agreed that a livable home must elevate individual personality and status; 98.2 % strongly agreed that it must be appropriate and support every activity carried out in a home. The consumers strongly agreed that a livable home must assure privacy and rest. They further acknowledged that a home must encourage an individual sense of belongingness, self-fulfilment, friendliness and care. Ninety seven percent of the consumers further agreed that a livable home must be a channel of expression of love and protection, and ninety nine % strongly agreed that it must be educative, support individual socialisation and self-aware. Eighty seven percent strongly agreed that a livable home must represent a basic religious development centre and 13.0 % were indifferent. The consumers strongly agreed that a home must support individual economic activities.

Socio-technical characteristics: Selected indicators studied under this factor include *Compatibility and visibility*

In accordance with Ajayi (2019), IFP was highly compatible with the study environment as rated by 89.5 % of the consumers, and 10.5 % had an average rating. Compatibility was reviewed as relates to religion, persona and society beliefs, socio-cultural dignity and modesty, as well as community physical and economic structures. About 90.0 % strongly recognised that IFP was compatible with the existing home furnishing system, culture (98.7%), weather (97.1%), personality (92.5%), and style of living (81.5%). The consumers were not allergic to IFP because it was compatible with their health status. The consumers further agreed that IFP was in accordance with the society's current home furnishing trends, where 88.3 % confirmed the fabrics' fit into the community home psychological growth device. While 78.5 % agreed that it is compatible with home stress-relieving mechanisms, 92.0 % agreed that the fabric appearance was appropriate for its end uses.

Visibility was viewed through IFP accessibility, availability and affordability. Just as 76.0 % agreed that IFP was affordable and cheap relative to used, 29.0 % disagreed. In support of Olutayo et al (2011), IFP were made available in assorted qualities which affect the cost of purchase, performance and maintenance. Ninety two percent of the consumers agreed that the fabrics were available, and described the desired motifs and quality as moderately available where and when needed. IFP producers were available at a bearable distance in the study area. Investigation revealed that there were intense plagiarisms of the fabrics, mostly by foreign industries such as China. Plagiarised IFP was specified as industrial mass production and could be identified by hand, texture, appearance, and performance.

There were established formal and standard training centres on IFP in the area, where about 39.0 % have attended and 71.0 % could not. Whilst 59.3 % of the respondents have had the opportunity to participate in IFP training programs of certain community-based developmental agencies, 94.6 % were able to listen to or watch IFP training programs through radio, television and the internet.

Relative Advantage and Communication Capacity
The relative advantage (RA) of IFP over imported fabrics was high (100%). This was plinths on the fabric prestige boosting values, identity building capacity, and low cost-benefit returns values. No aspect of IFP lowers human morals and dignity in society. The consumers acknowledged IFP as a specific and clearer channel of communication, and this was judged by its ability to accommodate the desire motifs by consumers, which passively express the ideology or feeling of the users. This finding is in tandem with Ayesu (2023).

In-depth assessment of the usefulness of IFP in home design was rated highly by the consumers. The assessment was based on the array of the fabrics texture, motif and colour from which consumers could make a choice. These fabrics had positively influenced individual consumers' lifestyle and clothing style. It was admitted that the application of IFP in home furnishing earned the respondent's identity in the society, and 71.3 % had received visitors, who came to observe the style of IFP application in housing. Sixty two percent testified that several people have adopted IFP for clothing and home design through them.

Complexity and divisibility
The complexity of IFP was examined through the fabric health care and maintenance ethics. In accordance with Wemegah et al. (2021), 84.1 % of

the respondents rated the maintenance needs of IFP as moderately complex, and 14.0 % rated it high. This was judged based on stress, time and technical skills involved in the fabric health care during cleaning, drying, smoothing and storage. All (100.0%) consumers agreed that inputs for IFP health care were available, and 83.0 % rated inputs as moderately affordable, with 17.0 % who rated them as fairly affordable. The level of fabric care required by the fabric was fairly high and complex compared to the foreign fabrics prints. It was revealed that the fabrics could be acquired in a moderate bit and, applied in modular style, at the same time, the fabrics were found capable of monumental application with a variety of motifs, and could also be incorporated into imported or home design luxury fashion.

Performance-related variables:

Indigenous fabric print performance was examined in order to ascertain its reaction to some conditions.

Colour fastness and surface retention: Consumers rated the indigenous fabric prints' capacity to retain their new look with use and care as average. The consumers claimed that the fabrics generally bleed and crock with use and care. It was acknowledged that the fabric fades by exposure to high intensity of sunlight, heat, and atmospheric substances. The above-identified were the root of weakness experienced in IFP with use.

It was agreed that the fabrics will not develop odour if appropriately cleaned, dried, and stored in a dry, ventilated area (98.6%). The finding was in tandem with Chudi-Duru (2017). Findings revealed that the fabrics were mostly attacked by acids rather than alkalis and oxidised rapidly under sunlight, where they undergo degradation with ease. It was acknowledged that the fabrics displayed less wrinkle and shrinkage resistance.

Bacteriostatics and flammability capacity: The majority (96.2%) of consumers identified IFP as exhibiting average resistance to mildew and insect attacks, plus high modulus, which affects the fabric storage and durability values. The fabrics get soiled with ease, but possess stained hidden strength due to colour shades. While soles and moistures aids bacteria's actions that produce smells and stains in the fabrics, it is less flammable with good acoustic absorbent value.

Hygroscopic and dimensional stability

Analysis revealed IFP evidence of high hygroscopic strength, so it has a good absorbency value. Ninety one percent agreed that the fabrics possessed an average heat conductivity capacity, as 88.5 % agreed they had a low heat sensitivity value. These

features determine safe smoothing temperatures of the fabrics. The fabrics exhibit good dimensional stability, which is associated with low elongation and resiliency ability of the fabrics.

Psycho-social variables:

Selected indicators viewed under this factor were as follows:

Lusterability, drape-ability and texture: Thorough examinations of IFP psycho-social variables presented 81.3 % of the consumers to have identified the fabrics as possessing a semi-dull lusterability value of cool effect, and 18.7 % indicated dull. According to the consumers (100%), the fabrics seldom retained their lustre with use, but they could be recovered with appropriate sizing and smoothing. It was specified that available sizing has short-term effects that often oxidized to produce odour in the fabric. The major available type and source of sizing materials was local. Generally, fabric lusterability is affected by yarn and fabric structure, including types of finishing.

In-depth analysis of the IFP drape was also conducted. All (100.0%) of the respondents indicate that the fabric was moderately heavy or average stiff draping form. Fibres influence drapeability to a degree, but yarns and fabrics' structure may be more important in determining fabric drapeability (Guoyu, 2019).

The texture of IFP, which describes the visual and tactile senses of the fabric surface, was studied. It was established by the respondents that IFP have a semi-smooth texture of cool hand which persists with use and age. The consumers acknowledged an improved, wider texture range in the contemporary IFP, which was linked with fibre properties as well as types of finishes (Nuhru, 2020).

Attractiveness, durability and acceptability: Consumers were satisfied with the psychosocial returns of IFP, and described the fabric as capable of satisfying individual soft furnishing needs, and a strong tool for identity building. The respondent indicates that IFP displayed high motif flexibility and manipulation. They highlight motifs and colour value as a principal factor during IFP selection. While 96.3 % further considered end-use, 91.4 % considered appearance appropriateness and texture, respectively. Again, 72.0 % prioritised cost, 62.5 % highlighted durability, 43.7 % considered availability of the desired type, and 21.4 % considered culture and climatic factors at selection. The consumers identified surface distortion as a major indicator for discontinuation and discarding of the fabrics. When the consumers recognised the IFP average age resistance strength as often

influenced by storage, the fabric has a high ease-of-renewal capacity through up-cycling and recycling. Further investigation shows 79.5 % of the consumers to have agreed that IFP was attractive for its end use.

Detailed analysis acknowledged the use of IFP in home design as highly acceptable by 83.5 % of the respondents and moderately acceptable by 15.5 %.

While 79.2 % signified that IFP was highly acceptable by members of their household, 20.8 % were indifferent. The acceptability assessment was based on the span of use and scope of the fabric application in home design. The fabric was described as applicable in every home unit, as presented in Table 1.

Table 1: Distribution of respondents according to use of IFP in home design (N=1,140)

Furnishing devices	Frequency	Age (%)
wall hang	844.0	74.0
prayer mat	600.0	52.6
sleeping mat	927.0	81.3
foot mat	250.0	21.9
seat/stool cover	635.0	55.7
bedding	1,140.0	100.0
Sand bag	959.0	84.1
floor cover/carpet	185.0	16.2
napkin	1,140.0	100.0
headrest	721.0	63.2
curtain	809.0	71.0
laundry bag	757.0	66.4
table mat	858.0	75.3
wall cover	371.0	32.5
table cover	1,140.0	100.0
footwear hanger	711.0	62.4
lampstand	294.0	25.8
cosmetic/toiletry bag	1,061.0	93.1
phone bags	610.0	53.5
launch bag	707.0	62.0
others	1,140.0	100.0

Source: Field survey, 2024

Oleophilic and comfort values

In-depth analysis revealed that IFP exhibits average oleophilic strength. While the studied consumers agreed that the fabrics have an average surface pilling tendency, it was further established that the fabrics exhibit fairly low resistance to sunlight, hence, an inability to withstand degradation from sunlight. This failure was rooted in dyestuffs and fibre contents. The study presented 89.3 % of the consumers to have rated IFP comfortability value as high, and 10.7 % rated it average. Respondents described the fabric as comfortable for its end use in terms of absorbency power, which was attached to the fabric’s thermal retention capacity. Visual and psychological coolness offered by IFP was the key important comfort value, which does not change with use and care, but the visual comfort changed.

Livable urban home design

Sociological review of levels of livable home design achieved by the consumers through the use of IFP was investigated, and results established the

home design as highly livable, where 89.3 % rated the level of home design livability as high and 10.7 % rated average. In tandem with Oyemade (2016), the use of IFP in home furnishing supports consumers’ desired psychological convenience and affords a cool feeling in the home during the hot season, and warmth during the cold period. Respondents further acknowledged the fabric’s eligibility in achieving harmony and rhythm among various devices in the home. While the design offered consumers the desired level of privacy and protective values in their home, 66.0 % described the fabric use in the design to have demonstrating high hygienic qualities, and 34.0 % said it was moderate. A higher percentage (98%) recognised their home design as having informal educational and religious supportive instruments. The design also represents a strong means of self-expression, in which the respondent claimed that the fabrics used represent a good material for creating a focal point towards enhancing a facelift in a home. The design offered a handy mechanism in cultural identity for ease of socialisation that provides proactive

affection and networking. Eighty six percent of the consumers identified that the design offered them the desired home beauty value.

The fitness of the design to the size of family income and its cost-effectiveness in meeting individual home needs was recognised. At the same time, the home design enhances consumers' good self-esteem, enrichment of sense of self-fulfilment and belongingness in society. About 87.0 % rated the design manageability as moderately difficult,

and 12.8 % rated it low. The impacts of home design with IFP on the physical environment, with usage and disposal, were low, as indicated by consumers. The waste handling system was said to be simple of low negative impacts.

Results of correlation analysis

Data collected were subjected to correlation analysis to examine the relationship between IFP factors and livable urban home design.

Table 2: Table showing the relationship between indigenous fabric print and livable urban home design

Variables	Correlation Coefficient	Coefficient of Determinant (r ²)
oleophilic value	-0.238*	0.057
Compatibility	0.621**	0.385
visibility	0.682**	0.465
relative advantage	0.328*	0.108
communication capacity	0.694*	0.377
complexity	-0.298**	0.089
health care inputs availability	0.371**	0.138
care inputs affordability	0.405*	0.164
colour fastness	0.219*	0.048
hygroscopic ability	0.644*	0.415
dimensional stability	0.422**	0.178
bacteriostatic power	0.199*	0.040
texture	-0.315*	0.099
lusterability	0.516*	0.266
comfortability value	0.631*	0.398
acceptability	0.436*	0.190
attractiveness	0.517*	0.267
durability	0.254**	0.065
flammability	-0.419**	0.176

Critical value of r at p<0. 01 = 0.171.

Critical value of r at p < 0.05 = 0.124.

*r is significant at p <0.01 level.

**r is significant at p< 0.05 level.

Source: Field survey, 2024.

Result in Table II showed significant relationship at p<0.01 and p<0.05 level between liveable home design and indigenous fabric prints socio-technical variables {compatibility (r=0.621), communicating capacity (r=0.694), visibility (r=0.682); performance values {hygroscopic of IFP (r=0.644), flammability (r=-0.419); and psycho-social characteristics {lusterability (r=0.516), comfortability value (r = 0.641)}. This then implies that the higher the score in the identified variables, the higher the livable urban house designs. The values of the coefficient of determinant (r²) in Table 2 indicate the percentage contribution of the corresponding variables to the livable urban home design. The higher the value of r² the stronger the influence as reflected in the percentage contribution of the

significant variables. This information then decodes the truism in the variables, which significantly correlated with IFP for livable urban home design in the southwest region of Nigeria.

CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The study shows that IFP have highly efficient values for livable urban home design. The fabric exhibits high compatibility with consumers' personal, socio-cultural and economic environment. It has good communication capacity and conformability values, but displayed high maintenance ethics complexity. While the fabric fades and loses its drape with ease at use, it generates odour and is easily attacked by insects and mildew. The major used sizing/stiffing material

was local, which breaks and loses its holding potency with ease. The sizing often oxidises to generate odour and stains; moreover, insects and pests are attracted by the sizing agents.

So, it was established that the major problems with IFP efficient in-home design dwells in maintenance ethics complexity and inability to retain surface appearance. Therefore, there is a need for research work on the ability of IFP to maintain its aesthetic values with use. Producers must be encouraged to have better knowledge and skill updates on appropriate sizing, fibre and dyestuffs selection. Besides, research must be intensified on the quality of sizing materials and the mechanisms of various kinds that should be made accessible in the Nigerian markets. Training in fabrics finishing, such as bacteriostatics and colourfastness, is also essential. Consumers should be trained on the techniques of handling and maintenance of IFP. This could be achieved in workshops, seminars, and by creating awareness through mass media by the extension agencies and other related organisations. Apart from the producers, the consumers also need to be well-trained on IFP maintenance ethics.

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