



ASSESSMENT OF CLOTHING STORAGE PRACTICES OF WOMEN LIVING IN RURAL AREAS OF DELTA STATE

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Abstract

The study was designed to assess clothing storage practices of women living in rural areas in Delta state. Three research questions were raised for the study. The study adopted survey research design. The target population of the study comprised of 911,121 women living in 252 rural communities in Delta state. Multi-stage sampling technique was used to select 360 respondents of the study. Data collected from respondents were obtained using structured questionnaire which was analyzed using frequencies and mean. The results of the analysis revealed that storage facilities and materials like boxes, wardrobes and closets, shelves, drawer spaces, hangers, clips, ropes/strings, storage spaces, bags, insect repellent, among others were utilized by the women. The women did not adopt proper storage of different clothing articles such as: under cloths, night garment stored in drawers, tops and shirts hanged in hangers, shirts folded in drawer, sweaters stored in closets; and daily used articles stored in top drawers. The only guideline adopted by rural women was wrapping clothes in something breathable. The study concluded that clothing storage activities are not practiced effectively by women living in rural areas in Delta State. The study recommended that Home Economics extension workers in Delta state should organize workshops and seminars in order to educate rural women on skills involved in clothing storage practices. Women living in rural areas in Delta state should adopt correct and best methods, techniques and strategies for effective clothing storage practices.

Keywords: Clothing practice, women, rural areas, storage practices, storage facilities

Introduction

Clothing is any item that is put on the body for the purpose of beautification, protection and adornment (Anyakoha & Eluwa, 2015). It is also referred to as anything placed on the body to adorn, protect or communicate intent (Johnson & Foster, 1990). It constitutes visual communication, which gives varied impressions about the wearer. Clothing includes cloths, accessories, hair-do, make ups, shoes among others (Anyakoha & Eluwa, 2015). Clothes are dresses, gowns, shorts, blouses and related articles used for protection, adornment, modesty and social status, occupational and traditional identity (Jones, 2015). Clothes play many functional and aesthetic roles which include protection from the environment, enhancement of personality as well as role identification (Horn & Gurell, 1993). When clothes are selected to meet the wearer's psychological, sociological, cultural and physical needs, they are subjected to a variety of stressors such as: dirt and pollen, moisture such as perspiration and rain, environmental pollutants, wrinkling, strains from contact with food or perfumes, light and sunlight, stretching from

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movement and abrasion. Clothing articles are expensive. Many families in the State today derive their income from salaries and wages which are hardly adequate to take care of their needs including clothing their children. This difficulty is more with families where the man is the sole breadwinner, families with large number of children and families that live in the rural areas (Ohwovoriolè & Ugeru, 2011). According to Appiah (2012), rural people lack liquid cash and capital assets that yield money. All these make the proper storage of clothing very important. Storage of household items is the responsibility of the homemaker who uses different methods to store clothing and bedding. Storage of these items is necessary to prevent spoilage, increase usability and durability, and also to add to monetary reasons. Proper care and storage of clothes help to keep them in good condition so that appearance of the wearer is enhanced. Proper storage of clothes involves decision making. Decision making is the action taken in selecting from alternative courses of action (Anyakoha & Eluwa, 2015). Clothing storage decisions include among others; storage facilities, ways of storing specific items, factors that influence the procedures to adopt. Storage of clothes provides protection from dust, dirt, insects, fungus and dye transfer (Marshal, Suzanly, Stannely, Kafgan & Spetch, 2016). Adequate storage space for clothing and the way it is used, however, are management considerations (Wood Word, 2016). Everyone needs suitable places to store clothes- a closet or place to hang some garments and shelves or other articles (Marshal et al, 2016). Hanging clothes in wardrobes prevents them from getting creased or ruffled so that they retain their original shape (Anyakoha & Eluwa, 2015). Taking proper storage of clothes in addition to making them look better, also makes them last longer. A good knowledge and skill in clothing storage management will help homemakers plan family's wardrobe well, buy the right type of clothes for the children within the family's resources and will also enable them maintain the clothes. When this is achieved, it will help the serviceability of the clothes. This will in turn help save the family resources since the family will be purchasing these clothes less frequently. It is against this background this study seeks to assess the clothing storage practices of women living in rural areas and proper clothing storage management skills that can help to manage scarce resources.

Statement of the Problem

In Delta State women have multiple responsibilities in the homes and outside the homes, including the management of family clothing. Storage of clothes is an important aspect of this management. Most women often lack proper knowledge and skills on proper storage of clothing. Furthermore, majority of rural dwellers in Delta State lack adequate supply of most infrastructural facilities like pipe-borne water, electricity supply and other facilities that could help them in their clothing management practices (Nathan, 2009). Some of the women who live in rural areas are often seen with poorly maintained clothes. Such clothes if not cleaned and refurbished, will smell, itch, look untidy, and lose functionality (Wood Ward, 2016). Improper clothing storage practices of women living in rural areas can lead to skin diseases, bad odour, feeling of unwholesome attitude and poor adjustment to social groups (Marshal et al, 2016). Ohovoriolè and Ugeru (2012) stated that the knowledge of proper storage is very important. Acquisition of specialized skills is paramount to all practical oriented skill such as clothing care (Okoro, 2009). It is therefore necessary to identify required to improve on storage practices in rural areas. A meaningful step in this direction is to determine their present storage practices as a basis for determining ways of helping them. This only calls for taking good clothing storage practices.



Purpose of the Study

The main purpose of this study was to assess clothing storage practices of women living in rural areas Delta State. Specifically, the study determined:

1. Storage facilities adopted by women living in rural areas of Delta State in storing their clothes.
2. Storage practices adopted to store different clothing articles.
3. Guidelines which the women adopted for storage practices in rural areas of Delta State.

Research Questions

The following research questions guided the study

1. What are the storage facilities and materials adopted by women living in rural areas of Delta State in storing their clothes?
2. What practices do women living in rural areas in Delta State adopt in the storage of their different types of clothing articles?
3. What are the guidelines for clothing storage practices of women in the rural areas of Delta State?

Hypothesis

The following hypothesis was tested at 0.05 level of significance.

There is no significant difference among women from high, medium and low socio- economic status on storage practices adopted to store different clothing articles.

Methodology

Research Design

Descriptive survey design was used for the study.

Population of the Study

The population for this study consisted of all the women living in the rural areas of Delta State. According to the Federal Office of Statistics, the total population of females in Delta State by 2006 was 1, 633,096 (Delta North, Central and South Senatorial Districts). The population of women in 252 communities in Delta State designated as rural is 911,121 (Federal Office of Statistics).

Sample and Sampling Technique

A multi-stage sampling technique was used in the selection of respondents for the study. In the first stage, one zone out of the three zones (Delta North, Delta Central and South) was randomly selected. Each zone has an average of eight local government areas. The second stage involved the selection of local governments. Four local governments were randomly selected from Delta North senatorial zone. The third stage involved the selection of rural communities or areas. There are about 30 rural



communities in each local government area. Three rural communities were purposively selected from each of the four local government areas to make a total of twelve rural communities. From each selected rural community, 30 women (mothers) were purposively selected. In general, the total sample of the study was three hundred and sixty (360) women living in the rural areas. The women were met at their various homes and some in their farms.

Instrument for Data Collection

Structured questionnaire was used for data collection in this study. The questionnaire was divided into Section A-D. Section A provided the demographic. Section B elicited storage facilities and materials adopted by women living in rural areas of Delta State in storing their clothes. Section C elicited storage practices adopted to store different clothing articles: Section D elicited guidelines which the women adopted for storage practices in the rural areas of Delta State. Four scale response questionnaires were used as follows: strongly agreed (4), agreed (3), disagreed (2), strongly disagreed (1).

Validity of Instrument

Two experts from Department of Vocational Education (Home Economics Unit), Delta State University, Abraka and a lecturer in measurement and evaluation department were requested to review the questionnaire items to determine the accuracy, relevance, clarity and total coverage of the content; determine the appropriateness of the instruction to the respondents and evaluate the suitability and adequacy of the questionnaire in line with research variables. A structured questionnaire was developed in line with the research objectives of the study their corrections and suggestions were effected in the final draft of the instrument.

Method of Data Collection

Three hundred and sixty copies of the questionnaire were distributed to respondents. The questionnaire served as interview schedule for the illiterate respondents and their responses were recorded. Only 306 copies of the questionnaire were properly completed and retrieved. This represents 96.8 percent return.

Method of Data Analysis

The research questions were answered using mean (\bar{X}) and standard deviation (SD). The value of 2.50 was considered as the mean criterion. Therefore, a calculated mean value that is equal or greater than 2.50 was regarded as agreed while the calculated mean value below 2.50 was considered as disagree. The hypothesis was tested using ANOVA statistical tool at 0.05 level of significance. The decision for the hypothesis is based on F-value. If the calculated F-value is less than the F-table critical, the null was accepted otherwise, it was rejected.

Results

Data collected were analyzed using mean scores.



Research Question 1

What are the storage facilities adopted by women living in rural areas of Delta State in storing clothes?

Table 1: Mean responses of respondents on storage facilities adopted by women living in rural areas of Delta State in storing clothes (N=306)

S/N	Storage facilities	SA	A	D	SD	Mean	SD
1	Boxes	134	83	71	18	3.59	Agree
2	Wardrobes and closets	76	129	65	36	2.80	Agree
3	Shelves	91	111	82	22	2.89	Agree
4	Drawers	86	91	84	45	2.71	Agree
5	Hangers	95	71	77	63	2.64	Agree
6	Clips	109	56	88	53	2.72	Agree
7	Rope / string	123	78	54	51	2.89	Agree
8	Storage spaces	78	86	91	51	2.62	Agree
9	Tight wrappers	98	66	83	59	2.66	Agree
10	Carton	111	94	54	47	2.87	Agree
11	Bags	79	97	88	42	2.69	Agree
12	Pots	44	121	102	39	2.55	Agree
13	Insect repellent	67	93	102	44	2.59	Agree
14	Camphor	178	25	25	78	2.99	Agree
15	Mildews and moth proof	26	71	107	102	2.06	Disagree
16	Acid free tissue	32	54	67	153	1.88	Disagree
17	Moth balls and cedar	67	15	55	169	1.93	Disagree

Source: Field Survey, 2021

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The above table presents the mean scores of the opinion of women in rural areas of Delta State on storage facilities they adopted in storing clothes. This reveals that majority of the respondents agreed that 14 out of the 17 listed are acceptable storage materials adopted by them as the mean of the items were above 2.50 which is the benchmark for acceptance. Items 15 – 17 has mean value of less than 2.50, therefore they are not acceptable options to the respondents and so they were rejected.

Research Question 2

What practices do women living in rural areas in Delta State adopt in the storage of their different types of clothing articles?

Table 2: Mean responses of respondents on of respondents on the practices women living in rural areas in Delta State adopt in the storage of their different types of clothing articles (N=306)

S/N	Storage Facilities	SA	A	D	SD	Mean	SD
1	Under clothes night garments are Stored in drawers	23	78	154	51	2.23	Disagree
2	Tops and shirts are hanged on Hangers	16	49	159	136	2.17	Disagree
3	Shirts are folded in drawers	86	91	84	45	2.71	Agree
4	Sweaters are stored in closet shelf	36	71	54	145	1.99	Disagree
5	Daily used clothes are stored in top drawers	67	15	55	169	1.93	Disagree
6	The dust free cover is for seldom Worn garment	79	56	18	153	2.19	Disagree

Source: Field Survey, 2021

Table 2 shows that one out of six storage facilities for different type of clothing articles are used by the women. Only item 3 had mean above the cut-off of 2.50. this indicated lack of skills in the storage practices among the rural women.

Research Question 3

What are the guidelines for storage practices of women in the rural areas of Delta State?

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Table 3: Mean scores of response on the guidelines for storage (N=306)

S/N	Storage Facilities	SA	A	D	SD	Mean	SD
1	Clean all outfits thoroughly before packing	69	78	54	105	2.36	Disagree
2	Cupboard boxes can be used for temporal storage	26	49	19	212	1.63	Disagree
3	Use new clean boxes to avoid Staining and insects	66	21	84	135	2.05	Disagree
4	Beware that cupboard boxes do not attract bugs	56	71	124	55	2.41	Disagree
5	Fold knitted items and place into storage container	67	35	95	109	2.19	Disagree
6	Wrap the clothing in something breathable i.e fabric	99	83	68	56	2.73	Agree
7	Storage area must be clean, cool, dark and dry to protect clothing	45	66	66	129	2.08	Disagree

Source: Field Survey, 2021

Table 3 shows that one out of seven guidelines for storage are used by the women. Only one guideline has grand mean score of 2.73. This implies that these procedures for storage are not efficiently practiced in the area.

Hypothesis 1

There is no significant difference among women from high, medium and low socio- economic status on storage practices adopted to store different clothing articles.

Table 4: Analysis of variance (ANOVA) for significant test between the mean scores of women of high, medium and low socio-economic status on storage practices adopted to store different clothing articles.

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Socio-economic status	D.F	S.S	M.S	F-cal	F-table	Decision
Between Group	2	5.83	2.91	0.97	3.11	Accepted
Within Group	303	1020.12	3.37			

Source: Field Survey, 2021

P<0.05 level of significance, D.F =n-1

The result in Table 4 showed that F-cal value (0.97) is less than the F-table value (3.11) which indicates that the null hypothesis was accepted. It implied that there is no significant difference between the mean scores of women of high, medium and low socio-economic status on storage practices adopted to store different clothing articles.

Discussion of the Findings

The findings in table 1 showed that women living in rural areas in Delta State adopt some storage facilities but are deficient in others. The women needed to use storage facilities and materials such as mildews & moth proof, acid free tissue and moth balls and cedar as indicated in the result. However, storage facilities like boxes, wardrobes and closets, shelves, drawer spaces, hangers, clips, ropes/strings, storage spaces, bags, insect repellent among others were utilized by the women. This conforms with the view of Kathleen (2005) who pointed out that clothes can be stored in boxes, wardrobes, shelves, drawers, hangers, etc. Also, Nwadi and Anyakoha (2010) reported that storage spaces, hangers, insect repellents, mildew and moth proof, acid free tissue, moth balls and cedar were among cloth storage facilities not used by rural women in Enugu State. The findings were in agreement with Nathan (2009), who stated the need for an existing infrastructure that will enable educational programmes in rural areas on clothing storage practices. The result in Table 2 showed the storage of different types of clothing articles by women living in rural areas. The women did not adopt proper storage of different clothing articles. They include: under clothes night garment are stored in drawers, tops and shirts hanged in hangers, shirts are folded in drawer, sweaters are stored in closet; daily used articles are stored in top drawers. They only agreed with the dust free cover for seldom worn garments. This is in line with Pitts (2006), who stated that special fabric needs special care and that moth often damage articles that are not stored properly. The result in Table 3 indicated that to clean all outfits thoroughly before packing, cupboard boxes can be used for temporary storage, use new clean boxes to avoid staining, beware that cupboard boxes do not attract bugs, line containers with tissue, fold knitted items and place into storage container, wrap the clothing in something breathable, do not store clothes in plastic bags to avoid bug larvae, storage areas must be clean, cool, dark and dry to protect clothes were guidelines not followed by the rural women. The rural women only wrapped their clothes in something

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breathable. The findings are in disagreement with Marshal et al (2016) who pointed out the components of storage to include facilities, equipment and storage process. Knitted wear, under wears, domestic and drappers can be stored in flat drawers, closet drawer and shelves. The result in Table 4 showed that there is no significant difference between the mean scores of women of high, medium and low socio-economic status on storage practices adopted to store different clothing articles. This implies that socio-economic status of the women did not influence storage practices adopted to store their clothing articles. In line with the finding, Ukpore (2012) found out that different socio-economic class typically dress differently as a matter of class identification but may have same storage cloth practices due to poor orientation.

Conclusion

Conclusively, the study found that clothing storage activities are not practiced effectively by women living in rural areas in Delta State. Therefore, there is need for enhancing clothing storage practice to promote family survival among women living in rural areas of Delta State.

Recommendations.

1. Home economics extension workers in Delta State should organize workshops and seminars in order to educate rural women on skills involved in clothing storage practices.
2. Women living in rural areas in Delta State should adopt correct and best methods, techniques and strategies for effective clothing storage practices.

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