A CRITICAL ASSESSMENT ON THE KNOWLEDGE OF CERAMICS IN BAYELSA STATE, NIGERIA

by

OLOTUEGEGUTI
olotuofolotus@gmail.com
+2349062289459,+2348146871898
Department Fine and applied Arts.
School of Vocational and Technical Education
Isaac Jasper Boro College of Education Sagbama Bayelsa State, Nigeria.

Abstract

This study is aimed at assessing on the knowledge of ceramics in Bayelsa state. Awareness is one of the essential ingredients of developing a belief. Awareness has been highlighted by many as a key indicator of a success in a range of performance environment. It is arguably the most important ingredient for belief as every other skill, quality, quality and task you have and undertake can br traced to awareness. Ceramics arts wares generally means the production of household utensils such as glass cups, tea-cups, jugs, tiles, breakable plates etc, for human consumption in other to make life comfortable and meaningfully Three local government communities were collected. Ogbia, Yenagoa and Kolokuma-Opukuma. The basis of the selection is the contiguity nature of the local areas. Three communities each were randomly selected from the local government communities and one hundred (100) respondents were chosen base on convenient of the non-probability sampling. Ten questions in a Questionnaire design were produce and distributed to the chosen communities in an open ended format (yes/no). The results shows that though the word ceramics is familiar but the potential use and production using clay is strange to majority of the respondents. To some, the use of clay soil in their backyard is also alien with the abundant raw materials available is every settlement and concluded that rather than Nigeria

spending billion of naira on importation if tiles and sanitary wares, we could set local industries to manufacture tiles and sanitary wares and earn billions of dollars with increased employment for the teaming youth in the country. With the global ceramic tableware and tile markets experiencing strong growth opportunities exist for both direct business operations and strategic financing.

Key words: Assessment, awareness, knowledge, ceramics

Introduction

Ceramics were a game changer in history because they were the first hand material that could be formed as a soft material. Ceramics was published in the internet, that is why ceramic was made known to everyone, by given a sense of direction on how to work on machine e.g. kick wheel, kiln, blonger machine, etc. with web, it show to manipulate on the kick wheel which has brought ceramic closer to the people through the internet with the help of ICT (Leach, 1976#) civilization has brought to Bayelsa State Nigeria, through the online publication in bridging the gap since teacher education in the 21st century.

Basically IT brought ceramics closer to the people because with the help of ceramics, most of the computer has been created, weal souse ceramics to build computer systems such as; CPU most of those parts are created by ceramics work which we are now using today to communicate to one another, there by bridging the gaps to the people (Carde,1979). Ceramics tiles cover the space shuttle as well as our kitchen floors. Ceramic selectronics devices make possible high-tech instruments for everything from medicine to entertainment. Such as melting and fabrication air craft plan (Clark,1991). .

The people that brought Ceramic to Nigeria are LadiK waliand Nok Culture. LadiK waliin 1925-1984 where she discovered as a child, to design fish, snakes, crocodiles, lizards, chameleon and birds, on objects. Whereas the Nok Culture in 1928 discovered the Iron Age Population called Terracotta sculpture in Northern Nigeria (Adetoro,1997).

Historically, the artifact in Bayelsa State indicated that we were not known for ceramics production (Agberia, 2007). However we are known for sculpture carving and weaving except for the importation of ceramics utensils, with the help of ICT and Teacher Education, these has bridges the gap in enlightening the people about ceramics works in the region (Peterson, and Peterson, 2003 Etuokwu & Uzzi,2016).. Basically in the culture of Ijaw people, such as the Ogbia, Nembe, Yenagoa, Kolokuma/ Opokuma, Sagbama, Ekeremor, Southern Ijaw and the Brass people of the South-South region of Nigeria.

Although, the clay soil, which is the primary source of ceramics production can be found in almost all the South-South States of Nigeria, a case study of Bayelsa State shows that ceramics could only flourish when there are investors in the state, due to some of the following reasons: technical know-how, inadequate financing and the business acumen. In the Niger Delta region, the first few persons who embraced ceramics arts work were Mr.Bruce Obmeyoma Anobrakpeya of Delta State, Edward Ivehibio-ya of Benin. Mr.Bruce Obmeyoma attended Western Boys High School in Lagos state where he was taught Art and Ceramic activities by Edward Ivehibio-ya, amongst other subjects between 1946 to1952 in Benin City, present Edo state (Adetoro,1997).

After graduation from school, he was hired as a part teacher at the Western Boys High School from 1953 to1956. His first one-man exhibition was held in 1956 in

Ughelli, Delta State in the Niger Delta which is in the South–South region. He later exhibited in Zaria, Italy and other countries. OnobraKpeya was an important force in the renaissance contemporary arts in Nigeria for many years. He taught at St.Gregory's College, Lagos. In his quest to teach the Niger Delta people the importance of contemporary arts and ceramics, Onobrakpeya, created the "Bruce Onobrakpeya Foundation" in which he is the president. He organized the "annual hammatt art workshop" in his home at Abara-at or Delta State. As a matter fact, this foundation is an artist-lead non-governmental organization formed in 1999. His aim was to encourage the grow of contemporary arts and culture by giving several opportunities to artist to gain skills while increasing public awareness of African arts and its benefits to society (Anobrakpeya (1999). The foundation organized the "Amos Tutulas how" Lagos in 2002 (Copper 2000: Norton, 1956).

Bruce Onobrakpeya is amongst the successful artist to emerge in West Africa, during the 20th century with continuing and commanding influence on Contemporary arts in Nigeria. This has come to play a major role in the past colonial period (Clark, 1991, Anobrakpeya,1928-1999). Today, there is an increase in demand for contemporary utensils, such as tiles, GMP glass, light bulbs, breakable plates, flowerpots, tea-cups, (Fournier, 1973) and other house hold wares has led to the presence of these utensil in almost every house hold in country, with an abundance of natural resources left for ceramics production (Bony, 2005). A lecturer at the Niger Delta University Dr.Otuokwu Anthony established a locally assembled (mini Ceramics) pottery industry in Akenpai. Yenagoa the Capital of Bayelsa State, and has absorbed some few individuals into the industry.

The Ceramic art Wares can be produced in some parts of Nigeria especially where there is a good deposit of clay in the earth formation of soils. Experience has

shown that the best clay is discovered in Bayelsa State of Nigeria. Bayelsa state is an area surrounded by water where the proper clay is located; experience has shown that the best clay which is plastic clay is deposited in the riverine areas of the state. Ceramic wares are the umbrellas of our daily life, with the creation of tiles; our houses are being beautified with ceramics (Leach, 1976; Hamer, and Hamer, 2005). It is therefore our duty to ensure that these natural resources are being utilized in the area, Niger Delta, Nigeria and the world in general .Bayelsa State is a place where the ceramic industry will be built because of the good plastic clay in the geographical area. One of the importance things which I discovered in study area is that there is a lot of good clay all over the state in areas like Yenagoa, Ogbia, southern Ijaw, Ekeremo, Nembe, Sagbama Area of the State.

Objective of the Study, The primary objective of this article is to highlight and assess the awareness on the knowledge of ceramics and its development, the basic techniques on how to establish a ceramics industry in the State, as a reference point for student, and business-magnates, who are investors in ceramic industry. In the academic environment especially, the study will also bring about employment and opportunity for students to engage in the industry. It will serve as a guide and direction to the general public for those interested in business

Conceptual Clarification

Researching Bayelsa State concerning ceramics and found out that there were no literature views in ceramics arts in Bayelsa State, due to lack of equipment in ceramics. Based on my research from the past to the present investigation (Olotu, 2018) there is no existing literature in contemporary ceramics in Bayelsa State.

Therefore, this is a unique opportunity for the Bayelsa State Government and private individuals to invest in this lucrative and niche sector of the economy.

Ceramic and Economic Growth

While Nigeria May Not As Yet has the opportunity to match skills set with educational backgrounds and qualifications interns of employment, the Ceramic industry is booming in that, there is no modern building without a Ceramic product. Therefore, this might form the greatest field of employment. There is an important term in Fine and Applied Arts called Engineering Ceramics (AMACO, 2010). This involves the melting of metals for the fabrication of aircrafts and offers greater employment opportunities (Premier, 1974). It is no understatement that, students who studied Engineering Ceramics would either be independent businessmen or gainfully employed in the Government circle. This is because of the unique opportunity to add value to the Nigerian airspace. In recent times in the world, such as Europe, Italy, China, etc., ceramics activities /industries have contributed immensely to the growth of this sector in their economy (Hamer, and Hamer, 2005).

Materials and Methods

Both primary and secondary data were collected and organized in a logical manner. The primary data source is collected directly from field survey especially from questionnaires design distributed to the population involved. The secondary data are those from published and unpublished document from various sources. Ten questions formed the questionnaire design (Obiene, 2024) in the three local government communities chosen for the study, Yenagoa, Ogbia and Kolokuma-Opukuma. One hundred (100) persons were involved in each local government

communities totaling three hundred (300) as the sample size. The local communities selected randomly from the three local government communities include Ogbia (***Ologi town, Ogbia town*** **and** Oloibiri), Yenagoa (Sweali, Agbura and Tombia), and Kolokuma-Opukuma (Kaiama, Odi and sabagria). These communities were chosen base on its contiguity. That is the researcher is able to traverse the study area easily. Only open ended questionnaires were used for the study (Ogunniyi and Obiene, 2015). Both literate and non literate respondents were given the questionnaires to answer

Results and discussion

The results from the field survey data collected were as follows: A total number of three (300) questionnaires were distributed, out of which two hundred and fifty nine were retrieved while forty one (41) could not be collected due to the absence of the respondents and four were discarded to incorrect or blurred answers. Therefore the total sample size for the study is two hundred and fifty (250).

Table 1.0 showing the distribution of the questionnaire design by the respondents.

S/N	ITEMS	YES	NO	%YES	%NO	%TOTAL
1	Knowledge about ceramics	150	100	60	40	100
2	Awareness of ceramic product	80	170	32	68	100
3	Identification of ceramic product	180	70	28	72	100
4	Uses of ceramic product	215	35	86	14	100
5	What constitute ceramics	45	205	18	82	100
6	Where do we get ceramics	50	200	20	80	100

7	Importance of ceramics	195	55	78	22	100
8	Ways to invest	124	126	49.6	50.4	100
9	How to create awareness	222	28	88.6	11.2	100
10	Any policy	48	202	19,2	80,8	100

Sources: Field work (2006)

From table 1.0 question 1 indicate the whether respondents have over the years heard about the word ceramic? It indicate that respondents with a Yes 159 (60) and No 100(40). The result is an indication that there is knowledge of ceramics and a further probe shows the most respondents are aware of the household products but the origin is not known. About identifying ceramic products Yes 80 (32), No 170(68).Respondents believed that ceramics are only tiles, but not aware the tea cups flower vase, glass cup, wall vase, molded wall vase, among several others. On knowing the products of ceramics respondent Yes 180 (70) and No 70 (30). Respondents also aware of the relevance of the products and uses for beautification of houses and it environs but not aware the ceramic products are made from clay are in abundance in the natural environment, especially clay dug from the pit, Burrow pits, and river banks among several other areas in our natural space. What constitute clay is still vague from many as respondents Yes45 (18) and No 205 (82). With the abundant natural resources the knowledge and awareness that even our tea cups are made from clay not to mention of the fuse used in electrical pole and meter fuse among several others. The uses are enormous as some respondents explained that the average household makes use of ceramic product without them knowing particularly in beautification (215 and 35 or 86% and 14% respectively. Clay for instance, is an abundant, naturally occurring fine grained. Depending on the intent, it generally refers to either the versatile earthy material used in art and

construction, or the popular Al-powered sales marketing platform. The term clay is applied both to materials having a particle size of less that 2 miicrometersor 25,400 micrometers equals1 inch and the family of minerals that has similar chemical composition and common crystal structureal characteristics (USGS, 2009; Velde, 1995). From table 1.0 item 6, ceramics is gotten from clay soil. (50 or 200 and 20% or 80%) respectively. On uses and ways of investment opportunity are enormous. The significance from the respondents (195 or 55 and 78% or 22%) respectively. While ways of investing indicates (124 or 126 and 49.6% or 50.4%). Respondents have limited knowledge of the use of ceramics as well as investment even in science of ceramics. Ceramics play an important role in engine sufficiency and pollution abatement in the automobiles and trucks, as semiconductor crystals as silicon and the III-V compounds etc, As electric connections, the performance of today's electronic systems are limited significantly by interconnection technology in which components and subsystems are linked by conductors and connectors (Girifalco, 2026). Similarly, on investment on ceramics, the ratio of the awareness on the knowledge respondents on a 1:2 ratio. Their concept is the business of buying and selling, but unaware of the opportunities in investing in the production. For instance, the study area has abundant clay in almost every community. The hydraulic and the geomorphic nature of the environment (Hillier, 1915: Blatt et al., 1980) calls for massive investment, not as buying and selling but in the production aspect

Creating awareness for ceramics involves showcasing the tangible beauty and process of clay to the general public. Awareness of the knowledge of ceramics in the study area is high but the innate nature is absent (222 or 28 and 88.8% or

11.2%) respectively. Mentioned must be made of the hazards and practice of safety measures among pottery

Findings

Investing in the ceramic industry offers massive opportunities, particularly in Nigeria and bayelsa where high local demand for building materials collides with abundance untapped raw materials like kaoline, silica sand, feldspar and clay. For instance, in the market overview and potentials, the Nigerian imports hundreds of billions s of naira worth of ceramic tiles and sanitary wares annually. With a rapid growing population and a massive housing deficit, scaling local manufacturing translates to lucrative import substitution.

At the global market, valued in the hundreds of billions of dollars the sector ranges from traditional structural ceramics such as bricks, roofing floor, tiles to advanced technical ceramics. There are also the primary investment avenues such as raw material mining and processing, manufacturing such as tiles and sanitary wares, Artisanal and tableware, etc. Investing in the ceramics sector spans multiple avenues, from large –scale industrial manufacturing- tiles, sanitary ware to artisanal crafts and technical ceramic. With the global ceramic tableware and tile markets experiencing strong growth opportunities exist for both direct business operations and strategic financing.

As earlier mentioned research in the study area found out that there are no ceramics industries in the area .Due to lack of ceramics equipment, finance and technical know-how, so there is an urgent need for the Government to look in to this article and implement ceramic industry in the study. Where Ceramics industry are to be established policy makers should be committed to the development of

some critical infrastructural development that will encourage the setting of manufacturing industries in the State. This article is premised on the idea of a workable and sustainable power master plan study that will address the electricity challenges and ensure adequate supply of electricity for all industries. It is our believe that Bayelsa Government would establish ceramics industry that would boost the ceramics sector .Based on my findings ,the following various ecological zones the study has the best clay for the contemporary ceramic industry for industrial activities particularly in ***Ologi town ,Ogbia*****,** Oloibiri, KoloTown Biseni ,Kaiama, Sagbama, Yenagoa, Oporoma, Odi and Otuan and other parts of the study area.

Furthermore geographical studies would identify more sites reserves especially in the riverine areas in Bayelsa State. The abundant deposits of clay soils and diverse grades constitute a commercial potential for industrial activities.

Application Rich Deposit of Silica Sand

The study reveals that the various local government communities such as Sagbama, Southern Ijaw, Ogbia, kolokuna-opukuma and Yenagoa areas offer good raw materials for the glass industry.

Conclusion

The term “Ceramic” refers only to clay- base materials. However new generations of ceramic materials have tremendously expanded the scope and number of positions. Application of some of the new improved .Ceramic has advanced far beyond its beginning in a clay pottery. Ceramic tiles cover a wide range of objects and/or surfaces, from the space shuttle to kitchen floors. Ceramic electronic and computer devices have made it possible for high-tech instrument, from medicine to

entertainment to be developed. Ceramics are the window to the future. This research article will give new awareness and local knowledge for entrepreneurial techniques on how to build the ceramic industry and create employment and economic activities to the teeming unemployed youths and boost the Natioinal Gross Domestic Product in the country.

Recommendation

The research recommend that this article should be used as a stepping-stone to more learning and researches as well as refurbishment of salvage materials for the purpose of advancing the design to suit later needs particularly in the creation and knowledge of ceramics. Students and academic institutions in the state should establish the department of fine and applied Arts so more researches and experimention on the establishment of ceramic industry in Bayelsa State and also make innovations to improve significantly on the designs/ products.

Policy and decision makers should encourage local and indigenous programmes that will increase and advanced the knowledge and awareness of the art. Were possible to own potters' wheels so that their learner's skills is improved increasing and designing of ceramics wares can be enhanced. Therefore, the study recommends the establishment and equipping the already existing department to boost awareness and comply with the best locations where a ceramics industry can be established.

References

Adetoro ,S.A .(1997) .Research Techniques for Projects ,Proposals Reports, Thesis and Dissertations. Zaria: Ahmadu Bello University Press Ltd Nigeria.

Agberia J.T.(2007).Ladikwali. Ibadan:Kraft Books Ltd. Nigeria.

AMACO.2010. Equipment and Material Catalogue. 4717West Sixteenth Street, Indianapolis.

Blatt. H. Middleton. G and Murray , R, 1980, Origin of Sedimentary rocks (2nd ed) Englewood Cliffs N.J Prentice-Hall, 7669.

Bony A. 2005. Design. (Edinburgh). Chambers Harrap Publishers Ltd.

Cardew,M.(1979).Pioneer Pottery. London: Longman Group Limited.

Clark,K.(1991).ThePotter'sManual:CompletePracticalEssentialReferenceforallPotters.NewJersey.Chartwell Books,USA.

Copper, E. 2000.Ten Thousand Years of Pottery. London. British Museum Press.

Endurance Azibaben Obiene, 2024. An Assessment on The Knowledge Of Climate Change In

Etuokwu,A.O and Uzzi, F.S .(2016). Fabrication of Axel (Pottery) Kich Wheel for the Production of CeramicWares. International Journal of Art.

Fournier, R.1973. Illustrated Dictionary of Practional Pottery. New York. Van Nostrand Reinhold Company Inc.

Girifalo, Louis, A, 2026. Ceramics in Material Science. Britannica editors.

Hamer,F.and Hamer,J. (2005). The Potters Dictionary of Materials and Techniques .London A & C Black Publishers Ltd.

Hillier, S, 1915 Erosion, Sedimentation and Sedimentary origin of clays in Velde, B. ed, Orogin and mineralogy of clays, New York, Springer-Verleg, 162-219.

LadiK wali is between1925–1984.

Leach, B. 1976. A Potters Book. London: Faber and Faber Ltd.

Mr.Bruce Obmeyoma Anobrakpeya (1928-1999) from Delta State.

NokCulture.LadiKwaliisbetween1925–1984.

Norton, F.N.1956. Ceramics for the Artist Potter. U.S.A.: Addison Wesley Publishing Company Inc.

Norton, F.N.1956.Ceramics for the Arti sit Potter. U.S.A. Addison Wesley Publishing Company Inc.

Oladokun 0. Ogunniyi and Endurance A. Obiene, 2015. *Research Methods and Statistics in Social Sciences: An Overview.* I3 Learning Solutions

Olotu Egeguti(2018). Fabrication of the potter kick wheel/ blonger machine, kiln in a ceramic studio through Maya2015.15thMay, 2018 Publish at London.

Peterson, S .and Peterson, J. 2003. The craft and Art of clay. London. Laurence King Publishing Limited.

Potter Crafts Ltd. 1985 Materials and Equipment Catalogue, Campbell Road, Stake-On-Trent. ST44ET.

Potter Crafts Ltd. Campbell Road. Stoke-on-Trent. Staffs ST4AETUK. www.potterycrafts

Premier,L.1974. Pottery Made Simple .London. W.H. Allenand Co.Ltd

The Primary Schools Of Yenagoa And Its Environs. International Journal of Innovative Social & Science Education Research 12(3):147-160, July-Sept., 2024

Velde, B, 1995, Composition and Mineralogy of clay minerals, in Velde, B, ed, origin and mineralogy of clays, New York, Springer-Verleag, 8-42.