ACCEPTABILITY OF DESIGNED AND CONSTRUCTED MATERNITY WEARS FOR PREGNANT WOMEN TEACHERS IN NIGER STATE

BY

MOHAMMED, AISHATU SONFADA
(MED/EDUC/50371/2005-2006)

DEPARTMENT OF VOCATIONAL AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION, FACULTY OF EDUCATION,
AHMADU BELLO UNIVERSITY, ZARIA, NIGERIA.

JUNE, 2011

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BEING

A THESIS REPORT SUBMITTED TO THE POSTGRADUATE SCHOOL IN PARTIAL FULFILLMENT FOR THE AWARD OF MASTER'S DEGREE IN EDUCATION (HOME ECONOMICS-CLOTHING AND TEXTILES)

DEPARTMENT OF VOCATIONAL AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION
FACULTY OF EDUCATION,
AHMADU BELLO UNIVERSITY, ZARIA, NIGERIA.

JUNE, 2011

DECLARATION

I declare that the work in the Thesis titled **"**Acceptability of Designed and Constructed Maternity Wears for Pregnant Women Teachers (PWT) in Niger State**"** has been carried out by me in the Department of Vocational and Technical Education under the supervision of Dr. (Mrs.) M.F. Ahuwan and Dr. (Mrs.) S.L. Ajayi. The information derived from the literature have been duly acknowledged in the text and list of references provided. No part of this Thesis was previously presented for another degree or diploma at any University, Polytechnic or College.

Mohammed, Aishatu Sonfada	**Signature**	**Date**

CERTIFICATION

This Thesis titled **"**Acceptability of Designed and Constructed Maternity Wears for Pregnant Women Teachers (PWT) in Niger State" by Mohammed, Aishatu Sonfada meets the regulations governing the award of the degree of Masters of Education in Home Economics (Clothing and Textiles) of Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria and was approved for its contribution to knowledge and literary presentation.

Dr (Mrs.) M.F Ahuwan — Date
Chairman, Supervisory Committee

Dr (Mrs.) S.L Ajayi — Date
Member, Supervisory Committee

Dr. M.M Aliyu — Date
Head of Department
Vocational Technical Education

Prof. A.A Joshua — Date
Dean. School of Post Graduate Studies

DEDICATION

This Thesis is first dedicated to my parents, to my beloved husband, and my loving children, brothers and sisters.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

In the name of Allah, the Most Gracious, the Most Merciful. All thanks go to the Almighty Allah the Most High Who gave me the opportunity, knowledge and guidance to undertake this research. I sincerely express my gratitude and thanks to my major supervisor, Dr. (Mrs.) M.F. Ahuwan who patiently saw me through the difficulties of this study. Her constructive criticism, corrections and timely suggestions improved the quality of this research.

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I owe a lot of gratitude to my family especially my husband, children, sisters and brothers for their love and encouragement. May Allah reward them abundantly.

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ABSTRACT

The quest for providing appropriate maternity wears to pregnant women over the years to suit their status both at home and in the society has been a matter of challenge to designers in our locality. The bane of this challenge lies squarely on lack of professional fashion designers, the use of inappropriate materials, indecent maternity wears directly imported without taking into consideration the peculiarity of our socio-cultural make-up. It is on this premises that the research on the "Acceptability of designed and constructed maternity wears for pregnant women teachers" was carried out. The study was aimed at ascertaining the extent which the designed and constructed maternity wears were acceptable, comfortable, decent and affordable to pregnant women. It also investigate the uniqueness and right choice of materials for the designed and construction of maternity wears. The study which is basically a descriptive survey research and production of new design concept was adopted. The non-probability purposive sampling method on 100 pregnant women teachers using a structural question using the 5 point interval Likert Scale. To fully test the research, five null hypotheses postulated and were analyzed using the Statistic Packages for Social Science – SPSS version 17. The t-test on the first null hypothesis which stated that there is no significant difference on the level of acceptability has its result as 0.007 less than p-value of 0.05 (0.007 = P<0.05) and was therefore rejected. The second null hypothesis on comfort and decency had its value as 0.011 which is less than alpha and was also rejected. Furthermore, the third null hypothesis in significance difference of the uniqueness of new concept wears produced a result of 0.002 less than alpha and was reject. More so, the fourth null hypothesis on difference on perception on the right choice of material used, the result was 0.000 less than alpha (0.000 = P<0.05) and was rejected. The difference of significance on the fifth null hypothesis of cost and level of affordability was 0.405 greater than alpha (0.405 = P>0.05) and thus accepted. Based on these findings and tests of null hypotheses, the study recommended that local production of maternity wears be encouraged as well as government should revive the textile industry to make textile materials locally available so as to make productions of wears that are appropriate with on socio-cultural settling. The study concluded that maternity wears appropriately designed and constructed would be accepted by Pregnant Women Teachers because it makes them comfortable and decent.

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OPERATIONAL DEFINITION OF TERMS

The fashion business has a language of its own like in any industry when terms are used they have specific and technical meanings.

Already made garment	Are those garments that have been sewn and made available for the people to buy.
Blocks:	Are five pieces outlined and adapted to make a pattern; front, back, sleeve; front and back skirt and trouser blocks
Bodice	The portion of the garment above the waist. They are three pieces outlined and adapted to make a pattern, front bodice back bodice and sleeve
Bulky	Awkwardly large, big and clumsy
Custom made garments	Are those garments produced by local tailors?
Darts	Triangular shaped folds of fabric stitched to control fullness and give shape to the garment
Disposal of fullness-	To control fullness and allow you applied any type of stitch
Design	A unique version of a style,
Empire line	Waist line that is just below the breast
Fasteners	Items used to hold a garment closed, such as button, snappers, hooks and eyes, and zippers.
Flattering	To correct figure or shape and make you look ideal. To make someone look more attractive than usual
Figure	Refers to the outside dimensions of counter of an object

Garment	A piece of clothing
Gathers	Soft, unstitch folds of fabrics used to control fullness
Line	A series of points connected together to form a narrow path; manufacture's collection of clothes
Lining	Constructed separately from the outer garment and then joined at one or more major seams
Pattern	A pattern is just like a blue print. It is a project that contains all the instructions you will need for constructing your sewing project. It is made when the block are outlined and adapted to the required style
Princess Line	A design that runs from high burst, through the waist dart down bodice measurement
Seamstress	A woman who is expert at sewing
Selvage	It is the edge of the fabric on both sides that is woven
Style	The distinctive appearance of a garment through its shape, detail and other visible.
Silhouette	The general outline or shape of a costume
Trend	A fashion cycle that happens quite slowly
Texture	The character of a woven fabric resulting from the arrangement, size, quality of the fabrics threads; as coarse, ribbed or twilled texture.

Trimming	Some forms of decoration added to a garment, such as lace, braid or rick rack.
Tuck	Narrow fold of fabric stitched flat
Velcro	Is the brand name of the first community marketed fabric hook and loop fasteners; it consists of two surfaces one of series of hook and one loop and which when pressed together remains stuck until peeled open again. It is suitable only for openings which overlap
Waistless dress	A garment without waist line
Waistline	A horizontal seams attaching the upper and lower sections of a garment; it can be located above, at or below the natural waistline distinguishes one object from another.
Wears	To have clothing, jewelry on your body
Yoke	A fitted section at the shoulder or hips to which garments is attached

ABBREVIATIONS

WHO	World Health Organization
DC	Design and Construct
MW	Maternity Wears
PWT	Pregnant Women Teachers
A/h	Arm hole
BV	Back View
CB	Centre Back
CF	Centre Front
HA	Hem Allowance
FV	Front View
MM	Measurement
RS	Right Side
SA	Seam Allowance
SS	Side Seam
SH	Sleeve Head
U/arm	Underarm
SON	Standard Organization of Nigeria
HETAN	Home Economics Teachers Association of Nigeria

CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

1.1 BACKGROUND OF THE STUDY

Clothes provide protection, modesty, identification, status and decoration. People wear clothes for many different reasons, some of these reasons are physical comfort and social. Clothes give self confidence and express personality. Clothes also help in identifying with other people, (Weber, 1990). Maternity wears are loose garment worn by pregnant women. These garments are also free with lot of ease for comfortability. Pregnancy is a natural gift and a process of starting humanity, not a malady. Our ancestors had the right attitude toward it, they went about their natural business during pregnancy and looked after themselves as much as they could. Unfortunately, many modern women regard it as a time of illness with the result that they develop unnecessary psychological problems when they are pregnant (Weber, 1990) by wearing good apparels during this period.

Maternity clothes have taken on new importance in recent years for several reasons. In the first place, there are many more pregnant women today than ever before. The attitude that a woman should be as well-dressed during pregnancy as at any other time has become accepted in Nigeria (Weber, 1990). This situation necessitated the careful selection of a maternity wardrobe, an opportunity unknown to the women of 25 years ago. The modern woman is expected to carry on with normal social activities, which keep her before the eye of the public during the pregnancy period. Many young women continue employment during part or all through the 9 months of pregnancy. The need to present a satisfactory appearance on the job again highlights the importance of suitable and comfortable maternity clothes. By encouraging pregnant women

to follow their normal pattern of life and by wearing suitable maternity garments for all occasions (Weber, 1990).

The pregnant women need clothes that would make them comfortable as well as the unborn babies. Designing for pregnant women in Nigeria commenced relatively late and its development has been at a snail speed. Wikipedia (2008), the Free Encyclopedia defined maternity as the social and legal acknowledgement of the parental relationship between a mother and her child. It is specially related with the protection of the baby and the mother within and after the child birth. Wear is a covering designed to be worn on a person's body as article of clothing. The New Cambridge (2007), Advanced Learners Dictionary defined "Maternity as: the word used to describe things relating to pregnancy and birth". The same source also defined "wears as: clothes that are suitable for a particular time or occasion as a particular kind of wear". In putting the two definitions together are rightly define "maternity wears" as suitable clothes that are normally worn by pregnant women at a particular time or occasion.

"Opara (2000) defined maternity garments as loose garments, which are normally worn by pregnant women. The author added that the garments are made in such a way that they will give enough room to growing fetus". Thurow (1998) suggested that maternity garments should be light, floral and pastel to always keep the moods light. After all, when the mother is happy the baby is the happiest. Thurow opined that, gone were the days that maternity dresses only made the mothers to be much larger than she actually was during the progressive months of pregnancy. Nowadays designers have gone into producing maternity garments that are fitting and comfortable, yet make the mothers to feel beautiful and befitting all through her pregnancy. They also kept in mind colour, texture and temperature of the mother. In fact there are specially designed evening gowns, denims, so she does not have to depend on the same piece garment.

Mobel and Lila (2000) defined design as “a deliberate well considered plan for creating something beautiful. Although, every person is a potential designer to be excellent, one learns to create beauty through order and harmony”. There are identified elements of design which designers work with. The elements are lines, space, texture and colour. These elements are not used in isolation from one another but combined in useful and appropriate ways to produce interest. Thus, these elements often work together, not separately. Structural design includes the overall of a garment, its outline, shape or silhouette. That is to say that all those lines and details involved in assembling the sections of the garments together, such as seams, darts, tucks and pleats. By the time these are put together, they add decorative qualities to the garment. This is regarded as structural decorative, especially where they are emphasized by a line of top stitching, as on a welt seam or an edge. Further emphasize can be given when contrasting colours are introduced, Mobel & Lila (2000).

Decorative design refers to decoration applied to a garment. It is not an integral part of the structure. Applied decoration may include various types of term, as braids, embroidery, buttons that do not fasten, and tucked on bows. Unless these properly related to structural design, the effect may be displeasing. Design is a change in contour in to fabrics by the use of darts, gathers or other means of controlling fullness in order to make a flat surface conform to body bulge, hollows and planes. Garment design is created by manipulating fabric to conform to the human figure, how the fabric is manipulated depends on the particular style and fabric capabilities. Different techniques are used in construction to change fabrics into (3) three dimensional and structural design. For instance, if fabric is to conform to the waist of a human figure, the perimeters at the waistline of the skirt and blouse must be reduced. Pleats or gathers

are common disposal of fullness techniques used in manipulating fabric into a wearable design (Mobel and Lila (2000).

The role of design in garment making is to guide the maker so that the style will be suitable to the wearer. If the design must be suitable, the designs have to be carefully considered. Thomson (1992) suggested that a designer needs three basic preparations, the art, clothing and textile knowledge. Art is gaining experience in sketching basic function figures, understand the fundamentals of color harmony, color psychology, line and proportion and acquire an appreciation of history of costumes and the adaptation of its ideals to modern dress. In clothing one learn proper techniques of complete finishing details of garment, care and use of equipment, how to handle clothing in efficient and sanitary ways, the art of fitting within appropriate tolerances, how to alter patterns and understand the problem of mass production.

Thirdly, textile is gaining an understanding of woven and fibre content of various fabrics. Of the way fibres and finishes behave under use and care of the growth and problems of the clothing and textile industry. A woman is expected to carry on normal social activities, which keeps her before the public eyes during pregnancy period. Many young women who are pregnant continue with their careers until few weeks to delivery period. The need to present a satisfactory appearance on the job again highlights the importance of suitable maternity clothes. Young woman are encouraged to follow their normal pattern of life during pregnancy by wearing maternity clothes that are flattering and comfortable for all occasions. Clothing designers have done much to promote fashions for all category of people in modern society (Mobel and Lila, 2000).

However, other factors are even more influential-as skilled designers entered the field, maternity dresses became stylish and attractive as well as comfortable and functional. During the

fifth, sixth and seventh months, the expectant mother needs not look noticeably pregnant if her clothes are well designed. During the eighth and ninth months, she is obviously pregnant and needs free but fitting garments which will accommodate the daily expanding stomach. Acceptability of design and construction of maternity wears will be based on incorporating those features as comfort and decency, right fabric choice, uniqueness in styles and low cost and affordability (Mobel and Lila, 2000).

1.2 Statement of the Problem

The existing maternity wears used by pregnant women, ranged from waistless boubou tops or gowns, tight tunic blouses, or three-quarter dress and other common styles and other commonly used maternity wears in the community made by different designers. The pregnant women soon get tired of wearing the few ones found in wardrobe or purchased before she delivers her baby. Because of the short pregnancy period (1 – 9 months), some feel very reluctant to buy the variety and right type that will carry her through the time of pregnancy. The reason could be lack of awareness of trained designer to modify and improve on the existing wardrobe of a pregnant woman as to provide extra comfort without compromising style.

Another complained by pregnant women was that the maternity wear in use has no fasteners introduced to take care of continued expanding belly that will take them through their pregnancy for growing foetus (ease). Also, the researcher observed that the existing styles found in the wardrobe could be renovated to serve the same purpose of maternity dress when improved by the use of fasteners for example zipper. Most designers made blouses or gowns which were lined with any type of materials of any colour available to them. Some pregnant women complained that the lining are too bulky, made of synthetic materials and made use of black

colour. All these items of lining the tailored or readymade maternity wear induces heat and makes it uncomfortable to the wearer.

From observation and interactions with pregnant women in Bida, the researcher observed that the pregnant women further complained that the fabrics used for maternity wear or lining by local tailors or readymade maternity mostly synthetics, or black colours which does not allow sweat to either evaporate from the body or allow air permeability into the body. Nkeony (1993) stated that synthetic fabrics have low moisture absorption. As a result, many pregnant women confirmed that they feel very uncomfortable especially during the hot season in the maternity wear. Lyle (1976) pointed out that little absorption of perspiration resulted in a clammy feeling. The black fabrics mostly used for lining by the tailor rather than white or light material reflect the tropical heat absorbs it (Lyle, 1976).

Further interactions with pregnant women teachers in Bida revealed that the existing maternity wears used do not take care of the comfort and decency professional teachers who are suppose to face the pupils or students and other public functions as need maybe. The researcher therefore try to solve the problem of comfort, decency, uniqueness by producing styles that flatters the pregnant women using some beautiful fabrics. Teachers are good models to their students they teach and that's make them to dress and present decently. The researcher therefore try to embark upon modifying and improving on existing styles to design and construct maternity wears acceptable by pregnant women teachers in Bida Local Government Area of Niger State.

Based on the researchers close observation and interaction with the pregnant women. Those existing types of maternity wears can be improved and modified to meet the functionality of the pregnant women. The experienced and skills acquired during training will be implemented to meet their needs, improve and modify some existing styles for comfortability and acceptability

in causal professional and occasional wears for pregnant women in Bida Local Government Area of Niger State.

Lange (2006) stated that there is absolutely no reason a woman must sacrifice her sense of style just because she is pregnant instead a woman should be able to dress- as she would in her normal life. More importantly, these clothes should show – off rather than hide an expecting woman's garments are, types of fabrics, colour, design, sizes and adjustable hemlines in either one piece or two-piece readymade garments. All the above make this research work to be timely and of great importance; Thereby making provision for more fashionable stylish but comfortable and functional maternity garments.

1.3 Objectives of the Study

The main objective of the study is to design and construct, maternity garment that is acceptable to Pregnant Women Teachers in Bida Local Government Area in Niger state.

The specific objectives of the study are to:

1. Design and construct comfortable maternity wears for pregnant women teachers for classroom teaching.
2. Design and construct decent maternity wears for pregnant women teachers.
3. Design and construct maternity wears that will be affordable and easily accessible to fit pregnant women.
4. Design unique styles with the use of some simple trimmings which brings out its aesthetic values for assessment and acceptability by Pregnant Women Teachers in study area.
5. Design and construct, maternity wears that make use of right choice of fabric to conform with climatic conditions and texture.

1.4 Research Questions

The following research questions will be answered:

1. To what extent is the designed and constructed maternity wears be accepted as comfortable by Pregnant Women Teachers for classroom teaching?
2. To what extent will the designed and constructed maternity wears be accepted as decent by Pregnant Women Teachers?
3. To what extent will the designed and constructed maternity wears be accepted as affordable and accessible by Pregnant Women Teachers?
4. To what extent will the designed and constructed maternity wears with unique styles be acceptable by Pregnant Women Teachers?
5. To what extent will the designed and constructed maternity wears with the right choice of fabrics and conformity to climatic condition be acceptable by Pregnant Women Teachers?

1.5 Null Hypotheses

The following null hypotheses are formulated.

(1). There is no significant difference between the acceptability of the designed and constructed maternity wears and the comfortability of the maternity wears.

(2). There is no significant difference between the acceptability of the designed and constructed maternity wears and the decency of the maternity wears.

(3). There is no significant difference between the acceptability of the designed and constructed maternity wears and the affordability of the maternity wears.

(4). There is no significant difference between the acceptability of the designed and constructed maternity wears and the designed unique styles of the maternity wears.

(5). There is no significant difference between the acceptability of the designed and constructed maternity wears with right choice of fabrics suitable to climatic conditions.

1.6 Significance of the Study

The result of this study will be of benefit to the pregnant women teachers in the following ways: It will provide the knowledge about variety of maternity wears available and suitable for different occasions. The researcher newly designed maternity wear will be of great significance to the classroom teacher as it will improve Decency of the pregnant women. This will be an improvement of the traditional "buba" and "iro" wrapper which has been a problem of frequent tying and adjusting. It will be significant as it gives an elaborate sense of dress code acceptable to the modern society.

It will improve the skills of the designer in formation of styles for pregnant women teachers. It provide double advantage for maternity wears that could be used before and even after delivery. It will be important to the designers who intend to go into the production business of maternity wears. It provides ground for healthy fashion competition for the production of maternity wears to the growing population of pregnant women in the state in particular and the country in general.

1.7 Basic Assumptions of the Study

The study was based on the following assumptions that:

1. Non- pregnant women dresses are more expensive than those of pregnant women.

2. Fabrics for the design of good maternity wears are not easily available and if available they are expensive and not properly used. .
3. There are few specialists in the area of production of good maternity wears
4. Maternity wears are more acceptable to literate pregnant women than the illiterate ones.

1.8 Delimitation of the Study

This research was delimited to only Pregnant Women Teachers in Bida Local Government Area of Niger state. The project was delimited to four samples styles of maternity wears. Some selected fabrics such as African prints cottons, Jacquard, light flowering material and Batik which are long lasting materials and are readily available in the market were used. Designs include fullness control for example: tucks with buttons, elastic thread, Velcro close and zip fasteners.

CHAPTER TWO

2.0 REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE

This chapter deals with related literature on maternity wears under the following subheadings:

2.1 Concept of Maternity Wears

2.2 History of Maternity Wears

2.3 Cultural and Modern Trends of Maternity Wears

2.4 Planning a Maternity Wardrobe

2.5 Basic Principles of Design and Fitting of Maternity Wears

2.6 Factors to be considered when making Maternity Wears

2.7 Types /Styles of Maternity wears

2.8 Consumer and Acceptability

2.9 Sewing Equipment and Tools

2.10 Principle of Pattern Development

2.11 Review of Empirical Studies.

2,12 Summary of the Literature Reviewed

2.1 Concepts of Maternity Wears

Johnson (1990) defined maternity wears as loose garments, which are normally worn by pregnant women and are made in such a way that they will give enough room to growing foetus.

2.2 History of Maternity Wears

The English website: http://www.indianchild.com/fashion/Elizabethan reported that a waistless dresses fit a pregnant woman in late 16th century in England. Dresses did not follow a

wearer's body shape until the *middle ages* when western European dresses began to have seams, affluent pregnant women opened the seams to allow for growth. The Baroque Adrienne was a waistless pregnancy gown with many folds. Aprons were also worn, to close the opening left by jackets. 19th century maternity clothing was tailored to hide pregnancy. For many decades during the 20th century, maternity wears were considered a "fashion backwater," pinafores were the most common style and were often sold through nursery shops maternity clothing hasn't generally been considered a potentially profitable area for most major clothing manufacturers. This is due to a belief that many women would not purchase clothes intended for only a few months of wearing. However, with wide media interest in celebrity pregnancies beginning in the late 1990's, the maternity wear market grew 10% between 1998 and 2003. Kate Bostock and Marks & Spencer (2006) said the demand for maternity clothes was growing because "nowadays women are working during pregnancy, and traveling, and going to the gym, so their clothing needs are greater and more diverse. Johnson (1990) stated that the first maternity dress was introduced in 1903 by Mrs. Lane Bryant, a British- American who became the earliest leader in the industry. Her famous 'number 5', a tea gown based on empire line was designed with an adjustable waistline and camouflaged pleats. Two other visionaries in the field of maternity fashions, Thomson (1992) reported that they were Eloise Glover and Elsie Frankfurt who came upon the science in the late 1930s each with an innovation to make the pregnant figure appear more normal.

Mrs. Glover held a patent on button type expandable skirt and Miss Frankfurt on the skirt with an oval cut out. Bryant (1912) introduced other innovations, and both helped to lift maternity wear out of the doldrums of investing it with glamour. Bryant further reported that in 1912, Mrs. Bryant attempted to place aid apparel in New York Newspaper; Bryant was refused

because such a thing was thought to be improper. Maternity part dresses were first shown during the baby boom that followed the World War I, Bryant (1912). They were as a result of the newly acquired freedom that women in general were experiencing. Maternity slacks appeared in 1940; playsuits and swimsuits came soon afterwards in 1942.

Today, any type of garment that is fashionable is available to expectant mothers Doctors agree that happiness and contentment are definitely regarded to uncomplicated pregnancies. Just as the average non-pregnant woman is influenced by attractive appropriate clothing, so is the pregnant woman influenced by her apparel. Another website http://www.indianchild.com/fashion/maternity-clothes.htm, reported that maternity clothes for early pregnancy designed to provide extra give and comfort without compromising style. Maternity tops with a fitted style for a flattering look early on, but the stretch and design to take you through your pregnancy. Maternity pants, jeans and skirts with a chic under the belly fit and the right stretch and comfort for the 1st and early 2nd trimesters. Their excellent design stretches and grows with the pregnancy. Mom's-to-be often find their existing wardrobe uncomfortable at an early stage of their pregnancy, particularly when carrying the second or subsequent child or multiples, because we have selected fitted maternity clothing items with great style, you will find many of our maternity clothes work well during the early stages of pregnancy, well into the third trimester and beyond. Maternity clothes carefully chosen for their sense of style, quality and wearability. You will love the beautiful fabrics and great fit but most of all you will love how comfortable you are when you have got the right maternity clothes next to your growing belly (Bryant, 1912).

Maternity Evening and Party Wear

A report from a medical website on maternity http://www.biosommaternity.com/maternityclothesebsection.htm stated that, everyday maternity offer a variety of beautiful and chic maternity evening wear ideal for a party or a special occasion. Whether you are going for a low-key affair or a shows topping floor length dress we have the maternity evening wear to meet all requirements. Maternity evening wear offers a stunning range of maternity dresses, tops and trousers to make you look fantastic but without compromising on comfort. Maternity evening wear for everyday. Maternity includes elegant and sophisticated maternity clothing for a formal occasion and for parties.

Maternity Party Wear

The party season is also another ideal time to choose the perfect maternity party dress to flatter your new shape and ensure you look glamorous at these parties. This type of maternity evening wear range includes, maternity cocktail dress. Sophisticated maternity blouses and stylish maternity trouser that are suitable for all shapes and sizes so there's really no excuse to not look and feel fabulous this party season.

Formal Maternity Evening Wear

For formal maternity evening wear, pregnant women have maternity clothing to suite their figure whilst looking sophisticated. From the perfect *'little black dress'* to smart tailored wear to make you stand out from the crowd. Parts of formal evening wear selection are smart and sophisticated maternity trousers, skirts and maternity tops. Not only are these separates ideal for a formal evening occasion but mixed with the rest of Malsabella Oliver. Holly Willoughby has definitely shown that maternity clothes are no longer frumps with the respect gowns she's been wearing on dancing on ice. Velvet and Isabolla Oliver maternity dress and looked positively blooming in each one. The Belle Époque dress pictured above is from the bridal wear

range at Isabella Oliver and is £3.75. It has a Grecian inspired silk chiffon skirt with stretch silk stain bodice. The silk ties can be tied around the front as picture or around the back.

2.3. Cultural and modern trends in maternity wears

1. Cultural trends in maternity wears

Maternity clothes around the world have been undergoing significant changes. In both Eastern and Western cultures, there is greater demand for fashionable maternity clothes. In Western cultures, the influence of celebrity culture means that pregnant women in the public eye are taking the lead on maternity fashion. As a result, pregnant women are not longer trying to hide or disguise their pregnancy, instead choosing to wear garments which closely fit their new shape often emphasizing the bust and abdominal area. High –teach fabric such as elastane are the material of choice for maternity wear in western cultures as they allow garments to be form fitting while allowing the abdominal area to expand as necessary. Women in Eastern cultures, however, have maintained a much greater sense of modesty when it comes to maternity wear. In both the Islamic and Asian cultures, maternity wear is much less fitted, hemlines are longer and necklines higher. Modern Islamic maternity wear uses fabrics with brighter colours and bolder prints. Aside from cultural modesty, Chinese women have sometimes sought to hide their second pregnancy in less shapely clothes because Chinese policy has dictated that they can only have one child. In Chinese and Japanese cultures, there is a fear of radiation from devices such as computers and mobile phones, especially during pregnancy. Even though there is no evidence to support this (according to WHO), Asian maternity wear is often manufactured from “anti-radiation” fabrics (Bryant, 1912).

2. Modern trends in maternity fashion or wears

Opara (2000) explained that modern trends in the field of maternity fashion just like other developments in other areas of technology. There has been a tremendous improvement in designs for the pregnant woman as compared to what was obtainable in the past where pregnant women were restricted to only few designs from which they had to make their choices. Bryant (1912) went further to posit that clothes for leisure included shorts, slacks, skirts and swim suits. The same type of expenable features used on skirts can be used on shorts and slacks, however, a more popular device is the slightly elasticized pouch. The pouch is quite comfortable and assures the proper fit of any garment, but a shirt, jacket or blouse must be worn to cover it, swim suits are available in flattering styles with built-in support. Maternity play clothes are so cleverly designed that pregnancy is easily concealed.

Opara (2000), further reported that, the following designs were commonly found in the fashion houses now among many others.

i. Pullover dress with gathers into front and back yoke.

ii. Pullover dress with straps

iii. Night gown

iv. Maternity gown with yoke and pleat at the front views (Opara, 2000).

It is true that prior to the introduction of western designs for pregnant women there existed some designs that are native to the people but need improvement and those include the following:

(i) Buba

(ii) Sleeveless flared blouse over a wrapper.

2.4 Planning a Maternity Wardrobe

According to Thurow (1992), in planning a maternity wardrobe, the expected physical changes are of foremost importance. Silhouette change requires non-restricting clothing with expandable features. Uplift support for the breast is essential and abdominal support is frequently recommended. Lightweight clothing of sufficient warmth to maintain the proper body temperature and with absorptive qualities to take care of perspiration is desirable. Thurow (1992) went further to explain wardrobe work and activities by saying that pregnant woman needs will determine her actual clothing needed. Clothing needs may not include career clothes if employment is terminated in the early stages of pregnancy, but suitable clothing must be purchased if the pregnant women plans to continue on the job. Other important factors in selecting maternity clothes are climate, season of the years and geographical location.

A warm climate will require more absorbent clothing than a cold one. A cold climate will require a coat and other warm clothing. Thurow (1992) added that pregnant women will become extremely tired of wearing maternity clothes before the end of her pregnancy if she starts wearing them too soon. Expectant mothers need time to analyses her regular wardrobe and decide which garment can be adapted to maternity wear. Opportunity to explore the market and make definite plans for actual wardrobe need is essential. Based on consumer opinions, the maternity outer wears are not needed, until about the fourth or fifth lunar months. The exact time will vary with individual woman. The slight enlargement of the abdomen that occurs before the fifth lunar month can usually be accommodated by wearing regular clothing that is moderately appropriate to the body.

Also, cost is frequently a decisive factor in selecting a maternity wardrobe. How much one should spend on short-term clothing is a debatable issue, which will be influenced by the forgoing factors as well as by how much money is available for maternity purchases. On the

other hand, it is unwise to skip or attempt to get by with a make shift wardrobe because of the adverse effect this may have on the health or morale of the expectant mother. Analyzing her regular wardrobe, to determine which garments may be used or adapted for maternity wear will help to reduce the cost, as part of careful planning and intelligent shopping. Thurow (1992) suggested that, fashionable attractive styling of maternity clothes is important. This may be achieved by three methods.

(i) Conforming to the natural contours of pregnancy

(ii) Camouflaging the middle contour

(iii) Focusing attention on the portion of the body

Irrespective of the method used, provision must be made for expanding and adjusting the waistline and hemline.

2.5 Basic Principles of Design as Related to Fitting of Maternity wears

Johnstone (1990) advised that, in selecting maternity clothes, the pregnant woman should be guided by the same basic design principles that apply to the selection of her wardrobe. These are:

1. **Figure type:** - If the expectant mother is tall, she may choose contrasting colour and texture for a two-piece outfits, but if she is short or of average height, she should choose a matched top and skirt. The contrasting top is appropriate for most figures, however, when a long skirt is worn, as for evening wear is completed
2. **Colour**:- Since the expectant mother is no longer subjected to colour restrictions, she has free rein in the selection of colours for wardrobe. However, she should not deviate radically from her normal colour preferences. Personal colouring, figure type and size of wardrobe should be the determining factors. Some women prefer more conservative dress

colours as a background for colorful accessories. The size of the maternity wardrobe will limit the variety of colour that may be used. It should also be remembered that figure size is affected by colour. Light colour tends to make one seem smaller. The dullness or brightness of a colour affects the wear size in similar fashion.

3. **Texture**: - Weight and design are factors to be considered in choosing suitable fabrics or maternity garments. Shiny textures are difficult to wear because they reflect light, thereby making the figure appear larger and revealing its regular shape. Dull textures on the figure. Although, bulky or stiff fabric are usually considered undesirable for maternity wear, because they too increase the size of the wearer, some very attractive concealing garment have been created in the medium.

Patterned fabrics are often chosen for maternity wear, prints, plaids, stripes and checks help to conceal the silhouette and add interest to the costume. Ideally, fabrics for maternity wear should be neither too stiff nor too soft, neither too heavy nor too flimsy, but have sufficient body to hold their shape. Johnstone (1990) stated that, cotton materials have always been liked for support wears, and in hot countries for everyday wear because it allowed heat from body to pass though the cotton makes one feels cool. More so, since we know that a pregnant woman always feels hot, cotton material is the best for the construction of maternity garment so that the pregnant woman could be comfortable in the hot climate. Scientist have also found ways of improving cotton. It can be set so that it will neither shrink nor stretch, it can also be given a glazed or shiny surface so that it will not easily become dirty.

2.6 Factors to be considered when making Maternity wears

Thurow (1992) stated that patterns and designs are sometimes printed or woven into materials to beautify them. There are certain patterns and designs, which flatter the figure. Some

are more suitable for people of different age groups and figures than others. Large flowery designs, when worn by tall slender women, make them appear plump. Horizontal stripes given the illustration of a decrease in height and consequently make the figure broader. Before cutting a garment, for a pregnant woman, one need to study the designs to see that the material has a one way design or an all over pattern. For example, flowers grow upwards and a duck drinking from a stream or trolling horses should not be turned upside down. It is a bad habit to wear clothes indiscriminately.

Some people often wear very expensive dresses or clothes to work, recreation centers, market and so forth. This reduces the value o the garment and shows their ignorance of the right clothes for right occasions. The choice of clothes worn should be influenced by where you are going. Pregnant women are also participating in some occasions so maternity garment should be constructed for every occasion and certain things should be taken into consideration. Uniform clothes worn to work must be in good condition and business like. It should not be too reveling or tight (Thurow, 1992).

Recreation: - pregnant women need to exercise, so the clothes worn to these places must be free and not cumbersome to allow for easy movement for relaxation and sleep, expectant mother need s a lot of rest. The garment should be free or loose, light and airy to allow for free movement. Materials that are absorbent and can withstand frequent laundering should be used for nightdresses.

2.7 Types/Styles of Maternity Apparel

1. Types of maternity wears

According to Thurow (1992), maternity apparel may be classified as outer wear and underwear which includes clothes like dresses, suite, coats, blouses, jacket, skirts, shoes, hats,

accessories etc, while underwear are slips, brassieres, panties, girdle, nightgowns, etc. Outer wear maternity dresses are available in one and two piece versions. Each has certain advantages. The one piece is more becoming to some figures, while the two-piece is more effective with others. Some expectant mothers change from one piece to a two piece garment after the hemline of the former has a frequency ride up in front as pregnant progresses. Expenable features are perhaps more easily incorporated in two piece garment. Because of its adaptability to the pregnant figure, the two- piece outfits has become very popular and is not so readily associated with pregnancy, and clever designing can conceal its use a little longer (Thurow, 1992).

Ready-made garment are usually sized so that the pregnant woman can continue to wear her customary size. In general, allowances are adequate to take care of the expanding figure. Dresses are made in regular, junior and tall sizes, thereby making some provision for variation in figure types. The inclusion of a suit or coat in the maternity wardrobe will depend upon the season and climate. If needed, they should provide warmth without weight because garment cause fatigue. Full length and sortie coasts and perhaps the most popular styles of maternity wear. The full-length coast is more desirable for winter, whereas the sortie is best for spring. Underwear because of the tendency of pregnant woman to perspire, it is particularly important that maternity wear have absorptive qualities. Fabrics should be soft, sporous and easy to launder, (Thurow, 1992).

Every pregnant woman should wear a maternity brassiere, when the breast enlarges; there is no muscle tissue within them to support the additional weight, so that artificial support is necessary for comfort and to prevent stretching the delicate tissue (Thurow, 1992).

2. Style of maternity wears

Blouses: Blouses intended for pregnant women tend to have extra fabric towards the bottom of the garment to allow for the woman's expanding belly area.

Pants: pants designed for pregnant women tend to be made of stretchy material and or include a band of elastic at the top to accommodate the woman's larger midsection during pregnancy.

Dresses: much like blouses, maternity dresses have extra fabric to accommodate a mother to be's expanding midsection.

Brassier: while not usually worn during pregnancy, nursing brassiere usually include a clip which unhooks from the top of the cup, allowing a mother to easily expose the breast for breastfeeding.

Skirts: skirts designed for pregnant women tend to be made of stretchy material and/or include a band of elastic at the top to accommodate a woman's larger midsection during pregnancy.

Maternity band or belly band: maternity bands such as the Bella band and the belly bundle can be used with unbuttoned and unzipped non maternity wear early in pregnancy, with too loose maternity wear or maternity wear that falls below the waist later in pregnancy.

Maternity belt: a maternity belt is worn underneath maternity clothes to take the weight of the bump away from the pelvis and support the back to reduce pain experienced in both the back. Pelvis and tummy during pregnancy known as pelvic girdle pain.

Under- bust support Bank: supporting the baby bump as you grow, while shaping and smoothing your sides provide an ultimate pregnancy experience for all fashionistas. The body Tyler replaces traditional belly bands and maternity belt

2.8 Consumer and Acceptability of Maternity Wear

1. Industries depend on consumer acceptance to be successful. To sell products or services consumers must accept them, which means they are willing to purchase or at least tolerate them.
2. Consumer satisfaction: Consumer acceptance is directly linked to satisfaction. Although acceptance does not guarantee satisfaction, it is a necessary step for there to be any chance of approval and repeat buying.
3. Needs and preferences: The degree of consumer acceptance can vary depending on if the type of product or services, Consumer acceptance of design is much higher and easier to obtain than acceptances of luxury items.

2.9 Sewing Equipment and Tools

Dikko (2003) opined that there are many tools to make ones sewing easier. It is important that one selects the right equipment from the beginning and learn to use them correctly. Good equipment will last for years if it is cared for properly.

Scissors: These are about six inches long with good shape points are preferable. It is used for clipping, slashing trimming and other cutting operation.

Embroidery scissors: - These scissors are not necessary equipment, but they are extremely useful for undoing seams, cutting threads, clipping and for fine or delicate detail.

Shares: cutting shears, eight to ten inches long with a bent handle are best. The best handle makes it possible to cut faster and easier, while the fabric remains flat on the table keep the shears sharp and never use it for any other thing but cutting fabrics.

Pinking shears: get a size of pinking shears that is comfortable for you to use. Try them out for weight. It is used only for pinking seams or decorative edges on felt. They cannot be used for cutting garment since they can't cut accurate edge.

Pins: They have sharp points and will not leave marks on the garment.

Steam iron: The instant steam or dry iron is preferable. it is impossible to do really professional sewing without one ironing, you probably have one for pressing and caring for your clothes, but if not, do get one, it is a tremendous timesaver for professional work.

Tracing wheel: It is used with carbon paper for transferring marking to the materials

Tape measure: tape measure should be strong. It could be either plastic coated so that it won't stretch. it also being numbered from either end. It should have metal ends to prevent fraying.

Sewing Machine: No matter how beautifully you sew, you don't want to sew a whole dress by hand, so use a sewing machine for sewing the fabrics. They are in three types: hand sewing machine, treadle and electric sewing machine with the legs and the electric sewing machine with electricity.

Needles: Needles vary in size according to their purpose, fine Needles, such as 9 inches and 10 inches are for fine work, number 8 for general work, number 6 or 7 are used for very thick or stiff material. There are crewels needles of various sizes which have a long eye that are used for embroidery.

Sewing thread: Sewing thread is cotton, silk; nylon, polyester and nylon have greater give for sewing knits.

Pencil: There are different sizes and price, it is always goods to use short pencil in drawing of necessary line and marks as a guide for cutting.

Eraser: Eraser is used to erase the unwanted lines and marks while drafting.

Brown paper: these are different sizes which comes in brown or white colour.

It is used to construct patterns and necessary alteration before it is laid out on the actual fabric.

French curves: is either plastic or wooden. It is used in trueing out shape edges of the fabric in different parts of the body such as hips, necks, sleeve, and hand, armhole, crotch and sotfuth.

2.10 Pattern Alterations and Adaptation

The five basic blocks namely:

1. **Bodice blocks, sleeve block and skirt blocks:** The basic blocks of researcher has been used for different patterns of designed and construction of maternity wears. Some garments are clean and in good reappear but no longer stylish or suitable for your activities. Consider altering them before you decide to give them away.
2. **Pattern alteration:** is the adjustment of pattern drafted to either fit the individual figure proportion or adjudging to fit another person. It can also be seen as the accurate adjustment of paper pattern or Muslim shell to the correct measurement before lying out on fabric and cutting out the garment pieces. When pattern alteration of errors, which cannot be corrected after the garment pieces are cut and stitched (Tuit, 1978).

   According to Tuit, (1978), women were taught to take their measurements years ago compare them to the pattern, then adjust the pattern to these measurements, before they cut their garments in this way they were able to eliminate unnecessary fitting before the garment was even cut. It worked in theory, or when an expert too k their measurements but when a woman did her own measuring, there was too much margin for errors, another method had to be desired to eliminate unnecessary fitting. In constructing a maternity garment, one has to slash and spread the bust line of a bodice block and it can be obtained by joining the bodice block and skirt together to form a shealth. The top of the bodice

block form a yoke and the lower is slashed and spread according to the fullness required to form the lower garments.

3. **Pattern Adaptation:** This section is based on the adaptation of the basic blocks to design four maternity garments for pregnant women teachers. Pattern adaptation is the process by which the basic blocks are altered to design the four different maternity wears to be constructed. It is done by increasing the length, increasing or decreasing the width and also by introducing yoke. The adaptation of pattern can equally perform functional and decorating purposes on the garments. The following are the basic body measurements used for the design and construction of maternity garments (Tuit, 1978).

Table: 2.10: The Measurement of Basic Blocks of the Researcher

S/N	Dress measurement	Body measurement	Ease	Total	Half total
1.	Bust	40”	2”/5.0cm	42”	21”
2	High bust	39”	2”/5.0cm	41”	20.5”
3	Waist	36 1/2 “	1”/5.0cm	37 ½”	18.75”
4	Hip	41”	2”/5.0cm	43”	21.5”
5	Hip depth	9”	-	9”	4.5”
6	Upper hip	40”	2”/5.0cm	42”	21”
7	Back waist length	16”	-	16”	8”
8	Front waist length	16 ½”	-	16 ½”	8.5”
9	Bust point	7”	-	7”	3.5”
10	Back width	16”	½” 13mm	16 ½”	8.5”
11	Front width	15”	-	15”	7.5”
12	Shoulder	6”	-	6”	3”
	Sleeve Measurement				
13	To arm	13”	2”/5.0cm	15”	7.5”
14	Depth of sleeve head	5 ½”	1/2/13mm	6”	3”
15	Sleeve length	24”	½” 13mm	24½”	12.5’
16	Elbow point length	14”		14”	7”
	Skirt Measurement				
17	Front length	37”	-	37”	18.5”
18	Back length	40”	-	40”	20”
19	Side length	41”	-	41	20.5”

Source: (Tuit, 1978).

Names of Sketches of the Researcher Designed Maternity Gowns and Tops

(1) Velcro Seam; Bat-Wing Maternity top on Wrapper

(2) Pin-Tucked Fixed Buttons Style Maternity Top

(3) Elasticated Bust Designed Maternity Gown

(4) The Zipped-Tunic styled Maternity Gown (concealed zippers)

2.11 Review of Related Empirical Studies

Young women are encouraged to follow their normal pattern of life during pregnancy by wearing maternity clothes that are suitable and comfortable for all occasions. Clothing designers have not done much to promote fashion for pregnant teachers (Opara, 2000).

Opara (2000) in her study investigated the factors influencing the design of a maternity garment. It was a case study of working class women within the ABU, Campus. Questionnaire was administered. The article was related to the present research because it attempted to solve the problem of pregnant women teachers who were also among working class women in the campus which was in her case study. Questionnaire was administered by the researcher and the respondent will be randomly selected from 7 antenatal clinics while the previous work was on ABU main campus. The responses were analyzed using simple percentage method as the present work was undertaken. Four (4) designed maternity gowns will be sewn by the researcher as the previous study designed a single maternity gown. The study also related in terms of right fabric choice, comfortability, decency and other things that influenced the design of maternity garment.

The research embarked upon by the researcher was to design more than one maternity wears, to call for variation and fulfillment of stated objectives, null hypothesis underlying the research work. Therefore researcher made some improvement and modification to design and

construct four different styles of maternity wears for acceptability and comfort of pregnant women teachers in Bida Local Government Area of Niger State.

A study was carried out by Dikko (2006) on "Improvement of Hijab". The major objective of the study was to design, construct and test some modified hijab to address the problems and to see whether it meets the Islamic coverage requirements for the housewives, nursing mothers and professional women. Four null hypotheses were formulated and tested to find out if the Research Designed Hijab (RDH) were able to solve the problems identified. An experimental method of research was adopted using the studio to produce three sets of modified hijabs. These categories to find out whether the RDH will be accepted and be able to solve the problems mentioned. A set of structured questionnaire was administered to the Hijab users and another set to the malami to collect relevant data. These data were analyzed and the results presented using descriptive statistics. The hypotheses were tested using Pearson Moment Correlation coefficient, student t-test and one way analysis of variance at 0.05 level of significance.

Results of this study revealed the style A of each set were more preferred by the respondents with 18.72% each of housewives and nursing mothers and 29.16% professional women. Style B was preferred by 14.56% housewives and nursing mothers and 2.08% professional women. It also showed that 22.88% housewives, 24.9% nursing mothers and 29.16% professional women are very comfortable working with RDG on. The remaining respondents were comfortable doing so. The result also indicated that all the respondents from the three categories can perform their various functions effectively with the RDH on. The research concluded that the PSH could be improved to overcome the inherent problems encountered by the users; therefore the RHD could be a very good substitute for the PSH.

This research is related to the above research in that the researcher attempt to solve problems for Muslim women while the current research is also an attempt to solve problem of pregnant women teachers in classroom teaching.

The research used experimental and descriptive methods to produce the modified hijab while the present research too is using experimental and descriptive methods to modify the existing design styles of maternity wears for pregnant women.

The underlining motive of the above research differs because the research is based on religious affiliation, while the present research provides for every woman teacher regardless of religion.

The study titled "Comparative Preference Assessment Study of Locally Designed, Constructed and Foreign Children's Wear in Kaduna State" by Olowoyeye examined the assessment and preference of locally designed and constructed children's wear using Nigerian made fabric with foreign (China) children's wears. Four objectives were drawn:

1. To compare and assess the more preferred, Nigerian-made to foreign made; for designing and constructing children's wears.
2. To use suitable notions to design and construct children's wears locally, compared with foreign made children's wears.
3. To assess the qualities preferred and sought for in children's wears,
4. To examine the level of comparative preferences of the researcher's locally designed and constructed children's wears to foreign China designed children's wears.

Four research questions were raised and four hypotheses were also tested. Simple random sampling was used to select 20 respondents who served as judges in assessing the locally

designed and constructed children's wears and the China made. Two methods of data collection, experimental and questionnaire were used to get the feedback from the respondents.

The data were analyzed using descriptive statistics, such as mean, median, frequency table and percentage. The result of the analysis showed that the respondents preferred the locally designed and constructed children wears using local fabrics. The four hypothesis tested were rejected.

2.12 Summary of Reviewed Literature

This chapter reviewed relevant literature from books, journals and internet that are related to the study. The researcher reviewed concept of maternity wears, history of maternity wears, cultural and modern trend, planning a maternity wardrobe and the factors to be considered when making maternity wears for pregnant women. Finally different styles and types of maternity wears for pregnant women, sewing equipment and tools, principles of pattern development and review of empirical studies.

CHAPTER THREE

RESEARCH DESIGN AND METHODOLOGY

This chapter presented the research design adopted for the study, discussed under the following subheadings.

3.1 Research Design

3.2 Population for the Study

3.3 Sample Size and Sampling Procedure

3.4 Research Instruments

3.4.1 Validity of Instrument

3.4.2 Pilot Study

3.4.3 Reliability of the Instrument

3.5 Procedure for Data Collection

3.6 Procedure for Data Analysis

3.1 Research Design

Research design as described by Kolade (2008) is a planned structure and strategy of investigation in order to obtain answer to research questions as well as to control variances, so as to meet research objectives. Kolade (2008) further reported that, it is a term used to describe a number of decisions which need to be taken regarding the collection of data before the data are used. For this study two approaches were used. Descriptive survey research design was considered appropriate because it has being a useful means of obtaining base line data on prevailing trait and the perception among segments of population and generalizing the findings obtained to the population. Kolade (2008) stressed that it seems to be the best method that is suitable for studies where the population is scattered over a wide area. This is considered

appropriate for this study since data were collected from Pregnant Women Teachers who were spread all over Bida Local Government Area of Niger State.

3.1.1. Survey Method

This method was employed to identify the problems associated with the existing and to improve on the quality of modifying styles of maternity wears, four sets of designed and constructed for this purpose. The problems identified are those related to comfort, decency, high cost, uniqueness, functionality and level of acceptability of the designed and constructed maternity wears.

3.1.2 Experimental Approach

According to Osuala (2005) explained that experimental research design is to drive verified functional relationships among controlled conditions, or to identify the conditions underlying the occurrence of a given phenomenon. This research design will enabled, the researcher to improve the condition under which was observed, and thus arrive at more precise results. An experiment will be conducted in the studio in which four (4) different styles of designed and constructed maternity wears will be produced. The newly introduced maternity wears will then be evaluated both by the wearer and panel of experts in clothing construction.

3.2 Population for the study

The population used for this study comprised of all the Pregnant Women Teachers attending general and private ante-natal clinics in Bida Local Government Area. They were 100 who attended the seven listed maternity clinics:

1. Federal Medical Centre
2. Umaru Sanda Ndayako Hospital

3. Yebosoko Maternity Home

4. Sokoge Maternity Clinic

5. Nasiha Maternity Clinic

6. Wadata Maternity Clinic

7. Trinity Maternity Home

The comprehensive data of the target for population for the study are presented in table 3.2 below

Table 3.2.1 Population for the Study

S/N	Name of Hospitals and Maternity clinic/Homes in Bida	No of Pregnant Women Teachers
1	Federal Medical Centre	58
2	Umaru Sanda Ndayako Hospital	39
3	Yebosoko Maternity Home	23
4	Sokoge Maternity Clinic	14
5	Nasiha Maternity Clinic	8
6	Wadata Maternity Clinic	5
7	Trinity Maternity Home	3
	Total	**150**

Source: Health Care Statistics Record, 2011

It was discovered that all the categories of people required for the study could be obtained from the pregnant women attending both general and private ante-natal clinics in the study area. Therefore, the total population for the study based on the list compiled by medical

and health care centre of both general and private clinics were 150 and 100 pregnant women teachers.

3.3 Sample Size and Sampling Procedure

The sample for this study was drawn from the population of Pregnant Women Teachers in the seven selected antenatal clinics in the study area. In order to get the fair representation of the subject under investigation random sampling was used to select the sample for the study by randomly selecting from the seven clinics. All Pregnant Women Teachers numbered 100 were selected.

Table 3.3.1 Sample Size for the Study

S/N	Name of Hospitals and Maternity clinic/Homes in Bida	No of Pregnant Women Teachers
1	Federal Medical Centre	32
2	Umaru Sanda Ndayako Hospital	29
3	Yebosoko Maternity Home	20
4	Sokoge Maternity Clinic	9
5	Nasiha Maternity Clinic	5
6	Wadata Maternity Clinic	3
7	Trinity Maternity Home	2
	Total	**100**

Source: Health Care Statistics Record, 2011

3.4 Instrument for Data Collection

The instrument used for data collection was the questionnaire comprising of two sections:

Section A: Consists of demographic data

Section B: Respondents opinion of the designed and constructed maternity wears for pregnant women teachers which were scored using the mean value differentiation.

3.4.1 Validity of the Instrument

In order to determine the validity of the instrument the researcher ensured face and content validity whereby friends, Home Economists lecturers and experts in Statistics, research measurement and evaluation were given the questionnaire to read through, criticize and have their input in the constructed of instrument. The researcher also used the modified instrument for pilot study for pregnant women in ABU Zaria Main Campus Ante-natal Clinic Section, Kaduna State.

3.4.2 Pilot Study

In order to ensure that the instrument was free of ambiguity which could lead to misinterpretation, the pilot study was conducted at Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria Campus, Ante-natal Clinic Section. The purpose of the pilot study was to minimize errors and to find out whether the questionnaire was adequately structured or not. The designed instrument were issued or administered to twenty (20) respondents. However, the result of the pilot study was reported under the reliability of the instrument.

3.4.3 Reliability of the Instrument

The data collected from the pilot study were subjected to reliability test with the Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS) using the Guttmann Split Half Options. Reliability coefficient of 0.820 was observed using this method.

3.5 Procedure for Data Collection

The researcher with two trained assistant distributed the questionnaire alongside with the four sets of newly designed garment for testing. Each assistant supervised two ante-natal clinics and the researcher supervised three at every clinic days for a week. The respondents were directed to try on each sample designed garment for ten minutes to enable them fill the questionnaire alongside the variables given on each styles.

3.5.1 Procedure for Construction

Four different type of fabrics were used for the construction of the maternity gowns. Such fabrics are: jacquard, Nigerian printed cottons, satin fabric and light weight floral fabric. Velcro seam bat-wing maternity top on wrapper was attached to the batwing sleeve style to also allow expansion of the stomach (See Plate A-Style 1). Pin-tucked fixed buttons style maternity top was used to give flare effect at the lower bodice for ease (See Plate A-Style 2).

Elasticated Bust Designed maternity gown was utilized to give smocked effect on the bust and also to give freedom of expansion of the growing stomach (See Plate A style 3). The zipped tunic gown style was constructed with invited pleat utilizing jacket zipper at the two side for expansion and also for use after birth (See Plate Style 4). Style one, two and four patterns were drafted using adapted basic blocks. However, style three was cut freehand. Freehand cutting is a traditional method of cutting styles.

Design and Construction of Maternity Wears for Pregnant Women Style No 1: Velcro Seam Bat-Wing Maternity Top on Wrapper

Procedures

1. Neaten round the edges for the bodice front and back
2. Neaten round all edges of ruffles
3. Use gathers to control the pleated ruffles used.

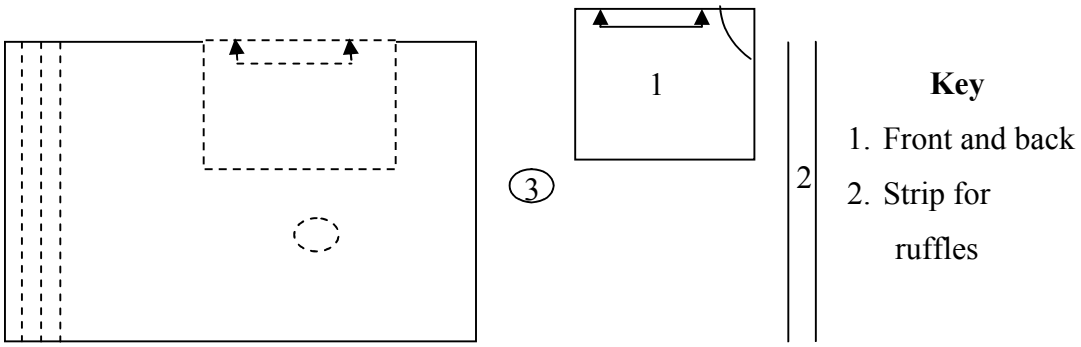
4. Attach ruffles to the neckline sides and slits

5. With two right sides together stitch-up slit

6. Turn to the right side of material and attach box pleat round the slitted area.

7. Stitch the Velcro on side seam line and does when desire.

Figure 1: Pattern Layout Style 1



To Construct: Front and Back (1/4 scale measurement was used)

1. Place the material unfold

2. Measure 101.6cm on the folded edge

3. Refold again and measure down 30cm for in center front

4. Measure 3½ x 15.24cm on the double folded edge as for neckline

5. Measure 15.24cm to the sides of the sleeve. Cut slit 7.62cm x 7.62cm round the circumstance.

6. Cut strips for ruffles as required

Table 1: Estimate Cost of Style 1

Material	Quantity	Cost
Jacquard	4.572m	₦2,200.00
Velcro	0.9144m	₦220
Sewing thread	1 spool	₦10

Neatening raw edge		₦100
Labour		₦300
Total		**₦2,830**

The estimated selling price ₦3,500

Velcro Seam; Bat-Wing Maternity Top on Wrapper

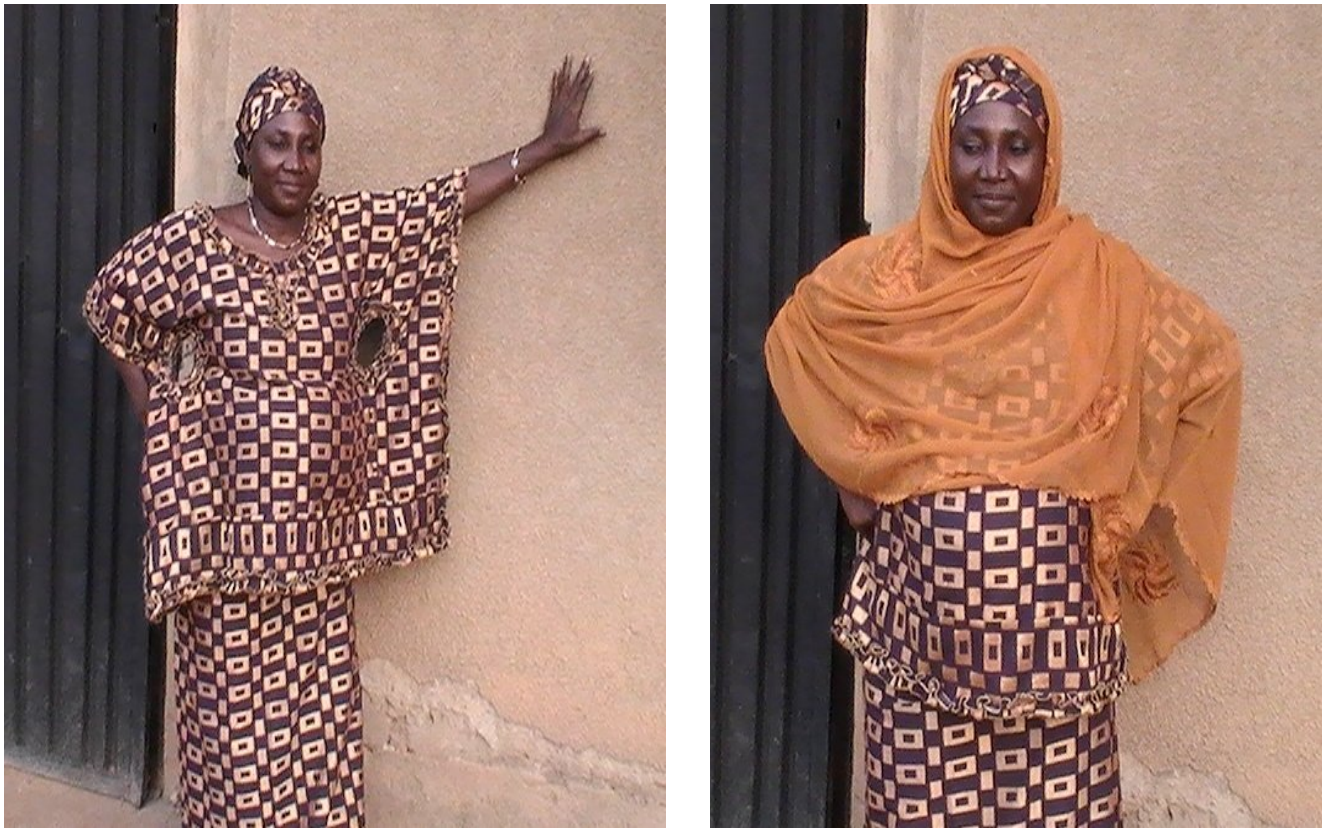


Plate A: Showing Style 1 Front View of Maternity Wear

Jacquard material used, Batwing style maternity top on wrapper. Velcro use for seam allowance and wrapper edges



Plate A: Showing Style 1 Back View of Maternity Wear

Design and Construction Maternity Wears for Pregnant Women Style No 2: Pin-Tucked Fixed Buttons Style Maternity Top

Procedures

1. Attach the lining material to the front and back bodice first with gathers then machine and turn to wrong side and press.
2. Stitch the tucks lines in front bodice and a single kissing pleat in centre back bodice
3. Stitch tucks on the centre sleeves edge 6cm up shoulder point.
4. Run the upper shoulder point with gathers stitch to control either pleats or full gathers.
5. Use 12 x 10cm material for two side tucks and band the shaped edges with same material to required length.
6. Attach the prepared tucks to the bodice both sides of front.
7. Run upper shoulder sleeves to front and back bodices neckline with strip band.
8. Attach upper shoulder sleeves to front and back bodice with strip band.
9. Attach the buttons in position
10. Finish raw edges down with machine stitch
11. Iron and store accordingly

Figure 2: Pattern Layout Style 2

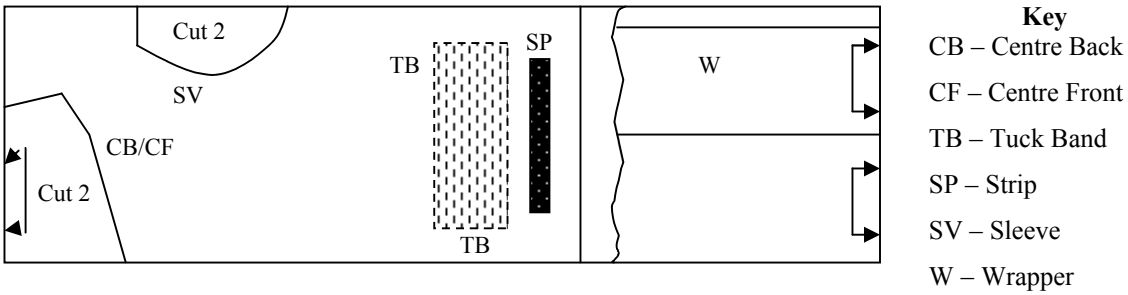


Table 2: Estimate Cost for Style 2

Material	Quantity in Meters	Cost
Code di'vor printed material	5.4864m	₦2,300.00
Sewing thread	1 spool	₦10
Lining material	0.9144m	₦150
Buttons	6 pieces	₦60
Labour		₦300
Total		**₦2,820**

The estimated selling price ₦3,500

Pin-Tucked Fixed Buttons Style Maternity Top

Plate A: Showing Style 2



Front View of Maternity Wear

Tucked Style maternity top on wrapper. Cote d'ivore use for seam allowance and wrapper edges



Plate A: Showing Style 2 Back View of Maternity Wear

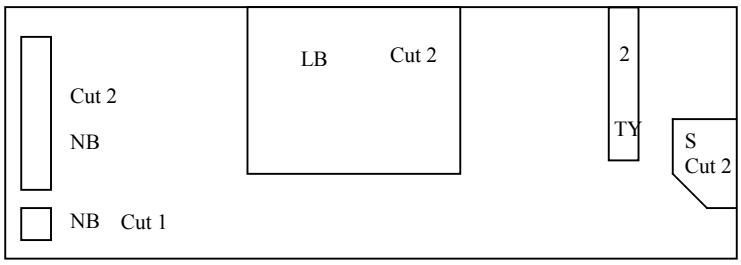
Design and Construction Maternity Wears for Pregnant Women Style No 3: Elasticated Bust Styled Maternity Gown

Procedures

1. Neaten the top front and back satin edges
2. Neaten the shoulder strips and
3. Use elastic thread, stitch required rows of gathers on satin material;

   Note: pull while sewing to give elastic band effect
4. Attach top strips to the upper position of the burst
5. Use the same method twice on sleeve
6. Attach the lower bodice to the gown
7. Gathers the sleeve edge to about 7 to 8 pleats at each sides.
8. Attach lining material on right side and then turn to wrong side and press
9. Hem the lower edge of the gown
10. Neaten the sides

Figure 3: Pattern Layout Style 3



Key:
CB – Centre Back
NB – Neck Band
LB – Lower Bodice
TY - Top Yoke
S – Sleeve

Table 3: Estimate Cost for Style 3

Material	Quantity in Meters	Cost
Light Weight flowering material	3.6576	₦1,600.00
Satin material	0.4572	₦100.00
Lining material	2.286	₦200.00
Elastic thread	2 spool	₦60.00
Sewing thread	1 spool	₦10.00
Neatening thread	1 spool	₦400.00
Labour		₦300
Total		**₦2,800**

The estimated selling price ₦2,800

Elasticated Bust Styled Maternity Gown



Plate A: Showing Style 3 Front View of Maternity Wear

Light flowering material use for construction of Elasticated Burst Region and lined with white material.



Plate A: Showing Style 3 Back View of Maternity Wear

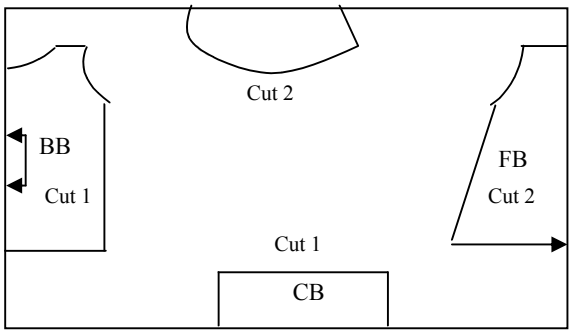
Design and Construction Maternity Wears for Pregnant Women Style No 4: The Zipped Tunic Styled Maternity Gown (Concealed Zippers)

Procedures

1. Neaten raw edges round
2. Stitch the sleeve in position
3. Stitch the shoulder and side seam as required
4. Attach zipper first with tacking, then machine used over extra material for ease under the gown.

   Note: This portion gives enough room for pregnancy growth at later stage
5. Attach the ruffles to the princess line
6. Attach the lower down flare section
7. Finish and store as desired.

Figure 4: Pattern Layout Style 4



Key:
CB – Center Band
S – Sleeve
FB – Front Bodice
BB – Back Bodice

Table 4: Estimate Cost for Style 4

Material	Quantity	Cost
London Wax	5.4864	₦1,250.00
Sewing Thread	1 spool	₦10.00
Zip	2	₦40.00
Neatening raw edges	1 spool	₦50.00
Labour		₦300.00
Total		**₦1,650.00**

The estimated selling price ₦2,000

The Zipped Tunic Styled Maternity Gown (Concealed Zippers)



Plate A: Showing Style 4 Front View of Maternity Wear

Batik Material used for construction. Two zipped fasteners as seam allowance to accommodate growing pregnancy



Plate A: Showing Style 4 Back View of Maternity Wear

3.6 Procedure for Data Analysis

The tables were analyzed using descriptive analysis of frequency and percentage while the hypotheses were tested using t-test.

CHAPTER FOUR

PRESENTATION AND DATA ANALYSIS

4.1 Response Rate of Respondents

The Research had a Sample population size of 100 pregnant women as representative samples for the study of the women in Bida Local Government Area. Out of 100 copies of questionnaire administered 93 copies were collected from the pregnant women. Thus, the response rate for this research is 93% and this was used for the data analysis.

4.1.1 Presentation of Data and Analysis

The analysis of the demographic characteristics as well as their response to the instrument as presented as follows.

Table 4.1 Age of Respondent

	Age	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	15-19 Years	27	29.0	29.0	29.0
	20-29 Years	31	33.3	33.3	62.4
	30 - 39 Years	35	37.6	37.6	100.0
	Total	93	100.0	100.0	

The analysis from the Table showed that 27 pregnant representing 29% women were between the age of 15-19 years. 31 pregnant women representing 33.3% were between 20-29 years while 35 pregnant women 37.6% were between age 30-39 years. It would be said that a sizeable number of young and adult pregnant women responded to the instrument.

Table 4.2 Marital Status of Respondents

	Marital Status	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Married	74	79.6	79.6	79.6
	Divorced	15	16.1	16.1	95.7
	Widow/Widower	4	4.3	4.3	100.0
	Total	93	100.0	100.0	

The table above showed that 79.6% of the respondents were married while 16.1% pregnant women were divorced. The least number of 4.3% pregnant women confirmed that they were widowed. This reference drawn here is the pregnant women were married, while other had been married at one time or the other, signifying that their pregnancy was legitimate.

Table 4.3 Religious Belief of Respondents

	Religious	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Islam	68	73.1	73.1	73.1
	Christianity	24	25.8	25.8	98.9
	Traditional	1	1.1	1.1	100.0
	Total	93	100.0	100.0	

This Table presented the religious belief or affiliation of the respondents in which pregnant Mother. 73.1% of them were Muslim practicing Islam. 25.8% others were Christian practicing Christianity, while the one pregnant women 1.1% affirmed tradition religion. In

summary, all the mothers had one religions belief and affiliation with the highest percentage mostly Muslim.

Table 4.4 Total Number of Children

	Number of Children	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	1-2	24	25.8	25.8	25.8
	3-4	38	40.9	40.9	66.7
	5-6	13	14.0	14.0	80.6
	7 and Above	18	19.4	19.4	100.0
	Total	93	100.0	100.0	

From the Table above, 25.8% pregnant mother confirmed that they had 1-2 number of children, 40.9% pregnant mother respondents acknowledge that they had 3-4 children. While 18 pregnant mother 19.4% said that they had 19.4% children and said they had more than 7 children. The deduction drawn here is that pregnant women had given birth to at least a child and so presented in with the tendency that could have used maternity wears or gown at one time or the other.

Table 4.5 Highest Educational Level

	Educational Level	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	NCE/OND	57	61.3	61.3	61.3
	HND/1st Degree	28	30.1	30.1	91.4
	Masters	8	8.6	8.6	100.0
	Total	93	100.0	100.0	

This Table presented the educational qualification of pregnant women. As shown, women 61.3% pregnant had attained National Certificate in Education (NCE) or its equivalents Ordinary National Diploma (OND). Also 30.1% pregnant respondents indicated that they had Higher National Diploma (HND) or at least First Degree in their various disciplines. Another set of 8.6% pregnant women affirmed that they had attained master Masters Degree. This indicated that the pregnant women were all literate and this has the tendency to understand the question in the instruments given to them since they have earlier on stated they were all pregnant mothers and had children at one time or the other.

Table 4.6 Institution of Teaching

	Institutions	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Nursery	7	7.5	7.5	7.5
	Primary	32	34.4	34.4	41.9
	Secondary	53	57.0	57.0	98.9
	Tertiary	1	1.1	1.1	100.0
	Total	93	100.0	100.0	

From the Table above, 7.5% pregnant women acknowledged that they taught in nursery/primary school. 32 pregnant women 34.4% affirmed they taught in the primary schools Similarly, 57.0% pregnant women said that they taught in secondary schools while the one of them 1.1% confirmed that she was a lecturer in the tertiary institution. This showed that all the pregnant respondents were teachers and so have a tendency to dress appropriately when and while pregnant.

Table 4.7How Old is the Pregnancy

	Period	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	0-4 Months	33	35.5	35.5	35.5
	5-7 Months	35	37.6	37.6	73.1
	8-9 Months	23	24.7	24.7	97.8
	10 Months and Above	2	2.2	2.2	100.0
	Total	93	100.0	100.0	

The Table here presented the period of most pregnant mother pregnancy at the time when the instruments were given them. 35.5% of the pregnancy said identification that their pregnancy were between 0-4 months. 37.6% respondents said that it was between 5-7 months. Another set of 24.67% respondents identified that their pregnancy was between 8-9 months, while the 2.2% pregnant women affirmed that it was 10 months and above 2.2% whatever the duration of their pregnancy, it is indicative to note that these women have used maternity wears of one design, style and shape or the other within same period and then have the tendency to respond to the question on the instrument.

Table 4.8 The Size of Your Blouse Gown

	Size of Blouse	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	14-15	13	14.0	14.0	14.0
	16-17	13	14.0	14.0	28.0
	18-20	51	54.8	54.8	82.8
	21 and Above	16	17.2	17.2	100.0
	Total	93	100.0	100.0	

The various size of maternity gowns used by pregnant women are presented in Table 4.8. As shown, 14.0% pregnant women indicated their maternity gown to be between 14-15cm in size representing to be between 16-17inches. Another 14.0% respondents indicated the size of their maternity dress to be 16 – 17cm.

In addition, 54.8% pregnant women reveled that their maternity gown size was between 18-20cm while 17.2% pregnant mother affirmed their sizes to be between 21cm and above. The variation in sizes either in length or width may be dependent upon the;

i. Size of pregnancy

ii. Height of the mothers' and

iii. Their choice of style to fit the period.

4.2 Answering the Research Questions

The variables presented in the instrument were designed in line with research questions. Then expressed responses were measured using 5 points Likert scale in varied forms and the frequencies/percentages of the respective variables were comprehensive analyzed. More so, the mean aggregate of each table was taken based on the 3.5 mean value for accepting or rejecting the analysis on the table. Thus, in order to accept an analysis based on the mean criterion, any mean value that is either 3.5 or above were remarked "Acceptable" (A) while those which falls below 3.5 were remarked, "Not Acceptable" (NA).

Research Question One: *To what extent is the designed and constructed maternity wears acceptable by pregnant women?*

Table 4.2.1: Extent of Acceptability of Designed Maternity Wears by Pregnant Women

Variable	HA	%	A	%	NA	%	NA	%	Neu	%	Total	%	Mn	Rmk
Style 1	25	26.9	18	19.4	20	21.5	0	0	30	32.3	93	100.1	3.5	A
Style 2	21	22.6	34	36.6	29	31.2	9	9.7	0	0	93	100	3.8	A
Style 3	32	34.4	28	30.1	18	19.4	14	15.1	0	0	93	100.1	3.7	A
Style 4	25	26.9	26	28	23	24.7	17	18.3	2	2.2	93	100.1	3.6	A

A = Acceptable based on the mean criterion value of 3.50 mean and above
NA = Not Acceptable based on mean criterion value of below 3.50

This table presented a composites of pregnant women response to the different styles of maternity wears or gown given them. On the level of acceptability of the first style, 76.9% women said they highly accepted the style, 19.4% pregnant women revealed that they accepted it. However on the level of high acceptability and the acceptance level of the wear, 21.5% women said they barely accepted its styles and design, while 32.3% other pregnant teachers were undecided. From the foregoing, it would have been difficult to deduce whether or not the first style was accepted but using the mean criterion score which is 3.5, it could be inferred that the design was accepted and thus have the tendency to be used at least by 40 pregnant women.

More so, the second design had 22.6% pregnant women stated that it was highly acceptable, 36.6% respondents accepted it. The decline in the extent of acceptability from 29 and 9 other pregnant women said that they barely accept and did not accept the style and its design representing 31.2% and 9.7% respectively.

Drawing again from the mean score value of 3.8, it could be summarized here that the design should be given a great opportunity and tendency of usage.

Furthermore, presenting the results of pregnant women responses to the third style, the table shows that 32 pregnant mothers representing 34.4% highly accepted the design, 28 pregnant mother accept the design representing 30.1%. However, 18 and 14 number of pregnant mothers said that they barely accepted and did not accept the design or style representing 19.4% and 15.1% respectively. Although, the level in the decline of acceptability could be said to be considerable, from the standard of the mean criterion of 3.7, it could deduced that the design was acceptable.

Finally, on the level or extent of acceptance, a fourth style was presented to the pregnant women. In analyzing the fourth style, 25 pregnant women representing 26.9% highly accepted

the design, while 26 pregnant women representing 28% accepted its design and level of acceptance was revealed by 23 pregnant women who barely accepted the design representing 24.7% while 17 pregnant women completely did not accept representing 18.3%. The final set of at least two (2) pregnant declines to comment on the level of acceptability representing 2.2% of the figure of respondents.

Therefore, the presentation in this table shows some degree of acceptance in one way or the other and depending on the mean value of 3.6, it could be submitted that the design or style was accepted and thereby have possible tendency of further usage by pregnant women.

Research Question Two: *To what extent does completed maternity wears solve the problem of comfort and decency to the wearer?*

Table 4.2.2.1: Maternity Wears Solving the Problem Associated with Comfortability

Variable	VC	%	C	%	FC	%	NC	%	Neu	%	Total	%	Mn	Rmk
Style 1	29	31.2	26	28.0	23	24.7	15	16.1	0	0.0	93	100	3.7	A
Style 2	34	36.6	21	22.6	29	31.2	9	9.7	0	0.0	93	100.1	3.9	A
Style 3	25	26.9	23	24.7	29	31.2	16	17.2	0	0.0	93	100	3.6	A
Style 4	21	22.6	27	29.0	24	25.8	21	22.6	0	0.0	93	100	3.5	A

A = Acceptable based on the mean criterion value of 3.50 mean and above
NA = Not Acceptable based on mean criterion value of below 3.50

This Table presented the aggregate computations of pregnant women responses on the level or extent of the comfortability of maternity wears presented to them. In analyzing the0 first style, 31.2% and 28.6% pregnant women attested to its comfortability by stating very comfortable and comfortable. The other sets of 24.7% respectively and 16.1% pregnant women affirmed that it was fairly comfortable and not comfortable.

Since the number of pregnant women who acknowledged the comfortability could be summed up to be above design was comfortable. More so, using the mean criterion value of 3.7

the level of comfortable of the first style is accepted. Thus, this indicates that the style pregnant women polled did not have much problem with its comfortability therefore the preference and tendency of its usage among women will be encouraged.

Presenting the analysis for the second style, 36.6% pregnant women said it was very comfortable, while 22.6% pregnant women revealed it was comfortable with them. Moreso, 22.6% and another 9 9.7% pregnant women revealed that the style was fairly comfortable and not comfortable respectively.

Thus, from the data and the mean value of 39, it could be inferred that this style level of comfortability is high enough to warrant its usage among pregnant women. Here also, the third style was given to pregnant women among whom 26.9% and 24.7% of them respectively acknowledged that it was very comfortable. Another sets of 31.2% and 17.2% pregnant mothers indicated that it was fairly comfortable and not comfortable.

In a similar way, the overall degree of comfortability could gotten from the summation of over 70 pregnant women who accepted its level of comfortability in one way or other, while only 16 of them completely states that it was not. Thus, drawing on inference from the table and from the mean value of 3.6, we could state that the style is comfortable and posed less problems to pregnant women who chooses to use it.

Finally, analyzing the fourth style, 22.6% pregnant women revealed that the fourth style was very comfortable, while 24.7% pregnant women attested that it was comfortable. In a similar way, 31.2% pregnant women revealed that it was fairly comfortable, while 22.6% pregnant women completely revealed that style was not comfortable.

It could be deduced that with an considerable percentage of (22.6%) debunking its comfortability completely, there was a high percentage of pregnant who accepted its

comfortability (combined percentage of 77.4%) as against percentage of pregnant women who rejected it.

Therefore, in submitting an inference from this study, it could be said that averagely the styles were comfortable. This assertion is backed by mean value of 3.7 which is above the 3.5 mean baseline for accepting or rejecting data.

Table 4.2.2.2: Maternity Wears and the Problems of Decency

Variable	VD	%	D	%	MD	%	ND	%	Neu	%	Total	%	Mn	Rmk
Style 1	36	38.7	21	22.6	20	21.5	16	17.2	0	0.0	93	100.1	3.8	A
Style 2	35	37.6	22	23.7	21	22.6	15	16.1	0	0.0	93	100	3.8	A
Style 3	21	22.6	29	31.2	23	24.7	20	21.5	0	0.0	93	100.1	3.6	A
Style 4	29	31.2	26	28	21	22.6	16	17.2	1	1.1	93	100.1	3.7	A

A = Acceptable based on the mean criterion value of 3.50 mean and above
NA = Not Acceptable based on mean criterion value of below 3.50

To investigate the above research question, four different styles of maternity were presented to the pregnant women. In analyzing the first style, 38.7% pregnant women said that the first style was highly decent, while 22.6% acknowledged its decency.

Another set of 21.5% pregnant women confirmed that it was moderately decent, while 17.2 pregnant women said it was not decent. The acceptance of its decency level as against its indecency may owe to facts that the style mostly covered all the sensitive and sensual part of the woman frame. This alone did not make the analysis secured as the research draws its deduction from the mean value of 3.8 to affirm that it was decent and had the tendency high preference of usage by pregnant women.

The second style also presented a similar analysis as the first in the sense that 37.6% pregnant women attested to its high degree of decency, while 23.7% pregnant women said it was decent.

More so, 21 (22.6%) pregnant mothers acknowledged that it was moderately decent, while 15 (16.1%) pregnant women saw it differently as being not decent respectively.

Again, the percentage of the number of pregnant women who acknowledged its level of decency in one degree or the other were more than those who completely said it was not decent. Thus, from the mean value of 3.8, drawn from this presentation of this style is that it is also decent and could be worn by pregnant mothers irrespective of their size and status.

In analyzing the third style, 22.6% pregnant women and 31.2% pregnant women revealed that the style is very decent. Here again, 24.7% and 21.5% pregnant women 24.7% and 21.5% revealed that it was moderately decent and not decent respectively.

Relying on the tables and data presented on the third style as well as the mean value of 3.6%, it could be that the level of decency was acceptable and thus the design could be used by pregnant mothers or women.

Finally, the fourth style has its analysis presented from the number of pregnant women. 31.2% pregnant mothers and 22.6% others agreed that the style was very decent and decent respectively. The values also showed that 22.6% pregnant women revealed that the style was moderately decent while the least figure of 12.2% pregnant mothers differed as they stated that style was not decent.

The differences in the values was appreciatively significant in order to make a better inference, notwithstanding the 17.2% who differed completely, on the whole, it could be seen

and said that the style was stated as decent enough to permit it usage by pregnant mothers as supported by the mean value of 3.7 which was remarked as acceptable.

Research Question Three: *To what extent is the newly designed maternity wears affordable?*

Table 4.2.3: Affordability Level of Newly Designed Maternity Wears

Variable	VE	%	E	%	C	%	VC	%	Neu	%	Total	%	Mn	Rmk
Style 1	35	37.6	25	26.9	20	21.5	13	14	0	0.0	93	100.	3.9	A
Style 2	29	31.2	26	28.0	21	22.6	16	17.2	1	1.1	93	100.1	3.7	A
Style 3	35	37.6	22	23.7	22	23.7	14	15.1	0	0.0	93	100.1	3.8	A
Style 4	29	31.2	26	28.0	29	31.2	9	9.7	0	0.0	93	100.1	3.8	A

A = Acceptable based on the mean criterion value of 3.50 mean and above
NA = Not Acceptable based on mean criterion value of below 3.50

Here are the interpretations of the data presented in the Table 4.2.4. To analyse and find out respondents responses to the research question viz-a-viz the styles if designed maternity wears being empirically investigated, 37.6% pregnant women while assessed the first style as very expensive.

In the same vein, 26.9% pregnant women revealed that the first design was expensive. However, the expensive nature of the first design, 21.5% pregnant women saw it as cheap while 14% pregnant women revealed that it was very cheap. Thus, even when some pregnant women acknowledged that the design was cheap, the facts here presented pointed the other direction – that is towards its expensive nature and from the mean value of 3.9, it could be deducted as same – that it is expensive and could be beyond the reach of the average pregnant woman thereby limiting its overall usage.

In another way, the second style of maternity wears was presented to pregnant women to assess its cost and affordability. Here 31.2% pregnant women said that it was very expensive, while another set of 28.0% pregnant women revealed it was expensive.

More so, other 22.6% of pregnant women in the research while assessing the second style revealed that it was cheap and 17.2% said very cheap, while just 1.1% pregnant woman did not answer.

Thus, the analyst could again state that the second design was also expensive and could pose a challenge of and to its affordability, thereby limiting its usage too.

The third style drew a similar pattern of response from respondents in the sense that 37.6% pregnant women said it was very expensive while 23.7% pregnant mothers agreed that it was expensive. Here also, 23.7% pregnant mothers as well as another 15.1% revealed that it was cheap and very cheap respectively.

A considerable proportion of the respondents accepted that it was cheap, it could see that a high number of pregnant mothers disagreed as they revealed that the third style like the first two was also expensive. Thus, being backed by the mean value of 3.8, it submit that the assertion that the tendency that the style was expensive and it was possible and this may affect its sales and usage.

Finally, from the same Table 4.2.4 while presenting the analysis of the fourth style, it was found that 31.2% pregnant mothers and another 28.0% pregnant mothers revealed that this style was very expensive and expensive respectively. Furthermore, another 31.2% pregnant women said it was cheap, while only 9.2% pregnant mothers said it was very cheap.

In order to make an empirically deduction based on the data, the researcher relied not only on the data here presented but in the mean criterion which was 3.8. Thus, from the foregoing, the fourth style on the average was still expensive and thus had its tendency of sales and eventual usage limited.

Research Question Four: *To what extent does the completed designed materials revealed its uniqueness.*

Table 4.2.4: Uniqueness of maternity wears

Variable	VU	%	U	%	FU	%	NU	%	Neu	%	Total	%	Mn	Rm
Style 1	19	20.4	24	25.8	30	32.3	20	21.5	0	0.0	93	100.	3.5	A
Style 2	34	36.6	21	22.6	21	22.6	17	18.3	0	0.0	93	100.1	3.8	A
Style 3	25	26.9	24	25.8	24	25.8	20	21.5	0	0.0	93	100.	3.6	A
Style 4	30	32.3	21	22.6	28	30.1	14	15.1	0	0.0	93	100.1	3.7	A

A = Acceptable based on the mean criterion value of 3.50 mean and above
NA = Not Acceptable based on mean criterion value of below 3.50

The analysis of the Table 4.2.5 is hereby presented below to interpret the value empirically presented in order to answer the research question. While investigating the uniqueness or peculiarity of maternity wears usage among pregnant women, four different wears were re-presented to the women to assess. In analyzing the first style, 20.4% pregnant women said it was very unique while another set of 25.8% pregnant women said it was just simply unique. Again, another group of 32.0% pregnant women revealed that it was fairly unique, while 21.5% other pregnant women indicated it was not unique. The first style drew an average level of uniqueness as a whole in the sense that bulk of the respondents revealed that it was fairly unique, however, the low rating of its uniqueness, at least those whom agreed that it was unique was considerably high and significant enough to justify its acceptance.

Thus, from the baseline criterion of mean, it can said that since the table had the result of its mean as 3.5, it accept that the style is however unique and hence the tendency of being differentiated from similar wears in the market. Presenting the second style, 36.6% pregnant women revealed that the design was very unique, while 22.6% pregnant women simply said it

was unique. here again, 22.6% and 22.6% pregnant women revealed that the uniqueness of the design was fair enough and somehow completely not unique respectively.

With the dependence on and off the mean value as the baseline for accepting or rejecting the data, it can be said that the resultant mean is 3.6 which were above the 3.5 mean criterion level. Thus, it can be accepted that the style was also unique.

Pregnant women assessing the third style numbering 26.9% in all affirmed that the style was very unique. This was further corroborated by 25.8% pregnant women who said that it was unique. More so, another set of 25.8% women again adjudged the design to be fairly unique while 21.5% other responding pregnant mothers revealed that it was not.

From the aggregate mean score of 3.6, it could be deduced that respondents accepted the presentation on the uniqueness of the style even when a significant 21.5% differs. Coming on the heel of uniqueness in design and style of the third design was the submission of 32.3% pregnant women on the fourth design or style, where they agreed that it was very unique, while 22.6% pregnant mothers said it was unique. Here also, 30.1% of pregnant women and another 15.1% pregnant women revealed that it was fairly unique and not so unique respectively.

Again, from the aggregate mean value or score of 3.7, it could be concluded that respondents agreed that the fourth style was unique and peculiar in every form.

Research Question Five: To what extent has the newly designed maternity wears meet up right choice of material.

Table 4.2.5: Maternity Wears Meeting up with Right Choice of Material

Variable	HP	%	P	%	FP	%	NP	%	Neu	%	Total	%	Mn	Rm
Style 1	30	32.3	21	22.6	28	30.1	14	15.1	0	0.0	93	100.1	3.7	A
Style 2	25	26.9	22	23.7	24	25.8	22	23.7	0	0.0	93	100.1	3.5	A
Style 3	29	31.2	22	23.7	26	28.0	16	17.2	0	0.0	93	100.1	3.7	A

Style 4	19	20.4	19	20.4	31	33.3	24	25.8	0	0.0	93	100.	3.4	A

A = Acceptable based on the mean criterion value of 3.50 mean and above
NA = Not Acceptable based on mean criterion value of below 3.50

The choice of fabric or material used in the design and sewing of maternity was so important. The fact that most pregnant women seek for comfort during the period, it is germane that materials must suit the period.

In a way to empirically test this assertion on the designed products or maternity wears of different styles being investigated, 32.3% pregnant women and another 32.6% revealed that materials were highly appropriate and appropriate for the period respectively. Furthermore, 30.1% pregnant women said it was fairly appropriate, while 21.5% pregnant women said that it was not appropriate for the period.

However, the eventual presentation by the last sets of pregnant mothers, the presentation from this table significantly pointed towards its appropriateness. Thus, from the aggregate value or score of 3.7, it could be inferred that respondents agreed that the material was appropriate with the first design and therefore could be used by pregnant mothers.

For the second design or style, 26.9% pregnant women and another set of 23.7% pregnant women respectively revealed that the style material is highly appropriate and appropriate with the design respectively. Also, 25.8% pregnant women and 23.7% other pregnant women rated it as fairly appropriate and not appropriate respectively.

Thus, based on the mean value of 3.5 which is rightly the mean score of acceptance. Therefore, respondents believed that the designed material is appropriate with the wears.

The analysis of the third style showed that 31.2% pregnant women revealed that the material was highly appropriate, while another 23.7% pregnant women said that it was appropriate. The difference in the presentation here came from 28% pregnant women who said it

was fairly appropriate while 17.2% pregnant women revealed that it was not appropriate. From the aggregate mean score or value of 3.7, it could be deduced that respondents agreed that the third style material was appropriate.

From the fourth style, 20.4% pregnant women revealed that it was highly appropriate, while another 20.4% pregnant women of same percentage acknowledged that it was appropriate. More so, 33.3% pregnant women said it was fairly appropriate, while 25.8% pregnant mothers revealed that it was not respectively.

Thus, from the aggregate mean score of 3.4, it could be deduced that respondents disagreed with the choice of materials used in this design.

4.3 Test of Null Hypotheses

Five (5) null hypotheses were postulated in the study aimed at further research. T-test statistics was used to test all the null hypotheses. The choice of t-test for used considering that the styles were mostly independent variables depending on pregnant women usage.

The t-critical level of 1.64 or p-value (alpha) of 0.05 was used. Thus, when the value is seen to be less than alpha or p-value is said to be statistically significant, therefore, the null is rejected and vice versa.

Table 4.3.1: Test on the Null Hypothesis One

Paired Samples Test

		Paired Differences							
					95% Confidence Interval of the Difference				
		Mean	Std. Deviation	Std. Error Mean	Lower	Upper	t	df	Sig. (2-tailed)
Pair 1	TABLE 2.1 STYLE 1 - TABLE 2.2 STYLE 2	-.30108	.48421	.05021	-.40080	-.20135	-5.996	92	.000
Pair 2	TABLE 2.3 STYLE 3 - TABLE 2.4 STYLE 4	.12903	.44784	.04644	.03680	.22126	2.779	92	.007

P<0.05

4.3.1 T-test table for significance on level of acceptability of maternity Wear

When comparing of the first pair, the result showed that t(92,-5.996) =.000 and for the second pairing t(92,2.779) =0.007. This result is statistically significant since the p-value (significance) or alpha of .000 and 0.007 were all less than 0.05. Thus, reject the null hypothesis is rejected and therefore that there is significant difference between the respondents' acceptability level of the experimental designed maternity wears.

4.3.2 T-test on Null Hypothesis Two

$H0_2$: There is no significant difference between respondents' perception of the comfort and decency level of the experimental garments.

In order to get the value of the t-test necessary for testing the null hypothesis two, the comfort respondents data of the first style against decency respondents' data of also the first style. The result is hereby presented.

Table 4.3.2: Test on the Null Hypothesis Two

Paired Samples Test

		Paired Differences					t	df	Sig. (2-tailed)
		Mean	Std. Deviation	Std. Error Mean	95% Confidence Interval of the Difference Lower	Upper			
Pair 1	TABLE 3.1 STYLE 1 - TABLE 4.1 STYLE 1	-.08602	.31814	.03299	-.15154	-.02050	-2.608	92	.011

P<0.05

4.3.2 T-test table for Level of Significance on Comfort

From the result, it showed that t(92,-2.608) = 0.011 which is less than the t-critical of 1.64 or p-value of 0.05. Thus, the result is statistically significant and conclude that the null hypothesis too is rejected. Therefore, it could be stated that there is significant difference between respondents' perception of comfort and decency

4.3.3 T-test on Null hypothesis three

$H0_3$: There is no significant difference between respondent perceptions on the cost and level of affordability the material of the experimental garment

In order to get the results or values of the t-test two cross analysis were carried out from respondents' data on cost and affordability. The result is hereby presented.

Table 4.3.3: Test on the Null Hypothesis three

Paired Samples Test									
		Paired Differences							
					95% Confidence Interval of the Difference				
		Mean	Std. Deviation	Std. Error Mean	Lower	Upper	t	df	Sig. (2-tailed)
Pair 1	TABLE 5.1 STYLE 1 N3,700 - TABLE 5.2 STYLE 2 N3,750	.17204	.37946	.03935	.09389	.25019	4.372	92	.000
Pair 2	TABLE 5.3 STYLE 3 N2,850 - TABLE 5.4 STYLE 4 N2,800	.03226	.37450	.03883	-.04487	.10939	.831	92	.408

P<0.05

From the result, it showed that t(92,4.372) =0.000 for the first style across the second style given a t-critical value of 4.372 more than 1.64 and p-value of 0.000 is less than 0.05. Thus, the value is statistically significant and reject null hypothesis five. However, the result from the second variation shows t(92,0.831) =0.408. Although, the t-critical 0.831 was less than 1.64, the p-value of 0.408 was greater than 0.05. Thus, using the p-value or significance alpha point, the value is not statistically significant and accept null hypothesis five.

Conversely, since the numbers of respondents from the first pair seem to be more than the second pair, drawing conclusion from the first pair by accepting the null hypothesis and stating that there is no significant difference between respondent perceptions on the cost and level of affordability the material of the experimental garment

4.3.4 T-test on Null hypothesis four

$H0_4$: There is no significant difference between respondents' perception of uniqueness in features of conventional garments and the experiment garment.

In order to get the result of value of the t-test necessary for testing null hypothesis three, The uniqueness data of respondents across the fair styles present in two pairs. The result is hereby presented.

Table 4.3.4: Test on the Null Hypothesis Three

Paired Samples Test

		Paired Differences							
					95% Confidence Interval of the Difference				
		Mean	Std. Deviation	Std. Error Mean	Lower	Upper	t	df	Sig. (2-tailed)
Pair 1	TABLE 6.1 STYLE 1 - TABLE 6.3 STYLE 3	-.12903	.33705	.03495	-.19845	-.05962	-3.692	92	.000
Pair 2	TABLE 6.2 STYLE 2 - TABLE 6.4 STYLE 4	.09677	.29725	.03082	.03556	.15799	3.140	92	.002

P<0.05

4.3.4 T-test table for Level of Significance on Level of Uniqueness

From the result, it showed that t(92,-3.692) =0.000 for the first style across the third style given a t-critical value of 1.751 more than 1.64 and p-value of 0.083 more than 0.05. Thus, the value was not statistically significant and accept null hypothesis three. However, the result from the second variation showed t(92,3.140) =0.0002. Although, the t-critical 3.140 is said to be greater than 1.64, the p-value of 0.002 is less than 0.05. Thus, using the p-value or significance

alpha point, the null hypothesis is rejected and state that there is significant difference between respondents' perception of uniqueness in features of conventional garments and the experiment designed garment.

4.3.5 T-test on Null Hypothesis five

$H0_5$: There is no significant difference between respondent perceptions on the use of the right choice of the material of the experimental garment

In order to get the results or values of the t-test two cross analysis were carried out from respondents' data on cost and affordability. The result is hereby presented.

Table 4.3.5: Test on the Null Hypothesis five

Paired Samples Test

		Paired Differences							
					95% Confidence Interval of the Difference				
		Mean	Std. Deviation	Std. Error Mean	Lower	Upper	t	df	Sig. (2-tailed)
Pair 1	TABLE 7.1 STYLE 1 - TABLE 7.3 STYLE 3	.03226	.17764	.01842	-.00433	.06884	1.751	92	.083
Pair 2	TABLE 7.2 STYLE 2 - TABLE 7.4 STYLE 4	.18280	.41563	.04310	.09720	.26839	4.241	92	.000

P<0.05

4.3.5 T-Test table for Level of Significance on Right Choice of Material

From the result, it showed that t(92,1.751) =0.083 for the first style across the third style given a t-critical value of 1.751 more than 1.64 and p-value of 0.083 more than 0.05. Thus, we state that the value is not statistically significant and accept that hypothesis. However, the result

from the second variation shows t(92,4.241) =0.000. Although, the t-critical 4.241 is said to be greater than 1.64, the p-value of 0.000 is less than 0.05. Thus, using the p-value or significance alpha point, reject the null hypothesis four.

Conversely, since the numbers of respondents from the second pair seem to be more than the first pair, we draw our conclusion from the second pair by rejecting the hypothesis and stating that there is significant difference between respondent perceptions on the use of the right choice of the material of the experimental garment.

4.4 Summary of Findings

The following were the findings from the research:

1. The designs of maternity wears was adjudged to be comfortable
2. The maternity gowns and wear made were mostly expensive and not available
3. There was a high level of acceptability of the maternity wears designed.
4. Respondents agreed that the design of the maternity wears were unique
5. Materials used in the making of the wears were right, considered to be appropriate and right for the gowns
6. Most pregnant mothers accepted the fact that the maternity wears were decent enough for their usage.

4.5 Discussion of Findings

Having carefully selected 100 respondents to represent pregnant women who were in the teaching profession, there was the need to aptly investigate their mode of dressing especially at the stage of motherhood, in this case at pregnancy. The period of pregnancy is so significant in the lives of mothers because this is the time when choice of clothes that is appropriate becomes

more challenging to mothers at different stages of their pregnancy. Thus, the introduction of modern maternity wear (gowns) either made by local and foreign attire has since become a trend in vogue in the fashion collections among pregnant women. This study, in trying to understand what makes for appropriate wears for pregnant women, developed six research questions alongside five hypotheses to test the extent and level of significance of maternity wears. Therefore, four different styles were designed given to pregnant women to assess in line with the research questions.

Items that gives the new knowledge: elastic thread, Velcro, ruffles, concealed sippers, applied fancy buttons, pin-tucks on shoulders to provide freedom on the blouse. The lining must be bright colour material for absorption of heat.

The new adjustable maternity gown concept by the researcher was inspired based on Johnson (1990) report which he said that Lane Bryan famous tea gown was designed with an adjustable waist line and camouflaged pleats.

To answer the research question, data collected from respondents assessing the four styles were analyzed and the results showed that there was a significant number of pregnant women who accepted the design having gotten aggregate mean value of 3.5 for the first style, 3.8 for the second style, 3.7 for the third style and 3.6 for the fourth style. Here, it could further submit that acceptability of maternity was highest for second base on the mean criterion value of 3.8. It could be further said that all these designed styles of maternity wears, since accepted has the tendency to be used and worn during their pregnancy period or cycle.

This was supported by the study of Thurrow (1992) which found out that the degree of consumers acceptance can vary depending on the types of product or services. Thus, when design acceptance is higher, there will be the ease to obtain such a material. This was further

proven to be true by the result in the first hypothesis where it was found that there is a significant relationship between the level of acceptability of designed maternity wears. Pregnancy period among pregnant mothers is such a delicate one that requires all the comfort one can get bodily, psychologically and spiritually. Thus, whatever a woman puts on during this time must provide her with the comfort she need in aeration, movement etc.

Using the same number of designed styles, responding pregnant mothers were able to state that all the styles presented one level of comfort or the other. From their assessment, it was found that the first style had 3.7 mean level of acceptance on comfort, second style had 3.9 mean level of acceptance, the third style 3.6 while the fourth style had 3.5 mean value of acceptance. Furthermore, since all the styles were adjudged by responding pregnant mothers as comfortable, the second being most comfortable judging from the mean value of 3.9. Thus, it could submit that the designed material gown presented some level of comfort to its users. In supporting this finding, Thurrow (1992) stated that, maternity wears must take into consideration, the comfort of the wears during this period in order to aid aeration and movement. This was further found to be true by the result of the second null hypothesis were it stated that there is a significant relationship between perception of comfort of designed maternity wears.

Indecent dressing has been a source of worry and concern to women and mothers alike. Despite the effort of relevant institutions like the school, religious institutions and the society, the trend of indecent dressing has gone un-abated. This concern was brought to bear on maternal designed dressing in whatever form and fashion to assess this, the four styles of wears were given to pregnant women to assess and present their opinions on its level of decency. From the data collected from table 4.2.3, it could be seen that the styles were affirmed to be decent based on the 3.5 criterion mean aggregate score. Here, the first style had 3.8, the second had 3.8, the

third 3.6 while the fourth had 3.7. From among these values, the first and second style which had 3.8 mean aggregate score respectively could be said to be more decent than the other styles. It could be summarized here that all the styles were appropriately decent for the usage of pregnant women in the society. In line with this, Thurrow, 1992 opined that maternity clothes must be good condition and business like and that it should not be too revealing or tight. Again, it was supported by result of the second null hypothesis where it stated that there is a significant difference between decency and the acceptance of maternity wears.

The affordability on goods and service is proportionate to the income level of the individuals. Similarly the higher the cost of any goods and service; the lower the tendency its demands and affordability vice versa. Thus, when the maternity wears were presented to the women, questions were given to them to assess its cost and affordability. From Table 4.2.4, the respondents revealed that the maternity wears were expensive. The first style having aggregated mean value of 3.9, second 3.7, third 3.8 while the fourth also stood at 3.8. Thus, it could be sufficed to say that all the styles were expensive, the first style was the most expensive. More so, if the cost of the maternal wear is not affordable, the average pregnant woman would not be able to use it, limiting its usage to working class mothers with high level of income. This was supported by the findings in Thurrow (1992) where it stated that cost is frequently a decisive factor in selecting a maternity wardrobe. This was proven to be true by the result of the third null hypothesis where it stated that there is no significant difference between cost and level of affordability and the acceptability of maternity wears.

Uniqueness is one sure aesthetic aspect of women fashion. Women love to dress unique (that is to be different from others). Thus, for a fashion design to be largely accepted by women in the society, its uniqueness must be ascertained to be befitting of their status. This was further

brought to bear in the assessment of maternal ware in their different styles as presented to pregnant women. From the data on Table 4.2.5, it could be seen once again that the maternity gown were all unique in the style, colours and sizes necessitating a more positive rating on its uniqueness by pregnant women. Here, the first had a 3.5 mean score on its uniqueness, the second 3.8, the third 3.6 while the fourth had 3.7 making the second style the one with the highest point on uniqueness. Thus, it could be deduced further that the uniqueness level of a product may make it more attractive to users thereby propelling its sales and usage. Weber (1990) and Erwin *et al.,* (1990) all confirmed that to design and constructions of any wear, the designs are deliberate or well-considered plan to produce a unique and interesting effect on the wearer. It was also found that there is a significant difference between the uniqueness of maternity and its acceptability as shown from the result in the fourth null hypothesis

As stated earlier on, maternity gowns or wears are not just some kind of wears whereby any type of material could be for its making. Since the main premises of the design on comfort, care should be the watch word when making the choice in its material so as not discomfort the pregnant mother. In trying to find out how appropriate the materials used in the making of the wears, four styles were once again presented to pregnant mothers for the assessment. Here, after checking the clothes as well as using them, the mothers gave their views as shown in Table 4.2.6.

From the analysis, mothers revealed that materials used for the first style were appropriate given it an aggregate mean value of 3.7, the second style with 3.5 as appropriate and the third with 3.7 as appropriate too. The fourth style materials was considered not be appropriate judging from its value of 3.4. However, this differences in value, it could be seen that the first style and the third style were most appropriate. It could be said that since it is only the fourth style that is considered not to have appropriate material, that it was completely rejected by

other respondents. Once again, it should be noted that appropriate choice of material used in the making of maternal gowns or wears enhances the comfort of pregnant women. This was also supported by Johnstone (1990) and Thurrow (1992) who recommended that before making any maternity wears factors like figure type, colour and texture of materials must be taken into consideration. This was again proven to be true from the result of the null hypothesis which stated that there is a significant difference between the right choice of materials and the acceptability of maternity wears result in the fifth null hypothesis five.

CHAPTER FIVE

SUMMARY, CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

5.1 Summary

This research was basically taken to investigate pregnant women usage and assessment of designed and constructed maternity wears. This research was conducted among a sample of 100 pregnant mothers who were mostly teachers in Bida Local Government Area in Niger State, Nigeria.

The research adopted a descriptive survey research design using a non-probability purposive sampling of teachers who are mostly pregnant women. The instrument for data collection was the questionnaire carefully structured in 5 point interval Likert scale in line with the research questions. Five hypotheses were formulated to further test empirically the level of pregnant women acceptance of maternity wears being experimented.

For the first null hypothesis which stated that there was no significant difference between the respondents' acceptability level on maternity wears p-value was 0.007 less than 0.05, it was rejected. The second hypothesis which stated that there was no significant difference between respondents perception of the comfort and decency level of maternity wears was also tested and based on the p-value result of 0.011 less than alpha and was also rejected.

Furthermore, the third null hypothesis which stated that there is no significant difference between respondents perception of the uniqueness in features of experimental garment was also tested using the t-test or paired variable. The result was a p-value of 0.002 which is less than $p<0.05$ and statistically significant and then the null hypothesis was rejected. The fourth null hypothesis stating that there was no significant difference between perception on the use of right choice of material for maternity experimental wears was also tested and the result was a p-value

of 0.000 less than alpha or $p<0.05$. the result was considered statistically significant and the null hypothesis was rejected.

Finally, the null hypothesis five which stated that, there was no significant difference between respondents perception on cost and level of affordability was tested and the result was a p-value of 0.408 which was a greater alpha or $p>0.05$. It was considered statistically not significant and the hypothesis was accepted.

5.2 Conclusion

From the study, it has been observed that pregnant women cherished the provision of specially made maternal wears to fit their status. From the design and construction on four different styles of maternity wears, we could say that the level of acceptance, comfort, decency and uniqueness were considerably high enough to warrant their eventual usage by pregnant mothers.

Based on the findings of this study, it was concluded that the designed and constructed maternity wears were accepted for comfort, decency, and uniqueness by pregnant women. Each designed maternity wears were considered expensive by the pregnant women and therefore the rate of purchases and usage will be considered expensive especially the first, second and third styles.

Thus, it could be conclude that all the designed wears had a significant positive effect on pregnant women and have the tendency being acceptable in the event of real production.

5.3 Recommendations

Based on the findings the following recommendations were made:

1. Maternity wears made of local fabric should be produced by our local fashion designer and tailors/seamstress
2. The local textile industry should be revamped to produce textile materials that will be of good quality, cheap and affordable.
3. Pregnant women should be involved in the pre-design or pre-production stages of making maternity wears, as their assessment will go a long way in the making of appropriate maternity wears
4. The government should restrict the importation of foreign textile materials as these leads to increase in price of product. More so, the fabrics imported may not be suitable to Nigeria climate, thereby making material unsuitable and uncomfortable for pregnant women
5. There should be increase patronage of locally made maternity wears to encourage more production of same.
6. Relevant bodies such as Manufacturing Association of Nigeria (MAN), Standard Organization of Nigeria (SON), the Nigerian Customs Service and Professional Bodies or Associations of fashion designers in the country must collaborate in order to effectively meet with the challenge of local or indigenous production and promotion of locally made good, in this case maternity wears.

5.4 Limitations

This study was limited by the lack of getting professionally trained tailors/seamstress (dress makers, fashion designers) to assist in the design and production of the designed and constructed maternity wears.

The burden of transits borne on the researched that is, between the field of research and the place of study greatly affected the time in which the research was carried out and conducted.

Furthermore, the cost of the material and production of the four designed and constructed styles and the work were cost intensive and actually affected the entire budget of the research work.

5.5 Suggestion for Further Study

The researcher encourages further study on this work in any of the states apart from Niger state. A further research of this nature is encouraged among housewives and office workers different four teachers as was the case in this study.

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APPENDIX I

Home Economics Section,
Dept. of Voc & Tech. Educ.,
Faculty of Education,
Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria.

Dear Respondents,

REQUEST TO FILL QUESTIONNAIRE

I am a postgraduate student of Home Economics in the Department of Vocational and Technical Education, Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria. I am undertaking a research on Acceptability of Designed and Constructed Maternity Wears for Pregnant Women Teachers in Bida, Niger State.

I sincerely hope you will consent to complete the questionnaire as your faithful response will aid this research a great deal. The information will be treated as confidential and will be used only for the purpose of research.

All questions are based on individual opinion and personal experience. Please be frank and accurate as possible to enable the research to get valid information.

Thank you for your cooperation.

Yours faithfully,

Muhammad Aishatu Sonfada

QUESTIONNAIRE FOR PREGNANT WOMEN TEACHERS IN BIDA LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA

SECTION A: Demographic Information

1. Age (in years)
   a. 15-19 [ ]
   b. 20-29 [ ]
   c. 30 – 39 [ ]
   d. 40-above [ ]

2. Marital Status
   a. Single [ ]
   b. Married [ ]
   c. Divorced [ ]
   d. Widow/widower [ ]

3. Religion
   a. Islam [ ]
   b. Christianity [ ]
   c. Traditional [ ]

4. Total number of children
   a. 1-2 [ ]
   b. 3-4 [ ]
   c. 5-6 [ ]
   d. 7 and above [ ]

5. State your highest level of Education
   a. N.C.E/OND [ ]
   b. HND/First Degree [ ]
   c. Masters Degree [ ]
   d. Ph.D [ ]

6. Which of the institution you teach

   a. Nursery [ ]

   b. Primary [ ]

   c. Secondary [ ]

   d. Tertiary [ ]

7. Age of the Pregnancy

   a. 0-4months [ ]

   b. 5-7months [ ]

   c. 8-9minth [ ]

   d. 10 and above [ ]

8. The size of your blouse/gown

   a. 14-15 [ ]

   b. 16-17 [ ]

   c. 18-20 [ ]

   d. 21 and above [ ]

SECTION B: QUESTIONNAIRE

Q1. To what extent is the designed and constructed maternity wears be acceptable by pregnant women?

Kindly indicate your level of acceptability of the following styles of the newly designed and constructed maternity wears.

Key:

S/N	Designed Styles	HA	A	BA	NA	NEU
a.	Style No 1					
b.	Style No 2					
c.	Style No 3					
d.	Style No 4					

Key: HA = Highly Accepted, A = Accepted, BA = Barely Accepted,
NA = Not Accepted, Neu = Neutral

Q2. To what extent does the newly completed maternity wears solve the problem of comfortability to the wearer?

Please tick the level of the comfortability appropriate for each style of completed maternity wears.

Key:

S/N	Designed Styles	VC	C	FC	NC	NEU
a.	Style No 1					
b.	Style No 2					
c.	Style No 3					
d.	Style No 4					

Key: VC = Very Comfortable, C = Comfortable, FC = Fairly Comfortable,
NC = Not Comfortable, Neu = Neutral

Q3. To what extent does the completed maternity wears solve the problem of decency to the wearer?

Kindly indicate your level of decency in the newly completed maternity wears on the wearer body.

S/N	Designed Styles	VD	D	MD	ND	NEU
a.	Style No 1					
b.	Style No 2					
c.	Style No 3					
d.	Style No 4					

Key: VD = Very Decent, D = Decent, MD = Moderately Decent,
ND = Not Decent, Neu = Neutral

Q4. To what extent is the completed design of maternity wears affordable?

Please tick the right option you feel is appropriate for the cost of the following styles.

S/N	Designed Styles	VE	E	C	VC	NEU
a.	Style No 1 = ₦3,700					
b.	Style No 2 = ₦3,750					
c.	Style No 3 = ₦2,850					
d.	Style No 4 = ₦2,800					

Key: VE = Very Expensive, E = Expensive, C = Cheap, VC = Very Cheap,
Neu = Neutral

Q5. To what extent is the completed design of maternity wear revealed its uniqueness in construction?

Please indicate the following features that make the newly designed and constructed maternity wears to appear different from one another.

S/N	Designed Styles	VU	U	FU	NU	NEU
a.	Style No 1					
b.	Style No 2					
c.	Style No 3					
d.	Style No 4					

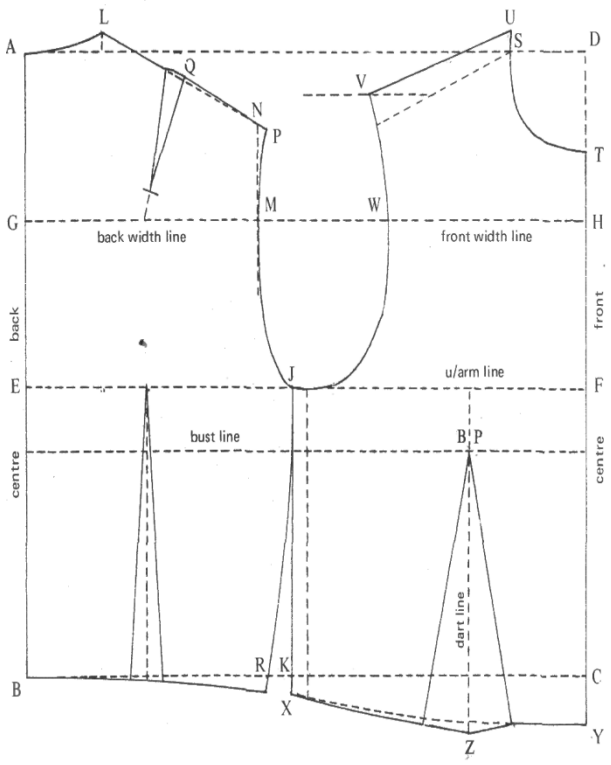
Key: VE = Very Unique, U = Unique, FU = Fairly Unique,
NU = Not Unique, Neu = Neutral

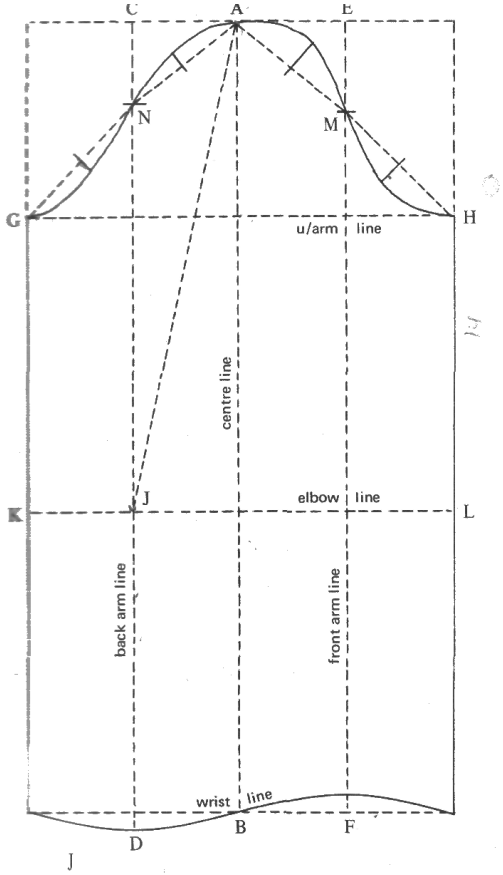
Q6. To what extent has the newly design maternity wears meet up with the right choice of material to the wearer?

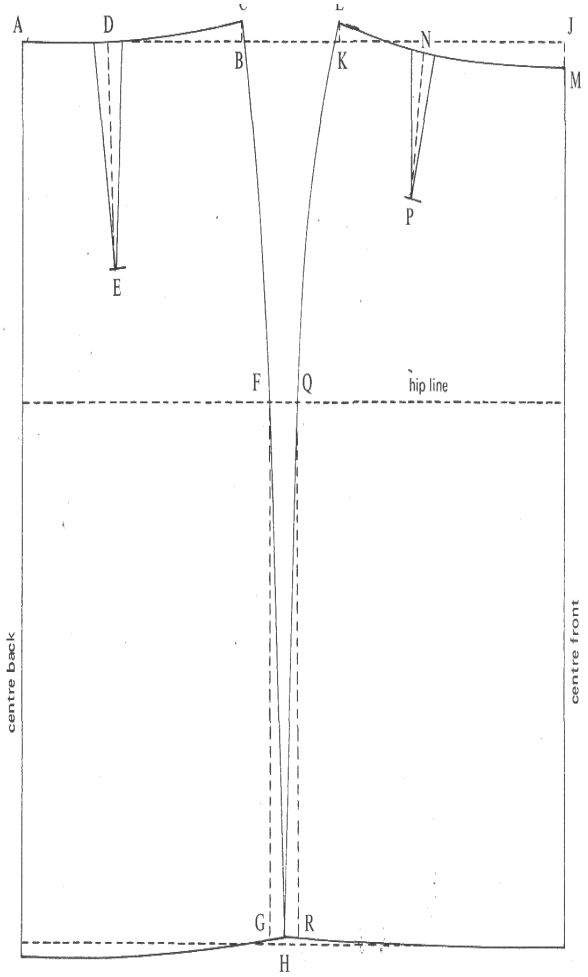
Please indicate the following features that make newly design maternity wears meet up with the right choice of material?

S/N	Designed Styles	HP	P	FP	NP	NEU
a.	Style No 1					
b.	Style No 2					
c.	Style No 3					
d.	Style No 4					

Key: HP = Highly Preferred, P = Preferred, FP =Fairly Preferred,
NP = Not Preferred, Neu = Neutral


A
L
U
S
D
Q
N
P
V
T
G
M
W
H
back width line
front width line
back
front
E
J
u/arm line
F
bust line
B
P
centre
centre
dart line
R
K
C
B
X
Z
Y


C
A
E
N
M
G
H
u/arm line
centre line
J
elbow line
K
L
back arm line
front arm line
wrist line
D
B
F


A
D
B
K
N
J
M
P
E
F
Q
hip line
centre back
centre front
G
R
H