

**DEVELOPMENT AND ACCEPTABILITY OF NATURAL AND SYNTHETIC
LEATHERWORKS FOR INTERIOR DECORATION IN KANO STATE, NIGERIA**

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ZARIA, NIGERIA**

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MARCH, 2020

DECLARATION

The researcher declare that this work entitled Development and Acceptability of Natural and Synthetic Leatherworks for Interior Decoration n Kano State, Nigeriah has been carried out by me in the Department of Home Economics. The information derived from the literature has been dully acknowledged in the text and references provided. No part of this dissertation was presented for another degree or diploma at this or any institution.

ZainabShehu HUSSAIN

Date

CERTIFICATION

This dissertation titled DEVELOPMENT AND ACCEPTABILITY OF NATURAL AND SYNTHETIC LEATHERWORKS FOR INTERIOR DECORATION IN KANO STATE, NIGERIA written by ZainabShehuHUSSAIN meets the regulation governing the award of the Master of Education in Home Economics of Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria, and is approved for its contributions to knowledge and literary presentation.

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DEDICATION

I dedicate this work to my parents Alh. ShehuHussain and HajiaGamboShehuHussain.

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ABSTRACT

This study was on development and acceptability of natural, synthetic and mixed leatherworks for interior decoration in Kano State, Nigeria. Seven specific objectives and six research questions were formulated to guide the study. R&D design was adopted for the study. The population of the study was 552 respondents and 20 panel of judges who were academic staff of Saadatu Rimi College of Education, Kumbotso, Kano. The sample for the study was 217 and 20 panel of judges. Four rating questionnaire and hedonic scale were used as instruments for data collection. The data collected were coded and analyzed to answer research questions using descriptive statistics of frequency and percentages as well as mean and standard deviation. The result revealed that leather carpet, pouf and wall hangers are mostly used among the available items for interior decoration. Other decorative items also used include leather sofas, throw pillow, mat, wall cover, hand fan and foot mat in Kano State. The findings revealed that natural and mixed (natural and synthetic) leatherworks have smooth texture while synthetic leatherwork has coarse texture. The texture of natural and mixed (natural and synthetic) leatherworks were accepted by the consumers. The results also revealed that the natural leatherwork is lighter than synthetic and mixed (natural and synthetic) leatherworks is heavy. The weight of natural leatherworks was accepted by the consumers and that of synthetic and mixed (natural and synthetic) was not accepted. The findings also showed that the odour of synthetic leatherwork is good while that of natural and mixed (natural and synthetic) leatherworks is foul. The result also found that natural leatherworks are costlier than synthetic and mixed (natural and synthetic) hence, mixed leatherworks was more accepted. The study concluded among others that natural and mixed (natural and synthetic) leatherworks have smooth texture than the synthetic leatherwork and this made the consumers to accept natural and mixed leatherworks over synthetic. It was recommended among others that individuals, Home Economists and industries involved in the production of leatherworks should put efforts in producing leatherworks with soft texture since the leather users prefer leatherworks with smooth and soft texture. Home Economists and leatherworks enterprise should produce leatherworks that are not so heavy and weighty since the leather users prefer leatherworks that are very light and not opaque.

CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background to the Study

Leather industry has made and is still making enormous impact globally on every sphere of man's life economically, industrially, socially, religiously and politically. From the Neolithic era to the beginning of the Egyptian civilization through the Romans' domination till today, man has regarded skins and leather as dependable materials for meeting his basic needs such as making footwear, tents, shields, sheaths, containers for liquids, boats and even armour (Landmann, 2003; Atiase, 2004; Kite & Thomson, 2007). Leatherwork has characteristically been regarded as a major contributing factor in the economic development and industrial transformation of several countries and this is simply because hides and skins are being processed into leather materials for production of varieties of products (Kite & Thomson, 2007).

Natural leather materials are used worldwide as shoes, coats, belts, gloves, hats, handbags, purses, clothing, among others. Factory workers, soldiers, the police and other security agencies wear heavy boots made from leathers; thus confirming the importance of leather in the development of every economy. In Nigeria, leatherwork has been an old vocation practiced over a century. Its practice is concentrated in the northern and western parts of the country and spreads southwards. The industry serves as the lifeline for the livelihood of several people across the country (Boahin, 2008). Fundamentally, the industry is built holistically highly on leathers tanned by indigenous methods and techniques, and focuses on the production of leather and leather artifacts to serve both aesthetic and utilitarian needs of Nigerians and beyond. These needs are served with the production of both natural and synthetic leathers.

Synthetic leather is a man made fabric that looks like leather. It has a leather-like surface

and is dyed and treated to make it have the look and feel of real leather. It is often used as a substitute for real leather because it is less expensive and it does not require using a real animal hide to create. Artificial leather can be dyed in a variety of colours. It is durable and stain resistant, as well. Artificial leather can be created to look like any type of leather desired. Many considered it superior to real leather because of its diversity in looks and use. There are a range of different types of synthetic leather. The type of synthetic leather is usually defined by what materials the leather is made of. It is very light weight, comes in a range of styles and textures and is easy to clean (Atiase, 2004). Many of the leather materials on the market are synthetic and have the feel of real leather which determines its acceptability.

The acceptability of both natural and synthetic leather materials and products by the users is largely dependent on the appearance (how good and attractive the leather is), texture (how smooth, soft, coarse and rough the leather is), weight (how heavy, dense, thick, opaque and light the leather is) and smell (this is the pleasant or unpleasant odours leather emits). Good leather materials are be attractive in appearance, smooth and soft in texture, very light in weight and discharge less offensive odour and any leather materials that possess the opposite of these named qualities is not a good one. The manifestation of these attributes and characteristics by leather materials determine their acceptability and utilization for interior decoration.

Interior decoration is the art of creating room space and other indoor tangible surfaces such as carpet, curtains, furniture, lighting, paints, wall covering and many other items that contribute to the creation of an interior. Okeke (2009) sees interior decoration as choosing the colour scheme and material forth inside of a house so as to add to its aesthetic value. The process of interior decoration involves careful selection of each item to suit the areas of the room, purpose and overall mood of the decorator, interior decoration involves a problem-solving

process. To develop a design plan for an interior, the designer must determine all activities that the area may be used for, consider who will use the area and what the area overall mood should be. Interior decoration with unique items made of natural materials such as leather can embellish rooms, transforming them into luxurious and exclusive place. Leather is suitable as home decorating material for any interior styles (Mcevoy, 2007).

The decoration of hides and skin by appliqué technique, the sharing and printing of designs and pattern on them is a craft for which the Northern States of Nigeria are well known (Farinloye, 2008). These hides and leather are later transformed into beautifully decorated interlaced bags, sandals, home and office interiors, as well as furniture. Tanners and leather workers exist in every main community in Nigeria, for example, Naraguta in Jos, Sokoto, Kano, Maiduguri and Oyo areas are well known centres of leather crafts, with the principal areas being Kano and Sokoto. Considering the dearth of literature in Kano State regarding development of natural and synthetic leatherworks and how the users accept them for interior decoration, the researcher is encouraged to develop natural and synthetic leatherworks to assess their acceptability.

1.2 Statement of the Problem

In recent time, most Nigerians prefer the use of foreign interior decorations to locally made ones due to the fact that they substandard and less quality which results to the importation of foreign interior decorative articles. This scenario might not be unconnected to Nigerians' level of awareness on innovative use of leather for interior decoration and its importance in creating good products. Home interior decoration is one the esthetic values Kano people cherish most but the natural leather materials available in the market for sale is very expensive that many ordinary

men and women cannot afford to buy because of their low income/financial status.

The researcher's observation and interaction with some people who cherish interior decoration in their homes in Kano revealed that natural leather is mostly found in the royal houses and individuals with financial muscles because they are very expensive. The question is that, Is there no alternative to natural leather for common people to make use of for interior decoration in their respective homes? In order to answer this question, the researcher developed synthetic and mixed (natural and synthetic) leathers with less cost implication and tested their acceptability for interior decoration in Kano state, Nigeria.

1.3 Objectives of the Study

The main objective of the study is the development and assessment of acceptability of natural and synthetic leatherworks for interior decoration in Kano state, Nigeria. The following specific objectives are set for this study;

1. develop interior decoration items from natural, synthetic and mixed leatherwork
2. identify natural, synthetic and mixed leatherwork decorative items that could be produced for interior decoration.
3. determine the texture of decorative items produced from natural, synthetic and mixed leatherworks.
4. determine the weight of natural, synthetic and mixed leatherworks for interior decoration in Kano state.
5. determine the smell of natural, synthetic and mixed leatherworks for interior decoration in Kano state.

6. determine the cost produced natural, synthetic and mixed leatherworks for interior decoration in Kano state.
7. Determine the acceptability of natural, synthetic and mixed leatherworks for interior decoration in Kano state.

1.4 Research Questions

In line with each specific objective, the following research questions are raised:

1. What are the natural, synthetic and mixed leatherwork decorative items that could be produced for interior decoration?
2. What is the texture of decorative items produced from natural, synthetic and mixed leatherworks?
3. What is the weight of natural, synthetic and mixed leatherworks for interior decoration in Kano state?
4. What is the smell of natural, synthetic and mixed leatherworks for interior decoration in Kano state?
5. What is the cost produced natural, synthetic and mixed leatherworks for interior decoration in Kano state?
6. What is the acceptability level of natural, synthetic and mixed leatherworks for interior decoration in Kano state?

1.5 Significance of the Study

The result of the study when published will be significant to leather industries, leather users, event planners, future researchers, Home makers and Home Economics. The outcomes of the research study will be accessible to the beneficiaries through journal publications, seminars, workshops, symposium, radio and television as well as school/university libraries.

The leather industries will benefit from this research study as it will enable them produce leatherworks which are purely synthetic and mixture of natural and synthetic for users who cannot afford the financial cost of natural leatherworks.

The events planners and leather users will also benefit from the outcome of this study as it will save them the high cost of buying natural leather to produce items and other decorating events.

Home Economics will also benefit from the findings of this study via teaching students the skills involved in producing mixed and synthetic leatherworks using low income for the production of decorative items.

The future researchers will benefit relevantly from the findings of this study as they will be used for reference purposes in any institutions of learning for students who want to carry out research in the same or related topic.

1.6 Basic Assumption

This study is based on the following assumptions

- i. Synthetic and mixed leatherworks are spongy than natural for interior decoration in Kano state.
- ii. Natural leatherworks is weighty than synthetic and mixed for interior decoration in Kano state.
- iii. Natural leatherworks produce unpleasant smell than synthetic and mixed for interior decoration in Kano state is very good.
- iv. Natural leatherworks is costly than synthetic and mixed leatherworks for interior decoration in Kano state.

- v. Synthetic and mixed leatherworks are more acceptable by the users for interior decoration in Kano state.

1.7 Delimitation of the Study

The study was delimited to producing/developing natural and synthetic leatherworks for interior decoration such as carpet, wall hangers and pouf. The texture weight, smell, cost and acceptability of natural and synthetic leatherworks are the indices measured in the study. The study was delimited to Home Makers in Kano Sa'adatu Remi College education Kumbetso Kano.

CHAPTER TWO

REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE

This chapter reviewed literature related to the study. The review was done under the following subheadings:

- 2.1 Theoretical Framework
- 2.2 Conceptual Framework
 - 2.2.1 Concept of Interior Decoration
 - 2.2.2 Steps in Designing Interiors
 - 2.2.3 Concept of Home
 - 2.2.4 Factors Affecting Choice of Interior Decoration Materials in Home Design
- 2.3 Areas of Home that can be decorated
- 2.4 Concept of Leather Work
 - 2.4.1 Leather Process
- 2.5 Types of Leather Work in Decorating Homes
 - 2.5.1 Animal Skin Rug
 - 2.5.2 Leather Cushions
 - 2.5.3 Leather Decorative Pillows
- 2.6 Attributes of Leather Works that determine its Acceptability by Consumers
- 2.7 Review of Related Empirical Studies
- 2.8 Summary of Literature Reviewed

2.1 Theoretical Framework

This study hinged on affordance theory propounded by Gibson (1979). The theory states that all users actions are driven by the way they perceived their environment. This theory looks at how design processes supports the perceptual behaviour of the expected user regardless of their cultural and social backgrounds as well as their aspirations and needs. The theory assumes that the physical environment can afford either desirable or undesirable outcomes for an individual. It also claims that the outcomes afforded, whether experimental (that is attitudinal, perceptual) or behavioural (that is functional), depends on the characteristics of the environment relative to the personal characteristics and the functional abilities of its individual users. This perception can lead to identifying and describing the surrounding environmental elements based on their association with varying influences.

The theory further assumes that the reading of any environmental settings “is composed not only of what lies before the eyes but what lies within the head”. In this context, Meinig (2009) offers ten perceptual ways of reading static or moveable scenes by potential viewers, which includes; problem, wealth, system, habitat, nature, aesthetic, ideology, history, artifact and place. These influences include not only visually detected elements, but also associations with social factors. These associations transform directly and immediately the physical entities into sets of ideas and information transmit them to a variety of recipients and, eventually, lead to the potential actions of these recipients (Gibson, 1979).

The relationship between this theory and the work is that there is a strong connection between culture, society and perception of the environment. This is because human cognition develops in a cultural context and takes place in a social situation. The environment in general, and the built environment in particular is perceived through “filters” which are influenced by society and culture and which act as mediators between people and the environment, affecting

the manner in which the environment is perceived. Once perceived, the environment is evaluated against ideals, images, values, norms, expectations, meanings, and notions of environmental quality all of which may be affected by social norms and lead towards the improvement of the environment. In order to assess the potential of affordance theory relative to interior design, it is applied in both evaluative and generative contexts, analyzing existing spaces and providing a structure through which one can view from the perspective of cultural and historical influences on the decorative tendencies of a particular people such as the use of leather products for interior decoration. From the foregoing, it is expected that the use of leather product in decorating homes is dependent on peoples' perception built on cultural and social background.

2.2 Conceptual Framework

2.2.1 Concept of Interior Decoration

Interior design describes a group of various yet related projects that involves turning an interior space into an effective setting for the range of human activities that are to take place. According to Okhiria and Karim (2005) defined interior Decoration as an act of beatifying rooms and other indoor areas of a house so that they become attractive, comfortable and useful. Floors, walls and ceiling are often decorated using furniture and fixtures, carpets and rugs, draperies or curtains, lightings, paints, wall coverings, as well as many other items that may constitute to the creation of an interior that is beautiful. The interior materials and fittings in home design require a careful selection of the item to suit the area to be decorated and the overall mood of the user. Leigh (2000) pointed out that the right floor and floor covering is an important aspect of finishing your home in home design and this is the most dominant decorative surfaces. Every interior design combines certain basic element of design. The most important elements are style, forms, shape, colour, pattern, texture, line and traffic. Each element can be used in various ways

to produce wide varieties of effects. There is no right or wrong way of applying any of the listed elements provided a thorough combination is made. The way each interior decorator chooses to use each element of design depends on the purpose of the area and mood to be created.

The interior of a house often tells the story of what type of people live there, when we look at the colours, crafts and fine arts, arrangement for beauty and efficiency it is at ones reveals the individuals personalities of the members as the collective character of the family as a whole. There is no denying fact that our grandparents lived in dull and drab houses for wants of suitable colour in those days. Our houses should be a place for comfort, peace and relaxing the mind. So we must have the plan of colour in room to produce a positive effect on our minds.

2.2.2 Steps in Designing Interiors

According to Sebbbeh (2008), there are five steps to be followed when decorating the interior of homes. Identification of needs and wants, selecting a design theme, choosing a colour scheme, choosing appropriate backgrounds and filling the room with furnishings.

i. **Identification of Needs and Wants:** In order to create a design, some thinking has to be done. According to Sebbbeh (2008), the following thinking steps would enhance proper interior decoration, First: this will enable the designer find answers to questions like: Who will use the space? How will the space be used? What do people want and need from the living space they have? These thinking will help oneto get more satisfying results with one's design. It is necessary to do preliminary thinking because even the most striking design may not work if the room does not suit the people who use it. Many people have strong feelings about what they want. Someone who is very fond of a particular colour may want that colour used in a room. Someone else may feel strongly about including a treasured piece of furniture or a handcrafted item in a room plan. It is important to think about people's desires before planning a design.

Taking their wishes into consideration means placing value on the feelings of others and that will help one's design a room that is pleasing and acceptable to all. In planning, the designer has to compromise when the wants of several people conflict in this case, budget may have to be the deciding factor. The designer can also make a list and prioritize it. For that matter, only the wants at the top of the list may be considered. In order to be functional and more pleasing, you must realize that space must not meet the desires of the users but also their needs. This is so because some needs are specific whereas some others apply to almost everyone. Certain needs must be considered on an individual basis. If a home is to accommodate someone. In a wheel chair, the design should allow space for maneuvering the chair, etc. it is only when one know the people who will use the space that one can decide what specific needs must be satisfied.

ii. **Choosing a Design Theme:** The most important to the overall effect of the room is the theme or mood (Sebbeh, 2008). According to Sebbeh, the common design themes a designer can choose from are: contemporary/traditional, formal / informal, clean/sleek and cozy/casual

It is the theme that gives focus to a room and without it, a room may look as if the furnishings were selected or chosen at random and arranged without thought. The designer has to keep the theme in mind throughout the whole plan. To be successful, he or she needs to use all the elements and principia of deign to support the theme. The colours, textures, patterns, furniture styles and accessories that one chooses will be linked by one factor thus the theme(Meinig, 2009).

iii. **Choosing Colour Scheme:** A colour scheme is an arrangement or a combination of colours that create a mood or set a tone. Many colour schemes can be derived from the colour wheel. Examples of colour schemes are monochromatic which uses tints and shades of one

colour: analogous colour scheme which uses two or more colours that are next to each other on the colour wheel; complementary; split complementary; triadic and neutral colour schemes. As an interior designer, you must think more than just what colours go well together. What you need to do is to decide how to carry colours throughout the room and its furnishings. The colours you select, whether warm and soft or bright and bold, should relate to the design theme you select (Meinig, 2009).

Selecting Background: The components that make the background of a room are floors, walls, ceilings, and windows and the next design decision is how to handle them. In doing this, the designer has to consider the type of materials, colours patterns, and textures to use on the backgrounds to enable him convey the design theme (Meinig, 2009).

iv. **Adding Furnishings:** The designer needs to select furniture, lighting, and accessories and arrange them to the best advantage in order to complete the design plan. Upon careful study of needs and wants, you should have a basic idea of the types of furnishing to include. The question that needs to be asked/answered are what furniture is needed in a family room that is, comfortable seating, entertainment centre, a table for playing games? The answer depends on the functions the room is to fulfil (Meinig, 2009).

2.2.3 Concept of Home

A home is a dwelling-place used as a permanent or semi-permanent residence for an individual, family, household or several families in a tribe. A dwelling can generally be characterized as a physical unit, a defined space for its residents providing shelter and protection for domestic activities and concealment, and an entity separating private from public domains (Rapoport, 2005). Although the home has been a topic of scientific interest for decades in several

disciplines (for overviews see, for example, Moore, 2000), the key question, “What makes a house a home?” has not yet been answered (Lawrence, 2002). It is widely acknowledged that the home is “physically, psychologically, and socially constructed in both ‘real’ and ‘ideal’ forms” (Sommerville, 1997). A home is generally a place that is close to the heart of the owner, and can become a prized possession. It has been argued that psychologically “The strongest sense of home commonly coincides geographically with a dwelling. Usually the sense of home attenuates as one moves away from that point, but it does not do so in a fixed or regular way.” Since it can be said that humans are generally creatures of habit, the state of a person’s home has been known to physiologically influence their behavior, emotions, and overall mental health (Boutruche 2008) People may become homesick when they leave their home over an extended period of time. Places like homes can trigger self-reflection, thoughts about who someone is or used to be or who they might become. These types of reflections also occur in places where there is a collective historical identity, such as Gettysburg or Ground Zero (Burton-Christie, Douglas 2009).

Home as is often a house, apartment, or other building, or alternatively a mobile home, houseboat, yurt or any other portable shelter. Larger groups may live in a nursing home, children’s home, convent or any similar institution. A homestead also includes agricultural land and facilities for domesticated animals. Where more secure dwellings are not available, people may live in the informal and sometimes illegal shacks found in slums and shanty towns. The word home can be used for various types of residential community institutions in which people can live, such as nursing, retirement homes for seniors, foster homes to mention but a few Short-term accommodation in for example in a boarding school, prison, treatment facility, or while

studying at a college or university is unlikely to be considered 'home'. More generally, "home" may be considered to be a geographic area, such as a town, village, suburb, city, or country.

The home has also been described as an "extension of the self through places" (Fuhrer & Kaiser, 1992), or as "that spatially localized, temporally defined physical frame and conceptual system for the ordering, transformation and interpretation of the physical and abstract aspects of domestic daily life" (Benjamin, 1995). Addressing the meaning of home focuses attention on the relationship between the objective sociophysical setting and subjective evaluations, goals, values, emotions and observable or potential behaviors that people pursue. Thus, the meaning of home on the most general level links the person with his or her environment. There are many meaning-related terms to be found in the literature, such as "at-homeness," "placefulness," or "place/community/settlement Identify" (Coolen, 2002).

Sitting Room

Sitting room is one of the most important rooms in a house. It is usually a meeting place and a centre of activities in the home. Anyokoha (1999) defined sitting room as one of the most important rooms in a house. It is usually a meeting place and a centre of activities in the home. At times the sitting room might be used for reading as well as children corner. Anyakoha (1999) mention some of the uses of the sitting room. It is used as a relaxation centre for the family, it is used for receiving and entertaining visitors and part of it can be used as dining room.

Sitting Room Floor and Floor Coverings

Floor is lower horizontal surface of an enclosure, which is to keep us warm, dry and safe. There are different types of floors, concrete, clay or mud, wooden and parquet floor. Anyokoha (1999) stated that, floor covering form a background for the rest of the decoration of a room. Lewis (1980) stated that floor is usually the first background to be planned, while floor treatment

are chosen separately for each area based on its function and colour must be considered in order to bring about harmony with other furnishing in the room. The warmth that the floor coverings give such as carpets and rugs, which also give, comfort, satisfaction and relaxation, what we work on has a definite psychological effect on ones mood.

Furniture for the Sitting Room

The sitting room is therefore, often the part of the house where we can have the greatest number of people at a time. It requires a great deal of “tear and wear” to make it look attractive as possible. The furniture in the sitting room should be comfortable and relaxation. Its furniture should also be well finished and durable. The furniture are fixtures. For the sitting room can be grouped into (basic) major and minor, when arranging furniture they should be arranged alongside for easy and effective flow of activities.

Anyakoha (1999) defined furniture as a set of morable articles such as, tables, beds, bookshelves, room dividers etc. used in furnishing or decorating a room. CESAC (1980) has seen furniture as a means by which man adapts the house structure to his private use and taste. Chambers Encyclopedia (1968) Vol. vi defined furniture as morable articles in dwelling house, place of business or public building.

2.2.4 Factors Affecting Choice of Interior Decoration Materials in Home Design

There are many factors that affects’ the choice of interior decoration materials in home design. According to Ekundayo (2013) they are:

Taste: this factor speaks so much about the user of the fittings and decoration materials he possesses.

Space: an interior decorator needs to study and determine the space length before he commences its planning on the space.

Craftsmanship: the current trend of craftsmanship displayed by the interior decorator majorly in the use of new invented interior materials enables a great deal of job.

Avoidability: the take home of an individual determines the type of fittings to go for.

Proximity: in purchasing of interior fittings closeness to ones mood is watched out for.

Lifestyle: the lifestyle of a person gets reflected in his or her home furnishing and fittings. Technologies, which have a direct bearing on a person's lifestyle, also play a crucial role in the form, content and style of home furnishings and interior fittings.

Civilization trend: mankind's journey from cave to condo, from hut to villa, symbolizes the progress of civilization. Home furnishing and interior materials used in home have undergone dramatic changes over the years. But some basic furnishing has remained with civilized man, though their form and style have been changing with times.

Fashion: function, form, fitness and fashion are the key guiding factors in the choice of home furnishing fittings and materials. Function is the foremost criteria for a person to go for barely minimum fittings and furnishing. People buy chairs, bed, table, settee, sofa, curtain, carpet, wallpaper and so on, primarily for utility. A bare home, bereft of furnishings, is like a stable or warehouse, unfit for living.

Design: to design a home that we can actually call a home, requires a few basic element that we can creatively use to play around with our mood, look, personality, character and overall environment.

Taste: there is no limit to colour in choosing interior decorating materials and furniture. Bold and bright colours like lime green, red and orange can be seen in modern home interior design as

similar to much muted or dark colours like gray, black, purple or even dark brown. Though there are different patterns in the current look, these are neat pinstripes that are typical in nature or something which might not be interpreted as busy.

2.3 Areas of Homes that can be Decorated

A home, contain a number of living spaces (walls, ceilings and floor) and accessories (furniture, curtain, picture frame, sofa sets to mention but a few) are regarded as areas that are decorated for the aesthetic value. According to Okhiria and Karim (2005), designing a living space is part of interior decoration. Okhiria and Karim added that all rooms and areas in the house had played a significant role in the decoration of homes.

Ceiling for instance is a part of the home which is normally situated above the living space of the room. Since humans began to create art some 40,000 years ago, the ceiling has always been an important platform for the exposure of art. There were periods when the ceiling was less conceived as an important design element (like in the middle of the 19th century), but there were also periods when ceilings were covered with impressive artwork (for example during the Renaissance). Cave paintings were discovered on open air rocks, on walls, floors, and also on ceilings of caves dated back to 40,000 BC. The first cave painting was discovered in the 1860s, but they were accepted as an art only later (Johnson, 2003). The best artworks that are known today were created by the Magdalenians in Europe. The paintings were drawn with red and yellow ochre, hematite, manganese oxide and charcoal and mostly feature animals, such as bison, horses, and deer as a theme. Historians today still know least about cave art of all forms of art (Johnson, 2003). A recent controversial theory claims that cave painting might be an early form of graffiti, but it is still commonly believed that cave art was created by respected elders or shamans (Viegas, 2006). The most likely reason that people at that time devoted so much

attention and resources to cave art over such a long period, is probably that they found satisfaction in it. It gave them entertainment, fun, excitement, sensual and spiritual relief, and added to their knowledge (Johnson, 2003). Caves with featured paintings might have been an intellectual instrument, which encouraged discussion or storytelling. It might also have played a creative role not merely in general education but more specifically in the development of sophisticated language, being capable of communicating thoughts on an ever widening range of subjects (Johnson, 2003). In this sense, the ceiling was treated as a surface to hold pictures, in no way different than the walls.

Wall as an aspect of the room makes up the largest surface area of a room, which gives protection from the outdoors, and they serve as background for the furnishing of a room. The wall could be left naturally, painted or certain treatments could be given. Whatever treatment is given to the wall should be harmonized with the ceiling and the floor treatment as well as the general mood of the room and its furnishings.

A floor is said to underscore the entire room and helps to tie many parts of a room together. A floor is usually the first background to be planned and before choosing any type of design, one should consider its beauty, comfort, durability, maintenance and cost. Therefore, any form of covering on the floor has to be possesses the features that afford the room the aesthetic value. Floor covering according to Anyakowa (2007) defines floor covering as special materials used for covering the floor. These include among others; mats, carpet, rug to mention but a few.

Home accessories are furniture items which are easy to replace and easy to move, and include almost any items that aren't strictly functionally necessary in the decorated space. These accessories include such items as curtains, sofa sets, cushions, tablecloths and decorative craft products, decorative wrought iron, and so on. These items are commonly used in indoor

furnishings and layout and can include cloth items, paintings, and plants. Anyakowa (1999) stated that accessories add personal touches to interior decoration and further beautify a room. She further added that decorated accessories could be arranged in wall, ceiling and floor.

2.4 Concept of Leather Work

The modern commercial leather-making process involves three basic phases: preparation for tanning, tanning, and processing tanned leather. As a preliminary step, a hide must be carefully skinned and protected both in storage and transportation before reaching the tannery. A hide will begin to decompose within hours of an animal's death; to prevent this from happening, the hide is cured by a dehydrating process that involves either air-drying, wet or dry salting, or pickling with acids and salts before being shipped to a tannery.

The art of leather work has long history in Nigeria and the world in general. It can be traced back to the beginning of civilization. Leather has been in use since the existence of early man. It is in the second form of clothing in the history of man's effort towards concealing and decoration of various parts or of the whole body. It was second to leaves (in various manifestations).

In the past, the Arabs used to come and buy skins from the northern part of Nigeria and export them to Europe the world famous morocco grain leather were actually leathers outlined from the red goatskins from northern Nigeria and exported to Europe. European explorers (such as Clapperton and Barth) assert to this fact. Clapperton who visited Kano some decades later, commented that the dyeing of tanned goats' skins red and yellow was the principal manufacture of the city. In the same vein, another European traveler or explorer Barth noted during his visit to the city that leather industry was the most celebrated branch of manufacture in Kano (Obetta, 1998).

It is worth knowing that as far back as 900 B.C objects of leather were found during the excavation of Egyptian graves. According to research, the Yorubas, the Kukawas and the Gogobiris are descendants of Lammoha (Mimrod) who was said to have migrated from Egypt. From this assertion, it is obvious that the art of leather manufacture came to Nigeria long time ago.

Today, leather work has attained a higher level of artistic and technical competence among Nigerians. In the past, large quantity of famous Morocco leather was exported to the Mediterranean world from northern Nigeria through trade. Professional leather workers in these areas have formed themselves into cooperative societies, while the establishment of *Sokoto* and *BawanJalla* factories in Sokoto, and a Leather Research Institute in Zaria seem to prove the importance which Nigerian government attaches to this craft (Obetta, 1998)

2.4.1 Soaking

This is the first stage in leather manufacture. It is normally carried out for the following reasons:

- i Rely oration of already carried hides/skins, also needed for skins, which have seen cured before they can be un-haired;
- ii. Removed of pits, dung among others and processed further. Immersing the hide/skin in colour water;
- iii. Start the opening up of the skin fibred either in static tanks or baths or more preferable using running water. This ensures a high degree of hydration of skin structures at the same time. The process involves the immersion of the cured hides/skins in removing blood dung and other organic matter dirt it present. It applied to water containing some

sparkling additives, cure stock, soaking also removes any salts used in curing processes (KoleswaraRao and Olivannau, 1999).

The cured skins are soaked in pure water to eliminate salt, blood, and dirt, and also to replace moisture lost in the curing process. After the skins have soaked for a period varying from two hours to seven days, the flesh is removed mechanically from the inner surface. To loosen the hair, the skins are then immersed for one to nine days in a solution of lime and water containing a small amount of sodium sulfide. Following this operation the hair is easily removed by a dehairing machine, and the distinctive pattern known as the grain can be distinguished on the outer surface of the skin. To ensure clear, clean surfaces, any remaining flesh and hair is scraped off, usually by hand with a dull knife, by a process called scudding.

2.4.2 Unhairing

The washed or soaked skins are pile to drain off surplus water and then painted, swabbed or sprayed on the flesh side with a “paint” which resemble thick lime wash and may be made from approximately 50% water, 4% Na₂S, 3% lime. 13 The large quantity of lime thickens are painted on the flesh side and prevented from running off the skin. The sodium sulphide and lime are dissolved in water and enter the skin from flesh side penetrates through the corium and dissolves the young keratin cells which enclose the hair roots.

The process takes 1-2 hours depending on the thickness of the skins, the tightness of the fibre structure and the amount of flesh or fat left on the skin. After the painting, the skin is piled for flat 1-2 hours, to allow the hair to lose. It can be piled flesh to flesh because the hair has no value. After the piling, the wool is pulled and graded, usually by hand; whilst hair is scrapped off which a curved blunt unhairing knife on Bean or on machine. On the other side, a process called pulp unhairing can be used to destroy the hair in this method sodium sulphide liquor with water

by vigorously agitation issued. The water is 80% and 3% of sodium sulphide and agitated for 45 minutes till the hair destroy or burnt.¹⁵

2.4.3 Straight Liming

The main liming is carried out after the unhairing process has been achieved. It is treatment of skin with mainly hydrated lime, dissolved in water requiring about 100% water 4% of hydrated lime. The temperature control is important. The temperature of water should be 210C. The line is to make the skin swell-up and or plump properly to saponify the fatty material and hence prepare the skin for easy fleshing.

2.4.4 Fleshing

Fleshing is carried out by placing the hide or skin, flesh up on a beam and removing unwanted flesh, connective tissue and fat by a skilful pushing action with a two handed knife. A machine can also be used to flesh the hide or skin. The machine is called fleshing machine.

2.4.5 Deliming and Bating

This is the treatment of pelts with a solution of salt of strong acid. The main aim of deliming is to remove lime from pelt. Simultaneously, most types of skins are treated with a “bating” material consisting of enzymes to give a smoother grain and render the skin soft and flexible. The amount of bating varies greatly, from none at all for sole leather to a concentrated treatment for leather to be used in kidskin gloves. After the deliming and bating operations, the stock can be tanned. Each type of skin may be treated by several tanning processes. The process is chosen according to the use for which the leather is intended. The two principal tanning processes are mineral, or chrome, tanning, and vegetable tanning. Chrome tanning often can be completed in a single day, whereas vegetable tanning requires many weeks or months. Vegetable tanning results in a firmer leather with greater water and stretch resistance. Chrome tanning

shrinks the stock and produces a longer-wearing leather with greater resistance to heat. The processes are sometimes combined to derive some of the advantages of each.

2.4.6 Pickling

This is a treatment of broad pelts with strong acids and salts. The acid must be diluted in the ration of 1:10 is part of acids to part of water. The pelts must first be paddled in salts for 15-30minutes before introducing a pre-diluted acid. The salt helps to prevent and swelling and causes a taken flaccid pelt which is now white and soft.

Typical recipes include the following:

150% water; 8% salt, drum for 15mm;add 0.4% sulphuric acid (1:10); 0.4% formic acid (1:05), run 2 hours and leave over night stationary check PH 3.0. The pickling process is normally affected by PH (PH for pickle bath ranges between PH2 to PH3. 19, concentration of acids and salts, mechanical actions which increase in this order Drum Paddle Pit and Time for pickling between 1 to 2hours.

The proper pickling is checked at the cut edge of pelt. With methyl-orange indicator, this gives “Red” coloration at below PH3.2 pelts are ready for tanning.

2.4.7 Tannage Process

Tanning is the main process in the section of leather production, and it is a process of converting raw hide/skin into leather, a form which makes them resistant to decay, while increasing their wearing qualities. The final aim of tanning is to import some leathery properties into the raw stock and make them into usable by products. At the tannery the hide is soaked to remove all water-soluble materials and restore it to its original shape and softness. Hair is loosened usually by a process called liming, accomplished by immersing the hides in a mixture of lime and water; the hair and extraneous flesh and tissue are removed by machine. The hide is

then washed, delimed, bated (the enzymatic removal of non-fibrous protein to enhance colour and suppleness), and pickled (to provide a final cleansing and softening).

The tanning process derives its name from tannin (tannic acid), the agent that displaces water from the interstices of the hide's protein fibres and cements these fibres together. Vegetable tanning, which is the oldest of tanning methods, is still important. Extracts are taken from the parts of plants (such as the roots, bark, leaves, and seed husks) that are rich in tannin. The extracted material is processed into tanning liquors, and the hides are soaked in vats or drums of increasingly strong liquor until they are sufficiently tanned. The various vegetable-tanning procedures can take weeks or months to complete. The end result is a firm, water-resistant leather. Mineral tanning, which uses mineral salts, produces a soft, pliable leather and is the preferred method for producing most light leathers. Use of this method can shorten the tanning period to days or even hours. Chromium salt is the most widely used mineral agent, but salts from aluminum and zirconium are also used. In mineral tanning the hides are soaked in saline baths of increasing strength or in acidic baths in which chemical reactions deposit salts in the skin tanning.³³ In order to allow the small amount of oil to be spread uniformly all over the leather surface of the leather fibres, it is necessary to dilute the oil and this can be done with true solvent such as benzene. It is cheaper, safer and more convenient to use the method of emulsification. In an "emulsion" with water, the oil will disperse in microscopically small droplets giving it a white milky appearance. Indeed milk is an example of a natural emulsion. In the fatliquor it is allowed to penetrate uniformly, the leather will be soft and stretchy, with any natural grain looseness accentuated.

Fatliquoring is normally carried out in the drum after tannage or dyeing. It is important to check that PH or charged on the fibres is suitable and it is often desirable to neutralize the skins

or rinse them free from loose tan or salt before fatliquoring. Fatliquor is diluted into warm water and added via hollow axle to the skin which rotates in the float 30-60 minutes; running is adequate when the float should be free of any milky oil emulsion. Usually, the higher the temperature, the quicker the exhaustion of the float which may limit oil penetration. But these may be counter balanced by the greater mobility of the oil at the higher temperature.

Sammying:

After removing from the drum the leather is squeezed to remove the excess moisture.

2.4.8 Leather Drying

The leather has to be rinsed in water and horsed-up to dry.

2.4.9 Setting Out

A setting out machine is used for the setting of the leather so as to increase its areas, the treatment also removes the wrinkles and reduces water from the leather.

2.4.10 Finishing

Finishing is the last processes in the art of leather manufacture and it produces beauty on the leather through a set of mechanical and chemical treatments. The dried leather are conditioned, staked, toggled and trimmed before taking for actual finishing. The surface of the leather in the over most cases the grain was treated in ancient times with a protective season. That can be seen in the leather museums with exhibited shoes, bags, belts and so far hundreds and thousands of years old. Leather needs a closing and sealing of the porous surface against humidity and any kind of dust and most importantly to give the surface a glossy appearance. Since the thirties of this century however, many leathers are finished with coatings based on synthetic polymeric binders and pigments.

2.5 Types of Leather Work Used in Decorating Homes

The use of leather dates back to ancient civilizations. Already 9000 years ago, tanning was being carried out by the South Asians inhabitants of Mehrgarh (now part of Pakistan) for items such as water bags, harness, boats, armour, arch quivers, sword scabbards, boats and sandals. Around 2500 BC, the Sumerians began using leather, affixed by copper studs, on chariot wheels (Our Leather, 2012).

Business in hides and skins has been a major economic activity of the people of northern Nigeria since the pre-colonial days, when skins were exported alongside cotton, palm oil and salt to other parts of the world. However, trading in skin and leather works were in the past, a preserve of an informal sector, through effectively thriving and producing bags, footwear, clothing, upholstery, horse saddle to mention but a few. With the coming of colonialists, machines and new technology for processing leather were introduced, thus expanding and improving the business, at the same time increasing the demand for the expanded market. Similarly, the system witnessed some growth.

2.5.1 Animal Skin Rugs

Animal skin rugs are mostly found used in homes right from ages up till this contemporary times. The type of rug one chose depends on many factors such as taste and decorating scheme. Animal skin rugs have been highly prized and used in many homes for centuries. An animal skin rug has many advantages over other types of rugs. Animal rugs are beautiful, versatile, extremely hardwearing and even wonderfully hypoallergenic. An animal skin rug can add just the right touch of unexpected drama to any space in the home. Animal skin rugs, such as cowhide rugs are very pretty to the eye. A cowhide rug is soft to the touch and feels good when one brushes against it. Cowhide has gone through an extensive process to remove any oils,

dirt and other impurities before it is sold. The result is a rug that is extensively clean and has an elegant texture. Cowhide rugs have bright colors and vivid patterns. This makes it easy for such a rug to serve as a focal point in any room. A cowhide rug can add character to a space that might otherwise be plain and lacking in character.

2.5.2 Leather Cushions

Leather cushion is one of the articles used in the homes not only for its seating and relaxation functions, but also to the aesthetic role it plays in homes. John (2010) is of the opinion that leather cushions are great for people who want to add more style and uniqueness to their homes or gardens. Unlike other types of cushions, leather cushions give a more luxury feel and they can last longer with proper maintenance. Actually, it is not really accurate to call them leather cushions as only the cushions covers are made of leather. The rest of the cushions are actually made of foam that are used to give the cushions their shape. Good quality leather age nicely and the natural grains they fibres. Oil tanning is an old method in which fish oil or other oil and fatty substances are stocked, or pounded, into dried hide until they have replaced the natural moisture of the original skin. Oil tanning is used principally to make chamois leather, soft, porous leather that can be repeatedly wetted and dried without damage. A wide variety of synthetic tanning agents (or syntans), derived from phenols and hydrocarbons, are also used.

After the basic tanning process is completed, the pelts are ready for processing, the final phase in leather production. The tanned pelt is first thoroughly dried and then dyed to give it the appropriate colour; common methods include drum dyeing, spraying, brush dyeing, and staining. Blended oils and greases are then incorporated into the leather to lubricate it and to enhance its softness, strength, and ability to shed water.

The leather is then dried to about 14 percent moisture, either in the air or in a drying tunnel or by first stretching the leather and then air or tunnel drying it. Other less frequently used methods include paste and vacuum drying. The dried leather is finished by reconditioning with damp sawdust to a uniform moisture content of 20 percent. It is then stretched and softened, and the grain surface is coated to give it additional resistance to abrasion, cracking, peeling, water, heat, and cold.

The leather is then ready to be fashioned into any of a multitude of products. These include shoes and boots, outer apparel, belts, upholstery materials, suede products, saddles, gloves, luggage and purses, and recreational equipment as well as such industrial items as buffing wheels and machine belts.

Agents

This process is normally aimed out where chrome tanning is done to give room for actual tanning of the protein fibred by the chrome salt. This involved pilling the leathers on wooden house well covered and allows staying for some days under this condition.

Shaving

The processed leather are normally shaved in order to reduce the thickness to the level required.

Neutralization

This is a process whereby the chrome tanned leather after ageing is treated with weak alkali salt remove acid formed in order to doing ageing and raise the PH to Ph5- 5.5. The chrome tanned leather becomes acidic itself, when housed up for a period of time for chrome fixation. The PH has to be adjusted before the next process. Typical recipe neutralization is 100% water, 0.7-1% sodium bicarbonate and run for about 45 minutes.

Dyeing

It is a process whereby colour is introduced into the leather to give shade and colour of different types such as black, blue and so on. The dye has a typical recipe of 100-150 water (warm). Essentially, Dyeing is the application of organic chemical compound which imparts colour to other materials. These organic chemicals compound are known as dyes. Therefore are defined as organic chemical compounds which impart other colour to other materials. Dyes are colours because they absorb light of a wavelength within the visible spectrum.

Fatliquoring

Fatliquoring is a process of introducing oil into the leather so that the fibres are uniformly indicated. The percentage of oil on the weight of leather is from 3-10% though fatliquoring, the light leather can get a greater softness and flexibility than is imparted in developed will look great over time. Poor quality leather on the other hand tends to crack when they are old. You will see them flickering and peeling over time. The best thing is to check with the seller on what grade is the leather. Usually, the higher the grade, the more you have to pay. Most of the leather cushions are bought to compliment the sofa.

2.5.3 Leather Decorative Pillows

A leather decorative pillow is another fashionable and comfortable material used for these decorative pillows for sofas. Leather decorative pillows look very stylish, as these covers are usually plain and without any design (Noni, 2013). The clean and soft finish of leather, gives sofa a rich and modern look, as they can be used in so many ways. Leather decorative pillows can be used as decorative pillows for couches, leather seats, chairs, patio furniture, or any other classy seating arrangement. Leather decorative pillows near the head of a bed can

really liven up bedroom decor. For example, if the bedroom is decorated in mostly solid or natural colours, a few pillow covers in an eye-catching pattern can create a much needed focal point in the room. A focal point in design can be anything that draws the eye to it. Leather decorative pillows don't have to be square and cylindrical. Pick the size according to the space where you want to keep those. Either you can buy the single shape or mix and match the different shapes. According to Noni (2013), householder's uses leather decorative pillows in decorating homes because all shapes add its distinctive beauty to the interior decor.

2.6 Attributes of Leather Works that Determines its Acceptability by Consumers

The way and manner humans judge the performance of a product or article is affected by a number of factors such as physiological, psychological and cultural. According to Zuo, Hope, Castle & Jones (2005), physiological, psychological and cultural responses and expectation are key elements of the way human perceive the product. Veryzer (2005) opined that the aesthetic attributes of leather interior items helps consumers or users to make quick judgment on the functional, aesthetics and symbolic values which influences how their sense of acceptability.

2.7 Review of Related Empirical Studies

Studies on the use of handcrafts in decorating homes have received a major focus in terms of research work in recent years by researchers. Researchers that contributed to the study of these variables among others include:-

Ekundayo (2010) conducted a study on "The Uses of Indigenous Decorative Materials in the Home in Ogun State". The specific objectives were (i) to determine the demographic characteristics of interior user with indigenous materials for home decoration. (ii) to determine the level of awareness of the interior user with indigenous materials for home decoration. (iii) to examine the factor that affect the choice of the indigenous materials for home decoration. (iv)

to recommend to the users of local material for home decoration on factors that affect their choice and awareness level. (v) to assess the durability of the materials. Three research questions were stated which were (i) what are the uses of interior decoration in the Home? (ii) Does the use of local materials for interior decoration save money? (iii) What are the benefits derived from using local materials for interior decoration? The researchers used descriptive survey design. A total of 80 respondents were randomly selected. Data were collected with the use of structured questionnaire, which were drawn in line with the specific objectives at the study. Data collected through questionnaire were analyzed using descriptive techniques such as frequency counts, percentage, mean and chi-square test. Finding of the study shows that there was effective use of local material for decoration of homes. It was discovered from the study that the use of local material served as an economical way of decorating the home. It also helped the homemaker to make a fruitful use of time. This present study is related to the past study since the decoration of home is the center of focus and is also related in terms of the use of handcraft decorative items. However, the past study looked at various indigenous handcrafts for the decoration of homes while the present study used leather mat for the decoration of home. The major gap filled by the present study is the use of both synthetic and mixed leatherworks for interior decoration.

Asmah, Frimpong and Asinyo (2013) conducted a study on “Enhancing the Value of Indigenous Pottery Products with Surface Decoration Methods and Macrame in Ghana”. The objectives of the study were (i) to identify the role of indigenous Ghanaian pottery in average homes as utilitarian vessels and indirectly as an effective means of employment in its production. (ii) To enhance its aesthetic qualities to alter its use and to increase its demand and utilization. The study employed both the descriptive and experimental methods to produce wares to popularize this concept for the Ghanaian populace. It explored the use of non-conventional

materials (leather, wood, metal oxides, beads, among others) integrated into the biscuit fired wares and completed with macrame as a finishing technique. The results of the study indicate that the new materials added value and enhanced the texture and aesthetic qualities of the products produced. As such, other non-conventional materials could be explored for such products to inspire and educate producers to increase creativity. Discussions were based on theoretical, academic, religious, social, historical, cultural, philosophical and artistic contexts. The pieces showed originality, contrast, harmony, multiplicity and stability, and as well, captured the aesthetic energy inherent in ordinary materials. The research proved that the integration of traditional pottery with other materials can add value and improve the marketability of products they see and use, and should be considered much more in the design strategy for new manufactured products. The major gap filled by the present study is the use of both synthetic and mixed leatherworks for interior decoration.

Kanda (2013) conducted a study on “The creation of Contemporary Interiors Through the use of Sustainable Materials in Kenya”. The specific objectives for the study were (i) To establish how recycled products can be used to create an appealing and sustainable interiors at Poa Place Restaurant and Garden. (ii) To establish how the contemporary design style can be used to make a more appealing interior environment. (iii) To establish the current design styles used in resorts and to what extent they affect the number of tourists visiting the area. The research questions for the study were (i) Can recycled products be used in the interiors of a resort to create sustainable interiors? (ii) How can the contemporary design style be used to create an appealing interior environment? (iii) What are the current design styles applied in resorts interior design? Descriptive survey design was employed in the study. Purposive sampling was used to select 30 respondents. Qualitative and quantitative techniques were used to collect data.

Frequency and percentages was used to analyse data. Findings clearly show that there is a design problem at Poa place Garden and Restaurant. The management has made the cottage designs modern and attractive in an attempt to create an appealing interior environment for the visitors while the bar and restaurant has been totally ignored. This present study is related to the past study since it looked at the use of handcrafts items in interior decoration. However, the past study used one research design, while the present study used two research designs. The past study looked at various indigenous handcrafts for the decoration of homes. Also, the past study lacked standard tools for answering research questions which was addressed by this study.

Osaghei and Osaghei (2013) conducted a study “consumer acceptability of the use of leather as wall cover in offices and homes. The study was carried out among students of Federal University of Agriculture Abeokuta (FUNAAB).

- i. The specific objectives for the study were (1) to establish how “leather wall cover can be used for the decoration of office and room walls.
- ii. To establish how “leather wall cover can be accepted for the decoration of office and rooms. The population size of the study is about 15,000 and random sampling technique was used to select 120 students. The data was collected using descriptive statistics with percentages and frequency table. The result shows that 93.3% of the respondent designed the interior of their homes /offices themselves, while 6.6% used the service of an interior decorator. Only 16.7% of the respondent used leather as part of the materials in designing their homes/office. About forty one seven percent 41.7% attributed to use of leather for wall covering based on availability, while 23.3% do not accept the use of leather of interior decoration based on their religious belief, only 4.2% of the respondent use leather wall covering. The present research is related to the past study since it looked at the assessment of acceptability usage and the robustness of leather design

for decorating sitting room among households in Kano State. However, the past study used descriptive research design while the present study will also use descriptive survey research design. The past study looked at only leather wall while the present study looked at the different parts of the room that can be decorated with leatherworkssuch as ceiling, floor and wall.

In a study carried out by Mekonnen and Gezahegn (2008) titled “The Leather Sector: Growth Strategies through Integrated Value Chain” was conducted in Ethiopia. The research study had 3 specific objectives and research questions as guides for the study. 150 respondents formed the sample for the study. The data for the study Primary data collection also takes place using purposive sampling of collectors, modern abattoirs, and Tanneries. The selection of tanneries is based on their experiences in the sub-sector. In this respect, the mapping exercise includes the chain from the farmgate level to final processors and consumers. At the processors level, tanneries are the most critical factors where most value addition created. The study revealed the various processes involved in collecting hides and skins from the various abattoirs, (local and modern), the various processes of tanning and the end products which are used for either clothing, shoes making or interior decorations. The study revealed that most of the leather from Ethiopia is destined for export and the inferior quality are left for the locals to be managing with in producing locally made shoes, belts, mats, round cushions. Some of the skins are not processed but left to dry and hung in the walls of the house as decorations.

From the study, it is clear that Ethiopia has a clear comparative advantage in raw skin and hides production. However, this comparative advantage is not yet turned into a competitive advantage in the global market. Globalization has brought value chain and competitiveness issues, where individual efficiencies are less important. Counting on the total figures earned an old order history, the issue is who earns what in the value chain, keeping itself within the

bindings of the environment, the poor, the child, and women rights. Hence, the value chain studies for H&S illuminates important facets in developing the sector. The different between the past research work and present is that the past was conducted in Ethiopia on leather sector growing strategies through integrated value chain while this developed synthetic and mixed leatherworks for interior decoration in Nigeria.

Waziri(2013) conducted a study titled “The Use of Leather Wearing and Cowries as Mat Decorations “.The study was conducted in Kano, and it was mainly an experimental base research, which intended to use leathers as materials for making mats and cowries as decorations. The study raised one specific objective and research question.100 respondents were used as sample for the study. Full grain leather according to the researcher contained epidermis and hair that are used for making bags, hand luggage. Corrected grain leather with sanded surface, buffed or snuffed in order to remove any imperfection on the surface due to insect bites, healed scars or brand. The leather is used to create leather of inferior quality. Another type of leather according to this study is the split leathers created from the fibrous parts of the hide and mainly used for creating suede used for making wallets, brief case and hand luggage. The previous research considered natural leatherworks only to produce wearing and cowries as mat decorations while the present used synthetic, natural and mixed to produce leatherworks.

Kolawole (2013) conducted research on Utilization of Meat Animal By-Products in Niger State: An Ethnoarchaeological Approach”. The study was carried out to investigate the uses of by-products of both domestics and wild animals and he main area of concentration was on the hide and skins and how these products are made to be of economic benefits to the populace. The study raised four objectives followed by four research questions, as well as hypotheses. The total population for the study was 1,200 hunters and breeders of small and large animals. The study

adopted cluster sampling technique, since the samples were not located in one area. Interviews conducted in about fifty villages and towns. Finally, excreta form a major source of manure for farming. The hides of mules are used as containers (Salka) for carrying load. The study contributed in no small measure to our knowledge of subsistence adaptation and economy, providing information relating to aspects such as animal husbandry and hunting. Ethnographic data obtained from the use, disposal, and discard of hides and skins throws light on material culture, since such materials are generally too perishable to have survived in the archaeological record. The study concluded that the by-products of meat animals, both wild and domestic, are extensively used among traditional rural societies in Niger State. The previous study varies with present in that the former dwelled on using animal bye products to produce leatherworks while the later produced decorative items using natural and synthetic as well as mixed letherworks.

2.8 Summaryof Literature Review

The theoretical and empirical reviews of documented information have been the focal points of the exercise. Areas delved into include concept of interior decoration, steps in designing interiors, concept of home, factors affecting choice of interior decoration materials in home design, areas of home that can be decorated, concept of leather work, leather process, types of leather work in decorating homes, animal skin rug, leather cushions, leather decorative pillows and attributes of leather works that determine its acceptability by consumers. Since the commitment of this study dwells on finding the development and assessment of acceptability of natural and synthetic leather works for interior decoration. This study is informed affordance theory which postulated that all users actions are driven by the way they perceived their environment. It is established by the some literature that naturally available leatherworks in the market is very expensive and hardly affordable by the common people. The researcher is moved

to develop synthetic and a mixture of natural and synthetic leatherworks to serve as alternative to the natural expensive one which forms the basic gap this research filled.

CHAPTER THREE

MATERIALS AND METHODS

This chapter presents the research design and methodology used in the research work under the following sub- headings;

- 3.1 Research Design
- 3.2 Population of the Study
- 3.3 Sample and Sampling Technique
- 3.4 Instrument for Data Collection
 - 3.4.1 Validation of the 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 and Development (R&D) design was used for the study. R&D deals with the creation of new body of knowledge about existing products or processes, or the creation of an entirely new product. This is systematic creative work, and the resulting new knowledge is then used to formulate new materials or entire new products as well as to alter and improve existing ones. Research and Development, (R&D) comprise creative work undertaken on a systematic basis in order to increase the stock of knowledge and the use of this stock of knowledge to devise new materials, products, or devices or improving substantially those already produced or installed (Creswell, 2013). This design is considered appropriate because it provides modality of gathering information from a sample size and generalizing the findings obtained from the

analysis of the sample to the entire population.

3.2 Population of the Study

The population of the study is in two phases. Phase one population is five hundred and fifty two comprises of registered 105 Event planners, 68 Tanners and 62 Interior decorators in Kano state Ministry of Trade as well as 202 Home Economists and 115 Home makers from Home Economics Department Federal College of Education, Kano. Phase two of the population comprise 20 panel of judges who are academic staff from SaadatuRimi College of Education, Kumbotso, Kano. These staff are from the five schools in the college and the distribution of the population is as shown in Table 3.1 and 3.2.

Table 3.1: Respondents' Population for the Questionnaire

S/N	Category	Number
1	Home Economists	202
2	Home Makers	115
3	Event Planners	105
4	Tanners	68
5	Interior Decorators	62
Total		552

Kano State Ministry of Trade (2019)

Table 3.2: Population of the Panellists for Hedonic Scale

S/N	School	Panellist
1	School of Arts and Social Science	4
2	school of Sciences	4
3	School Vocational and Technical Education	4
4	School of Languages	4
5	School of Education	4
Total		20

3.3 Sample and Sampling Technique

Phase one of the sample for the study is 217 comprises of 80 Home economists, 45 Home makers, 41 Event planners, 27 Tanners and 24 Interior decorators. Phase two of the sample for

the study was the entire population of the panel of judges who was academic staff from SaadatuRimi College of Education, Kumbotso, Kanowere used for the study. The distribution of the sample is as shown in Table 3.3 and 3.4

Table 3.3: Respondents' Sample for the Questionnaire

S/N	Category	No. of Population	No. of Sample
1	Home Economists	202	80
2	Home Makers	115	45
3	Event Planners	105	41
4	Tanners	68	27
5	Interior Decorators	62	24
Total		552	217

Kano State Ministry of Trade (2019)

Table 3.4: Sample of the Panellists for Hedonic Scale

S/N	School	Number of Lecturer
1	School of Arts and Social Science	4
2	school of Sciences	4
3	School Vocational and Technical Education	4
4	School of Languages	4
5	School of Education	4
Total		20

3.4 Instrument for Data Collection

Two instruments were used for data collection. The first instrument was a questionnaire design to identify the decorative items produced from natural, synthetic and mixed leather. The questionnaire was produced in 4 rating scales of Strongly Agree (4points), Agree (3points), Disagree (points) and Strongly disagree (1point). The second instrument was a 4 rating hedonic scale adapted from Ekundayo (2010). The instrument was adapted and modified to suit the objectives of this study. The instrument measured texture, weight, smell and cost effectiveness as well as acceptability of natural, synthetic and mixed leatherworks for interior decoration. A Four points rating scale was used to collect relevant data from the respondents regarding the produced leatherworks. The first instrument was divided into sections A and B. Section a solicits

information on respondents' bio-data while section B generate information on leather items produced from natural, synthetic and mixed leatherworks for interior decoration. The hedonic instrument was also divided into sections A and B.

Section A, contained the background information of the respondents while Section B was divided into five parts.

Part 1 solicits consumers' responses on texture of the developed leatherworks

Part 2 assesses consumers' responses on weight of the developed leatherworks

Part 3 evaluates consumers' responses on smell of the developed leatherworks.

Part 4 solicits consumers' responses on cost of the developed leatherworks.

Part 5 solicits consumers' responses on level of acceptability of natural, synthetic and mixed leatherworks

3.4.1 Validation of the Instrument

The instruments were vetted by 2 experts in Home Economics Department and 1 in Measurement and Evaluation Unit, in the Faculty of Education Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria who are in the rank of senior lecturer and professor. The experts were requested to scrutinize the instrument to ascertain whether or not they measure what they are employed to measure. Their observations and corrections were incorporated and final copies were produced for pilot testing.

3.4.2 Pilot Study

A pilot study was carried out to gain an insight into the various problems which researcher may likely face during the data collection. The questionnaire instrument was piloted tested in Jigawa State with 30 respondents comprise of 5 Home economists, 5 Home makers, 5 Event planners, 5 Tanners and 5 Interior decorators. The pilot study for hedonic scale was conducted in Federal University, Dutse, Jigawa State using 20 academic staff. Split half method

of reliability was used to collect the data which were subjected to statistical analysis to obtain reliability coefficient.

3.4.3 Reliability of the Instrument

The data collected from the pilot study was statistically analyzed to obtain reliability coefficient of the instruments. Pearson Product Moment Correlation was used to analyze the data and reliability coefficients of 0.84 and 0.70 were obtained for questionnaire and hedonic scale instruments respectively. This showed that the instruments were very reliable for the information collected. This is in line with the report of Uzosike (2008) who lamented that, reliability coefficient of 0.50 and above is adequate and valid for studies.

3.5 Procedure for Data Collection

Data collection for the study was done in phases

Phase I: The copies of questionnaire were distributed to the respondents by the researcher and 2 research assistants using face to face method of delivery. The instruments were retrieved immediately, coded and analyzed.

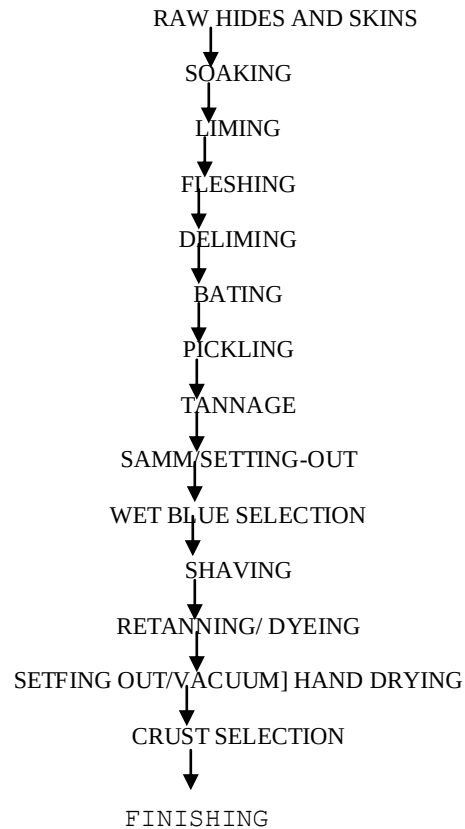
Phase II: The researcher produced carpet, wall hanger and pouf using natural, synthetic and mixed (Natural and Synthetic) leather for interior decoration.

Phase III: The interior decoration items produced by the researcher were subjected to panel of judges for assessment using hedonic scale. The items produced were displayed before the judges to assess texture, weight, odour, cost and acceptability of natural, synthetic and mixed leatherworks. The exercise lasted for four months.

Materials and Equipment for Leather Production

3.5.1 Leather Processes

A schematic requirements of the processes involved in the manufacture of leather in the tourney is here under presented:-



These are the tools and equipment that were used to produced all the products

SYNTHETIC LEATHER (Carpet)

Materials

- 3 brown colour synthetic leather yards ₦3000
- 2 milk colour synthetic leatheryards ₦2000
- 2 blackcolour synthetic leather yards ₦2000
- Scissors ₦500
- Razor blade ₦100
- Brown paper ₦100

➤ Sewing labour	₦4000
➤ Needle and thread	₦500
➤ Gum	₦800
➤ 2 Yards of Foam	₦1000
➤ Linen materials	₦1000
Total Cost	₦15,000

Methodology of Developing Synthetic Leather Carpet

- Creating design using the measurement
- Laying the synthetic leather
- Removing different pattern and shapes
- Using razor blade to bringout design
- Joining different parts with needle and thread
- Joining the eight different parts with gum
- Joining the eight different parts by sewing
- Putting the foam and landing the sew

NATURAL LEATHER (Carpet and Pouff)

❖ 3 Yards of Brown natural leather	₦3000
❖ Black natural leather 10 pieces	₦15000
❖ 10 pieces of Milk colour natural leather	₦15000
❖ Scissors	₦500
❖ Gum	₦800
❖ Needle and Thread	₦500
❖ Sewing labour	₦15000

❖ Bottle	₦200
Total Cost	₦50,000

SYNTHETIC LEATHER AND NATURAL LEATHER(Carpet and Wall Hangers)

❖ 3 Yards of Brown synthetic leather	₦2000
❖ Black natural leather 10 pieces	₦15000
❖ 10 pieces of Milk colour synthetic leather	₦7000
❖ Scissors	₦500
❖ Gum	₦800
❖ Needle and Thread	₦500
❖ Sewing labour	₦7000
❖ Bottle	₦200
❖ 2 Yards of Foam	₦1000
❖ Linen materials	₦1000
Total Cost	₦35,000

3.6 Procedure for Data Analysis

The data collected were analyzed using descriptive statistics of mean and standard deviation to answer all research questions 1-6. In answering the research questions, any items that scored 2.5 and above were considered accepted and those that scored 2.4 and below were considered unaccepted by the consumers.

CHAPTER FOUR

PRESENTATION AND ANALYSIS OF DATA

This chapter presents the analysis of data collected which were presented based on the research questions. The chapter is presented under the following sub-headings

4.1 Answers to Research Questions

4.2 Summary of Major Findings

4.3 Discussion of Findings

4.1 Answers to Research Questions

Research Question One: What are the natural, synthetic and mixed leatherwork decorative items that could be produced for interior decoration?

Table 4.1: Natural, Synthetic and Mixed Leatherwork used for Interior Decoration

Items	SA	A	D	SD	Total	X	Rank
Leather wall hanger	135(524)	51(153)	28(56)	3(3)	736	3.4	3
Leather Carpet	127(508)	52(156)	35(70)	40(40)	774	3.6	1
Leather sofas	122(488)	48(144)	23(46)	24(24)	702	3.2	4
Leather throw pillow	88(352)	33(99)	54(108)	43(43)	602	2.8	8
Leather mat	118(472)	44(132)	32(64)	23(23)	691	3.2	4
Leather pouf	105(525)	54(162)	36(72)	22(22)	781	3.5	2
Leather wall cover	103(412)	58(174)	32(64)	24(24)	674	3.1	6
Leather hand fan	96(384)	62(186)	33(66)	26(26)	662	3.0	7
Leather foot mat	86(344)	35(105)	52(104)	45(45)	598	2.7	9

The analysis of results in Table 4.1 shows the available items produced from natural, synthetic and mixed leatherworks for interior decoration. The results revealed average mean score of 3.6, 3.5 and 3.4 for leather carpet, pouf and wall hangers ranking 1, 2 and 3. This means that leather carpet, pouf and wall hangers were mostly used among the available items for interior decoration in Kano State. Other decorative items also used include leather sofas, throw pillow, mat, wall cover, hand fan and foot mat.

Research Question Two: What is the texture of decorative items produced from natural, synthetic and mixed leatherworks?

Table 4.2: Texture of Decorative Items Produced from Natural, Synthetic and Mixed Leatherworks

Leather	Very Soft		Soft		Coarse		Very Coarse		X	SD
	F	%	F	%	F	%	F	%		
Natural	7	35	11	55	2	10	-	-	3.3	.76
Synthetic	2	10	4	20	10	50	4	20	2.2	.85
Natural & Synthetic	6	30	12	60	2	10	-	-	3.8	.54

The analysis of results in Table 4.2 shows the texture of natural, synthetic and mixed leatherworks for interior decoration. The results revealed average mean score of 3.3 for natural leather, synthetic leather had mean score of 2.2 and mixed (natural and synthetic) leather scored 3.8 mean. The calculated means scores of natural and mixed (natural and synthetic) leather (3.3 and 3.8) were greater than the benchmark of 2.50 which means that the consumers accepted texture of natural and mixed (natural and synthetic) leatherworks. The mean score of synthetic leatherwork (2.2) was less than the benchmark of 2.5 which indicates that consumers did not accept the texture of synthetic leatherwork. This means that natural and mixed (natural and synthetic) leatherworks have smooth and soft texture while synthetic has coarse texture.

Research Question Three: What is the weight of natural, synthetic and mixed leatherworks for interior decoration in Kano state?

Table 4.3: Weight of Natural, Synthetic and Mixed Leatherworks for Interior Decoration

Leather	Very Light		Light		Heavy		Very Heavy		X	SD
	F	%	F	%	F	%	F	%		
Natural	5	25	12	60	2	10	1	5	3.1	.87
Synthetic	3	15	5	25	10	50	2	10	2.4	.42
Natural & Synthetic	3	15	6	30	8	40	3	15	2.4	.27

The analysis of results in Table 4.3 shows the weight of natural, synthetic and mixed leatherworks for interior decoration. The results revealed average mean score of 3.1 for natural

leather, synthetic leather had mean score of 2.4 and mixed (natural and synthetic) leather scored 2.4 mean. The calculated means score of natural leather (3.1) was greater than the benchmark of 2.50 which means that the consumers accepted the weight of natural leatherworks. The mean score of synthetic and mixed (natural and synthetic) leatherworks (2.4 and 2.4) were less than the benchmark of 2.5 which indicates that consumers did not accept the weighty of synthetic and mixed (natural and synthetic) leatherworks. This implies that natural leatherwork is lighter than the synthetic and mixed (natural and synthetic) leatherworks.

Research Question Four: What is the smell of natural, synthetic and mixed leatherworks for interior decoration in Kano state?

Table 4.4: Smell of Natural, Synthetic and Mixed Leatherworks for Interior Decoration

Leather	Very Good		Good		Bad		Very Bad		X	SD
	F	%	F	%	F	%	F	%		
Natural	-	-	3	15	14	70	3	15	2.0	.64
Synthetic	1	5	15	75	2	10	2	10	2.9	.58
Natural & Synthetic	-	-	5	25	12	60	3	15	2.3	.74

The analysis of results in Table 4.4 shows the smell of natural, synthetic and mixed leatherworks for interior decoration. The results revealed average mean score of 2.0 for natural leather, synthetic leather had mean score of 2.9 and mixed (natural and synthetic) leather scored 2.3 mean. The calculated means score of natural leather (2.0) was less than the benchmark of 2.50 which means that the consumers did not accept the smell of natural leatherworks. The mean score of synthetic leatherwork (2.9) was more than the benchmark of 2.5 which indicates that consumers accepted the smell of synthetic leatherworks. The mixed (natural and synthetic) leatherworks also had mean score of 2.3 meaning that the smell is also not accepted. This implies that natural and mixed leatherworksemit bad smell while synthetic leatherwork discharges good smell.

Research Question Five: What is the cost of produced natural, synthetic and mixed leatherworks for interior decoration in Kano state?

Table 4.5: Cost of Produced Natural, Synthetic and Mixed Leatherworks for Interior Decoration

Leather	Very Good		Good		Bad		Very Bad		X	SD
	F	%	F	%	F	%	F	%		
Natural ₦50000	6	30	12	60	2	10	-	-	3.8	.36
Synthetic ₦15000	1	5	16	75	2	10	2	10	2.9	.71
Nat.& Syn. ₦35000	5	25	12	60	2	10	1	5	3.1	.36

The analysis of results in Table 4.5 shows the cost of produced natural, synthetic and mixed leatherworks for interior decoration. The results revealed average mean score of 3.8 for natural leather, mixed (natural and synthetic) leather scored 3.1 mean while synthetic leather had mean score of 2.9. This means natural leatherworks is costly than synthetic and mixed leatherwork.

Research Question Six: What is the acceptability of natural, synthetic and mixed leatherworks for interior decoration in Kano state?

Table 4.6: Acceptability of Natural, Synthetic and Mixed Leatherworks

Leather	Highly Acceptable		Acceptable		Not Acceptable		X	SD
	F	%	F	%	F	%		
Natural	11	55	8	40	1	5	2.5	.64
Synthetic	12	60	7	35	1	5	2.6	.58
Natural & Synthetic	15	75	5	25	-	-	2.8	.74

The analysis of results in Table 4.6 shows the acceptability of natural, synthetic and mixed leatherworks for interior decoration. The results revealed average mean score of 2.5 for natural leather, synthetic leather had mean score of 2.6 and mixed (natural and synthetic) leather scored 2.8 mean. The mean score of mixed (natural and synthetic) leather (2.9) is highest followed by synthetic leatherworks (2.6) then natural leatherworks (2.5). This implies that mixed leatherworks is more acceptable by the consumers than synthetic and

natural.

4.2 Summary of Findings

From the data analyses, the following are the summary of findings:

1. The result of research question one revealed that leather carpet, pouf and wall hangers are mostly used among the available items for interior decoration. Other decorative items also used include leather sofas, throw pillow, mat, wall cover, hand fan and foot mat in Kano State.
2. The result of research question two revealed that natural and mixed (natural and synthetic) leatherworks have smooth texture (3.3 and 3.8) while synthetic leatherwork has coarse texture (2.2).
3. The result of research question three showed that the weight of natural leatherwork is very light (3.1) while that of synthetic and mixed (natural and synthetic) leatherworks is heavy (2.4 and 2.4).
4. The result of research question four revealed that the odour of synthetic leatherwork is good (3.9) while that of natural and mixed (natural and synthetic) leatherworks is foul (2.0 and 2.3).
5. The result of research question five showed that natural leatherwork is more costly with 3.8 than synthetic and mixed with 2.9 and 3.1 respectively.
6. The result of research question six showed that mixed (natural and synthetic) leatherwork (2.8) is more accepted by the consumers than natural (2.5) and synthetic (2.6).

4.3 Discussion of Findings

The discussions of findings are done in relation to outcome of the research hypothesis.

The result of this study revealed that natural and mixed (natural and synthetic) leatherworks have smooth texture (3.3 and 3.8) while synthetic leatherwork has coarse texture (2.2). The texture of natural and mixed (natural and synthetic) leatherworks are accepted by the consumers. This finding is in line with the report of Noni (2013) who asserted that the clean and soft finish of leather, gives sofa a rich and modern look, as they can be used in so many ways. Leather decorative pillows can be used as decorative pillows for couches, leather seats, chairs, patio furniture, or any other classy seating arrangement. Leather decorative pillows near the head of a bed can really liven up bedroom decor. For example, if the bedroom is decorated in mostly solid or natural colors, a few pillow covers in an eye-catching pattern can create a much needed focal point in the room. A focal point in design can be anything that draws the eye to it. Leather decorative pillows don't have to be square and cylindrical. Pick the size according to the space where you want to keep those. Either one can buy the single shape or mix and match the different shapes. According to Noni (2013), householder's uses leather decorative pillows in decorating homes because all shapes add its distinctive beauty to the interior decor.

The result of the study also showed that the weight of natural leatherwork is very light (3.1) while that of synthetic and mixed (natural and synthetic) leatherworks is heavy (2.4 and 2.4). The weight of natural leatherworks is accepted by the consumers and that of synthetic and mixed (natural and synthetic) not accepted. The way and manner humans judge the performance of a product or article is affected by a number of factors such as psychological and cultural point of view. According to Zuo, Hope, Castle & Jones (2005), psychological and cultural responses and expectation are key elements of the way human perceive the product. Veryzer (2005) opined

that the aesthetic attributes of leather interior items helps consumers or users to make quick judgment on the functional, aesthetics and symbolic values which influences how their sense of acceptability. The performance of a product determines its acceptability by consumers or users. The performance of a product is determined by its aesthetic attributes (Johnson, Lenau and Ashby, 2003). Due to the durability and luxury nature of natural and synthetic leather design, most of the judges preferred it for interior decoration. While some choose natural leather decorative items only few chose synthetic leather decorative items.

Another findings of this study revealed that the smell of synthetic leatherwork is good (3.9) while that of natural and mixed (natural and synthetic) leatherworks is bad (2.0 and 2.3). The synthetic leatherwork discharges good smell hence, accepted while natural and mixed leatherworks emit bad smell and not accepted. Okhiria and Karim (2005) lamented that any leatherworks is do not release unpleasant odours are good materials for interior decoration for beautifying rooms and other indoor areas of a house so that they become attractive, comfortable and useful. Floors, walls and ceiling are often decorated using furniture and fixtures, carpets and rugs, draperies or curtains, lighting, paints, wall coverings, as well as many other items that may constitute to the creation of an interior that is beautiful. The interior materials and fittings in home design require a careful selection of the item to suit the area to be decorated and the overall mood of the user. Leigh (2000) pointed out that the right floor and floor covering is an important aspect of finishing your home in home design and this is the most dominant decorative surfaces. Every interior design combines certain basic element of design.

The result of this research also showed that all the developed leatherworks are cost effective (3.1, 2.9 and 3.8). But mixed (natural and synthetic) is more cost effective hence, mostly accepted than natural and synthetic. This is in agreement with the assertion of

Okhiria and Karim (2005) who alluded that consumers of leatherworks sometimes do not mind the cost of the leather provided it is good and possess all the qualities needed for good interior decoration to beautifying rooms and other indoor areas of a house so that they become attractive, comfortable and useful. Floors, walls and ceiling are often decorated using furniture and fixtures, carpets and rugs, draperies or curtains, lighting, paints, wall coverings, as well as many other items that may constitute to the creation of an interior that is beautiful. The interior materials and fittings in home design require a careful selection of the item to suit the area to be decorated and the overall mood of the user. Leigh (2000) pointed out that the right floor and floor covering is an important aspect of finishing your home in home design and this is the most dominant decorative surfaces. Every interior design combines certain basic element of design. The most important elements are style, forms, shape, colour, pattern, texture, line and traffic. Each element can be used in various ways to produce wide varieties of effects. There is no right or wrong way of applying any of the listed elements provided a thorough combination is made. The way each interior decorator chooses to use each element of design depends on the purpose of the area and mood to be created.

Another finding showed that mixed (natural and synthetic) leatherwork (2.8) is more accepted by the consumers than natural (2.5) and synthetic (2.6). This is in agreement with the assertion of Okhiria and Karim (2005) who alluded that consumers of leatherworks sometimes do not mind the cost of the leather provided it is good and possess all the qualities needed for good interior decoration to beautifying rooms and other indoor areas of a house so that they become attractive, comfortable and useful. Floors, walls and ceiling are often decorated using furniture and fixtures, carpets and rugs, draperies or curtains, lighting, paints, wall coverings, as well as many other items that may constitute to the creation of an interior that is beautiful. The interior

materials and fittings in home design require a careful selection of the item to suit the area to be decorated and the overall mood of the user. Leigh (2000) pointed out that the right floor and floor covering is an important aspect of finishing your home in home design and this is the most dominant decorative surfaces.

CHAPTER FIVE

SUMMARY, CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

This chapter gives the summary, conclusion and recommendations of the study. The chapter was presented under the following sub-headings:

- 5.1 Summary
- 5.2 Conclusion
- 5.3 Contributions to Knowledge
- 5.4 Recommendations
- 5.5 Suggestions for Further Study

5.1 Summary

The study was carried out to assess the development and acceptability of natural and synthetic leatherworks for interior decoration in Kano State, Nigeria. The main objective of this study is to develop and assess acceptability of natural and synthetic leatherworks for interior decoration in Kano State. The study had seven specific objectives and six research questions as guide. The study adopted R&D design. The population of the study was 552 respondents and 20 panel of judges who were academic staff of Saadatu Rimi College of Education, Kumbotso, Kano. The sample for the study was 217 and 20 panel of judges. Four rating questionnaire and hedonic scale were used as instruments for data collection. The data collected were coded and analyzed to answer research questions using descriptive statistics of frequency and percentages as well as mean and standard deviation. The result revealed that leather carpet, pouf and wall hangers are mostly used among the available items for interior decoration. Other decorative items also used include leather sofas, throw pillow, mat, wall cover, hand fan and foot mat in Kano State. Natural and mixed (natural and synthetic) leatherworks have smooth texture (3.3 and 3.8) while synthetic leatherwork has coarse texture (2.2). The weight of natural leatherwork is very light (3.1) while that of synthetic and

mixed (natural and synthetic) leatherworks is heavy (2.4 and 2.4). The smell of synthetic leatherwork is good (3.9) while that of natural and mixed (natural and synthetic) leatherworks is bad (2.0 and 2.3). Natural leatherworks is more costly with 3.8 than synthetic and mixed with 2.9 and 3.1 respectively. Mixed (natural and synthetic) leatherwork (2.8) is more accepted by the consumers than natural (2.5) and synthetic (2.6).

5.2 Conclusion

Based on the findings of this study, the researcher concluded that natural and mixed (natural and synthetic) leatherworks have smooth texture than the synthetic leatherwork and this made the consumers to accept natural and mixed leatherworks over synthetic. The weight of natural leatherwork is very light as observed by the consumers over the mixed and synthetic that are heavier. Synthetic leatherwork produced good smell than the natural and mixed (natural and synthetic) leatherworks which derived the choice of synthetic leatherworks over natural and mixed by the consumers. Mixed (natural and synthetic) is more acceptable than natural and synthetic leatherworks.

5.3 Contributions to Knowledge

Based on the findings of this study, it was established that:

- i. Leather carpet, pouf and wall hangers were the items mostly used for interior decoration. Other decorative items also used include leather sofas, throw pillow, mat, wall cover, hand fan and foot mat in Kano State.
- ii. Mixed (natural and synthetic) leatherwork had finer texture (3.8) than natural (3.3) and synthetic (2.2) for interior decoration.
- iii. Natural leatherwork was weighty (3.1) than synthetic (2.4) and mixed leatherwork with (2.4) for interior decoration.
- iv. Synthetic leatherwork (2.9) was more smelly than natural (2.0) and mixed leatherwork (2.3) as used for interior decoration.

- v. Natural leatherwork was costly (#50,000) than synthetic mixed leather which cost #15,000 and #35, 000 respectively for interior decoration.
- vi. Mixed leatherwork was more acceptable (2.8) than natural (2.5) and synthetic (2.6) leatherworks for interior decoration.

5.4 Recommendations

Based on the findings of the study, the following recommendations were made:

1. The individuals, Home Economists and industries involved in the production of leatherworks should put efforts in producing leatherworks with soft texture since the leather users prefer leatherworks with smooth and soft texture.
2. Home Economists and leatherworks enterprise should produce leatherworks that are not so heavy and weighty since the leather users prefer leatherworks that are very light and not opaque.
3. Home Economists as well as small and large scale leatherworks industries should strive in developing quality leatherworks that are devoid of bad smell, unpleasant odours and stinks to attract high marketability.
4. Home Economists as well Home makers try developing mixed (natural and synthetic) leatherworks since it has less production cost.
5. The individuals, Home Economists and industries involved in the production of leatherworks should use mixed leatherworks since they are more acceptable.

5.5 Suggestions for Further Studies

Base on the outcome of this study, the followings were suggested for further studies:

1. Influence of natural and synthetic leatherworks on spatial dimension and interior decoration among working class couple North Central Nigeria.

2. Assessment of Relationship between produced leather items using synthetic and Mixed (natural and synthetic) and acceptability among staff of Colleges of Education in Sokoto State, Nigeria.

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APPENDIX I

APPENDIX I MATERIALS AND PROCEDURES FOR MAKING SYNTHETIC, MIX (NATURAL AND SYNTHETIC) LEATHER

SYNTHETIC LEATHER

- 3 Yards brown
- 2 Yards milk colour
- 2 Yards black
- Scissors
- Razor blade
- Brown paper
- Sowing machine
- Thread
- Gum
- 2 Yards of Foam
- Landing
- Needle and thread
- Methodology
- Creating design using the measurement
- Laying the synthetic leather
- Removing different pattern and shapes
- Using razor blade to bringout design
- Joining different parts with needle and thread
- Joining the eight different parts with gum
- Joing the eight different parts by sowing
- Putting the foam and landing the sow

APPENDIX II

**DEPARTMENT OF HOME ECONOMICS
FACULTY OF EDUCATION
AHMADU BELLO UNIVERSITY, ZARIA**

**DISSERTATION TOPIC: DEVELOPMENT AND ACCEPTABILITY OF NATURAL
AND SYNTHETIC LEATHERWORKS FOR INTERIOR DECORATION IN KANO
STATE, NIGERIA.**

Dear Panelist,

Kindly score the products based on texture, weight, smell and cost effectiveness using
the options provided in the tables.

Thank you.

HUSSAIN ZainabShehu

Questionnaire on Leather Items Available for Interior Decoration

Section A: Respondents' Bio-data

Kindly indicate your area

1. Home Economists ()
2. Home Makers ()
3. Event Planners ()
4. Tanners ()
5. Interior Decorators ()

Institution

A. What are the natural synthetic and mixed leather works that could be produced for interior decorations?

Kindly Indicate your Opinion by Ticking the Appropriate Column

Strongly Agree (SA, 4points) Agree (A, 3points), D (D, 2points) and SD (SD, 1point)

Items	SA	A	D	SD
Leather wall hanger				
Leather Carpet				
Leather sofas				
Leather throw pillow				
Leather mat				
Leather pouf				
Leather wall cover				
Leather hand fan				
Leather foot mat				

HEDONIC SCALE

Section A: Demographic Data

1) Marital Status

a. Married [] b. Widow [] c. Single []

Section B:

Instruction: Please tick [✓] in the column that represents your opinions, observations and feelings

TEXTURE

	Very Soft	Soft	Coarse	Very Coarse
P1				
P2				
P3				

KEY: P1= NATYRAL, P2= SYNTHETIC, P3= MIXED (NATURAL & SYNTHETIC)

Very Soft = 4
Soft = 3
Coarse = 2
Very Coarse = 1

WEIGHT

	Very Light	Light	Heavy	Very Heavy
P1				
P2				
P3				

KEY: P1= NATYRAL, P2= SYNTHETIC, P3= MIXED (NATURAL & SYNTHETIC)

Very Light = 4
Light = 3
Heavy = 2
Very Heavy = 1

SMELL

	Very Good	Good	Bad	Very Bad
P1				
P2				
P3				

KEY: P1= NATYRAL, P2= SYNTHETIC, P3= MIXED (NATURAL & SYNTHETIC)

Very Good = 4
Good = 3
Bad = 2

Very Bad =1

COST OF PRODUCTION

Very Cheap Cheap Costly Very Costly

P1

P2

P3

KEY: P1= NATURAL, P2= SYNTHETIC, P3= MIXED (NATURAL & SYNTHETIC)

Very Cheap = 4

Cheap =3

Costly =2

Very Costly =1

ACCEPTABILITY

Highly Acceptable Acceptable Not Acceptable

P1

P2

P3

KEY: P1= NATYRAL, P2= SYNTHETIC, P3= MIXED (NATURAL & SYNTHETIC)

Highly Acceptable = 4

Acceptable =3

Fair Acceptable =2

Not Acceptable =1

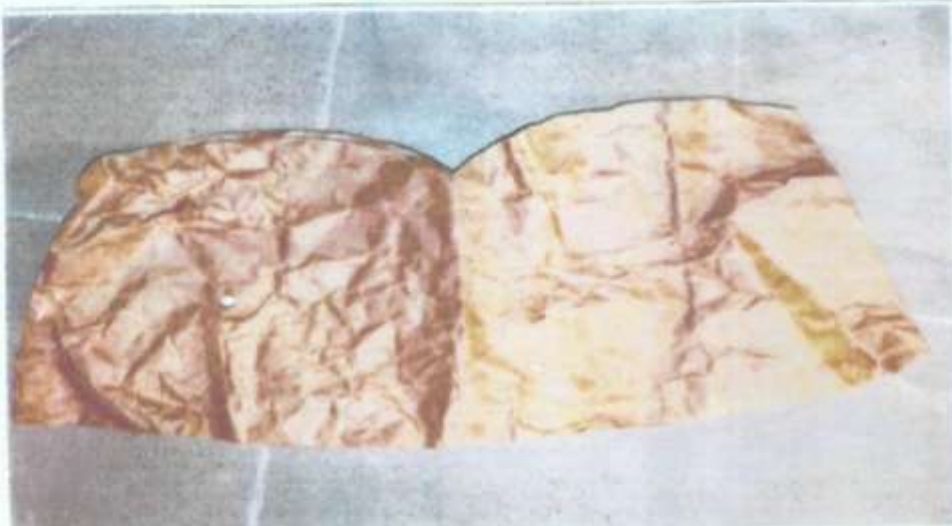
SYNTHETIC LEATHER AND NATURAL LEATHER

- ❖ 3 Yards of Brown synthetic
- ❖ Black natural leather 10 pieces
- ❖ 10 pieces of Milk colour natural leather
- ❖ Scissors
- ❖ Gum
- ❖ Thread
- ❖ Sowing machine
- ❖ Bottle
- ❖ Method
- ❖ Pressing the natural leather to make it shine



Leather Piece

Natural Leather Piece



Measurement for Carpet, Wall Hanger and Puff





Cutting liningforCarpet made from Synthetic Leather and mix of Natural and Synthetic Leather for Interior Decoration.



Joining different Patterns of Natural Leather for



Putting foam and Lining together for Carpet made from Natural and



Finished product of Natural and Synthetic Leather Carpet



Synthetic Leather Carpet



Synthetic Leather Carpets and Puffs