

**MANIPULATING GHANAIAN INDIGENOUS VEGETABLE TANNED
LEATHER FOR THE PRODUCTION OF LADIES FASHIONABLE
ACCESSORIES**

KNUST
BY

RITA DORA ANDOH

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ABSTRACT

Most occasions in the Ghanaian society demand casual body items and containers. The slippers and sandals are easy to wear as compared to shoes and boots. Most containers become easy carriers for handy items such as make-up kits, purses, keys, handkerchiefs etc. Those items sell faster as compared to the other body items. Those imported decorative items with good finishing made with synthetic leather sell faster as compared to those made with, Ghanaian indigenous vegetable tanned leather, due to its poor decorative design and finishing, hence the identification and selection of body items and containers. What is it about leather handbags that make them so intriguing? They come in a wide variety of sizes, colours, and styles. Maybe it is the butter soft material they are made from. There is also a fashion status attached to a good leather handbag. Many famous fashion conscious women carry them, making them even more popular. A nice bag that completes an outfit can give someone a little extra confidence as they go about their day.

Leather in its most basic form is made from the hide of an animal. First they are cleaned to remove the hair and any other debris. These skins and hides are stretched and tanned through the use of a chemical process. During this time, depending on the process and chemicals used the type of leather produced is determined. It can be from very soft leather to suede to hard stiff leather depending on how it is treated. Fashion designers use this leather to make many products, not just handbags. There are also shoes, belts, and hats. So an entire ensemble can be achieved. No one wants to have the wrong shoes with the right bag. Leather is a very durable material that can withstand the everyday use, wear, and tear the average person can put on it. It is one of the reasons leather is such a popular material to use in clothing. There are still many vintage leather handbags out there, and rarely do they go out of style.

Leather goods are made to last a lifetime. But have to take care of them. The best way is to keep them clean and supple with the use of good leather cleaner. Leather cleaners can smell bad so if you are planning to use your bag on the weekend it would be better to clean it earlier in the week. Before cleaning your bag with any product it is always recommended to test it on an area that won't be seen. Just in case the cleaner is too harsh and changes the colour or texture of the leather. There are many animal rights groups that are trying to ban or just discourage people from the use of leather in fashion. Some of these groups are very aggressive and will try to destroy animal goods by throwing paint on them, or just make the owner feel immense guilt over the use of leather. What these groups are fighting against is an age old tradition. The earliest man made his clothing from the hides of the animals he killed. In most cases these animals are not killed just for the hide, the whole animal is used for a variety of purposes. Most importantly they are used for food.

Research design; this describe the type of research methodology adopted. Population and sampling; this describe details of the population for the study. Instrumentation or research instruments; it indicates the information gathering instrument, information accumulation methodology, information examination, legitimacy and reliability. Working procedure, this is the main experimental area of the research where the research questions are addressed in response to the purpose of the study.

The discovery of the Indigenous vegetable tanned leather has been beneficial, especially to the Indigenous folks who use it as their containers for their daily purposes.

Indigenous tanned leather has been used over the years to produce a variety of fashionable items, however, the handling and application of designs have not gone through much modification as required in modern fashion, and this has not helped the fashion industry in Ghana.

It is interesting to note that consumers of fashion accessories in Ghana embrace items made with leather, unfortunately they prefer imported ones which come in different designs with good finishes, although some of these are made with imitation or synthetic leathers.

The study therefore sought to the potential of handling and using Indigenous Ghanaian vegetable tanned leather for the production of ladies fashionable accessories with beautiful designs and finishes to meet the contemporary fashion.

For the promotion and improvement of leather fashion accessories in this country, the following recommendations are hereby made: Local industries that deal with leather should take up the project to produce leather fashion accessories to aid the local tannery industry. They should take interest in using indigenous Ghanaian vegetable tanned leather for the production of fashion accessories to boots the Ghanaian economy.

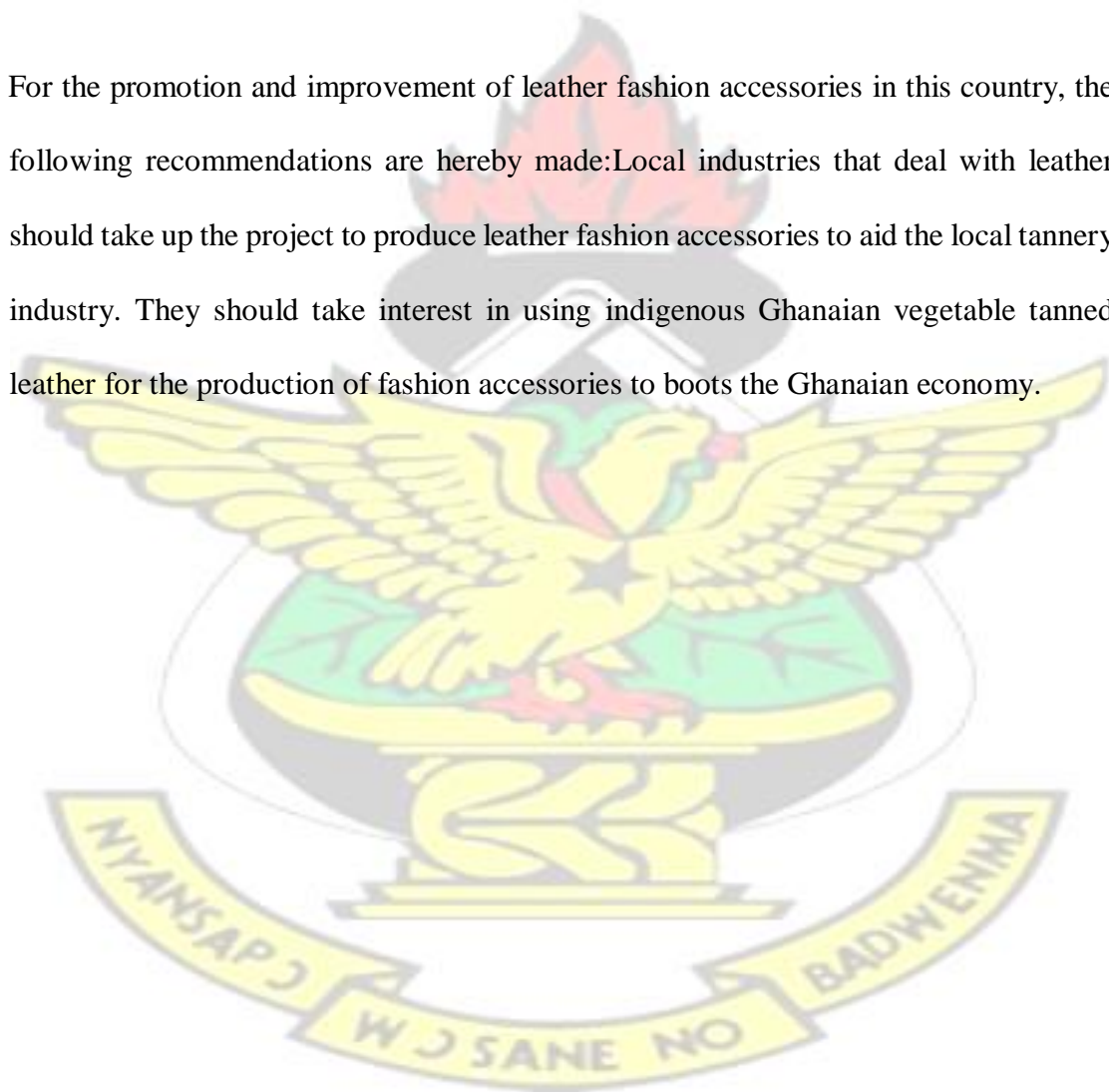


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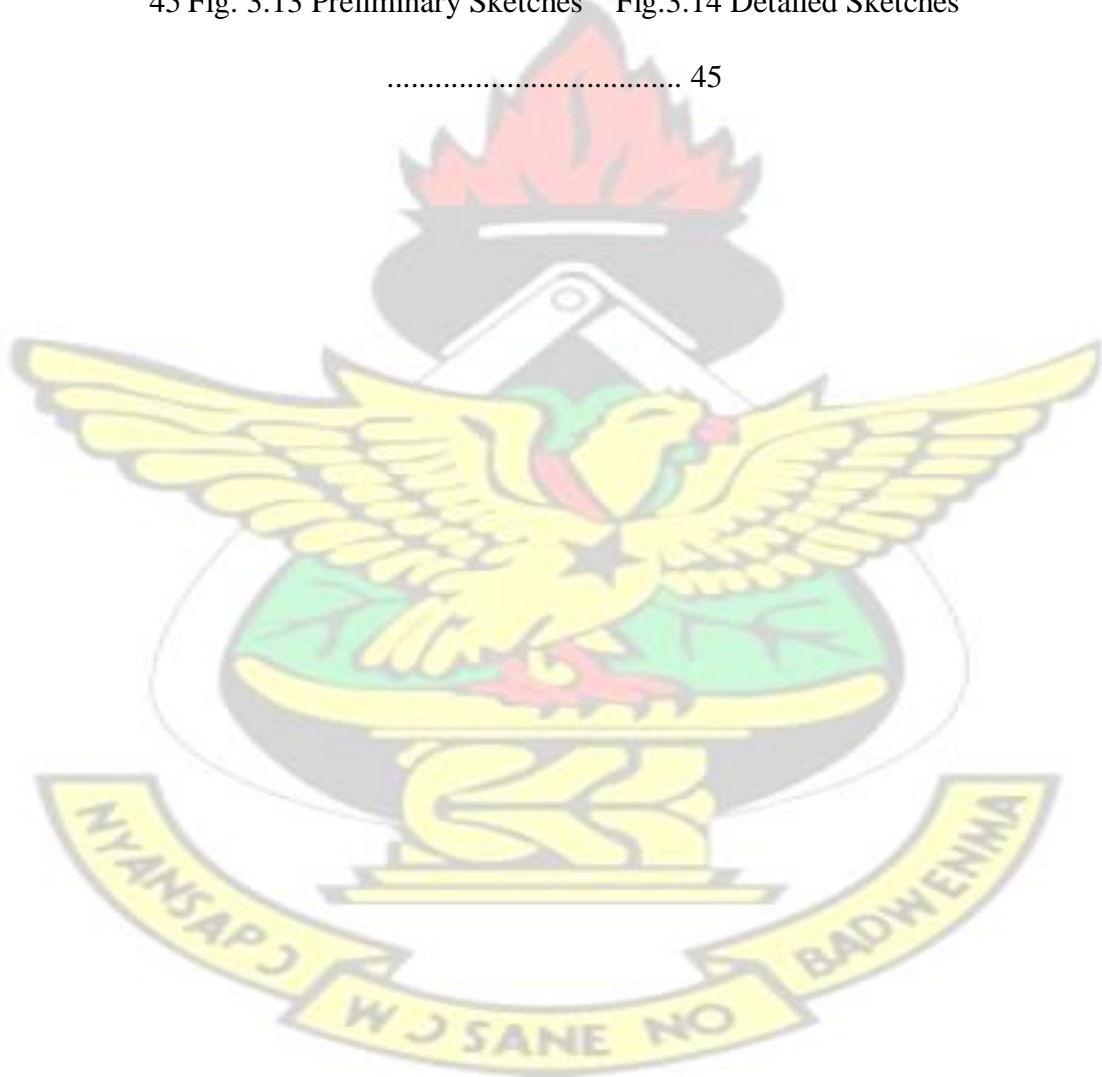
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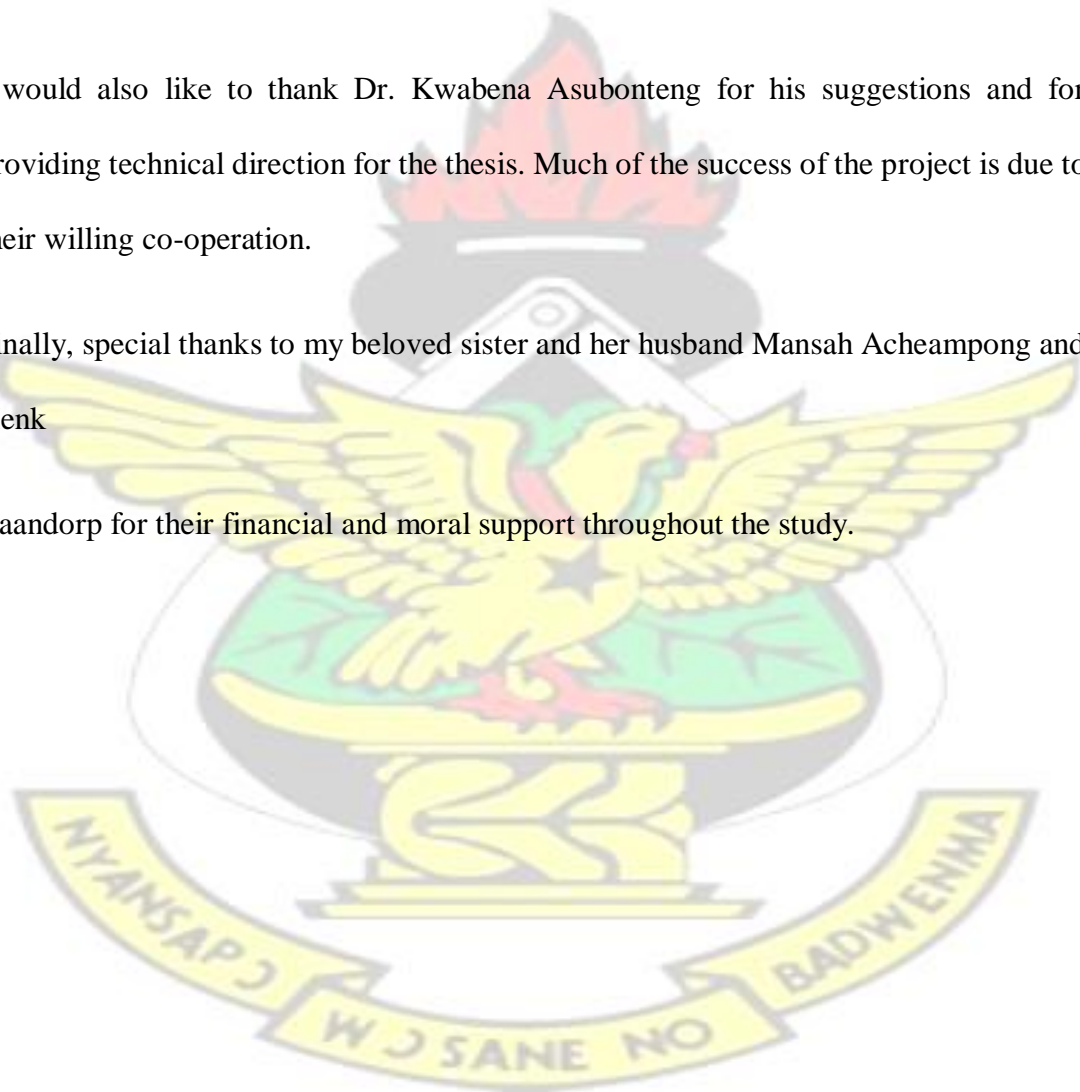
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DEDICATION

I dedicate this work to the Lord God Almighty for his guidance and protection and for seeing me through my MPHIL programme, I dedicate this work to my dear lovely late parents and sister, Mr. and Mrs. Leo Agyei Andoh and Miss Grace- Mary Andoh, also to my dearest beloved sister and her husband Mansah Acheampong and Mr Henk Kaandorp for their financial and moral support throughout the study and for their relentless and keen interest they have demonstrated throughout the course of the study.



CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Overview

This chapter presents the conceptual framework of the study and the philosophical foundation upon which the entire research is built. Systematically, it outlines the background to the study, statement of the problem, purpose of the study, research questions significance of the study, limitations of the study, delimitations of the study, definition of terms and organization of the text.

1.2 Background to the Study

Indigenous vegetable tanned leather is one of the discoveries of the prehistoric man that has not gone into extinction or has been brushed aside by the wave of history but rather it has been enhanced. The fact remains that leather has contributed greatly to the development of civilization. Indigenous vegetable tanned leather is a highly flexible and durable material in character that can be used in the fabrication of a number of items, it is obtained when the skin of a slaughtered or dead animal is removed and processed. The process of making the skin, work is known as tanning. The use of Indigenous vegetable tanned leather in the various facets of human existence can be traced as far back as the prehistoric period where man used the skins and hides of animals to satisfy his basic needs. Some of these needs included clothing, shelter, footwear, belts, containers for liquids, as well as protective armour for soldiers.

The various ways of tanning leather include vegetable tanning, chrome tanning, combination tanning and Alum tanning. In Ghana, the most popular tanning process is the vegetable tanning. Vegetable- tanned leather is leather that has been prepared by the use of ingredients found in organic matter, such as tree bark and seedlings prepared in

bark mills and other similar sources. This readiness makes the leather supple and soft in shading with the definite shade contingent upon the colours' blend and the skin's shade.

Finished indigenous Ghanaian tanned leathers are known to have been used for the production of some clothing items, however, changing trends in fashion make it challenging for experimenting in the production of items that can effectively meet contemporary needs.

1.3 Statement of the Problem

Indigenous tanned leather has been used over the years to produce a variety of fashionable items, however, the handling and application of the designs have not gone through much modification as required in modern fashion, and this has not helped much in the leather industry in Ghana. It is interesting to note that consumers of fashion accessories in Ghana embrace items made with leather, but unfortunately they prefer imported ones which come in different designs with good finishes, although some of these are made with imitation or synthetic leathers.

The influx of such leather goods which are cheap and attractive into the Ghanaian market is a major factor for the seemingly fast growing leather accessory market in the country. Sadly enough, because most of them are imported, it has greatly affected the patronage of items made from the locally manufactured vegetable tanned leather. It could be said that due to the poor handling of the indigenous Ghanaian vegetable tanned leather, which results from inadequate tanning and post tanning processes, it becomes difficult to manipulate it into admirable and appealing forms. It could therefore be realized that the problem of limited designs, poor decorative approaches and finishing makes it less preferable to both local and foreign consumers of leather goods. Studies made out of the research so far give the signal of the possibility of using indigenous

vegetable tanned leather with different decorative designs and good finishing for the production of fashion accessories.

1.4 Purpose of the Study

The Purpose of the Study is the Manipulation of Indigenous Ghanaian Vegetable Tanned Leather for Production of Ladies Fashionable Accessories.

1.4.1 Specific Objectives

1. To identify and select fashion accessories that can be produced with Ghanaian indigenous vegetable tanned leather.
2. To ascertain the viability of using indigenous Ghanaian vegetable tanned leather for the production of selected fashion accessories.
3. To use indigenous tanned leather in the production of selected fashion accessories.

1.5 Research Questions

1. What selected fashion accessories can be produced with Ghanaian indigenous vegetable tanned leather?
2. What qualities of indigenous vegetable tanned leather make it viable for the production of selected fashion accessories?
3. How can indigenous vegetable tanned leather be used for the production of selected fashion accessories?

1.6 Significance of the Study

1. The study will provide information on the availability of different types of vegetable tanned leathers for the production of fashion accessories.
2. It will provide strategies in the designing and finishing of leather accessories using the indigenous Ghanaian vegetable tanned leather.

3. The research will bring to the fore how various indigenous Ghanaian motifs can be combined effectively with foreign ones for a better quality finishing and decorative techniques to producers and consumers.
4. This will help craftsmen to produce high quality Leatherworks which will compete favourable with the foreign ones, thereby, minimizing the importation of cheap goods into the country.
5. It will encourage other researchers to look into how other types of leathers can be used for items other than the known ones.

1.7 Limitations of the Study

Inasmuch as the researcher would have wished to explore the generality of the products as well as the methods of production of leather items in Ghana, a number of factors did not make it possible. These include the fact that the research was time bound as such the duration of the research might not make a survey of the entire country possible.

1.8 Delimitation

In view of the above listed limitation, the main type of leather used in the research was the indigenous Ghanaian vegetable tanned sheep and goat skin leather. Investigation of the methods used in making leather workable was limited to tanneries in and around Kumasi. The research, especially the design and production of items, was also limited to ladies fashion accessories.

1.9 Definition of Terms

Accessories: Is a thing which is utilized to contribute, in an auxiliary way, to the wearer's outfit, frequently used to finish an outfit and decided to explicitly supplement the wearer's look

Decoration: They are techniques that are applied on the art articles.

Fashion: Is a conventional style or practice, particularly in attire, footwear, extras, makes up body piercing, or furniture. Design is an unmistakable and frequently chronic pattern in the style in which a man dresses. It is the common styles in conduct and the most up to date manifestations of material creators

Finishes: They are accessories that are used to decorate artefacts.

Finishing: Wood finishing refers to the process of refining or protecting a wooden surface, especially in the production of furniture

Foreign: Relating to, or derived from another country or nation; not native.

Indigenous: Originating, producing or growing in a place or origin.

Industry: Industry is the generation of a decent or administration inside of an economy. Fabricating industry turned into a key segment of creation.

Leather: It's a solid and adaptable material made by the tanning of creature rawhide and skin, regularly steers cover up.

Product: an item is anything that can be offered to a market that may fulfil a need or need. In retailing, items are called stock, a thing created by work: results of ranch and industrial facility; the result of his idea.

Production: Production is the process of making, harvesting or creating something or the amount of something that was made or harvested.

Properties: In the abstract, property is that which belongs to or with something, whether as an attribute or as a component of said thing.

1.10 Organization of the text

This arrangement with how the whole test of the examination was led and it is organized in the accompanying organization;

Chapter One covers the introduction containing foundation to the study, an issue's announcement, destinations, exploration questions, delimitations, limitations, definition of terms, the importance of the study, and organization of text.

Chapter Two covers a review of relevant literature related to the topic. These are the views of the various authors in connection with Theories of leather, fashion accessories and Empirical Basis of the Study which is items produced in the research, these are bags and jewellery

Chapter Three deals with the methodology in relation to the study. It incorporates the exploration plan, library research, population, data collection instruments, primary and secondary data, data collection procedure, It also deals with the identification, observation, description of the experiments conducted to determine the use of Ghanaian indigenous vegetable tanned calfskin for the creation of selected ladies fashionable accessories to attain results.

In **Chapter four**, the results were

1. Assembled
2. Discussed
3. Analysed

Chapter five dealt with the outline of the contents of the chapters, findings, conclusions and recommendations.

CHAPTER TWO

REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE

2.1 Overview

The Purpose of the Study is the Manipulation of Indigenous Ghanaian Vegetable Tanned Leather for Production of Ladies Fashionable Accessories. The following are the contents of the chapter on review of related literature: Theories of leather, fashion accessories and Empirical Basis of the Study, which are items produced in the research, these are bags and footwear.

2.2 Theoretical Framework of the Study.

Boahin (2005) terms leather as animal skins and conceals which have been artificially treated to safeguard quality and normal verdant. The purpose of this study is to review on the following: The concept of Fashion, Accessories, Definition of Leather, Classification of Leather and Types of Leather.

2.2.1 The Meaning of Fashion

So as to comprehend what design implies in a more particular sense, it is fundamental that we comprehend the contrast in the middle of style and dress furthermore incorporate two faculties of style that is style as an idea and attire design as a practice or marvel". Kawamura (2006), clarifies the contrast between the idea of design and the idea of dress as takes after.

According to Kawamura Style is an idea that isolates itself from different words which are regularly utilized as equivalent words of design, for example, attire, articles of clothing and clothing. Those words allude to substantial articles while design is an elusive item. Attempting to characterize a specific thing of dress as style is purposeless

in light of the fact that form is not a natural product, yet, a typical item which has no substance by in itself.

Kawamura(2006) contends that design gives some kind of additional increase to the value of garments, yet underscores that such included esteem just exist in individuals' creative impulses and convictions, in light of the fact that form is not visual garments, but rather the undetectable components included in attire. As it were, style is a conceptual socially built wonder, which material apparel in correlation is definitely not.

The idea of style has by and by for quite a while in history been connected with visual artefacts of different sorts, as garments or pictures. Be that as it may, such point of view is hazardous for some reasons. To begin with, style ought not to be mixed up for either picture or attire, since design, basically, is a dynamic idea, "which has no substance by itself," as Kawamura (2006) focuses out. Second, the length of style keeps on being connected with visual curios, the idea of design won't pick up the acknowledgment it merits. Henceforth, the researcher think it is vital to advance another view of design that accentuates the fictive, illusive and vaporous measurement of style.

Fashion & Clothing will address an overall view of the value chain that consists of all the elements between the anticipated customers' known or unknown needs for textile related products and the ability of the business concept creators to realize this in the most cost-effective way. Traditionally, according to Kawamura (2006), fashion is often defined as —the prevailing style or custom, utilizing clothing, accessories, and hair to show or hide something about oneselfl, but this definition has expanded to make statements about lifestyle, political opinions, class, etc. and is often symbolicintensive. Fashion is an ability to integrate different interests, needs and expectations into textile

expressions based on aesthetics, function and economy. Fashion is deeply integrated into other areas, like home textiles, Leather works.

Also, when the issue of fashion arises in the minds of the people, immediate attention is drawn to the style of clothing, footwear, make-up, jewelry and headdress that are in vogue. Though fashion is expressed in other fields of life, its use for body grooming and adornment in various forms is paramount. Fashion as seen in body adornment has even been expressed in diverse ways by different writers.

The New Encyclopaedia Britannica (2003) explained fashion as being institutionalized and regularized, becoming continuous rather than sporadic and that it changes cyclically within limits set-up in a stable culture. It further states how fashion tends to differ from 'fad' by linking fashion with the higher class in society down to the lower class whilst 'fad' emerges from the lower echelons of society. Fashion in the cultural perspectives of the Akan's fit into this category of explanation, since regularity and institutionalism are the main features of Akan fashion which is expressed through hierarchy which is a social standing. Nevertheless, changes have also taken place in the outfit of Akan society over the years, but in line with the cultural ethics and norms of the Akan districts.

Hazel (1968), recognized fashion as 'a particular kind of dress that prevails at any one time'. He expressed the view that, fashion is also seen in other fields of endeavour like architecture and interior design. An important expression of every culture is partly revealed in the clothing and other aspects of the fashion of its citizens which form part of its arts. The culture of the people and its art are therefore inseparable as pointed out by Craig. In the same way, the culture of the Akan is integral aspects of their arts which embrace clothing and its changes over the years. According to Yarwood (1992), the

factors that generate artistic styles that influence fashion are many and varied, and that these factors influence the choice as well as regulate which parts of the body to conceal with clothing or not and also which parts to decorate. The essence of decoration is to enhance the beauty of the human body. Among some ethnic groups in Ghana including the Akan's, this is done by the use of body arts such as tattoos, body painting, coiffure, incisions and scarification which form part of fashion, though scarification in particular is virtually absent in Akan districts.

The concept of fashion in Africa for that matter Ghana cannot do away with body adornment and our traditional cloths; they form integral parts of our artistic expression and pride.

In a similar instance, Harold and Pomeroy (1992) describe fashion as social procedures in which a few individuals start by embracing the picture of individuals dissimilar to themselves. Those in the same segment of society have a tendency to copy the unmistakable appearance, with reputation in the media having impact, as specified until the separation vanishes and the procedure starts once more in the quest for another appearance Fashion therefore comes and goes; it is a style most popular at a given time and implies three components as stated by Frings (1999:54-56) – style, change and acceptance.

These three components (styles - involve the look in apparel; changes the rate at which fashion moves that is what is considered fashionable today might be worthless tomorrow; and acceptance – the consumers must buy and wear a style to make it a fashion) trigger fashion evolution or fashion cycle which is usually in five stages. In this case a fashion designer introduces a new design onto the scene as the first stage, then the design rises in popularity of acceptance by consumers as a second stage, in the

third stage the design gets to the peak of popularity where it is well known and becoming a common design; then it will decline in popularity as the fourth stage and finally fades out or be rejected from the market. All the three components and five stages of evolution in fashion designs, equally apply to designing concepts of Ghanaian designers in modern time. It implies that designs will emerge and disappear with time, but not every design, especially from Europe should be accepted by the masses, especially those that undermine the importance of etiquette and values in Ghana.

Nawal's comment in *the Agoos Magazine* (2002:83) points to the fact that, fashion is dynamic, in that it is not restricted in any way whatsoever. It is usually the expression and reflection of the creative mind. She created the impression that, in the fashion world, everything is allowed, everything comes, everything goes and everything is sustained and strengthened. Nawal has a broad scope of what fashion is supposed to be, an art that expresses the free will of an individual and his community through an outfit, but not necessarily isolating the cultural value which plays a vital role in the social entity of everything that must be sustained and strengthened. Britannica World

Language Dictionary (1963:460) shares a similar view to that of Craig when they also see fashion as a prevailing mode, especially in dress and also the way and manner things are made, shaped or formed with references to external appearance. All art forms on the body are external reflections and represent fashion, as they express the mode of life prevailing at the period in question. This prevailing mode and external reflections are visible in the Akan traditional form of clothing. The values of costumes are shown in all socio-cultural activities of the Akan's.

Rouse (1993:68-73) perceived fashion as a new style, innovative idea, the style of clothing must be worn by some people, acknowledged and recognized as the latest style

within a stipulated period of time. This assertion was better emphasized when she stated that: When we talk about the fashion of a particular era like the twenties or the sixties we mean in the first instance the characteristic styles of those periods, the styles which were different from those that had gone before and those that followed.

Sarpong (2004:9-10) on her assertion on fashion, states, among others, that, bodily decorations such as piercing, tattooing, scarification, teeth filing and foot-binding are ways of fashioning the natural body making it other than just natural and communicating information about that person. Also, people often look more desirable or attractive when dressed rather than being nude.

2.2.2 Accessories

Fashion frills are enriching things that supplement one's piece of clothing, for example, gems, gloves, purses, caps, belts, scarves, watches, shades, pins, leggings, ties, leg warmers, stockings, bowties, suspenders, and tights.

Fashion accessories add colour, style and class to an outfit, and create a certain look, but they may also have practical functions. Handbags are for carrying small necessary items, hats protect the face from weather elements, Laptops provide mobile connectivity and are used to increase work power and gloves keep the hands warm.

Numerous style adornments are produced by clothing design companies. However, there has been an increase in individuals creating their own brand name by designing and making their own label of accessories.

Fashion accessories can be visual symbols of religious affiliation: Crucifixes, Jewish stars, Islamic headscarves, skullcaps and turbans are common examples. Designer

labels on accessories are perceived as an indicator of social status. Fashion accessories are also available in the form of bracelets, necklaces, earrings, and shoelace accessories.

Accessories such as bags, belts, jewellery, are worn or carried as additional items to the clothes on the human body. Although there are other instances when accessories can be used, its use here is fashion oriented and will be considered as such for the purpose of this study. Accessories are usually used for the purpose of attraction, that is enhancing one's look, but traditional accessories as used in Ghana go beyond the attraction factor to cover ranks, meaning and symbolism attached to them. Similar views are expressed by some writers.

According to Amenuke, et al., (1993) accessories like jewellery used to enhance the appearance of the body have symbolisms attached to them. This is expressed as 'the symbolic nature of things is... shown in the gallery. Finger and toe rings, earrings and beads have names which symbolize events or processes in life'. In Ghanaian society, especially among the Akan's, meanings are attached to accessories used on various occasions, and in most instances to express rank, status and wealth. Nevertheless, accessories are responsible for enhancing the beauty or appearance of a person, no matter how simple and cheap they may be.

Sue-Jenkyn (2005) expressed these sentiments when he stated; '—trimmings and cheap accessories such as scarves were used to update and freshen outfits'. Though accessories may enhance people's outfit, they can sometimes become a real bother as their fixing and removing can be very difficult. The more accessories a person uses in adornment, the more restricted he or she becomes and the more time is spent in removing them when the need arises, as is the case with chiefs' adornment in Ghana.

Jones, hence throws words of caution in the following ways, —beware of using complicated accessories-tights (panty hose), belts and jewellery all take time to put on and removal.

Accessories are used for body adornment; in Africa these items are mostly rendered in wood, metal, textile and leather. They are converted into beautiful artefacts used as accessories to enhance the body and project the image of the individual and they are in the forms of beads, rings, sandals, hats, walking sticks, etc. In relation to chiefs in Africa, such accessories form the major part of their regalia.

Variety in terms of design are common in rings, necklace, bracelets which form a small part of the regalia of chiefs. Some pendants were large and do not form part of the necklace, but worn on ceremonial occasions.

Humans over the years have been heavily dependent on his immediate or remote environment for their survival. One item which has proven indispensable in the life of man through the ages is leather. It has been used in various ways to ensure the absolute comfort of man. Through its acquisition, processing, and ultimately using a series of processing is required to make it fit for the specific use to which it will be put.

2.2.3 Concept of Leather

Leather is basically an organic material obtained from animals, although has been given a number of definitions from different sources, can simply be termed as the outer covering of an animal that have been chemically treated and its ready to be used.

Boahin (2005) terms leather as animal skins and conceals which have been artificially treated to safeguard quality and normal verdant. In the same vein, Osman (2010) also defines leather as a durable and flexible material created through the tanning of

putrescible animal raw hides and skins. Naturally, as an organic material, leather is meant to decompose; however, to prevent decomposition, it is treated with chemicals. The process of making the rawhide and skin durable to stand the test of time is referred to as tanning.

2.2.4 Types of Leather

Over the years leather as predominantly used in the production of leather wares have been obtained from quadrupeds such as goats, sheep, cows and horses. These animals are mostly domestic, however, other animals which in the wild can also give leather. It can be obtained from any animal whose outer covering is tough enough to be processed. Apart from the ones mentioned earlier, others include pigs, alligators, ostriches, and kangaroos, dogs, cats, snakes, frogs and even some type of fish. Indigenous Ghanaian vegetable tanned leather can be classified under the normal, synthetic and exotic categories.

Normal leather, as the name implies, refers to the type of leather obtained from animals that can easily be bred or reproduce rapidly in the wild. Such leathers are easy to come by and does not cost very much. Usually ordinary leathers are not restricted by the various animal protection laws. They can be obtained and used anywhere. Examples are the leather obtained from sheep, goats and cows.

Engineered calfskin is a man-made fabric that looks like cowhide. In modern times 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. It has leather like surface and is coloured and treated to make it have the look and feel of genuine calfskin.

2.2.4.1 Exotic Leather

1. Exotic leather is usually obtained from animals that are not easy to come by. They might even be protected by various laws as such, such leather becomes very expensive.



Alligator leather



Crocodile leather



Elk leather



Elephant leather



Ostrich leather



Shark leather

2.3 Classification of Leather

By the scope set in this research, the discussion has been focused on the normal leather. Boahin (2009) and Osman (2010) classify leather into three main groups. These are skin, hide and kip. According to them, skin is obtained from smaller animals like goat and sheep hide from larger animals like cow, horse and buffalo while kip is obtained from undersized animals like lizard. The classification is usually based on their physical features which include toughness and workability.

Cowhide is the most widely recognized calfskin utilized as a part of the making of articles of clothing, furniture and calfskin merchandise. Lamb skin is very soft, luxurious leather. Its natural lightweight layers give it a distinctive velvet touch, which suits form fitting jackets, pant, skirt as well as coats. Sheep skin refers to the skin of a sheep used with the wool still attached. Wikipedia, free encyclopaedia, referring to Phil Whitmer gives the following as the types of leather:

Full-grain cowhide which alludes to the shrouds that have not been sanded, buffed, or snuffed to remove defect on the pigmented surface. It contains the normal markings of the creature. The real grain stays untouched and just the hair is removed.



Plate 2.2: Full-Grain Leather

Top-grain cowhide, which is the second-most elevated quality has the "split" layer cleared away, making it more slender and more malleable than full-grain calfskin. Its surface is typically sanded and a completed coat added to the surface.



Plate 2.3: Top-Grain Leather

Remedied grain calfskin generally alludes to any cowhide that has had a simulated grain connected to its surface.



Plate 2.4: Corrected-Grain Leather

Split calfskin is leather made from the stringy piece of the hide left once the top-grain of rawhide has been isolated from the flesh side.



Plate 2.5: Split Leather

1. Empirical Basis of the Study.

The empirical basis of the study is based on the review of the production, bags- types and uses, footwear- types and uses.

2.4. Production of Fashion Accessories

Production according to bing.com (2015) is the activity of making or manufacturing from segments or crude materials, or the procedure of being so made, the procedure of making or developing something available to be purchased or utilize, the procedure of making something actually, the procedure of making a play, motion picture, network show, record.

From Wikipedia the free encyclopaedia (2015) defined production on the other hand as service which has value and adds to the utility of individuals _Economic prosperity is made in a generation procedure, significance every single monetary activities that point specifically or in a roundabout way to fulfil human needs. The extent to which the needs are fulfilled is frequently acknowledged as a measure of financial prosperity, furthermore there are two elements which clarify increasing monetary prosperity. They are enhancing quality-cost proportion of merchandise and administrations and expanding livelihoods from developing and more proficient business sector generation. With a specific end goal to comprehend the inception of the monetary prosperity we must comprehend these three production forms. Every one of them produce things which have value and add to prosperity of people.

The fulfilment of requirements begins from the merchandise's utilization and administrations which are created. The need fulfilment increments when the qualityvalue proportion of the products and administrations enhances and more fulfilment is accomplished at less cost. Enhancing the quality-value proportion of

merchandise and administrations is to a maker a crucial approach to upgrade the generation execution however this sort of additions conveyed to clients can't be measured with creation information.

Financial prosperity likewise increase because of the development of livelihoods that are picked up from the developing and more effective business sector generation. Market generation is the main production structure which makes and disperses livelihoods to partners. Open production and family unit production are financed by the salaries created in business sector generation. Along these lines market generation has a twofold part in making prosperity, i.e. the part of delivering merchandise and administrations and the part of making salary. In light of this twofold part advertise generation is the "primus engine" of financial prosperity and accordingly here under audit.

A procedure of joining different material inputs and insignificant inputs (arrangements, know-how) keeping in mind the end goal to make something for utilization (the yield). It is the demonstration of making yield a decent

2.5 Bags

According to the Wikipedia the free encyclopedia (2015) a bag is a common tool as anon-unbending compartment. The utilization of sacks originates before written history, with the most punctual packs being close to lengths of creature skin, Cotton, or woven plant filaments, collapsed up at the edges and secured fit as a fiddle with

Strings of the same material. In spite of their straightforwardness, packs have been key for the advancement of human development, as they permit individuals to effectively gather free materials, for example, berries or sustenance grains, and to transport a larger number of things than could promptly be conveyed in the hands.

Tote bags



Plate 2.6: Tote Bags

2.6 Clutch Bags

The researcher displays style with Indigenous vegetable tanned leather handbags. Portray individualism and sophistication with every step with a designer purse. Leather handbags are timeless fashion statements, and well-constructed purses are generally built to last for life. Indigenous vegetable tanned leather is durable and strong and can often handle heavier weights. The researcher realised that thick skin is less prone to damage, and leather's status as a sophisticated material keeps it fashionable. If it's for regular everyday use, the researcher also consider what the bag will contain. For women who pack everything with them, a larger handbag like a tote can carry more items.

The researcher also realised that women who pack lightly, will realise that all their basics items will probably fit in a compact mini bag thus removing the need for a wallet. Medium-sized handbags such as the hobo are quite versatile, allowing space for extra things without being too bulky. Ever forget where your purse is? A purse hanger can help establish a place to routinely store a purse. The tote offers lots of space and can often be a multipurpose bag. Keep a tote prepared for activities that require bringing

similar items on a semi-regular basis. Store items around the house or in the car using a decorative tote, and because many colours are available, finding one that matches the interior design should be a breeze. Moms can benefit with the tote carrying all their personal items as well as baby items removing the need for both a purse and a diaper bag.



Plate 2.7: Clutch Bags

2.7 Sandals and Slippers

Ladies' shoes are a definitive summer shoes! Whether you favour them with bands, a couple straps or clasps, you can make sure that they will offer you the ideal light shoes for those days when it is hot, hot, and hot! Worn on the shoreline on vacation or in the recreation centre, shoes for ladies are the casual footwear alternatives. With such a large number of styles you'll be spoilt for decision, from level straightforward cowhide shoes for ladies to wedged shoes. Whether day or night, these shoes give each outfit a certain charming feel. A rainbow of hues and innumerable blends of dazzling materials make up the broad gathering accessible. From Wikipedia, the free encyclopaedia (2014) Sandals for men made by Bata Shoes Sandals are an open sort of outside footwear,

comprising of a sole held to the wearer's foot by straps ignoring the instep and, some of the time, around the lower leg. While the refinement in the middle of shoes and different sorts of footwear can now and then be hazy (as on account of huaraches—the woven cowhide footwear seen in Mexico—and peep-toe pumps), the regular comprehension is that a shoe leaves the greater part of the upper piece of the foot uncovered, especially the toes. Individuals may decide to wear shoes for a few reasons, among them economy (shoes have a tendency to require less material than shoes and are generally simpler to develop), solace in warm climate and as a design choice



Plate 2.8: Sandals and Slippers

CHAPTER THREE

METHODOLOGY

3.1 Overview

The purpose of the research was to Manipulate Indigenous Ghanaian Vegetable Tanned Leather for Production of Fashionable Accessories. And the chapter consists of the following: research design; this describe the type of research methodology adopted. Population and sampling; this describe details of the population for the study.

Instrumentation or research instruments; it indicates the information gathering instrument, information accumulation methodology, information examination, legitimacy and reliability. Working procedure, this is the main experimental area of the research where the research questions are addressed in response to the purpose of the study.

3.2 Research Design

Research design is a term used to explain or identify a number of issues which need to be considered regarding the collection of data even before embarking upon data collection process (Creswell, 2007). The outline is the blue print for the gathering, estimation and examination of information. The exploration plan for this study was Case study. According to Creswell, (2007: 73), Contextual analysis is a subjective methodology in which the examiner investigates a limited framework (a case) or numerous of bounded systems (cases) over time, through detailed, in-depth data collection involving multiple sources of information (that is observations, interviews and audio-visual material,), and reports a case description and case-based themes. In this way in the event that study scrutinize, the single case is normally chosen to represent an issue, and the specialist gathers a point by point portrayal of the setting for the case.

The analyst adopted Case study because it helped the researcher to explore and stimulate data related to whether vegetable tanned leather is appropriate material for the production of ladies fashionable accessories. Also, helped her to investigate and explore a limited framework (a case) after some time, through definite, inside and out information accumulation including numerous wellsprings of data (that is observations, interviews and audio-visual material). Hence, this study has been designed to collect

data on the identification and selection of leather fashion accessories, to ascertain the viability of using some techniques on indigenous Ghanaian vegetable tanned leather for the production of fashion accessories and to adopt strategies towards the use of indigenous tanned leather for the production of variety of ladies fashionable accessories, in the five shops from Kumasi central market and five shops from Adam, with the view of generalizing the results and making inferences. It involves retailers, consumers and producers understanding and strategies they use in producing, selling and buying. It also shields problems that encounter in producing, selling and buying and how they are able to handle such problems.

The researcher considered the case study as the most suitable approach for the study because it helped the researcher to gather adequate data to provide a rich description of the case. It also helped the researcher to gain detailed knowledge of the focus exercise, where both the producers, retailers and buyers are made to understand what leather fashion accessories are. The purpose of this study suited for qualitative research methods. Also, qualitative design enabled the researcher to have detailed description, inquiries in-depths; direct quotations, capturing people's personal perceptive and experiences (Creswell, 2007), gives the story behind the result by getting what happened to acknowledge it. Likewise, contextual investigation can be a decent chance to highlight a venture's prosperity or to convey thoughtfulness regarding a specific test or trouble in an undertaking (Yin, 2003). The researcher used a descriptive case study. An illustrative contextual investigation in research is one that presents a detailed account of the occurrence under study. They are valuable in introducing essential data about zones of style where little research has been finished.

3.3 Case Study Research

The researcher used Kumasi central market and some shops at Adam as a case study where the researcher observed from the various shops different leather fashion accessories. Leather fashion accessories have been classified into the following.

Thomas (2014) offers the accompanying meaning of contextual investigation: "Contextual investigations are examinations of persons, occasions, choices, periods, ventures, approaches, organizations, or different frameworks that are concentrated comprehensively by one or more strategies. The case that is the request's subject will be an occurrence of a class of wonders that gives an explanatory casing an article inside which the study is led and which the case lights up and explains."

As indicated by J. Creswell, information accumulation for a situation study happens over a "maintained timeframe. Another recommendation is that contextual investigation ought to be characterized as an examination method, an exact request that explores a marvel inside of its genuine connection. Contextual analysis examination can mean single and various contextual analyses, can incorporate quantitative confirmation, depends on different wellsprings of proof, and advantages from the former advancement of hypothetical suggestions. Contextual investigations ought not to be mistaken for and they can be founded on any blend of quantitative and subjective proof. Single-subject exploration gives the measurable structure to making deductions from quantitative contextual investigation information. This is additionally bolstered and very much defined in (Lamnek, 2005): "The contextual investigation is an examination methodology, arranged between solid information taking procedures and strategy ideal models."

3.4 Experimental Method

In a qualitative manner, the observational method has employed mainly together data to answer research question one and also meet the demands of objective one, thus, to identified and select ladies fashionable accessories that can be produced with the Ghanaian vegetable tanned leather in the country and beyond. However, the processes, quantities and results are explained vividly by the descriptive qualitative approach. The researcher used cognisance for validity and reliability during the experimentation of the physical properties of the local leather (Leedy&Ormrod, 2005).

The use of the observational research methods gave the researcher the chance to conduct a variety of practical experiments in the area of combining the various techniques in designing and working leather to arrive at how best indigenous vegetable tanned leather could be used in the production of fashion accessories. In a quantitative manner, the observational method has employed mainly to gather data to answer research question one and also meet the demands of objective one, thus, a market survey have been conducted towards ascertaining the competence of the local leather as a material for the production of quality leather fashion accessories at the industrial and consumer level in the country and beyond.

However, the processes, measurements and results are explained vividly by the descriptive qualitative approach. Experiments well monitored should not be devoid of increasing efficiency, accuracy and precision of measurement when attempting to understand increasingly complex systems. Sampling technique is one of the most essentials in any research on fashion accessories. The issues involved are:

How wide a coverage is acceptable? What type of respondents will have the capacity to offer responses to the research questions? Will the selected group of respondents be

adequately representative of the group (Twumasi, 2001)? For the purpose of the current study, the researcher would use purposive sampling method to get the respondents.

Purposive sampling was used because of convenience of the location and availability of the respondents. The respondents targeted were the consumers in Kumasi District. This was done in order to get in-depth information on the issue which is the focus of the research. Merriam, (1986: 61), posits that —purposive testing depends on the supposition that the agent needs to find, comprehend and pick up understanding and thusly must choose the example from which the most can be found out". Patton (2002) contends that "the rationale and influence of purposive testing lies in selecting data rich cases for study top to bottom. Data rich cases are those from which one can take in an extraordinary arrangement about issues of focal significance to the reason for the examination, the term purposive inspectingl.

Patton (2002:186) suggests determining a base specimen size —based on accepted sensible scope of the wonder given the motivation behind the study".The sample size for this study comprises of all the producers shops, retailers shops and consumers. It will be convenient to use these producers, retailers and consumers for the study in both interview and observation to help in the data collection for the study. This implies that analysts acquire an accommodation test by selecting whatever examining units are advantageously accessible (Frankfort-Nachmias&Nachmias, 2000). Table 3 shows the shops and the number of consumers sampled.

3.5 Library Research

In order to have a good overview of the research topic and develop the insight prerequisite to understanding the concepts, imaginary perspectives, empirical evidence and essential references regarding the study area, the researcher conducted both theoretical and empirical review of literature related to the topic, and made judicious

use of information from resources such as books, magazines, pamphlets, catalogues, museums, the World Wide Web, academic presentations, journals and other periodicals.

The following libraries were therefore visited:

2. Main Library, Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology, (KNUST) Kumasi.
3. Reference Library, Dept. of General Art Studies, KNUST, Kumasi
4. Manhyia Palace Museum, Manhyia, Kumasi.

3.6 Market Research

The action or activity of gathering information about consumers' needs and preferences.

It is noteworthy to mention that the study commenced with a survey conducted in August 2013 to corroborate the level consumers of fashion accessories dependability on the local leather in Kumasi, which revealed the level of unreliable and hostility the locally tanned leather faces at the industrial front in terms of utility, dependability and economic worthiness. Places visited included Victory Shoes in Kumasi Adam footwear bag shops, Central Market footwear and bag making shops, Kumasi Central Market, Kopsas Furniture in Kumasi, upholstery shops at Angloga in Kumasi. To really identify the conventional approaches to the use of the local leather, some master craftsmen were visited at the cultural centre Kumasi,

3.7 Population for the Study

A populace is a rundown of the considerable number of elements of the same gathering, who live in the same topographical zone, and have the capacity of interbreeding. In biology, the number of inhabitants in a sure animal groups in a sure region is assessed utilizing the Lincoln Index. The range that is utilized to characterize a sexual populace is characterized as the zone. Where between reproducing is conceivably conceivable between any pair inside of the zone.

The likelihood of interbreeding is more noteworthy than the likelihood of crossreproducing with people from different ranges. Under typical conditions, reproducing is generously more normal inside of the zone than over the fringe. A populace is the group to which the result of the study is intended to apply (Tryfos, 1996; Twumasi 2001; Leedy and Ormrod, 2005). Holme and Solvang, (1997) as quoted in Ofori (2008) emphasise that it is of great importance to find the right respondents to get the right information for the attainment of research objectives. In this study the populations have been found to be heterogeneous in nature, due to the multi-sectorial characteristics of the study. The target population involves all stakeholders of the local leather industry.

However, due to the various nature of the population for the study, that is, the varied characteristics and geographical differences in their locations as well as the wideranging environment being studied, the population is reduced to make control and accessibility easy for the researcher to comprehensively assess the activities of the various target core sectors of the indigenous leather fashion accessories and correlate their impact on the producing leather with qualities prerequisite for specific industrial needs (Tryfos, 1996; Twumasi, 2001; Cohen et al. 2007).

3.8 Sampling Techniques Employed

According to Tryfos (1996), Twumasi (2001) and Cohen et al., (2007), the procedure of testing makes it conceivable to point of confinement a study to generally little divide of the populace. An example is in this manner a populace's subset and comprises of delegate gathering of people, items or occasions that frame the number of inhabitants in the study. Since it was unrealistic to manage entire target populace because of openness, exertion was made to test a sensible number of individuals, which gave a representation for the exploration. The multi-sectorial and diverse nature of the

population required the application of different sampling techniques to select the samples appropriate to represent the population for the various sectors of the study.

Arbitrary Sampling: was utilized for the selection of shops in Adam and central Market in Kumasi. For the identification of fashion accessories that are produced with leather.

Convenience Sampling: was used for the identification and selection of leather products. For the researcher to select fashion accessories which sell fast in the market.

Cluster Sampling: Units areas of investigation comprising classification of leather product into six units were selected randomly for the study.

Purposive Random Sampling: was used to select fashion accessories samples from areas such as containers and body items for assessment; however, the fashion accessories were selected randomly from the classified leather product sourced from the **Convenience Sampling**. Again, the purposive sampling technique was employed in selecting a total of five leather accessories each from containers and body items.

3.9 Instruments for Data Collection

To support and make the collection of data operative and more meaningful to answer the research questions and successively meet the demands of the set objectives for the study, and also draw sensible conclusions upon which the researcher could base to suggest understanding alternative strategies to improve upon the quality use of the Ghanaian indigenous vegetable tanned leather for ladies fashionable accessories observation and interview were employed as instruments for data collection.

I. Direct Observation

To make on-the-spot observation of the phenomenon under study (Kumekpor, 2002; Cohen et al., 2007), the researcher directly participated in the market survey carried out to determine the classification of leather fashion accessories and the general suitability of the local leather for the production of quality ladies fashionable accessories. Likewise, visits to bags shops, footwear shops, general leather accessories shops and producer's shops, to pursue the causal reasons behind the deficiencies found with the use of locally manufactured vegetable tanned leather for ladies fashionable accessories. This gave the researcher the opportunity to make direct observation, and objectively record first-hand information from the activities of the respondents.

II. Interviews Conducted

As data detected were being recorded in a colourful manner expected in most qualitative dominated research, the researcher used interviews pleasantly to seek further clarification of events observed through asking probing question in both formal and informal manners, since most of the respondents at the places visited could not read or write in English. Interestingly, that served as a mechanism of between the researcher and the interviewees; and that was a great advantage to acquire the essential data for the study which included bags and footwear production. It is necessary to mention that the specialists' producers of footwear and producers of bag experts were interviewed with a structured guide to obtain the requisite data.

3.10 Validation of Data Collection Instruments

In order to be non-discriminatory, and ensure the neutrality of the data collected and to encourage a high level of dependability, the validity of the instruments employed were measured (Cohen et al., 2007). In the first place, standardized instruments were used in the examination of the physical properties of the fashion accessories and data recorded as observed. (Leedy &Ormod, 2005). In addition, the data recorded through direct

observations and interviews were bounded with guides to regulate their directions. In the validation process, interview and observation guides and checklists were readied taking into account the exploration questions and objectives of the study. Copies were made available to colleagues, peers, animal husbandry experts, veterinaries and leather experts for review and contributions.

The constructive criticisms and suggestions received propelled a further modification of the interview and observation guides and checklists. A final vetting was conducted and endorsed by the supervisor for operation. Also, the researcher recorded information on the field as objective as possible with tape recorder (where necessary), camera and notes writing.

3.11 Sources of Data Collected

Two main sources of information's were imperatively utilized in study. These are Primary Data and Secondary Data.

3.11.1 Primary Data

These were indispensable data obtained through the application of the research tools employed: interview and observation. The physical feel of the leather at the asawase tannery helped in the type of skin to be used for fashion accessories resource for gathering primary data on the physical properties of the local leather. Consumers and producers were interviewed on the pertinent subjects of the research and their views were invaluable when interpreted in view of the objectives of the study.

In view of selecting sheep and goat skin due to its accessibility and manipulation when it comes to production of fashion accessories especially sandals, slippers and hand bags.

3.11.2 Secondary Data

From the various libraries visited, adequate secondary data related directly to fashion accessories were gathered from several documented literary materials from sources such as: books, journals, encyclopaedias, catalogues, magazines and the internet.

Sincerely, literature on indigenous Leatherwork technologies in Ghana was found fragmented and scanty, though some local researchers have made the effort to fill the gap. The researcher's experience at the British School of Leather Technology,

University of Northampton readily facilitated direct access to related literature on general global home-grown leather making techniques, quality standards and testing methods of physical properties, mainly by international authors. On the local front, information from Boahin (1994; 2005; 2008), Atiase (2004), Amenuke (1995), Kumekpor (2002) and Adentwi&Amartei (2009) were of priceless value to the study.

The secondary data served as referential pedestal for comparison of developed issues with existing theories, principles in the analysis of the primary data, findings and alternative strategies recommended.

3.12 Validation and Reliability of Findings

The methodology followed in this study characterized discourse of research and lays out the sound reasoning of research in a way that could be drawn on to justify claims and procedures leading to the findings made. The findings therefore, are the empirical facts justifiable by the logical nature of the investigations carried out; the appropriate use of both specific and general criteria of data collection procedures, presentation, analysis, interpretation and the exhibition of theoretical and practical reason in connecting the diverse sensation in the composite nature of the research problem.

3.13 Data analysis

The data were edited before being analysed in themes and pattern. Being a case study design in qualitative research, the researcher read through the data several times so as to familiarize with the data, making notes, referring back to the research questions, making decisions whether to focus on individual responses or on topics. After reviewing the data, the researcher identified key themes and patterns in each text. Lastly, the interview data were interpreted to articulate meaning, making decisions whether to use direct quotes or the summary of respondents' responses, and reporting the data considering the interest of various audiences. The major aim of collecting qualitative data using observation was to observe social studies teachers in their natural setting and interview teachers' on their perception and how they teach Social Studies concepts.

3.14 General Working Procedures

This section deals with the systematic processes that were followed in the execution of the project. The study employed indigenous Ghanaian vegetable tanned leather and some non-conventional material such as fabric, acrylic paints, coloured pencils, paper, spray paint and adhesives in the forming and finishing of the works.

1. Identification, Collection and Processing of Materials for the Project Different materials both normal and fake were gathered for the venture. Some of them were purchased from the business sector particularly the simulated ones. Those that should have been handled were done likewise. These included

2. Preparation of the Leather

Third stage applies re-tanning operators and colours to the material to give the physical quality and properties wanted relying upon the final item. This is known as Re-tanning. The fourth stage is utilized to apply completing material to the surface or completion

the surface without the utilization of any chemicals if so craved. This last stage is known as wrapping up.

Sanding: This technique is done to remove the flesh that was still left at the fleshy side after tanning (Plate 3.1).



Plate 3.1: Sanding Of the Leather

Liming: This is done to remove the bad odours from the leather.



Plate 3.2: Liming Of Sandskin

Soaking and washing; this is done to remove chemical residues that were left in the leather after tanning to aid application of finishing on the leather.



Plate 3.3: Soaking and Washing

Stretching and drying; this is done to open up the pores to omit moisture during soaking and washing.-

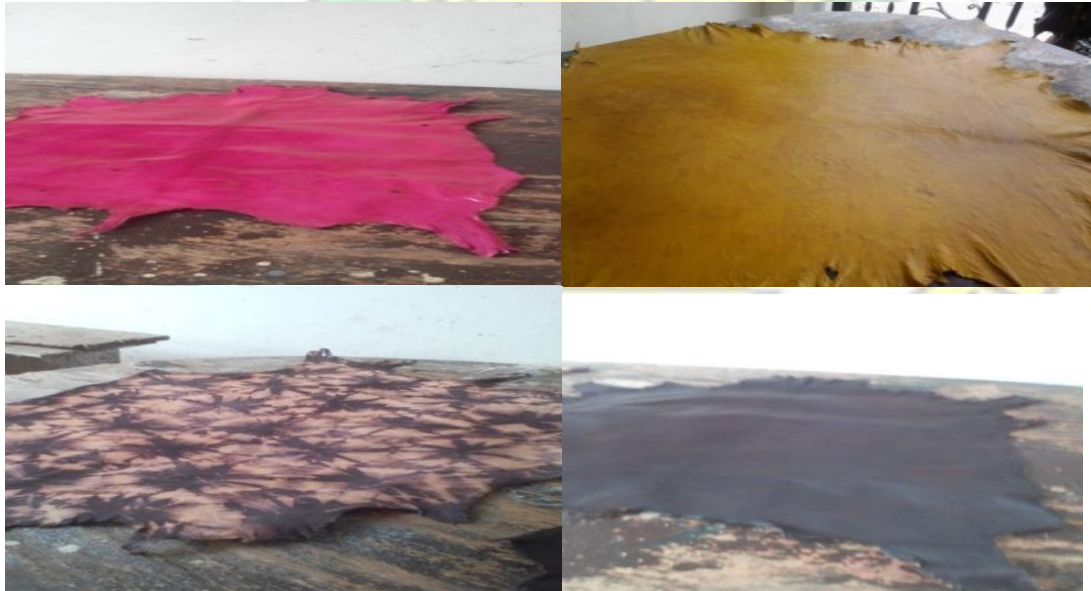


Plate 3.4: Stretching and Drying

3. Surface Decorative Techniques Used

Scorching; this is a decorative technique which involves burning designs on the grainy side of leather with a heated soldering iron (plate 3.5). A vast scope of tones and shades can be accomplished. Changing the sort of tip utilized.



Plate 3.5: Scorching the Leather

Tie- dyeing; this is the method of decorating leather with dyes by tying the leather and soaking the leather the dye solution or applying the dye at the grain side when the leather is in the wet state.



Plate 3.6: Cream and green tie dye

Plate 3.7: Red and black tie dye

Stamp; Business stamps are accessible in different outlines, ordinarily geometric or illustrative of creatures. Most stamping is performed on vegetable tanned leather that has been hosed with later, as the water makes the indigenous Ghanaian vegetable tanned

leather milder and ready to be compacted by the configuration being squeezed or stamped into it (plate 3.8). After the cowhide has been stamped, the configuration keeps focused Indigenous vegetable tanned leather as it dries out, yet it can blur if the indigenous Ghanaian vegetable tanned leather gets to be wet and is flexed. To make the impressions last more, the Indigenous vegetable tanned leather is adapted with oils and fats to make it waterproof and keep the filaments from

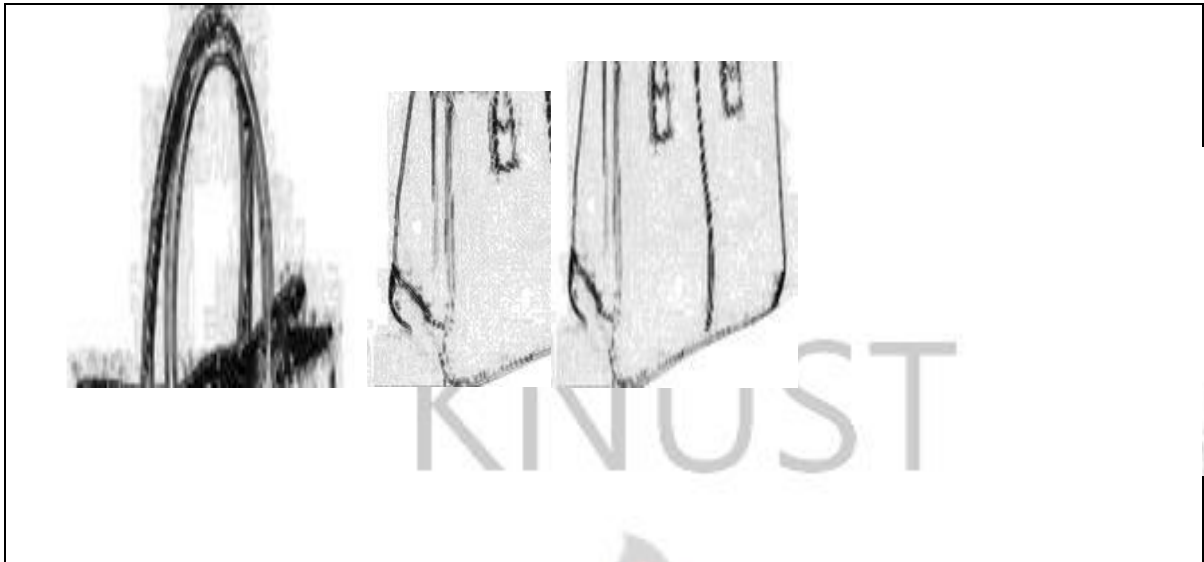


Plate 3.8: Stamped Locally Made Leather

4. Designing

Portrayals were made for the different activities. Thoughts for the plans were created from normal articles, furthermore from creative ability. The material accessible for the activities was likewise thought seriously about when the outlines were being portrayed. The methods of insight behind the works were also seriously taken into consideration while designing.

Sketches for project 1. Idea developed from a box.



Sketches for project 2.

Idea developed from a shell.

Fig.3.1: Preliminary Sketches

Fig 3.2: Detailed Sketches



Fig.3.3 Preliminary Sketches

Fig.3.4 Detailed Sketches

Sketches for project 3

Idea developed from a Duck

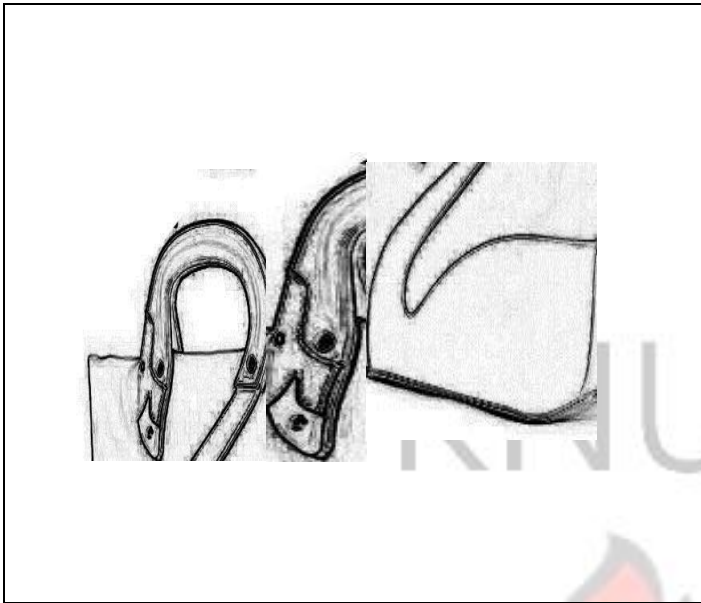


Fig. 3.5 Preliminary Sketches

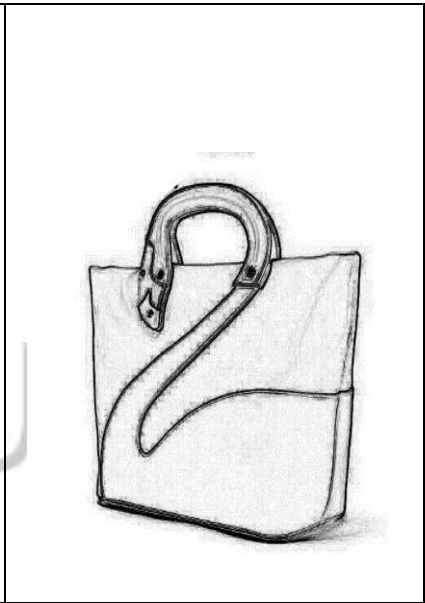


Fig.3.6 Detailed Sketches

Ideas for these designs were developed with the functions of the items in mind. The researcher also took the media available for use into consideration. All the media were acquired before the plans were made. A couple changes however happened in the fundamental work.

Sketches of project 4



Fig. 3.7 Preliminary Sketches



Fig.3.8 Detailed Sketches

Sketches for the sandals and slippers

Project 2.1 high buckled sandals

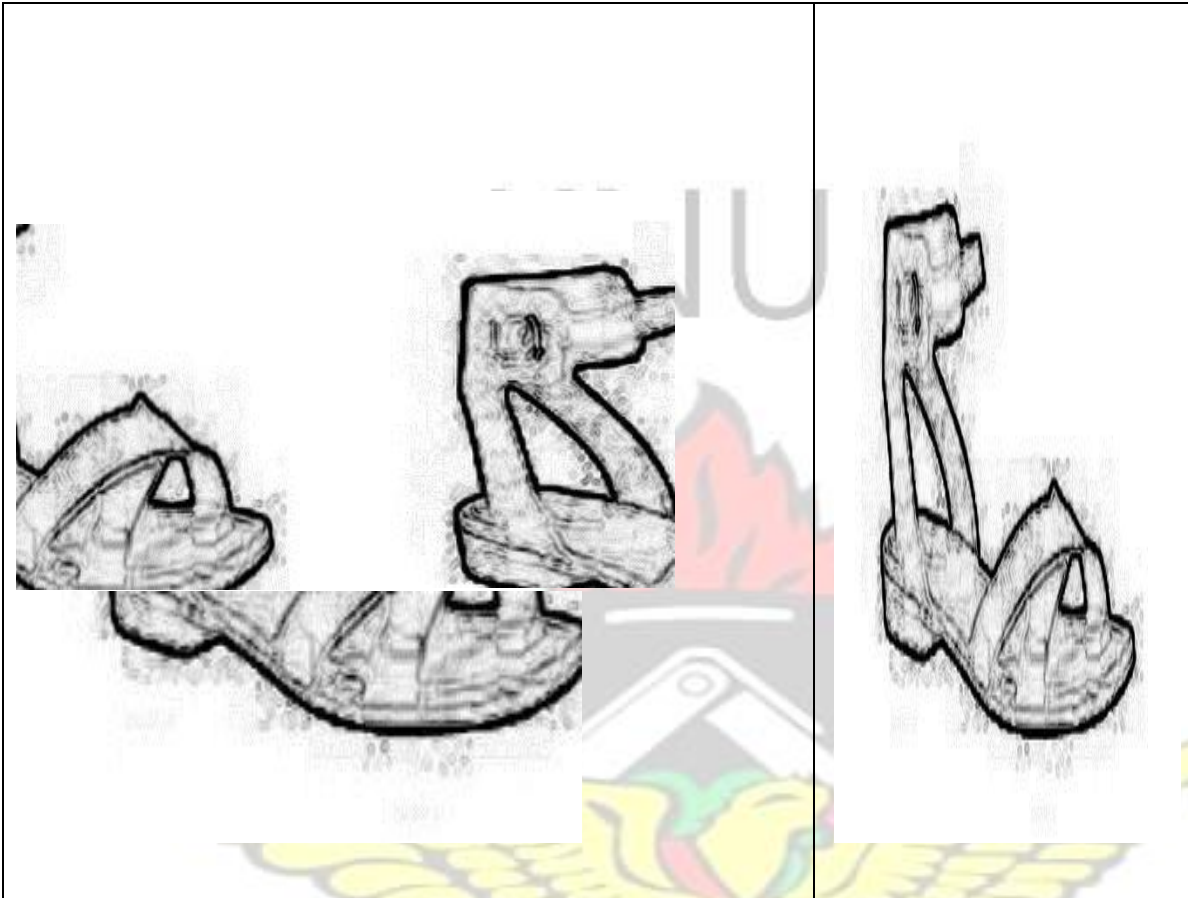


Fig. 3.9 Preliminary Sketches

Fig.3.10 Detailed Sketches

Project 2.2 high buckled sandals

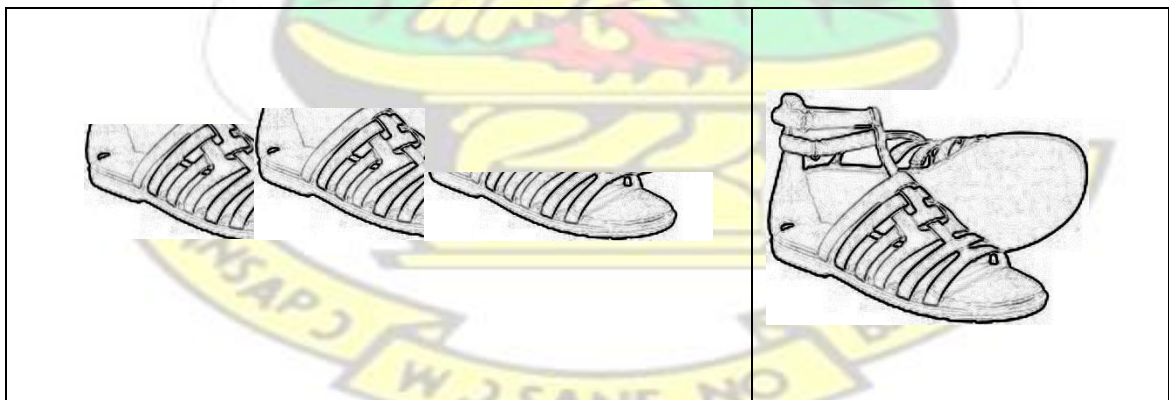


Fig. 3.11 Preliminary Sketches

Fig.3.12 Detailed Sketches

Project 2.3 low buckled sandals

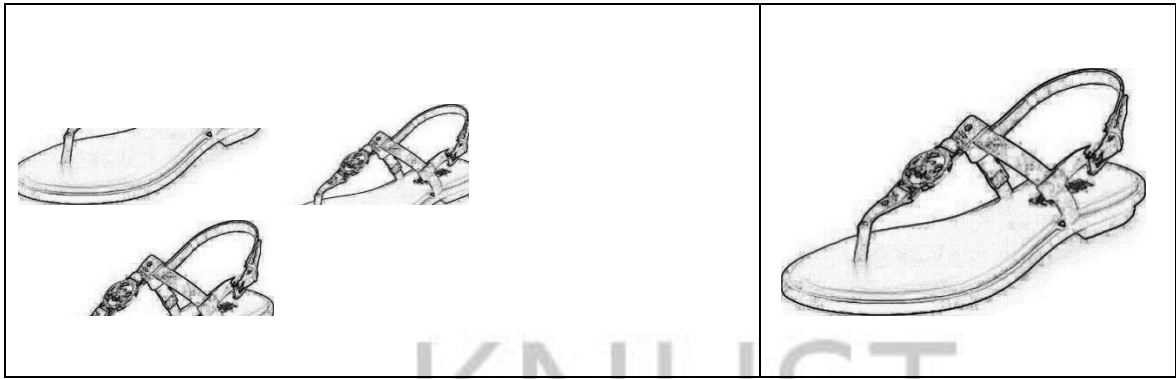


Fig. 3.13 Preliminary Sketches

Fig.3.14 Detailed Sketches

5. The Main's Production Works.

After the outlining stage, the real phase of creation of the different activities was next. At this stage different working procedures were utilized for the parts' framing of the works. Alternate materials were too processes furthermore, connected utilizing different systems and joining materials in light of the sort of media utilized. The following are the regulated procedures that were followed in the execution of the various projects.

6. Tools and Materials

A device is any physical thing that can be utilized to accomplish an objective particularly, if the thing is not expended all the while. Casually the word is likewise used to portray a strategy or procedure with a particular reason. Tools used for the project are the drive punch, a pair of scissors, mallet, sewing machine, ruler, pencil,

Punch; This is a tool used to make mall circular holes for decoration and fastening



Plate 3.9: Punch

Plier; - The plier was used for making holes and fixing of press-stud



Plate 3.9: Pliers

Cutter; It was used to cut strong and straight edges of the bags



Plate 3.10: Cutter

Scissors; it was used to cut curved edges.



Plate 3.11; Scissors

Mallet; - it was used on stitch marker and punches to avoid damage to the striking shank.



Plate 3.12; Mallet

Ruler; - this was used to take the measurement and markings



Plate 3.13: Ruler

Soldering iron; this was used to burn designs on leather at the grainy side of the leather



Plate 3.14: Soldering iron

Glue; this was used to join two or more pieces of leather together.



Plate 3.15: Glue

Punch seat; where articles are placed on for punching to avoid blunt tip of the punch.



Plate 3.16 Punch Seat

All these tools and materials were locally purchased from the market.

Research Questions Two: What qualities of indigenous vegetable tanned leathers make it viability for the production of selected fashion accessories?

Qualities of Leather:

The qualities of indigenous vegetable tanned leather shift significantly contingent on the sort of both the skins and the tanning procedure used. Each bit of indigenous vegetable tanned leather has singular markings which identify with its starting points and include attractiveness to each skin. Besides, surface quality of the Indigenous vegetable tanned leather enable it to be manipulated for the application of different colorants and finishes that brings respect to the surface with special feel that induce customers to appreciate its virtues and value.

From Erin Steeley (2014) indigenous vegetable tanned leather has numerous positive material properties that make it exceptionally adaptable. Its strong nature and delicate

feel have settled on it a prevalent decision for a significant number of the things that we utilize consistently.

Durability: Indigenous vegetable tanned leather can be formed and will hold its new shape. It has both flexible and plastic properties in wear. According to ccli (2014) indigenous Ghanaian vegetable tanned leather is the most durable upholstered material and its tremendously strong texture makes it. Leather is the most durable upholstered material and its extremely solid surface makes it hard to scratch or scrape. Indigenous vegetable tanned leather won't extend of shape.

Tensile strength: Experiences in working the indigenous vegetable tanned leather over a period of time, simple experiment to determine the stretching ability of the leather shows that it can be moved to all directions.

Stretched Green dyed vegetable tanned leather

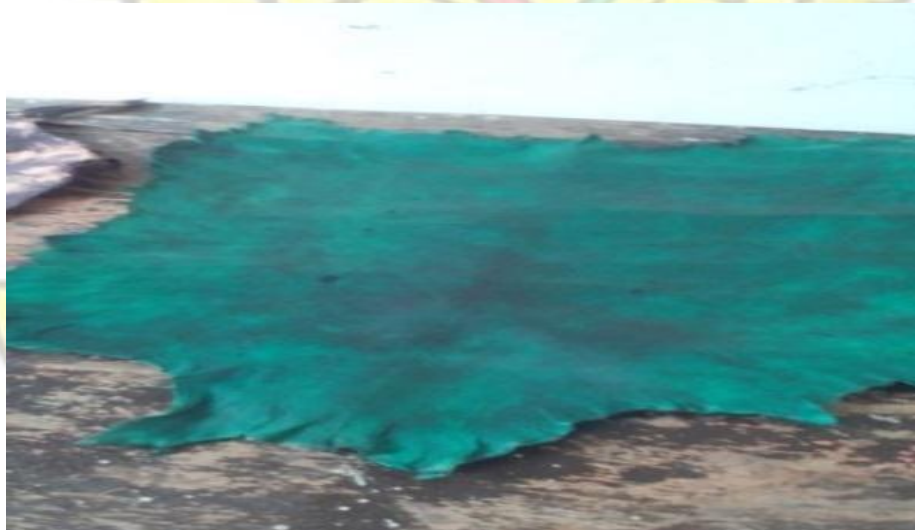


Plate 3.27a

Stretched tie and dyed vegetable tanned leather



Plate 3.27b

Stretched pink dyed vegetable tanned leather



Plate 3.27c

Stretched Green dyed vegetable tanned leather



Plate 3.27d

This is the greatest longitudinal stress to which a high textile strength; it is one of the strongest flexible sheet material known to man. The internal fibrous structure of leather accounts for this high tensile strength. According to ccli (2014), with constant utilization, indigenous Ghanaian vegetable tanned leather upholstery outlives fabric no less than 4-to-1, and dissimilar to fabric, indigenous Ghanaian vegetable tanned leather enhances with age. Indigenous vegetable tanned leather is additionally versatile and opposes blurring, tearing and splitting. Since fabrics are woven, any adjustment in appearance from age and utilization takes away from their magnificence. Indigenous vegetable tanned leather, then again, conforms to its surroundings. It progresses effortlessly with age and adds to a patina.

Flexibility: Indigenous vegetable tanned leather is said to be flexible because it can be bent to show the grainy and the fleshy side of the leather. It can also be bent to all shapes like square, rectangle, circular etc.

These qualities make indigenous vegetable tanned leathers viable for the production of selected fashion accessories as accomplished by this study.

Research Question 3: To use indigenous tanned leather in the production of selected fashion accessories?

3.14 General Working Procedures

This section deals with the systematic processes that were followed in the execution of the project. The study employed indigenous Ghanaian vegetable tanned leather and some non-conventional material such as fabric, acrylic paints, coloured pencils, paper, spray paint and adhesives in the forming and finishing of the works.

7. The Production of the Main Works

After the outlining stage, the real phase of creation of the different tasks was next. At this stage different working procedures were utilized for the parts' shaping of the works. Alternate materials were additionally processed and connected utilizing different systems and joining materials taking into account the kind of media utilized. Below are the step-by-step procedures that were followed in the execution of the various projects.

Project 1: The making of handbags from the indigenous Ghanaian vegetable tanned leather

Measuring and cutting into required patterns; marked out measurements (Plate 3.46) were done on the vegetable tanned leather and cut out (plate 3.47) in to patterns.



Plate 3.46: Marked Out Dimensions
Cutting the dimensions for the bag



Plate 3.47: Cutting Out Patterns of the Bag

The parts of the measured bags were cut out into parts with the help of a scissors and a cutter.



Plate 3.48: Cut Out the Parts

The cut out parts of the coffee brown leather



Plate 3.49: Cut Out Coffee Brown Leather.

The cut out parts of the red and black tie and dye leather



Plate 3.50: Cut Out Tie Dye Leather

The cut out parts of the black leather



Plate 3.51: Cut Out Parts of the Red Bag

Cutting leather strips; measurements and cutting out of leather strips were done to be woven for the handles of the bags.



Plate 3.52: Marked Out Strips

The leather being cut out into stripes for weaving



Plate 3.53: Cutting Of Leather Strips

Weaving of the bag's handle; the strips were woven for the handles.



Plate 3.54: Weaving Of the Bag's Handle

Assembling and joining; assembling the parts together



Plate 3.55: Fixing the Handles to the Body of the Bag.

Fixing the handles to the body of the bag



Plate 3.56: Stitching the Handle to the Bag

Plate 3.57: Sewing the Leather



Plate 3.58: Joining the Gusset to the Body of the Bags.

Joining the gusset and fixing the cardboard to the body of the bags.



Plate 3.59: Glueing And Fixing The Cardboard To The Base Of The Bags.

Fixing the lining inside of the bag



Plate 3.60: Fixing Of The Linning

Fixing the zipper to the bags.



Plate 3.62:
The finished bags.





Plate 3.63: Samples Of The Finished Bag

Project 2: Making of the sandals, and slippers

Step one: Measuring and cutting of the inner sole of the sandals and slippers



Plate 3.64: Measuring The Inner Sole.

Plate 3.65: Cutting The Inner Sole

Step two; Covering the inner sole with indiginous vegetable tanned leather



Plate 3.66; Covering The Inner Sole



Plate 3.67: The Covered Inner Sole

Cutting out the sole of the sandals and slippers



Plate 3.68: Marked Sole



Plate 3.69: Cutting The Sole

Fixing the appex to the inner sole



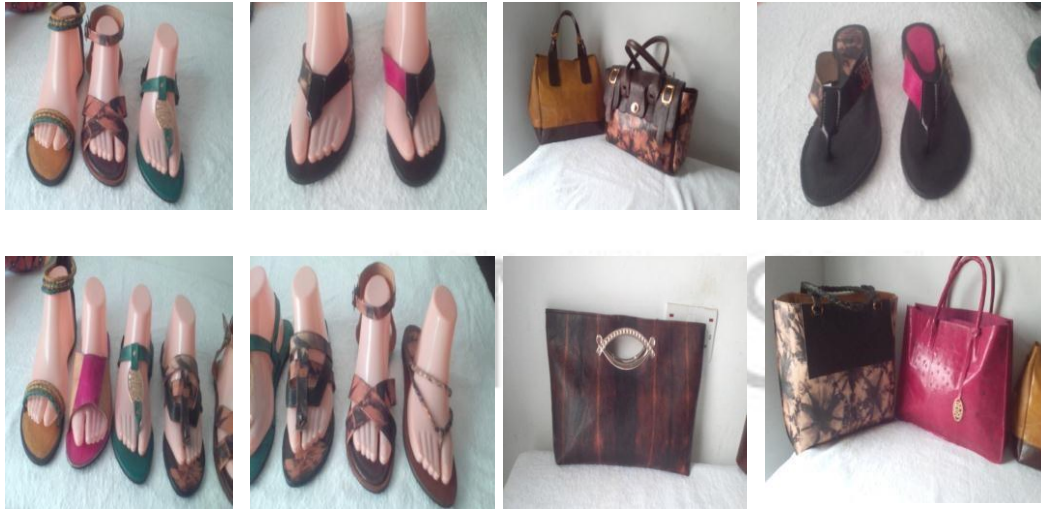
Plate 4.70a, Fixing Uppers

Plate 21. Fixing Uppers To The Sole

THE FINAL WORKS



THE FINAL WORKS



All the projects were packaged to prevent it from dirt.

CHAPTER FOUR

PRESENTATION AND DISCUSSION OF FINDINGS

4.1 Overview

This part investigations, examines and deciphers the exploration's consequences directed. The analysis is in two parts; the discussion of results obtained through the interview of leather bag producers on the use of indigenous Ghanaian vegetable tanned leather as a material for the creation of Fashionable Accessories and the discussion of the individual works produced by the researcher. The works are discussed in their philosophical, educational, technical, cultural and social contexts.

4.2 Participant Demographics

Table 4.1 Categories Of Respondents.

Educational background	Number of Respondents	Percentage (%)
------------------------	-----------------------	----------------

Postgraduate stud./Graduates	18	51.43%
First Degree holders	10	28.575
Undergraduates	7	20.%
Total	35	100%

4.3 The Nature of vegetable tanned Leather.

Through the interviews conducted on the Nature of vegetable tanned Leather, all respondents were of the view that the local leathers are rendered with adequate stability to decomposition by microbial attacks, and shrinkage resistance resulting from heat. Although, the leathers are tanned to resist putrefaction and shrinkage they still lack adequate pliability, softness, surface smoothness and bending ability which should have been acquired through pre- tanning, re- tanning and finishing activities at the tannery. This means that the vegetable tannery operations fall short of pre-tanning, re-tanning and finishing operations which according to Sarkar (2005) are techniques prerequisite to adding other essential properties to attain more economically useful indigenous vegetable tanned leathers.

The views expressed by the respondents on the nature of vegetable tanned leather, confirmed properties of vegetable tanned leather by (Boahin, 2005; 2009).

The respondents were of the view that the materials must not necessarily be so distinct from each other. This means that different media having related physical, chemical and mechanical properties or characteristics can be combined to produce fashionable accessories.

It has been revealed that generally the indigenous vegetable tanned leathers produced in the country are relatively smaller in size, and their predominantly irregular shapes violate the standard shapes of full sheet leathers known in the global leather business sector as discussed by Sharp house (1995).

It also came to light through the interviews and observations that the size deficiency associated with the locally vegetable tanned leathers adversely affects the cutting, restricts the use of templates for pattern cutting.

Since tensile strength is regarded as a basic property prerequisite for indigenous vegetable tanned leather's ability to meet its expected efficiency irrespective of the source of animal, mode of tanning or use for which they are purposed, local tanners should be concerned with strength enhancement to upgrade the Indigenous vegetable tanned leathers ability to stabilise against great force, pressure or stress received by indigenous vegetable tanned leather when it is employed in footwear manufacturing.

Ward (1997) equally asserts that, maybe the most striking normal component of numerous sorts of indigenous vegetable tanned leather is the capacity to withstand rehased flexing without failures.

4.4 Objective 1

To identify and select fashion accessories that can be produced with Ghanaian indigenous vegetable tanned leather.

Random selection of fashion accessories from shops in Adam and central market in Kumasi and the items sold.

In a qualitative manner, the observational method was employed mainly to gather data to answer research question one which states the strategies to adopt in the identification and selection of ladies fashion accessories for production with the indigenous Ghanaian vegetable tanned leather, and also meet the demands of objective one, thus, to identify and select fashion accessories that can be produced with Ghanaian indigenous vegetable tanned leather. Observations are recorded in many ways, but in this study the researcher had only explained the ways in which she had observed.

The selection depends on the purpose of observation and every technique has its points of interest and disadvantages. In story perceptions, the researcher records, as Kumar (2005, p. 121) argues that, usually, the researcher makes brief notes while watching the connection and not long after the perception makes point by point notes in account structure. Moreover, a few scientists may interpret the communication and reach determinations from it.

Table 4.2: The Identification and Selection of Leather Fashionable Accessories

Visited shops	upholster y	item s Bod y	Religiou s items	Industria l items	Househol d items	container s
Ultimate fashions		*			*	*
H&M fashion		*				
Kpogasfurnitu re	*			*		
Blessed assurance fashions		*	*			*
Excellence boutique	*	*	*	*	*	*

Table 4.3: The Researcher Identified The Body Items And The Containers.

Body items	Entertainment	Religious items	Industrial items	Containers	Protective items
Footwear	Drums	Drums	Bellows	Handbags	Sheath
Clothing	Organ case	Skin	Aprons	Wallets	helmets
Sandals	Cymbal	Talisman	Conveyor belt	Purses	Gloves
Slippers	Fifes	Amulets	G loves	Suitcases	Spikes shoes
Belts	Lutes	Facial mask	Boots	Phone cases	Quivers
Hats	Guitar case	Flying whisk	Shin guard	Flower vases	Shin guard

Table 4.4: Under The Body Item And Containers Ladies Fashionable Sandals, Slippers, Handbags Clutch Bags And Purses Were Selected.

CONTAINERS	BODY ITEMS
Bags	Footwear
Bottles	Clothing
Purse	Necklace
Wallet	Hats
Clutch bag	Bracelets
Portmanteau	Jerkins
Suitcase	Patches
Spectacle case	Coats
Phone case	Belts

BODY ITEMS	CONTAINERS
Sandals	Handbags
Slippers	Purses
	Clutch bags

4.5 Reasons for the Selection of Ladies Fashionable Sandals, Slippers and Containers

The researcher did some personal interviews and realized that, most occasions in the Ghanaian society demand casual body items and containers. The slippers and sandals are easy to wear as compared to shoes and boots. Most containers become easy carriers for handy items such as make-up kits, purses, keys, handkerchiefs etc. Those items sell faster as compared to the other body items. Those imported decorative items with good finishing made with synthetic leather sell faster as compared to those made with Ghanaian indigenous vegetable tanned leather, due to its poor decorative design and finishing. Hence, the identification and selection of body items and containers. What is it about Indigenous vegetable tanned leather purses that make them so captivating? They arrive in a wide assortment of sizes, colours, what's more, styles. Possibly it is the spread delicate material they are produced using. There is additionally a style status

appended to a decent Indigenous vegetable tanned leather tote. Numerous well known style cognisant ladies convey them, making them considerably more prominent. A decent pack that finishes an outfit can give somebody somewhat additional certainty as they go about their day. Indigenous vegetable tanned leather in its most fundamental structure is produced using the skin of an animal. Initially they are cleaned to evacuate the hair and whatever other garbage. These skins are extended and tanned through the utilization of a substance process. Amid this time, contingent upon the procedure and chemicals utilized the kind of Indigenous vegetable tanned leather delivered is resolved. It can be from delicate indigenous Ghanaian vegetable tanned leather to softened Indigenous vegetable tanned leather to hard solid Indigenous vegetable tanned leather relying upon how it is dealt with. Style creators utilize this Indigenous vegetable tanned leather to make numerous items, not simply totes. There are likewise shoes, belts, and caps. So a whole troupe can be accomplished. Nobody needs to have the wrong shoes with the right pack. Indigenous vegetable tanned leather is an exceptionally solid material that can withstand the ordinary utilize, wear, and tear the normal individual can put on it. It is a reason indigenous Ghanaian vegetable tanned leather is such a prevalent material to use in garments. There are still numerous vintage calfskin totes out there, and infrequently do they go out of style. Indigenous vegetable tanned calfskin merchandise are made to endure forever. Be that as it may, you need to deal with them. The most ideal path is to keep them perfect and supple with the utilization of good Indigenous vegetable tanned leather more clean. Indigenous vegetable tanned leather cleaners can notice terrible so on the off chance that you are wanting to utilize your pack on the weekend it is ideal to clean it prior in the week. Before cleaning your sack with any item it is constantly prescribed to test it on a range that won't be seen. Just in the event that the cleaner is excessively and changes the shading or composition of the indigenous Ghanaian vegetable tanned leather.

More often than not after a decent cleaning of the purse, it will look fresh out of the box new. There are numerous every living creature's common sense entitlement aggregates that are attempting to restriction or simply dishearten individuals from the utilization of indigenous vegetable tanned leather in design. Some of these gatherings are exceptionally forceful and will attempt to demolish creature products by tossing paint on them. On the other hand simply make the proprietor feel colossal blame over the utilization of cowhide. What these gatherings are battling against is an age old convention. The most punctual man made his attire from the creatures' skins he executed. Much of the time these creatures are not killed only for the skins, the entire creature is utilized for a mixed bag of purposes. In particular they are utilized for nourishment.

4.6: Sandals and Slippers

Ladies' shoes are a definitive summer shoes! Whether one leans toward them with bands, a couple straps or clasps, one can make certain that they will offer you the ideal light shoes for those days when it is hot, hot, and hot! Worn on the shoreline on vacation or in the recreation centre, shoes for ladies are the casual footwear choices. With such a variety of styles one will be spoilt for decision, from level straightforward calfskin shoes for ladies to wedged shoes. Whether day or night, these shoes give each outfit a certain captivating feel. A rainbow of hues and incalculable mixes of dazzling materials make up the broad gathering accessible. From Wikipedia, the free encyclopaedia (2014) Sandals for men made by Bata Shoes Sandals are an open sort of outside footwear, comprising of a sole held to the wearer's foot by straps ignoring the instep and, in some cases, around the lower leg. While the qualification in the middle of shoes and different sorts of footwear can here and there be foggy (as on account of huaraches—the woven Indigenous vegetable tanned leather footwear seen in Mexico—and peep-toe pumps),

the regular comprehension is that a shoe leaves the vast majority of the upper piece of the foot uncovered, especially the toes. Individuals may decide to wear shoes for a few reasons, among them economy (shoes have a tendency to require less material than shoes and are typically less demanding to build), solace in warm climate and as a designer choice Usually, individuals wear shoes in hotter atmospheres or amid hotter parts of the year with a specific end goal to keep their feet cool and dry. The danger of building up competitor's foot is lower than with encased shoes, and the wearing of shoes may be a treatment's piece regimen for such a contamination. Most occasions in the Ghanaian society demands casual body items and containers. The slippers and sandals are easy to wear as compared to shoes and boots.

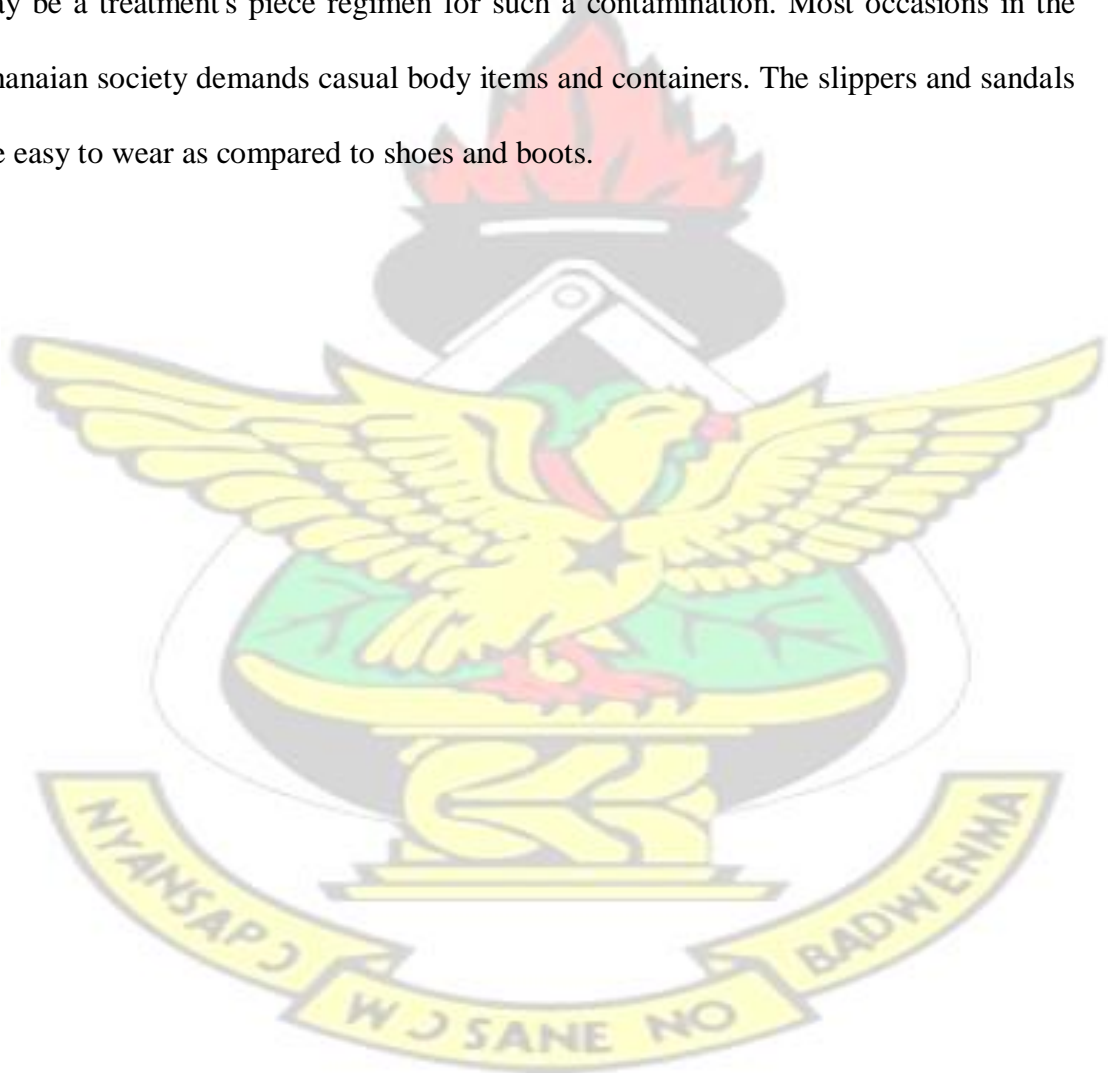




Plate 3.1: From Net (Wikipedia 2014)

4.7: Hand Bags, Purses and Clutch Bags

The analyst read from the Wikipedia, the free reference book (2014), that a tote, likewise satchel or pocket or grasp in American English, is a taken care of medium-to-expansive pack that is frequently stylishly outlined, regularly utilized by ladies, to hold individual things, for example, wallet coins, keys, cellular telephone, beauty care

products and adornments, books, pen and paper, nourishment and refreshment, for example, a water jug, pepper splash and different things for self-preservation, tampons and other female cleanliness items, contraceptives, tissues and new-born child care items, or a hairbrush.

Also from Wikipedia (2014), the researcher further identified the characteristics to incorporate little night sacks, or grasps, which might possibly have handles, and that some of these may have maybe a couple straps. Moreover, those with short straps that can't be worn over the shoulder are called bags. That, the real pack bit of a totes are normally bigger in size and ordinarily have two long straps. Hangs have a solitary strap that is anything but difficult to put over the shoulder. Strap length doesn't generally manage kind of sack, be that as it may, in light of the fact that numerous satchels have movable or removable straps.

Plate 3; Source from the Net



Plate 3.2: Totes bag

The researcher displays style with Indigenous vegetable tanned leather handbags, which Portray individualism and sophistication with every step with a pursued design. Indigenous vegetable tanned leather handbags are timeless fashion statements, and well-constructed purses are generally built to last for life. Indigenous vegetable tanned leather is durable and strong and can often handle heavier weights. The researcher realised that thick skin is less prone to damage, and leather's status as a sophisticated material keeps it fashionable. If it's for regular everyday use, the researcher also considered what the bag will contain. For women who pack everything with them, a larger handbag like a tote can carry more items.

The researcher also realised that women who pack lightly, all the basics will probably fit in a compact mini bag removing the need for a wallet. Medium-sized handbags such as the hobo are quite versatile, allowing space for extra things without being too bulky. Ever forget where your purse is? A purse hanger can help establish a place to routinely store a purse. The tote offers lots of space and can often be a multipurpose bag. Keep a tote prepared for activities that require bringing similar items on a semiregular basis. Store items around the house or in the car using a decorative tote, and because many colours are available, finding one that matches the interior design should be a breeze. Moms can benefit with the tote carrying all their personal items as well as baby items removing the need for both a purse and a diaper bag.

Plate 4; Source from the net



Plate 3.4: Clutch Bags

4.5 Objective 2

To ascertain the viability of using indigenous Ghanaian vegetable tanned leather for the production of selected fashion accessories.

The question of why indigenous vegetable tanned leather is deemed suitable for the generation of these fashionable accessories. Twenty-Eight (28) of the respondents representing Eighty percent (80%) of the sample were of the view that the properties of the indigenous vegetable tanned leather possess some properties that makes them suitable for the production of these accessories. The responses were categorised under the following themes:

1. Properties of Leather

The properties of Indigenous vegetable tanned leather shifts fundamentally relying on the sort and nature of both the skins and the tanning procedure. Each bit of Indigenous vegetable tanned leather has singular markings which identify with its starting points

and add character to every skin. Indigenous vegetable tanned Leather brings prestige to any interior with its special feel and aroma. In an economy where the consumer wants the most for his or her dollar, Indigenous vegetable tanned leather conveys prevalent quality. It is essential that the client value its temperance and quality. From Erin Steely (2014), indigenous vegetable tanned Leather has numerous positive material properties that make it extremely flexible. Its tough nature and delicate feel have settled on it a well-known decision for a considerable lot of the things that we utilize consistently.

2. Durability

Indigenous vegetable tanned leather can be formed and will hold its new shape. It has both flexible and plastic properties in wear. According to celi (2014) Indigenous vegetable tanned leather is the most durable upholstered material and its extremely strong texture makes it. Indigenous vegetable tanned leather is the sturdiest upholstered material and it's to a great degree solid surface makes it difficult to scratch or scuff. Indigenous vegetable tanned leather will not stretch out of shape.

3. Tensile strength

Experiences in working the leather over a period of time, the simple experiment to determine the stretching ability of the leather shows that it can be moved to all directions. This is the greatest longitudinal stress to show high textile strength of leather. It is one of the strongest flexible sheet material known to man.

4. Flexibility

Indigenous vegetable tanned leather is said to be flexible because it can be bent to show the grainy and the fleshy side of the leather. It can also be bent to all shapes like square, rectangle, circular etc.

The researcher also pointed out that the dominance of a particular material in a work of art is influenced mainly by the specialty of the artist. For instance a ceramic artist producing mixed media art is likely to use more of clay which is the traditional ceramic material and so would a painter and metal artist use more of paint and metal respectively.

4.5.1 Advantages of Vegetable Tanned Leather

According to Billamberg (2014) Vegetable tanning is earth amicable; importance any indigenous Ghanaian vegetable tanned leather items that have been vegetable tanned can be reused. Vegetable tanning is an age old custom so most tanneries have exceptionally talented skilled workers creating and colouring the indigenous Ghanaian vegetable tanned leather. Because of the normal tannins utilized, vegetable tanned items are one of a kind and have their own particular life, they are not the same for their whole life, but rather they improve, persistently, building up a patina after some time. She further clarifies that the hues that vegetable tanning produces are rich and warm tones that look totally characteristic. Vegetable tanned leather is more important and in this way sold at a higher normal value contrasted with chrome tanned leather.

The researcher read from Silvateam (2014) concerns with the fact that vegetable tanning is ecologically inviting; significance any leather items that have been vegetable tanned can be reused. Vegetable tanning is an age old convention so most tanneries have exceptionally gifted skilled workers delivering and colouring the indigenous Ghanaian vegetable tanned leather. Because of the characteristic tannins utilized, vegetable tanned items are exceptional and have their own particular life, they are not the same for their whole life, but rather they improve, ceaselessly. The hues that vegetable tanning produces are rich and warm tones that look totally normal. Vegetable tanned

leather are more profitable and in this manner sold at a higher normal value contrasted with chrome tanned cowhides.

According to Boahin (2009), just characteristic fixings are utilized when kicking the bucket the skins. Vegetable tanned leather is natural well disposed; significance any cowhide items that have been vegetable tanned can be reused. Vegetable tanning is an old convention so most tanneries exceptionally talented skilled workers delivering and passing on the calfskin. Because of the regular tannins utilized, vegetable tanned items really enhance with age build up a patina. Every indigenous Ghanaian vegetable tanned leather item that is coloured utilizing vegetable tanning is totally one of a kind. The hues that vegetable tanning produces are rich and warm tones that look totally common.

4.6 Objective 3

To adopt strategies towards the use of indigenous tanned leather in the production of selected fashion accessories?

Studies made on the material by the researcher exposed some of the capabilities and the potentials in vegetable tanned leather as a material that can be processed into useful fashion accessories products. It is against this background that researcher made designs of models to be produced in locally vegetable tanned leather. Models that were designed and made include sandals, slippers, tote and clutch bags. This was made to be used at all time and for all occasions.

Indigenous vegetable tanned leather is believed to be only one strongest, most flexible and adaptable material which can resist wear and tear. Due to the nature of the locally Ghanaian vegetable tanned leather, the researcher was able to manipulate it to produce various shapes, forms and sizes to suit the fashion trends.

In the light of the above stated observations, leather is a suitable material for making fashionable accessories. The indigenous vegetable tanned leather fashionable accessories produced were tested for the following qualities.

Attractiveness

Durability

Safety in use

KNUST

4.6.1

During the testing, consumers were attracted to the indigenous vegetable tanned leather fashionable accessories based on the bright colours of tanned leathers used. The colours were attractive so they got attracted to them.

The designing processes of the items were carefully executed in a manner which portrays maturity and environmental friendliness as a result of the natural leathers used. Colors mean a lot to people therefore a variety of colors were employed in dyeing the leather. Leather is absorbent and the consumers were fascinated with the bright colors. The colors facilitated the shapes and sizes. The dominant colors were red.

4.6.2 Durability

The durability of indigenous vegetable tanned leather fashionable accessories was tried over the span of the exploration to figure out their imperviousness to pressure when using them. The ability of the fashionable accessories to survive in the handling was tested for wear and tear, scratch, discoloration and dirt. The items withstood the pressures to which they were subjected. This proved that indigenous vegetable tanned leather is reasonably resistant to wear and tear. The surface of leather resists scratching, so the activities of the handlers during the testing process could not disfigure the surface of the items.

Most of the works were reinforced with strawboard and glued together to secure the edges permanently for use.

4.6.3 Safety in Use

Safety measures should be ensured when designing fashionable accessories with of prime consideration. The vegetable tannins that were utilized as a part of setting up the indigenous Ghanaian vegetable tanned leather could bring about no risk to human wellbeing. The utilization tannins, colors, paste and shine were well-being cordial. The skin of the animals, which become leather after tanning, is used as food in most Ghanaians homes and public food vending sports. It is called —welel or —kawurol and cannot be harmful to people even when they put them into their mouth. The edges of the items were rounded, curvy and had no sharp edges that could cut or injure users.

CHAPTER FIVE

SUMMARY, CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

5.1 Overview

This chapter summarizes the previous four chapters and gives the researcher's recommendation.

5.1 Summary

This project has clearly defined the problems it intends to solve, relevant literature has been reviewed, necessary research has been done and the findings laid down comprehensively. It has also been observed that leathers produced locally face hostility in utility in the major leather consuming production sectors in Ghana such as the footwear, upholstery, bag making and clothing and accessories.

There are less or no exportation avenues for leathers or even pelts to the arctic and the temperate zones of the world as a means of revenue generation to support national development. The situation has been seen as a hindrance to the economic significance of Ghanaian leatherwork and impairment to the study of Leatherwork as a course in the country, since it takes inspiration from the local leather industry.

Since the research problem arose out of the concern to identify the reasons behind the limitations in utility associated with the local vegetable tanned leather as a crude material for the generation of fashion accessories, three research questions were set against three objectives, and a wide range of research approaches were employed to identify and select fashion accessories that can be produced with Ghanaian indigenous vegetable tanned leather. To find out the suitability of using indigenous Ghanaian vegetable tanned leather for the production of selected fashion accessories and also to adopt strategies towards the use of indigenous tanned leather in the production of selected fashion accessories.

The results generated were discussed to cover other end uses including necklace, bangles and ear-rings. Upon realization that the local leather samples were deficient in manifold indispensable desirable properties prerequisite for industrial utility, a further probe into the causes and causations of the defects was conducted.

5.2 Conclusions

The research found out that, local leathers were mostly available in the north and other areas of the country including Aboabo in the Kumasi Metropolis, where researcher sourced the leather to produce fashion accessories. The local tanners and leather markets sold leather in bulk quantity, which ranged from GH¢5 up to GH¢10 per sheet. The calfskin's majority utilized was delicate and simple to control to accomplish the

fancied shapes, structures and sizes to suit pre-school children. The average thickness of the leather used for the fashion accessories ranges from 1.5m to 1.8m.

The research successfully assessed the suitability of indigenous Ghanaian vegetable tanned leather for fashion accessories. The research found out that leather is suitable for use as fashion accessories because leather is: Attractive, Durable and Safe to use

5.3 Recommendations

In this research, indigenous Ghanaian vegetable tanned leather has been found to be versatile, pliable, durable, and bleachable and that it can be dyed in various colours to attract market forces. For the promotion and improvement of leather fashion accessories in this country, the following recommendations are hereby made:

1. Local industries that deal with leather should take up the project to produce leather fashion accessories to aid the local tannery industry.
2. Local industries that deal with leather should take interest in using indigenous Ghanaian vegetable tanned leather for the production of fashion accessories to boost the Ghanaian economy

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