

LOCAL CRAFTS

Local craft is the conversion of local materials or resources into useful items through skillful manipulation by hand. Many of the objects in our surroundings are products of local crafts. Examples are baskets, mats, local drum, beads and so on. Skills for producing various local crafts are gotten through observation of good craftsmen and constant practice.

Art can be done by both males and females. However, there are craft that are more associated with males and others with females.

Local craft art done by males

The craft done mostly by males in our society are net making, blacksmithing, leather works, wood carving and so on.

Local craft done by females

The craft done mostly by females in our society are bead making, cloth weaving, basket making and so on

Types of Local Crafts

Crafts can be grouped into the following:

Metal Crafts

This includes the use of metals to create useful objects such as cutlass, portrait, spear, hoes, and so on. Metal crafts involves various iron crafts, brass crafts, gold crafts, steel crafts, bronze crafts etc.

Leather crafts

This is the use of animal hides and skin to produce various objects such as bags, local drums, leather shoes and so on.

Fibre crafts

This is the use of fibres from palm trees, raffia, cane and similar materials to produce useful objects such as hats, mat, baskets and so on.

Pottery

This is the use of clay to make pots, plates and other useful materials.

Carving

This is the use of stone, ivory, wood and calabash to make carvings of various kinds.

Carvings exists in various forms such as embellishments and decorations on calabash, wood carving, stone carving, ivory carving and so on. Carvings are used to make various designs on objects to make them appear beautiful and attractive.

Textile Crafts

This involves cloth weavings and the beautiful designs made on them. Textile crafts exist as tie and dye, batik, embroidery and various other kinds of cloth weaving.

Crafts	Tribe associated with them
Adire fabric	Yoruba
Akwete	Igbo
Calabash carvings	Hausa
Local hand fan	Hausa
Local mat	Hausa

Uses of Local Crafts

1. It is used for decoration and beautification in school, home, church and other suitable places
2. It represents our cultural heritage
3. It is useful in our everyday lives in the home for various needs.
4. It is a source of income to people who produce or sell local crafts
5. It is used to express one's feelings
6. It can serve as teaching aids in schools to teach various subjects
7. It can serve as musical instrument. Example is rattle, clappers, wooden block etc.
8. It can be worn on the body as ornament.

Review Questions

1. Explain the term. local craft
2. State six types of local crafts
3. State six uses of local craft