



Journal Homepage: - www.journalijar.com
**INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL OF
 ADVANCED RESEARCH (IJAR)**

Article DOI: 10.21474/IJAR01/1430
 DOI URL: <http://dx.doi.org/10.21474/IJAR01/1430>



RESEARCH ARTICLE

THE IMPACT OF CERAMICS TECHNOLOGY IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF AKWA IBOM STATE IN NIGERIA.

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Manuscript Info

Manuscript History

Received: 12 June 2016
 Final Accepted: 19 July 2016
 Published: August 2016

Key words:-

Abstract

The purpose of the study was to find out to the effect of ladder training on breath holding time and heart rate among Kho-Kho players. To achieve the purpose of the study, twenty four (n=24) Kho-Kho players were selected at random from Department of Physical Education and Sports, Manonmaniam Sundaranar University, Tirunelveli. The age of the selected subjects were between 21 to 25 years. The breath holding time and heart rate were selected as dependent variables, ladder training was selected as independent variables for this study. Breath holding time and heart rate was measured by using stop watch. A pre and post test randomized design was employed for this investigation. The data was collected from the experimental and control groups before and after the experimental treatment. The analysis was carried out through various techniques such as the dependent t-test and the univariate analysis of covariance (ANCOVA). All of the statistical analysis tests were computed at 0.05 level of significance ($P < 0.05$). It was concluded that, the experimental group namely ladder training group have achieved significant improvement on breathe holding time and heart rate when compared to the control group. It was also concluded that, significant differences were found between ladder training and control groups towards improving the breathe holding time and heart rate.

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Historical Background:-

The creation of Akwalbom State from Cross River State, Nigeria in 1987 with a smooth take off has continued to be developed with quantifiable contribution. The area called Akwalbom State was formerly known as “Mainland” of Southeast/Cross River¹. In 1928 when Ibibio state union was formed, every occupant of the geographic area of the present AkwaIbom State “Mainland” was a member of the great union. Sons and daughters of this area through the assistance of Ibibio state union had the opportunity to study outside the shores of Nigeria, and probably some early political, Christianity and educational enlightenment in Nigeria were experienced in AkwaIbom State through acculturation. Qua Iboe church was founded in AkwaIbom State in 1887 and other churches such as Methodist church, Presbyterian Church, Catholic Church and others who brought western education and civilization to the state over one hundred years ago².

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It implies that AkwaIbom State is as old as the nation of Nigeria which was amalgamated in 1914, by Fredrick Lord Lugard.

The development of AkwaIbom State had started a centenary ago. Although ceramics wares then were imported in by the white missionaries and the colonial masters, our traditional pottery wares were prominent. The traditional earthenware's were commonly used everywhere in AkwaIbom State and these products were the delight of every home then. In no small way the significant role of pottery or ceramics products in the development of AkwaIbom State was very challenging. Pottery production boosted local industrialization, commerce and social well being of early AkwaIbom people. The popular Ibibio ceremonial pot called "AbangIsong" was displayed and used for palm wine in big occasion in communities. It was a unifying factor among the early people of AkwaIbom State. Water pot called "abangmmong" and traditional bowl called "usan Ibibio" among many others were popular articles of trade in those days especially among the women folk to enhance their economic endeavours¹.

Traditional pottery practice in akwa ibom state:-

The Ibibio pottery tradition is one of the outstanding pottery practices in Nigeria and deserves proper documentation in view of the unique shapes of Ibibio pots acclaimed as among the most spherical shapes in the world (Peters 2012:9)². The advent of clay being one of the most found mineral resources spreading across the entire AkwaIbom State gave rise to the production of earthenware products especially by the women folk. Among the numerous traditional pottery communities include, IkotEbidang in Onna Local Government Area, IkotAbasi No.1 in Etinan Local Government Area, IkotEbomItam in Itu Local government Area, Edebom in Uruan Local Government Area, Edemekpat in Etinan Local Government Area, Ukpom in OrukAnam Local Government Area, IkotNtot in Abak Local Government Area, MbonEbre in OrukAnam Local Government Area, Mbiafun in Eastern Ibibio Ikono and IkotEbekpo in Eket Local Government Area. Various shapes and designs are produced from different mentioned communities. Jos museum custodies pots tagged "Ibibio pots" (Abangmmong Ibibio) produced from Ebidang in Onna Local Government Area and are classified among others as the most spherical pots globally. The pots are found in other numerous centres and private homes.

Among other traditional products of the people include plates (ukopoko), bowls (usan Ibibio), cooling pots (Okousiong), basin (Oko-ata), and other functional/decorative wares. The products are made in various sizes and shapes taking cognizance of those who use them. Designs are incised on the pots as well as local colours applied to beautify the wares.* Firing of the wares after production were done prior to the major market day near the community of production. Preparation for the heir day got almost every member of the family involved to boost a successful firing by gathering wood, dry leaves and other necessary activity. Shouts of joy and gloom were expectation of the neighbours or passer-bys when pot firings were nearing completion (Anyang: 80 years)¹. Some popular markets where the traditional pottery wares were marketed extensively to boost economic, development and social well being of the people include: Ukam market in MkpateEnin, local government area, Ekenyong market in OrukAnam, Obo NdonUtin in Etinan, MbakItu market in Itu, Mkpafi market in Etinan, Itam market in Itu, Ishiet market in Uruan, Uba-ada in OrukAnam, NdemIkpe Market in Etinan, NungUkim market in EkpeAtai, Oto market in IkotEkpene, UtaEwa Market in IkotAbasi, Ikpa market in IbionoIbom, UruaUdoInyang in NsitUbium, UruaErong market in OrukAnam, EsukOron market in Oron, NungUdoe market in IbesikpoAsutan, UruaEkponwa market in NsitIbom, EsukIbenu market in Ibenu, OffiongEtok market in Eket, Obo Annang in EtimEkpo and IkotOffiong/Oku Iboku market in Itu. Market days in those days apart from economic benefits generated high social contacts and gingered people to dress very well to market.

As one of the major areas where numerous articles of trade made economy to boom, pottery/ceramics is noted as having great impact in the development of AkwaIbom State from the traditional point of view².

Modern ceramics practice in akwa ibom state:-

Among the characteristics of modern pottery or ceramics practice are the application of glaze on wares, high temperature firing, use of kilns, versatile ceramics designs and the use of machinery. The return of an indigenous pioneer potter Chief Adam Joshua UdoEma (Etinan) from Great Britain in 1949 who later worked as an assistant pottery officer at Okigwe pottery centre before coming to work in AkwaIbom in 1955 heralded serious modern pottery in AkwaIbom State. Chief Ema established three pottery centres in AkwaIbom State among them include pottery centre at MbiafunIkono in Eastern Ibibio Ikono, pottery centre at IkotNtot in Abak Local Government centre and IkotAbasi I pottery centre in Etinan Local government centre.

1 ElderOkon Anyang Udoh (80 years old) an Elder of Qua Iboe Church, IkotEbomItam, discloses the various activities of the traditional pottery practice which his mother played an active role since his childhood .

2Edem. E. Peters ,IkotEbomItam Pottery in Ibibio art and technology: The Past and Present. International Journal of Art and Culture (Accra, 2012) pp. 9 – 19.

Wood kilns were built and wares were glazed with the advent of establishment of the pottery centres. Training of man power was eminent and some of those who were trained include chief OkonEdem of IkotAbasiNo.I (Etinan Local Government AkwaIbomAned) at Ekulu (Enugu) and Japan. Mr. J.U. Umoh and Mr. Peter Essien both from Ikono Local Government Area of AkwaIbom State in Nigeria were also trained in Okigwe and later Japan as well as Italy (Peters, 2002)¹.

The training programme took place at Okigwe pottery centre and Ekulu (Enugu) pottery training centre at Iva valley in Enugu. According to Peter Essien, “in 1962 when modern ceramics industry, Umuahia was established and some of them were given opportunities to work there as well as further trained in Germany for the upkeep of the ceramics industry”.² Chief OkonEdem who become the production manager at the modern ceramics later worked with the ministry of industry Calabar after the Nigerian civil war. He established Calabar pottery centre at No.4 Atu Street Calabar in 1969. While AkwaIbom State then called “Mainland” was in the southern part of then Southeastern State of Nigeria.

IkotEbom-Itam pottery (AkwaIbom State) was established in 1971 by the community with the help of a Catholic Reverend sister Louis Steen (Switzerland) who worked then in Anua, Uyo. (Peters 2002). Ministry of trade and Industry, Calabar posted Mr. Nkan (Etinan) and Mr. Ubeh (IkotAbasi I in Etinan) to work at IkotEbomItam pottery centre along with those who were already employed to be trained, namely; Michael Edem Esau, Emmanuel Simon Ekanem, Akon Joshua Sam and Elizabeth Edet. Some of them were sent to Abuja pottery training centre for formal training. Ceramics wares were designed and produced with beautiful of glaze finishing¹.

Ceramics in AkwaIbom State realized this long expected gloss firing production in 1955 and 1971. This was the earnest vision of Kenneth C. Murray who paid a fee of £20 to study under Bernard Leach at St. Ives pottery for six (6) weeks during his overseas leave in United Kingdom in 1929². He determined to improve local pottery practice in Southern Nigeria. He conducted series of experiments in ceramics production in southern Nigeria after his training. According to Onuzulike (2013), later in 1930 when Murray was allowed to return to government training collage, Umuahia, he began terracotta sculpture and pottery. He erected a private workshop at Ofe Eke village where the women of Ofe Eke were practicing traditional pottery. Murray built his first kiln there and did his first test firing which was not encouraging and he had to make adjustments to the clay and to the kiln to try out a major firing. On Friday the 11th December, 1930 by 5.00pm he started the first major firing exercise and assisted by his wife Phyllis and his houseboy Enoch. It was noticed that when the kiln was opened on Tuesday 15th December, 1930, only Murray’s little thrown pot survived. Murray never relented effort in experimenting with the hope that success in his pottery experiments would be able to persuade the traditional potters to follow the modern approach he was advocating. Onuzulike (2013) further observes:

Murray returned from Ibadan to government college, Umuahia later in 1934, and some of his special students joined him there. He moved southwards to Uyo in 1935 to teach at the elementary Training College (ETC). It was at Uyo in December 1935 that he admitted the youngest of his five special students. His name was A. P. Umana, aged fifteen. During this period in Uyo (1935-7) Murray carried out extensive studies of extant vernacular arts and crafts in the area. He built another kiln for the boys and taught them how to fire their clay models.*

Undoubtedly Murray is regarded as the pioneer modern ceramist in AkwaIbom and probably in southern Nigeria and Nigeria at large when looking at his consistent pottery experiments in Southern Nigeria since 1930 and his outstanding ceramics practice in Uyo since 1935. The researcher’s personal interview with chief Adam Joshua UdoEma in 1992 attests to the fact that UdoEma had a very close relationship with Kenneth Murray although he was not among the five (special) students of Murray-among there are Ibrahim, Ibeto, Enwonwu, Nnachy, and Umana¹. Chief UdoEma probably was inspired by ceramics experiments of Kenneth Murray which he later in 1949 studied pottery in Britain.

The Zwemmer gallery exhibition of 1937 where terra cottas among other works from the five special students of Murray took place during Murray’s leave in the United Kingdom and most of these works were probably produced and fired in Uyo. This was probably the high point of Murray’s art educational work in Nigeria as well as the beginning of serious ceramics practice in Uyo, now the state capital of AkwaIbom State.

*Elder Okon Anyang Udoh (80 years old) an Elder of Qua Iboe Church, IkotEbomItam, discloses the various activities of the traditional pottery practice which his mother played an active role since his childhood. 2131

The impact of ceramics practice and technology in the development of AkwaIbom State in Nigeria likely started when Murray built his kilns and throwing wheels in 1935 in Uyo while the exhibits from the kiln built and housed in Uyo were exhibited in UK in 1937. The researcher attended a kiln design and construction training programme and also exhibited in Moretemhampstead (UK) in 2012 and also visited Leach Pottery Studios and Museum in St. Ives where Murray was trained in 1929 to come and train other people in Uyo and other places². The British potter, artist and art teacher-Murray who learnt pottery under the influential British Studio Potter Bernard Leach greatly impacted his pottery skills through his several pottery experiments and ceramic art pedagogy apart from establishing the Museum at Oron.

Features and Influence of Ceramics/Pottery in the Development of AkwaIbom State:-

The influence of other potters in other areas through intermarriages, trade links, visits, out break of wars and general inter-mingling with other cultures have serious impact on IkotEbomItam and the state. The belief is that since Itu Local Government Area has a major market at its shore, people from Umon, Afikkpo, the Efiks, Cameroun and others engage in trading with pottery products among themselves, and this has brought about cultural assimilation¹. Pots and other pottery wares from Umon, Afikpo and other places are commonly found in AkwaIbom while Ibibio pottery wares are also found outside AkwaIbom State. The gloss wares product from the established pottery centres in the state are sold to people within and outside the state. Though IkotEbom pottery centre produces pottery craft wares such as mugs, jugs, plates etc, Quality ceramics Ltd produces tiles and sanitary wares². Various ceramic wares have been utilized in the development of AkwaIbom State such as general architecture, power sector, domestic usage, aesthetics and general decoration. Features of recreational parks/edifices such as Ebom plaza, Itam Junction/Model motor parks, IkotEkpene Plaza, Ibom Tropicana, Women Development Centre, Ibom E-library and many other places in the state are elaborated decorated with ceramic tiles (terracotta/gloss). The place of ceramics in the Development of AkwaIbom State is very conspicuous.



Ceramic water distillation containers production at IkotEbomItam (AkwaIbom State). Courtesy; Edem Peters (15 April, 2016)

1 Elder Okon Anyang Udoh (80 years old) an Elder of Qua Iboe Church, IkotEbomItam, discloses the various activities of the traditional pottery practice which his mother played an active role since his childhood .

2 Edem. E. Peters ,IkotEbomItam Pottery in Ibibio art and technology: The Past and Present. International Journal of Art and Culture (Accra, 2012) pp. 9 – 10



Building with ceramic mosaic decoration along Udoumanastreet, Uyo (Akwalbom State).Coutesy; Edem Peters (15 April, 2016)



1Edem. E. Peters ,IkotEbomItam Pottery in Ibibio art and technology: The Past and Present. International Journal of Art and Culture (Accra, 2012) pp. 9 – 19.

2 PeterEssien was the head of Mould making section, Quality ceramics industry, IkotEbomItam and was interviewed in 1988 on the early modern ceramics practice.



Some Products of IkotEbomItam pottery (AkwaIbom State).
Coutesy; Edem Peters (15 April, 2016)



Brick production at IkotEbomItam Pottery (AkwaIbom state)
Coutesy; Edem Peters (15 April, 2016)

1 Michael Edem Esau was interviewed on the 12th November, 2012 on the modern pottery practice in AkwaIbom State. He was one of the two boys who were sent to Calabar and Abuja for training in pottery in 1972

2 OziomaOnuzulike, The Journal of modern Craft (Bloomsbury, 2013) pp. 293-214.



Ibom plaza recreational park decorated with ceramic tiles (Uyo)
Coutesy; Edem Peters (15 April, 2016)

1 Chief Adam Joshua UdoEma was interviewed in 1987 and 1991 respectively on the pioneering work on ceramics in Nigeria and his role in establishing pottery centres in Nigeria when he returned from Britain in 1949
2 Edem E. Peters' visits to United Kingdom in 2012 and 2013 gave him more insight to where Kenneth Murray studied Pottery in 1929.



Ibom plaza recreational park decorated with ceramic tiles (Uyo)
Coutesy; Edem Peters (15 April, 2016)

1 Monday Abasiattai, Akwalbom and Cross River States: The land, the people and their culture (Calabar, 1987), pp. 47-69.

2 Michael Edem Esau was interviewed on the 12th November, 2012 on the modern pottery practice in Akwalbom State. He was one of the two boys who were sent to Calabar and Abuja for training in pottery in 1972



An outstanding burnt brick house Udotungubo street, Uyo(Akwalbom State)
Coutesy; Edem Peters (15 April, 2016)

Conclusion:-

The present geographical area called AkwaIbom State with Uyo as the state capital had since been experiencing the practice and influence of ceramics/pottery in different dimensions. Before the advent of colonial Nigerians traditional pottery was booming and it was a mainstay in the economic, domestic social and religious life of the people of the area. Almost, all domestic wares such as cooling/water pots, bowls, containers of all sorts, palm wine pots, objects of religious worships were pottery products. K. C. Murray during his stay in Southern colonial Nigeria spent his last years in Uyo where he built kilns and housed them for the production of terra cottas in 1935 at Elementary Training College. The products of these kilns were exhibited in United Kingdom in 1937 and this indeed was a great achievement in the colonial Nigeria era, where Uyo (Akwalbom State) was the generating base of the unique pottery wares and other art works. In 1955 chief AdamUdoEma established these pottery centres in this area and gloss wares were produced and sold for economic purposes*. Another vibrant pottery centre was established at IkotEbomItam between 1969 – 1971 with the help of Reverend sister Louis Steen where gloss ware were produced and some were taken to Switzerland. IkotEbomItam further witnessed the establishment of a large scale ceramics industry called Quality Ceramics Ltd in 1984. The Advent of the industry assisted many indigenes of AkwaIbom State to be trained in Italy for the production of industrial ceramic wares such as tiles and sanitary wares. The products of Quality Ceramic Ltd apart from being sold within Nigeria, were exported to other parts of Africa such as Equatorial Guinea etc. Ceramics practice, products exhibition usage and sales have made AkwaIbom State known within and outside Nigeria. Many people from the state have made ceramic/pottery their profession to earn a living from it. The fantasy of Uyo beautification and other parts of the state are adequately enhanced by the use of ceramics products.

Therefore, ceramics and its technology/practice in AkwaIbom State have created enormous impact in the development of AkwaIbom State of Nigeria.

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