



Made In ABA Shoes as Tool for the Development of Abia State Economy

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This study has provided an insight on made in Aba shoes as a tool for the development of the state economy. The study noted the state government effort in improving made in Aba product especially shoes in the recent time. The study also investigated on the training and retraining of Aba shoe artisans on their products as well as the role of innovation and creativity in repackaging of Aba made product after the analysis. The study found that training as well as retraining helps in improving the quality as well as quantity in made in Aba shoes. The study also discovered that Aba artisans pay a lot of different forms of taxes to government agencies following the findings of the research, the study recommends; on the issues of multiple taxations of shoe artisans, government need to harmonize taxes levied on Aba shoe artisans so as to encourage the infant shoe industry. The study recommends on the challenges facing the Aba shoe industry. The study recommends immediate provision of constant light by the government, reduction in level of taxes, provision of quality machines, good roads.

I. INTRODUCTION

The federal government has given made in Aba shoes, a high level of importance in an effort to boost the economy, encourage entrepreneurship, increase the level of partnership between the private and public sectors, enhance manufacturing and production, and develop state and national economies (Levenus, 2017). The industrial growth of the state of Abia and all of Nigeria has been significantly influenced by Made in Aba shoes. Ahmed (2006) noted that after the Economic Reform Program was adopted, there were several decisions made in Nigeria in 1981 to move away from capital-intensive and large-scale industrial projects that were founded on the philosophy of export development to small and medium-sized businesses that have better prospects for developing the domestic economy, thereby facilitating the

generalization of the necessary goods and services that will drive the Nigerian economy toward development. As a result, small and medium-sized businesses, particularly those producing Aba shoes, are progressively becoming well-known throughout Nigeria. Interest in small and medium-sized firms has increased as a result of the closure of businesses due to inadequate power supplies, security issues, and constant interest rate increases (SME). All of these are aimed toward the expansion of small and medium-sized businesses in Nigeria using Aba as their industrial base and commercial hub, as well as the expanding demand for shoes created in Aba. Aba is known as the state in the region of West Africa with the highest concentration of small and medium-sized industrial firms.

However, the development of small and medium-sized businesses has been slow and has seen stuttered growth. As a result of the stuttered and sluggish growth of small and medium enterprises (SME) in the state, government has launched a number of campaigns to promote SME participation and promote the purchase of shoes made in Aba, (Afulike, Ihechu & Ndukwe, 2019). Some of the campaign's goals involve promoting made-in-Aba shoes around the world and boosting the state's economy. There is growing fear that the campaign may not have much of an impact because despite the promotion, awareness and purchase of these shoes are still extremely low. Innovation, in areas of new shoes to development and offering goods and services has thus made it necessary as a whole to locally products like made in Aba shoes. But this has not been easy as some manufactures have divergent perceptions as to what contributions will made in Aba shoes make out for market for their growth and sustainability. Also the cost of marketing activities in Nigeria has also countered to be on the increase. Fear of the unknown as per the level of patronage also are constraints which also stands to be a threat to made in Aba shoes.



Besides, most manufactures and producers do not have access to the internet for the promotion and becomes strategies and the modern day, many transactions are done through this medium, (Ali, Gongbing, & Mehreen, 2018). Again, though government does give assistance to manufactures of Aba made shoes, but not been regular and significantly felt.

Hence this study is geared at seeing the effect of made in Aba shoes as a tool for the development of the state economy and to what extent the Aba residents reacts to made in Aba shoes. ***The following specific objectives will guide this study; To ascertain the effect of training and retraining of artisans on made in Aba shoes. To examine the effects of made in Aba shoes in developing the state economy. To ascertain the level of patronage by Aba residence and beyond on made in Aba shoes in developing the economy of the state. To investigate factors militating against made in Aba shoes in economic development of the state.***

This study will be crucial to the growth of the state's economy as will assist the government in the generation of additional internally generated revenue from business owners as well as exportation and distributions of these shoes to other parts of the country. This research exclusively covers the effects of Aba made shoes as tool for the development of Abia state economy. So it centered on Ariaria Aba shoe markers with emphasis on artisans training, retraining and packaging of Aba made shoes the level of patronage of Aba made shoes and its effects on the economy of Aba.

2.1 Made in Aba Products: Origin and Purpose

These goods comprise a type of small and medium scale enterprise and are the very essence of what SMEs stand for. According to Mark (2017), one of the main issues facing Abia State since its inception has been the past administrations' ineffective efforts to build a solid economic foundation that would eventually lead to the development of all state sectors. The state has enormous economic potential in every sphere of human activity. Particularly noteworthy among these potentials are Abia's abundant agricultural goods, such as palm oil, rubber, cocoa, etc. The primary region of industry takes pride in its production of leather and textiles. Even if the state's previous and current administrations haven't done much to tap the agricultural potentials, the Dr. Okezie Ikpeazu administration deserves praise for its commitment to maximizing the economic potentials. One of these initiatives is the

administration's entry into Aba, the Enyimba City, with the aim of elevating the items created in Aba into the international market, (Emmanuel, 2016). There are several accounts that Aba shoes and clothing are rapidly gaining popularity in both domestic and foreign markets, as evidenced by the fact that Aba dealers are starting to export their goods. The history of Made in Aba items or products dates back to the early 1960s, when Aba-based local businesses began to copy and create shoes that were comparable to those from abroad. Additionally, it is known that entrepreneurship has seen great success before this current tough patch. In Aba, leather from domestic or foreign sources is used to make shoes, slippers, and sandals by more than 100,000 shoemakers. More than 60% of new shoes worn in Nigeria, according to Ken Anyanwu, National Secretary of the Association of Leather and Allied Industrialists of Nigeria, are made in Aba, although most Nigerians are unaware that they are doing so. The majority of these shoemakers labor out of their houses or in the streets and market booths surrounding Ariaria Market, which is home to three major shoe manufacturing hubs: Bakassi, Shoe Plaza, and Power Line. Shops are arranged in groups at the Bakassi and Shoe Plaza hubs based on the cooperative societies or unions they belong to. With an average of 5 employees per shop, Bakassi has over 1,400 businesses making women's shoes, slippers, and sandals. An average of 4 people work in each of the 1,290 shops that make men's shoes, slippers, and sandals at Shoe Plaza. But in Power Line, each store is privately owned, employing roughly 4 people to make and sell women's shoes, robes, and sandals. At an average cost of N2,500, 48 million pairs of shoes are produced annually. A quarter of these are shipped to China, North America, and nearby African nations including Cameroon, Ghana, Togo, and Liberia as well as European nations like the UK, Italy, Greece, and Ireland. The Aba shoe business is expanding quickly, with exports worth \$17 million, but there is still space for major expansion. Aba produces only approximately 0.3 percent of China, Vietnam, and Indonesia, the top 3 countries in the world for shoe exports, and its export value is only about 0.1 percent of their combined annual export values.

2.1 Theoretical Literature

Some of the theories underlying the concept of effects of made in Aba products as a tool for the development of state economy include the following Schumpeter's theory of innovation and creative destruction and Product cycles theories. Joseph Alois Schumpeter (1883-1950) was an



Austrian trained economist, and author best known for introducing the concept of entrepreneurship. The term creative destruction was first coined by Austrian economist Joseph Schumpeter in (1942). Creative destruction, as defined by Schumpeter as the "process of industrial mutation that incessantly revolutionizes the economic structure from within, incessantly destroying the old one, incessantly creating a new one," is defined as innovations in the manufacturing process that increase productivity." (Daniel 2020).

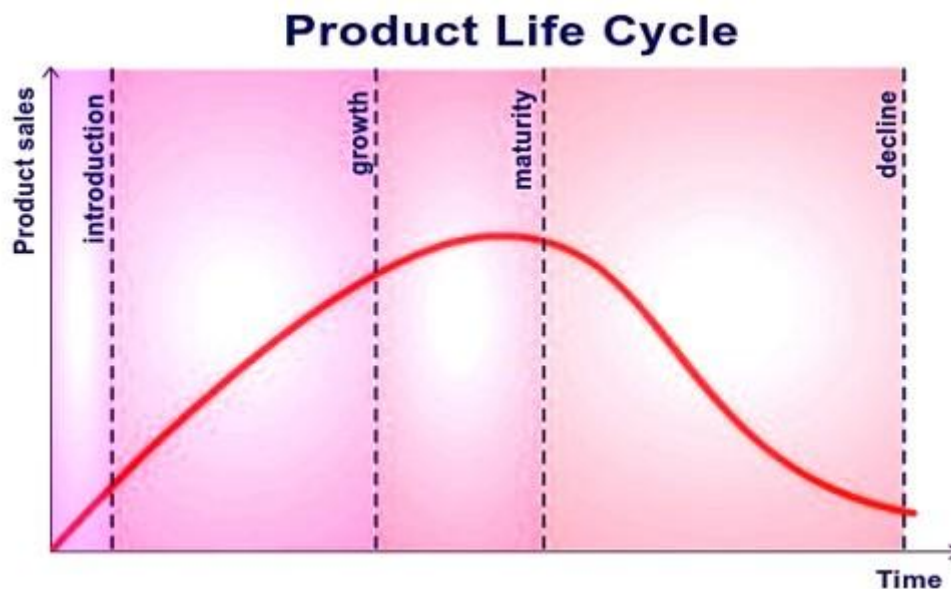
In essence, the notion of creative destruction postulates that established systems and presumptions must be dismantled in order to release resources and energy for innovation. According to Schumpeter, economic growth is a natural outcome of forces operating inside the market and is prompted by opportunities to make money, as implied by the word destruction. Producers and workers committed to the older technology will be left stranded. Entrepreneurs and workers in new technologies, meanwhile, will inevitably create disequilibrium and highlight new profit opportunities. In describing creative destruction, Schumpeter was not necessarily endorsing it. In fact,

his work is considered to be heavily influenced by the Communist Manifesto, the pamphlet by Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels which decried the bourgeoisie for its constant revolutionizing of production and uninterrupted disturbance of all social conditions. (Karl Marx. Manifesto of the Communist Party, Sept. 24, 2020). He is perhaps most known for coining the phrase "creative destruction," which describes the process that sees new innovations replacing existing ones that are rendered obsolete over time, (Nwanosike, Ugbor, Ogbuabor, Uzoechina & Ebonyi, 2016).

On the other hand, Raymond Vernon, a Harvard Business School professor, developed the product life cycle theory in the 1960s. According to the theory, products come into the market and steadily depart all over again. Each manufactured goods has a definite life cycle that begins with its expansion and ends with its decline. Product Life Cycle is defined as, "the sequence through which every product goes through from introduction to removal or ultimate downfall", (Morris, 2003).

The theory, originating in the field of marketing, stated that a Product life cycle has three distinct stages: New product, A maturing product, and Standardized product. See the graph below;

Fig 1: Life Cycle of Product in the Market



Source: Extract from Morris, (2003).

A) New product: In this stage, a firm in a developed or developing country will innovate or manufacture a fresh product for their customers. The market for these manufactured goods will be little and sales will be comparatively small as a result.

The firm's marketing executives have to strongly observe buyer reactions to ensure that the new product satisfies customer needs. Characteristics of this stage include:



- Vast promotional costs are compulsory to enhance the consciousness of customers.
- A marketer has to undertake procedural and manufacture troubles.
- The sale is low and growing at a lesser rate.
- There is a loss or an insignificant profit.

B) Maturity Stage: In the maturity stage of the Product Life Cycle, the manufactured goods are generally known and are bought by many customers. The innovating firm builds new factories to enlarge its competence and convince home and overseas demand for the products. Characteristics of this stage include:

- Sales enlarge at a decreasing rate.
- Profits initiate to decline.
- Marginal competitors put down the market.
- Customer preservation is given more prominence.

C) Standardized product stage: The market for manufactured goods stabilizes. The product becomes more of a commodity, and firms are pressured to lesser their industrialized costs as much as probable by shifting production to facilities in countries with small labor costs. Characteristics of this stage include:

- Sales reduce quickly.
- Profits reduce more quickly than sales.
- Steadily, the company prefers to move resources to new products.
- Most of the sellers remove from the market.

D) The decline stage: At this stage, those who needed the product had already bought it. The company is starting to step down and lag behind those companies that are in the introduction or growth stage. The following signs can indicate the beginning of the stage of decline:

- Slow but continuous drop in product demand;
- Lower production;
- Withdrawal of funding and budget cuts;
- Shrinking audience;
- The company is concentrated on the residual market;
- Obsolescence of used technologies and product properties;
- The increase in marketing costs does not yield tangible results.
- Typically, the decline stage is followed by death for examples, companies close and leave the market.

2.2 Empirical Literature Review

Omede and Aghanenu (2021) examined how innovation affected entrepreneurship's performance in Aba, Abia State, Nigeria. To determine whether there is a meaningful relationship between the two intervening factors, innovation and entrepreneurial performance in Aba, Abia State, three hypotheses were developed. Data were collected using a standardized questionnaire, and Pearson's product-moment coefficient of correlation was used to analyze the results. The analysis's findings indicated that there is now a connection between entrepreneurial performance and innovation. The study's findings led to the conclusion that, in order for entrepreneurship to flourish in the face of rising competition in developing nations like Nigeria, a high priority must be given to creating an innovative workplace culture that encourages staff members to contribute fresh concepts and methods for offering customers new products and services that are valued and satisfying. This will improve performance. In light of this, the report made several recommendations, including that entrepreneurship laws and programs be created in a way that tackles horizontal issues and creates more effective and sustainable incentives for innovation activities.

To understand how entrepreneurship policies can aid in the expansion of small and medium-sized businesses in Aba, Ozioma-Eleodinmuo (2015) analyzed entrepreneurship policy for small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs). The specific goals are to examine the socioeconomic characteristics of the workforce and their performance in the chosen SMEs, to learn how small and medium-sized enterprises perceive entrepreneurship policies, to ascertain the advantages of such policies, and to identify any issues that could hinder the expansion of such businesses. Randomly chosen businesspeople from a cross-section of industries came from the commercial hub of Aba, Abia State, Nigeria. The necessary data was collected via questionnaires, and the data analysis was done using some statistical techniques. Finance is one of the main issues preventing the expansion of SMEs generally and in Aba in particular. Government may be certain that there would be more room for SME development, survival, and growth if the finance issue is handled. From the results obtained in the course of the study, it is observe that entrepreneurship policies such as education, promotion, access to finance and development of SMEs in Aba, Abia State Nigeria is challenged with poor implementation and corruption. Despite the problems militating against the growth of SMEs in Nigeria, there is still



enormous room for the growth and development of SMEs in Nigeria. Governments' judicious implementation its entrepreneurial policies will help in sustainable development of SMEs.

Eze, Oladimeji & Fayose (2019) investigates the impact of entrepreneurial orientation (EO) on the performance of micro, small, and medium-sized businesses (MSMEs) in Abia State, Nigeria. Through the distribution of a standardized questionnaire to the CEOs of a few chosen MSMEs in Abia State, Nigeria, survey research was conducted. The results showed that in Abia State, Nigeria, the performance of MSMEs is primarily driven by innovativeness, risk-taking, pro-activeness, autonomy, achievement, and learning orientations. While competitive aggressiveness does not significantly affect MSMEs performance. The adjusted R² revealed that EO dimensions account for 61% variation in MSMEs performance in Abia State, Nigeria. It can therefore be concluded that EO positively and significantly affects MSMEs performance in Abia State, Nigeria. The study contributes to the literature on EO, by examining EO from seven dimensions (innovative, risk-taking, proactive, autonomy, achievement, competitive aggressiveness and learning orientations). MSMEs should develop their innovative, risk-taking, proactive, autonomy, achievement and learning orientations toward attaining increased revenue.

Nnamani, Onyia and Nnamani (2021) investigates the impact of economic factors on the growth of entrepreneurship in Nigeria. A survey of small and medium-sized businesses in the three most industrialized regions of south-eastern Nigeria was conducted, with participants coming from Enugu East in Enugu State, Nnewi in Anambra State, and Aba in Abia State. The key instrument for data collection was a questionnaire designed. The Data were analysis using Linear Regression Analyzed, SPSS version 21. The result revealed that, absence of inflationary rate is significantly positive (the regression coefficient of inflation rate is 0.076 while the significant value is 0.755) on the entrepreneurship development and it has strong significantly positive effect on the development. According to the report, the government should support efforts to reduce inflation in order to boost economic growth and entrepreneurship, as well as to eradicate poverty by giving young people more opportunities to do both.

Makinde and Agu (2018) argued that Strategic entrepreneurship has become dominant in the contemporary world and it is considered an effective tool for economic. Entrepreneurship contributes to performance of SMEs in Aba

metropolis, Abia State. This study examined the effect of strategic entrepreneurship on performance of selected SMEs in Aba metropolis. The study adopted the survey research design. The population of the study consisted of 231 owner/managers of the selected SMEs in the manufacturing, the finance, health and the food and beverages sectors in Aba metropolis. The total enumeration method of sampling was used and data were gathered through the use of a questionnaire. The instrument was validated and the KMO values were greater than 0.5 while the reliability test was 0.875. Data were analyzed using simple linear regression analysis. The results revealed that strategic entrepreneurship variables have effects on the performance variables. The study conclude that strategic entrepreneurship plays an important role in enhancing the performance of SMEs in Aba metropolis. Because strategic entrepreneurship has a good impact on performance, it was advised that SMEs pay close attention to adopting it.

Afulike, Ihechu & Ndukwe (2018) in the bid to improve the economy, encourage entrepreneurship and to enhance manufacturing and production; the importance of the media campaign on made in Aba products and SMEs is required to develop domestic-local economy while being cautious not to focus too much on foreign goods. The study evaluates media campaigns in terms of inhabitants of Aba's awareness of, patronage of, and attitudes toward Aba-made goods as well as their perception of the influence of SMEs. In order to elicit responses, a survey approach was used with a questionnaire administered to 400 respondents. According to the study's conclusions, the degree of the present Made in Aba media campaign and its perceived influence is insufficient to encourage more SMEs to engage in economic activity. Therefore, it was advised in the study that all media affiliates should run a regular media campaign on manufactured in Aba products and SMEs with a focus on showcasing Aba products.

Nnabugwu (2021) investigates the strategic entrepreneurship and competitive advantage of SMES' in Anambra State, Nigeria. The main objective of the study was to ascertain the entrepreneurial education entrepreneurial orientation and entrepreneurial knowledge on competitive advantage of SMEs' in Anambra state, Nigeria. Descriptive survey research design was adopted .The research area for the study was carried out Anambra State in Southeast Nigeria. The sources of data for this research were primary data. The population of the study comprised 1,737 registered owners of small and medium enterprises (SMEs) in



Anambra state in the three of its commercial cities (Onitsha, Nnewi, and Awka). The sample size comprises 339 registered owners of small and medium enterprises (SMEs). A structured instrument questionnaire was designed to reflect the popular five (5) point Likert scale and shall also be subjected to face and content validity procedures. The reliability of the questionnaire was determined through the test-retest method. The sets of responses were correlated using Cronbach's Alpha reliability Coefficient and 0.773 was obtained. The hypotheses were tested using Multiple Regression Analysis (MRA) method. The analysis shows that entrepreneurial education has a significant positive influence on competitive advantage in SMEs' in Anambra state, Nigeria. Entrepreneurial orientation has significant and positive effect on competitive advantage of SMEs' in Anambra state, Nigeria. The Study recommends that Owner/management should increase the level of entrepreneurial knowledge they have in order to acquire more skills to operate efficiently in order to gain competitive advantage.

2.3 Identified Gap in Empirical Literature

In earlier studies, the performance of micro, small, and medium-sized firms (MSMEs) in Abia State, Nigeria, was the focus. Omede and Aghanenu (2021), for instance, looked at how innovation affected entrepreneurship in Aba, Abia State, Nigeria. While other researchers, such as Ali, Gongbing, and Mehreen, (2018) investigated the supply chain finance to improve SMEs' performance and the role of trade digitization. The entrepreneurial talent is also examined by Nwosu, Onwumelu, and Dialoke (2017) as a tool for economic progress in contemporary Nigeria. However, this work differs significantly from this previous work as its centers mainly on the effect of Aba made shoes and economic development of the state. The work focus mainly on the effect training and retraining of artisans on Aba made shoes, innovation and packaging as well as the level of patronage of Aba made shoes. In order words the study tends to contribute to knowledge the gains of Aba made shoes to economic development of the state. Contrary to previous works, that centered only on organizational behaviour of small and medium scale enterprises in Aba. The study also tends the challenges confronting Aba made shoes.

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3. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

Research design refers to the overall strategy chosen by a researcher to integrate the different components of the study in a coherent and logical way, thereby, ensuring it effectively addresses the research problem (Nwanosike, Nwachukwu and Nwasuka 2021). It is the researcher's choice to decide on the most appropriate strategy, based largely on the objectives specific to a particular research study. This research will adopt survey design. This was used because the data will be collected directly from the source using questionnaire.

Population was generally taken to be the totality of all elements or subject or number which possesses common and specific characteristics within a geographical location. From this information, it implies that 13,450 people are engaged in shoes in Araitha international market and sells in Aba. For instance approximately 5 workers. Calculating the numbers together will give us 13,450.

A sample implies a proportion which was taken as a representative of the whole population and which conclusion are made on them (Uzoagulu, 1998). The sample frame of this study will be drawn from 1400 women producing shoes with an average number of 5 and 12,900 men producing shoes. To obtain the sample size for the study, therefore, the Yamane (1969) method was

$$\text{used: } n = \frac{N}{1 + N(e)^2}$$

Where n= Sampling size, N= Total Population, e= error Margin (5%); 1= Constant.

Using 1,400 women producing shoes with an average number of 5 and 12,900 men producing shoes with the level of significance (e)= 0.05. Given



the sample population, the study arrived at 150 sample size to for the study.

The researcher has made use of primary data in order to ensure the reliability of the information resulting from the research. The questionnaire will be divided into two sections: Section A and B. Section A using the demographic variables while section B consists of questions relevant to the problem. A twenty (20) item questionnaires with structured or close ended questions was constructed and a total of four hundred (150) copies will be given to the respondents to fill with the format adopting a 5 likert scale in a numeric format 12 implies "Regular" 11 implies "Seasonal" 10 implies "Occasional" 9 implies "Not at all" 8 implies "Very High" 7 implies "High" 6 implies "Moderate" 5 implies "Low" 4 implies "Very Low" 3 implies "Yes" 2 implies "No" and 1 connotes "Not Sure".

The instrument that will be used to carry out this research work is the questionnaire, which was thoroughly examined and validated by my supervisor and two other lecturers in the department. Both the content and face validity of the instrument were determined by the supervisor. The data collection process is reliable owing to the fact that it

was collected from respondents that can be accessed, verified and used at any time and can therefore provide the same results when used by another researcher. The copies of the questionnaires were administered to the respondents. This was done with the aim of increasing the response rate and reducing the possibility of respondents not answering some of the questions.

3.8 Methods of Data Analysis

Having gathering the data through the administration of questionnaires, the collected data will be coded, tabulated and analyzed according to the research question and hypothesis. In other to analyze the data collected effectively and efficiently for easy management and accuracy, the sample percentage method will be the analytical tool used for this research project and a sample size of four hundred (388.4) was represented by 100% for easy analysis of the responses.

RESULT PRESENTATION AND DISCUSSION OF FINDINGS

In this section, the results of the reliability test, correlation results and descriptive statistics are presented and discussed.

4.1 Reliability test result

	Number	Percentage (%)
Valid cases	149	99.2
Excluded	1	.8
Total	150	100
Cronbach's Alpha	8	0.724

Source: the Researcher computation with SPSS 20.0

Table 4.1 shows the reliability test of this study. According to Maslach and Jackson(1986), the reliability analysis is accepted if the Cronbach's alpha coefficient range is between 0.6 and 1.0. Table 4.1 indicates that the Cronbach's alpha for our

variables 0.724. This implies that the statements in the questionnaire are all consistent and have captured the information about the variables. Therefore, we accept the information in the survey and its analysis to be reliable.

Socio-Demographic characteristics of the respondents

Table 4.2 Sex of the respondents:

Gender	Frequency	Percentage
Male	80	53%
Female	70	47%
Total	150	100%

Source: The Researcher's Field Survey, 2022

Table 4.2 above shows the total sex distribution of the respondents sampled. The survey revealed that 80 out of 150 of the respondents were men showing 53% as against 70 who were female, which is 47%. This implies that men dominate shoe

production in Aba compared to that of female counterparts that are only 47% and out of this number that were engaged in shoe production.



Table 4.3: Age Distribution of the respondents

Age	Frequency	Percentage
20-30	51	34%
31-40	67	45%
41-50	20	13%
Above	11	7%
Total	149	99%

Source: the Researcher's Field Survey, 2022

Table 4.3 shows the age distribution of the respondents who are engaged in shoe production in Aba. The survey shows that artisans within the age of 31-40 years had the highest number of shoe artisans in Aba with 67 respondents showing 45%, followed by those within the age of 20-30 years with respondent 51 showing 34%. While those between the age of 41- 50 were 20 responses showing 13%,

and the least were those above 50 with 11 responses showing 7%. This implies younger age brackets of 20 - 40 years dominate the shoe making industry in Aba. This number include both apprentice and the chairman, masters while those within the age of 41 and above are mainly the masters (boss) of the younger generation of shoe producers in Aba.

Table 4.4: Marital status of the respondents

Marital status	Frequency	Percentage
Married	50	33%
Single	89	59%
Divorce	4	3%
Total	143	95%

Source: the Researcher's Field Survey, 2022

The table 4.4 shows the marital status of the respondents who are engaged in shoe production in Aba. The survey shows that the single artisans in Aba with 89 respondents showing 59%, followed by the married artisans in Aba with 50 respondents

showing 33%. While those divorced were 4 responses showing 3%. This implies the single artisans dominate a higher engagement in shoe production.

Table 4.5: Residence status of the respondents

Residence	Frequency	Percentage
Aba	94	65%
Outside aba	48	32%
Total	146	97%

Source: the Researcher's Field Survey, 2022

Table 4.5 shows the residence status of the respondents who are residing in Aba and outside Aba. The survey shows that those living in Aba with 94 respondents showing 65%, while those living outside Aba with 48 respondents showing 32%. This

indicates that shoe artisans reside in Aba to enable them respond to their business on time without worrying of much expenses to spend on transportation while coming to their place of work.

Data presentation

Table 4.8: To ascertain the effect of training and retraining of artisans on made in Aba shoes.

	R	S	O	NA	Total
How often do you go for training/workshop on shoe making?	16 10.67%	62 41.33%	48 32%	23 15.33%	

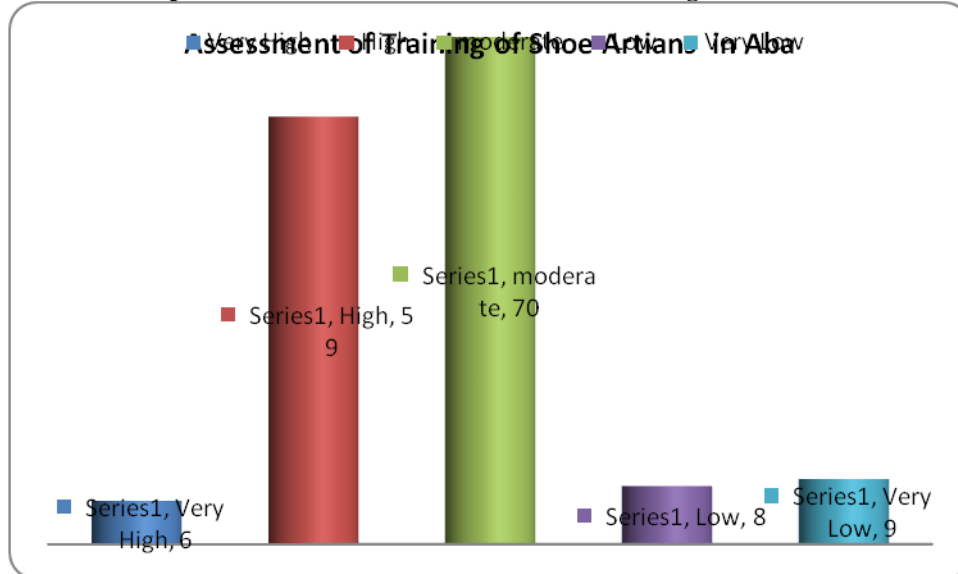
Source: the Researcher's Field Survey, 2022



This table 4.7 above shows the effect of training and retraining of artisans on made in Aba shoes. The table revealed that 62 out of 150 respondents sampled undergoes seasonal training and workshops in shoe making. This represents 41% against 32% of the respondents that go for

occasional training and workshop. However, 11% of the respondents do have regular training on shoe making in Aba. Although, 15% of artisans do not undergo any training. This implies 84% of the shoe artisans in Aba pass one form of training or the other.

Chart 1: Graphical demonstration of assessment of training of shoe artisans in Aba



Source: the Researcher's design 2022 from Field Survey Responses

The chart one indicates the assessment of training of shoe artisans in Aba. From the chart above we see that the level of training showing 70 respondents agreed on moderate followed by 59 respondents showing high. This implies that training does not affect shoe production.

Table 4.10: To examine the effects of made in Aba shoes in developing the state economy.

	VH	H	M	L	VL
Rate the impact of Aba made shoes on the economy of Abia state?	15 10%	69 46%	56 37.33%	13 8.67%	1 0.67%

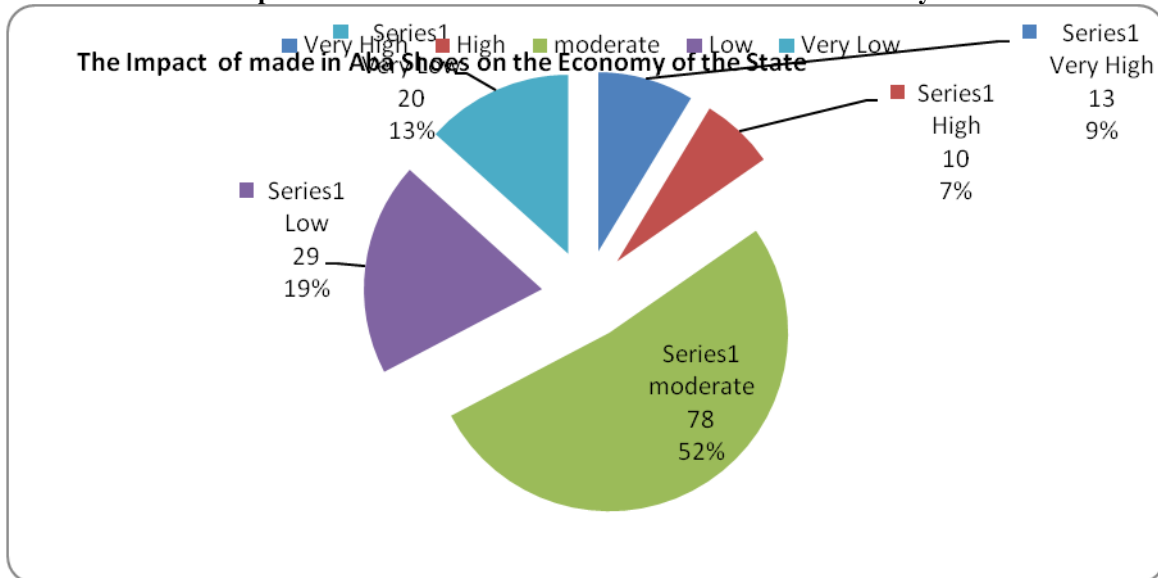
Source: the Researcher's Field Survey, 2022

Table 4.10 above shows the effects of made in Aba shoes in developing the state economy. The table above shows that 10% respondents answered very high on the impact of Aba made shoes on the economy of Abia state while 37.33% responded

moderate in the impact of Aba made shoes on the economy of Abia state. However, 46% of the respondents asserted that made in Aba shoes highly impact and contribute in the economy to the state.



Chart 2: Graphical demonstration of made in Aba shoes on the economy of the state



Source: the Researcher’s design 2022 from Field Survey Responses

The chart 2 above illustrates the impact of made in Aba shoes on the economy of the state. Looking at the chart we see that 70 respondents agreed on moderate followed by 10 respondents showing high. This implies that made in Aba shoes helps in the development of the state economy.

Table 4.11: To examine how often shoe artisans in Aba pay tax.

	Regular	Seasonal	occasional	Not at all
How often do shoe artisans in Aba pay tax?	15 10%	81 54%	42 28%	8 5.33%

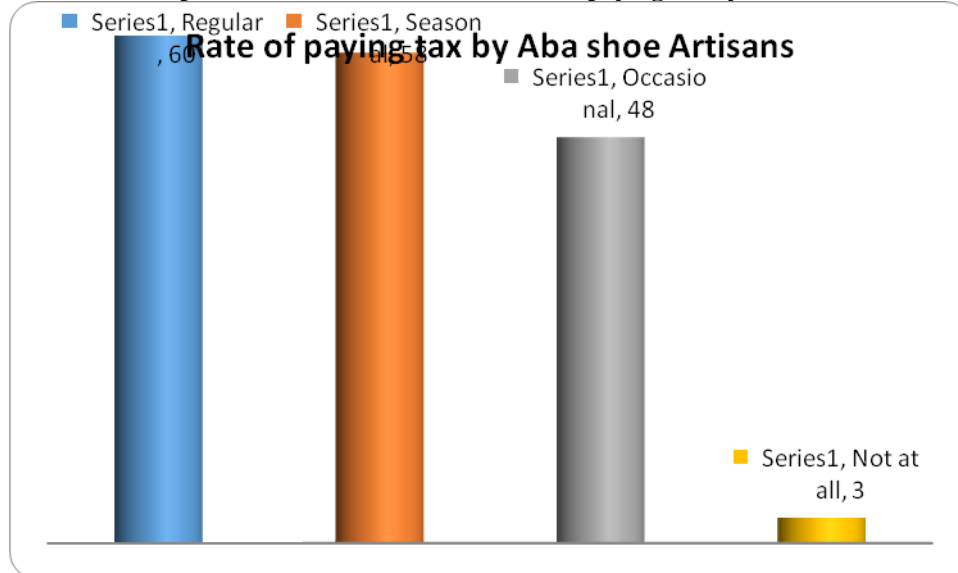
Source: the Researcher’s Field Survey, 2022

The table 4.11 above shows the effects of made in Aba shoes in developing the state economy. The table above shows the effects of made in Aba shoes in developing the state economy. It shows that 10% of the sampled artisans pay their tax regularly, 58% pay their tax seasonal while

28% pay tax to government occasionally. This follows that government generate a significant tax revenue from Aba shoe artisans, which help in the development of the state economy.



Chart 3: Graphical demonstration on the rate of paying tax by Aba shoe artisans



Source: the Researcher’s design 2022 from Field Survey Responses

The chart 3 above indicates the rate of paying tax by Aba artisans. Looking at the chart we see that 60 respondents agreed on regular while 38 respondents agreed on seasonal and 48 respondents

agreed on occasional. This implies that the rate of paying tax by shoe artisans can be regularly, seasonal, and occasional.

Table 4.13: To ascertain the level of patronage by aba residence and beyond on made in Aba shoes in developing the economy of the state.

	VH	H	M	L	VL
Rate the patronage of Aba made shoes?	13 8.67%	10 6.67%	78 52%	29 19.33%	20 13.33%

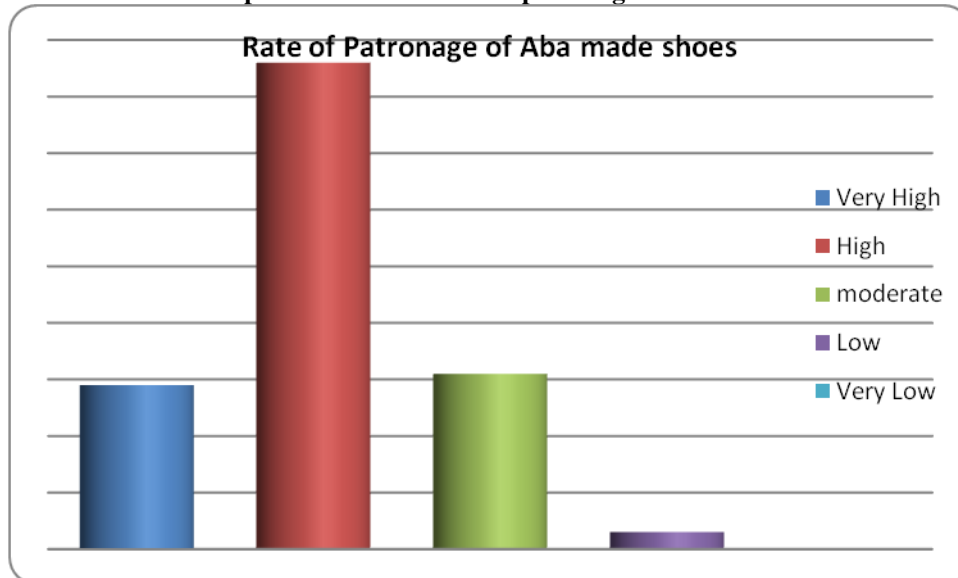
Source: the Researcher’s Field Survey, 2022

The table 4.12 above shows the level of patronage by aba residence and beyond on made in Aba shoes in developing the economy of the state. Majority of the respondents revealed their level of patronage from within and outside the state. For instance, 65% of the artisans surveyed show that there is a significant patronage from Aba residence

and beyond as against 35% that said otherwise. With regards to quality of the Aba made shoe, 95% of the respondents rated otherwise. Furthermore, almost all the respondents asserts that the Aba made shoes are cheaper compare to foreign made shoes.



Chart 4: Graphical demonstration of patronage of made in Aba shoes



Source: the Researcher’s design 2022 from Field Survey Responses

The chart 4 above shows the rate of patronage of made in Aba shoes. The charts indicate that 80 respondents agreed on high which implies that Aba made shoes are been patronized by people both within and outside Aba.

Table 4.19: To investigate factors militating against made in Aba shoes in economic development of the state.

What are the major challenges confronting made in Aba shoes?	Frequency	Percentage
Poor power supply	102	68%
Multiple taxes and levis	56	37.33%
Poor road network	28	18.67%
Lack of quality machines	87	58%
Lack of training	53	35.33%
Poor support from government	13	8.67%

Source: the Researcher’s Field Survey, 2022

The table 4.19 above shows the factors militating against made in Aba shoes in economic development of the state. 68% of the respondents rated on the challenges of poor power supply in shoe making process. This challenges is faced with poor power supply that affects shoe production in the sense that some machines cannot facilitate without the use of power supply and production becomes slow. Also, 37% of the respondents emphasized on the challenges of multiple taxes and levies been imposed on them. A lot of taxes are been issued on artisans weather the make sells or not they must pay tax. Based on the poor road network, 19% of the respondents, noted that in most cases during rainy season artisans find it difficult to go to work cause of bad roads and the sells are poor when it rains due to poor roads. People find it difficult to go to market. Also those coming from far to buy shoes

finds there journey very stressful and some are been robbed on the way. Furthermore 58% of the respondents is faced with the challenges on lack of quality machines. Without good machines production of shoes will be slow and cannot be able to meet up to the demand of people. Using of only one machines tends to wear out easily.

4.2 Testing of hypotheses

In this section, the study tends to evaluate and test the hypotheses of this research work as follows;

1. Ho: There is no significant effect of training and retraining of artisans on made in Aba shoes.

Decision: From the results in table 4.7 and 4.9, total of 85% of the Aba shoe artisans indicated to have undergone one form of training/retraining or the other as against 15% that stated otherwise.



Furthermore, 74% of the respondents agreed that their training/retraining (regular, seasonal, and occasional) help to improve their products. Based on the above evidence, we reject the null hypothesis and accept the alternative hypothesis. The study concludes that training and retraining of artisans significantly help in improving made in Aba shoes.

2. Ho: There is no significant effect of made in Aba shoes in developing the state economy.

Decision: Following the result analysis in table 4.10 and 4.11 where (10%, 46% and 37%) revealed that made in Aba shoes helps in developing of the state economy. Furthermore the study revealed that (10%, 54% and 28%) pay regular tax, seasonal tax and occasional tax which help in the development of the economy of the state. Therefore, following this evidence, this study rejects the null hypothesis. The study concludes that made in Aba shoes contribute to economy of the state.

3. Ho: There is no significant effect on the level of patronage by Aba residence and beyond on made in Aba shoes in developing the economy of the state.

Decision: From table 4.12 and 4.13, total of 65% of the artisans surveyed show that there is a significant patronage from Aba residence and beyond as against 35% that said otherwise. Furthermore, with regards to quality of Aba made shoe, 95% of the respondents rated otherwise. Based on the above evidence, we reject the null hypothesis. The study concludes that there is a level of patronage by Aba residence and beyond on made in Aba shoes in developing the economy of the state.

5 Summary of research findings: This study investigated on made in Aba shoes as a tool for the development of the state economy as well as challenges confronting made in Aba shoes in the recent times. The study also centered on the training and innovations of Aba shoe artisans as well as its patronage of the state residence and beyond. The study used a survey to gather her data and analyzed same using SPSS 20.0. The following findings were deducted after the analysis;

1. The study found that training as well retraining of artisans help to improve the qualities and quantities of made in Aba shoes.

2. The study also revealed that Aba artisans pay a lot of taxes to government agencies ranging from seasonal, occasional, and regular taxes to the government which serves as internal generated (IGR) for the government.

3. The study found that Aba artisans get commendable patronage from both within and outside the state.

4. The study unveiled the challenges facing Aba made shoes which includes; poor power supply, multiple taxes and levies, poor road network, lack of quality machines, lack of training and poor support from government.

5.2 Policy Recommendation

From the research findings on the study on made in Aba shoes for the tool for the development of the state. The following research policy recommendations were suggested in line with our research findings.

1. The state government needs to invest more in the training of Aba shoe artisans especially in abroad, so as to improve their skills and their outputs.

2. Following the research finding on multiple taxations of shoe artisans, government need to harmonize taxes levied on Aba shoe artisans so as to encourage the infant shoe industry. (Aba shoe industry).

3. Furthermore, following the studies regulation on high (IGR) generated in Ariaria Aba. The state government need to invest massively in the shoe market industry especially in the area of road network and provision of more affordable shops.

4. With the regards to the challenges facing the Aba shoe industry. The study recommends immediate provision of constant light by the government, reduction in level of taxes, provision of quality machines so as to improve and increase the output of the Aba shoe industry.

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