

Assessing Skills Gap In Ready-To-Wear Garments And Second-Hand Clothing: A Study Of Local Dressmakers In Naval, Biliran For Skills Development In Rtw

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Abstract

Dressmakers can use their creative abilities to propose something unique in the apparel sector. They tend to produce new ideas or improve past designs to create something new with their fashion lines. This study assessed the skills gap in ready-to-wear garments in secondhand clothing of local dressmakers at Naval, Biliran, as the basis for skills development in RTW for local dressmakers. The study also explores the demographic profiles of the group respondents as to age and gender, civil status, employment status, and combined monthly income. The researchers used the descriptive research method to gather information about the respondents' demographic profile and the status in ready-to-wear secondhand clothing as to the following core competencies: drafting and cutting patterns for casual apparel, preparing and cutting materials for casual apparel, sewing casual apparel, and applying finishing touches on casual apparel. The data obtained were analyzed using percentage, weighted mean, and correlation with 0.05 significance level. Based on the findings, the skills on the core competencies in dressmaking of the local dressmakers show a positive response. However, regarding knowledge of different fashions, it was perceived that local dressmakers needed to be more knowledgeable. This poses a challenging threat to the local dressmaker community since the first step in creating a new design is knowing the current fashion and making a new design to meet customers' expectations and needs. Recognizing the impact of these results makes it very important to provide appropriate support to our local dressmakers.

Keywords: Industrial Technology, Skills Development, Descriptive-Correlation Research, Naval biliran, Philippines

INTRODUCTION

Maslow's hierarchy of needs identifies food, clothing, and shelter as fundamental physiological needs (Bueno & Jeffrey, 2012). Clothing is essential for human protection against environmental threats, such as heavy rains, the sweltering heat of the sun or strong winds, and diseases. Thus, clothing is essential for one's survival. The regular and consistent need for decent clothing guarantees that the clothing industry will never go out of business. It may change in style over the years, but clothing will always be necessary and a commodity sought in the markets.

There are several ways clothing can be made. Commercially, one can buy ready-to-wear apparel in department stores. Ready-to-wear (RTW) garments were available in the Philippines in the early 70s (Gaupo, 2008). However, RTWs were generally imported and were only available in a few boutiques. RTW stocks were also limited then. RTW then was expensive, especially the imported line. In the 80s, secondhand clothing (SHC), colloquially known as ukay-ukay, started in the Philippines. The first SHC was said to have been sent to Baguio through the Salvation Army Philippines as humanitarian aid to victims of calamities (Cordero-Fernando, 2016). Nowadays, used clothing is available in markets far and wide, and they continue to proliferate despite the passage of Republic Act 4653, which prohibits the importation of secondhand garments. The Filipino people continually patronize ukay-ukay for its affordable price. At the same time, groups promoting secondhand use claim SHCs to be a sustainable response to reducing textile waste and extending the lifespan of garments (Sing & Esquivias, 2019). SHCs come from developed countries, such as the European Union, which generates textile waste at around 9.35 million tons per year (Bell et al., 2017), and the United States with about 10.5 million tons per year (Environmental Protection Agency, 2018).

Another way of obtaining clothing items and keeping up with fashion is by ordering customized apparel from tailors or dressmakers. Before the RTW trend and the proliferation of SHC, customized garments were the standard way of getting clothes in the Philippines. Local dressmakers were in demand, particularly in the provinces, where boutiques and large textile factories were hardly available. However, as the

Philippines and other developing countries in Southeast Asia continued to be a repository of textile waste from developed countries, the local dressmaking industry started to suffer. The local textile industry took the brunt when China opened its economy to the world in 1978 and started adhering to drastic economic reforms (The World Bank, 2022), such as mass manufacturing textiles to be dumped in developing countries. As a member of the World Trade Organization, the Philippines willingly became a repository of cheap textiles that were mass-produced in China. The Philippines imported USD 2.78 billion of textiles from China in 2020 (Observatory of Economic Complexity, 2020). With the wide availability of used clothing, cheap garments, and mass-market RTW, local dressmakers were affected.

In Naval, Biliran, the dressmaking industry is still alive and thriving, although it is now more in-demand and vibrant than before the dominance of cheap SHC and RTWs in the local market. Courses related to garments technology is still being offered in the province's major academic institution, the Biliran Province State University (BiPSU), as well as in TESDA's training centers around Biliran. Despite the proliferation of cheap SHC or ukay-ukay and RTWs, local dressmakers are still sought after by those requiring customized garment products, such as school uniforms, gowns, costumes, and special occasions.

This study aims to determine the effect of ready-to-wear and secondhand clothing on the local dressmaking industry in the municipality of Naval, province of Biliran. Remarkably, the study will explore the various impacts of RTW and SHC on local dressmakers in the area and how these global economic developments affected their lives and their overall living conditions.

Through this study, the researcher seeks to assess and evaluate the current situation of local dressmakers in Naval, Biliran, including their challenges, and provide recommendations to promote a more sustainable dressmaking industry in the locality.

Objective

This research assessed the skills gap in ready-to-wear garments in secondhand clothing of local dressmakers at Naval, Biliran, in the Fiscal Year 2022 as the basis for skills development in RTW for local dressmakers. Specifically, it will answer the following sub-problems:

1. What is the profile of dressmakers in Naval in terms of:

- 1.1.** Age;
- 1.2.** Sex;
- 1.3.** Civil Status;
- 1.4.** Employment status; and
- 1.5.** Average monthly income?

2. As perceived by the respondents, what is their status in ready-to-wear second-hand clothing's as to the following core competencies:

- 2.1.** drafting and cutting patterns for casual apparel
- 2.2.** preparing and cutting materials for casual apparel
- 2.3.** sewing casual apparel, and

2.4 applying finishing touches on casual apparel?

3. Is there a significant relationship between the profile and skills in core competencies?

4. What are the issues and concerns relating to the status of ready to wear 2nd hand clothing's?

5. Based on the findings of the study, what recommendations can be proposed for the dressmakers and garments industry in Naval, Biliran?

METHODOLOGY

This section discusses the design, flow, and environment of the study. It also discussed the research respondents, the research instruments, and the procedure to be employed in gathering data, and how

these data are going to be processed and analyzed.

Design

The research utilized a descriptive research design to describe the current conditions of the research variables. It will determine and describe the current status of local dressmakers in the Naval regarding age, sex, civil status, employment status, and average monthly income and relate it to the respondents' current living status. A descriptive study describes the characteristics of the population or phenomenon studied. This methodology focuses more on the "what" of the research subject than the "why" of the research subject (Siedlecki, 2020).

Flow of the Study

This study employs a three-stage approach that serves as a framework for obtaining its objectives. The study's flow includes input, process, and output. The input includes responding to the study questions, such as the effect of RTW and SHC on local dressmakers in Naval, Biliran.

Determining the effect of RTWs and SHCs on the local dressmaking industry in the locality will require conducting specific processes. The process involves securing a permit to conduct the study, preparing questionnaires, gathering data, organizing it, and analyzing it.

RESULTS

This section discussed the profiles of the respondents as to age, gender, civil status, employment status, and average monthly income that might contribute to the study.

Age and Gender

Age and gender of the respondents are two of the most essential characteristics in understanding the perception of the respondents on the level of teacher's competence.

Table 1 Age and Gender

Age	Local Dress Makers			
	Gender		Total	
	F	M	f	%
46 above	0	0	0	0
41-45	10	4	14	70
36-40	4	0	4	20
31-35	2	0	2	10
26 below	0	0	0	0
Total	16	4	20	100

Table 2 presents the data in terms of age and gender of the local dress makers in Naval, Biliran. Data shows that more than half 16 or (80%) of the respondents were female, while the remaining 4 or (20%) were male. It can also be seen that majority of the respondents 40 or (70%) were in the age group of 41-45, followed by 4 or (20%) were in the 36-40 age group, and lastly 2 or (10%) were in the age group of 31-35. This indicates that most of the respondents were female, within the age group of 41- 45.

Civil Status

Marital status is one of the most important social institutions. It helps agencies understand marriage trends that focus on the well-being of families, including tax policies and financial assistance programs.

Table 2 Civil Status

Civil Status	Frequency, f	Percentage (%)
Married	5	25
Single	15	75
Total	20	100

Table 3 shows the civil status of the respondents. Data shows that 15 or 75% of the respondents were single, while the remaining 5% were married. The perceptions and attitudes of the person can also differ by the marital status of the person because the marriage might make the person a little more responsible and mature in understanding and giving the responses to the questions asked.

Employment Status

The employment status of a person determines the rights and employment protections to which they are entitled at work, as well as the duties that a company owes to that employee.

Table 3 Employment Status

Employment Status	Local Dressmakers	
	f	%
Regular	2	20
Casual	0	0
Job Order	0	0
Temporary	18	90
Total	20	100

Table 5 shows the employment status of the local dressmakers. Data shows that 18 or 90% of the local dressmakers were temporary, while the remaining 2 or (20%) was a regular employee. This indicates that most of the respondents were in temporary status, which addresses the workers who are engaged only for a specific period of time, including fixed-term, project- or task-based contracts, as well as seasonal, including day labor.

Monthly Income

The income of a person plays an important role in shaping the economic conditions of an individual, which in turn is likely to have a bearing on the responses to a problem posed to him.

Table 4 Monthly Income

Combine Family Income	Frequency	Percentage
30,000 above	0	0
20,000 above	4	20
10,000 above	16	80
10,00 below	0	0
Total	20	100

Table 10 shows the combined family income of the local dressmakers. Data shows that 16 or (80%) have 10,000 above salary but not beyond 20,000, while the remaining 4 or (20%) have 20,000 above salary. This indicates that most of the local dressmakers were minimum-wage earners.

STATUS IN READY TO WEAR 2ND HAND CLOTHING'S AS TO THE FOLLOWING CORE SKILLS

Core competencies cover the knowledge, skills, and attitudes in drafting and cutting patterns of casual apparel. It details the requirements for planning garment design, taking body measurements, drafting basic/block patterns, manipulating and cutting the final pattern. Therefore, these competencies enable individuals to draft and cut patterns, lay out patterns on the material/fabric, sew material/fabric, and apply finishing touches on the ladies' casual apparel of the Garment sector.

Drafting and cutting pattern for casual apparel

This competency covers the knowledge, skills, and attitudes in drafting and cutting patterns of casual apparel. It details the requirements for planning garment design, taking body measurements, drafting basic/block patterns, and manipulating and cutting final patterns.

Table 5 Drafting and Cutting Pattern

Indicators	Mean	VD
Drafting and Cutting Pattern for Casual Apparel	4.12	K
Plan garment design	3.54	K
Take the client's body measurement	3.46	K
Draft basic/block pattern	4.04	K
Manipulate pattern	4.10	K
Cut final pattern	4.15	K
Grand Mean	3.90	K

Legend: Well Knowledgeable: 4.21-5.00, Knowledgeable: 3.41-4.20, Moderately Knowledgeable: 2.61-3.40, Less Knowledgeable: 1.81-2.60, Not Knowledgeable: 1.00-1.80

Table 6 presents the data in terms of the core competency skills of the local dressmakers. Data shows that the skill of drafting and cutting pattern for casual apparel got the highest weighted mean of 4.12 which verbally described as knowledgeable, while the skills in plan garment design got the lowest weighted mean of 3.54, which also verbally described as knowledgeable. Overall, the competency in drafting and cutting patterns got a grand mean of 3.90 which was verbally described as knowledgeable. Barreto (2018) emphasized that pattern drafting is an integral part of fashion designing and requires tremendous skills and practice. Pattern drafting is where pattern pieces are drawn on paper according to body measurement, which becomes the base for designers to create garments. This indicates that pattern cutters act as an essential bridge between the design and manufacturing processes, helping to translate the creative vision into a garment that looks good on different sizes and shapes of body.

Preparing and Cutting Materials for Casual Apparel

This competency covers the knowledge, skills and attitudes required to prepare and cut casual apparel materials and accessories. It includes the requirements for preparing materials, lay-outing and marking pattern on materials and cutting materials.

Table 6 Preparing And Cutting Materials

Indicators	Mean	VD
Prepare materials (fabric)	4.26	WK
Lay-out and mark patterns on materials	4.26	WK
Cut materials	4.42	WK
Total	4.31	WK

Table 7 presents the data regarding the preparation and cutting materials skills of the local dressmakers. Data shows that the skill of cut materials got the highest weighted mean of 4.42, which verbally described as well knowledgeable, while preparing materials (fabric) and lay-out and mark pattern on materials got the lowest weighted mean of 4.26 which verbally also described as well knowledgeable. Overall, the competency in preparing and cutting materials got a grand mean of 4.31, which verbally described as well knowledgeable. According to Wen (2021), before working on any fabric, however, you first need to prepare it for sewing. Properly prepping your fabric is very important so that it will perform according to your expectations. This indicates that preparing and cutting materials is essential to make sure you follow the care instructions provided by the manufacturer of your fabric.

Sewing Casual Apparel

This module covers the knowledge, skills, and attitudes required in sewing casual apparel. It includes the requirements for preparing cut parts, preparing sewing machines for operations, and sewing garments.

Table 7 Sewing Casual Apparel

Indicators	Mean	VD
Prepare cut parts	4.26	WK
Prepare sewing machine for operation	4.80	WK
Sew and assemble garment parts	4.56	WK
Alter completed garments	4.10	K
Total	4.43	WK

Table 8 presents the data in terms of the sewing casual apparel skills of the local dressmakers. Data shows that the skill of preparing the sewing machine for operation got the highest weighted mean of 4.80, which verbally described as well

knowledgeable, while the skill referring to altering completed garments got the lowest weighted mean of 4.10, which verbally described as knowledgeable. Overall, the competency in sewing casual apparel got a grand mean of 4.43, which verbally described as well knowledgeable. Clark (2008) emphasized that being able to sew enables us to make the most out of existing items that need minor repairs for a longer life span.

Applying Finishing Touches on Casual Apparel

This competency covers the knowledge, skills, and attitude on applying finishing touches, trimming excess threads, pressing the finished garment, and packaging the finished garment.

Table 8

Applying Finishing Touches

Indicators	Mean	VD
Apply finishing touches	4.65	WK
Trim excess threads	4.40	WK
Press Finished garment	4.54	WK
Package the Finished garment	4.80	WK
Total	4.60	WK

Table 9 presents the data in terms of the applying finishing touches skills of the local dressmakers. Data shows that the skill of packaging the finished garment got the highest weighted mean of 4.80, which verbally

described as well knowledgeable, while the skill referring to trimming excess threads got the lowest weighted mean of 4.40, which verbally described as well knowledgeable. Overall, the competency in applying finishing touches got a grand mean of 4.60, which verbally described as well knowledgeable. Franco (2017) states that the last stage of any product's production is the manufacturer's finishing touch. This is the most crucial part of the manufacturing process. This indicates that the final touch enables an end product to be of high quality and withstand any wear and tear.

Table 9 SUMMARY TABLE

Core Competencies	Mean	Verbal Description
Drafting and cutting pattern	3.90	Knowledgeable
Drafting and cutting pattern	4.31	Well-Knowledgeable
Sewing casual apparel	4.43	Well-Knowledgeable
Applying finishing touches	4.60	Well-Knowledgeable
Grand Mean	4.31	Well-Knowledgeable

Table 10 presents the data regarding the status of the core competency skills of the local dressmaker. Finding shows that the competency of applying finishing touches got the highest weighted mean of 4.60 verbally described as well- knowledgeable, followed by sewing casual apparel, drafting and cutting pattern, and lastly drafting and cutting pattern got the lowest weighted mean of 3.90 verbally described as knowledgeable. Overall, the skills of the local dressmaker in the core competencies got a grand mean of 4.31 which verbally described as well- knowledgeable.

RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE RESPONDENTS' PROFILES AND SKILLS IN CORE SKILLS IN DRESSMAKING

This section presents the test of significant relationship between the respondent's profile and their skills in the core skills in dressmaking.

Table 10

Significant relationship between profiles and Core Competencies

Core Skills	Variables	r-value	p-value	Decision	Result
Drafting and cutting pattern	Age	0.145	0.121	Do not Reject Ho	NS
	Gender	0.011	0.192	Do not Reject Ho	NS
	Civil Status	0.027	0.848	Do not reject Ho	NS
	Employment Status	0.053	0.142	Do not reject Ho	NS
Preparing and cutting	Age	-0.030	0.753	Do not reject Ho	NS
	Gender	-0.039	0.690	Do not reject Ho	NS
	Civil Status	-0.017	0.156	Do not reject Ho	NS
	Employment Status	-0.103	0.285	Do not reject Ho	NS

materials					
Sewing casual apparel	Age	0.135	0.160	Do not reject Ho	NS
	Gender	0.017	0.858	Do not reject Ho	NS
	Civil Status	0.052	0.591	Do not reject Ho	NS
	Employment Status	-0.145	0.130	Do not reject Ho	NS
Applying finishing touches	Age	-0.137	0.108	Do not reject Ho	NS
	Gender	-0.147	0.126	Do not reject Ho	NS
	Civil Status	-0.074	0.440	Do not reject Ho	NS
	Employment Status	-0.065	0.501	Do not reject Ho	NS

Looking at table 11, based on the findings as reflected on the 4 core competencies, statistical data shows that p-values of the profiles are higher than the level of significance 0.05 which indicates the acceptance of the hypothesis. Thus, there is no significant relationship between the profiles of the local dressmakers and the status of their skills in the core competencies (drafting and cutting patterns, preparing and cutting materials, sewing casual apparel, and applying finishing touches) of dressmaking.

Issues and Concerns

Issues and concerns refer to the problems or challenges that are perceived by the garment industry.

Table 11 Issues and Concerns

Issue and Concerns	Rank
knowledge of different fashions.	1
understanding of garment construction, and pattern-making skills.	2
knowledge of fabric types, colors and fabric care.	3
knowledge of different fashions.	4

These findings suggest that dressmakers need to be well-versed in current fashion trends and styles, as well as have a strong understanding of garment construction and pattern-making skills. Additionally, knowledge of different fabric types, colors, and fabric care is also critical to creating high-quality garments that look good and last long. Dressmakers who can stay up-to-date on fashion trends and have the skills and knowledge to create high-quality garments that are both fashionable and functional will be well-positioned to succeed in the garment-making industry. They can also differentiate themselves from competitors and offer unique and valuable services to their clients.

CONCLUSION

This study was conducted to assess the skills gap in ready-to-wear garments in secondhand clothing of local dressmakers at Naval, Biliran, as the basis for skills development in RTW for local dressmakers. Based on the findings, as to the skills on the core competencies in dressmaking of the local dressmakers show a positive response. However, in terms of knowledge of different fashions it was perceived that local dressmakers were not knowledgeable; this puts a challenging treat to the local dressmaker community, since the first step in creating a new design is having a knowledge of current fashion and making new design to meet customer's expectation and needs. Recognizing the impact of these results makes it very important to provide appropriate support to our local dressmakers.

Recommendation

This chapter exhibits and explicates the summary of the research study's findings, conclusions, and recommendations.

Summary

This study assessed the skills gap in ready-to-wear garments in second-hand clothing of local dressmakers at Naval, Biliran, as the basis for skills development in RTW for local dressmakers.

Descriptive methods of research were utilized, and three sets of questionnaires were distributed to the respondent groups, namely: Demographic checklist as to: age and gender, civil status, employment status, and average monthly income and the main instruments which addressed the skills of the respondents as to the core competencies of dressmaking.

The succeeding paragraphs were the findings drawn from statistical analysis of data as arranged based on the problem statement. On the Demographic profile as to age and gender of the respondents, findings have shown that 80% of the local dressmakers were female, mainly in the age group of 41-45 and 75% of them were single. Regarding employment status, 90% were temporary, and most were earning 10,000 above monthly income.

In terms of the status of the skills of the local dressmakers, findings show that in terms of the competencies, Drafting and cutting pattern, sewing casual apparel and applying finishing touches, local dressmakers were well knowledgeable, while in the competency of drafting and cutting patterns got rated with knowledgeable. In addition, there is no significant relationship on the profiles of the local dressmakers and the status of their skills on the core competencies. Meanwhile, it was perceived that knowledge of different fashions was ranked number 1 as perceived issues and concerns of the local dressmakers.

Recommendations

The main goal of this study is to gain knowledge on the local dressmakers and the status of their skills in line with the core competencies of dressmaking; this study addresses the issues and concerns that help local dressmakers improve their knowledge and skills in giving quality designs in the garment industry. It is recommended that the skills development in RTW for local dressmakers be considered for implementation.

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