

The Impact of the Use of Second-Hand Clothing on the Garment and Textile Industries in Ghana: A Case Study of the Ho Municipality

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Abstract

The influx of second hand clothing onto the Ghanaian fashion market has hit the peak. About 90% of clothes used in Ghana are of second hand origin. This development invariably has negative effect on the Garment and Textile Industries in Ghana to the extent that some of the industries are gradually folding up due to low patronage of their products. This study was conducted to investigate and verify the extent of damage the patronage of second hand clothing has caused and continues to cause the Garment and Textile Industries in Ghana and the solutions thereof. The descriptive (qualitative) research approach was employed to describe the various stages of the study. The following research instruments were used to collect data for the study: questionnaire, observation and interview. The Target Population for the study was (250) made up of (200) second hand clothing dealers and (50) users from the general public. The Random Sampling technique was used to arrive at a Sample size of (75) which represents 30% of the Target Population. This was made up of (50) second hand clothing dealers and (25) users from the general public. The main findings of the study were that most Ghanaians patronize second hand clothing because of its low price, the use of second hand clothing has health implications to the wearer and the over-dependence on second hand clothing negatively affects the revenue of Garment and Textile Industries in Ghana. It is therefore recommended that adequate steps be taken by the government to ban the importation of those second hand clothing which are likely to have health implications to the wearer. Examples of such category of clothing include: under wears, under pants and brassiers. Additionally, made-in-Ghana clothing and Textiles must be re-branded and priced moderately to attract potential buyers. The government of Ghana should pump more money into the Garment and Textiles Industries to resuscitate them from collapse.

Keywords: Second hand, Garment, Textiles, Clothing and Health implications.

1.0 INTRODUCTION

In Ghana, government ensures that apart from food and shelter, the citizens of the country are adequately clothed. Clothing is therefore an essential part of any civilized human establishment.

However, various economic problems make it necessary for clothes that have been used to be preserved and marketed elsewhere. In the world however, these clothes are averagely cheaper because they have been used. Movement of such “cheap used” clothing from one part of the world to the other is therefore now very popular. For example, there has been mass importation of “second hand” clothing from different parts of the world to Ghana and there is ready market for these garments because they are relatively cheaper, easy to wear, durable and highly fashionable than those made from Ghanaian textiles fabrics. Most of the Local Textile Companies in Ghana price their fabrics very high because of the high cost involved in production. These expensive fabrics are used to produce dresses which turn out to be also expensive and this deters clients from buying such products. Most Ghanaians therefore resort to the patronage of “second hand clothing” which they consider to be relatively cheaper.

The “second hand” clothing however comes with a variety of problems, most of which are health related. For example some of the under-wears, braziers and socks are not supposed to be used by more than one person. This is because they are used on very sensitive parts of the human body which can easily be affected considering their orientation. For example if the first wearer is likely to be suffering from candidysis, it is very possible that the second wearer may contact the same disease. Another example which can be cited is the contagious Ebola disease which can easily be transferred through the bodily fluids of the first wearer to the second wearer of the “second hand” clothing. Quite apart from the health related issues associated with the high patronage of “second clothing”, the economy of Ghana is also hard hit in the sense that the patronage of locally made Garments and Textiles will dwindle further if nothing is done to salvage the situation. Additionally, more Garment and Textile producing companies will continue to “collapse” and this will result in massive unemployment rates as these companies add a substantive number of employees to the Ghanaian workforce. Also, the productivity of these companies would be affected negatively because there will not be enough workforce to produce large quantities of products.

These and many more have informed the researchers to conduct an investigation into the topic so as to

come out with solutions to the teething problems facing the Garment and Textiles Industries as a result of the mass importation of “second hand” clothing into the country. It is however true that the problems facing the Garment and Textiles Industries in Ghana are enormous and cannot be limited to the importation of “second hand” clothing only.

2.0 LITERATURE REVIEW

This section of the paper deals with contributions from different writers in relation to the topic. These have been reviewed under the following sub-topics:

History of Clothing, an overview of Second Hand Clothing in Ghana, the reason why people prefer Second Hand Clothing and the effect of Second Hand Clothing on Textiles and Garment Industries.

History of Clothing

The history of Ghanaian fashion is traced back to the pre-colonial era when indigenous Ghanaians used barks of trees and hides of animals to clothe themselves. (Adu-Akwaboa, 1994). The development of fashion in Ghana is believed to have started during the colonial period with the introduction of wax prints and dresses by colonial masters (Turnings, 2002)

According to Wikipedia, until the mid 19th century, second hand clothing was an important way of acquiring clothing. Only through industrialization, mass production and increasing income was the general public able to purchase new clothes rather than second hand clothing.

“What may be a little more insightful to some of us will be the fact that the clothes we no longer want and give away to charity shops often end up being sold to wholesalers who export to Ghana to form a multi-million pound industry known as the “obroni wawu” trade. (Literal translation: Dead white man’s clothes). (My Ghana Roots.Com, 2014)

Shell (2007) states that a range of paths developed for second hand clothing by the nineteenth century. According to her, a “shoddy” industry developed in England and North America alongside the textiles mills of the old and New England. By the early 20th century, second-hand clothing was resold in shops and through itinerant merchants. Most of the junk and rag dealers operating in America, Canada and Western Europe were very enterprising.

An extract from the E-Berg Fashion Library intimates that, second hand clothing constitutes a global market of commerce and consumption that has a long but changing history with complex links to garment production, tailoring and couture. In Europe and North America, second hand clothing was an important source of clothing preference in the nineteenth century, until mass production and growing prosperity enabled more and more people to purchase brand-new rather than previously worn garments. During Europe’s imperial expansion, the trade in second hand clothing reached the colonies when mass-produced garments became readily available at affordable prices. The second hand clothing trade became export-oriented, while charity shops responded to the clothing needs of the local poor. In the Post-World War II period in the West, second hand clothing trade expanded and grew in scope globally with patronage from all segments of society, even in countries that ban these imports. Because most country boundaries are porous and customs regulations are difficult to enforce, there is extensive illegal importation of this commodity.

Dwelling on pre-worn clothes, Fitzwater (2000) reveals that the re-appropriation of pre-worn clothes and accessories, historically reviewed, includes a range of practices from straight forward methods of *unhemming* garments and re-using the raw material perhaps turning it to the less worn side, as would have been practised in medieval times, to the complex scaffold of trades in the 19th century. These industries re-cycled all manner of clothing, with machine-like economy through specialist and discreet skills. Perhaps the most technologically advanced method was the production of “shoddy” cloth in the North of England from rags of wool, cotton and indeed all fibres (except silk) which became the staple fabric for the ready-to-wear garment products in 1834. An exploration of the formal and informal ways by which second-hand clothes reached the resale market should highlight that some apparently informal ways may indeed be considered formal, especially in the case of servant receiving their masters “gifts” of clothing, which were actually considered as a part of their remuneration. In fact the second hand clothing trade could be said to have actually diminished in complexity over the last two centuries.

An Overview of Second Hand Clothing in Ghana

In a Feature Article of Chronicle (2008), a clear picture was painted about second hand clothing in Ghana. This source submits that the rate at which prices of commodities are galloping in the country is compelling the “economic poor” to choose the easier path towards acquiring certain material comforts in life. According to this source, the present economic hardship in the world has made getting 3 square meals a day, in the underdeveloped countries extremely difficult, how much more acquiring decent clothes to wear. It went on further and states that, in the quest to be part of the right-thinking members of society, in terms of putting on

decent clothes; second hand clothes are in vogue for the poor, due to economic hardship. The source further states that, in Ghana it is difficult to find people putting on new clothes and even with those considered to be well to do. Second hand cloth is one of the common types of clothing on the market and it is affordable. In Accra, the most popular place for buying and selling used clothing is the Kantamanto Market. According to sellers, they buy these clothes which consist of shirts, dresses, pants, T-shirts, jeans, trousers, towels, underwear-both male and female and all other types of clothing and retail them.

The clothes are usually spread on the floor, for buyers to come and select their choice. Owing to the way the clothes are being sold, it has been nicknamed “Bend Down Boutique”, meaning one always has to be in a bending position when buying, unlike in real boutiques where the clothes are hang up.

Plate 1: Second hand clothing on display



Source: Ghana celebrities

Reasons why people prefer Second Hand Clothing

Chronicle (2008) submits that in Ghana, many people prefer using second hand cloths, as it is the only way they afford to wear decent clothing, due to high cost of new clothes, even the locally made ones. According to Evelyn Ackah, a hairdresser, she prefers second hand clothes, since they are cheaper and more durable as compared to the ones sold in boutiques. According to her, she has always been an admirer of second hand clothes also known as “folks”, pronounced “foes”. Nana Ama Boadu has different reasons altogether, though she is a seamstress, she sees second hand clothing to be more stylish than the sewed ones which are new. According to her, the second hand clothing were stylish for activities such as going to the beach, club, parties, touring and any other activity or occasions that demand the wearing of nice casual clothes.

Chronicle (2008) again reveals that, it is not surprising that the people of Niger depend solely on second hand clothes, since the country has been described by the United Nations as the worst place to live on earth. Imagine a nation with its life expectancy as 44.6 years with 71% of its adults illiterate and 79% of children not attending school, how will feeding be possible, much more clothes.

The Effects of Second Hand Clothing on Textiles and Garment Industries.

According to Dutton (2014), it is estimated that Ghana imports 30,000 tonnes of second hand clothes each year, much of which arrive in Accra. We have not only by choice turned our homes into dumping grounds but killed our own textile industry.

Sarpong et al (2011) in their research paper “Globalization of the Fashion industry and its effects on Ghanaian independent Fashion Designers” state that Ghanaian Fashion producers face serious challenges with the major one being importation of “seconds” and used clothes from Europe, America and cheap clothing and textiles from Asian countries.

Wikipedia (Global trade of second-hand clothing) reveals that until the mid 19th century, second hand clothing was an important way of acquiring clothing. Only through industrialization, mass production and increasing income, was the general public able to purchase new clothing rather than second hand clothing.

“The greatest economic controversy that has surrounded the internationally used-clothing trade is the potential impact that used-clothing imports may have on local and new clothing industries. In Africa, the importation of used clothing poses a potential risk to indigenous textile industries as used-clothing can be retailed at lower prices than the locally produced clothing.” (Brooks, 2011)

Robertson (2014) intimates that “apart from the social and cultural effects, there are the economic impacts of used clothing imports which force a relationship of dependency on the west and in many ways prevent Africa from developing. Furthermore, after the end of colonialism, the plan was for Africans to produce their own and other basic goods to help industrialise and develop economies as happened in China and South Korea. Yet in the 1980s and 1990s, clothing industries declined and imports of used cloths increased.

According to Mark (2012), the influx of cheap clothes has heaped pressure on an industry already struggling to adapt to changing fashions amid patchy infrastructure. During his Presidency in Ghana, John Kufuor introduced national “Friday Wear Day” to encourage citizens to wear traditional cloths made using the jewel-coloured wax fabrics associated with African garments.

Bradley (2013) submits that second hand clothing undermines Africa’s Economy. He adds that the difference is that in many parts of Africa, second hand clothing is the primary means of buying clothes and is therefore, inadvertently stifling the growth of local African economies. According to him, charities are playing a role in killing Africa’s economy. But some experts say that the mass influx of cheap hand-me-downs from the West could have much more negative impact. The long term effect is that countries such as Malawi and Mozambique can’t really establish or protect their own clothing industries if they are importing second hand clothing.

Chronicles (2008) submits that, the presence of second hand cloths has brought a fall in the textile selling business, as people complain of wax prints being too expensive to buy and to sew, so they prefer the second hand which has already been sewn.

It is further revealed that the frequent importation of second hand clothes has had negative effect on the textile industry in the country which if not checked would lead to its eventual collapse. In years past, a lot of women took pride in the business of textiles selling, since it was very lucrative. However, the situation is today different, as the cost of buying a second-hand dress is far cheaper than buying material and taking it to a seamstress to sew into dress.

According to NEWS from AFRICA, Comrade Issa Anemu, the massive importation of second hand especially from Asia, coupled with high cost of production locally, led to the shutting down of 65 local textile mills and laying off of a total of 150,000 textile workers in the last decade. According to him, more than one million other persons, whose jobs are linked to the textile industry, such as traders and cotton farmers have lost their means of livelihood, as a result of the closures. Presently, there are just about 50000 workers left in the textile sector, which used to be the highest employer of labour.

In conclusion, all the authors of the books and articles reviewed above concede that, despite the fact that second hand clothing are relatively cheap and readily available on the market, they pose a threat to the already collapsing Garment and Textiles Industries. A good number of the authors were also able to touch on some of the likely effects the patronage of second-hand clothing have on the Garment and Textiles Industries. However, they failed to state the specific challenges that the Garment and Textiles Industries are likely to face if a timely effort is not made to contain the situation. None of them was also able to touch on the possible effects of second hand clothing in the Ho Municipality. This therefore makes the research topic a unique one. The next section of this paper will dwell on the Methodology.

3.0 METHODOLOGY

This section of the paper discusses the various research methods adopted to obtain and analyse the needed data for the study.

3.1 RESEARCH DESIGN

This is a detailed outline of how an investigation will take place. A research design will typically include how data is to be collected, what instruments will be employed, how the instruments will be used and the intended means for analyzing data collection. Research design is the researchers overall plan for obtaining answers to research question or for testing the research hypothesis (Edem M. 2010). That is a research design serves as a model for the research work to assist the researcher to seek information and analyze his evidence. The choice of research design depends on how the information should be gathered and analyzed. Considering the nature of this study, the qualitative research design was adopted.

3.2 TARGET POPULATION

Population is any group of individuals that have one or more characteristics in common which are of interest to the researcher. The population of interest comprises second hand clothing dealers in Ho central market and some members of the general public who patronize “folks”. These groups of people were considered in view of their understanding of the research topic and the essence to the accuracy of the data. The Target Population summed up to two-hundred and fifty respondents (250) made up of two hundred (200) second hand clothing dealers and fifty (50) users of second hand clothing from the general public.

3.3 SAMPLE DESIGN

Owing to lack of resources and the heterogeneous nature of this study, the Random Sampling technique was used to arrive at a Sample Population of seventy-five (75) which represents 30% of the Target Population. This was made up of fifty (50) second hand clothing dealers and twenty-five (25) members of the general public.

Thus, Seventy-five (75) questionnaire copies were administered to the Sample Population.

3.4 DATA COLLECTING INSTRUMENTS

To obtain relevant and reliable data for the study, the researchers employed the following data collecting instruments: questionnaire, observation and interview.

3.41 Questionnaire

A questionnaire is a written or printed form of questions used in gathering information on some subject or subjects consisting of a list of questions to be submitted to one or more persons. The researchers therefore used this research instrument to elicit written information from the Sample Population. Separate set of questions were designed and administered to Wholesalers and Retailers of second hand clothing as well as the General Public. The questions bothered on the Understanding of second hand clothing, the effect of second hand Clothing on the human body, the effect of second hand clothing on the national economy, the effect of second hand clothing on Garment and Textiles industries in Ghana and the solutions thereof.

3.42 Observation

This was the tool used by the researchers to obtain data through direct examination. It involves a critical look or watching carefully on-the-spot the way something happens or someone does something. In observation, the researcher watches and takes notice of what happens but has no active part in it. During the study, we observed that some second hand clothing are relatively cheaper than the already made ones. This explains the reason why they are frequently patronized than the already made clothing. Additionally, we observed that ten (10) out of every hundred second hand clothing sampled, were of inferior quality.

3.43 Interview

This is an oral questionnaire which permits the researcher to elicit direct information from respondents and to classify it on the spot. For an interview to be carried out effectively, there is the need for the interviewer to establish rapport with the interviewee. In this study, interview questions based on the research questions were formulated and administered to the respondents. The questions basically sought to know the respondents' view about the research topic.

4.0 ANALYSIS OF DATA AND DISCUSSION

This part of the study presents the analysis of data from respondents. It describes the statistical methods used in analysing data.

4.1 Demographic Characteristics of Respondents (wholesalers)

The pie chart below shows the gender distribution of respondents (wholesalers) who participated in the study. In the chart, 59.5% of the 50 wholesalers who participated in the study are female while 40.5% are male. This implies that more female are involved in the sales of second hand clothing than the male.



Chart 1: Gender Distribution of Wholesalers of second hand clothing
(Source: Field Data August, 2015)

Table1 below describes the Age Distribution of Wholesalers of second hand clothing. This table reveals that 25 respondents are within the age bracket of (36-45) representing 50% of wholesalers which is indicative of the fact that majority of second hand clothing dealers are in their youthful age. Perhaps this is attributable to the strenuous nature of the second hand clothing business. The least among the age groups is between 18 and 25 representing 8% of the wholesalers. Eleven (11) of the respondents representing 22% of the wholesalers are within the age bracket of (26-35). The last but not the least, Ten (10) respondents representing 20% of wholesalers are within the age bracket of 46 and 55.

Table 1: Age Distribution of Wholesalers of second hand clothing

Age	Frequency	Percentage (%)
18-25	4	8.0
26-35	11	22.0
36-45	25	50.0
46-55	10	20.0
Total	50	100

(Source: Field Data August, 2015)

Table 2 below displays the Educational Level of Wholesalers of second hand clothing. It indicates that most of the wholesalers (33) have not had any form of education. This points to the fact that the business of second clothing does not necessarily require academic qualification. But rather, it requires commitment, determination and hard work. Fourteen (14) of the respondents representing 28% of the wholesalers attended primary school while 3 respondents representing 6% of the wholesalers attended secondary school. However, none of the wholesalers attained a tertiary qualification.

Table 2: Educational Level of Wholesalers

Level	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Did not attend school	33	66.0
Primary	14	28.0
Secondary	3	6.0
Tertiary	0	0.0
Total	50	100

(Source: Field Data August, 2015)

The table below presents the results derived from wholesalers of second hand clothing concerning the reasons why they decided to engage in the sales of second hand clothing. The results obtained were interesting. Most of the respondents (20) representing 40% of the wholesalers said they engage in the sales of second hand clothing because they want to earn a living while eighteen (18) respondents representing 36% of the wholesalers gave the answer that second hand clothing are less expensive. Six (6) respondents representing 12% of the wholesalers said it is because second hand clothing are readily available. Another six (6) respondents representing 12% of the wholesalers responded that they engage in the sales of second hand clothing because most of them are durable and of good quality.

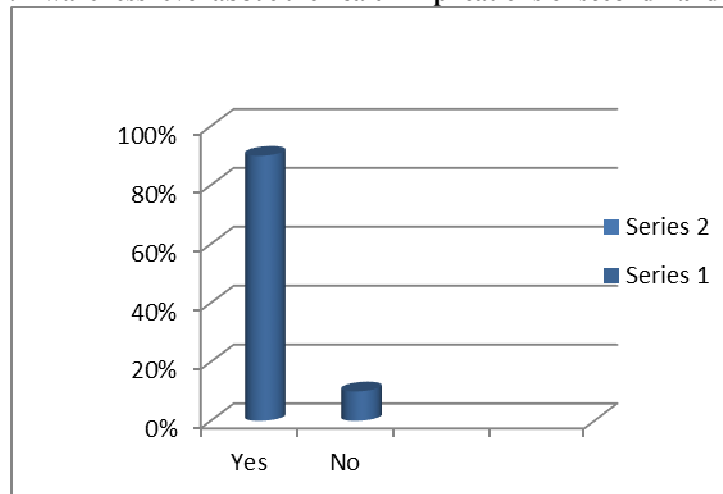
Table 3: Responses to the Question “why did you decide to engage in the sales of second hand clothing”?

Responses	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Because second hand clothing is less expensive and cheap.	18	36.0
Second hand clothing is readily available.	6	12.0
Most of the second hand clothing are durable and of good quality.	6	12.0
To earn a living	20	40.0
Total	50	100

(Source: Field Data August, 2015)

Chart 2 below displays the awareness level of wholesalers about the health implications of second hand clothing. The results reveal that most of the wholesalers (90%) are aware of the health implications of second clothing to the human body but are not perturbed because of the profit they make from the business. Meanwhile only ten (10%) of the wholesalers seem to be ignorant about the health implications of second hand clothing.

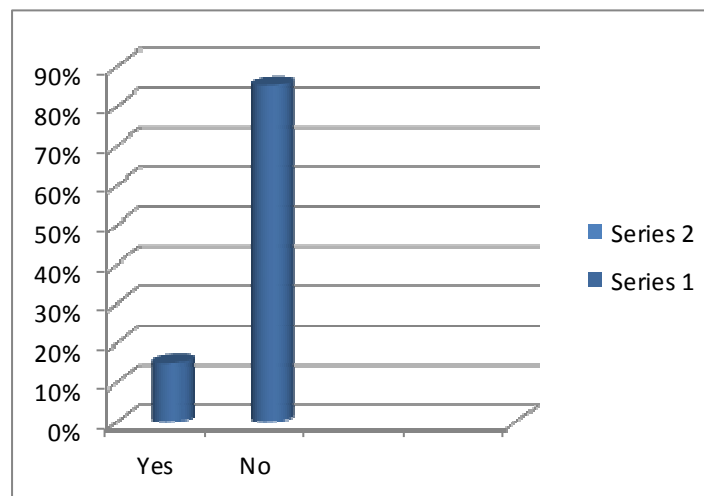
Chart 2: Awareness level about the health implications of second hand clothing.



(Source: Field Data August, 2015)

The Chart below presents the awareness level of wholesalers about the possible diseases that can be contracted as a result of wearing second hand clothing. The results were quite revealing. It came out that despite the fact that most (90%) of the wholesalers are aware of the health implications of second hand clothing, eighty-five percent (85%) of them do not have any knowledge about the diseases that are likely to be contracted as a result of the use of second hand clothing. Fifteen percent (15%) of the wholesalers however stated that they knew some of the diseases that could be contracted.

Chart 3: Awareness level of wholesalers about the likely diseases that can be contracted through the use of second hand clothing



(Source: Field Data August, 2015)

Table 4 below shows the results derived from wholesalers of second hand clothing concerning the possible diseases that are likely to be contracted from the use of second hand clothing. The table reveals that 8 respondents representing 15% of the wholesalers stated four possible diseases as indicated below.

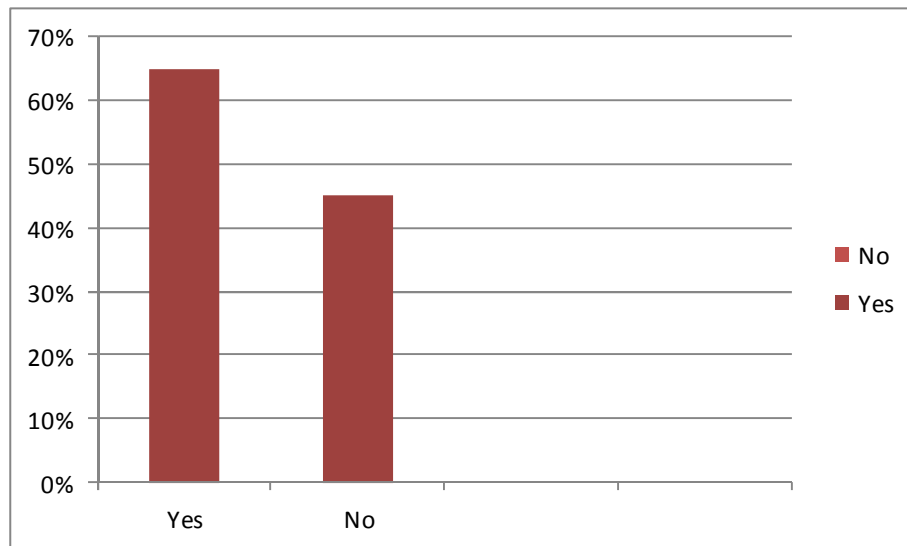
Table 4: Possible diseases to be contracted from the use of second hand clothing

Possible Diseases	Frequency	Percentage (%)
White (Candidysis), skin rashes, sores and genital infections.	8	15.0
Total	8	15

(Source: Field Data August, 2015)

Chart 4 shows the awareness level of wholesalers about the effects of second hand clothing on Garment and Textiles Industries in Ghana. In all, sixty-five percent (65%) of the wholesalers indicated that they were aware of the effects that second hand clothing have on the Garment and Textiles Industries in Ghana while forty-five percent (45%) said they unaware of the effects.

Chat 4: Awareness level of respondents about the effects of second hand clothing on Garment and Textiles Industries in Ghana

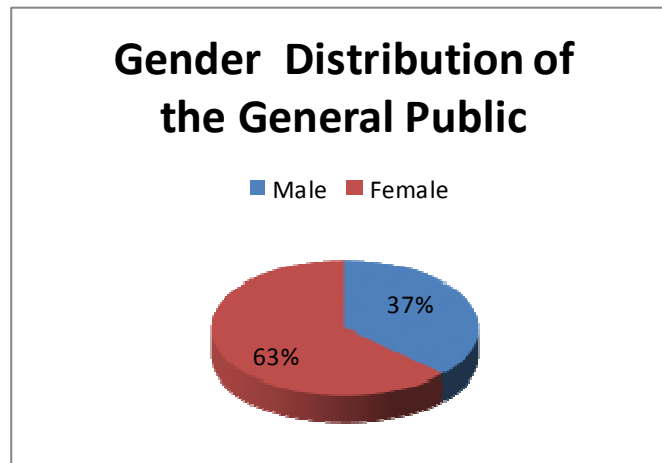


(Source: Field Data August, 2015)

4.2 Demographic Characteristics of Respondents (The General public)

The Demographic Characteristics of the general public dwelled on Gender Distribution, Age Distribution and their Educational level. The Pie Chart below illustrates the Gender Distribution of the General Public who patronise second hand clothing. As shown on the chart, 37% of the (25) members of the General Public sampled for this study are Male while 63% of them are Female. This is not surprising, considering the passion women attach to the sales of clothing as compared to their male counterparts.

Chart 5: Gender Distribution of the General Public who patronize second hand clothing.



(Source: Field Data August, 2015)

Table 5 below captures information on the Age Distribution of members of the General Public who participated in the study. It is evident as captured by this table that most (10) of the members of the General Public who patronize second hand clothing are within the age bracket of 10-25 which represents 40% of the sampled population of (25). This explains the fact that second hand clothing are mostly fancied by the youth than any other age group. Furthermore, 7 of the 25 members of the General Public sampled for the study fall within the age bracket of 20-35, representing 28% of the sampled population. Additionally, 20% of the General Public who patronize second hand clothing are within the age bracket of 30-45. Lastly, 3 of the 25 members of the General Public sampled for the study fall within the age bracket of 40-55. This represents 12% of the sampled population.

Table 5: Age Distribution of the General Public

Age	Frequency	Percentage (%)
10-25	10	40.0
20-35	7	28.0
30-45	5	20.0
40-55	3	12.0
Total	25	100

(Source: Field Data August, 2015)

The table below displays relevant information about the Educational Level of members of the General Public who were randomly picked for this study. The results indicate that most (11) of the people who patronize second hand clothing in the Ho Municipality are Tertiary students from Ho Polytechnic, University of Health and Allied Sciences, E.P. University College, Ghana Technology University and Nurses Training College. This represents 44% of the sampled population. Seven (7) members of the General Public representing 28% of the sampled population attended primary school. Five (5) of them representing 20% of the sampled population had Secondary education. Only Eight (8) of the 25 respondents sampled did not have any form of education. This represents 8% of the sampled population.

Table 6: Educational Level of the General Public

Level	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Did not attend school	2	8.0
Primary	7	28.0
Secondary	5	20.0
Tertiary	11	44.0
Total	25	100

(Source: Field Data August, 2015)

Table 7 below presents results of the General Public on why they prefer second hand clothing to other types of clothing. Most (14) of the respondents representing 56% of the General Public answered that they patronise second hand clothing because they are relatively cheaper than other types of clothing. Six (6) of the 25 members of the General Public sampled for this study responded that they patronise second clothing because they are readily available while Five (5) of them representing 20% of the sampled population said second hand clothing can be worn on all occasions.

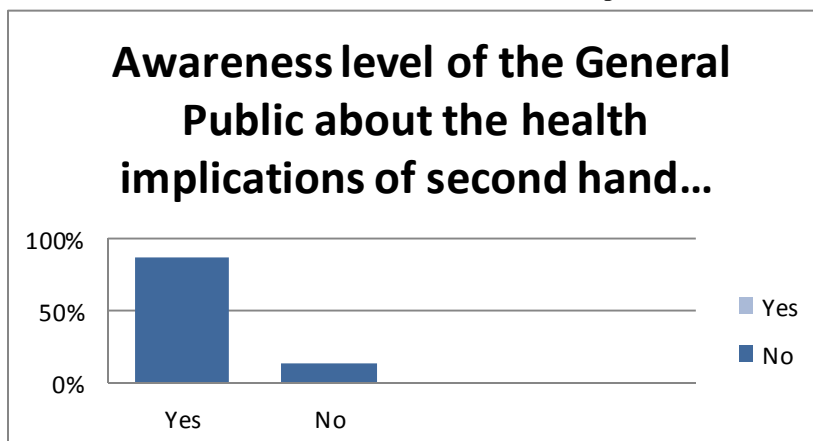
Table 7: Responses of the General Public to the question “why do you prefer second hand clothing to other types of clothing”?

Responses	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Because second hand clothing are relatively cheap.	14	56.0
Second hand clothing is readily available.	5	20.0
They can be worn to any occasion.	6	24.0
Total	25	100

(Source: Field Data August, 2015)

Chart 6 below displays the awareness level of members of the General Public who participated in this study. On the chart, 85% of the General Public stated that they were aware of the health implications of second hand clothing. However, 15% of them explained that they were not aware. The outcome of the result reveals that despite the fact that majority of the General Public who participated in the study are aware of the health implications of second hand clothing, they decided to choose the low price over the health impact.

Chart 6: Awareness level of the General Public about the health implications of second hand clothing



(Source: Field Data August, 2015)

In table 8 below, the opinions of the General Public on the effect of second hand clothing on the Garment Industries have been presented. Majority (10) of the respondents which represents 40% of the 25 people of the General Public sampled for this study stated that because second clothing are cheaper than the made-in-Ghana clothing, they are very much patronised. 6 respondents representing 24% of members of the General Public were of the view that the Garment Industry may lose revenue as a result of the over-reliance of customers on second-hand clothing. According 3 members of the General Public sampled for this study, workers in the Garment Industries may be laid off if the companies fails to break even due to the over-reliance on second hand clothing. Additionally, 2 respondents representing 8% of the General Public were of the view that if nothing is done about the low patronage of made-in-Ghana Garments, their Industries would collapse. Finally, 4 respondents of the General Public believe that the affection for second clothing by Ghanaians may result in the disaffection for made-in-Ghana clothing.

Table 8: the General Public's responses about the effects of second hand clothing on the Garment Industry in Ghana

Responses	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Because second hand clothing are relatively cheaper than the made- in- Ghana garments, more people patronise it at the expense of the latter.	10	40.0
The Garment Industry in Ghana suffers a short fall in revenue due to low patronage.	6	24.0
Laying-off of workers in the Garment Industry.	3	12.0
Collapsing of Garment Industries.	2	8.0
Disaffection for made-in Ghana garments.	4	16
Total	25	100

(Source: Field Data August, 2015)

Table 9 below captures responses from members of the General Public concerning the effects of the use of second hand clothing on the local Textile industries in Ghana. The results were interesting. As many as nine (9) respondents representing 36% of the sampled population stated that over-dependence on second hand clothing will lead to the collapse of the Textile Industries in Ghana. Six (6) respondents out of the 25 members of the General Public representing 24% of the sampled population were of the view that the patronage of second hand clothing at the expense of made-in-Ghana Textile fabrics will result in the loss of revenue by Textile Industries. Four (4) respondents representing 16% of the sampled population asserted that due to the over-reliance on second hand clothing, the production rate of second hand clothing is likely to reduce. Three (3) of the respondents representing 12% of the sampled population stated that the continual patronage of second hand clothing will result in the low patronage of made-in-Ghana Textiles and clothing. This is so because fabrics are the basic materials for the manufacture of clothing. Finally three (3) respondents representing 12% of the sampled population asserted that there is a high possibility that workers in the Textiles Industries would be laid-off as a result of the over-dependence on second hand clothing.

Table 9: the General Public’s responses about effects of second hand clothing on the Textiles Industry in Ghana

Responses	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Low patronage of made-in- Ghana Textile fabrics	3	12.0
Loss of revenue	6	24.0
Decline in production rate of the local Textiles Industries Ghana	4	16.0
The collapse of local Textiles Industries in Ghana	9	36.0
Laying off of workers in the Textiles Industries.	3	12.0
Total	25	100

(Source: Field Data August, 2015)

The table below presents solutions of the General Public on how to curb the negative impact of second hand clothing on the Garment and Textiles Industries in Ghana. In all, 8 respondents representing 32% of the sampled population advised that the importation of second hand clothing must be stopped. Eleven (11) of the respondents representing 44% of the sampled population stated that there must be a ban on the importation of second hand clothing such as under pants, brassier, supporters and towels to forestall the spread of any contagious disease. Furthermore, four (4) of the respondents representing 16% of the sampled population were of the view that second hand clothing must be tasked heavily to discourage its importation. Finally, two (2) of the respondents representing 8% of the sampled population stated that made-in-Ghana clothing and Textiles must be re-branded and priced moderately to attract potential customers.

Table 10: solutions to the over-dependence on second hand clothing

Responses	Frequency	Percentage (%)
The importation of second hand clothing must be stopped.	8	32.0
There must be a ban on the importation of second hand clothing such as under pants, brassier, supporters and towels to forestall the spread of any contagious disease.	11	44.0
Second hand clothing must be tasked heavily to discourage its importation.	4	16.0
Made-in-Ghana clothing and Textiles must be re-branded and priced moderately.	2	8.0
Total	25	100

(Source: Field Data August, 2015)

5.0 MAIN FINDINGS

The Main Findings of the study have been summarized as follows:

- ❖ Most Ghanaians patronize second hand clothing because of its low price.
- ❖ The use of second hand clothing has health implications to the wearer.
- ❖ The over-dependence on second hand clothing negatively affects the revenue of Garment and Textiles Industries in Ghana.
- ❖ Second hand clothing is of inferior quality as compared to made-in-Ghana clothing.
- ❖ Second hand clothing does not promote the Ghanaian culture.

6.0 CONCLUSION

The patronage of made-in-Ghana fabrics and clothing is critical for the economic development of Ghana. Year in year out, the Garment and Textile Industries in Ghana do their bit by producing excellent and quality products for the consumption of Ghanaians and the world at large. Clothing is a very important amenity for the survival of man. Clothes protect us from hot and cold weather conditions and in the process give us identity and livelihood. One can imagine a world without clothing. What a world it will be? Morality, decency and Godliness would be thrown to the wind. Nudity, indecent dressing and moral decadence would be the order of the day. Gradually, the dark clouds are falling on the Garment and Textile Industries in Ghana. The earlier something is done, the better. Second hand clothing better known as folks or “broni wawu” has taken over the Ghanaian fashion market, leaving no stone unturned. The interest in this commodity is waxing; to the extent that no single day passes without someone seen dressed in folks. The peculiar scent that emanates from this outfit is strong enough to be noticed by a toddler. In as much as the dealers of second hand clothing are poised to make ends meet, those in the Garment and Textile Industries must also be given the opportunity to maximize profit without any interference. It is therefore recommended by this study that, pragmatic measures must be taken to find a lasting solution to this menace to salvage the Garment and Textile Industries in Ghana from total collapse. The recommendations include but not limited to the following:

- Adequate steps must be taken to ban the importation of those second hand clothing which are

likely to have health implications on the wearer. Examples of such category of clothing include: under wears, under pants and brassiers.

- Made-in-Ghana clothing and Textiles must be re-branded and priced moderately to attract potential buyers
- The government of Ghana should pump more money into the Garment and Textile Industries to resuscitate them from collapse.

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