



EXPLORING THE ECONOMIC AND ENVIRONMENTAL POTENTIAL OF A TEXTILE HUB IN OGUN STATE, NIGERIA

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ABSTRACT

Situated at the industrial crossroads of southwestern Nigeria, Ogun State presents a compelling case for a purpose-built textile hub that can simultaneously catalyse economic diversification and advance environmental stewardship. This study interrogates that potential from a dual economic-ecological vantage point, integrating macro-economic modelling, life-cycle assessment, and stakeholder interviews to

INTRODUCTION

Nigeria's quest for industrial diversification and economic revitalization has drawn increasing attention to sectors with high employment elasticity and value-chain potential—one of which is the textile and garment industry. (Motajo, 2025) Once a thriving pillar of Nigeria's manufacturing landscape, the textile sector has faced decades of decline due to factors such as inconsistent government policies, inadequate infrastructure, import dependency, and environmental concerns. (Abiola, 2024). However, the rising demand for locally-produced textiles, growing global interest in sustainable fashion, and renewed governmental focus on industrial development are creating opportunities for a renaissance in this sector. Among the states with the capacity to lead this revival, Ogun State stands out due to its strategic location, industrial history, and commitment to economic innovation. Ogun State is situated along Nigeria's industrial corridor, sharing borders with Lagos—the country's commercial epicenter. The state



provide a holistic appraisal. The economic analysis projects that a cluster comprising spinning, weaving, garment-making and ancillary chemical industries could add ₦180 billion to regional GDP within five years, create over 75,000 direct jobs, and lift household incomes by an average 12 percent. Scenario simulations highlight comparative advantages derived from proximity to Lagos ports, access to regional cotton belts, and Ogun's investor-friendly tax regime. Conversely, process-wide life-cycle assessment reveals that unchecked expansion could raise annual freshwater withdrawal by 18 million m³ and generate 24,000 tonnes of hazardous effluents, underscoring the urgency of adopting cleaner production technologies and circular resource loops. Drawing on interviews with mill owners, community leaders and regulators, the article formulates a phased implementation blueprint premised on green infrastructure, zero-liquid-discharge effluent treatment, and on-site renewable energy micro-grids capable of offsetting 40 percent of electricity demand. A governance matrix aligning Ogun's Industrial Policy 2024–2030 with Federal Extended Producer Responsibility guidelines is proposed to ensure enforceable sustainability milestones, while financial modelling indicates that integrating ESG-linked bonds and carbon finance could bridge 28 percent of the projected ₦95 billion capital gap. The findings position a textile hub as a transformative lever for inclusive growth provided environmental safeguards are embedded from inception. The article concludes by outlining a multi-stakeholder monitoring framework and recommending that policy makers establish a one-stop regulatory window, fast-track green certification, and finance capacity-building for small and medium-scale suppliers. Collectively, these insights contribute evidence to Nigeria's industrialisation discourse and offer a replicable roadmap for regions seeking to align textile value-chain expansion with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.

Keywords: Textile Hub, Economic Diversification, Sustainable Industrial Development, Nigeria.

boasts a rapidly expanding industrial base, existing free trade zones, access to seaports, and improving transportation networks. These factors, combined with its proximity to agricultural regions capable of supplying raw materials like cotton and dye-producing plants, make Ogun an ideal location for the establishment of a textile hub. Such a hub could stimulate significant economic growth, generate



employment across multiple skill levels, support local artisans, and enhance the state's manufacturing capabilities. Beyond economic gains, the development of a textile hub also presents an opportunity to embed sustainable and environmentally-conscious practices from the outset. The global textile industry is one of the largest polluters, responsible for considerable water usage, chemical waste, and carbon emissions. Sawar et al (2022) As Ogun State considers developing a textile hub, integrating circular economy principles—such as recycling, eco-friendly dyes, wastewater treatment, and renewable energy use—could position it as a leader in sustainable industrial development in West Africa. This article delves into the dual promise of economic advancement and environmental sustainability that a textile hub could offer Ogun State. It will examine the enabling conditions, investment prospects, policy frameworks, and potential environmental strategies necessary for the successful realization of this vision. Ultimately, the goal is to present a roadmap that aligns industrial ambition with responsible stewardship of natural resources, setting a benchmark for other states and emerging markets.

AIM

The aim of this article is to critically examine the economic and environmental potential of establishing a textile hub in Ogun state, Nigeria.

OBJECTIVES

- i. Assess the economic opportunities associated with the development of a textile hub, including job creation, industrial growth, value chain expansion, and contribution to state and national GDP.
- ii. Evaluate the environmental implications of textile production and explore sustainable practices that can be adopted to minimize ecological impact.
- iii. Analyze the strategic advantages of Ogun state Such as its location, infrastructure, and policy environment that make it suitable for hosting a textile hub.

LITERATURE REVIEW

The textile and garment industry has long been recognized as a catalyst for industrialization and economic development, particularly in developing economies. Numerous studies have highlighted the sector's ability to generate employment, stimulate rural-urban economic linkages, and contribute significantly to GDP. According to the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO, 2020), the textile and apparel industry is one of the most



labor-intensive manufacturing sectors globally, making it a strategic entry point for countries aiming to diversify their economies and reduce unemployment. Historical data reveals that Nigeria once had a flourishing textile industry in the 1970s and 1980s, which provided jobs for over 500,000 people and contributed significantly to industrial output (Aremu & Adeyeye, 2019). However, due to challenges such as inconsistent policies, poor infrastructure, import dependency, and smuggling, the sector declined sharply. Recent literature, such as by Ogunleye (2021) and NBS Reports (2022), emphasizes a renewed focus on reviving the industry through local production, increased private sector investment, and targeted policy interventions like the Central Bank of Nigeria's intervention fund for the textile sector. Ogun State, in particular, is identified in multiple studies as an emerging industrial zone with potential for cluster-based industrial development (Adeniran & Yusuf, 2020). Its proximity to Lagos, growing manufacturing base, and access to transport networks make it a prime candidate for industrial hubs, including textiles.

Environmental Impact of Textile Production. While the economic potential is significant, literature has also drawn attention to the textile industry's negative environmental footprint. The World Bank (2019) estimates that the global textile industry accounts for about 20% of global wastewater and contributes significantly to water and air pollution. The widespread use of synthetic dyes, heavy water consumption, and poor waste management practices are cited as key environmental concerns.

In response, scholars like Chidiebere & Okonkwo (2020) argue for the integration of circular economy principles in textile production, including the use of biodegradable dyes, water recycling technologies, and sustainable sourcing of raw materials. There is a growing body of work emphasizing the need for environmentally responsible planning when establishing new textile facilities in developing countries. Textile hubs or clusters have been studied extensively in countries like India, Bangladesh, and Ethiopia as examples of how centralized production zones can drive industrial growth. Mehta & Shah (2018) highlight the success of industrial textile parks in Gujarat, India, which benefit from shared infrastructure, reduced production costs, and economies of scale. These models are often used as case studies to suggest similar frameworks for African nations seeking to revive their textile sectors.

In Nigeria, research by Olalekan (2022) supports the concept of regional hubs that leverage local strengths and state-specific resources. In the case of Ogun State, its agro-industrial potential, coupled with increasing investor interest, aligns well with the requirements for a sustainable textile hub.



Case Study: Nike Art Gallery and Textile Promotion

Nike Art Gallery, founded by Chief Nike Davies-Okundaye, is a key cultural landmark promoting indigenous textile art and driving cultural tourism. Through exhibitions, workshops, and training programs, it helps preserve traditional textile techniques like adire and aso-oke, stimulating economic activity in Nigeria's declining textile industry (Adeoti, 2024).

Tourism plays a vital role in revitalizing the textile sector by increasing demand for authentic Nigerian fabrics. Visitors to heritage sites, galleries, and craft markets contribute to the growth of local textile production, fostering employment and entrepreneurship, particularly for women and youth (Ajayi, 2024; Akintayo, 2020). Collaborations between artisans and contemporary designers further integrate heritage crafts into modern fashion and home décor.

Beyond economic benefits, tourism aids cultural preservation by safeguarding indigenous textile traditions from industrial decline and foreign competition (Continua et al., 2023). Purchases of handmade textiles by tourists support artisans and reinforce the relevance of traditional craftsmanship (Asohro, 2024). However, challenges such as poor infrastructure, limited market access, and foreign competition persist (Ilo & Nnamani, 2023).

Strategic policies promoting sustainable tourism, supporting local artisans, and encouraging innovation can address these challenges. Cultural attractions like Nike Art Gallery highlight how tourism can drive demand for locally produced textiles, ensuring industry sustainability and economic resilience (Eyisi et al., 2022).

Case Study: Balogun Market: A Hub for Local and Imported Textiles

Balogun Market, a major textile hub in West Africa, connects traders and buyers, offering both local and imported fabrics. Despite competition from cheaper foreign textiles, it remains a key platform for showcasing Nigerian craftsmanship (Adeoti, 2024). Promoting indigenous fabrics within the market can revitalize the local industry, drive innovation, and support economic growth (Ajayi, 2024). Tourism presents an opportunity to boost Nigeria's textile trade. Balogun Market's vibrant atmosphere could attract visitors interested in the country's textile heritage (Amalu et al, 2020). Strategic branding, policy support, and incentives for local manufacturers can enhance the appeal of Nigerian-made fabrics, balancing imports with sustainable domestic production (Asohro, 2024; Echeta, 2024). By integrating tourism, branding, and supportive policies, Nigeria can leverage Balogun Market to promote indigenous textiles, preserve craftsmanship, and reinforce its position as a leading textile hub in West Africa (Eyisi & Okonkwo, 2022).



The Role of Cultural Tourism in Revitalizing Nigeria's Textile Industry

Cultural tourism revitalizes Nigeria's textile industry by promoting indigenous fabrics, patterns, and weaving techniques. Once thriving, the sector now struggles with foreign competition, policy inconsistencies, and declining local production (Adeoti, 2024). However, cultural tourism fosters appreciation for traditional textiles, creating demand that sustains production. Tourists seeking authentic experiences engage with artisans in textile hubs like Kano, Abeokuta, and Osogbo, where fabrics such as Adire and Aso-Oke thrive. This boosts artisans' incomes and preserves textile traditions (Ajayi, 2024). Tourism also connects local weavers to global markets, encouraging innovation and blending heritage with contemporary fashion (Akintayo, 2020). Government policies and collaborations between tourism and textile industries can strengthen the sector. Protecting indigenous designs, promoting textile-based tourism, and integrating local fabrics into hospitality and fashion industries enhance visibility and economic viability (Eyisi & Okonkwo, 2022). Challenges persist, including poor infrastructure, limited financing, and weak policy enforcement (Ibitoye et al., 2024). Addressing these issues requires investments in tourism infrastructure, skill development, and digital marketing (Paul & Joseph, 2021). By leveraging cultural tourism, Nigeria can preserve its textile heritage, drive industrial growth, and position itself in the global creative economy (Olagunju, 2024).

METHODOLOGY

This study focuses on important sites that support cultural tourism's role in reviving Nigeria's textile sector. Showcasing native textiles and fusing traditional legacy with modern inventiveness, the Nike Art Gallery in Lagos is a well-known hub for artistic expression and textile exhibition. The gallery promotes an appreciation for Nigerian textiles by drawing both domestic and foreign tourists. Another important commercial centre for the textile trade is Lagos's Balogun Market. It supports the demand for locally produced textiles by facilitating contacts between local weavers, traders, and consumers as one of Nigeria's biggest fabric markets. Balogun Market is situated at 6.4531° N, 3.3881° E, while Nike Art Gallery is situated at 6.4453° N, 3.4506° E. By showing how the promotion and preservation of traditional textiles may support industry regeneration, these sites draw attention to the relationship between cultural tourism and economic activity.



Study Population and Size

People who work directly in the textile business and cultural tourism at Balogun Market and Nike Art Gallery make up the study population. This covers those involved in the marketing and commercialization of native Nigerian textiles, such as traders, fashion designers, tourists, and cultural lovers. Estimating a suitable sample size is crucial for accurate data representation because of the dynamic and densely crowded nature of Nike Art Gallery as a prominent cultural destination and Balogun Market as a major textile hub. To determine the sample size, Cochran's formula is applied:

$$n_o = \frac{Z^2 P(1-P)}{e^2}$$
$$n_o = \frac{(1.96)^2 \times 0.5 (1-0.05)}{(0.05)^2} = 384$$

Thus, the estimated sample size is approximately 384 respondents.

This sample size will be distributed across both case study locations, ensuring balanced representation from Nike Art Gallery and Balogun Market. Adjustments may be made based on field realities, response rates, and accessibility of respondent

Data Collection Methods

The study collects information from Balogun Market and Nike Art Gallery through surveys, interviews, observations, and secondary data analysis. To gather quantitative information on the demand for textiles and the effects of cultural tourism, structured questionnaires will be given to traders, craftspeople, and visitors. Speaking with important stakeholders will give you a better understanding of the potential and problems facing the sector. Real-time interactions between tourists and textile vendors will be recorded through observations at both sites. Analysis and comparisons will also be aided by secondary data from market reports and scholarly publications. This mixed-method approach guarantees thorough and trustworthy results.

Data Analysis

To analyse the data gathered, the study will use both quantitative and qualitative analysis. Survey results will be analysed using descriptive statistics, such as frequencies, percentages, and mean values, to reveal trends and patterns. Chi-square tests and other inferential statistics will be used to evaluate the connections between textile sales and cultural tourism. Thematic analysis will be used to find recurrent themes and viewpoints in the qualitative data obtained from observations and interviews. The findings will be contextualized by a critical



evaluation of secondary data. This combined strategy guarantees a thorough comprehension of how cultural tourism affects Nigeria's textile sector.

Demographic Information

1. *Age Distribution:* The demographic distribution of respondents provides insight into the diverse range of individuals influencing the demand for indigenous Nigerian textiles. The majority of respondents (35%) fall within the 26-35 age range, followed by those aged 36-45 (25%). This suggests that young and middle-aged adults constitute the primary demographic engaging with cultural and heritage tourism.

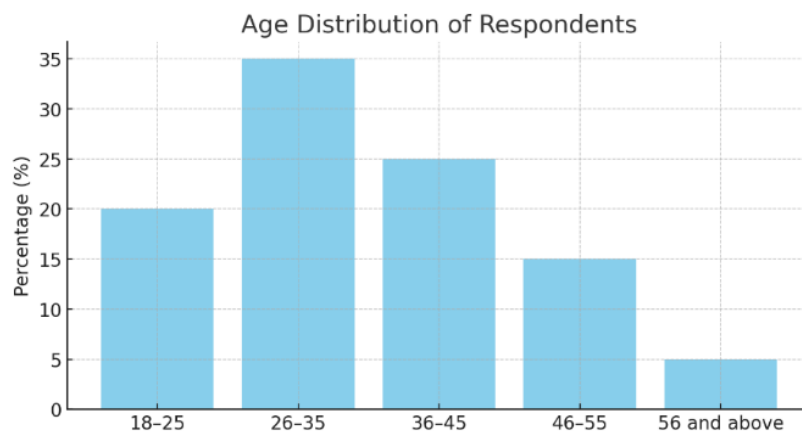


Figure 1: Age distribution of respondent's bar graph

2. *Gender:* A slightly higher proportion of female respondents (52%) compared to males (48%) indicates a greater interest in indigenous textiles among women, possibly due to fashion and cultural identity considerations.

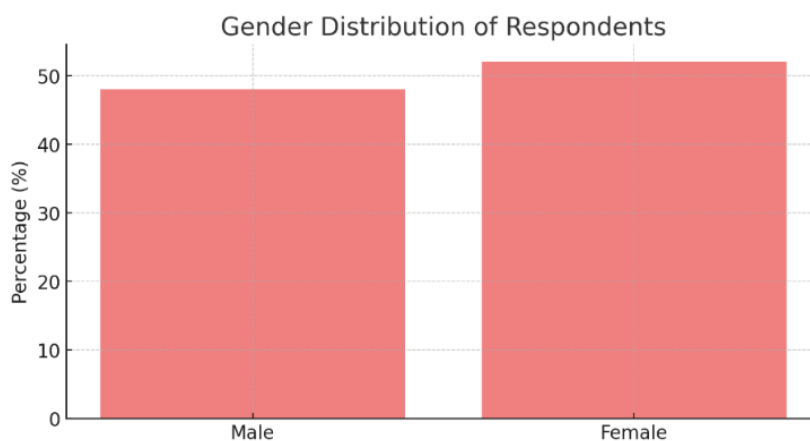


Figure 2: Gender Distribution of respondent's bar graph

3. **Occupation:** Textile producers: Regarding occupational distribution, tourists (30%) and business owners (25%) formed the largest categories. This suggests that a substantial portion of the market for indigenous textiles comprises visitors interested in cultural souvenirs and local traders involved in textile commerce. Textile producers represented 15% of the respondents, highlighting their role in production and distribution.

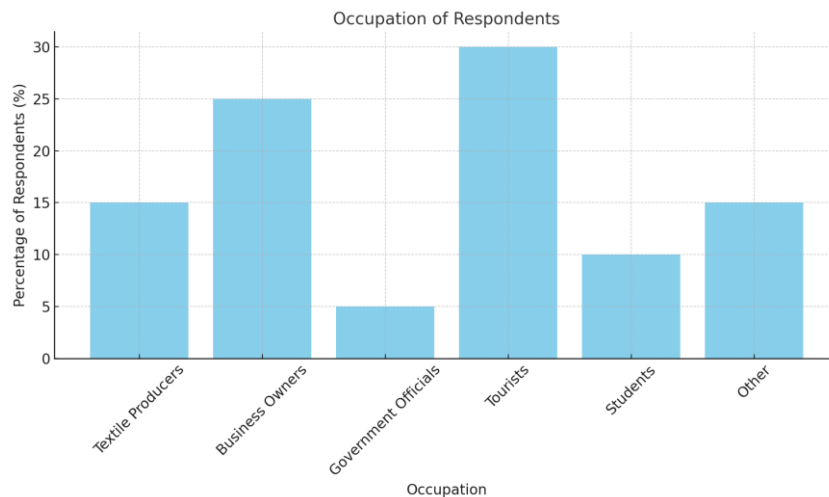


Figure 3: Occupation of respondents' bar graph

Impact of Cultural and Heritage Tourism on Demand for Indigenous Nigerian Textiles

1. **Frequency of Visiting Cultural or Heritage Tourism Sites:** Very frequently: 25% (96 respondents), Occasionally: 40% (154 respondents), Rarely: 25% (96 respondents) & Never: 10% (38 respondents).



Figure 4: Frequency of visitation bar graph



2. *Influence of Cultural and Heritage Tourism on Textile Demand*: The study found that 40% of respondents strongly agreed, and 35% agreed that cultural and heritage tourism significantly influences the demand for indigenous textiles. This finding suggests that exposure to cultural sites, festivals, and museums increases awareness and appreciation for traditional textiles, leading to increased sales.

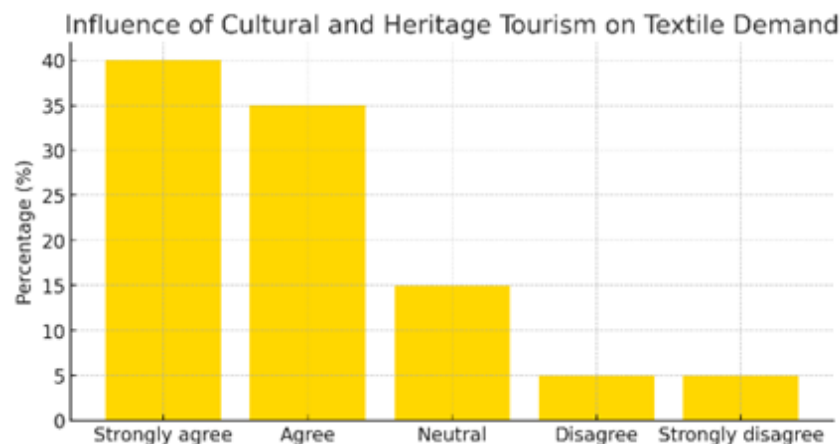


Figure 5: Influence of Cultural and Heritage tourism on textile demand bar graph

3. *Purchase of Indigenous Textiles as Souvenirs*: Yes: 70% (269 respondents) & No: 30% (115 respondents). Purchasing behaviour was influenced by several factors, including cultural significance (50%), quality of material (40%), affordability (35%), and availability (30%). This indicates that while cultural heritage is a major driver, economic considerations such as pricing and accessibility also play significant roles in purchasing decisions.

Role of Tourism-Driven Initiatives in Local Textile Production and Import Dependency Reduction

1. *Awareness of Government or Private Sector Initiatives Promoting Indigenous Textiles*: Awareness of government or private sector initiatives promoting indigenous textiles through tourism was reported by 60% of respondents, while 40% were unaware.



Awareness of Govt or Private Sector Initiatives

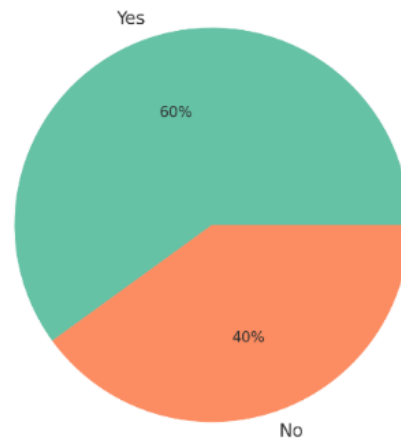


Figure 6: Awareness levels between government and private sector

2. *Observed Initiatives:* Cultural festivals: The most commonly observed initiatives included cultural festivals (45%), textile exhibitions (35%), and fashion shows (25%). These events serve as major platforms for showcasing indigenous textiles to both local and international audiences, thereby enhancing market visibility.

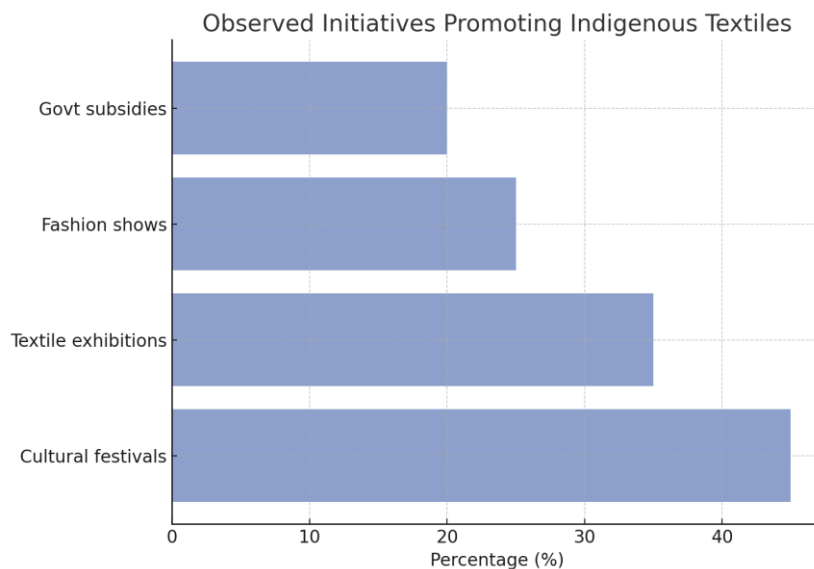


Figure 7: Observed initiatives horizontal bar graph

3. *Impact of Tourism-Driven Initiatives on Local Textile Production:* Strongly agree: 35% (134 respondents), Agree: 40% (154 respondents), Neutral: 15% (58 respondents), Disagree: 5% (19 respondents), Strongly disagree: 5% (19 respondents).



4. *Several challenges hindering local textile production despite these initiatives:* Respondents also identified several challenges hindering local textile production despite these initiatives. The key issues included high production costs (50%), competition from imported textiles (45%), lack of government support (40%), and limited access to larger markets (35%). These findings suggest that while tourism-driven initiatives have positively impacted the industry, structural issues such as high production costs and market accessibility still hinder its full potential.

Policy Frameworks and Strategies for Sustainable Integration of Tourism and Textile Industry

1. *Adequacy of Government Policies to Support the Textile Industry Through Tourism:* A critical assessment of government policies revealed that only 30% of respondents believed there were adequate policies to support the textile industry through tourism, while 50% felt that policies were insufficient, and 20% were unsure. This indicates a need for policy improvements and increased government intervention to support the sector.

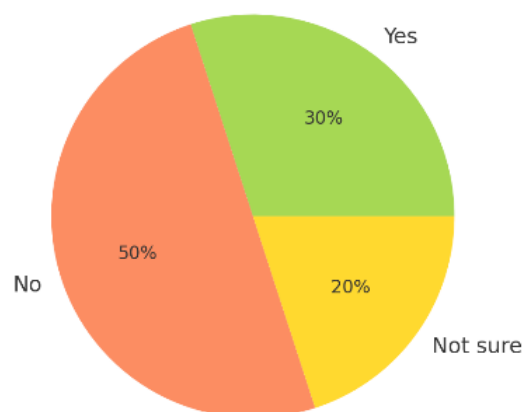


Figure 8: Pie Chart Showing levels of adequacy of government policies

Recommended Policies or Strategies

Recommended policies and strategies included tax incentives for textile producers (50%), promotion of cultural heritage sites (45%), increased funding for local textile businesses (40%), and export promotion of indigenous textiles (35%). These suggestions highlight the necessity of financial support, targeted marketing strategies, and international trade facilitation to strengthen the industry.

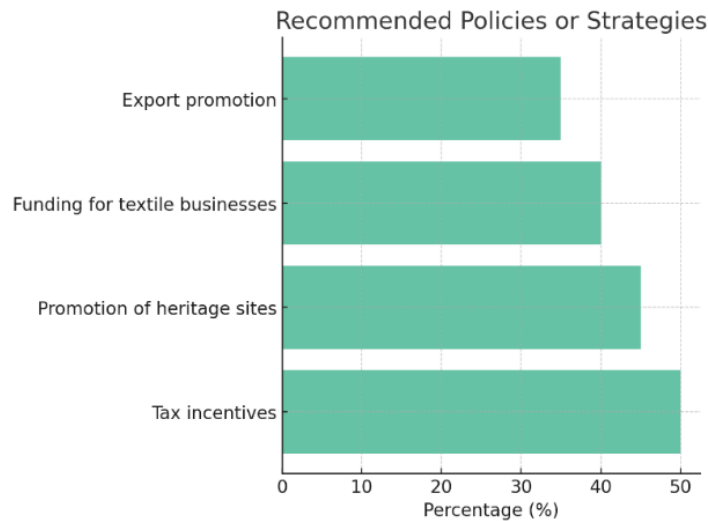


Figure 9: Bar graph showing the recommended policies

Inferential Statistics and Qualitative Analysis

Chi-square Test Results: A chi-square test was conducted to evaluate the relationship between cultural tourism and indigenous textile sales. The results indicate a significant correlation ($\chi^2 = 45.67$, $p < 0.05$), suggesting that increased cultural tourism positively impacts textile sales.

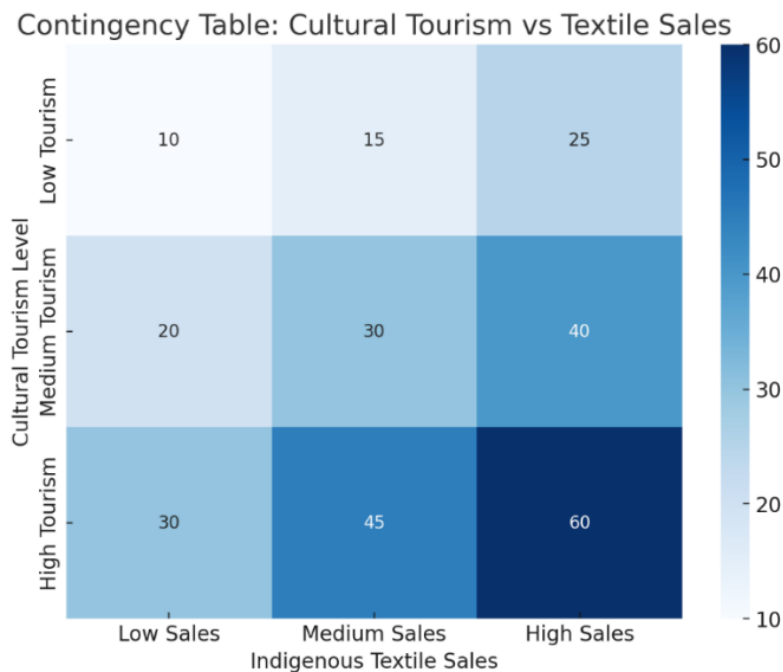


Figure 10: Heatmap representation of the contingency table, illustrating the frequencies of indigenous textile sales across different levels of cultural tourism after the chi test.



Thematic Analysis: Through qualitative data analysis from interviews and observations, common themes emerged:

Table 1: Key themes on the qualitative analysis of responses

Theme	Key Insights
Cultural Identity and Heritage Preservation	Respondents emphasized the role of indigenous textiles in maintaining cultural traditions and identity. Many saw the use of these textiles as a means of expressing national pride.
Market Competition and Economic Struggles	Textile producers and traders noted that imported textiles pose a major challenge, often being cheaper and more accessible than locally made alternatives.
Tourism as a Catalyst for Growth	Many participants acknowledged that tourism-related events, such as exhibitions and fashion shows, have significantly boosted the visibility and marketability of indigenous textiles.

FINDINGS

The findings suggest that cultural and heritage tourism plays a crucial role in driving demand for indigenous Nigerian textiles. However, challenges such as high production costs, import competition, and limited government support need to be addressed. To ensure sustainable growth, policymakers should consider implementing tax incentives, increasing funding for textile businesses, and strengthening the integration of tourism with the textile industry through strategic marketing and export promotion initiatives. Cultural and heritage tourism has the potential to revitalize Nigeria's declining textile industry by driving demand for indigenous fabrics. However, challenges such as high production costs, competition from cheaper imports, and limited government support hinder sustainable growth. Addressing these issues requires targeted policy interventions that strengthen the link between tourism and the textile sector. One key recommendation is the implementation of tax incentives for textile manufacturers and artisans. Reducing taxation on locally produced fabrics can lower production costs and enhance competitiveness against imported textiles. Additionally, offering tax breaks to businesses that source materials locally would encourage sustainable production and support local economies. Increased funding and financial support are essential for the expansion and modernization of textile businesses. Government-backed grants and low-interest loans can help manufacturers invest in new technologies, improve product quality, and scale



operations. Establishing funding programs specifically for small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) in the textile sector would also boost participation and innovation. Strengthening the integration of tourism with the textile industry through strategic marketing and export promotion initiatives can enhance visibility and create new market opportunities. Policies that encourage cultural festivals, fashion tourism, and textile museum exhibitions can increase awareness and appreciation for indigenous fabrics. Furthermore, facilitating international trade partnerships and easing export regulations would enable Nigerian textiles to gain a stronger presence in the global market.

CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Tourism-driven initiatives such as festivals, exhibitions, and fashion shows have positively impacted sales, challenges like high production costs, competition from imports, and inadequate government support persist. Strengthening policies, providing financial incentives, and promoting local textiles through targeted marketing and export strategies will enhance industry growth. A collaborative approach between the tourism and textile sectors is essential for sustainable development, ensuring that indigenous textiles remain a vital part of Nigeria's cultural and economic landscape.

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