

IMPROVING THE EFFICIENCY OF THE TRADITIONAL LOOM

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ABSTRACT

The changing pace of technology in loom design and production cannot be overemphasized since the inception of Kente weaving in the kingdom of Asante, Ghana. Traditional Kente weavers over the years have depended largely on technology to design and produce their weave products. The gradual transfer of technology from very indigenous to contemporary ones, can be seen in the nature of design weaves as well as the looms used to produce these woven products. Efficiency of traditional weaving looms are vital as it increases the rate of production and application of available resources though weaver's dexterity as these factors contribute to loom efficiency. The study sought to minimize the intrinsic loss of time and energy of the weaver by introducing the letting-off of the warp and taking-up of a cloth mechanism to effect loom operational efficiency while the weaver sits in the weaving position. The experimental and descriptive approach under the qualitative design methodology was adapted to record, interpret, identify and describe the various faults at the loom operation and weaving performance to ensure aptness of loom design, its production and the functional efficacy of the improved traditional loom. The impact of its productivity by knowledgeable users (50 weaving experts) attested to the efficiency of the loom. Further revision is bound to occur in the future as technology advances.

Keywords: Traditional loom; technology: efficiency; Kente weaving.