

***Ebári* FIBRE CRAFTS OF THE NSUKKA IGBO: AN HISTORICAL OVERVIEW**

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ABSTRACT

Ebári fibre craft is an obsolescent ancient and important craft tradition of the Nsukka Igbo. It formed an extricable part of their socio-cultural cum religious life. Western incursion has demeaned, and deprived it of its socio-cultural relevance; it has lost its essential verve. This study investigates the socio-cultural values of the fibre craft and the underlying factors that undermine its continued vitality and relevance and recommends solution to the continued erosion of its base. Visual and textual data, including oral interviews, are employed for the study. Colonialism and modernity as well as Christianity constituted the major factors that accounted for the continued waning of the emotional socio-cultural matrices and religious practises that motivated the craft production. The advent of better refined technology also been identified as one of the factors that has had negative impact on the continuity of its production and use. However, if the process of the fibre craft be re-engineered, its vitality and acceptance would be renewed.

KEYWORDS: *Ebári*, Fibre, Craft, Fibre Craft, Nsukka Igbo, Historical Overview, Language Community, Pseudo-Stem, Autonomous Community, Cultural Homogeneity