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Development of a New Loom: Challenges and Prospects

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ABSTRACT

Traditional Kente weavers over the years depended largely on technology in designing and producing their woven products. The gradual transfer of technology from 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 is 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. A descriptive 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 loom productivity by knowledgeable users (50 weaving operators) attested to the efficiency of the loom. Further revision is bound to occur in the future as technology advances.

Keywords: Traditional loom, Kente weaving, loom technology, efficiency, Ghana