

# Assessment Of Smallholder's Furniture's And Carpenters On Bio-Deteriorating Attacks And Preservative Treatment To Wood In Ibadan Metropolis, Oyo State.

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**Abstract-** This study assessed the awareness of smallholder's furniture and carpenter on wood biodeteriorating agents in Ibadan metropolis, Oyo state using questionnaires and interviews. Five local governments' areas were randomly selected within Ibadan metropolis. A total of 100 copies of questionnaire were administered to the respondents. Data collected were analyzed using descriptive statistics and correlation. All the sampled furniture makers and carpenters were male (100%), while majority were married (85%) and within the age category of 40- 49 years (44%). Most of the furniture makers and carpenters had been into production for over 11 years (40%). At one time or the other both the end user (54%) and the furniture makers and carpenters (93%) had problem with biodeteriorating agents. However, for both end user and the furniture makers as well as carpenters, termite and beetle attack is the most prominent biodeteriorating agents. Most of the respondents were aware of wood preservatives, however frequencies of use varies between rarely use (73%) and often use (27%). Result obtained shows that there is relationship between education, biodeteriorating attack, usage of preservative chemical and years of experience. It reveal that there is weak and positive correlation between education and incident of biodeteriorating attack to wood in their work place, education and usage of preservative chemical to treat wood. Also the result shows that there is strong and positive correlation between years of experience and the species of biodeteriorating agents that attack roofing part of a building and also complained by wood product user and incidence of biodeteriorating attacks in the wood workshops.

**Index Terms-** Decay, Wood, Termites, Utilization and Preservatives

## I. INTRODUCTION

Wood is a biological, renewable and traditional building material which also serves as potential source of food for wood destroying agents such as bacteria, fungi, ants and termites (Schultz and Nicholas, 2002). As from heritage, wood is usually attacked or infested by biodegrading agent been a biological materials, thereby generating mainly loss of dimensional and structural stability (Alfieri *et al*, 2016). Despite the increasing demand for wood by small and large scale wood industries and the

attendant loss of forest estates, the sector is also faced with the challenges of biodeteriorating agents causing great economic loss. In light of this, the devastating economic loss caused by biodeteriorating agents has become a major concern to scientists, policy makers, and most importantly small-scale furniture makers and carpenters in Nigeria. According to FAO (1987), furniture is mostly manufactured by small and medium size enterprises using simple technical expertise and technology with low capital input. Also, small and medium scale furniture production alone provides employment of about two million which constitute a reasonably large percentage of downstream wood users consume approximately 245,000m<sup>3</sup> of wood (FAO, 2005 and Odokonyero, 2005 ). Wood is believe to last long in service depending on how it is handle from the primary operation to the end users. Biodeteriorating agents can only attack wood when there is favourable condition. Very durable wood against biodeteriorating agents are now scarce and the available are not allow to mature before harvest and the use of lesser used wood species which are non-durable wood have now gaining recognition (Owoyemi, 2018). Incident and severity of biodegrading agent of wood has been confirmed in Nigeria (Adiji 2015; Adiji, *et al.*, 2015; Owoyemi, *et al* 2016; Owoyemi, *et al* 2017). According to Adiji and Owoyemi, (2015), irrespective of the durability class of wood should be treated before use in service. Information on the handling techniques of wood during construction by smallholders' furniture and carpenters is one the key in addressing the protection of wood against biodeteriorating agents. Therefore, this work aim to assess the awareness of smallholder's' furniture and carpenter on wood biodeteriorating agents has it affects wood and wooden structures has limited published work is available in this area.

## II. METHODOLOGY

### Study Area

The study was conducted within Ibadan Metropolis in Oyo State, Nigeria. Ibadan is located approximately on Longitude 3°51' East of the Greenwich Meridian and Latitude 7°23' north of the Equator (NPC, 2006). According to NPC (2006), it population is about 1,338,659. Also it is prominent in the production of cassava, cocoa, cotton, timber, rubber and palm oil (<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ibadan>).

## Data Collection and Analysis

One hundred (100) copies of structured questionnaire and oral interview were used to elicit information from furniture's maker and carpenters in the selected local government within Ibadan. At least twenty copies of the questionnaire were randomly administered on furniture's maker and carpenters from each of the selected local government in Ibadan Metropolis. Two urban local government; Ibadan North East and Ibadan Northwest and also three semi-urban local government; Ona-Ara, Egbeda, and Ido were randomly selected out of the eleven local government of Ibadan. 20 copies of questionnaire were administered in each selected local government. Information obtained through the questionnaire was supplemented with in-depth interview of the respondents. The data obtained were analyzed using descriptive statistics and correlation to establish relationship between education, year of experience and incidence of biodeteriorating attacks on wood.

## III. RESULT AND DISCUSSION

The result of the socio economics characteristic of the respondents is present in Table1. The result shows that all the respondents interviewed were males. This implies that men were fully in charge of furniture and carpentry works in the studies area, it agrees with the work of Alao and Kuje, (2012) and Babalola (2018) that men predominantly gender operating small-scale furniture. Most of the respondent are in the age group 40- 49yr

representing 44%, follow by the age group 30-39yrs with 32% and the age group <30yrs of the respondents with 6% is the lowest. This assertion is in consonance with the submission of Aiyeleja *et al.* (2014) that the age category of small-scale furniture makers in Port Harcourt, Nigeria to fall between 31 and 50 years. It also shows that 85% of the respondents are married, 14% are single while 1% are divorcee. It further shows that 100% of the respondents are Yoruba and 91% of the respondent has secondary education and 1% has no formal education. It implies that most of the respondents dominantly are Yoruba and literate. The literacy level is encouraging because the respondents would be able to comprehend practical demonstrations made by skill development instructors in the process of skill acquisition capacity building. This is in consonance with Ajayi and Ojutiku (2008); Alao and Kuje, (2012) who stated that reasonable level of education will aid in the comprehension of practical demonstration by skill development instructors. However, it disagreed with the work of Babalola (2018) which submit that 36.1% of furniture producer had secondary education and 22.2% had primary education and 6.9% and 12.5% had tertiary and technical education respectively. The result also shows that 96% of the respondents are into Furniture and carpenter and 4% are only into Furniture making. It implied that furniture and carpenter are majorly practice by respondent and only few practice only furniture. The result of the monthly income, shows that 61% of respondent make between #50,000 - #150,000 monthly, 24% of the respondent make <#50,000 .

**Table1: Socioeconomic Characteristics of Respondents**

Variable	Frequency	Percentage
<b>Age group</b>		
<30	6	6
30-39	32.0	32.0
40-49	44.0	44.0
>50	18.0	18.0
Total	100.0	100.0
<b>LGA</b>		
Ona-Ara	20	20
Egbeda	20	20
Ibadan North East	20	20
Ibadan North west	20	20
Ido	20	20
Total	100	100
<b>Marital status</b>		
Single	14	14
Married	85	85
Divorced	1	1
Total	100	100
<b>Gender</b>		
Male	100	100
Female	0	0
Total	100	100
<b>Ethnic group</b>		
Hausa	0	0
Igbo	0	0

Yoruba	100	100
<b>Education</b>		
no formal	1	1
Primary	8	8
Secondary	91	91
Tertiary	0	0
Total	100	100
<b>occupation</b>		
Furniture	4	4
furniture and carpenter	96	96
Total	100	100
<b>Income</b>		
<#50,000	24	24
#50,000-#150,000	61	61
>#150,000	15	15
Total	100	100

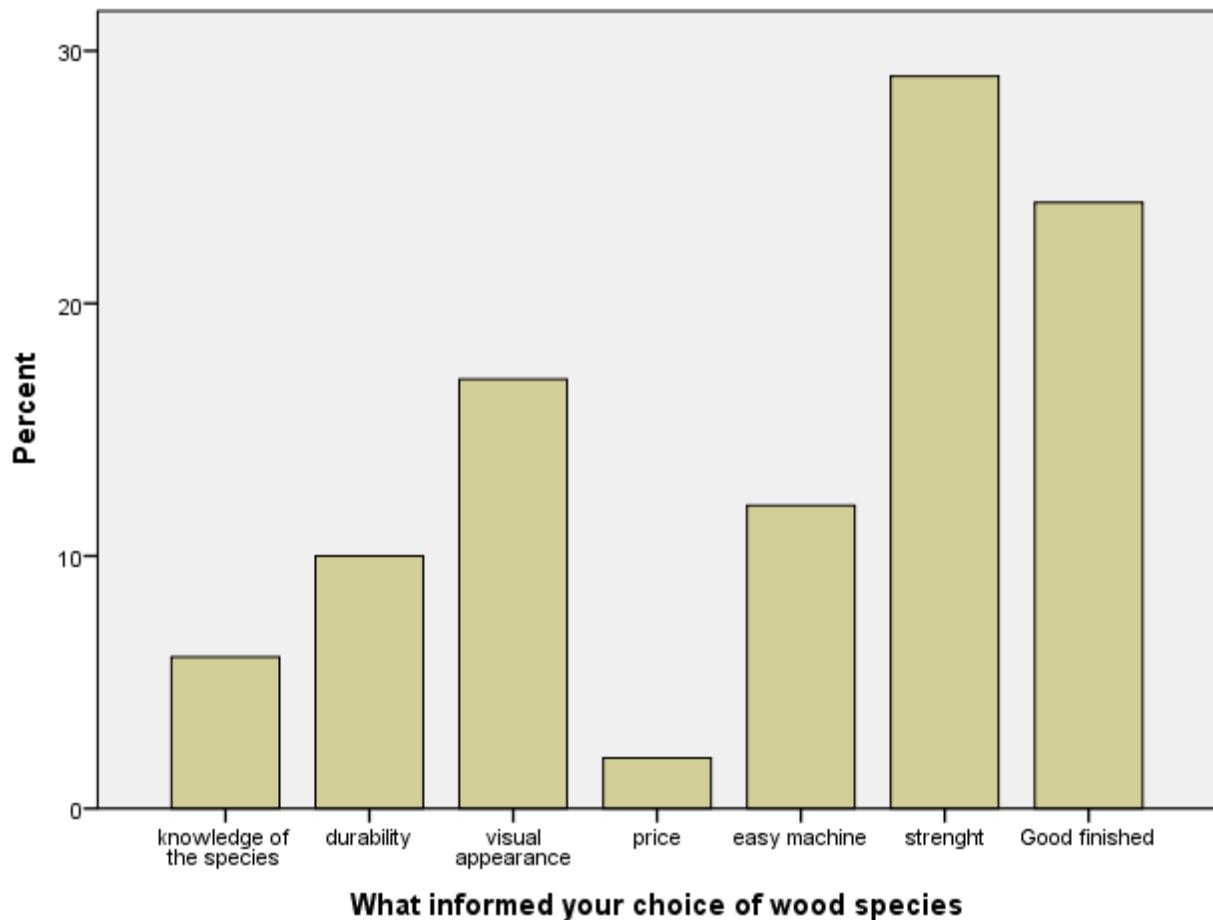
Table 2 present the results of the respondent awareness on wood biodegrading agents as it affects wooden structure and wood. The result shows that 40% of the respondent has been into furniture making for about 11-15 yrs and about 32% has work more than 16 years while 40% of the respondent has been into carpentry work for about 11-15 yrs and about 31% has work for more than 16 years. It implied that most of the respondent have more years of experience in their field has they have been in the work for more than eleven years. It agreed with the work of Ajayi and Ojutiku, (2008) that longer years in a profession could contribute to the level of experience and skill put into quality of production. The result also revealed that 93% of the respondent has problem with biodeteriorating agent at one time or other at their workshop and termite attack been the most severe with 53% and beetle 41%.

Also about 54% of respondent customers at one time or the other has complained of biodeteriorating agent, termite and beetle has been the most prominent biodeteriorating agent at 55% and 38% respectively. It implied that indeed they experience and are aware of the effects of biodeteriorating agents, however termite and beetle are very prominent in these attacks. Furthermore, 29% of the respondent considered strength in choosing the wood species to work with while good finished, visual appearance, easy machining, durability, knowledge of the species and availability also informed choices of wood species used at 24%, 17%, 12%, 10%, 6% and 2% respectively (Fig. 1). It implied that respondents has some little knowledge about the wood species they use.

**Table 2: respondent awareness on wood bio-deteriorating agents attack**

Variable	Frequency	Percentage
<b>Are you into furniture work</b>		
Yes	100	100
No	0	0
Total	100	100
<b>How many years are you into furniture</b>		
1-5yrs	2	2.0
6-10yrs	26	26.0
11-15yrs	40	40.0
>16yrs	32	32.0
Total	100	100.0
<b>Are you into carpentry work</b>		
Yes	94	94.0
No	6	6.0
Total	100	100.0
<b>How many years are you into carpenters</b>		
1-5yrs	2	2.0
6-10yrs	21	21.0
11-15yrs	46	46.0
>16yrs	31	31.0
Total	100	100.0
<b>Do you have problem of wood biodegrading agent(s) such as termites, fungi and beetle in your place of work</b>		
Yes	93	93.0

No	7	7.0
Total	100	100.0
<b>If yes, which of the wood biodegrading agents</b>		
Termite	53	53.0
Fungi	6	6.0
Beetle	41	41.0
Total	100	100.0
<b>Has any of your customers complained of degradation of wood products sold to them due to attack by bio-deteriorating agents</b>		
Yes	54	54.0
No	46	46.0
Total	100	100.0
<b>If yes, which of the wood biodegrading agents was involved</b>		
Termite	55	55.0
Beetle	38	38.0
Fungi	7	7.0
Total	100	100.0



**Figure 1: What informed choice of wood species**

The result further revealed that 96% of respondent are aware of wood preservative chemical to treat wood against biodeteriorating agent. It implied that respondents are aware of

wood preservative. It also shows that 27% of the respondent often use wood preservative chemical to treat their wood while 73% rarely treat their wood before delivery to the end user (table 4). It

implied that in as much of their awareness of wood preservative, usage is still low. It also shows that DDforce been the mostly prefer wood preservative chemical at 86% for furniture work while soligum and black engine oil are used for carpentry work by respondents at 43% and 32% respectively (table 3). The result also revealed that 55% respondent uses brushing method as method of wood preservative chemical application while 45% preferred spraying method of application (table 4). It implied that brushing and spraying method is adopted for treating wood by the respondents, however this method is not the most effective as impregnating method but the initial cost of installation and the skill to operate the machine could impede them. It also shows that 76% of respondent does not know the benefits of preserving wood to the environment while 24% known the benefit. It implied that most of the respondents do know the benefit of preserving wood to environment, the reason could be their level of education as none of the respondent has more than secondary education. The result further revealed that 94% of respondent dry their wood before use or treatment with preservative chemical while 6% does not. The result of the frequency of drying wood before use or treatment with preservative chemical shows that only 29% of the respondent often dry there wood before use or treatment while

71% rarely dry there wood before use or treatment. Also 98% of respondent uses air drying as method of drying wood while 2% of respondent make use of conventional kiln drying method for drying wood. It implied that respondent dry their wood before use or treatment, however the frequency is very low as majority of the respondent rarely dry their wood because of the pressure by their customer to deliver on time and the air drying method employ respondents to dry the wood is a function climatic factors. The result of the challenges face by respondents in treating wood with preservative chemical shows that nose irritation is the most prominent with 36% while eye irritation, skin irritation, bad odour and technical knowhow with 22%, 21%, 20 % and 1% respectively. It implied that nose irritation, eye irritation, skin irritation, bad odour and technical knowhow are the challenge face by respondent in the cause of wood treatment. The result further shows that 65% of the respondent suggested that awareness creation, 23% and 6% also submit that training and government policy respectively can promote wood preservation industry in Nigeria. It implied that respondent suggested that much awareness campaign, training and government policy in favour of wood protection should be initiated.

**Table 3: Respondents respond on the wood preservative chemical use for furniture and carpentry work**

Furniture		Carpentry			
Variable	Frequency	Percentage	Variable	Frequency	Percentage
DDforce	86	86.0	DDforce	2	2.0
Soligum	5	5.0	Best killer	8	8.0
Sandsiller	1	1.0	Soligum	43	43.0
Kerosene	5	5.0	Kerosene + salt	3	3.0
Salt and water	1	1.0	Black engine oil	32	32.0
Gamale 20	1	1.0	Kerosene	1	1.0
Termifos 20 EC	1	1.0	Petrol	1	1.0
Total	100	100.0	Perfect killer	1	1.0
			Gamale 20	2	2.0
			Sniper	2	2.0
			Termifos 20 EC	5	5.0
			Total	100	100.0

**Table 4: Respondent respond on wood preservative application**

Variable	Frequency	Percentage
<b>Are you aware of wood preservative chemical to treat wood</b>		
Yes	96	96.0
No	4	4.0
Total	100	100.0
<b>What is the frequency of use of wood preservative chemical to treat your wood</b>		

Often	27	27.0
Rarely	73	73.0
Total	100	100.0
<b>Method of application of wood preservative chemical</b>		
Spraying	45	45.0
Brushing	55	55.0
Total	100	100.0
<b>Do you know the benefit of preserving wood to the environment</b>		
Yes	24	24.0
No	76	76.0
Total	100	100.0
<b>Do you want to be educated on how best to preserve wood</b>		
Yes	98	98.0
No	2	2.0
Total	100	100.0
<b>What are the Challenges you face in treating your wood with preservative chemical</b>		
Eye irritation	22	22.0
Nose irritation	36	36.0
skin irritation	21	21.0
Technical know how	1	1.0
Bad odour	20	20.0
Total	100	100.0
<b>Do you dry your wood before use or treatment with preservative chemical</b>		
Yes	94	94.0
No	6	6.0
Total	100	100.0
<b>If yes, which method do you adopt in drying your wood</b>		
air drying method	98	98.0
conventional kiln drying method	2	2.0
Total	100	100.0
<b>What is the frequency of drying your wood before use or treatment with preservative chemical</b>		
Often	29	29.0
Rarely	71	71.0
Total	100	100
<b>What do you think can be done to promote wood preservation industry in Nigeria</b>		
Awareness	65	65.0
Encourage wood industry	3	3.0
Training	23	23.0
Government policy	6	6.0
None	3	3.0
Total	100	100

**Table 5: Correlations**

	<b>Do you have problem of wood biodegrading agent(s) such as termites, fungi and beetle in your place of work</b>	<b>Species of wood biodegrading agents that attack roofing</b>	<b>Do you use any wood preservative chemical to treat your wood</b>
<b>Education</b>	.072		.041
<b>Years' of experience as carpenters</b>		.276**	
<b>Has any of your customers complained of degradation of wood products sold to them due to attack by biodeteriorating agents</b>	.789**		

## \*\*. Correlation is significant at the 0.01 level (2-tailed).

The result of correlation is presented in (table 5). It reveal that there is weak and positive correlation between education and incident of biodeteriorating attack to wood in their work place. It implied that there level of education does not affect the incidence of biodeteriorating agent attack. It also reveal that there is weak and positive correlation between education and usage of preservative chemical to treat wood. This implied that increases in the level of education lead to increase in the usage of preservative chemical usage to treat wood. The result also shows that there is strong and positive correlation between years of experience and the species of biodeteriorating agents that attack roofing part of a building. This implied that increase in their year of experience lead to increase in the different the type of biodeteriorating that attack the roofing part of the building. Furthermore, the results revealed that there is strong and positive correlation between complained by wood product user and incidence of biodeteriorating attacks in the wood workshops. This implied that increase in the incidence biodeteriorating agents attack in the wood workshop increases the complained the wood product user.

## IV. CONCLUSION

The awareness of smallholder's furniture and carpenter on wood biodeteriorating agents is a veritable tools in the sustainable management of wood and wooden products. Understanding the basic technique on how biodeteriorating agents attack wood and principle of the management of wood against the degradation. Also, knowing the nexus between wood preservation and climate change could also help in protecting wood and wooden production from biodeteriorating agents. It is therefore, recommended that rigorous awareness campaign and training should be created among smallholder's furniture and carpenters by non-governmental organization (NGO), Community Based Organization (CBO) and government. Also, there is therefore need for government at all levels to encourage wood industries by creating enabling environment for the industries through credit facility loan and also initiate policy that will protect wood from biodeteriorating agents through wood preservation which in turn increase the service life of our wooden structures and in long run preserve (sustain) our trees that is, forest cover

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