

# Chapter 12

## Design and Construction of a Drying Chamber for Millinery and Accessories

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### **ABSTRACT**

*The study was conducted to design and construct a drying chamber for millinery and accessories production to reduce the risks involved in the old ways of drying hat. The design of the study is descriptive while the population includes fashion schools. The sample size for the study was 100 respondents while a researcher's self-developed questionnaire was used as the instrument for data collection. The blocked hat used the sun drying method, rather than the drying chamber, and considered the drying chamber more effective than sun drying method. The dryer constructed could dry the hats effectively and efficiently.*

### **INTRODUCTION**

According to Harrison (1960), Millinery is the design, manufacture and sale of hats and head-ware. A person engaged in this trade is called a milliner or hatter.

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Millinery is sold to women, men and children, though some definitions limit the term to women's hats. Historically, milliners, typically female shopkeepers, produced or imported an inventory of garments for men, women, and children, including hats, shirts, cloaks, shifts, caps, neckerchiefs, and undergarments, and sold these garments in their millinery shop. Millinery and Accessories such as shoes, handbags, belts, hats, and jewelry are designed to coordinate with apparel to create a total fashion look. The colorful variety of these accessories creates a whole new sense of fashion in the industry. But we cannot overlook how these millinery accessories are made. In recent times, modern ways of making accessories have been introduced but the millinery producers still stick to the old ways of making the products.

## **PROBLEM STATEMENT**

In Ghana, the traditional way of drying the hat is sun drying in the open space. Drying in the sun comes with its attendant problems such as difficulty to regulate the temperature hence exposure to outsider interference, changes in the weather such as rain and wind/dust.

Also, the construction of millinery accessory is a tedious and labor-intensive process. Therefore, this study is conducted to design and construct a drying chamber for millinery and accessories production which may intend to help reduce the risks involved in the old ways of drying.

## **LITERATURE REVIEW AND RELATED WORK**

### **Historical Background of Millinery**

According to Bailey (1998) Headwear for women began in earnest during the Middle Ages when the church decreed that their hair must be covered. During the 18th century, milliners took the hat-making art out of the home and established the millinery profession. Today, a "milliner" defines a person associated with the profession of hat making. In the 18th century however, a milliner was more of a stylist. Traditionally a woman's occupation, the milliner not only created hats or bonnets to go with costumes but also chose the laces, trims and accessories to complete an ensemble. The term „milliner“ comes from the Italian city of Milan, where in the 1700's, the finest straws were braided, and the best quality hat forms were made. Pancake style „shepherdess“ hats were popular throughout most of the 18th century, in varying brim widths. These hats were considered necessary to keep the sun away

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