

1 Pulp Art Making: A Tool for Promoting Recycling through 2 Hand Papermaking for Effective Curriculum Delivery in Art

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6

7 **Abstract**

8 Recycling to produce new products out of waste materials is not a regular feature of school art
9 programmes in Ghana. A previous quasi-experimental recycling project revealed the
10 possibility of using pulp waste fabrics and paper mulberry fibre to produce good quality art
11 paper suitable for teaching and learning of drawing, painting, stitching, colour work, and book
12 binding. This article reports on the follow up workshop aimed at introducing 15 art teachers
13 in Kumasi to pulp art making to support effective delivery of the Creative Arts, Basic Design
14 and Technology, and Visual Arts curricula followed in Primary, Junior High and Senior High
15 Schools respectively. Besides learning to produce papers, the teachers tested the suitability of
16 the produced papers using colour pencil, pastel, poster colour, watercolour, oil and acrylic
17 paints. They also learned to sew sheets of the produced papers together into miniature books
18 to teach calligraphy and encourage development of good handwriting skills among their
19 students. This one-day hands-on workshop generated sufficient interest to motivate four
20 participants to successfully replicate the workshop in their respective schools.

21

22 **Index terms**— pulp art; recycling; hand papermaking; curriculum; creativity.

23 **1 Introduction**

24 Educators and educational institutions are always called upon to take up and address issues when behavioural
25 changes are needed; the waste crisis is no exception. Educators could add a fourth "R" (recycling) to the
26 traditional three "Rs" of reading, writing and arithmetic. By practising recycling, reducing and reusing with
27 their students, teachers will be encouraging them to develop positive behaviours of waste management. Schools
28 also possess a unique opportunity to form the behaviours of people during the earliest stages of development
29 through to adolescence. As the learning environment where children learn the behaviours they will adopt for
30 their lifetimes, school is a perfect place to initiate the habit of recycling, which can help inculcate a sense of
31 leadership and responsibility in young people. Implementing school recycling programmes can also support lessons
32 on environmental stewardship and conservation that is taught in science and social studies. By implementing
33 recycling programmes, schools can become a hands-on learning environment where students learn to practise the
34 behaviours of environmental stewardship and good citizenship by reducing waste (Bullman, 2007).

35 It is good for communities if future leaders learn the recycling habit, which they will carry over into their
36 homes and on into adulthood (Association of New Jersey Recyclers, 1994). A school recycling programme of
37 waste products may not necessarily make money but it can cut down on waste and disposal costs and also instill
38 positive behaviours associated with conserving natural resources. When educators take up recycling, the schools
39 will end up teaching the society examples they should follow.

5 III. BENEFITS AND OPPORTUNITIES IN PULP ART

40 2 II.

41 3 Why Recycle?

42 According to The Dallas Sierra Club (2008), land filling and open-space dumping of waste bring about odour
43 concerns, air pollution, pollution of ground and surface water and indiscriminate littering. Incineration of waste
44 materials is expensive to build and operate, they require a lot of energy, they produce air pollutants that
45 include sulfur dioxide and nitrogen oxides, they can release metals such as cadmium, chromium, mercury, nickel
46 and zinc in their ash, and they also generate wastewater that requires further cleanup. Landfilling of waste,
47 incineration of waste and open-space dumping of waste, all have serious environmental challenges that can
48 destroy the sustainability of the environment and the inhabitants in the environment (The Dallas Sierra ??lub,
49 2008).

50 Friends of the Earth (2008) has outlined the importance of recycling waste materials as: a) Recycling saves
51 raw materials it reduces the need for raw materials such as metals, forest materials, oil, and also reduces the
52 pressure on the environment. The level of consumption in the world has a significant impact on raw materials
53 and the environment as a whole which is a key cause of global habitat loss. For example, demand for paper
54 and cardboard is threatening ancient woodlands. Also virgin materials need to be refined and processed to
55 create products, requiring the use of vast amounts of energy and the use of polluting chemicals which causes
56 further destruction to habitats. For example, making one tonne of aluminium from virgin materials requires
57 four tonnes of chemicals and eight tonnes of bauxite, which is a mineral ore; it takes 95 percent less energy to
58 make a recycled aluminium can than a new can from virgin materials (Friends of the Earth, 2008). b) Recycling
59 reduces the world impact on climate change although recycling uses energy, overall it reduces climate emissions, as
60 recycling a material generally uses far less energy than manufacturing products from virgin materials. Recycling
61 waste paper saves three times the energy used up in burning it. Recycling plastics also saves five times the
62 energy created by burning it (Friends of the Earth, 2008). c) Recycling costs less the costs of different waste
63 management techniques are subject to many variables which make it difficult to distinguish between them in
64 purely economic terms. However, when comparing land filling of waste, incineration, open-space dumping and
65 recycling, recycling has considerable economic merit. Friends of the Earth (2008) concur with The Dallas Sierra
66 Club (2008) that recycling, instead of sending waste to landfill, avoids the payment of landfill taxes and potential
67 breach of contract fines. d) Recycling can generate cash after collecting waste materials or recyclables, they
68 are separated and sent to re-processors such as paper mills, glass works or plastic reprocessing plants where the
69 waste is processed for use in new products. Although it costs money to collect waste materials, the materials
70 generate income when they are recycled and sold (Friends of the Earth, 2008). from collection to the sorting
71 and reprocessing of the recyclables creates more jobs than incineration and land filling of waste. There is still a
72 huge potential for growth in the reprocessing of waste sector, particularly with strong manufacturing industries
73 (Friends of the Earth, 2008).

74 4 f) Recycling helps us toward sustainable living

75 Making people think about the impact of their consumption and production of waste can help to encourage
76 them to make lifestyle decisions to reduce the waste they create and thereby reduce negative impacts on the
77 environment. Recycling saves energy, reduces raw material extraction and combats climate change. The vast
78 majority of studies have shown that recycling our rubbish is better for the environment rather than incinerating
79 or landfilling it. Recycling creates a This cyclic way of living is essential for reducing the negative impact on the
80 environment as a whole, and will help the world develop sustainably (Friends of the Earth, 2008).

81 Today the field of recycling is considered as the method that is being used to take care of waste to protect the
82 environment (Spilka et al., 2008). Bullman (2007) stresses that reducing waste, reusing materials and products,
83 and recycling are some of the most powerful ways individuals, households, institutions and businesses can protect
84 their communities and the environment. Using fabric waste for hand papermaking is therefore a good option for
85 cleaning the environment and putting resources to good use.

86 5 III. Benefits and Opportunities in Pulp Art

87 Essentially, the value of the pulp art process is much more important than the products that can be created; hence
88 Smith (1995) asks teachers to guard against being too product-oriented at the outset. Papermaking projects with
89 any number of participants can be made manageable if smaller works are made because bigger works require
90 more pulp, more drying space, and more drying time, which can all create problems, implying that teachers must
91 not set themselves up for something they cannot handle. One of the most exciting things about teaching hand
92 papermaking is the many new learning experiences it often provides (Radolan, 2004) such as the opportunity to
93 introduce some basic chemistry and environmental issues to learners ??Vickerman, 1995). Pulp art also provides
94 and also offers artistic possibilities limited only by the imagination of the pulp artist. An instructor organising
95 a papermaking project must therefore have a general understanding of the entire process involved in the craft
96 ??Hiebert, 1998).

97 Volume XIV Issue IV Version I According to Hiebert (1998), the following are the basic processes involved
98 in hand papermaking: 1. First, raw material is obtained (papermaking fibre) by harvesting plant material or

99 purchasing fibre from a papermaking supplier. 2. Once the fibre is obtained it is processed; the processing varies
100 from fibre to fibre but most plant fibres require cooking. 3. All processed and cooked fibres are beaten into pulp,
101 using methods such as hand beating, a blender, or beating in a Hollander beater. 4. After beating, the pulp is
102 mixed with water in a vat. 5. A mould and deckle is then dipped in and out of the vat of pulp, allowing the pulp
103 to settle on the screened surface of the mould as the water drains through the holes in the screen. With this the
104 deckle is removed and the mould is tilted to let the excess water drain off.

105 7. The couched sheets are pressed to remove water from the wet sheets. 8. The pressed sheets are dried using
106 a box fan or sunshine.

107 **6 b) Organising and teaching papermaking**

108 Papermaking can be organised and taught successfully using different techniques. Smith (1995) calls on the
109 instructor to introduce the concept of pulp art slowly to the audience because the process of making a piece of
110 paper involves many steps and students can only grasp so much at a time. Smith indicates that the process must
111 always be broken down into as many steps as possible to allow the participants or students to assimilate all they
112 are taught. The first day of paper making can focus on pulp preparation and the next day for working with the
113 pulp. Ideally, it can take the students several practices before they can use the pulp as an art medium. In a
114 classroom situation, all the required materials and tools must be present for a smooth operation. Depending on
115 the number of students and the class size, the tools, materials and equipment should be arranged carefully and
116 very well to allow space and easy movement in the room.

117 To Smith (1995), what works best is to have tables in the middle of the room for easy access to supplies of
118 materials and to surround them with student work tables on which two or three vats of pulp are placed, leaving
119 the equipment and materials on the supply tables. Chairs must be placed along the walls of the room, and if
120 need be, to restore order in the room by directing the participants to sit on them. If the time for training is
121 limited, instructors can complete some of the initial process before the participants arrive. For example, the
122 instructor can prepare the different kinds of pulps to be used for the project and even make samples of what
123 would be taught to the participants before the start of the class to save time. Because the making of paper from
124 plants is labour intensive, Radolan (2004) recommends that instructors do most of the labour intensive and time
125 consuming processes like fibre harvesting, preparation, and cooking before the start of the workshop.

126 If the students or participants are not involved in the preparation of the pulp, the process of preparing the
127 right consistency of pulps for creating the different kinds of works must be explained to them through a brief
128 demonstration during the teaching session. The processes involved in papermaking are many so Smith (1995)
129 advises teachers taking people through papermaking to have one or two volunteers or teaching assistants to help
130 carry out the project. This allows for orderliness and also ensures that all participate fully throughout the process.
131 In the case of teachers who do not have volunteers to help them during the training sessions, students who are
132 able to grasp the process and finish with their works early could be asked to help and assist other students who
133 will still be working.

134 **7 c) Safety Measures**

135 Although manipulating pulps to create art is fun for all ages, there are safety measures that instructors must
136 consider when organising and teaching any kind of pulp art (Smith, 1995; Radolan, 2003; Radolan, 2005; Radolan,
137 2006; Radolan, 2010)). Vickerman (1995) insists that instructors of children in particular must always adopt
138 the "safety first" motto because some wood and plant materials can cause allergic reactions and skin irritations to
139 some individuals. Pulp spraying, which involves spraying pulp on three dimensional moulds to attain the form of
140 the mould with the pulp may be harmful, especially to people with pre-existing respiratory conditions (Schutter,
141 1998). Pulp spraying could cause some people to cough and sneeze within seconds of entering the papermaking
142 workshop. Soda ash and caustic soda which are added to soften fibres during cooking are highly corrosive upon
143 skin and eye contact and inhalation. Chlorine bleach, which is added to pulp to whiten it and other colouring
144 pigments, must be handled carefully by instructors because they can cause skin, eye and respiratory irritation
145 (Vickerman, 1995). Protective gloves can be worn to prevent cracking effects on the hands during cooking and
146 rinsing of fibres (Farnsworth, 1989).

147 The blades in mechanical beaters can trap the hands when working with or cleaning the pulp out of the beater.
148 Instructors must especially guide their participants on the use of mechanical beaters during pulp art projects.
149 The use of large amounts of water in papermaking workshops also presents hazards if splashed on electrical outlets
150 or on other electrical equipment around. While Vickerman (1995) advocates preventing situations of electricity
151 coming in contact with water when working, Hiebert (1998) cautions instructors to make sure their working area
152 is free of all electrical hazards and that all extension cords must be kept well above the working floor and far
153 away from water during working hours. It is important therefore that hand papermaking projects are organised
154 in well ventilated rooms or areas; bearing in mind that beating can be done anywhere, although the pounding
155 and blending creates noise that can disturb other people around the place (Vickerman; 1995; Hiebert, 1998).

156 **8 IV. Materials and Methods**

157 This one-day hands-on workshop involved a purposive sample of 15 art teachers drawn from 20 schools (3 in
158 primary; 5 in Junior High, 7 in Senior High) in Kumasi. Selection was largely determined by interest and
159 willingness to participate in the workshop that was held in the Textiles studios of the Faculty of Art in KNUST,
160 the research base of the authors. The workshop commenced with an introduction that outlined the concept
161 of recycling, details of the workshop, a discussion of the paper mulberry plant, and examination of plant and
162 fabric samples to get the teachers to become familiar with the materials to be used. Equipment assembled for
163 the project as well as samples of previously produced papers and those on which drawings had been done were
164 thoroughly examined by the participants. The next thing done was to take the teachers through the processing of
165 waste fabrics and paper mulberry fibre, first by cooking cut up pieces of the mulberry plant with caustic soda to
166 soften it so that the outer bark could be peeled off to obtain the inner fibre. After two to three hours of cooking
167 in a pot of water, a piece of the cooked fibre was removed from the pot and tested by attempting to pull the
168 inner fibre and outer bark apart to ascertain its softness and readiness for pulping. As Heibert (1998) indicates,
169 if by pulling on a piece of bark it separates with a slight tug, then the bark is ready. If not, cooking is continued
170 and the fibres checked every 30 minutes. When the test showed that the fibres were ready, the outer bark was
171 peeled off to reveal the inner bark which was rinsed with clean water and then cut into smaller pieces.

172 The next stage was the sorting of the waste fabrics by type with the participants, cutting the fabrics into tiny
173 bits with scissors and milling each type separately in 1.5 litres of water into pulp in a domestic blender with a
174 measured quantity of the cooked mulberry fibre. The pulp was poured into a 25-litre pan filled with water, the
175 mixture was vigorously stirred by hand to obtain an even consistency after which a mould and deckle was used to
176 scoop some of the pulp onto the mould. The pulp on the mould was then couched on a felt placed on a flat wooden
177 board. This process was repeated several times to obtain a pack of wet sheets that were placed in-between felts
178 and pressed using either G-clamp or Jack press to drain the water from the wet sheets. Afterwards the pressed
179 sheets were removed and placed on flat metal plates for drying in the sun.

180 After drying, the sheets were removed and tested by asking the teachers to explore the potentials of the
181 produced papers with colour pencil, pastel, poster and water colour, oil and acrylic paint. The results were
182 similar to the original project described by Opoku-Asare and Yeboah (2013).

183 The participating teachers were not necessarily taught to acquire painting, drawing and book binding skills
184 per se because as art practitioners, they needed no tuition to do what they already were familiar with. The
185 highlight of the workshop was showing the teachers how to make miniature books out of the dried handmade
186 papers. Plates 1 -11 show stages of the workshop. The polyester sheets were sewn into a miniature book [Plate
187 15] without any problems although the fibre content of the sheets flaked off when writing on them. The writing
188 was not legible and it appeared faint on the paper. No flipping sound was heard when the sheets were flipped
189 and the sheets did not return to their position after flipping.

190 Wool and Mulberry Papers: Making a miniature book out of the woollen sheets did not go very well. The soft
191 and non-crispy nature of the sheets and the loose bonding of the fibres made the sewing thread tear through the
192 sheets. Writing on the sheets also made the fibre content peel off. The writing was not legible on the sheets as it
193 appeared faint and blurred. The book [Plate 16] was quite thick when felt and the pages made no flipping sound
194 when the book was flipped.

195 Acetate and Mulberry Papers: The fibre content of the acetate sheets began flaking off as the book was being
196 sewn. Writing on the sheets also made the fibre content peel off. The writing appeared faint, dull and blurred
197 on the sheets. The entire book [Plate 17] was soft to the touch and felt very much like a soft carpet.

198 **9 a) End of Workshop**

199 The workshop ended with the participants being asked to evaluate the workshop and also to talk about the need
200 for recycling in general. This was done using a question based interview guide. After the discussion, the teachers
201 were informed of follow up visits to find out what they would do with the knowledge and skills acquired through
202 the workshop.

203 **10 VI. Results and Discussion**

204 The use of the different sheets as writing materials showed marked differences in the way each type of paper made
205 from the combination of different fabrics and paper mulberry fibre reacted to their use in book form. Considering
206 the suitability of these handmade papers as material for books, the study showed that the Cotton and paper
207 mulberry, and the Linen-with-Cotton and paper mulberry worked very well because of the strong bondage of the
208 fibres in the sheets. Linen worked partially well; although the sheets could take some writing, its foamy nature
209 made it very uncomfortable to write well on them. The nylon, polyester, wool and acetate sheets did not work
210 as writing pads because of the fluffy nature of the sheets. The implication is that papers derived from Cotton
211 and mulberry fibre, and the Linen-with-Cotton and mulberry fibre can produce sheets of papers suitable for use
212 as writing pads. The enthusiasm, positive attitude and views expressed by the teacher-participants during the
213 workshop suggested that recycling waste into useful products is a worthwhile activity that needs to be encouraged
214 at all levels of Ghanaian education. The participants said this will help individuals in the country to be more
215 creative and innovative to know how to handle waste and develop the love for manual work in students. They

216 were very passionate on how waste of different kinds is taking over our environment without anything being done
217 about it. A participant mentioned that "if nothing useful is done about the waste that we generate every day,
218 it will cause problems for the environment and for the individuals who live in the environment". This showed
219 that the effects of waste on the environment and our communities were primary concerns of the participants.
220 Another participant also voiced out that "if individuals in the country continue to be ignorant about proper
221 waste management, a day will come that waste will take over the environment". This suggests that the workshop
222 was a positive effort in saving the environment.

223 The attitudes of the participants however, differed as to the possibility of implementing recycling programmes
224 in Ghanaian schools. Some were of the opinion that it depends on the education and curriculum developers
225 and planners in the country. Others thought that waiting for education and curriculum planners to incorporate
226 recycling in the Creative Arts, Basic Design and Technology (BDT) and Visual Arts syllabi before teaching
227 recycling in Ghanaian schools would not work. Another participant said "recycling activities and programmes
228 can be treated as extracurricular activities or teachers and students can form clubs where such activities can be
229 handled". One participant drew attention to the fact that papermaking is one of the topics mentioned in the
230 Junior High School Basic Design and Technology (BDT) syllabus but teachers do not teach it. This revelation
231 led to an argument on whether recycling is important to artists only for which reason recycling has been captured
232 under the visual art component of the Basic Design and Technology syllabus followed in Junior High Schools.
233 The participants strongly objected to the idea of recycling being identified with only Visual Art, saying recycling
234 can be incorporated into science, social studies, mathematics, and all subjects taught in Ghanaian schools as this
235 will be beneficial to students.

236 With regards to participants who already had ideas on waste recycling and were practising their ideas before
237 participating in the workshop, only one participant shared the fact that he recycles waste. When asked if
238 participants had practical recycling programmes already operating in their schools, only one mentioned that
239 their school was involved in a collaborative programme that focuses on waste recycling with another overseas
240 school. The other 14 participants had no practical experience in recycling as a school activity; they also could not
241 explain why this was the situation in their schools. None of the participants also knew of recycling programmes in
242 any other school a that operates a practical recycling programme for its students. This is indicative of espoused
243 theory (syllabus requirement) that does not translate into classroom practice, suggesting the appropriateness
244 of the workshop for effective delivery of the art curriculum and the possibility of the workshop generating the
245 interest and capacity for the workshop participants to initiate recycling programmes in their schools.

246 papers to produce sculpture works and had been teaching this to his students. With regards to the attitudes
247 of Ghanaians to recycling, the interview revealed a variety of answers. A section of the participants shared the
248 view that they do not see recycling as a natural behaviour of the people of Ghana. Instead, Ghanaians always
249 want new and already made products because of laziness and lack of education. They added that this attitude
250 is evident in the poor maintenance culture practised in the country, with regards to regular periodic servicing
251 of personal or state property to prolong their lifespan. Other participants argued that recycling has not been
252 evident among the people of Ghana but now some individuals are becoming more conscious of recycling as a
253 result of environmental awareness. Examples were given on how some individuals were producing useful items
254 such as shopping bags and furniture out of waste plastic bags and bottles.

255 The most important example cited by the participants was the KNUST Communication Design student who
256 used plastic bottles to manufacture living room furniture which were exhibited at the 2010 Trade and Technology
257 Fair held in the KNUST museum. The participants articulated passionately that educating individual Ghanaians
258 on the need, importance and benefits of recycling can help individuals in the country to appreciate the usefulness
259 of recycling. When asked to share their views and experiences on the workshop, one teacher said "At first, when
260 I heard of papermaking, I thought of the use of machines but now I know that useful papers can also be made
261 manually through a very smooth process with local materials". Other participants described the papermaking
262 process as an interesting process which they enjoyed.

263 Throughout the workshop, participants articulated that they had learnt a new activity which they did not
264 know of. Some participants also promised to initiate recycling programmes in their schools with the knowledge
265 and skills they had acquired from the workshop, what they had witnessed, learned and produced. The teacher
266 who mentioned that his school was collaborating with a school in the USA to reduce waste through recycling
267 recommended the workshop as an opportunity for him to learn more about recycling. A number of the participants
268 articulated that there were opportunity to introduce the knowledge they had acquired to their students via the
269 clubs. Some concerns were however, raised by the participants about how they could create awareness about
270 what they had experienced at the workshop among other teachers who were not present at the workshop. Some
271 suggested that the teachers' resources centre in Kumasi could be the means by which both education officials and
272 other teachers could be alerted to opportunities in recycling through the papermaking so that all art teachers
273 could benefit from it. The truth is that the officer in charge of the resource centre who could provide the teachers
274 with this service was invited for the workshop but did not show up or send a representative.

275 It will take much education for waste recycling to become part of Ghanaians; this type of education can start
276 from our schools. Teachers and all in charge of education in the country have a role to play in educating and
277 instilling the recycling attitude in the Ghanaian. It can be deduced from the group interview organised at the
278 workshop that education can help make the individual Ghanaian to become aware of the need for waste recycling.

12 CONCLUSION

279 Also it was discovered that papermaking is in the Junior High School syllabus as part of BDT but most schools
280 ignore it. The workshop has revealed that this might be due to lack of expertise on the part of the teachers
281 who are in charge of the subject in the schools. It is now possible for teachers who took part in the workshop
282 organised by the VIII. Feedback from the Teacher Participants

283 The teacher participant from one Junior High School taught the students how to combine waste paper and
284 paper mulberry in hand papermaking to produce useful sheets. According to the teacher participant, the The
285 interview with the workshop participants revealed that introducing the Ghanaian student to practical recycling
286 activities and programmes is an important venture that must be encouraged. The participants also said recycling
287 activities can benefit students in all schools irrespective of the subject they are studying. Hence, recycling should
288 not be regarded as exclusive to the Visual Arts and technical skills oriented programmes. Part of the lessons
289 learned from the participants was that it is through education on waste recycling that the need for recycling
290 waste can be instilled into the citizens of the country. The impression deduced from the workshop is that the art
291 teachers who do not include recycling or paper making in their schemes of work and lessons lack the requisite
292 knowledge and expertise for that purpose. The experiences the participants shared at the evaluation stage of the
293 workshop indicated that the workshop activities had enabled them to gain new knowledge and skills that they
294 could transfer to their students. They viewed the project as a very useful and important venture necessary for
295 recycling and reusing waste materials to benefit individuals and the nation as a whole. What needs to be done,
296 they reiterated, is education which could conveniently begin from the schools. student clubs in their schools
297 which would offer them researchers and students who have experienced hand papermaking in their schools to
298 embrace the recycling exercise positively to make learning fun while also gaining new skills and knowledge at the
299 same time.

300 students responded positively to the exercise and were very excited about the whole process. Every student
301 present showed an interest in the exercise and wanted to partake in the process. The students were very amazed
302 about how loose fibres in water were able to form sheets of papers. In general, the teacher participant described
303 the class as lively and very interesting. Plates 19 -22 illustrate stages of the follow up school projects.

304 Plate 19 : Weweso JHS students making their papers Plate 20 : Weweso JHS students drawing on their
305 papers At the Boadi Primary School, the teacher participant taught her students how to use waste polyester and
306 linen fabrics with paper mulberry to make handmade papers. Information obtained from the teacher participant
307 indicated that some of the students told her that the process was interesting and fun and it was their first time
308 of learning to make their own papers. Some said that they had seen how to make papers manually and so they
309 would try the process at home. Others also said they had learnt how to use waste fabrics to make papers so when
310 they see dressmakers going to throw away their waste, they would collect them and try their hands on what they
311 had learnt. Others also said they were happy to know how to make their own papers and that they liked the
312 process.

313 11 Plate 21 : Pupils of Boadi JHS making papers

314 The headteacher of the school and teachers from other classes were also amazed about how waste fabrics could
315 be used to make sheets and said, it was their first time of witnessing such a process. According to the teacher
316 participant the student who took part in the exercise had fun and every student present was keen to have a feel
317 of the sheet forming process. Overall it was a worthwhile exercise for the students. Plates 22 -Plate 22 : Display
318 of artworks on handmade sheets in Boadi Primary School At the Bomso Junior High School, the students were
319 introduced to hand papermaking using acetate and cotton waste fabrics with paper mulberry fibre. According to
320 the teacher participant, the students present were eager to take their turn in making the sheets and every student
321 made sure his or her sheet came out well. Students who took their turn first in making their sheets helped their
322 fellow students who were yet to make their sheets. The teacher participant also said that some students confessed
323 they never knew that paper could be made easily. In all, the participation of the students was very encouraging.
324 Teachers in the school also took turns to pass by to witness the exercise. Plate 23 illustrates the Bomso School
325 project.

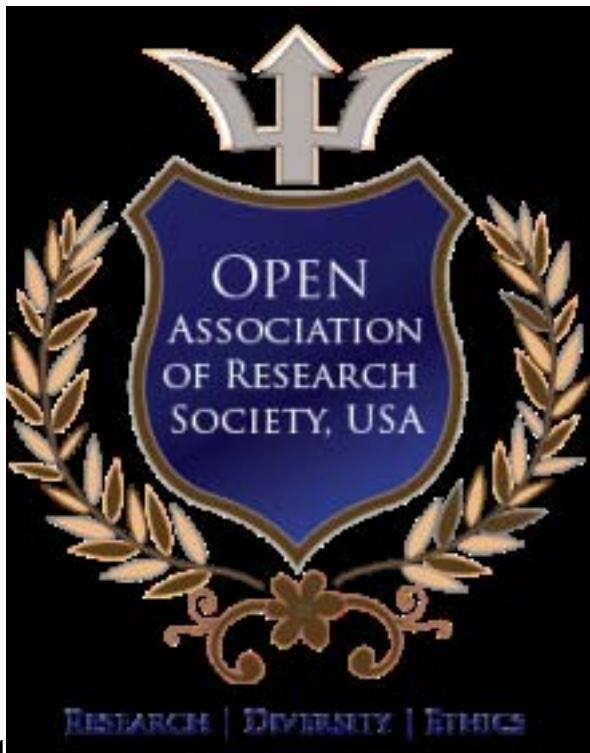
326 At the KNUST Junior High School the teacher participant exposed the rest of the teachers in his department
327 to what he was introduced to at the workshop. From there, Form Two students in the school were taught how to
328 recycle waste cotton and linen fabrics with paper mulberry into useful handmade papers. The teacher participant
329 commented that the students actively participated in the process and every student present made sure he or she
330 made a paper of his or her own. The students were very excited about the whole process and some took home
331 already prepared pulps, with the intention of trying their hands on the papermaking process at home. In general,
332 the papermaking process was a good exercise the students encountered. Plates 24 and 25 illustrate this school
333 project.

334 Plate 24 : KNUST JHS students making

335 12 Conclusion

336 The attitudes that were exhibited by these students in the four schools who had the opportunity to go through
337 the papermaking experience using waste materials give an indication that if the recycling concept is encouraged
338 in Ghanaian schools it would be embraced positively by students and they would learn lots of interesting ideas

339 from it. If students are introduced to such recycling activities, they would be having fun and at the same time
340 learn important things. If recycling activities are encouraged in Ghanaian schools with students overseeing them,
341 not only will they benefit from the programme in terms of knowledge but also would acquire or improve their
342 leadership skills. For waste recycling to become part of Ghanaians it will take education; this type of education
343 can start from our schools. Teachers and all stakeholders in the education enterprise in Ghana have a role to play
344 in educating and instilling the recycling attitude in the Ghanaian. If sustained, pulp art and hand papermaking
345 could inculcate the habit of recycling among the teachers and students of the participating schools and positively
346 impact on environmental and waste management issues in Ghana, which could also spark off the teachers of other
subjects and thereby get them involved to expand the recycling project.



14

Figure 1: 14 d)

347



259

Figure 2: Plate 2 :Plate 5 :Plate 9 :



12

Figure 3: Plate 12 :

348 [Farnsworth ()] *A guide to Japanese papermaking: Making Japanese paper in the Western world*, D S Farnsworth
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