



A study on the awareness and usage of modular kitchen furniture by the home makers

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Abstract

Modular kitchen has become a synonym for the new age kitchen and its furnishing layouts. It comprises of stylish modules of cabinets that are specifically designed to store a lot of items. The modular kitchens are need of every house-hold and family which are made for well-planned spacious home. Aim of the Study is to find out the awareness and usage of Modular Kitchen Furniture by the Home Makers, which type of Shutter/Drover Material they have used for their Modular Kitchen furniture and which type of trolley design they prefer more. 40 home makers were the respondents for the study. All the data regarding Modular Kitchen Furniture were collected personally by the investigators on a pre-validated interview schedule. The findings of the current study will help the home makers, Interior Designers, students, Architects to wisely choose and buy modular kitchen furniture for their client's home.

Keywords: Modular, Kitchen, Furniture.

Introduction

The kitchen is the heart of the home. In today's time kitchen is gradually assuming greater and greater importance. This is so, because servants are becoming scarce and expensive and the middle class homemaker of the household had to spend a good deal of her time and energy in the kitchen. Therefore, it has become necessary that the kitchen should be an efficient, comfortable and pleasant place to work¹. A homemaker spends a large part of her day in kitchen. This consumes additional amount of energy daily. The kitchen is primarily a food preparation center. For cooking purpose a homemaker needs specific utensils to cook food. These utensils should be stored in kitchen area for easy access to them. For this reason the homemaker needs kitchen furniture to store utensil and food supplies. The Modular kitchen furniture design consists of cabinets to hold needed items in one specific section.

Modular kitchen furniture design is a significant improvement in the world of kitchen furniture design. India has a diverse population but all the households are spending and designing their kitchen furniture according to their need and requirements. Modular kitchen is a term used for kitchens, designed and constructed in sections. The modular kitchens are need of every house-hold and family which are made for well-planned spacious home. Modular kitchen furniture is no longer a challenging and time consuming task². Due to urbanization and industrialization houses and apartments are becoming smaller, and a scarcity of space for kitchens is no longer a rarity. In metro cities getting a house is an achievement in itself, and a sufficiently sized kitchen is becoming a luxury few people can

afford. Modular Kitchen is a term used for the modern kitchen furniture layout consisting of modules of cabinets made of diversified materials which hold accessories inside, which can facilitate the effective usage of the spaces in a kitchen³.

Modular Kitchen is a modern kitchen furniture layout consisting of modules of cabinets made of diversified materials which hold accessories inside, which can facilitate the effective usage of the spaces in a kitchen⁴. It has worked immensely in bringing down and solving the common problems of kitchen storage of utensils. It is an intelligent approach towards positioning the key kitchen utensils in an organized manor to avoid unnecessary wastage of time and effort. Modular kitchens are aesthetic, practical and handy for the all families. Modular kitchens are fixed in homes of not only the high class home owners but also the middle class and the average home owners.

The cabinets inside them are assembled together resulting in a functional and a well-organized kitchen. Cabinets and shutters define a modern kitchen. They add to both the space and aesthetics of any modular kitchen, making them more functional and apt to the overall décor of the household⁵. The modules can be easily installed without any mess in your kitchen. One can customize their modular kitchen as per the kitchen size and their kitchen requirements⁶. The researcher wanted to search the information regarding Modular kitchen furniture, the types of material used in Modular kitchen furniture and which trolley system the homemakers are using most frequently in the kitchen. For this study the researcher come up with objectives written below. They are as follow:

Objectives of the study: i. To find out the awareness and usage of Modular Kitchen furniture by the Home Makers. ii. To find out which type of Shutter/Drover Material they have used for their Modular Kitchen furniture. iii. To find out which type of trolley design they prefer more.

Delimitations of the study: i. The study was limited to home makers of Vadodara city only. ii. The study was limited to home makers who were using Modular Kitchen furniture in their homes.

Methodology

Research Design: The research design of the present study is descriptive in nature.

Sample Size: The study was conducted on home makers of Vadodara city.

Sample Tool: Questioner was prepared by the researcher. 40 home makers were the respondents in the current study.

Locale of the study: The locale of the study was Vadodara city of Gujarat state.

Sampling Method: The data were collected personally by the investigators on a pre-validated interview schedule. The data of the present research were based on the subjective responses of the home makers. The questionnaire also contained questions concerning their family income, number of family members and type of family. The data were analyzed by applying descriptive statistical tests. Descriptive statistics (percentages, frequencies and means and standard deviations) were utilized to analyze the data statistically.

Results and discussion

Findings of the study: The finding of the study was divided in two parts. The first part consisted of the background information of the respondents who are the homemakers and the second part with information regarding the kitchen and kitchen modular furniture. The designer gathered personally the data of the existing kitchen along with the related data of the kitchen size, platform design and homemaker's awareness regarding kitchen modular furniture. The findings of the research revealed that majority of the homemakers were having nuclear family type. The home makers were having 2, 3 and 4 number family members. Around 50% of the families were having 4 family members. Only 15% of the homemakers were having joint family with 6 to 8 family members. More than half (55%) of the families were having family income up to Rs. 50,000/- per month, 40% of families were having family income up to Rs. 1,00,000/- per month and only 5% of families were having income up to Rs. 1,50,000/- per month.

The respondents the homemakers were having kitchen with various size. Majority of the homemakers approximately 65%

were having 10x9 sq.ft. to 10x12 sq.ft of kitchen size. Due to renovation they have made the kitchen long in size. Only 10% of the respondents were having big kitchen with 12x12 sq.ft. and 13x13 sq.ft. in size. All the kitchens had near square to rectangular shape. The kitchens were in various sizes 8x10 sq.ft., 8x12 sq.ft., 10x9 sq.ft., 10x10 sq.ft., 10x11 sq.ft., 10x12 sq.ft., 10x13 sq.ft., 10x15 sq.ft., 11x9 sq.ft., 12x12 sq.ft. and 13x13 sq.ft. in size. The reason behind having different sizes of kitchen was in last five years the homemakers had undergone renovation of the kitchen area. All the homemakers were aware of Modular kitchen furniture design. All the respondents were having Modular kitchen furniture design in their kitchens. The respondents were having knowledge about the Modular kitchen furniture design. According to the size of the kitchen the homemakers had designed Modular kitchen furniture for the kitchen. All the homemakers were aware about latest market trends in the Modular kitchen furniture design available in the local market.

Information regarding shape of kitchen platform: When asked the question regarding the shape of the Kitchen Platform they were having different shape of the Kitchen Platform. The findings in this category pointed that majority of the respondents about 50% of the respondents the homemakers were having L- Shape Kitchen Platform for the kitchen. However, only 30 % of the respondents were having One-Wall Kitchen Platform for the kitchen. About 15% of the respondents were having C or U- Shape Kitchen Platform for the kitchen and only 5% of the respondents were having Corridor or Two-Wall Kitchen Platform for the kitchen.

Information regarding shutter/drover material: The data of the existing Modular kitchen furniture Shutter/Drover Material was gathered by the researcher personally. The data revealed majority 65% of the kitchen had wooden shutters for Modular kitchen furniture. In which 40% were wood shutters without water proofing treatment and around 25% wood en shutters were having water proof treatment done on them. Near one fourth (20%) of the respondents were having Modular kitchen furniture made up of PVC material. And only 15% of the respondents were having Modular kitchen furniture made up of Wrought Iron material. These result revealed that having Modular kitchen furniture made up of wood is still preferred by most of the homemakers.

Information regarding trolley basket design: The study regarding Trolley Basket Design revealed that all the homemakers were proffering Plain Basket Trolley for their Modular kitchen furniture design. All (100%) of the homemakers had installed Plain Basket Trolley for their Modular kitchen furniture design. Only 15% of the homemakers had installed Plain Basket with 2 partitions Trolley for their Modular kitchen furniture design. Majority of the homemakers (85%) also preferred Dish Basket Trolley for their Modular kitchen furniture design. The Cutlery Basket design with 4 partitions was preferred by 40% of the homemakers. And the

Cutlery Basket design with 2 partitions was preferred by 20% of the homemakers having Modular kitchen furniture design. Only 5% of the homemakers had installed Cup and Saucer Basket Trolley for their Modular kitchen furniture design. The

homemakers preferred placing Cup and Saucer in Plain Basket Trolley instead of Cup and Saucer Basket Trolley for their Modular kitchen furniture design.

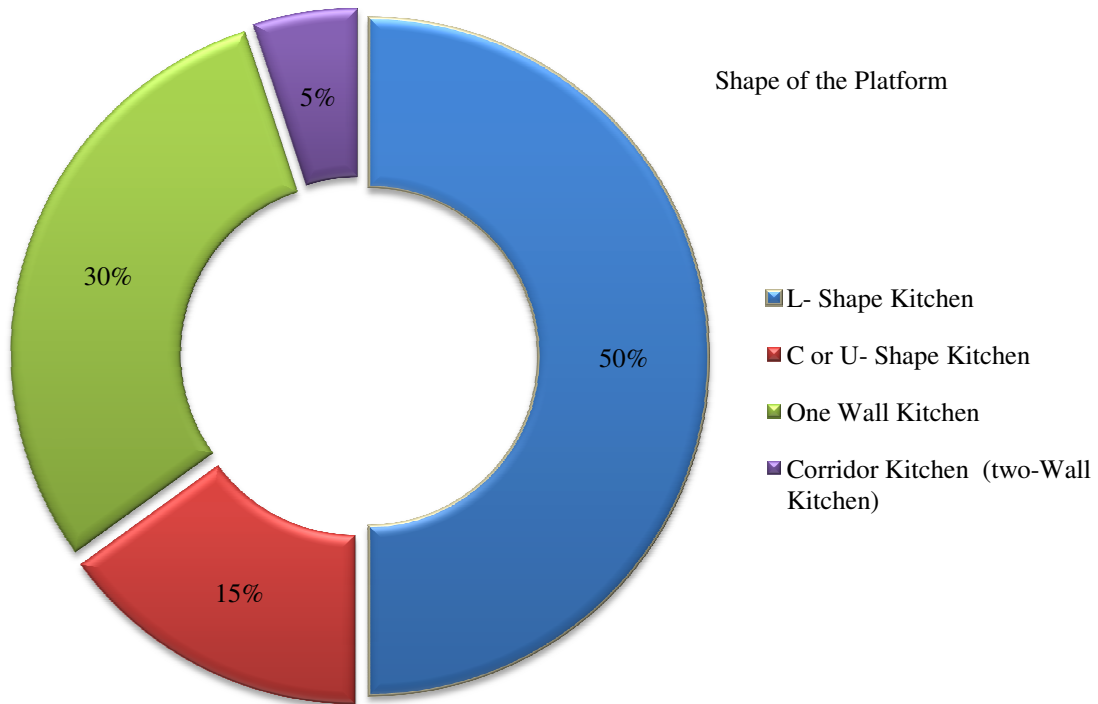


Figure-1: Shape of Kitchen Platform.

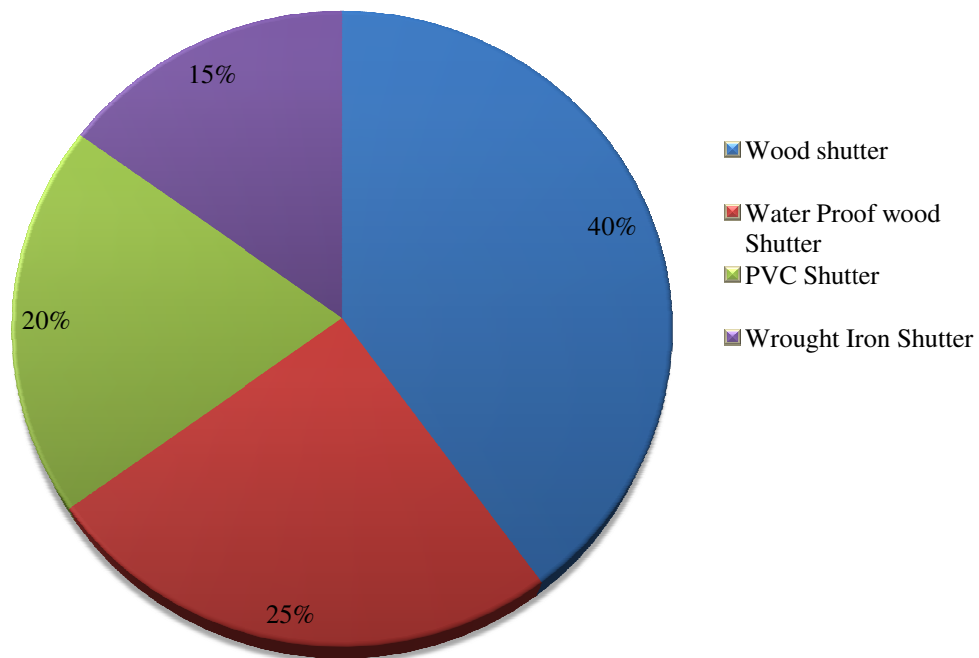


Figure-2: Shutter/Drover Material.

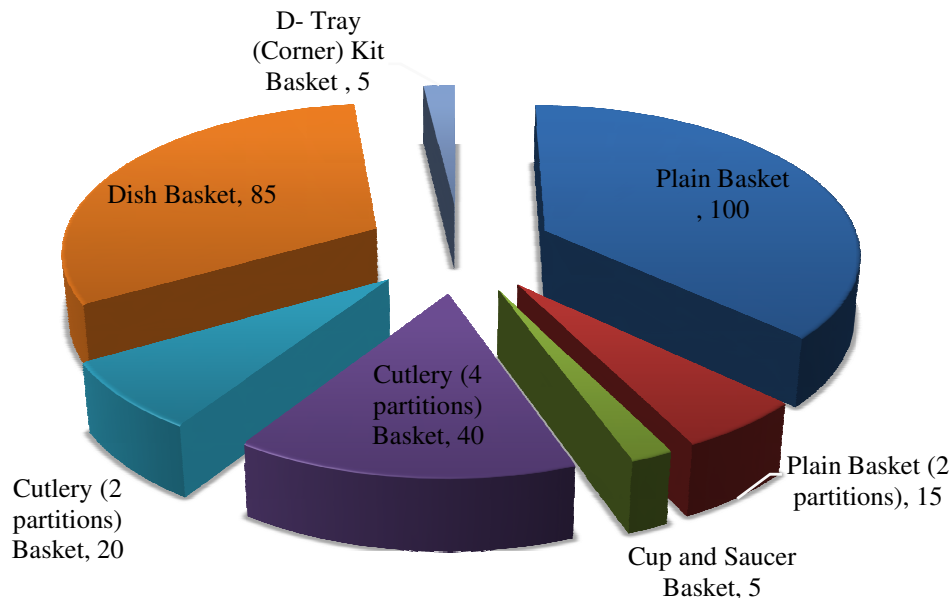


Figure-3: Trolley Basket Design.

Conclusion

The data highlighted that majority of the homemakers respondents were having small size of the family whereas only small numbers of homemakers were having large family size in their family. The findings examined that majority of the homemakers were residing in nuclear type of the family. All the respondents were having Modular kitchen furniture design in their kitchens. The respondents were having knowledge about the Modular kitchen furniture design. Majority of the respondents were having wooden shutters for Modular kitchen furniture. The findings of the current study will help the home makers, Interior Designers, students, Architects to wisely choose and buy modular kitchen furniture for their homes and have knowledge regarding modular kitchen furniture available in the market. The findings of the study will enrich the database on types of modular kitchen furniture available in Indian market.

Recommendations: A similar kind of a study can be under taken with a large number of home makers. And a comparative study can be under taken with homemakers living in different cities and states. A comparative study can also be planned between the usage of modular kitchen furniture among residential and commercial establishments users. A similar kind

of a study can be under taken with other rooms having modular furniture designs for the families.

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