

The Menace of Boko Haram in Hospitality Patronage in Nigeria And its Effect on Health and Healthcare.

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ABSTRACT

It has been observed that most hospitality industry is not having up to 40% occupancy in their business. This has prompted the research topic: The Effect of “Boko Haram” on the Development of Tourism Industry (A Case Study of Jos Metropolitan Council of Plateau State, Nigeria). A total of 140 copies of questionnaire were distributed and only 130 were returned. Simple percentage was use in the analysis of the data. It was concluded that there are negative effects on the hotel patronage because of insecurity. Tourists that were able to still make it were not able to access healthcare in the immediate vicinity. We then recommended that the state government in collaboration with the owners of hospitality industries should ensure proper security training for the security personnel. All effort should be made to cater for the health of the displaced people.

Keywords: Tourism, Boko Haram, Insecurity, Hospitality Industry

INTRODUCTION

Tourism is travel for recreational, leisure or business purpose or a composite of activities, services and industries that delivers a travel experience to individuals (Okpoko, 2006).

Sequel to the persistent insurgence of Boko Haram sect in the country, the nation’s culture sector has indeed suffered great losses from negative agent plaguing the industry. However, in recent times, incessant bombing attacks in the country is one of the ways in which hundreds of investments worth billions of naira destroyed, placed the country at an all time high terror alert while edging the economy towards a collapse. And the culture and tourism sector is not left out in all these pandemonium. It would not be exaggeration to say that tourism sector is in serious jeopardy as a result of nefarious activities of the sect.

Nations and countries of the world are fast discovering that true progress lies in the promotion of culture and tourism sector but the question is what is tourism without security? This vital aspect and a necessary prop for the skeletal frame work on which tourism runs is now a mirage in Nigeria due to these bombings. It is a well known fact that no investor would like to invest in a volatile country where there is chaos and doom, thus the confidence of a critical stakeholders in his or her ability in invest in any country is based on solid background of achievement and success in the tourism sector of any country.

As it is now, human lives and properties are not protected; tourists and foreign investors would consider it a very huge risk coming into the country. Nigeria is continuously losing millions of naira from these developments and the gains can only be possible when peace and security is restored to the land. But many factors more predominantly violence unleashed by Boko-Haram has come to affect tourism negatively.

Interestingly, President Goodluck Jonathan in his speech during the 2010 Abuja National carnival said the importance of the development of culture and tourism cannot be overemphasized, that the country must include the development of the culture and tourism industries in order to provide ample opportunities through which Nigeria can enhance its economic potentials.

However, in this paper we are going to look into how youth violence (Boko Haram) has affected the development of tourism in Nigeria.

STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

It has been observed that insecurity in the country is affecting the tourism industry. Similarly, proposed tourists who are expected to patronize our industry are discouraged because of insecurity.

It is based on those that this research is trying to unveil those effect of Boko-Haram has on the tourism industry.

OBJECTIVE OF THE STUDY

1. To determine if the owners of hotel industry do give their security personnel adequate training.
2. To know if the people where these tourist attractions are located are hospitable.
3. To determine the level of security awareness in the state.
4. To determine if there are negative effect on the hotel patronage due to insecurity.
5. To determine the ease of access of healthcare by tourists and host community under Boko Haram.

THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

The effect of Boko-Haram on tourism development cannot be over-emphasized, it may be wondered what Boko-Haram has to do with the economy of Nigeria, but it is stated authoritatively that the crisis has everything to do with Nigeria's economy. Jos, the capital of Plateau state was known as the home of peace and tourism. It is on record that is in Jos that you find tin, hence, its tag name, "Tin City" it has columbite and hills of amazing wonder, there in Jos is the share hills, the Wase rock, Kerang volcanic mountains, Ampang crater lake as well as Farin Ruwa falls among others. The state also boasts of a wide range of entertainment and recreational opportunities, but we wonder, what has become of the once bubbling state? For a place that promises lots of business prospects, the recent crisis that has rocked the state to its bottom would surely set it back for hundred of days, there will be numerous economic losses, not for the state alone but for Nigeria as a whole. Expatriates would completely avoid going to that part or to any part in its entirety.

Youth violence also has effect on the development of tourism in Nigeria, youth violence has reached unprecedented proportions in contemporary discourse on Nigerian's tourism emerging democracy. Beginning from May 29th 1999 when the country recommenced democratic rule, it has recorded very bizarre experiences in the domain of violence committed by young people. These acts of violence embraces murder, religious uprising, party clashes, cult clashes, shooting, stabbing, kidnapping for ransom, armed robbery including armed bank robbery, theft, burglary, rape, rioting especially against government policies, vandalism, ethnic militancy and so on.

Nigeria tourism industry before now has experiences between 70 percent and 80 percent patronage for big industry and between 40 percent and 50 percent patronage for smaller industry. There are apprehensions that not many people would be willing to visit Nigeria, especially at a time the country is unsettled and has security issues to be solved. Security remains one of the most serious problems affecting tourism in the country.

In spite of the enormous financial help provided by the Nigeria tourism development corporation to Lander the image of the country and to assure foreigners that Nigeria is indeed a safe country, not much seems to have been achieved by the authority.

Against this background, we shall define youth violence in this paper as essentially a deviant or gang subculture. Literature on gang subculture deals with the criminal behavior of adolescent youths from working class background i.e. street corner gangs (Ifaturofi 1994: 150). In essence, youth violence has deviant characteristic, which suggest an abnormal situation, which makes youth becomes liable to involvement on illegal or anti-social activities.

In criminology and criminal justice, A. B. Dambazau (113-155) acknowledged the manifestation of crime in Nigeria. He argues that in addition to the conventional crimes of armed robbery, murder and assaults and so on, Nigeria has been on the global crime map since 1980s. He maintained that crime has been on the identified as the most potent threat of Nigerian National Security as its impact is felt on all aspects of human activity such as economic, food, health, environmental, personal, political and social. Insecurity is one of the major factors of underdevelopment. The reason is not far fetched because of the way it lowers or discourages investment level, destroys human and social capital damages relationship between citizens and the state, and thus undermines democracy and the ability of the state to promote development.

According to the Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU), out of the fifty nine countries evaluated, Nigeria is rated the riskiest country for business in the world. The report further shows that Nigeria is an insecure environment for commercial operations. Security risk arises at three levels.

The first comes from raising violent crime from simple armed robbery to car jacking and violent attacks. Second, companies can be subjected to direct attack or blackmail facilities can be vandalized and staff kidnapped. Third, incidence of inter-communal violence has risen.

This study is on the effect of Boko-haram on the development of tourism in Nigeria with particular reference to Jos in Plateau State. Many properties are out of business today because of security situation of the country. Our roads are not safe for traveler, there is no proper security in our hotels and tourism destination, terrorist attacks, political instability and religious crises all over. This causes a lot of set back to the hospitality and tourism business because travelers are always conscious of their well being in terms of security for lives and properties.

Here are some insecurity events that have kept the peace of the country in the dark.

TIMELINE OF INCIDENTS

S/No	DATE	PLACE OF INCIDENTS
1.	7th September, 2010	Bauchi prison break, 6 deaths, 6 injured.
2.	31s December, 2010	December 2010 Abuja Attack
3.	22nd April, 2011	Boko Haram frees 14 prisoners during a jail break in Yola, Adamawa State
4.	29th May, 2011	Northern Nigeria Bombing
5.	16th June, 2011	The group claims responsibility for the 2011 Abuja police headquarters bombing.
6.	26th June 2011	Bombing attack on a beer garden in Maiduguri.
7.	10th July, 2011	Bombing at the All Christian Fellowship Church in Suleja, Niger State.
8.	11th July, 2011	The University of Maiduguri close downiest campus citing security concerns
9.	12th August 2011	Prominent muslim cleric liman Bama is shot dead by Boko Haram
10.	26th August, 2011	2011 Abuja bombing
11.	4th November, 2011	2011 December attacks
12.	January 2012	Kano bombing
13.	28th January, 2012	Nigeria army says it killed 11 Boko Haram insurgents
14.	8th February 2012	Boko Haram claims responsibility for a suicide bombing at the army headquarters in Kaduna
15.	10th February 2012	Another prison staged in central Nigeria, 119 prisoners are released one warder killed.
16	29 th November 2014	Another bombing in Kano killing 103 people

Source: www.google.com

ORIGIN OF BOKO HARAM

The group was founded by Mohammed Yusuf in 2002 in the city of Maiduguri with the aim of establishing a Sharia government in Borno state under former Governor Ali Modu Sheriff. He established a religious complex that included a Mosque and a school where many poor families from across Nigeria and from neighbouring countries enrolled their children.

The centre had ulterior political goals and soon it was also working as a recruiting ground for future jihadis to fight the state. The group includes members who came from neighbouring Chad and Niger and speak only Arabic.

In 2004, the complex was relocated to Yusuf's home state of Yobe in the village Kanamma near the Niger border.

Human Right Watch researcher Eric Gutttscheiss told Irin News that Yusu successfully attracted follower from unemployed youth by speaking out against police and political corruption. Abdulkarim Mohammed, a researcher on Boko Haram, added that violent upspring in Nigeria are ultimately due to the fallout of frustration with corruption and the attendant of social malaise of poverty and unemployment.

EFFECT OF INSECURITY ON TOURISM AND HOSPITALITY BUSINESS

Security has always been an important prerequisite for the attraction of international visitors.

According to WTO survey (2004), 66% of leisure traveler said crime is an important consideration in choosing a vacation destination and 62% travelers considering over travel had safety concerned as they made their plans.

As tourism grows, security became more important and travelers will expect safeguarding measures in transportation and accommodation. Where there is security threat to tourist, hotels are in trouble because sales will be affected in the week following the September 11th 2001 in new York and Washington; passengers abandoned airports in their member as the effect of these attacks extend beyond USA borders. After September, 11th 2001 a number of airline collapsed most shacking of all was the fact that a number of these airlines had been in existence for decades and were not American wars, the war in Afghanistan and the terrorist attacks in Bali. In Nigeria, during the Miss World Beauty Contest Pageant which was supposed to be hosted here in Nigeria. It was an opportunity for hotels and tourism outlets to make hold of money but as a result of insecurity of the country due to the crisis that broke out in Kaduna in respect of the pageant, Nigeria loss that opportunity and was given to Turkey to host.

Another good example of insecurity as it affects hospitality and tourism industry was the February 18th 2006 crises in Maiduguri which claimed many lives, loss of properties, scared people from visiting Maiduguri. Some people and even those living in Maiduguri, vacated the state because of its security situation while some travelers got involved in home swapping. Using home exchange programme or staying with their relations rather than staying in the hotel. The recent Boko Haram crises of 26th July, 2009 lasted for four days. It also scared tourists from trooping Maiduguri at that period of time and the tourism and hospitality industry are always at the receiving end.

Different militant activities in the Niger Delta region, according to success (2009) said the crisis is gradually grinding business to a halt with most entrepreneurs relocating their business to Oliver regions. Comrade success also stated that unending crises in the Niger Delta has contributed to impact negatively on the economy including the hotel and tourist sector.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

This study obtained data from primary and secondary sources. However, greater percentages of the data were obtained from primary sources. A total of 140 copies of the questionnaire were administered in Jos metropolitan, Plateau State while 130 were gotten properly filled.

Table 1: Percentage of Research

RESPONDENT VARIABLE	FREQUENCY	PERCENTAGE %
Received	130	93
Not received	10	7%
Total	140	100%

Source: Field Survey, 2014

From the above, out of the one hundred and forty questionnaires administered, one hundred and thirty were received and ten were not returned. The percentage responses can therefore be represented as 93% and 7% respectively. It can this be deduced that the objective of the questionnaire administration will be achieved as it assumed that 93% response to the questionnaire is enough to provide all the relevant data needed for this research work.

TABLE 2: Determining if there are Negative Effect on the Hotel Patronage

OPTION	RESPONSES		TOTAL	PERCENTAGE %
	Male	Female		
No	30	25	55	42.5%
Yes	40	35	75	57.7%
Total	70	60	130	100%

Source: Field Survey, June 2014.

The analysis above shows that 75 respondents or 57.7% said that there are negative effect on the hotel patronage because of insecurity and 55respondents or 42.3% said that there is no negative effect on the hotel patronage.

Table 3: To determine if the Proprietors do give their Security Personnel Training

OPTION	RESPONSES		TOTAL	PERCENTAGE
	MALE	FEMALE		
NO	50	45	95	73.1%
YES	20	15	35	29.9%
TOTAL	70	60	130	100%

SOURCE: Field Survey June, 2014

From the analysis above, 73% of the respondent said that the proprietors do give their security personnel training while 29.9% said that the proprietors do not give their security personnel training.

Table 4: Determining if the people are hospitable

OPTION	RESPONSES		TOTAL	PERCENTAGE
	MALE	FEMALE		
NO	60	45	105	80.8%
YES	10	15	25	19.2%
TOTAL	70	60	130	100%

SOURCE: Field survey, June 2014.

The table above shows that 80.8% of the respondent said the people are hospitable while 19.2% of the respondent said that the people are not hospitable.

TABLE 5: Determining that level of awareness of insecurity in the Community

OPTION	RESPONSES		TOTAL	PERCENTAGE
	MALE	FEMALE		
NO	50	40	90	69.2%
YES	20	20	40	30.8%
TOTAL	70	60	130	100%

Source: Field Survey, June 2014.

From the table above, 69.2% of the respondents are of the opinion that the level of awareness of insecurity in the community is high while 30.8% disagreed.

SUMMARY OF FINDING

In carrying out this research, the researchers had to make an in depth study and were able to make the following findings:

1. There are negative effects on the hotel patronage because of insecurity as can be seen in table 2.
2. The proprietor does give their security personnel training as can be seen in table 3.
3. The people are hospitable as can be seen in table 4.
4. The level of awareness of insecurity in the community is high as seen in table 5.

CONCLUSION

The following conclusions are drawn based on the findings;

1. There are negative effects on the hotel patronage because of insecurity.
2. The proprietors give their security personnel training
3. The people are hospitable
4. The level of awareness of insecurity in the community is high

RECOMMENDATION

Based on the findings made from the research work, the researchers thereby make the following recommendation.

1. There should be a re-orientation of the Jos metropolitan citizens on the need to be hospitable to investors in their community.

2. Based on the present day security challenges, the state government in collaboration with the owners of hospitality industries should ensure proper security training for the security personnel.
3. The management of the state tourism boards and Nigerian Tourism Corporation should equip their security personnel with sophisticated security gadgets to enhance bag searching, where motorists and travelers would be personally and thoroughly searched for criminal weapons.
4. There is need for the Joint Security Team for Tourism (JSTT) to mount check point on the high ways, rural roads, and pathways within the tourists destination where motorists and travelers would be routinely searched for firearms, explosives, bombs and for the purpose of apprehending suspected criminals.

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