

The Socio-Economic Benefits of Trans Amusement Park to the Host Community, Bodija, Ibadan, Oyo State.

Kukoyi Ibraheem A^{1*}, Bankole Benjamin O² & Olatunji Tabitha T³

1. Afe Babalola University, Ado-Ekiti, Ekiti State^{1 & 3}

2. Ekiti State University, Ado-Ekiti, Ekiti State²

*kukoyiololade@gmail.com

Abstract

The socio economic benefits of Trans Amusement Park to the host community were investigated. Tourism activities as with any other type of economic development, brings about changes for economic, social, cultural and spatial structure of the settlement where it takes place. It is mostly regarded for generating income and employment, encouraging the entrepreneurial activity and eventually leading to improvements in the economic structure of the region. In the case of Trans Amusement Park, the positive and negative impacts on the environmental and social economic well being of the host community were investigated. Primary data were collected through the administration of questionnaires and key informant interview for the local people of Bodija community. Analysis of the data collected reveals that 75% of the respondents confirmed that the park is a contributor to the socio economic advancement of the host community. The analysis also reveals that the park has a minimal negative impact ($p < 0.05$) on the environment, social and economic well being of the host community.

The park has provided opportunities for trading in gift item between the local people and the park visitors, market structures, confectionaries and other ongoing project for the host community. Although, the positive impact far outweighs the negative impacts of the park to the host community but, the people seems to be disturbed with crowding and congestion and some other social vice with 25.5% and 44.9% of the respondent respectively stating them as some of the negative impact of locating the park in their community. 61.2% of the respondents also opined that the level of participation of the people of the host community in the development of the park is on the average.

For the host community to benefit more from the park, it is recommended that the park should put into consideration the concept of carrying capacity in other to reduce crowding and congestion, beef up their security system in order to reduce social vices and the community should also improve in their level of participation in the development of the park.

Keywords: Social economic benefit, Amusement park, Host community.

INTRODUCTION

Tourism is an act of people's travel to and stays in places outside their usual environment for more than twenty four hours and not more than one consecutive year for leisure, business and other purposes not related to the exercise of an activity remunerated from within the place visited [world tourism organization,2004]. Tourism being the world largest export earner is considered by many to be the world's largest industry; this is because of the complexity and dynamic nature of the industry. A well developed tourism sector has a lot of benefit to be accrued for the economy of state, region or nation. This will be in forms of turning the economy of such area around for good; it has the potential of creating jobs and generating income at international, national, regional and local level [Awake Magazines 2008, vol.9].

Parks are special environment with unique attributes; parks play special tangible and intangible roles vital to regional and national well being of the host community. It does not only provide recreational values but also protect and enhance our ecological environment. Meanwhile, the destruction of environment which is one of the challenges of tourism through improves usage of tourist has reduced the prospect for tourism globally. Hence, there is need for management of recreation areas and parks for sustainable growth. [Lilicrap et al, 2007].

The socio economic benefit of tourism site to their host community cannot be underestimated. This can be seen in the establishment of community based conservation and participation whereby the money generated from the site is used to develop the local community. Also the boundary between the tourism industry and the host community is now bridged making it possible for tourism to fit into the service is now being given to the host to pave way for active participation of everybody around the community [Fadipe, 2007]. The enormous significant of tourism has been recognized both in developed and developing countries. This has led to the establishment of sophisticated and well resourced government department of tourism being established to encourage tourism development. It has also led to commission of many researches in tourism development, including this present one.

Tourism activities as with any type of economic development bring about changes for economic, social, cultural and spatial structure of the settlement. It is mostly regarded of generating income and employment, encouraging the entrepreneurial activity and eventually leading to improvements in the economic structure of the region [vanhove, 2005] in other words a well managed tourist destination is the gateway to tourist traffic in the community. This indirectly increases entrepreneurial activity in all sectors of the economy tourism is a multi dimensional activity which cuts across man and society.

It is however a known fact that the tourism industry is still developing in Nigeria and has not stated yielding much gain. Government has been pumping money to the sector without seeing remarkable improvement. This led to the privatization of some tourist attraction to encourage public private partnership, to encourage and improve the quality of these sites with proper finding and to put tourism in a level that will benefit both the government and the people [Uche Ibeabuchi, 2010].

Government and private individuals in Nigeria especially Ibadan where this study is being focused cannot enumerate categorically the benefit of tourism due to paucity of research in such areas' a concise analysis of the economic impact of tourism for a developing country. However important to guide the policy intended to develop tourism and augment its benefits on the economy. It's on this basis that the present study focuses in the socio economic benefit of Trans Amusement park to the host community. The researchers will achieve this by looking into those gains local community stand to benefit from such attraction and the level of involvement and participation of the community towards the smooth function of the tourist site. The need to do this constitutes the focus of this study.

AIM AND OBJECTIVES

The aim of the study is to examine the socio economic benefit of trans amusement park to the host community with a view to suggest appropriate measures to enhance their level of benefits from the park.

This main aim will be achieved through the following specific objectives;

1. To find out the contribution of the park to the growth of the environment, social life and economy of the local community.
2. To examine the level of community participation in Trans Amusement Park
3. To find out the challenges the existence of the park is posing on the host community.
4. To find out the constraints facing the Trans Amusement park
5. To suggest appropriate measures and strategies on how the park can be of immense contribution to development.

BACKGROUND OF THE CASE STUDY

Ibadan as the largest city in West Africa makes an appropriate location for one of Nigeria's foremost park. Trans Amusement Park was built at a cost of about #30,000,000.00 and located strategically at the old air port, Bodija. The park was born out of effort of the Old Oyo State Government to provide adequate recreational facilities for mental and physical relaxation of the people of the states and its environs.

It was conceived in early 1987 by the then Military Governor of Oyo state, col. Adetunji Olurin. The actual construction started on 16th Agust 1988 following the financial support recalled from the then governor, Col. Sassenia Adedeji Oresanya. The park was a joint venture project between the then Oyo State government (now Oyo and Osun State), the Nigeria Airport Authority (NAA) and private investors. It was officially commissioned by the wife of the then President, Mrs. Maryam Babangida on 21st December 1989. It is been managed by Messer's Trans Wonderland Nigeria Plc.

In about a decade ago, the Park suffered terrible management misfortune thereby resulting in dilapidation of the recreational facilities in Park and turned the Park into almost a ghost land and hide out for criminals and other anti social activities. Kudos to the present Government of Oyo State that has deemed it fit to revive the Amusement Park. Today Trans Amusement Park operates under a new management as a subsidiary of Trans Wonderland plc. Since the new management come on board, efforts has been made to fix the spoilt facilities and reopen the park to the general public. Visitors are received for various functions and activities which include picnics, exhibitions, carnivals, retreat, birthdays, excursions, wedding reception, burial reception and other fun activities. As at now the new management was succeeded in bringing the park back into full operation, the following rides are in place for children and adults who are undertaking excursion or tours to their park; Niagora falls [sliding] Panoramic where is chear-o plane, motto-train, telecombat, merry-go-round, kidded rides at the kiddies hall.

Its peaceful atmosphere away from the turbulence of metropolitan Lagos provide ideal atmosphere for relaxation and creation. The centralized location of Ibadan to cities like Lagos, Abeokuta, shagamu, Akure, Ilorin, Ile-ife, Ijebu-ode and Osogbo enhances the easy accessibility of the park to those cities. This does not

make it commercially and socially important but also distinguished it as academically sound site for a project of this nature.

LITERATURE REVIEW

The findings of many scholars have greatly indicated that tourism has many social and economy impacts on the host community. As much as the host community gains in terms of infrastructure, jobs creation, social welfare among others, there are also negative effects like pressure on the environment, terrorist attacks among others.

ECONOMIC GROWTH

The findings of many scholars have greatly indicated the economic impacts of tourism to a great extent. It provides the much needed foreign exchanges, generates revenue for the government through taxes, and levies e.t.c. Witherick et.al (2001) stated that tourism impact on the people by satisfying man's curiosity about the world and his quest for new experiences serves to maintain and extend commercial and traded links between nations, reunites families and enables people to fulfill their desire leisure. WTO (2005) asserted that tourism industry is major force in the world economy accounting for over 10 percent of global gross domestic product. World's largest growth industry with no signs of slowing down and that international tourism is the world largest export earner and important factor in the balance of payments of many countries. It further states that international and domestic tourism combine to generate up to 10% of the world's GDP and considerable higher share in many small nation and development countries. Tourism is a major economic and social significant. WTO (2004) reports that more than 720 million tourism spend 40 billion us dollars annually in places outside their own countries. Boundaries; the traveler will require travel document such as valid international passport, visa permit, health insurance, foreign exchange e.t.c. to visit another country.

Holoway (1994) explained that there is widespread optimism that tourist might be powerful beneficial agent of both economic and social change, some even advocating that it might be a force for world peace. Tourism has stimulated employment investment and entrepreneurial activity, modified land use and economic structure and makes positive contribution to the balance of payment to many countries throughout the world.

The economic significance of tourist activities in many countries and specific locations are substantial. Wall (2006) buttress this point with some examples such as skiing in Bariff Canada, Mount Hount of New Zealand, e.t.c all the significant economic impacts to their different host communities. Schwer et.al (2000) pointed out that the Grand Canyon tourists contributed USD 443.5 Million annually to the south Nevada economy directly.

Tourism no doubt has many economic efforts on destination areas. Wall (2006) wrote that the development of tourist facilities and recreation opportunities has frequently been viewed as stimulating many positive contributions to the national balance of payments and a means of redressing disparities incomes employment.

In many places, the introduction and development of tourism allows local people an opportunity for economic and educational growth that would otherwise not be available. If properly used, tourism generated income can be tremendously beneficial to the host community. The income can be used on national and local level to better education, improve infrastructure, fund conservation efforts and promote more responsible tourism. Many countries according to Bhatia (2001) depended heavily upon travel expenditures by foreigners as a source of taxation and a source of income for the enterprises. Therefore, the development of tourism is often a strategy to promote a particular region for the purpose of increasing commerce through exporting goods and services.

SOCIAL BENEFITS

Swarbrooke (1999) observed that the social impact of tourism has been given attention yet it is usually permanent with little or no opportunity to reverse the change once it has happened.

He noted that while considering the social impacts, four Es are of importance;

- Equity – ensuring that all stakeholders in tourism are treated fairly.
- Equal opportunities for both the employees involved in the tourism industry and the people who want to be tourists.
- Ethics: in other words, the tourism industry being honest with tourist and ethical in its dealing with its suppliers and destination governments being ethical towards their host population and tourists.
- Equal partners, namely tourists treating those who serve them as equal partners not as inferiors.

Facilities and infrastructure developed for tourism can also benefit residents, the benefits from infrastructural investments justified primarily for tourism airports, roads, water supply and other public utilities may widely be shared by other sectors of the economy. In addition, development of new infrastructure, the improvement in existing infrastructure which are undertaken in order to attract tourists is also of crucial importance. These improvements may confer benefits upon the resident population by providing them with amenities which hitherto they had enjoyed. Bhatia (2001) argued that one of the characteristics of under development is that of

deficiencies in the basic infrastructure which lie at the root of a series of serious problems related to the development of tourism.

The tourism industry illustrates the primary need for basic infrastructure and social amenities which include; goods roads, schools, hospital, electricity, portable water, drainage system among others. All these benefit the tourists but benefit the local population the more because tourism brings in outside money that support community facilities and services that otherwise may not be developed.

When tourism is developed in a destination, the local infrastructure is enhanced to meet the needs of this development. The community can find that the quality of their social amenities are significantly enhanced through, thus being able to enjoy the improved infrastructure. (Cooper, 2008).

EMPLOYMENT GENERATION

The World Tourism Council WTC (2005) estimates that travel and tourism provide employment for nearly 220 million people worldwide (that's one in thirteen workers) and is responsible for over 9% of world capital invested. Tourism is a labour intensive industry and creates many job opportunities especially for young people and part-time and full time workers. In the tourism and hospitality industries alone, there are over 50 categories of employment and approximately 200 classification of occupation (fraser. Com). Batir (2009) is of the opinion that tourism creates job for the locals. He stated that tourism provides about 10% of the world and employs almost 10% of the world workforce. He called it an "industry without chimney"

FIFA, the football governing body, before the final hosting of the world cup in South Africa narrated why the hosting went to South Africa. This is to further buttress the fact that tourism is one of the main sources of direct and indirect job creation absorbing a substantial proportion of the economically active population in the tourism developed countries.

A typical example is South Africa who is believed to have edged out other strong contenders for the bid to host the FIFA World Cup in 2010 because of her strategy to employ over 1000,000 youths in the world cup campaign over a six year period from 2004-2010.

It is on record that five months after the world cup, over 1000, youths were involved in the campaign on both part-time and full basis with about 65%, tourism oriented. (fifa.com).

IATA (2003) wrote that the tourism industry encompasses many different areas so it also creates jobs in many fields. With tourism comes hotels or restaurants, car rental agencies, tour companies, services stations, souvenir shops, sport, equipment rentals and many more. All these, it stated, creates different levels of jobs generated by tourism are spread across the economy in retail, construction manufacturing and telecommunication as well as directly in tourism companies.

These jobs are predominately in small and medium and size, companies offers good training and transferability, and employs a large majority of women, minorities and young people. (WTO 1996).

LOCAL COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT IN TOURISM

Allen et al (1998) proposed that resident's perception of and attitudes toward tourism must be continually assessed to ensure that action is taken good time and through such action, the residents are willing partners in the development process.

Supporting the above view, Andriotis and Vaughan (2003) stated that awareness of resident's perception of tourism development and its impacts can help planners and developers to identify real concern and issues in order for appropriate policies and action to take place, optimizing the benefits and minimizing problems. Commenting on the achievement of tourism if the local populace is involved, Presser (1994) wrote that the host population should receive economic benefit from tourism. He said that without economic benefits, the host community will have little reason to receive the intrusion of tourists positively and will have little incentive to protect the environment upon which tourism depends.

THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

The rapid expansion of the tourism industry has provided many economic benefits and affected every facet of contemporary societies including employment, government revenue and cultural manifestations. However, tourism can also be considered a problematic phenomenon, promoting dependency, underdevelopment and adverse socio-cultural effects, especially for developing countries.

For the purpose of this research work, the "social exchange theory" shall be considered.

WHAT IS SOCIAL EXCHANGE THEORY?

Social Exchange Theory is a social psychological and **sociological perspective** that explains social change and stability as a process of negotiated exchanges between parties. Social Exchange Theory posits that all human relationships are formed by the use of a subjective cost-benefit analysis and the comparison of alternatives. The

theory has roots in economics, psychology and sociology. Social Exchange Theory features many of the main assumptions found in rational choice theory and structuralism.

Social Exchange Theory was introduced in the 1960s by George Homans. After Homans founded the theory, many theorists such as Richard Emerson, John Thibaut, Harold Kelley and Peter Blau continued to write about the theory.

BASIC CONCEPTS OF THE SOCIAL EXCHANGE THEORY

Costs are the elements of relational life that have negative value to a person, such as the effort put into a relationship and the negatives of a partner. (Costs can be time, money, effort etc.)

Rewards are the elements of a relationship that have positive value. (Rewards can be sense of acceptance, support, and companionship etc.)

The Social Exchange perspective argues that people calculate the overall worth of a particular relationship by subtracting its costs from the rewards it provides.

Worth = Rewards – Costs

If worth is a positive number, it is positive relationship. On the contrary, negative number indicates a negative relationship. The worth of a relationship influences its outcome, or whether people will continue with a relationship or terminate it. Positive relationships are expected to endure, whereas negative relationships will probably terminate.

The Social Exchange Theory explains social exchange and stability as a process of negotiated exchanges between parties. Social Exchange Theory explores the nature of exchanges between parties. As with everything dealing with the Social Exchange Theory it has its outcome satisfaction and dependence of relationships. Both parties in a social exchange take responsibility for one another and depend on each other. According to Laura Stafford (2008), economic exchanges and social exchanges have some differences: Social exchanges involve a connection with another person; social exchanges involve trust, not legal obligations; social exchanges are more flexible; and social exchanges rarely involve explicit bargaining.

"The guiding force of interpersonal relationships is the advancement of both parties' self-interest" Michael Roloff (1981). Interpersonal exchanges are thought to be analogous to economic exchanges where people are satisfied when they receive a fair return for their expenditures. Fulfilling self-interest is often common within the economic realm of the Social Exchange Theory where competition and greed can be common.

At the core of the Social Exchange Theory is the outcome derived of subtracting the costs from the rewards. Rewards can be material (economic) or symbolic (attention, advice or status) and typically bring satisfaction to the individual. For example in a relationship, a boyfriend/girlfriend could provide their significant other with security and trust which could be considered rewards within the relationship. Diminished Marginal Utility can occur within an exchange if the reward in question has been received repeatedly, the other party will lose interest in the reward. Costs can be viewed as punishments or discomfort such as physical or emotional pain. In a relationship, if conflict arises often, it could be viewed as a cost. Since individuals have different values, costs and rewards can vary depending on the individual's values and beliefs.

Outcome = Rewards - Costs

George Homan developed five key propositions that assist in structuring individual's behaviors based on rewards and costs. The first proposition, the Success Proposition states that behavior that creates positive outcomes is likely to be repeated. The second proposition, the Stimulus Proposition believes that behavior if an individual's behavior is rewarded in the past, the individual will continue the previous behavior. The third proposition, the Value proposition believes that if the result of a behavioral action is considered valuable to the individual, it is more likely for that behavior to occur. The fourth proposition, the Deprivation-satiation proposition believes that if an individual has received the same reward several times, the value of that reward will diminish. Lastly the fifth proposition, discusses when emotions occur due to different reward situations.

THEORETICAL PROPOSITIONS

Ivan Nye came up with twelve theoretical propositions that aid in understanding the exchange theory.

1. Individuals choose those alternatives from which they expect the most profit.
2. Cost being equal, they choose alternatives from which they anticipate the greatest rewards.
3. Rewards being equal, they choose alternatives from which they anticipate the fewest costs.
4. Immediate outcomes being equal, they choose those alternatives that promise better long- term outcomes.
5. Long-term outcomes being perceived as equal, they choose alternatives providing better immediate outcomes.
6. Costs and other rewards being equal, individuals choose the alternatives that supply or can be expected to supply the most social approval (or those that promise the least social disapproval).

7. Costs and other rewards being equal, individuals choose statuses and relationships that provide the most autonomy.
8. Other rewards and costs equal, individuals choose alternatives characterized by the least ambiguity in terms of expected future events and outcomes.
9. Other costs and rewards equal, they choose alternatives that offer the most security for them.
10. Other rewards and costs equal, they choose to associate with, marry, and form other relationships with those whose values and opinions generally are in agreement with their own and reject or avoid those with whom they chronically disagree.

ASSUMPTIONS

The assumptions that SET makes about human nature include the following:

- Humans seek rewards and avoid punishments.
- Humans are rational beings.
- The standards that humans use to evaluate costs and rewards vary over time and from person to person.

The assumptions SET makes about the nature of relationships include the following:

- Relationships are interdependent.
- Relational life is a process.

METHODOLOGY

The estimated sample size comprise of two hundred adult indigenes of the community. This figure was chosen to enable the researcher to conduct a thorough research. The researcher adopted purposive sampling techniques because subjects are selected because of some characteristics which are age.

Patton [1990] described purposive sampling which identifies important common patterns that cut across variations. He believes that purposive sampling permits logical generation and maximum application of information to other cases. 42 years age group and above was chosen because they were representatives of those staying in the community when the park was established hence, they can represent and serve the purpose of the study as they represent 50% of the population.

DATA ANALYSIS

The data for this research work was analyzed using tables, charts, percentage and T-test analysis. The table was used for presentation of the frequency and percentages of data collected, the chart was used in the presentation of the response of the respondents, while the T-test analysis was used to test the hypothesis.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

TABLE 1: RESPONDENTS' KNOWLEDGE ABOUT THE CASE STUDY

CATEGORY A

	1	2	3
1	174	19	3
2	173	21	2
3	177	16	3
4	183	11	2
5	172	14	10
6	176	17	3
7	151	41	4

Source: Field Survey, 2012

One-Sample Statistics

	N	Mean	Std. Deviation	Std. Error Mean
VAR00001	7	1.7229E2	10.06171	3.80297
VAR00002	7	19.8571	9.87300	3.73164
VAR00003	7	3.8571	2.79455	1.05624

One-Sample Test

	Test Value = 0					
	t	df	Sig. (2-tailed)	Mean Difference	95% Confidence Interval of the Difference	
					Lower	Upper
VAR00001	45.303	6	.000	172.28571	162.9802	181.5912
VAR00002	5.321	6	.002	19.85714	10.7261	28.9881
VAR00003	3.652	6	.011	3.85714	1.2726	6.4417

The tables above tests the level of knowledge of the local people about the park and it shows that there is no significant difference ($p < 0.05$) between the data of variable 1 which connotes the people's response as 'YES', this reveals that the people of the community are aware of the existence of the park in their community and its essence.

TABLE 2: LEVEL OF PARTICIPATION OF THE MEMBERS OF THE HOST COMMUNITY TOWARDS THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE PARK

CATEGORY B

	1	2	3
8	146	44	6
9	174	13	9
10	181	11	4
11	173	17	4
12	79	90	31

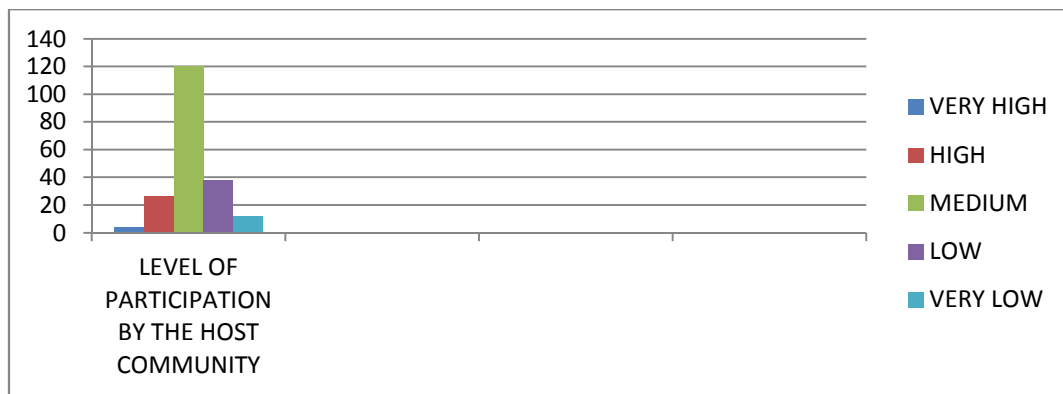
	N	Mean	Std. Deviation	Std. Error Mean
VAR00001	5	1.5060E2	42.19360	18.86955
VAR00002	5	35.0000	33.50373	14.98332
VAR00003	5	10.8000	11.47606	5.13225

One-Sample Test

	Test Value = 0					
	t	Df	Sig. (2-tailed)	Mean Difference	95% Confidence Interval of the Difference	
					Lower	Upper
VAR00001	7.981	4	.001	150.60000	98.2097	202.9903
VAR00002	2.336	4	.080	35.00000	-6.6004	76.6004
VAR00003	2.104	4	.103	10.80000	-3.4494	25.0494

Information from table 2 test the level of participation of the host community on the development of the park and it shows that there is no significant difference ($p < 0.05$) between the data of variable 1 which connotes the people's response as 'YES', this reveals that the host community is involved in the developmental activities of the host community.

In the community, interview questions were asked on the level of participation of the indigenes in the development of the park and the options were very high participation, high participation, medium, low participation and very low participation. The result is presented in the chart below.



Source: Field Survey, 2012

From the above chart, it is glaring that the indigenes of the community are not very active in the development of the park. From the response gotten from the respondents, medium level of participation was upheld by 120 people which is about 61.2% of the total response.

Although in an interview with one of the elder state-men in the community; Chief Bode Agbani, it was said that the park has some of the indigenes of the community as part of the Board Member for the park. He further said that the management will never engage in any new development without contacting with the community leaders first. This indicates that the community has their representative in the decision making and management of the park. the finding support the view of Allen et al (1998) that for tourism to grow, residents perception of and attitudes towards tourism must be continually assessed and that of Drate (1991) argument that involving local participation functions as an early warning system, helping managers to avoid or plan for decision that might otherwise cause conflict with local people.

TABLE 3: THE OVERALL VIEW OF THE RESPONDENTS ON THE ENVIRONMENTAL, SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC IMPACT OF THE PARK ON THE HOST COMMUNITY

CATEGORY C

	1	2	3
13	70	102	24
14	71	104	21
15	152	41	3
16	160	34	2
17	36	154	6
18	131	58	7
19	181	9	6
20	176	18	2
21	157	37	2

Source: Field Survey, 2012

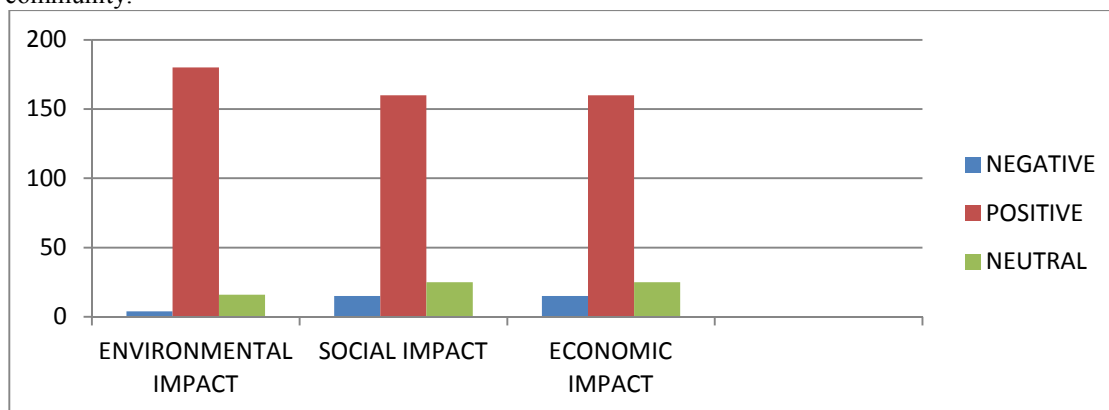
One-Sample Statistics

	N	Mean	Std. Deviation	Std. Error Mean
VAR00001	9	1.2600E2	53.15543	17.71848
VAR00002	9	61.8889	48.00897	16.00299
VAR00003	9	8.1111	8.41790	2.80597

One-Sample Test

	Test Value = 0					
	t	Df	Sig. (2-tailed)	Mean Difference	95% Confidence Interval of the Difference	
					Lower	Upper
VAR00001	7.111	8	.000	126.00000	85.1411	166.8589
VAR00002	3.867	8	.005	61.88889	24.9859	98.7918
VAR00003	2.891	8	.020	8.11111	1.6405	14.5817

It was discovered from table 3 that the contribution of the park to the socio-economic advancement of the host community and it shows that there is no significant difference ($p < 0.05$) between the data of variable 1 which connotes the people's response as 'YES', this reveals that the park has socio-economic relevance to the host community.



Source: Field Survey, 2012

To have an overall view of the people of the host community on the impact of the park on the environment, social life and the economy of their community, the following options were made available for consideration.

- i. Overall Negative
- ii. Overall Positive
- iii. Neutral

For the three parameters assessed, (the environmental impact, the social impact and the economic impact) the respondents replies are presented in the chart above. Out of the 196 respondent, 180 people responded that the park has a positive impact on their environment (which is 91.8% of the total population of the sample size), 159 people responded that the park has a positive impact on their social life (which accounts for 81.1% of the total population of the sample size), so also 152 people responded that the park has a positive impact on their economy (which also represents 77.6% of the total population of the sample size. The peoples' response on the three parameters shows that the positive impact is the highest in all cases, this affirms that the park has a positive impact on the environment, the social life and the economy of the community.

In an interview with one of the residents of the community, Professor Kolade Adeogun; he said the establishment of the park was one of the best things that has happened to the Bodija community in the past. In his words he said that the park provides an avenue for balancing mental and physical stress by providing recreational facilities to unwind stress and catch some fun for boosting morale.

TABLE 4: NEGATIVE IMPACTS OF LOCATING THE PARK IN BODIJA COMMUNITY

The respondents were advised to tick more than one option if need be, the response of the people is hereby presented in the chat below.

	CATEGORY D		
	1	2	3
22	43	148	5
23	44	147	5
24	22	159	15
25	22	167	7

Source: Field Survey, 2012

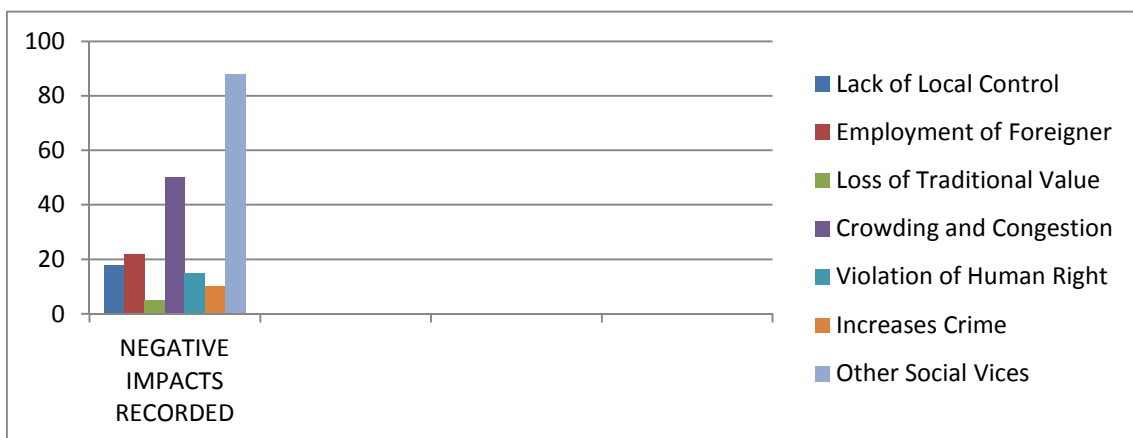
One-Sample Statistics

	N	Mean	Std. Deviation	Std. Error Mean
VAR00001	4	32.7500	12.41974	6.20987
VAR00002	4	1.5525E2	9.53502	4.76751
VAR00003	4	8.0000	4.76095	2.38048

One-Sample Test

	Test Value = 0					
	t	df	Sig. (2-tailed)	Mean Difference	95% Confidence Interval of the Difference	
					Lower	Upper
VAR00001	5.274	3	.013	32.75000	12.9874	52.5126
VAR00002	32.564	3	.000	155.25000	140.0777	170.4223
VAR00003	3.361	3	.044	8.00000	.4243	15.5757

Table 4 test the negative impacts of the park to the host community and it shows that there is no significant difference ($p < 0.05$) between the data of variable 2 which connotes the people's response as 'NO', this reveals that the negative impact of the park on the host community is minimal.



Source: Field Survey, 2012

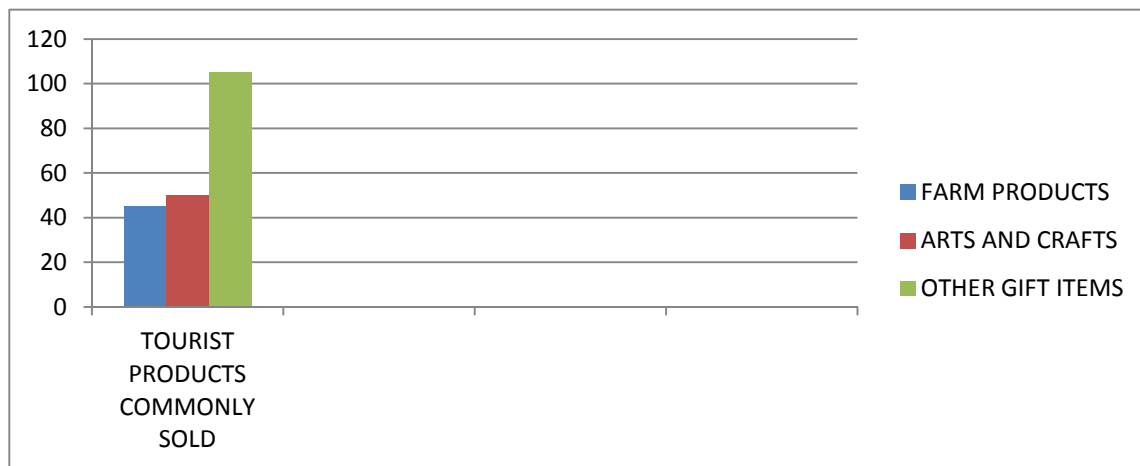
Although Figure 4.3.1 indicates that the positive impacts of the park far outweighs the negative impacts, there are yet some negative impacts that the park has on the host community. Figure 4.4.1 shows the negative impacts of the park on the community. The acts categorized under Other Social Vices was the highest with about 88 people (which accounts for 44.9% of the respondents) upholding it, which in a close interview with the respondents includes: smoking of Indian hems and other hard drugs, avenue for criminals to lay ambush,

gambling, fighting, stealing etc. Next to that category is crowding and congestion with about 50 respondents (which also accounts for 25.5% of the respondents) upholding it. Others are employment of foreigner, lack of local control, violation of human rights, increase in crime rate and loss of traditional value (in their order of intensity).

In an interview with one of the residents of the community, Alhaji Ona-Ara who is a business man said he has been living in the community for the past 50 years and he has not felt any positive impact on the host community in terms of employment generation. He said the people from the community are not enjoying the purpose of the park.

From figure 4.4.1, even though it is evident that there are problems facing the local population where an attraction is located, it should also be noted that most of the population still believe that the gains of these attractions far outweighs the losses as is visibly evident in figure 4.3.1. some social vices and crowding and congestion were their major concern which Mrs Taiwo; one of the indigenes of the community corroborated by saying that the management sometimes during the peak period forget that there is anything like carrying capacity of a location. She said that such period which occurs usually during festive seasons, crusades and concerts and is highly managed in the recent years poses a lot of concern to the lives of the indigenes of the community. Although this brings about increase in sales of products and other services within the area but it as well results in increases in crime rate.

PRODUCTS SOLD TO THE TOURIST BY MEMBERS OF THE HOST COMMUNITY



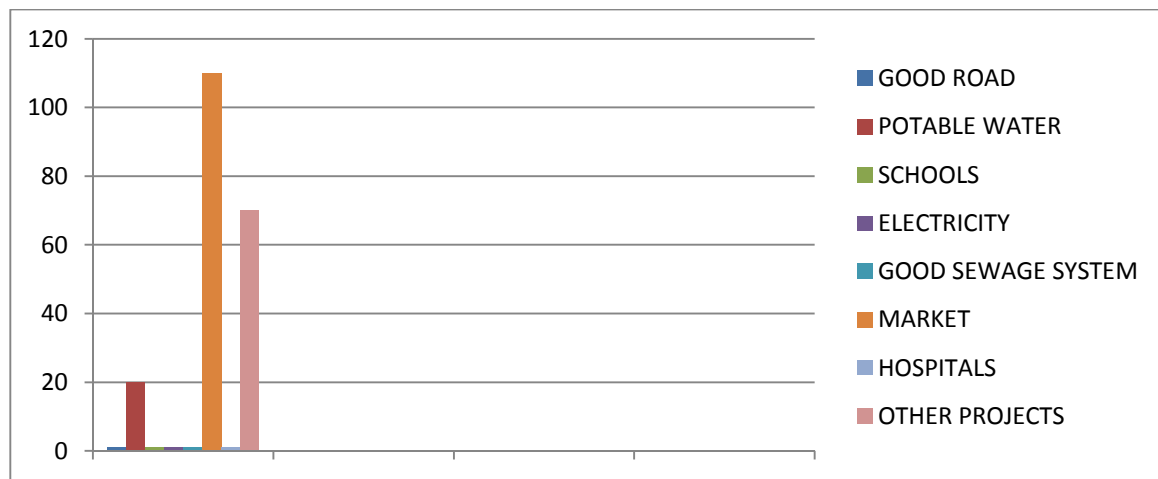
Source: Field Survey, 2012

The options for the products sold to the tourist by the local people included farm products, arts and crafts and other gift items. The respondent replies are presented in the chat above.

Other gift items is the highest with about 130 respondent upholding it (which is about 66.3% of the population sample), followed by arts and craft products with about 54 respondents upholding it (which is 27.6% of the population sample) and the least is farm products. From the above, it is glaring that indigenes of the host community makes money from the visitors to the park through the sales of gift items and some other tourist products.

SOCIAL AMMENITIES/INFRASTRUCTURAL DEVELOPMENT PROVIDED FOR THE HOST COMMUNITY

The options for the social contributions of the park to the host community included good roads, portable water, schools, electricity, good sewage system, market, hospital. However there was provision for more options. (i.e other projects). The respondents replies are presented in the chat below.



Source: Field Survey, 2012

Market got the highest with about 56.1% of the respondents upholding it as the major contribution of the park to the host community. Next to market is the other projects category, majority of which are restaurants and clubs. Also about 20 respondents which is about 10.2% of the total respondent indicated that potable water is also part of the amenities provided for the community by the park.

From the above, it is evident that the park has played its part in the social lives of the host community. The finding is in line with Swarbrooke (1999) argument that for tourism to grow, the social impacts should not be relegated to the background and the study by Barcelona field studies center in ([geographyfield work.com](http://geographyfieldwork.com)) that tourism can stimulate the establishment of new and improved transport services to and within a regional area and that it enhances education and professionalism, healthy population, improved infrastructure and basic amenities.

5.2 CONCLUSION

From the above findings, it is very evident that amusement parks provide strategic platform for various kinds of development to the host community. The study also concludes that the emergence of Trans Amusement park in Bodija Community has provided enormous social and economic benefits to the immediate local community in terms of employment, infrastructure, and income generation hence, African countries should invest more capital in Tourism.

5.3 RECOMMENDATION

In view of the findings of this study, the following suggestions and recommendations are hereby made.

The Federal Government through their respective agencies should invest enormous resources in the establishment of tourist attractions such as Trans Amusement Park in order to reduce unemployment among the youths.

The Government should encourage more private participation in the development of the tourism in Nigeria.

Government can also diversify its income generation potential by investing enough capital in tourism so as to increase its foreign exchange earnings.

It is also recommended that active community participation is of paramount wherever there is or will be an attraction hence, the people of Bodija Community are advised to improve on their level of participation towards the development of Trans Amusement Park.

The local community people should work hand-in-hand with the management of Tran Amusement park in the area of provision of a better security system in order to reduce social vices.

The management of the park should also take into consideration, the concept of carrying capacity in order to control crowding and congestion and as well sustainably manage the parks facilities.

REFERENCES

- Allen T. Cleminson H and Holloway J (1998). *The Business of Tourism*, Pitman Publisher London.
- Andriotic and Vaughan (2003). *Principles and Practices Sustainable of Tourism*. Pp57.
- Awake Magazine 2008 (vol 9). pg 8-9
- Batir, M (2009) *Economic and Social Impacts of Tourism*. *Journal of Hospitality and Tourism*. Pp 47-49
- Bhatia, A.K (2001) *international Tourism Management*: New Delhi Sterling Press Limited.
- Cooper F, Luke Guo and Cole A.H (2008). *Survey Research Methods*. Carlofonia, Wadsworth Publishing Company

- Cooper F, Benson k and Stephen G (2005). *Tourism Principles and Practice*. Harlowe; Pearson Education Limited.
- Drate (1991). *Planning for Tourism Development*. New York Preager Publisher.
- Fadipe (2007). *Tourism Management and Development*, Spectrum Books Limited.
- Fyall A, Garrod B, Leask A (2003) *Managing Visitor Attraction*. Oxford; New direction Butter worth.
geographyfieldwork.com
- Holloway Grams (1994). *Global Environmental Consequences of Tourism*, *Global Environmental Change*. 12 (4) pp 283-302
- International Air Transport Association (IATA), 2003.
- Lilicrap I.A, Reeder. R and Brown D (2007) *Recreation, Tourism and Rural Well Being*. USDA, Economic Research Service
- Laura Stafford (2008). *Tourism Contribution to a State Economy. A multi regional general equilibrium analysis*, *Tourism Economic Journal*, Vol 9 pp 431
- Mathieson James (2006). *planning for Tourism Development*. New York Preager Publisher.
- Micheal Rollof (1981). *Principles of Tourism Practice*, London, Soot Prints Limited. Pp 33-34
- Nelson L.T (1993). *Information Systems; Success in the 21st Century*; New Jersey.
- Patton (1990) A paper presentation on the role of National Parks in Tourism Development.
- Presser (1994) *Information Systems; Success in the 21st Century*; New Jersey.
- Swabrooke, J (1999) *Sustainable Tourism Management*. London: CBI Publishing.
- Schwer Paul, Gazel Kempes and Saneshvary (2000). *Survey Research Methods*. Carlofonia, Wadsworth Publishing company
- Uche-Ibeabuchi (2010) *Economic Impact of Tourism in the Sub-Saharan African Countries; A report on the*
- Vanhove (2005). *Tourism and Economic Development; The Roles of Amusement Parks*. *Journal of Development Studies*. Vol 9.
- Wall A.A (2006) *Tourism Change, Impacts and Opportunities*. Edinburgh; Pearson Education Limited.
- Watson S. and Mc Cracker, M (2002) *Visitor Attraction and Human Resource Management*. *International Journal of Tourism Research*. Vol. 4 pp 5.
- Witherick James, Desforges Glass and Hargerlrl Brown (2001). *Tourism, Present Past and Future*. Heinamanm Publications Ltd, London. Page 196- 197.
- World Tourism Org (2004). *Travel and Tourism Economic research*.
- World Tourism Council (WTTC), 2005.
- WTO (2005) *International Conference on Tourism and African Economic*.
- www.blurtit.com Retrieved 9th February, 2013
- www.fifa.com Retrieved 6th February, 2013
- www.fraser.com Retrieved 9th February, 2013

This academic article was published by The International Institute for Science, Technology and Education (IISTE). The IISTE is a pioneer in the Open Access Publishing service based in the U.S. and Europe. The aim of the institute is Accelerating Global Knowledge Sharing.

More information about the publisher can be found in the IISTE's homepage:

<http://www.iiste.org>

CALL FOR JOURNAL PAPERS

The IISTE is currently hosting more than 30 peer-reviewed academic journals and collaborating with academic institutions around the world. There's no deadline for submission. **Prospective authors of IISTE journals can find the submission instruction on the following page:** <http://www.iiste.org/journals/> The IISTE editorial team promises to review and publish all the qualified submissions in a **fast** manner. All the journals articles are available online to the readers all over the world without financial, legal, or technical barriers other than those inseparable from gaining access to the internet itself. Printed version of the journals is also available upon request of readers and authors.

MORE RESOURCES

Book publication information: <http://www.iiste.org/book/>

Recent conferences: <http://www.iiste.org/conference/>

IISTE Knowledge Sharing Partners

EBSCO, Index Copernicus, Ulrich's Periodicals Directory, JournalTOCS, PKP Open Archives Harvester, Bielefeld Academic Search Engine, Elektronische Zeitschriftenbibliothek EZB, Open J-Gate, OCLC WorldCat, Universe Digital Library, NewJour, Google Scholar

