Contributions of Ikogosi Warm Springs to Poverty Alleviation in Ikogosi Community, Ekiti State, Nigeria

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Abstract

This paper reports the social impact and contributions of Ikogosi Warm Springs to poverty alleviation in Ikogosi Community, Ekiti State, Nigeria. A survey of opinions of the residents and spring workers in the community was taken using a questionnaire. Three hundred questionnaires were retrieved, validated after data cleaning, and analysed using ordinal logistic regression.

Social impact was found to have significant, non-significant, positive and negative influences on the residents' standard of living. The result for the parameter estimate for social impact was weak.

The presence of Ikogosi Warm Springs has provided access to quality and affordable healthcare services and also affected the academic achievement of students within the community. The springs' presence also created more awareness on gender equality, assisted in the preservation of historical sites, influenced the dressing culture of the residents, increased their sources of income, led to infrastructural development, and contributed to the need for a good road network. It is therefore recommended that government at all levels should focus efforts on creating an enabling business climate that attracts tourism investors, and through which the local communities can benefit from

infrastructural development as part of the corporate social responsibility of the investors, in the overall interest of tourism development in the state.

Keywords: Social Impact, Poverty Alleviation, Tourism Development, Gender Equality

Introduction

Background of the study

Nigeria is one of those African countries with persistently high poverty rates. In Nigeria, the most important factors that feed the poverty cycle are mass unemployment and lack of productivity, corruption, and leadership incompetence (Allison Johnson, 2013). Unlike several other industries (such as oil and gas) where the majority of investment proceeds go to the government, tourism investment proceeds are primarily distributed among community members and entrepreneurs in tourism-related businesses such as hotels, transportation companies, art and craft manufacturing, souvenir shops, tour operators, and travel agents (Kukoyi, 2015; Akande, 2017). The impact on the local people's social lives is felt through the provision of basic infrastructure and social amenities that support tourism growth without jeopardizing the government's chances of generating revenue from tourism investment, either directly or indirectly, through immigration charges, taxes, and foreign exchange earnings. Governments that encourage tourism in a community address not only economic problems, but also social and infrastructure growth issues (Kukoyi, 2015; Akande, 2017).

Problem statement

The National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) recently released the "2019 Poverty and Inequality in Nigeria" report, which highlights that 40 per cent of the total population, or almost 83 million people, live below the country's poverty line of ₦137,430 ($381.75) per year (World Bank, 2020). Although Nigeria's poverty profile for 2021 had not yet been released at the time of this study, it is estimated that the number of poor people will increase to 90 million, or 45 per cent of the population, in 2022. If the World Bank's income poverty threshold of $3.20 per day is used, Nigeria's poverty rate is 71 per cent (NESG, 2021). Many organizations (governmental and non-governmental, as well as local and

international) have contributed to the fight against various types of poverty around the world by employing various approaches.

This study investigates how tourism contributes to poverty alleviation through the prism of Sustainable Development Goals 1, 2, 8 and 9. The aim is to determine how Ikogosi Warm Springs has contributed to the quality of life and growth of the community from the social perspective vis-à-vis its success as a tool for poverty alleviation in the adjoining local communities.

Justification for the study

It is quite worrisome that notwithstanding the vast endowment of the country in both human and physical resources, the rate of poverty in local communities is increasing due to lack of necessary amenities, infrastructure and job opportunities. The study reveals ways through which the warm springs enhances the living standard of the host community through poverty alleviation, thus supporting the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). This study will reveal the ways in which tourism aids poverty alleviation in local communities through the provision of employment opportunities, by contributing to infrastructural development and increasing the standard of living of community residents. Finally, the study should be of great importance to scholars as it will form the foundation for future studies in related fields. The study will also give suggestions for further studies which will guide future scholars in selecting topics for research.

Literature Review

Sustainable tourism, indicators and sustainable development goals

Although still a contested subject, sustainability in the context of tourism is generally regarded as striking a balance between the economic, environmental, and social needs of all stakeholders in considering the impact of tourism (Buckley, 2012; Hall et al., 2014; Waligo et al., 2013). Attempts to operationalize the concept of sustainable tourism has led to the development of numerous sets of indicators in the hope of being able to quantify sustainability and this has seen the demand for indicator tools rising sharply in recent years, especially at the destination level (Tanguay et al., 2013). This has contributed to increased research on sustainable tourism indicators (Torres-Delgado and Palomeque, 2014), with several

projects being mounted to develop indicator frameworks (e.g., Kristjansdottir et al., 2018).

A number of methods to develop sustainable tourism indicators (STIs) have been proposed. Tanguay et al. (2013) suggested that there are two main routes to the development of sustainable tourism indicators, which they described as the scientific or academic approach and the policy-maker approach. The former considers sustainability to be a complex subject requiring technical and scientific methods of assessment, while the latter is contingent upon local conditions, which invariably align with policy agendas. Advocates of the policy-maker approach maintain that the resulting STI is the product of a consensus among stakeholders and is, therefore, more inclusive and easily understood by the public than STIs developed through a purely scientific approach (Tanguay et al., 2013). Unlike STIs developed via the scientific approach, however, policy-maker STIs are often prone to conflicts of interest.

In seeking to overcome these issues, Tanguay et al. (2013) proposed an alternative approach in which indicator development is based on a core systematic process while also embodying an operational policy. Other researchers, such as Blancas et al. (2016), proposed a new indicator-based tool to assess the degree of progress and regress in tourism sustainability, the latter being an issue often ignored in indicator research. Kristjansdottir et al. (2018) found that research into sustainability indicators has developed simultaneously across different academic disciplines, including tourism, and that the number of academic disciplines weighing into the STI debate continues to grow. Unlike earlier works, which considered indicators thematically and thus discussed tourism discretely in terms of its economic, social, and environmental impact, Kristjansdottir et al. (2018) stressed the value of first, adjusting established indicator frameworks and developing new systemic frameworks; and second, developing integrated STI, in order to aid policy- and decision-makers in evaluating the various roles of tourism within complex socio-ecological systems.

Tourism operates on multiple scales. Thus far, researchers have tended to prioritize the development of indicators for communities and destinations (i.e., the meso and macro-levels). However, there is also a need for indicators aimed at the micro-organizational level (i.e., small tourism enterprises) given that small, locally-owned tourism enterprises

have the potential to contribute to the goals of sustainable tourism development as they provide economic and socio-cultural benefits (Zapata et al., 2011; Koens and Thomas, 2015). Rasoolimanesh et al. (2020) argued that the social, political, and economic dimensions of sustainability are often relegated to the periphery when it comes to small tourism enterprises, with the environmental sustainability of these enterprises taking precedence.

The UNWTO (2004) Guidebook (Indicators of Sustainable Development for Tourism Destinations) contains a relatively comprehensive list of indicators that provide a valuable starting point for matching the selected indicators to the policy objectives of a given destination. The European Tourism Indicator System (European Commission, 2016) is another management, information and monitoring tool, specifically intended for sustainable tourism destination.

In order to explore the principles and objectives of sustainable development in tourism, it is therefore important to define the term sustainable development. Sustainable development can mean different things to different individuals, and it can also be applied to all other aspects of life, including tourism. Sustainable development according to the popular Brundt report is "development which meets the needs of the current generations without compromising the ability of the future generation to meet their own needs" (Robert et al., 2005). The concept of the Sustainable Development Goals is widely based on three pillars, which are: economic development, environmental protection and socio-cultural development.

Theoretical Model — Theory of Sustainable Livelihood Approach

The Sustainable Livelihood Approach (SLA) was developed as a strategy to alleviate poverty and it is continuously used by different agencies to design policies, projects, and programmes relevant to such (Hategekimana, 2011; Ferguson, 2012). Furthermore, Kristjanson et al. (2010) stated that the SLA integrates the significance of resources, marketplaces and other organizations. The framework identifies people's strengths, assets, livelihood activities, and opportunities that people have, as well as those factors that shape those livelihoods (Long, 2004 cited in Turner, 2012). Accordingly, Majale (2002) stated that the SLA is a complete method that attempts to draw up and make available a means

of understanding the essential sources and forms of poverty; as it attempts to draw up the relations among various features of poverty, allowing more efficient prioritization of actions at a functioning level.

The SLA theoretical framework is relevant because it conveniently enables comprehension of poverty and the set of actions and principles that could be adopted to overcome it; and it assists in the understanding of poverty and applicable tactics that could be employed in enlightening the lives of the poor (Gambe, 2015). Guided by this framework, this study contextualized the use of cooperatives as a potential strategy for alleviating poverty; and the understanding of women participating in an art and crafts co-cooperative using the SLA in its implementation. The SLA was used as a tool for understanding the participatory experiences of women in an art and crafts economic cooperative as a means of reducing poverty in Bhambayi (Khuzwayo, 2016). This is because according to Hategekimana (2011), "the concept of livelihood encompasses a means of supporting life, meeting individual and community needs; and that the SLA provides new perspectives on developing healthy sustainable societies that provide people with secure and satisfying livelihoods".

This approach demonstrates the manner whereby, in various settings, women could achieve sustainable livelihoods. The SLA has various features (Krantz, 2001; MacFadyen and Corcoran, 2002; Morse, McNamara and Acholo, 2009; DFID, 2010). Mostly, as a framework for analysis, it draws attention to the full range of assets that people draw upon to compose a livelihood.

Methodology

Model specification

This research follows the model specification by Pye et al., (2020). This is carried out so as to accommodate variables that will aid for estimation to achieve the objectives of the study. The model was reviewed in order to evaluate the contributions of Ikogosi Warm Springs to poverty alleviation in Ikogosi Community, Ekiti State, Nigeria.

The model is as stated below:

$$STOL = F\,(ECO, SOC, ENV, CON) \quad (1)$$

$$STOL = \beta 0 + \beta 1 ECO\_I + \beta 2 SOC\_I + \beta 3 ENV\_I + \beta 3 CON\_I + \mu t \quad (2)$$

where:

STOL = Standard of living

ECO_I = Economic impact

SOC_I = Social impact

ENV_I = Environmental impact

CON_I = Constraint hindering goals

β0 = Intercept

β1 – β4 = the coefficients

μt = Stochastic error term

Study area

The study area is Ikogosi, under Ekiti West Local Government Area of Ekiti State, South-West Nigeria. It lies 7°35″ N, and 4°59″ E of the equator. The state is mainly an upland zone, rising over 250m above sea level (Cohen and Saul, 1998 cited in Munson, 2010. Ikogosi Ekiti has a population of about 176,892 (NPC, 2006); with a density of 669.1 km2 and a total area of 366 km^2.

Population and sample size

The population for this study were residents of communities in Ikogosi, Ekiti State, Nigeria. Random sampling was used for convenience in the selection of the respondents and the number of respondents was determined using the Yamane formula. The reason for choosing simple random sampling is because it allows for all units of the population to be represented.

$$n = \frac{N}{1 + N(e^2)}$$

where:

n = Sample size

N = Population size (176,892)

e = Error margin calculated at 0.05%

$$n = \frac{176{,}892}{1 + 176{,}892(0.05^2)}$$

$$n = \frac{176{,}892}{1 + 176{,}892(0.0025)}$$

$$n = \frac{176{,}892}{1 + 442.23}$$

n = 399

Therefore, based on the formula above, this study surveyed 300 residents in Ikogosi, Ekiti State.

Research instrument

The research instrument for this study was a questionnaire with a set of open-ended and close-ended questions; it is the most common method used in the collection of primary data. The questionnaire comprised two sections, viz.: Section A, which elicited demographical information from the respondents; and Section B that provided the research questions with statements under each question to be reacted to by the respondents. Closed-ended questions were presented on a Likert type scale of strongly disagree, disagree, agree and strongly agree. The Likert type scale, commonly used in business research was applied because it allows participants to express their perceptions and opinions both in terms of direction (positive or negative) and intensity (degree of agreement or disagreement). In order to satisfy the objectives of the study, a list of the various possible generic strategy practices were provided and the respondents were asked to tick (√) answers as appropriate, i.e., the extent to which they have adopted each of the strategies along a five-point scale.

Method of data analysis

Data were analysed using simple percentages, graphs and regression statistics.

Results and Discussion

Analysis of the field results (Table 1) indicates that most of the respondents were male (55.0%). The majority were within the ages of 20

and 39. The modal age group of the respondents was 30 – 39 years. Also, most of the respondents were married (53.3%). On educational attainment, most of the respondents (48.7%) were SSCE holders, while only 3.3% had higher degrees. Finally, most of the respondents were Christians (72.7%).

Table 1: Socio-economic Characteristics of the Respondents

Variables	Frequency	Percentage
Sex		
Male	165	55.0
Female	135	45.0
Age		
19 and below	39	13.0
20 – 29	94	31.3
30 – 39	93	31.0
40 – 49	49	16.3
50 and above	25	8.3
Marital Status		
Single	139	46.3
Married	160	53.3
Education		
SSCE	146	48.7
OND/NCE	92	30.7
BSC/HND	52	17.3
Post Graduate	10	3.3
Religion		
Islam	71	23.7
Christianity	218	72.7
Traditional	11	3.7
Total	**300**	**100.0**

Source: Authors' computation, 2021.

The results presented in Table 2 show that about 69 (23.0%) of the respondents were public servants, 56 (18.7%) were farmers, 52 (17.3%) were traders, 28 (9.3%) were artisans and 95 (31.7%) were students. This indicates that most of the respondents were students.

Table 2: Occupation of Respondents

Occupation	Frequency	Percentage
Public Servant	69	23.0
Farmer	56	18.7
Trader	52	17.3
Artisan	28	9.3
Student	95	31.7
Total	300	100.0

Source: Authors' computation 2021.

The results in Table 3 show that the majority of the respondents, 141 (47.0%), were in the lowest income bracket of ₦30,000 or below while only a few, 9 (3.0%), earned the highest incomes, above ₦100,000. These results show that most of the respondents earned low incomes.

Table 3: Income Level of the Respondents

Income Level	Frequency	Percentage
30,000 and below	141	47.0
30,001 to 50,000	109	36.3
50,001 to 100,000	41	13.7
Above 100,000	9	3.0
Total	300	100.0

Results for Objective One: **To determine the social impact of Ikogosi Warm Springs on the residents' standard of living**

The analysis from Table 4 shows that the majority (55.7%) of the residents agreed that Ikogosi Warm Springs has provided access to affordable quality healthcare service while a few strongly disagreed (8.3%) or disagreed (16.7%) with the statement.

Table 4: Ikogosi Warm Springs has provided access to affordable quality healthcare service

	Frequency	Percentage
Strongly disagree	25	8.3
Disagree	50	16.7
Agree	167	55.7
Strongly agree	58	19.3
Total	300	100.0

Source: Authors' compilation, 2021.

The analysis from Table 5 shows that the majority of the residents, 162 (54%), agreed that Ikogosi Warm Springs has affected the academic achievement of students within the community. Another 72 (24.0%) residents disagreed with the statement, while 48 (16.0%) strongly disagreed.

Table 5: Ikogosi Warm Springs has affected the academic achievement of students within the community

	Frequency	Percentage
Strongly disagree	18	6.0
Disagree	72	24.0
Agree	162	54.0
Strongly agree	48	16.0
Total	300	100.0

Source: Authors' compilation, 2021.

Table 6 shows that 25 (8.3%) residents strongly disagreed that Ikogosi Warm Springs led to more awareness of gender equality, while 74 (24.7%) disagreed with the statement. The majority, 159 (53.0%), however agreed and a further 42 (14.0%) strongly agreed with the statement.

Table 6: Ikogosi Warm Springs led to more awareness of gender equality

	Frequency	Percentage
Strongly disagree	25	8.3
Disagree	74	24.7
Agree	159	53.0
Strongly agree	42	14.0
Total	300	100.0

Source: Authors' compilation, 2021.

The analysis from Table 7 shows that 5 (1.7%) of the residents strongly disagreed that Ikogosi Warm Springs has helped in the preservation of historical sites while 33 (11.0%) of the residents disagreed with the statement. The largest number of residents, 164 (54.7%), agreed and 98 (32.7%) strongly agreed with the statement.

Table 7: Ikogosi Warm Springs has helped in the preservation of historical sites

	Frequency	Percentage
Strongly disagree	5	1.7
Disagree	33	11.0
Agree	164	54.7
Strongly agree	98	32.7
Total	300	100.0

Source: Authors' compilation, 2021.

The results in Table 8 show that 27 (9.0%) of the residents strongly disagreed that Ikogosi Warm Springs has influenced the dressing culture of residents in the local community while 75 (25.0%) of the residents disagreed with the statement. Conversely, half of the residents, 150 (50.0%) agreed with the statement and a further 48 (16.0%) strongly agreed.

Table 8: Ikogosi Warm Springs has influenced the dressing culture of the residents

	Frequency	Percentage
Strongly disagree	27	9.0
Disagree	75	25.0
Agree	150	50.0
Strongly agree	48	16.0
Total	300	100.0

Source: Authors' compilation, 2021.

Inferential Judgment

As presented in Table 9, this research relied on the Kolmogorov-Smirnov test, being the test of normality for observations that are more than 100, while the Shapiro-Wilk test is for observations less than 100. Under Kolmogorov-Smirnov, the significance value indicates whether the variable in the data is statistically or significantly different or not from a normal distribution.

In this case, the p-value is 0.000, which is less than 0.05 and significantly different from a normal distribution. Therefore, the null hypothesis that the data in the pre-test variable is not normally distributed is rejected. Hence, it is concluded that the data is not normally distributed because they are all statistically significant (p-value 0.000, less than 0.05) and this shows that the data will be analysed using a non-parametric method which is the ordinal logistic regression.

Table 9: Tests of Normality

	Kolmogorov-Smirnov[a]			Shapiro-Wilk		
	Statistic	Df	Sig.	Statistic	df	Sig.
Transform_SOC	.136	300	.000	.967	300	.000
Transform_ECO	.118	300	.000	.971	300	.000
Transform_ENV	.138	300	.000	.959	300	.000
Transform_CON	.117	300	.000	.976	300	.000
Income level	.286	300	.000	.786	300	.000

[a] Lilliefors Significance Correction

Ordinal Regression

Table 10 indicates whether the model is significant or not. The model is significant because the p-value is less than 0.05 and the intercept only shows the model without bringing the predictors, while the final model brings in the predictors. In the model, this study tested whether in rejecting or accepting the null hypothesis, there is no significant difference between the intercept only model and the final model.

This indicates how the social and economic impact of Ikogosi Warm Springs influences the model; that is, how the predictors influence the model and, in this case, the predictors (social impact and economic impact) have a significant influence on the model with the p-value (0.001) being less than 0.05. Therefore, the null hypothesis that there is no significant difference between the intercept only model and the final model is rejected, and this study concludes that there is a significant difference between the intercept only model and the final model.

Table 10: Model Fitting Information

Model	-2 Log Likelihood	Chi-Square	Df	Sig.
Intercept Only	621.065			
Final	531.842	89.223	52	.001

Link function: Logit

Table 11 shows the Pearson chi-square value, deviance chi-square, degree of freedom (df) and significance value. The Pearson chi-square value is required to be non-significant and in the case of this study, a Pearson chi-square value of 774.343 was found. Also, a deviance chi-square value of 508.054 and degree of freedom of 716 were found.

The Pearson and deviance chi-square values were used to determine whether the chosen model is a good fit to the data; non-significant test results are indicators of a model that fits the data well, and a significant test result which indicates a p-value less than 0.05 means that the model does not fit the data well.

The table also shows that the Pearson chi-square and deviance chi-square are non-significant and this is because the p-values of the Pearson

(0.064) and deviance (1.000) are greater than 0.05, indicating that the model fits the observed data very well. In other words, the observed data is a significant fit for the model used in this study.

Table 11: Goodness-of-Fit

	Chi-Square	Df	Sig.
Pearson	774.343	716	.064
Deviance	508.054	716	1.000

Link function: Logit.

Table 12 presents goodness-of-fit value. It relies on the Nagelkerke, which is analogous to the R-square in the (OLS) ordinary least squares regression; that is they are treated in the same manner. The pseudo R-square (Nagelkerke) of 0.289 indicates that 28.9% of variability in the standard of living is explained or accounted for by social and economic impact. This means that 28.9% of changes in standard of living are as a result of the social impact and economic impact of the warm springs, while the remaining 71.1% are due to other factors that affect the residents' standard of living, which were not captured in the model.

Table 12: Pseudo R-square

Cox and Snell	.257
Nagelkerke	.289
McFadden	.135

Link function: Logit.

Table 13 shows the test for the assumption of proportional odds. The null hypothesis of this test states that the odds of each explanatory variable are consistent or are the same across different thresholds of the outcome variable. We want the probability value not to be statistically significant, that is, the p-value should be greater than 0.05, in order to be sure that we have not violated the assumption of proportional odds. In this study, the probability value (0.832) is greater than 0.05, thus we have not violated the assumption of proportional odds. There will therefore be no need to adopt the multinominal logistic regression to explore the odds and analyse the data.

Table 13: Test of Parallel Lines[a]

Model	-2 Log Likelihood	Chi-square	Df	Sig.
Null Hypothesis	531.842			
General	441.745[b]	90.097[c]	104	.832

Test of Hypothesis

H_0: There is no significant social impact of Ikogosi Warm Springs on the residents' standard of living.

Table 14 shows the parameter estimate which is analogous to the regression coefficient in multiple regressions, where their significant equivalent is important for this study. Therefore, this research will be interpreting how the social impact of Ikogosi Warm Springs is influencing the residents' standard of living. In other words, this study assessed the significant effect of social impact of Ikogosi Warm Springs on the residents' standard of living.

The significant value of social impact of Ikogosi Warm Springs (0.998) is greater than 0.05, which indicates that the social impact of Ikogosi Warm Springs (independent variable) has a non-significant contribution to the standard of living of the residents (dependent variable).

The estimate shows that for every one-unit increase in the social impact of Ikogosi Warm Springs, there is a predicted decrease of -18.378 in the log odds of falling at a higher level on the standard of living of residents. This simply means that as the score of the social impact of Ikogosi Warm Springs increases, there is a decreased probability of falling at a higher level on the standard of living of the residents. This simply means that the social impact of Ikogosi Warm Springs is a non-significant negative predictor of the standard of living of the residents.

Table 14: Parameter Estimates

							95% Confidence Interval	
		Estimate	Std. Error	Wald	df	Sig.	Lower Bound	Upper Bound
Threshold	[Income = 1]	-1.123	1.653	.462	1	.497	-4.363	2.117
	[Income = 2]	.994	1.656	.360	1	.548	-2.251	4.239
	[Income = 3]	3.279	1.695	3.740	1	.053	-.044	6.602
Location	[Transform_SOC=1.60]	-18.378	9440.324	.000	1	.998	-18521.073	18484.318
	[Transform_ECO=1.60]	4.758	2.448	3.776	1	.042	-.041	9.557
	[Transform_ENV=1.60]	19.290	9440.324	.000	1	.998	-18483.406	18521.985
	[Transform_CON=1.60]	-2.098	.968	4.700	1	.030	-3.994	-.201

Therefore, the null hypothesis that there is no significant social impact of Ikogosi Warm Springs on the residents' standard of living is accepted. Ikogosi Warm Springs has provided access to quality and affordable healthcare service. This is because, the presence of Ikogosi Warm Springs has brought the community to limelight and attracted government attention in the form of construction of a standard health centre and a community hospital, which were formerly lacking in the community. It has affected the academic achievement of students within the community and led to more awareness of gender equality by most of the respondents. The springs have helped in the preservation of the historical site and influenced the dressing culture of residents. The attraction has also led to the infrastructural development of the local community, while more job opportunities have been created. The Warm Springs have contributed to the need for a good road network.

The result from Kukoyi, Tijani, and Adedara, (2013) is in line with our study as they opined that Ikogosi Warm Springs Resort operates with little negative impact on the host community, rather enhancing the social status of the host community and Ekiti State as a whole. The study also concludes that the emergence of Ikogosi Warm Springs Resort Limited has provided enormous social benefits to the immediate local community.

Summary

This research study focused on the contributions of Ikogosi Warm Springs to poverty alleviation in Ikogosi Community, Ekiti State, Nigeria. With 300 respondents, a model was formulated using the ordinal logistic regression. In the model, standard of living was the dependent variable and the independent variable was the social impact of Ikogosi Warm Springs and its nexus with achieving the SDGs. It was observed that the independent variable had both significant and non-significant influences as well as positive and negative influences on the residents' standard of living. This means that the standard of living can be used to explain the social impact of Ikogosi Warm Springs and its nexus in achieving the SDGs. The only issue was that the result for the parameter estimate for social impact of Ikogosi Warm Springs was weak as one of the factors that influence the residents' standard of living.

Recommendations

The following strategies are suggested to enhance the contributions of Ikogosi Warm Springs to poverty alleviation in Ikogosi Community, Ekiti State, Nigeria:

i. The government of Ekiti State should focus its efforts on creating a favourable business climate in order to attract tourism investors to the state, and as a result, increase the likelihood of the indigenes being hired in the tourism sector.

ii. Another source of awareness offered for the Ikogosi resort is media promotion and other advertising agents. This would encourage additional spending within the local or host communities by promoting socio-economic activities and expanding the tourism industry as an export industry.

iii. Expansion of the Ikogosi Warm Springs can also help to boost tourism marketing. Marketing the warm springs of Ikogosi through the right application of marketing principles and ideology, including the host community, to attract tourists to specific places through activities in the form of resorts, festivals, fairs, would be beneficial. Tourism marketing is concerned with developing tourism plans based on the idea of demand and supply, in order to satisfy both the host communities (tourism suppliers) and the visitors (tourists).

iv. As commendable as the Ekiti State Government's decision to hand over the management of Ikogosi Warm Springs to a private company is, there should still be room for the Ekiti State Tourism Board and dedicated community representatives to participate in policy development and implementation in order to provide checks and balances for the company's decisions.

v. It should be noted that the site's main attraction is a natural phenomenon (a confluence of warm and cold springs) that has traditionally belonged to the host community; however, now that the site has been privatized and access to the site has been restricted, the local community people should be made to benefit from the site through corporate social responsibility.

vi. To maintain the collaboration and support of the local population, the company's management should encourage community participation.

Conclusion

It is evident as indicated from the findings of this study that the Ikogosi Warm Springs contributes to poverty alleviation in Ikogosi Community. Despite the fact that the local population of Ikogosi-Ekiti experience issues where the attraction is located, it is also worth noting that a vast majority of the people still believe that the benefits of this attraction greatly outweigh the drawbacks. This is in line with the findings of Kukoyi, Tijani and Adedara (2013), and Akande (2017), who revealed that the Ikogosi Warm Springs Resort operates with little negative impact on the host community but has a lot of positive impact on the social status of the host community, and Ekiti State as a whole. The present study also concludes that the emergence of Ikogosi Warm Springs Resort Limited has provided enormous social benefits to the immediate local community. Poverty alleviation in the Ikogosi Community in Ekiti State is influenced by a number of factors, positive and negative. However, there seems to be no significant social impact of Ikogosi Warm Springs on the residents' standard of living.

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