Effect of Warm Spring and Arinta Waterfall on Ikogosi and Ipole–Iloro Communities Ekiti State, Nigeria.

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ABSTRACT

This study investigates the effect of warm spring and waterfall on Ikogosi and Ipole-Iloro communities, Ekiti State, Nigeria. Tourism has profound effect on the local community of its destination, as it brings economic and socio-cultural changes. The broad objectives of this study are to identify the existing facilities vis-à-vis the problems confronting the tourist centres, investigate the utilization of the facilities and effects of these tourist centres on the host communities. The research methods include in-depth fieldwork, observation, questionnaire administration, interviews, collation and processing of field data. The research instrument was the questionnaire administered with the aid of simple random sampling. Four hundred and two (402) copies of the questionnaire were administered on the residents of the two communities, while (149) copies of the second set of questionnaire were administered on the tourists. Interview was conducted with the staff of the resorts as well as officials of the Ekiti State Tourism Board. Descriptive and inferential statistics were used to analyse data collected for the study. The result of the study revealed that Arinta Waterfall in Ipole-Iloro-Ekiti was an attractive tourist destination. However, it was observed that the level of awareness of the tourist centres to the general public is relatively poor and the tourist centre is underdeveloped. The result shows that the community members blamed the lack of development and public awareness of the resort on the government. The research also revealed that Ikogosi warm spring in Ikogosi-Ekiti is naturally endowed and fairly developed. The tourist centre has positively influenced the community for developments. Also the Gossy brand spring Water Company and hotels are some of the employment contributions of the tourist centre to the residents of the town. It was also found that the tourist centre had positive impact on the standard of living of the residents. Some of the major problems identified were poor management of the existing facilities, inadequate provision of recreational facilities, and poor conditions of infrastructural facilities in the entire communities such as roads and pipe borne water. The research recommends media awareness and publicity, effective coordination of all agencies for proper maintenance of the facilities, improvement of the transportation facilities and public and private partnership in development of these tourist centres. If these recommendations can be followed, the Ikogosi warm spring and Arinta waterfall will be attractive tourist destinations in years to come. These will assist to boost the socio-economic development of the communities.
CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

1.1 BACKGROUND TO THE STUDY

Tourism is the largest and fastest growing industry in the world, it accounts for about 7% of world capital investment with revenue predicted to rise up to 1.550 billion dollars by the year 2015 (Ogunberu, 2011). Akintunde (2001) elucidated that records on international tourism show that of all foreign exchange earners, tourism comes next to crude oil in some countries such as Saudi Arabia, Israel, United States and Spain. Ogbuewu (2003) also buttressed the fact that the tourism sector should be developed because of its potentials to generate foreign exchange, encourage even development, promote tourism based rural enterprises, generate employment, and accelerate rural and urban integration and cultural exchange. Nigeria would be making a lot of money from tourism, rather than reliance and solely depending on crude oil revenue.

The international tourism has long been a major source of foreign currency earning (Ayodele, 2002). In 1998, International tourism accounted for eight (8) percent of the World total Export earnings and thirty seven (37) percent of export and travels accounted for US$504 billion putting it ahead of all other categories of International trade (WTO, 2000). Although tourism plays an important role in the economy of some countries, tourism in Africa is yet to reach its full economic maturity (Nwosu, 2002). It has been observed that tourism in Nigeria still suffers from neglect because the local, state and federal governments of Nigeria are still indifferent to tourism development despite the preferred status accorded the sector (Edun, 2009). Tourism is both an industry and a response to social needs. Society’s adoption does not have a discrete image like
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