THE ROLES OF TOURISM IN POVERTY ALLEVIATION IN OGIN STATE OF NIGERIA

By: Banjo, O.S, Olayiwola, A.T and Salami, O.I.
Department of Agricultural Science, Tai Solarin University of Education.
PMB: 2118, Ijagun, Ijebu-Ode, Ogun State, Nigeria.
Address for correspondence: olayiwolaa@tasUED.edu.ng
+2348083792027.

INTRODUCTION

- Tourism has become a major source of economic growth employment, income generation and foreign exchange for many Countries (Basu, 2003) and it is considered by most developing Countries as a main source of development & growth of local economies (Haller, 2012).
- Nigeria as a developing Country is looking to tourism as a possible alternative income earner (Uduma-Olugbala and Ohwokwi, 2012) and a potential labour employer (Ajao (2012) Tourism has been identified as a means of poverty reduction by World trade organisation (WTO) and African Development Bank (Bowell and Weinz, 2008).
- Ogun state of Nigeria is especially blessed with attractive and historic tourist centers like Olumo rock in Abeokuta, Birijisu sugbo Shrine at Okeeri, Yemoj, Natural pool at Ijebu ode, Oya dam in Abekubu (Ogun State, Nigeria) and Badet in Ogun water-side LGA, Area 34 Forest Reserve, etc.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

- Two Hundred (200) randomly selected tourism stake holders in Ogun state (household heads, staff of tourism sites, traders community members and tourists) were interviewed with a pre-tested and structured questionnaires to exist information on tourism to generate primary data which were aggregated with field observations and in-depth reviews of available journals, published articles and books, internet etc as secondary sources of data.
- Data generated were analysed using descriptive statistics (frequency counts and percentages) and chi square analysis.

Study Hypotheses

- H0: There is no statistically significant difference in perceived poverty reduction among tourism participants from one tourist location to another.
- H1: There is statistically significant difference in perceived poverty reduction among tourism participants from one tourist location to another.

Description of the study Area: Ogun State of Nigeria

- Ogun State was created in February 1976 under a military administration Nigeria and it is located in the Southwest Zone of Nigeria.
- The total land area is 16,409.26 square kilometres
- It is bordered on the West by Benin Republic, on the South by Lagos State and the Atlantic Ocean, on the East by Ondo State, and on the North by Oyo and Osun States.
- It is situated between latitude 6.2°N and 7.8°N and longitude 3.0°E and 5.0°E.
- The raining season runs from March to November while dry season runs from November to February.
- The mean annual rainfall varies between 1280mm (South) and 1050mm (North).
- The northern part of the State is mainly of derived Savannah vegetation while the Central part falls in the rain forest belt. The southern part of the State has mangrove swamp.

Socio-economic characteristics of Respondents

Table 1: Chi Square Analysis of Participation in Tourism and Poverty Reduction

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Variable</th>
<th>Frequency</th>
<th>Percentage (%)</th>
<th>Socio-economic Status Improvement</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Place</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Male</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>60</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>40</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 2: Major Benefits of Tourism in the Study Area

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Benefits of Tourism in the Area</th>
<th>Frequency</th>
<th>Percentage (%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Employment generation</td>
<td>130</td>
<td>65</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Environment alteration</td>
<td>120</td>
<td>60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social re-orientation of all stakeholders</td>
<td>110</td>
<td>55</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 3: Chi Square Analysis of Benefits and Household closeness to tourist Center

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Benefits of Tourism in the Area</th>
<th>Frequency</th>
<th>Percentage (%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tourism</td>
<td>120</td>
<td>60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Natural pool</td>
<td>110</td>
<td>55</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 4: Chi Square Analysis of Participation in Tourism and Poverty Reduction

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Tourism</th>
<th>Frequency</th>
<th>Percentage (%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Natural pool</td>
<td>110</td>
<td>55</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Olumo Rock</td>
<td>130</td>
<td>65</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

CONCLUSION

The study concludes that tourism development is a very viable tool for poverty alleviation and that it improves the livelihood of the residents of the tourist centers and their adjacent communities.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Based on the findings of this study, the following are recommended for policy considerations by the government and other stakeholders in the tourism subsector in Ogun state, Nigeria and the World at large.
  - Government at all levels should allocate more funds towards tourism development
  - Private entrepreneurs should invest in tourism
  - Aggressive education re-orientation of all stakeholders on the potentials and the sustainable utilization of the available tourist sites in Ogun state, Nigeria and the World at large to make them available & beneficial in perpetuity.

REFERENCES