



Socio - Economic Impacts of Tourism Development on the Rural Communities In Ogoni Region Rivers State.

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ABSTRACT

The study examined the perceived socio-economic impacts of tourism development on the rural communities in Ogoni region, Rivers State. The study covers three local government areas of Ogoni region namely Khana, Gokana and tail local government areas. Respondents were drawn from 22 randomly sampled communities in the region. The descriptive survey research design was used for the study. Data was collected through copies of questionnaire administered to 400 male and female adults in the region. The data were collected on a 4- point Lykert scale and analyzed using descriptive statistics while the Chi-square (χ^2) statistical tool was used in testing the hypothesis formulated. Findings revealed that: on the positive impact of tourism, out of a total of 400 respondents, 302 respondents representing 75.5% agreed that tourism development will bring about socio-economic development of the region. On the negative impacts, out of a total of 400 respondents, 215 respondents representing 53.75% disagreed that tourism development will have negative impacts on the region. The result of the first hypothesis tested showed that the Chi-square (χ^2) value of 7.92 was less than the table value of 32.671 at 21 degree of freedom and 0.05 significant levels. The null hypothesis was therefore accepted. The result of the second hypothesis tested showed that the calculated χ^2 value of 30.11 was less than 32.671 at the same 0.05 significant level. The null hypothesis which states that tourism development has no significant negative impacts on the socio-economic development of Ogoni region was therefore accepted. Based on these, the paper recommended that: The three tiers of government should initiate policies that would facilitate economic development in tourism and poverty reduction; encouraged active citizen participation in tourism development; increase revenue budgeted for tourism development; infrastructure and public facilities development; entrepreneurship development; formation of community base organization (CBOs) and public private participation (PPP), creation of awareness, tourism related training programs and workshop among others.

Keywords: Socio-economic impact, tourism development, rural communities, region.

INTRODUCTION

Tourism has existed as a driving force for economic development and also for socio-cultural and physical development of nations (Ogan, 2017). At the global level, tourism is considered one of the fastest growing industries (WTO, 2014). It has the potential of generating positive, social, cultural, and economic benefits on the destination regions depending on how its activities are managed and developed. Annual revenues from international tourism are estimated to be about 1.5 trillion USD. Tourism impact refers to the marked effect of tourism activities on the society, economy, local government and other stakeholders, etc (Sawant, 2017). Tourism has been discovered to be a very important poverty alleviation attainment of the millennium development goals (MDGs) and sustainable development (Tunde, 2012).

Tourism development brings foreign currency inflows, infrastructure development, employment generation, regional development, income distribution through economic multiplier and it also brings more negative environmental and socio-cultural consequences (Geethika and Gnanapala, 2015). Tourism contributes substantially to reducing poverty and empowering women, youths and migrant workers with employment opportunities. It also assists to revive declining urban areas, open up and develop rural communities and promote the conservation of countries environmental endowments and cultural heritages. Its current role in expanding economic opportunity in developing countries, present a paradox. Resolving this paradox offers tourism the potential to play a leadership role within the business community as a whole (UNCTD, 2010; Ukpere, Agumagu, Naluba, and Oteh, 2017). Tourism not only contributes to wealth creation, but also increases the access to essential services such as water, sanitation, telecommunication and transport (Gnanapala and Sandaruwani, 2016). Tourism is an export category and it takes the fourth place on the world after the export of chemicals, fuel and foodstuffs (Kozhokulou, Chen, Yang, Issanova, Samarkhanov and Aliyeva, 2019). For this reason, the government of small countries gives priority to the tourism industry more than the large countries to achieve socio-economic development. This assists in the cultivation of a culture of respect for the environment and the preservation of environmental stability (Louca, 2006).

A major problem in tourism development in Rivers State is the concentration of tourism economy in Port Harcourt metropolis rather than contributing it to tourist places which are located in rural communities. Thus, there is the need for examining the socio-economic impact of tourism development in the rural communities in Ogoni region of Rivers State. The study brings some guidelines and recommendations for overall tourism development in Ogoni region.

2.0 REVIEW OF LITERATURE

Tourism motivation is explained by many writers as one of the key elements in understanding tourist decision making. Tourist motivation can be defined as “the global integration network of biological and cultural forces which gives value and direction to travel choices, behaviour and experience” (Faridi, 2018; Pearce, Marrison, and Rutledge, 1998).

Gray’s (1979) travel motivation theory poses only two main motives for travel. The first is the desire to go from a known to an unknown place, called in Gray’s theory “Wanderlust”. The other motive is what Gray called “Sunlust”. This generates a trip to a place which can provide the traveler with specific facilities that do not exist in his or her place of residence. Some of the motives that determine people’s travel choices are recreation, pleasure, new experiences, cultural interest, shopping. It is generally accepted that tourists’ motives can have a push or pull psychological exertion. Crumpton (1979) push factors explain the desire for travel while the pull motives have been used to explain the actual destination choice. The seven socio-psychological or push notions are: escape from a perceived mundane environment, exploration and evaluation of self, relaxation, prestige, regression, enhancement of kinship relationships, and facilitation of social interaction. The pull motives are novelty and education. It can be said that tourists are pushed by their needs and pulled by their emotional benefits of activities and destinations (Gontul, Lirmdu, Gonap, Timchang and Anyamele, 2019).

Walpole and Godwin (2000) posit that tourism is a development tool which provides economic benefits for the host communities. These include: increased employment opportunities, improved socio-economic conditions, and greater market stability.

2.2 Socio-economic impacts of tourism

Sawani (2017) clearly stated that socio-economic development is an individual's resources, wealth, education level and degree of urbanization. Matheson and Wall (1982) defined impact as “the form of altered human behavior that stems from interactions between agents of change and subsystems on which they impinge”. To them, social and cultural impacts of tourism are the ways in which tourism is contributing to changes in value systems, individual behavior and family relationships, collective lifestyles, safety levels, moral conduct, creative expressions, traditional ceremonies and community organizations. Economic impacts are changes in economic flow directly or indirectly. The promotion of

tourism would bring many direct benefits such as employment opportunities in tourism and hospitality sector, development of private enterprise, improved standard of living, social upliftment and improved quality of life, better education and training, sustainable environmental practices and foreign exchange earnings. It also brings about indirect benefits such as infrastructure development like power, water, sanitation, hospitals and roads, markets for local produce, economic upliftment due to economic multiplier effect to the people (GOI, 2002 and GOM, 2006). Thus, tourism activities are economically beneficial to both the host and the guest.

2.3 Socio-economic impacts of tourism

Socio-economic impacts are mainly concerned with the community. It focuses on changes in societal, collective and individual value systems, behavior, social relationships and lifestyles, modes of expression and community structure (Douglas, N. and Derrett, R., 2001; Sims, W. J. and D'Mello, L., 2005).

The main optimistic impact of tourism in community social life is that it contributes to a mutual understanding and respect between peoples and societies. It motivates local people to preserve their culture and heritage, and promote social stability through the realization of positive outcomes for the local economy. It can also encourage the preservation of ancient cultures and ways of life. Gnanapala and Sandaruwani (2016) further stated that the social benefits include: the maintenance of traditional cultures, increased intercultural communication and understanding, improved social welfare, quality of life, improved shopping, and increased recreational opportunity. Apart from these, other positive impacts relating to the social wellbeing of the community are the stimulation of infrastructure development such as roads, communications, health care, education, public transport and access to drinking water. Others are increasing local or regional safety and security, the facilitation of workforce development such as rights and conditions, the promotion of civic pride in community, culture, heritage, natural resources and infrastructure, increasing the awareness that it may be mutually beneficial to all stakeholders in the community, the potential creation of new opportunities, the promotion of cultural understanding, the preservation of cultural and social heritage and local languages, the support and preservation of local and unique crafts and skills, the enforcement of government policy, skill enhancement (training such as administrative service industry, maintenance), the building of capacity and the development of empowerment (gender and community, social and financial) (Ogereic, 2009).

On the pessimistic impacts of tourism on community social life, tourism is considered as a lucrative market for any destination. For this reason, they make substantial efforts to attract and satisfy the tourists as a collaborative effort of government and the private sector in order to get economic advantages (Kerunathika and Gnanapala, 2016). However, tourism can be a destructive vehicle which damages local social culture such as drug abuses, increased crime rate, prostitution, friction between tourists and residents, change traditional cultures and hosts' way of life. Other negative socio-economic effects are an outbreak of an epidemic like the outbreak of corona virus (covid 19 pandemic), terrorist attacks, and political events (Smorfitt, Harrison, Herbohn, 2005).

In some countries such as Brazil, China, Chile and India, their tourism sector is well developed to the extent that it has become the second or third highest contributor to her Gross National Product (GNP) as well as the main sustainer of the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) (Wosu, 2017). The immense socio-economic impacts and benefits of tourism have in recent times been recognized by several states and the federal government of Nigeria. Sequel upon this, part of the efforts towards diversifying the economy of the nation has been to harness and develop tourism, the untapped non-oil sector (Akpan and Obang, 2012). Participation in tourism related activities in rural communities with equitable tourism potentials stand better changes in maximizing the contributions of tourism to their socio-economic lives by actively initiating and participating in various businesses, small and large scale businesses (Elochukwu, 2013).

But in the developing countries like Nigeria, there is much to be done in order to make the sector attractive so that it can contribute to national development.

In Rivers State, we have tourist sites such as Port Harcourt Zoo, Botanic Garden at Oginigba, Isaac Bori Park, Tourist Beach, Broklyn Tourist Center, and Pleasure Park along Aba-Port Harcourt express way, all

located in Port Harcourt metropolis. But the tourists' sites in the rural communities have not been adequately developed.

The scientific novelty of the research is that, there is a lack of research on the socio-economic impacts of tourism in the Ogoni region. Thus, the research focuses on the socio-economic impacts of tourism in the region. The involvement of the local economy in tourism planning and development is very crucial. Hence, the objective of this research is to examine the socio-economic impacts of tourism development on the rural communities in Ogoni region of Rivers State.

The hypotheses that will be tested are:

Hypothesis 1: Tourism development has no significant positive impacts on the socio-economic development of the rural communities in Ogoni region.

Hypothesis 2: Tourism development has no significant negative impacts on the socio-economic development of the rural communities in Ogoni region.

3.0 MATERIAL AND METHODS

3.1 Geography of the study area

The Ogoni region lies within the main land known as River State, the treasure base of the nation. It is located between latitude $4^{\circ} 3''$ and $4^{\circ} 5''$ North and Longitude $7^{\circ} 10''$ and $7^{\circ} 3''$ east of the Greenwich meridian. The region known as Ogoni covers approximately 1212kilometer square with over 200 communities spread across the four local government area namely: Gokana, Khana, Tail and Eleme local government areas (Firima, 2018). The region is bounded in the North by Obio/Akor and in the South by Opopo /Nkoro, Andoni and Boni local government areas and in the West by Ogu – Bolo and Okrika local government as showed in figure 1.

Ogoni region lies within the tropical rain forest region with its humid climate and equatorial forest vegetation. Its highest temperatures are between 28°C to 32°C and the average precipitation is 3004 mm. this condition favours the growth of plants and forest trees such as iroko, mahogany, camwood, black afara, etc, which can be useful for tourism activities.

The coastal plain consists of sand and other terrestrial deposits mixed with marine deposits. The geological fact informed us about the abundant natural resources including oil and gas. Moreover, the region is drained by the sea and other tributaries that ran into the Atlantic oceans which are good tourist sites. Such attractive tourist sites include Bani, Kono.Kpean, Sii, Teenama, Kaa, Boue, Bomo, Bodo, K-Dere and B -Dere, etc

The economic and commercial activities of the Ogoni people are predominantly farming, livestock herding, and fishing, hunting and trading. The Ogoni region has a rich cultural heritage.

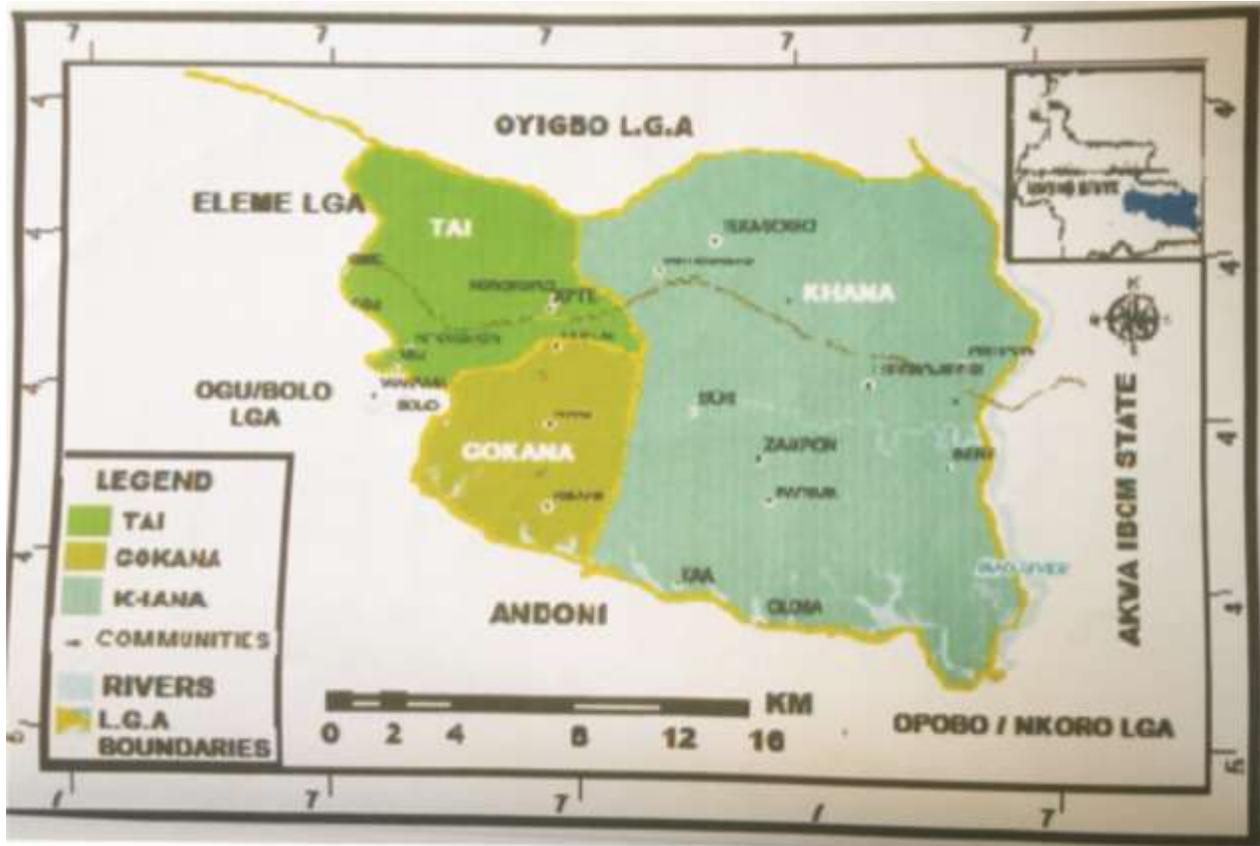


Fig. 1: Study area showing sampled rural communities in Ogoni region of Rivers State.

The activities of great cultural and tourist value include the new yam festival, chieftaincy installation ceremonies, and initiation to womanhood, traditional wrestling ceremonies, The Yaa Custom, and Gbene Cultural Institution. Worthy of note is the Nama grove located in Nama in the ancient town in Ogoni.

The population of the region has been on an increase. For instance, the population of the region has increase from 508,432 in 1991 to about 1,176,200 in 2016 (NPC,1991 Brinkhoff, 2017, Firima, 2018). The region is witnessing an unprecedentedly growth in their headquarters and expansion as a result of immigrants coming to seek for Employment, Education, Trading and other activities. From the above presentation It can be seen that Ogoni Geographical landscape has tourism potential which can attract foreigners that can contribute to the socio –economic development of Ogoni land in particular and Nigeria if properly developed.

3.2 RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

The descriptive survey research design was used for this study. It involves the selection of a sample to represent the target population of household in the region. The population for the study comprises of all the male and female adults in the region. Out of the four local governments that make up the Ogoni region, three were selected for the study; they include Gokana, Khana and Tai local government areas. The three local government areas has a projected 2018 population of 1,080, 200 persons (Firima, 2018). The Taro Yamene’s statistical formula was used to select the sample from the projected population, with this formula, a sample size of 400 persons were selected from the various communities for the study and using proportionate random sampling. Thus, in Gokana local government areas, six communities were randomly selected comprising of a total of 134 males and females. The communities are Biara, Yeghe,

Terabor, Bodo, Mogho and Kpor (The local government headquarters); in Khana local government areas, 138 persons comprising of 69 males and 69 females were selected from ten communities. The communities are Sogho, Taabaa, Opouko, Bane, Kwewa, Kpean, Kaa, Eeken, Gwara and Bori (the local government headquarters). In Tai local government area, 128 persons comprising of 64 males and 64 females were selected from six communities. They are Koroma, Korokoro, Kpite, Kporghor, Bava – ale and Nonwa.

The instrument used for data collection was structured questionnaire administered to both the male and female adults in the sampled communities in the region. In each of the sampled communities, a systematic random sampling technique was employed and the choice of the household was every 10th house beginning from the first house. A total of 400 questionnaires were administered and 400 were retrieved representing 100%.

Both the descriptive and inferential statistics were employed. Data from the field were arranged on a 4-point Lykert scale of Strongly agree(SA), Agree(A), Disagree(DA), and Strongly disagree (SD). The data were collated, summarized and presented in tables, while the hypothesis were tested using the Chi-Square statistical techniques. Other information's were obtained from secondary sources such as textbooks, journals & articles and the internet.

4.0. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

4.1: Presentation of Results

Table 4.1: Sample distribution of respondents in the study area

S/N	Local Government Area	Communities Selected	Sample		
			Male	Female	Total sampled
1	Gokana	6	67	67	134
2	Khana	10	69	69	138
3	Tai	6	64	64	128
Total		22	200	200	400

Source: Researcher's fieldworks, 2020.

Table 4.2: Perceived socio-economic impacts of tourism development on the rural communities in Ogoni region.

S/N	Perceived socio-economic impacts of tourism development on the study area.	Responses				Total
		SA	A	D	SD	
1	Tourism will bring economic growth and poverty reduction in the communities.	32 (34.78)	15 (15.84)	11 (9.91)	7 (6.01)	65
2	Bring employment generation to the rural communities.	38 (38.52)	19 (15.84)	10 (10.98)	5 (6.66)	72
3	Create regional development in the neighborhood.	25 (23.01)	8 (9.46)	7 (6.56)	3 (3.98)	43
4	Infrastructure development/public facility development.	28 (27.82)	12 (11.44)	7 (7.93)	5 (4.81)	52
5	Increase in foreign exchange earnings.	14 (19.26)	9 (7.92)	9 (5.49)	4 (3.33)	36
6	Cultural/heritage conservation.	27 (27.29)	13 (11.22)	5 (7.78)	6 (4.72)	51
7	Entrepreneurship development	29 (23.54)	5 (9.68)	6 (6.71)	4 (4.07)	44
8	Increased in standard of living.	21 (19.80)	7 (8.14)	6 (5.64)	3 (3.42)	37
Total		214	88	61	37	400

Source: Researcher's fieldworks, 2020.

Table 4.3 Perceived negative socio-economic impacts of tourism development on the rural communities in Ogoni region.

S/N	Perceived negative impacts.	Responses				
		SA	A	D	SD	Total
1	Tourism will bring about increase in crime rate (e.g. drug abuse, armed robbery, kidnapping, prostitution, etc).	17 (14.24)	19 (15.36)	16 (21.12)	12 (13.28)	64
2	Increase in the cost of living.	11 (12.24)	16 (13.20)	20 (18.15)	8 (11.41)	55
3	Environmental pollution (e.g. disease spread like corona virus (covid 19 pandemic, air borne and water borne diseases, etc.)	8 (22.36)	5 (10.56)	18 (14.52)	13 (9.13)	44
4	Increase in the price of properties.	14 (12.91)	17 (13.92)	16 (19.14)	11 (12.04)	58
5	Place more pressure on the limited resources (e.g. food, land, transport, electricity, water supply, etc) on host communities.	15 (12.46)	15 (13.44)	12 (18.48)	14 (11.62)	56
6	Increase in social conflicts.	10 (10.46)	11 (11.28)	16 (15.51)	10 (9.75)	47
7	Benefits the non-residents than the host communities.	8 (9.79)	9 (10.56)	19 (14.52)	8 (9.13)	44
8	Crowding at the centers and congestion.	6 (7.12)	4 (7.68)	15 (10.56)	7 (6.64)	32
Total		89	96	132	83	400

Source: Researcher’s fieldworks, 2020.

Table 4.1 shows the sampled distribution of respondents in the study area. The table shows a total of 400 respondents drawn from 22 sampled communities in the study area. Out of these communities, a total of 134, 138, and 128 are drawn from three sampled local government areas namely Gokana, Khana and Tai respectively.

Table 4.2 shows the perceived socio-economic impacts of tourism development on the rural communities in Ogoni region. In the table, it is noticed that out of a total of 65 respondents 32 and 15 people representing 49.23% and 23.07% says that they strongly agree (SA) and agree (A) that tourism will bring economic growth and poverty reduction in the communities in the study area. This means out of a total of 65 respondents, 47 respondents representing 72% are on the agreed side. While 18 people representing 27.69% disagrees on the view. Out of a total of 72 respondents, 38 people representing 52.78% strongly agrees that tourism will bring about employment generation to the rural communities. Also, 19 people representing 26.39% also agrees to that view. This implies that 57 (79.17%) respondents agree that it will generate employment in the communities in the study area while only 15 (21.43%) disagree with that view.

At the regional level, out of a total of 400 respondents, 214 (53.5%), and 88 (22%) strongly agree and agree respectively that tourism will brings about economic growth and poverty reduction, employment generation, create regional development in the neighborhood, bring infrastructural development, increase in foreign exchange earnings, cultural heritage conservation, entrepreneurship development and increase in the standard of living. That is, 302 (75.5%) are of the above views. But 61 (15.25%) and 37 (9.25%) disagree and strongly disagree respectively on the above views. That is, a total of 98 (24.5%) are against the above views.

Table 4.3 shows the perceived negative socio-economic impacts of tourism development on the rural communities in Ogoni region. At the regional level, that is for Gokana, Khana and Tai local government areas, out of a total of 400 respondents, 89 (22.25%) and 96 (24%) respectively strongly agree and agree that tourism will bring about increase in crime rate, increase in the cost of living of the rural communities, environmental pollution, increase in the price of properties, place more pressure on the limited resources, increase in social conflicts, etc. These imply that, out of a total of 400 respondents, 185 (46.25%) agree on the negative impacts. But 132 (33%) and 83 (20%) disagree and strongly disagree respectively to the above views. These imply that a total of 215 (53.75%) respondents negatively disagree and strongly disagree to the above views. That is, they are not in support of the above views.

4.2 Analysis of Hypothesis

Table 4.2 is used in testing the null hypothesis (Ho) which states that: Tourism development has no significant positive impact on the socio-economic development of the rural communities in Ogoni region.

Table 4.4: Summary of Chi-Square statistical test on the perceived positive socio-economic impacts of tourism development on the rural communities in the study area

N	Degree of freedom	X ² calculated	X ² table	Alpha level	Result	Decision
400	21	7.92	32.671	0.05	Not significant	Accepted

Source: Researcher's fieldwork, 2020.

Table 4.4 reveals that the calculated Chi-Square (X²) value is 7.92 while the table Chi-Square (X²) value at 21 degree of freedom and 0.05 significant level is 32.671. Since the calculated Chi-Square (X²) value of 7.92 is less than the critical Chi-Square (X²) value of 32.671, we accept the null hypothesis and reject the alternative hypothesis which states that there is significant positive socio-economic impacts of tourism development on the rural communities in the study area.

Table 4.5: Summary of Chi-Square statistical test on the perceived negative socio-economic impacts of tourism development on the rural communities in the study area

N	Degree of freedom	X ² calculated	X ² table	Alpha level	Result	Decision
400	21	30.11	32.671	0.05	Not significant	Accept

Source: Researcher's fieldwork, 2020.

Table 4.5 reveals that the calculated Chi-Square (X²) value is 30.11 while the table Chi-Square (X²) value is 32.671 at 21 degree of freedom and 0.05 level of significance. Since the calculated Chi-Square (X²) value of 30.11 is less than the table value of 32.671, we accept the null hypothesis and reject the alternative hypothesis which states that tourism has significant negative impact on the socio-economic development of the rural communities in Ogoni region. We therefore conclude that tourism has no significant negative impact on the socio-economic development of the rural communities in Ogoni region.

4.3 DISCUSSION OF FINDINGS

The findings of the research reveal the following:

1. The respondents perceived that tourism will bring about socio-economic development of the communities in the Ogoni region.
2. Out of the total of 400 respondents, 302 people representing 75.5% agreed that tourism development will bring about socio-economic development in the region. While only 24.4% disagree with the views. This is in agreement with the works of Gnanapala and Sandaruwani (2016); Elochukwu (2013).
3. On the negative impacts of tourism, out of a total of 400 respondents, 215 respondents representing 53.75% disagree that tourism development will have negative impacts on the region while 185 people representing 46.25% agreed on the negative impacts of tourism on the region.

4. On the test of the first hypothesis, the null hypothesis which states that there is no significant positive impact of tourism on the socio-economic development of the region was accepted This is because, the calculated Chi-Square value of 7.92 was less than the table value of 32.671 at 21 degree of freedom and 0.05 significant level.
5. On the analysis of the second hypothesis, we accepted the null hypothesis which states that tourism development has no significant negative impact on the socio-economic development of Ogoni region. This is because, the calculated X^2 value of 30.11 was less than the table value of 32.671 at 21 degree of freedom and 0.05 level of significance. We therefore conclude that tourism development has no significant negative impact on the socio-economic development of the rural communities in Ogoni region.

CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION

The study examined the socio- economic impacts of tourism development on the rural communities in Ogoni region of River State. Tourism has been discovered to be a driving force for the socio- economic development of the rural communities in the developing and developed nations. The findings reveals that the promotion of tourism will bring about employment opportunities, improved standard of living, foreign exchange earnings, infrastructural development, preservation of cultural and heritage and social wellbeing among others. Ogoni region has a rich cultural heritage. Its geographical landscape has tourism potential that can contribute to the socio – economic development of the region and Nigeria in general. Based on these, the researcher made the following recommendations:

1. The Federal, State and Local government should initiate policies that will facilitate economic development in tourism and poverty reduction in the rural communities in the ogoni region.
2. To create regional development in the neighborhood, the government is expected to dialogue with the rural communities in the local government areas in the region to participate actively in tourism development.
3. The government should increase the revenue budgeted for tourism development in the region to enhance more contribution from tourism on the socio- economic development of Ogoni region.
4. On infrastructure development and public facility development, there should be development of infrastructure such as roads, water, electricity, and communication and health safety services in the rural communities to the standard that will enhance internal and international tourism.
5. Special buses for tourists, online booking facilities for transport services should be provided to make tourist travel easy and comfortable. Local administration should take the leading role in tourism development. Tourism stakeholders, NGOs, self help groups, and locals should jointly participate in the issues of sanitation of the area, and medical aid.
6. Public private partnership (PPP) should play key role by establishing medium and large scale development projects to boost tourism in the region.
7. There is need for other facilities at the destination such as ATM, internet, wifi and other modern communication facilities.
8. To develop a proper mechanism for community participation, it is necessary to form community – based organizations (CBOs) which should be properly monitored by the government.
9. On cultural and heritage conservation, the local cultures should be positioned as a tourism product. The promotion and planned development tourists of these tourism products can increase the tourists stay thereby leading to the positive socio- economic impacts of the region.
10. On entrepreneurship development, there should be public and private agencies for the training or workshop to disseminate information concerning tourism development opportunities to the rural communities. The government should provide huge incentives for tourism projects to encourage tourism entrepreneurship.
11. There should be effective training and education of the local communities in order to create professionalism. This is necessary to encourage the much needed entrepreneurship in the region.

12. On the negative impacts of tourism and on the fact that tourism benefits the non residents than the host communities, there is the need to create awareness about tourism opportunities. All the stakeholders of the tourism industry should come forward for this purpose.
13. Tourism related training programs, workshops, meetings of the rural communities for tourism planning should be arranged.
14. The rural communities should be educated about the job opportunities available in tourism.
15. On the other perceived negative impacts such as increase in crime rate, environmental pollution, increase in price of properties, much pressure on the limited resources, increase social conflicts and congestion, government should work out on proper plan of visitor management system at destination that is the ogoni region. Strict rules and norms of government at both the local government and state levels can reduce all these problems. NGOs and stakeholders should support the implementation of the laws by the government.

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