

Assessment of Patronage of Tourist Sites in Badagry Local Government Area of Lagos State, Nigeria

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Abstract

Poor patronage has been a subject of concern in hospitality industry and tourist attraction centres. This has impacted negatively on investment in the sector and overall economic development. The study therefore assessed patronage of tourist centres in Badagry Local Government area (LGA) of Lagos State, Nigeria. The study was based on primary data obtained in a cross-sectional survey of 240 respondents using multi-stage sampling technique in selected tourist centres in the LGA. The data collected were analyzed using descriptive and inferential statistics. Results revealed that majority of the respondents were between 26-30 years of age with an average of 36.2 years. Majority (62.1%) of the respondents were females, 71.1 percent were single and 41.7 percent had tertiary education. Furthermore, majority (60.8%) of the respondents had between 4-6 individuals as household members. The most visited tourist centre recreation purpose (62.1%), education purpose (87.1%), research purpose (84.2%), information purpose (72.1%) and sightseeing which accounted for 57.9%. Furthermore, inadequate funding of tourist by the government (95.8%), under developed tourism infrastructure (96.3%), low patronage (98.8%), limited understanding of tourism (95.0%) and bad road to tourism destination (98.3%) accounted for poor patronage. The study concluded that age, sex, marital status, education, major occupation, working experience and household size of the respondents were associated with their level of satisfaction in the study area. The study therefore recommended that tourism development should not be left alone for the state government, the Local government should make effort to support the state government to create enabling environment to the tourist centres.

Keywords: tourists, tourist centres, patronage, level of satisfaction, Badagry

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INTRODUCTION

Tourism is identified as an effective way to revitalise the economy of any destination (Long, 2012) and widely acknowledged as one of the fastest growing industry globally (Raymond, 2001; Newsome *et al.*, 2002; Basu, 2003, Jennie, 2012). The continuous and rapid growth of tourism has facilitated increased global disposable income, demand for leisure, and this combine with the global economic restructures in response to globalization that ensured competition in global tourism industry and drastic reductions in travel costs. Thus, tourism has been known as the suitable way for economy growth and development, employment, earnings, foreign exchange for many countries (Khaksari, Lee and Lee, 2014) and considered by developing countries as a main source of development and growth for local economies (Hodur *et al.*, 2005; Haller, 2012).

Nigeria's tourism landscape is extremely rich and beautiful for global tourist attraction; the weather, climate, vegetation, quality airspace, sunshine, beautiful scenery, the rock, falls, captivating beaches, historical relics, rich cultural diversity, friendly peoples and wildlife are Nigeria's tourism assets source. This makes Nigeria a leading tourism paradise in Africa (WTO, 2016). According to the World Trade Organization (WTO, 2016) noted that tourist arrivals reached 1.23 billion, up strongly from 674 million in 2000. Earnings reached a record US\$ 1.22 trillion, increasing impressively from US\$ 495 billion in 2020. It was further forecasted that international tourist arrivals to African will be to the tune of 77.3 million visitors in 2020. In Nigeria, the downstream economic impacts from the exports revenues of international tourists' spending are estimated to generate additional annual gross revenue of \$224m (N29b). Furthermore, the market share of emerging economies was not left out in this boom, increasing from 30% in 1980 to 47% in 2015, and is expected to reach 57% by 2030, equivalent to over 1 billion international tourist arrivals (UN, WTO's Long Term Forecast Tourism Towards 2030).

Currently, tourism is no longer leisure but an activity that has captured the attention of economists as a major source of foreign exchange for developing and developed countries, compelling aspiring nations to develop both tourist sites, standardize operations and improve infrastructures such as electricity, airports, rail, roads, seaport, that support tourism (Ahmad, 2012; Bogoro *et al.*, 2013; Kumar, 2013; and Mosoma, 2014). Unlike oil that is non-renewable, and which at best employs less than 2% of the population, tourism on the other hand, is an all-inclusive,

sustainable, labour-intensive industry, engaging both skill and unskilled labour. It has the potential to create more jobs per unit of investment than the oil industry.

Environmentally, tourism, when properly developed and managed, can serve as a mechanism for protecting the ecosystem: the natural environments, preserving historical, archaeological and religious monuments and stimulating the practice of local cultures, folklore, traditions, arts and crafts, and cuisine (Chidozie and Obudo, 2014). Economically, tourism brings many benefits to federal, state and local authorities as well as the private sector through the generation of revenue, foreign exchange, and financial returns on investment, taxation on tourists and tourist products, and linkages to other local industries such as agriculture (Khosravi et al., 2014). The employment reach of tourism is not limited to urban areas but also rural communities that often host tourist sites and monuments. It is based on this that the study assessed patronage of tourist centres in Badagry Local Government area of Lagos State, Nigeria.

METHODOLOGY

Study Area

The study was conducted in Badagry, Lagos State, Nigeria. Badagry (traditionally Gbagle) is a coastal town and Local Government Area (LGA) in Lagos State, Nigeria. It is between the city of Lagos and the border with Republic of Benin at Seme. As of the preliminary 2006 census results, the municipality had a population of 241,093. Badagry, a coastal community in Lagos State, prides itself as cradle of civilization in Nigeria. Believed to have been founded in 1425 A.D, the town derived its name from the fusion of the name of its founder, a famous farmer known as Agbedeh and the word "Greme", which means farm in Ogu (Egun) language.

The first educational system in Nigeria as a British colony started in Badagry where the first primary school was established by the Wesleyan Mission (Methodist Church) in 1843 and named Nursery of Infant Church which later became St. Thomas' Anglican Nursery and Primary School, founded by Rev. Golmer of the Church Missionary Society (CMS) in 1845 and operated inside the first storey building in Badagry. In 1863, Badagry was annexed by the United Kingdom and incorporated into the Lagos Colony. In 1901 it became a part of Nigeria. Badagry is naturally endowed with monumental tourist attractions which form part of the Ogu's cultural heritage located on the Guinea coast with its beautiful coconut-fringed sandy beaches dotted with historical sites and relics. The population of the study included all tourism sites, all workers and tourists in Badagry Local Government Area of Lagos State. There are 15 tourist sites which were selected for the survey.

Sampling Technique and Sample Size

A two-stage sampling technique was used to select respondents for the study. In stage one, 50% of the 15 tourist sites were selected. In the second stage, 30 respondents (30 tourists) were selected from each of the tourist sites selected. In all, a total of 240 respondents were selected for the study. In addition, the manager and one assistant were interviewed in each of the tourist sites.

Method Data Collection and Data Analysis

Primary data used for the study were collected through the use of structured questionnaires administered on the tourists. The dependent variable was patronage of tourist sites in the study area. The independent variables included socio-economic characteristics, the various tourist sites and their location in the study area. Other relevant information collected were level of patronage of tourist sites in the study area, tourists' reasons for visiting the tourist sites, level of patronage of tourist site, level of tourist satisfaction and challenges facing tourists in the study area. The data collected were analyzed using descriptive and inferential statistics.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The sex of the respondents was necessitated for possible inference deduction and generalization on how it relates to tourist centre patronage. As evident in Table 1, majority (62.1%) of the respondents were females. Marital status is expected to influence respondents' level of responsibilities which could have positive or negative influence on their tourist centre patronage. The results showed that majority (71.7%) of the respondents were single. Education background is a vital point of note in enlightenment and tendency towards innovation. The relationship between education and tourist centre patronage formed the basis for examining the educational level of the respondents. The study revealed that the majority (41.7%) of the respondents had tertiary education, about 38.3% of the respondents possessed secondary level formal education while 20.0% had primary school education, implying that level of formal education may enhance tourist centre patronage by the respondents in the study area. That is, educated people may be more favourably disposed to frequent patronage of tourist centres than those with no formal education.

Household size may also have implication on the patronage level of the tourist centres by the respondents. The results presented in Table 1, reveal that the majority (60.8%) participating respondents had between 4-6 individuals as household members. This medium household size may encourage the respondents to patronize the

sites as the cost may not eat deep into the monthly or annually income. The main occupation of the respondents could have effect on regularity of their income. A participant that has regular income source (e.g. salary) may have high susceptibility to tourist centres patronage. An assessment the respondents' main occupation revealed that the respondents engaged in varieties of occupation mainly. However, substantial percentages of the participants (58.8%) were students. Religion is said to be the opium of the society precisely in Nigeria and particularly in the study area. Religion often a time determines what people eat, the type of clothes they wear and perhaps the kind of social and economic association they engage in. The practitioners of two major religions in the study area (Islam and Christianity) were represented Muslims respondents being higher than Christians.

Table 1: Socio-Economic Characteristics of the respondents

Age Group	Frequency	Percentage
Below 20 years	16	6.7
20-25 years	44	18.3
26-30 years	95	39.6
31-35 years	43	17.9
Above 35 years	42	17.5
Sex		
Male	91	37.9
Female	149	62.1
Marital status		
Single	172	71.7
Married	67	27.9
Divorced	1	.4
Level of education		
Primary education	48	20.0
Secondary education	92	38.3
Tertiary education	100	41.7
Length of day of visit		
A day	238	99.2
Two days	2	.8
Household size		
1-3	61	25.4
4-6	146	60.8
7-9	31	12.9
10-12	2	.8
Major occupation		
Farming	25	10.4
Trading	43	17.9
Civil servant	29	12.1
Artisan	2	0.8
Student	141	58.8
Years of working experience		
None	141	58.7
Below 5 years	33	13.8
5-10 years	60	25.0
11-15 years	4	1.7
16-20 years	1	0.4
Above 20 years	1	0.4
Religion		
Christianity	98	40.8
Islam	142	59.2
Membership of social group		
Yes	122	50.8
No	118	49.2
Total	240	100.0

Source: Field survey, 2018.

Tourist centers visitation and the location

The visited tourist sites were the slave relics of Mobee Palace (81.7%), Q-brat Zoo (82.1%), Nigeria French language village (93.3%), Sultan beach (79.6%), Whispering palm (97.1%) and Badagry heritage museum (50.4%)

as presented in Table 2.

Table 2: Various Tourist Centers and Location in the Study Area

Tourist centre	Visit				Location
	No		Yes		
	Freq	%	Freq	%	
The first storey building in Nigeria	124	51.7	116	48.3	Marina Badagry
The slave relics of mobee Palace	44	18.3	196	81.7	Marina Badagry
Q-brats Zoo	43	17.9	197	82.1	Araromi- Oko Afo Badagry
Nigeria French language village	16	6.7	224	93.3	Ajara Badagry
Point of no return	130	54.2	110	45.8	Gberefu Island Badagry
Sultan Beach	49	20.4	191	79.6	Fanuvi; Seme-Badagry Expressway Badagry
Whispering palms	7	2.9	233	97.1	Iworo Ajido Badagry
Badagry heritage museum	119	49.6	121	50.4	Marina Badagry

Source: Field survey, 2018.

Purpose of Visit by tourists

The purposes of visit to the tourist sites by the respondents are presented in Table 3. The results show that the respondents visited the sites for educational purpose (87.1%), research purpose (84.2%), information purpose (72.1%), recreation purpose (62.1%) and sightseeing (57.9%).

Table 3: Tourist Reasons for Visiting in the Study Area

Reasons For Visiting Tourist Centre	Yes		No	
	Freq	%	Freq	%
Recreation purposes	149	62.1	91	37.9
Education purposes	209	87.1	31	12.9
Holiday purposes	7	2.9	233	97.1
Research purposes	202	84.2	38	15.8
Information purposes	173	72.1	67	27.9
Sightseeing purposes	139	57.9	101	42.1

Source: Field survey, 2018.

Patronage level of Tourist Sites

The results in Table 4 show the level of patronage of the tourist sites selected for the study. The study revealed that majority of the tourist sites were patronized frequently. Two tourist sites namely Sultan beach (79.2%) and whispering palms (55.8%) were being patronized always.

Table 4: Level of Patronage of Tourist Centers in the Study Area

Tourist centre	Frequency of Patronage							
	Always		Frequently		Seldomly		Never	
	Freq	%	Freq	%	Freq	%	Freq	%
The first storey building in Nigeria	82	34.2	156	65.0	2	0.8	0	0.0
The slave relics of mobee palace	75	31.3	143	59.6	22	9.2	0	0.0
Q-brats Zoo	77	32.1	143	59.6	20	8.3	0	0.0
Nigeria French language village	73	30.4	131	54.6	36	15.0	0	0.0
Point of no return	47	19.6	143	59.6	50	20.8	0	0.0
Sultan Beach	190	79.2	46	19.2	4	1.7	0	0.0
Whispering palms	134	55.8	54	22.5	52	21.7	0	0.0
Badagry heritage museum	113	47.1	70	29.2	57	23.8	0	0.0

Source: Field survey, 2018.

Level of Satisfaction of Tourists

The result of the analysis in Table 5 show that majority (99.6%) of the respondents were satisfied with the natural environment of the tourist centre. However, the results revealed that about 98.3% of the respondents were not satisfied with the infrastructural facilities within the tourist sites. Also, 57.1% of the respondents were not satisfied with the cleanliness of the tourist centre environment, suggested that lack of details cleaning of the tourist centres by cleaning personnel's. About 99.6% of the respondents were also dissatisfied with the road network of the tourist centre, which may in order easy of transportation within the tourist sites, as well as much more hours were spent on the road due to the poor road network.

Table 5: Level of Tourists' Satisfaction in the Study Area

	Highly Satisfied		Satisfied		Indifferent		Not satisfied	
	Freq	%	Freq	%	Freq	%	Freq	%
Accessibility	0	0.0	238	99.2	0	0.0	2	0.8
The attitude of the staff of the tourist centre	0	0.0	226	94.2	0	0.0	14	5.8
The recreational facilities	0	0.0	188	78.3	0	0.0	52	21.7
The natural environment of the tourist centre	0	0.0	239	99.6	0	0.0	1	0.4
Cultural and historical attractions	0	0.0	233	97.1	0	0.0	7	2.9
Catering services and local cuisine	0	0.0	205	85.4	0	0.0	35	14.6
Infrastructural facilities	0	0.0	4	1.7	0	0.0	236	98.3
Service quality	0	0.0	186	77.5	0	0.0	54	22.5
Cleanliness of the tourist sites environment	0	0.0	103	42.9	0	0.0	137	57.1
Safety and Security network of the tourist centre	0	0.0	230	95.8	0	0.0	10	4.2
The road network of the tourist centre	0	0.0	1	0.4	0	0.0	239	99.6
The attitude of the local residents	0	0.0	240	100.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Entertainments	0	0.0	240	100.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Gate fee	0	0.0	240	100.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Achievement of visit purpose (s)	0	0.0	240	100.0	0	0.0	0	0.0

Source: Field survey, 2018.

Challenges confronting tourist sites

The results presented in Table 6 indicate that the tourist sites in the study area were being confronted with some challenges. Major among these challenges were inadequate funding of tourist centre by the government (95.8%), under-developed tourism infrastructure (96.3%) indicate that little resources is being provided for the development of tourist center was insufficient, thereby causing poor infrastructural development, limited understanding of tourism (95.0%) and bad road to tourism destination which accounted for 98.3%.

Table 6: Ascertain the Challenges Facing Tourist Centre In the Study Area

Challenges	Agree		Disagree	
	Freq	%	Freq	%
Local residents not hospitable	0	0.0	240	100.0
Language barriers	0	0.0	240	100.0
Insecurity	0	0.0	240	100.0
Inadequate funding by the government	230	95.8	10	4.2
Underdeveloped Tourism Infrastructure	231	96.3	9	3.8
Inadequate Marketing and publicity	27	11.3	213	88.8
Visa Restrictions	0	0.0	240	100.0
Limited understanding of tourism	228	95.0	12	5.0
High cost to tourism destinations	56	23.3	184	76.7
Bad road to tourism destinations	236	98.3	4	1.7

Source: Field survey, 2018.

Hypothesis testing

The results of the hypothesis test of relationship between selected socioeconomic characteristics of the tourist and their level of satisfaction are presented in Table 7. Results revealed that there was significant relationship ($p < 0.05$) between the socio-economic characteristics of the tourist and their level of satisfaction. This implies that age, sex, marital status, education, major occupation, working experience and household size of the respondents were associated with their level of satisfaction in the study area.

Table7: Chi-square analysis of relationship between selected socio-economic characteristics of the tourist and their level of satisfaction

S/N	Variables	Df	χ^2_{cal} (0.05)	Significance ($P \leq 0.05$)	Decision
1	Age	4	68.958 ^a	0.000	Significant
2	Sex	1	14.017 ^b	0.000	Significant
3	Marital status	2	185.925 ^c	0.000	Significant
4	Educational level	2	19.600 ^c	0.000	Significant
5	Major occupation	4	243.333 ^a	0.000	Significant
6	Working experience	5	475.700 ^e	0.000	Significant
7	Household size	3	193.367 ^f	0.000	Significant

Source: Field survey, 2018

Furthermore, the results of the hypothesis test of relationship between the location of the tourist site and patronage of tourist site in the study area are presented in Table 8. The results revealed that there was significant relationship ($p < 0.05$) between the location of the tourist site and patronage of tourist site in the study areas in the study area.

Table 8: Chi-square analysis of relationship between location of the tourist site and patronage of tourist site in the study areas.

S/N	Variables	Df	χ^2_{cal} (0.05)	Significance ($P \leq 0.05$)	Decision
1	location vs patronage	5	100.400 ^b	0.000	Significant

Source: Field survey, 2018

CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

From the findings of the research, the patronage of tourist sites in the study area has to do with the location of the tourist site. The study discovered that Sultan beach and Whispering palms were the most patronized. The respondents were dissatisfied with the road network of the tourist centres meaning that much more hours were spent on the road due to the poor road network. The major challenges facing the tourist centres were inadequate funding of tourist centres by the government and under developed tourism infrastructures. The socioeconomic characteristics of the tourists had significant relationship on level of satisfaction of the tourists. Finally, there was significant relationship between the location of the tourist centres and level patronage of tourist centres in Badagry Local Government Area of Lagos State. Arising from the study conclusion, the study recommended that:

- i. Tourism development should not be left alone for the state government, the Local government should make effort to support the state government to create enabling environment to the tourist centre, as well as the tourist managers should complement the effort of government by improve high standard of environmental hygiene at the tourist site
- ii. The infrastructural facilities at the tourist centres should be improved in order to further attract prospective tourists.

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