

Analysis of Locational Accessibility and Security Implications of Tourists' Centres in Osun State.

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ABSTRACT

Nigeria has begun to mainstream tourism into her poverty reduction strategies because of the realization of its pro-poor benefits. Part of the challenges is the accessibility to tourism sites with minimum security risks for both tourists and local residents. The security issues become more important because many African countries have weak, and embryonic tourism sectors with much of the investment management, and development emanating from private sector's initiatives. This study examines the locational accessibility of tourists' centres and implications on security issues in Osun State Nigeria. The study employs both primary and secondary data in carrying out the study, with primary data emanating from interviews from structured questionnaires from tourists at various tourism locations in the study area while secondary data involves records from Osun State Tourism Board on the rate of patronage of tourists to tourists' sites in the study area. Emanating from the study are the facts that six (6) out of the sampled locations have good accessibility. According to the respondents, two (2) have fair accessibility while two (2) sites have poor locational accessibility. The study shows that there is significant impact of locational accessibility on frequency of patronage implying that locational accessibility of tourists' attractions is a function of frequency of patronage of the attractions. In addition, the study also shows that there is significant impact of safety on frequency of patronage indicating that the more secured tourists' attractions, the more frequency of patronage by visitors. It is, therefore recommended that there is need for unanimous decisions by stakeholders for the development and sustainability of the tourism industry in Osun State and Nigeria as a whole.

KEYWORDS: Accessibility, Crime, Location, Safety, Tourism

1.0 Introduction

Tourism is the activities of people travelling to and staying in places outside their usual environment for leisure, business or other purposes for not more than one consecutive year. The basic concept of tourism is based on the movement of people outside their own places of residence. Therefore, tourism can be considered as the movement of people within a city, state, country or across international

boundary. Movements of people for touristic purposes are undertaken by transportation; hence, transport is a unit of tourism's concept. Apart from being an activity for visiting places for leisure, tourism is a sector, an industry and fund generating activity of a country. Likewise, Ayeni and Ebohon (2012), opine that tourism has become a major source of economic diversification for many countries, underpinning the service sector and forging

effective backward and forward linkages with the rest of the economy, allowing new employment and income earning opportunities. The authors contend further that the developed countries account for a higher proportion of global tourism, while many developing countries (like Nigeria) are beginning to take advantage of the huge opportunities offered by tourism. It contributes to a broader cultural understanding by creating awareness, respecting the diversity of cultures and ways of life. On the other hand, it is a tool for creating jobs (Ojo, 2014). In 2003, Africa had an average annual growth of 7.2% in visitor arrivals, only slightly lower than East Asia/Pacific, which had the highest growth rate of all regions through from a much higher base than Africa (WTO, 2002)

In Nigeria, the interest in tourism started way back in the 1960s and the Obasanjo's regime in 1976 established the Nigeria Tourism Board (NTB) now Nigeria Tourism Development Board (NTDC) via Decree No 54 of 1976 reviewed to Decree No 86 of 1991 and giving it a preferred sector status respectively (Akpan & Obang, 2012) Master plan on tourism development in Nigeria started in 1982 with a tourism development policy first rolled out in 1990. (Omole, Owoeye & Ogundiran, 2012). The sector now supports nearly 277 million people in employment, which is 1 in 11 jobs on the planet. While the sector faces challenges every year and 2016 is not likely to be different, it is worthy of note to emphasise that Nigeria has huge tourism potentials, especially given its natural and diversified landscape but lacks effective, tourism supporting, and enhancing infrastructure. Tourism demand is very sensitive to safety concerns; the protection of tourists from threats and harassment is critical for the industry, which has frequently been a target of unethical practices, crimes, and scams.

In evaluating the performance of tourism in Nigeria, it is noted that security and safety are major issues. Although several attempts

have been made by the Federal Government to boost the tourism industry in Nigeria through the provision of safety regulations such as enforcement of accommodation details by tourists which was overtly expressed in 1990 with the formulation of the National Tourism Policy, and the subsequent promulgation of Decree 81 of 1992 establishing the Nigeria Tourism Development Corporation (OkpoloUche, Emeka & Dimlayi, 2008). A further boost was the design and development of the Nigeria Tourism Development Master Plan in 2005. The Plan was prepared in collaboration with the United Nations World Tourism Organisation (UNWTO) and Tourism Development International. The Master Plan focused on strengthening institutional capacity of the Nigerian tourism sector. Since then, not much has been achieved (Felix & Usman, 2008). The slow implementation of the Nigeria Tourism Master Plan can be attributed to the low political will expressed by political office-holders and human capital deficiency in tourism planning by responsible public agencies. Notwithstanding the low level of implementation of the Nigeria Tourism Master Plan, sporadic developments have taken place in some States of the country such as Cross River State, Akwa-Ibom State, Kebbi State, Lagos State, Osun State, Abuja, etc. Several initiatives by government to reposition the tourism industry in Nigeria as the source of income of the country have failed. This scenario has been the concern of academics, tourism practitioners and most Nigerians. The question then is what are the underlying factors affecting the growth of the tourism industry in Nigeria? The industry is in a sorry state even when the government has shown concern. This study puts the reason responsible for the slow development of the tourism industry on the absence of adequate security and safety measures. It also proffers solution to the security challenges being faced in Nigeria. Osun State being among the States with a lot of tourism attractions could generate more funds

through tourism rather than visiting abroad.

2.0 The Study Area

The study area is Osun State, in western Nigeria. Osun state was created out of Oyo State on the 27th August, 1991 with Oshogbo as the capital. Osun State popularly referred to as "The State of Osun" in the Western part of Nigeria is richly endowed with a wide range of natural and cultural resources relative to other states in Nigeria. These resources fall into eco-systems, protected landscapes, natural sceneries, cultural sites, coastlines, waterfalls, traditional festivals, historic relics, and monuments. Osun State is one of the states receiving lesser federal allocations but with

touristic opportunities to increase its Internally Generated Revenue (IGR). Osun State Tourism Board in 2013 opined that "If we are the friendly destination, even the domestic tourists can be willing to utilise these resources because they could perceive the growing number of tourism activities, and they should be willing to partake in them. The greatest spin-off is that tourism would create more jobs for the host community and it would also portray Osun State as a friendly city rather than a city that is affected by crime". (OSTB, 2013) .The statement pinpoints the importance of security and safety (as a determinant of friendly and unfriendly society) in the overall tourism industry in Osun State and Nigeria at large.

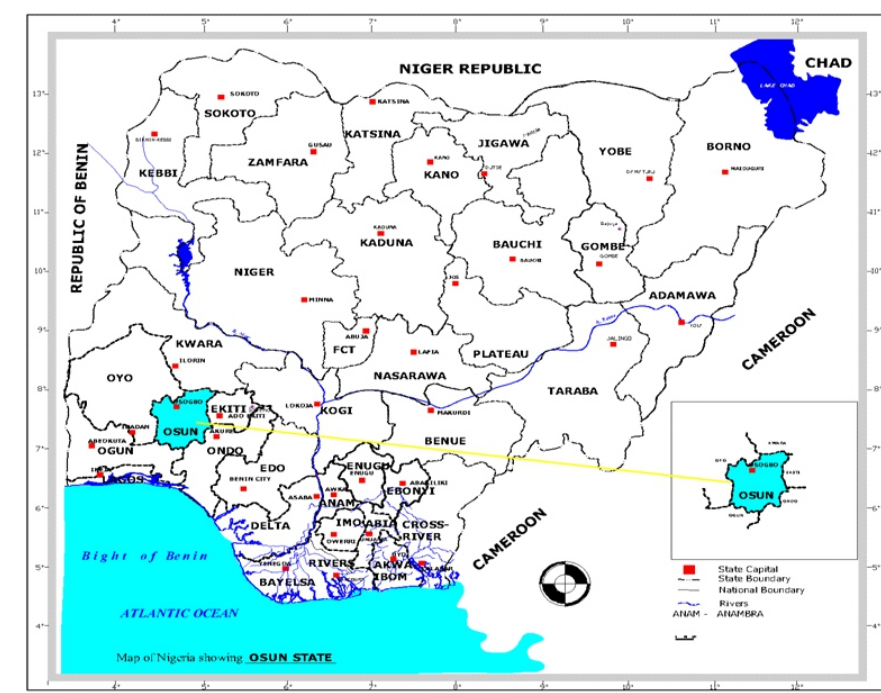


Figure 1: Map of Nigeria showing Osun State.

Source: Osun State Tourism Board (2017)

3.0 Materials and Methods

The data needed for this work were collected through primary and secondary sources. These sources involved the use of specially designed questionnaire, on the spot assessment, interviews, and photographs captured during the research. The questionnaire and interview guides were designed in line with the objectives of the study in order to obtain information such as the socio- demographic characteristics of respondents, safety, and security issues on tourism development, impacts of security, and safety on tourism industry; locations' patterns of tourism attractions among others. The structured questionnaire was administered to tourists (visitors) only at the selected tourists' attractions. Aside from the data captured through the questionnaire designed to the tourists, the research engaged the local people (host communities), security agencies and government officials in charge of these tourists' centres with interview through the use of interview guide in order to gather more information particularly on the level of security measures provided by the host

communities and government security agents that are available in the sampled tourist centres within the study area. The study also involved reconnaissance survey to enable personal observation in some randomly selected tourism centres in the study area (Osun State) particularly to determine the average daily tourists' traffic in selected tourism sites. The study employed both probability and non-probability sampling technique to select respondents. The probability sampling technique of stratified random sampling was used to sample the first group of respondents who were identified as the tourists; they were people who visited the tourists' centres.. This probability sampling technique of stratified random sampling technique was deployed to randomly selected group of respondents from 10 locations (tourists' attractions) population as identified earlier with the use of GPS device to get the coordinate of the sampled location as shown in table 1 and figure 1. There are 37 tourists' centres in Osun State and 10 of them were chosen randomly to represent the whole population without an element of bias.

Table 1 Selected Tourists' Locations and Their Local Government Areas

S/No	Location	Local Government Areas	Latitude	Longitude
1	Oranmiyan Staff, Mopa Aarubidi Ile-Ife.	Ife Central	7° 33'	4° 32'
2	Oduduwa Shrine, Ido Area.	Ejigbo	7°47'	4° 29'
3	Olumirin Water Fall, Erin Ijesa	Ilesa East	7°30'	4° 49'
4	Material Weaving Centre, Ipetu Ijesa	Oriade	7°28'	4° 53'
5	Mineral Spring, Esa-Oke	Obokun	7°46'	4°54'
6	Mysterious Cave and Rocks, Imesi-Ile	Obokun	7°50'	4°50'
7	Sango Shrine, Ipetumodu	Ife North	7°51'	4°45'
8	Ero Omo Mountain, Ikoyi	Isokan	7°35'	4°17'
9	Osun Oshogbo Shrine, Obokun	Obokun	7°46'	4°43'
10	Ogedengbe Cenotaph, Ilesa	Ilesa East	7° 37'	4° 44'

Authors' Pilot Survey (2017).

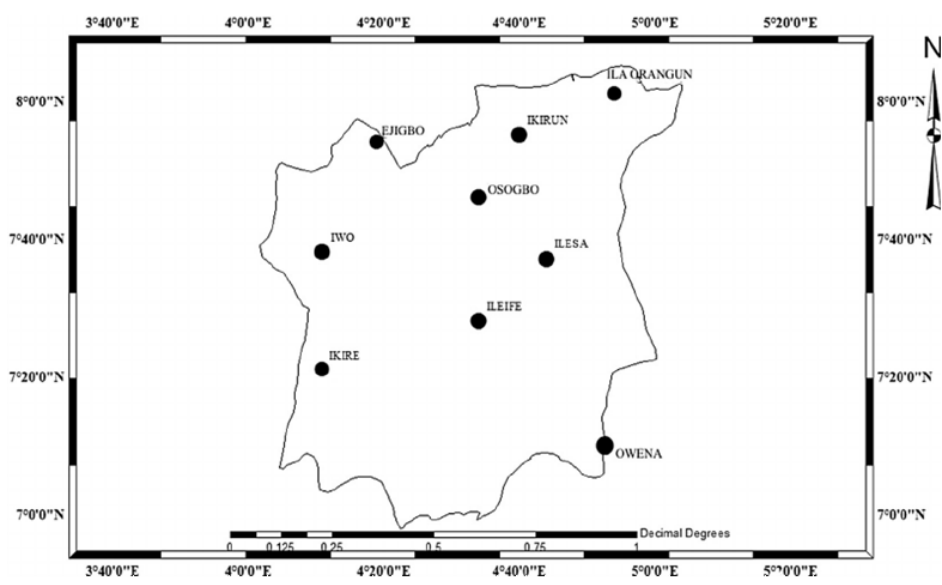


Fig 2: Map of the Sampled Tourists' Attraction Locations Authors' Pilot Survey (2017).

4.0 Findings and Discussion

4.1 Socio- Demographic Characteristics of Respondents

The distribution of gender is important in the analysis of tourism crime, safety and security. It is a commonly held fact that females are known to be less involved in the perpetration of criminal activities than males. At the same time, females are largely the victims of various criminal acts than men. In the sample collected (Table 2), the majority of the respondents 54% indicated that they were males, whereas 46 per cent indicated that they were females. Indications are that males were more accessible; hence, more were interviewed.

The respondents were asked to reveal their age groups with a view to establishing their participation in tourism activities in the study area. As shown in Table 2, approximately 17 per cent of the respondents showed that they varied between 36 and 45 years, whereas 33% of the respondents ranged between 26 and 35 age group, 16% of the respondents ranged between the 16 and 25 age group. Finally, the last response (8%) was from the 46 to 55 age group. It is interesting to note that the respondents who were of active and productive age group (26-45years) were the leading respondents.

This is mainly because they were more accessible than the other groups. The respondents were asked to reveal their marital status towards establishing their participation level in tourism activities in the local areas. As shown in Table 2, the marital status of respondents indicated that about 62% of the respondents in this study area were single. The next largest number was 32% indicating that they were married. About 3% of the respondents were divorced and finally 1% indicated that they were separated. In the light of the above discussion, it would be interesting to establish whether the response to tourism related issues would be influenced by the respondents' marital status.

The distribution of the education standards of respondents emerged as shown in Table 2. The majority of respondents 33% indicated that they had achieved the secondary education. On the other hand, about 45% of the respondents had acquired diplomas and other equivalent certificates. Only about 17% of the respondents had acquired university degree qualifications. These findings were expected to assist the investigation in determining if education played a role in responding to tourism matters, as well as, tourism crime, safety and security matters. It was observed in Table 2 that the majority 39% of the respondents interviewed were professionals. The next largest response 27% came from those who were skilled.

Only about 15 % and 14% of the respondents were unskilled and semi-skilled respectively while only about 5 % of the respondents indicated that they were unemployed. This is relatively not too bad because of the present unemployment rate of the population of more than 18%. It should be noted that a high majority 66% indicated that they were skilled and professionals. The latter suggests that the views on tourism crime, safety and security we would be getting would be from respondents that were well placed in terms of occupation. As reflected in Table 4.1, it came to light that the majority, 33% of respondents, indicated that they earned up to N60, 000 per month. About 19% of the respondents earned up to N40, 000, whereas about

24% earned up to a maximum of N20, 000. Relatively fewer respondents earned more than N100, 000, that is, about 11% earned up to N80, 000 a month. Understandably, income influences the level of participation on tourism activities. This suggests that income plays a major role in people's perceptions and choice regarding tourism-related matters. In other words, it is generally accepted that the level of education, income and occupation has a significant influence on perceptions of respondents regarding recreation and tourism matters. In this regard, it is important to explore some of the emerging characteristics of respondents pertaining to tourism crime, safety and security.

Table2: Demographic Characteristics of Respondents (Tourists) [n=124]

Variable	Sub-variable	Frequency	Percent
Gender	Males	68	54
	Females	56	46
	Total	124	100.0
Age	16-25	20	16
	26-35	42	33
	36-45	22	17
	46-55	10	08
	Total	124	100.0
Marital status	Single	78	63
	Married	40	32
	Divorced	04	03
	Separated	02	02
	Total	124	100.0
Level of education	Primary	06	05
	Secondary	41	33
	Diploma or equivalent	56	45
	University	21	17
	Total	124	100.0
Occupation levels	Unskilled	18	15
	Semi-skilled	17	14
	Skilled	33	27
	Professional	48	39
	Unemployed	06	05
	Total	124	100.0
Monthly income status	<N20000	30	24
	N20001-N40000	24	19
	N40001-N60000	41	33
	N60001-N80000	14	11
	N80001-N100000	12	10
	N100001 or More	03	03
	Total	124	100.0

Authors' Field Survey, 2017.

4.2 Analysis of Locational Accessibility and Patronage of Tourists' Attractions.

In an attempt to discuss locational accessibility and patronage of tourists' centres, it is pertinent and necessary to reveal that the development of any tourist's attraction either natural, artificial (man-man) or natural but artificially improved attraction, primarily is a function of accessibility. That is, the attraction(s) must be well accessible by any modern means of mobility particularly by road mode aside the normal usual foot mode. . It is based on this fact that it is imperative to reveal the respondents' (tourists') perceptions on the locational accessibility of the tourists' attractions, and its impact on the patronage of tourists' attractions. Table 3 shows the percentile score of the respondents' perception on the locational accessibility of the tourists' attractions based on road mode of transportation. It was well observed

that majority (50%) of the respondents noted that the locational accessibility of the sampled tourists' attractions within the study area were quite good; and well accessible through road transport; while 23% of the respondents believed that the attractions were poorly accessible by road mode of mobility. A critical review of this findings indicated that six (6) out of the sampled attractions were observed by the respondents to have a good accessibility (Oranmiyan Staff (82.5%); Oduduwa Shrine (62%); Olumirin Waterfall, Erin Ijesha (70%); Mineral Spring Esa-Oke (70%); Sango Shrine, Ipetumodu (55%) and Osun Oshogbo Shrine (70%). It was also observed that two (2) Mat Weaving Centres (46%) and Mysterious Cave and Rocks (44%) out of the ten (10) sites were fairly accessible while Ogedengbe Cenotaph and Ero Omo Mountain- Ikoyi tourists' attractions were noted by the respondents to have a poor locational accessibility (Table 3).

Table 3: Locational Accessibility of Tourists' Attractions

S/n	Tourist Attraction	Poor		Fair		Good		Total	
		F.	%	F	%	F	%	F	%
1	Oranmiyan Staff	9	07.30	13	10.2	102.0	82.50	124	100
2	Oduduwa Shrine	0	0.00	47	38.00	77	62.00	124	100
3	Olumirin Waterfall Erin, Ijesha	12	10.00	25	20.00	87	70.00	124	100
4	Mat Weaving Centre	48	38.50	57	46.00	19	15.50	124	100
5	Mineral Spring Esa-Oke	12	10.00	25	20.00	87	70.00	124	100
6	Mysterious Cave and Rocks	47	38.00	54	43.70	23	18.30	124	100
7	Sango Shrine, Ipetumodu	31	25.00	25	20.00	68	55.00	124	100
8	Ero Omo Mountain, Ikoyi	57	46.00	48	38.50	19	15.50	124	100
9	Osun Oshogbo Shrine	12	10.00	25	20.00	87	70.00	124	100
10	Ogedengbe Cenotaph	62	50.00	11	8.87	51	41.13	124	100
	Total	290		330		620		1240	

Author's Field Survey, 2017.

4.3 Locational Accessibility and Frequency of Patronage

Further investigations on the variation of locational accessibility on frequency of patronage revealed that 60% of the respondents who indicated poor

locational accessibility of the tourists' attractions seldom visit or patronise the tourists' attractions, while over 60% of the respondents who indicated that the attractions were well accessible patronise or visit the tourists' attractions frequently (Table 4).

Table 4: Cross Tabulation of Locational Accessibility and Frequency of Patronage

Locational Accessibility	Frequency of Patronage						Total	
	Seldom	%	Occasionally	%	Frequently	%	F	%
Poor	15	60	7	28	3	12	25	100.0
Fair	9	29.03	6	19.35	16	51.61	31	100.0
Good	5	7.35	20	29.41	43	63.24	68	100.0
Total	29	23.39	33	26.61	62	50	124	100.0

Author's Field Survey, 2017.

Table 5 Chi-Square Tests

	Value	df	Asymp. Sig. (2-sided)
Pearson Chi-Square	3.497 ^a	4	.044
Likelihood Ratio	3.804	4	.043
Linear-by-Linear Association	1.709	1	.121
N of Valid Cases	124		

Author's Field Survey, 2017.

Content of Table 4 shows the descriptive possible variation in the locational accessibility and frequency of patronage but does not show whether there is a significant variation of locational accessibility on frequency of patronage. It is based on this that further investigation was conducted to base the statistical significant variation of locational accessibility of tourists' attractions on frequency of patronage using Chi-squared inferential technique analysis. The result presented in Table 5 revealed that there is a statistical significant variation of locational accessibility on frequency of patronage ($\chi^2 = 3.50$, $df = 4$, $p < 0.04$). (See Table 4). This result shows that frequency of patronage of the sampled tourists' attractions by tourists is influenced by well accessible locations of tourists' centres. However, it implies that locational accessibility of tourists' attractions is a function of frequency of patronage of the attractions.

4.4 Analysis of the Impact of Crime Security and Safety Situation on Frequency of Patronage

Further investigations on the impact of crime, security and safety on frequency of patronage revealed that over 80% of the respondents who indicated poor situation of security and safety within the tourists' attractions seldom visit or patronise the tourists' attractions, while about 70% of the respondents who indicated good situations of security, and safety within the tourists' attractions frequently patronise or visit the tourists' attractions (Table 6).

Table 6 Cross Tabulation of Crime Security and Safety Situation on Frequency of Patronage

Crime Security and Safety Situation	Frequency of Patronage						Total	
	Seldom	%	Occasionally	%	Frequently	%	F	%
Poor	12	85.71	2	14.29	0	0.00	14	100.0
Fair	11	42.31	9	34.62	6	23.07	26	100.0
Good	6	7.14	22	26.19	56	66.67	84	100.0
Total	29	23.39	33	26.61	62	50	124	100.0

Author's Field Survey, 2017.

Table 7 Chi-Square Tests

	Value	Df	Asymp. Sig. (2-sided)
Pearson Chi-Square	5.743 ^a	4	.034
Likelihood Ratio	5.892	4	.033
Linear-by-Linear Association	1.702	1	.109
N of Valid Cases	124		

Author's Field Survey, 2017.

Content of Table 6 shows the descriptive possible variation in the crime, security and safety and frequency of patronage but does not statistical show whether there is a significant impact of locational accessibility on frequency of patronage. It is based on this that further investigation was conducted to exact the statistical significant impact of crime, security and safety situations within tourists' attractions on frequency of patronage using Chi-square inferential technique analysis. The result presented in Table 7 revealed that there is a statistical significant impact of crime, security and safety on frequency of patronage ($\chi^2 = 5.74$, $df = 4$, $p < 0.03$). (See Table 7). This results shows that the

frequency of patronage is influenced by the level of security and safety in and around the tourists' attractions. Therefore, it can be concluded that the more secured tourists' attractions are, the more frequency of patronage by visitors.

4.0 Conclusion and Recommendations

There are various stakeholders in the tourism industry in Osun State and Nigeria in general and they are concerned with every decision that is supposed to take place in the tourism industry within the study area. However, for effective minimisation, if not total eradication of crime activities, safety and security related issues in and

around the tourism industry and for successful achievement of tourism projects, programmes, plans, and development within the study area, these stakeholders (Tourism Management Authority and Operators, Government, Non-governmental bodies, Host Communities, Tourists) to strongly and unanimously work together and take decisions together for the development and sustainability of the industry.

These recommendations were taken from the different views of different respondents that were sampled and interviewed in order to make the study area crime free, and as well promote tourism potentials through crime free, safe and secure tourism environment. Other recommendations were about accessibility to tourists' sites, adequate utilisation of resources by the local or host communities' inhabitants who do not really visit and see the destinations as well as knowing the importance of the attractions to the tourism industry and their immediate communities, thereby making the life within host communities better by benefitting immensely from the tourism resources and other resources within the study area. More importantly, the local communities should see the tourists' attractions as avenues for entrepreneurship by utilising the products profitably.

However, the findings of this study shows the state of crime, safety and security put in place through direct measures and strategies towards the development and sustainability of tourism industry within local and global context particularly through best practices of management as well as promote a crime free, safe and secured not only in the study area but the country at large by seeking international cooperation and partnership with either corporate organisations or countries as

enshrined in goal 17 of the Sustainable Development Goals.

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