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**SOCIO-ECONOMIC IMPACT OF TOURISM DEVELOPMENT IN
NIGERIA**

Case study of tourist attractions along the coastline of Lagos

Thesis

CENTRAL OSTROBOTHNIA UNIVERSITY OF APPLIED SCIENCES

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ABSTRACT

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| Supervisor Katarina Broman | | |
| <p>Abstract</p> <p>Nigeria has abundant tourism components that could make her the leading tourism provider in Africa. There are numerous attractions ranging from places of natural beauty to cultural and historical heritage. Coastal tourism has been a phenomenon within tourism industry in Nigeria. The coastal environment of Nigeria has a rich and diverse ecosystem with natural resources, vegetation, and large human agglomerations. In this paper, the research on the socio-economic impact of tourism development along the coast line of Lagos was thoroughly conducted and assessed to a level of acceptability.</p> <p>The objectives of this research work are to promote tourism development along the coastal line of Lagos, to carve-out socio-economic roles for tourism providers vis-à-vis adjoining settlement, to assess the socio-economic contribution of tourism development on the host community and to recommend a way forward towards the enhancement of coastal tourism in Nigeria.</p> <p>The empirical part involved the use of qualitative research method which includes interviews and observations. The findings of this study revealed that the coastal line of Lagos as a tourist attraction has a positive socio-economic impact on the people of the area in terms of job creation, income generation, infrastructural development and other positive elements. Though, there seems to be problems within the region and for that reasons, few recommendations are put forward to give likely solutions and they are: Provision of infrastructural facilities to enhance development in the area, government-private partnership, community involvement to encourage grassroots participation, expansion of the coast line to decongest the already existing ones, security, promotion, coastal zone management and political will on the side of the government. If these recommendations can be followed, the coastal line of Lagos will be an attractive tourist destination in years to come.</p> | | |

Key words

Coastal tourism, socio-economic impact of tourism, tourism development in Nigeria

1. INTRODUCTION

Tourism is the largest and fastest growing industry in the world. It accounts to about 7% of world capital investment with revenue predicted to rise up to 1.550 billion dollars by the year 2015. Africa has a meaningful share in the growing international tourism trade in terms of both tourist arrival and receipt. The importance of Nigerian tourism industry lies in its tourism resources in generating foreign exchange. The Central Bank of Nigeria revealed that the geometric increase in Nigerian tourism industry in which a total number of 828,906 tourists was registered in 2007 and about 900 billion tourist arrive worldwide has made tourism industry one of the most vibrant industries of the world, especially from the economic point of view. Nigeria has a land mass of about 365,000 square miles and she is a country of magnificent site, a wide range of fauna, excellent place for vacation, exploration and sightseeing. In terms of the environment, she has world class tropical rain forests, savannah, grassland, mangrove swamps and the Sahel savannah very close to the Sahara desert.

One of the main factors behind the success of Nigerian tourism is the natural beauty. Nigeria is located along the South Atlantic Ocean and she is blessed with a wide range of water resources. Being a coastal country, she has a wide range of beaches and other marine beauties. Historically, the coastal region aroused about two centuries ago in many European and North America nations as a new form of tourism destination for leisure purposes. Up to the 18th centuries, the coastal area has been a mere landscape, where religious presence and socio-cultural values had not encouraged the area to be known as a leisure site. Nigeria is also rich in handicrafts and sculptures, historical monuments, arts, sport, places of beauty, socio-cultural events, parks, museums, relaxation sites, waterfalls, resorts, hotels and other accommodation facilities among others. She also has abundant cultural and historical heritage which is one of the critical factors for developing rural and urban tourism in the country. However, several museums and other heritage sites in Nigeria often establish a special exhibition to showcase their product to prospective tourists and stakeholders.

All this tourism potential makes Nigeria a hospitable nation and the local norms and values combined with peaceful environment full of loving and friendly people makes her a good and well tantalizing tourism destination.

1.1 Research problems

Despite the fact that tourism is important to any nation, the problems associated with coastal tourism are quite enormous. In that case, such problems are perceptible at the coastal line of Lagos. Being the industrial capital of Nigeria, Lagos has attracted millions of people to the area for business, leisure and other purposes. This resulted in the coastline being over-congested during the holidays. The infrastructural facilities such as good road network and parking space are not enough to meet the demand of the coastal region. The problem of pollution is one of the vital issues in contention. The solid waste disposal in the water by the residents and visitors has posed a potential environmental problem in the area and also made the coastal region unattractive. Flooding is also a major problem in the coastal area. Though this problem rarely occurs, it is one of the disadvantages of the region. Finally, the political will on the side of the government is not appreciable. Government is not paying adequate attention to coastal tourism and this constitutes a major setback to the development of tourism along the coastal line of Lagos.

Apart from the problems incurred as a result of the presence of the coast line, the socio-economic effects of the area are not far-fetched in the later chapters.

1.2 Aim of the thesis

The main aim of writing this thesis is to assess the socio-economic impact of tourism development in Nigeria as regard to the coastal area of Lagos state with a view of integrating more development in the area.

1.3 Objectives

- To promote tourism development along the coastal line of Lagos.
- To carve-out socio-economic roles for tourism providers vis-à-vis adjoining settlement
- To assess the socio-economic contribution of tourism development on the host community
- To recommend a way forward towards the enhancement of coastal tourism in Nigeria

1.4 Limitation to study

It is quite possible that all studies have the tendency of facing one problem or the other. In this respect, in carrying out the research work, there is tendency of coming across some problems which might disturb the accuracy of the survey in achieving the desired result. Below are the limiting factors that might hinder the effectiveness of my research work:

Inability of the respondent to cooperate with the researcher during the interview: This is one of the limiting factors that can hinder the effectiveness of the research work. The respondent might decide not to give out some information that is relevant to the research thereby creating a vacuum of problems to the study. From past experience, the respondent might be afraid to dish out information due to the secrecy of his organization or he might think that the information will be used against them. This has been one of the greatest setbacks to research work.

Distance: Distance is a great factor in writing this thesis. The research work is basically in Nigeria and the researcher studies in Finland. Other things being equal, distance might be a disturbing factor in getting to the root of the research.

The limitations mentioned above are measurable considering the fact that the author has already put in some logistic effort to overcome. All measures are put in place to make sure that the researcher travels to the case study area to overcome the problem of distance in carrying out the survey and also prepared some vital documents in order to convince the respondents to cooperate efficiently to the success of the research work.

2. THE DEVELOPMENT OF TOURISM

Tourism development is an element of growth that involves enlarging the ownership base such as people benefiting from the tourism industry through job procurement, skills development, business and wealth creation and ensuring the geographical spread of tourism business all over the given destination. A very good and easy example of tourism development is the right to host a soccer event such as the “WORLD CUP”. Tourism will definitely take place in such a country because many people are coming from across the world to witness the event and thereby give the host country advantages to open tourism businesses such as hotels, restaurants, car rentals, parks and all other businesses for the purpose of the visitors.

As a matter of fact, tourism is developing at a faster rate globally and more countries are getting awareness about the need to develop tourism for socio-economic advantages. According to the United Nation World Tourism Organization in 2006, tourism has grown in terms of destinations as there has been a widespread increase in the geographical expansion of tourism throughout the globe which has made it possible for many developing countries to develop tourism at their own pace for socio-economic advancement. However, it is a general phenomenon that tourism has a vital impact on the society, topography, environment and socio- economic aspect of any country. In the social terms, the immediate benefit of tourism industry is the ability to bring people out of the unemployment circle. In other words, it creates job opportunity and also caters for both skilled and unskilled employment and it is known to be a labour-intensive industry which provides job per unit of investment compared to any other industry. The industry gives room to partnership and entrepreneurship within the tourism business concept thereby creating an innovation and bringing about economic activity (Morrison, Rimmington and Williams 1999, 230).

2.1 The process and ideology of tourism development

2.1.1 Tourism development as a process

The development of tourism at the destination region is a process and it involves market and resources evaluation. The development comes in a picture of recognizing the gaps in the local tourism market, identifying project ideas to fill in the gaps and make a possible recommended

action plan to put those ideas into reality. However, the destination in question would have had tourist areas as a product and segment that will need to be developed. Some of the places might be growing while some might be declining; the most important is that it attaches different priorities that differ in terms of marketing implications for achieving the set goals (Middleton, Fyall and Morgan 2009, 344). It is actually a long term project and it is a step-by-step approach. Tourism development involves careful planning, administration and management. In some destinations, tourism tends not to work irrespective of the investment made and this might be as a result of mismanagement or improper planning. In another vein, a particular destination might have potential elements for tourism growth and development in which the only thing needed is a guidance and proper execution in an organized manner. As the case may be, tourism development strategy makes it necessary to plan ahead for improvements in existing products, explore opportunities for advancement into new market and establish long-term priorities for the local tourism industry (Godfrey and Clarke 2000, 9) However, as a tourism destination presents an opportunity for development, it might still fail to grow if all the needed elements for development are not in place.

As it was mentioned above, tourism is a fast growing industry in the world. It has become potentially important for some countries as their major source of income. Apart from being an economic backbone of some countries, it also helps in the social life of the host communities. In developed countries such as Greece and the United Kingdom, tourism has contributed immensely both economically and socially to the growth of the country. In the 50's, Tourism has played an increasingly major role in the socio-economic development of many countries. The growth has been driven by an increase in demand and in the effort of the supply destinations. As such, demand for tourism is a fundamental element in the tourism system. The level of tourism demand has reached an unexpected level in the new millennium thereby providing the tourism industry and other tourism stakeholders a great challenge. (Cooper et al 2008, 31). However, its expansion has been attributed to an increase in inter-socialization, global co-operation, technological advancement in transportation (invention of fast jets, trains, and cars), and communication and information technology such as internet, migration and language.

The development of transportation technology has allowed tourists to easily visit locations that were formally considered to be remote. Easy access to communication technology has geared up the growth of tourism. This is as a result of the fact that people now have an increased awareness of different countries and their cultures through the internet and other devices. However, there might not be a way tourism will develop without putting some key factors into consideration.

2.1.2 The idea of tourism development

The idea of developing tourism in a particular area is encouraged by steady improvement in the creation of social amenities and basic infrastructures in the area in question. These creations, coupled with attraction in the destination bring about the development of tourism in the area. The idea of using infrastructure to develop tourism in a destination happened to be something of a gradual process. The physical improvement in the destinations' infrastructure would help to improve socio-economic relations among the local people. Community was revealed to be the major factor to modern tourism (Godfrey and Clarke 2000, 3)

In other words, communities were the basic element in the supply of accommodation, catering, information, transport facilities and service. As the interaction goes on, and the level of inflow of tourists continue to be on the increase, coupled with the fact that infrastructure is in place, the local people would start to bring up ideas of setting up tourism businesses such as hotels, restaurants and the likes. Then, the destination becomes popular giving room to more tourism businesses which in turn encourages tourists to the area. As the process of tourism development continues, as a matter of fact, government and cooperate bodies would start to pick interest in the areas thereby investing a huge amount of money to maintain, sustain and retain the destination as a major tourist region (Godfrey and Clarke 2009). This among others, would lead to the creation of civic centre, parks, street improvement, good road networks and other facilities that will enable the area to be totally tagged as a tourist destination region. The increase in all these facilities provides opportunities for even a small city to develop as a tourist destination.

The following sub-headings explain tourism planning and tourism marketing as some of the major evidence towards enhancing tourism development.

2.2 Tourism Planning

Tourism development cannot be discussed without taking into consideration the planning of tourism. Tourism planning has recently been acknowledged from three different levels, namely the national, local and personal attractions. The central government coordinates and manages the tourist regions in the whole country, possibly through policy development, national standard and institutions. Also, it involves the developing and planning of individual tourist attractions, services and facilities to serve the tourists' need. At the local level, it equally involved the planning and management of tourist destination area and these factors are equally important to that of the national level (Godfrey and Clarke 2000, 2). Apart from that, the local government also involve themselves in the organization and development of visitors' attractions and services in and around destination regions. These regions are the basic element of tourism. They are the major point for the supply of tourism services such as accommodation, catering, tourist information, transportation and all other tourist services. These services are the reasons why national and local government focused attention on them in order to establish a maintainable tourism destination.

The destination regions must have many values ranging from cultural, historical and even environmental in which it is necessary to be maintained in order to attract tourists. The majority of tourists are concerned about the destination in which they will spend their holiday. So, the natural environment of the host regions, their buildings and tourist institutions, their people, culture and history and other forms of tourist elements are what the tourists wanted to experience in the destination. (George, Mair and Reid 2009)

2.3 Tourism Marketing

The growth in tourism industry can also be attributed to the increase in tourism marketing. Tourism marketing is the method of applying the correct marketing concepts and ideology to planning a strategy to attract tourists to particular destinations which may come in form of resort, city, region or country. Marketing is a process of planning and executing the conception, pricing, promotion and distribution of ideas, goods and services to create exchanges that will satisfy individual and organizational goals. Referring to the definition in the concept of tourism marketing, it revolves around planning for tourism from the demand

and supply concept in order to satisfy both the host communities (suppliers of tourism) and the visitors (Godfrey and Clarke, 2000). Marketing is a process of identifying customer's satisfaction, design appropriate product and design a market to convey it to the final consumer (Pierre 2000). It can also be a way of executing the conception, pricing, promotion and distribution of ideas, goods and services to create an exchange that satisfied individual and organizational goals. Referring the definition in the concept of tourism marketing, it revolves around planning for tourism from the demand and supply concept in order to satisfy both the visitors and the communities (Kolb 2006). The application of marketing in tourism industry is an equal focus on the "four Ps" (Product, Place, Price and Promotion). Product: the destination or region as a product can only be consumed by travelling to that region. Equivalently, the product is also the place and each tourist can consume or buy the product/place at different prices (Kolb 2006). As a matter of fact, when marketing a city, price is the least of focus. This is because it discourages some tourists whose intention is to have fun without paying anything. Promotion is an awareness created by media and other advertising agents for the events. The promotion of socio-economic expansion by tourism was driven by the fact that, as an export industry, it encourages new spending within the local or host communities. This spending creates job opportunities, socio-cultural interaction, pride and appreciation, understanding and respect, and even tolerance for each other's culture and norms (Kolb 2006) In addition to the socio-economic benefits, tourism development tends to appreciate local cultures, promote solidarity from cultural exchange give rooms for comprehensible feelings of both the host communities and the tourists (Kolb 2006).

However, based on the increase in tourism awareness all over the world, it has been a general notice that social and economic tourism play a vital role in the sustainability of the global tourism. While social tourism explains how satisfied a tourist is at any destination, economic tourism modifies the financial affordability of the situation. Therefore, social and economic tourism are directly the pillars of sustaining tourism in the world.

2.4 Social tourism

Tourism is a social vice that is established by the participating individuals either as travelers, hosts or employees. There is a growing effort of local communities to promote and improve

social tourism. Destination regions are trying to attract the interest of visitors with their cultural heritage, natural beauty, norms and values and their contribution toward protecting biodiversity. Social tourism, is a tourism initiatives comprise of programmes and projects aim at ensuring the right to holiday and access to tourism to all population groups, including poor children, low-income earners and individuals with limited capacities (Minnaert L, Maitland R and Miller G, 2009). From that point of view, social tourism is for everyone in as much as there is an intention to travel. Social tourism is an interface for social and cultural exchange (Barkin D, 2000). It facilitates the interaction between communities and tourists both on domestic and international level. Tourists want to interact with other cultures, want to learn more about their values, learn about traditions and even confront themselves with a new way of life and society. It has been revealed from research that travel is a means of discovering those things unknown or forgotten within oneself. Social tourism is indeed an experience driven industry and local culture is a unique experience.

Moreover, local personality and hospitality bring about what tourists regard as built attractions whereby the more one learn about a particular destination, the more fulfilling the travel experience will be. Social tourism is an element for raising a social awareness, in the sense of creating awareness on local issues and needs thereby booming regional identity both nationally and globally. The globe is creating an investment trend towards interpreting natural and cultural resources. The attraction to natural and heritage values helps to generate revenue and provide opportunities to effect management in the sensitive and vital destinations. However, socio-cultural values of the destination that create attraction are not the only drive for attractions, but provide one of many experiences. In that case, social tourism is a factor for tourism development in any given destination region (Barkin D, 2000).

2.5 Economic tourism

Economic tourism is one type of tourism that is most crucial to the economic development of any region. In fact, majority of the economically based factors are surrounded by economic tourism. The benefit of economic tourism is aroused by the tourism industry for various reasons. It is assumed that the importance of economic tourism give the tourism industry much needed respect among business community, public officials, and of course, this importance is

mostly translated to policies that are always in favour of tourism. Apart from that, extensive local and community support is important to economic tourism. This is because this type of tourism is an activity that affects everyone in the community. It is quite reasonable to believe that all tourism business starting from transportation to accommodation depends heavily on each other as well as other businesses, government and the people of the region or community. From the economic point of view, economic tourism analyses provide tangible estimates of all economic interdependences and a comprehensible role and importance of tourism in the economy of a given region. Furthermore, the activities of tourism involves economic cost which includes direct construction incurred by tourism businesses, government cost for infrastructure to serve the tourist, as well as congestion and related cost borne by the individual in the given region. (Ratze and Puczko, 2003)

Having realized how important both social and economic tourism are, it is clear how dynamic these two types of tourism are in every destination. However, tourism is an extensive industry that has become vital in the everyday life of everyone. Research shows that tourism is growing at a very fast rate, but got a little set-back from the global economic problems in 2008. Even as the economic problems arise, people still find a way of involving in tourism because it has been part of their daily life.

3. NIGERIA'S TOURISM POTENTIALS

It is a general phenomenon that the availability of tourism products and services combined with abundant tourism destination stimulate tourism development in any nation. In this regards, Nigeria has abundant tourism components that could make her the leading tourism provider in Africa. The attractions are numerous ranging from places of natural beauty to cultural and historical heritage. Other Nigerian tourism components include transportation, accommodation, recreational facilities and entertainment facilities among others (Adora 2010, 16). All these components combined together make Nigerian tourism a science and art of business attraction to the visitors in order to cater for their various needs (Smith 2010, 2). Apart from that, the all-year-round favourable weather make her a major target for tourists all across the world. All these potentials could be found in all the 36 states, including the federal capital territory Abuja. Nigeria is blessed with a variety of tourist destinations that are spread across the country and these destinations are either natural or man-made and they were properly managed to some appreciable extent (Adora 2010, 16). Nigeria's tourism potentials is directly associated with the quality of life as it offers visitors the privilege to take a break away from the difficulties and stresses of everyday life from their original environment as it provides the context for relaxation and opportunity to do something different and less stressful in Nigeria (Page 2009, 4). Below is an overview of some of the destinations in details.

3.1 Tourist attractions in Nigeria

3.1.1 Ikogosi warm and cold spring resort, Ekiti state

Ikogosi spring resort is one of the beauties of Nigeria in terms of natural endowment. The water runs down a hilly landscape where the warm springs form a confluence with other cold springs from adjoining hills and merge into one continuous flowing stream at 70 degrees. Located in the western part of Nigeria, known as Ekiti state, Ikogosi is a small community in terms of size and population. Community is a vital element to modern tourism. Ikogosi has a good local natural environment combined with rich culture and history and these form the basis of what makes the community a tourists' destination (Godfrey and Clarke 2000, 3). However, it is an awesome site where two different springs flow side by side without disturbing each other: while one is cold, the other is warm and they maintain a temperature of

about 37 degrees. The whole landscape in the area was beautified by green vegetation. The measurement of the whole area of the spring is about 32 hectares and it is prevented from erosion by tall evergreen trees in which these trees form a cover for relaxation of the tourists. Apart from being a resort for relaxation, it also serves as a cure for some diseases in the body. The following picture shows the nature of Ikogosi warm and cold resort (Graph 1)



Graph 1. Warm and cold water of Ikogosi resort flow side by side

However, research shows that most water resorts contain minerals in solution. Water that contains iron is said to cure anaemia while water containing salt is argued to help in rheumatic and neuralgic condition and the radioactive springs are claimed to cure depression (Douglas, Douglas and Derret 2001, 263). In other words, Ikogosi water is said to contain a therapeutic effect which helps in curing diseases such as rheumatism and guinea worm. Ikogosi is a destination for tourists from all over the world. To further beautify this place of natural heritage, a well furnished chalet was built to enhance the comfort of the visitors. Moreover, hospitable facilities such as hotels and guest houses are available in the vicinity. The hotel is well-equipped with conference room, seminar hall and catering service for the satisfaction of the visitors. Also, a non-chemical swimming pool is provided for relaxation. This is a true natural beauty in Nigeria and like the people of the community used to say ‘‘Ikogosi is where God lives’’ (Hospitality Nigeria, 2010)

3.1.2 Calabar, a tourists' delight

Calabar is one of the most attractive tourist destinations in Nigeria. Being the capital city of Cross river state, it has a lot to offer in terms of tourism. One of the tourist attractions that can be found in Calabar is the colonial architecture that is located in the oldest part of the city. Being one of the official cities of the colonial masters in Nigeria during the 18centuries, Calabar still maintains the historical structures of the colonial era which are mainly located in Duke town, Henshaw town and the waterfront area. As part of the colonial penetration, the historical church of the colonial masters in the olden days is still well-kept and sustained for tourism purpose. This Presbyterian Church is the oldest religious site in the history of Nigeria and it is located in Duke town.

Another tourist attraction in Calabar is the Calabar museum which is located close to the waterfront houses. This museum is located inside the old government house which was the resident of the colonial governor. The old government house was made in Glasgow and was later shipped in pieces. The museum was full of monuments and other historical crafts that reflect the history of Calabar. Another interesting thing that could be found in the museum is an highlight on how palm oil is produced. Calabar is known to be one of the producers of palm oil in Nigeria. Tourist visit is not complete without paying a visit to the world-famous Drill Monkey Rehab Centers. This center is located on Ndidem Nsang Iso road and hidden behind Jahas Guest house. It is a center that caters for many well trained monkeys and it was developed to a tourist site by a couple from the US. It is among Africa's most endangered mammals center and it has been recognized by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) as the highest and most cherished conservation priority of all African primates. As research will have it, it has been the most visited among the animal centers in Nigeria. The habitants of this center are semi-terrestrial monkeys, exhibiting extreme sexual dimorphism with males weighing up to 40kg, three times the size of the females (Lucas M. 2008).

Talking about Calabar as a tourism destination, without talking about Obudu mountain resort, is like Christmas without snow. Obudu resort offers leisure and business tourists a complete satisfaction. One of the attractions in Obudu Resorts is the mountain. It is located on the plateau at 1576 meters above sea level on the Oshie Ridge of the Sankwala Mountains. The climatic condition offers a complete respite from Africa's tropical heat. The beautiful

atmosphere, conducive weather condition and breath-taking views make it an ideal tourist destination for leisure and business tourists, adventurers, families, couples and holiday groups (African Sun, 2011). Below is a picture of a typical look of Obudu resort (Graph 2).



Graph 2. A view of Obudu resort

Obudu resorts provide accommodation in the form of African huts and chalets on stilts giving room to breath-taking views of the whole environment. It also offers self-contained suites that vary in sizes from 2 bedroom Governor's lodge with personal lounge room and kitchenette to the 20 mountain villas each with 3 rooms, lounge, kitchenette, balcony and dining room. The wonders of the resort are not complete without evaluating the different menus from the Terrace restaurant and bar with a cozy and relaxing atmosphere made complete by the blazing log fire. Both local and foreign food is available to satisfy all tastes and the healthy appetite from a day's nature walk or round of golf. In terms of sport and fitness, Obudu offers a fully equipped gym, 2 floodlit tennis courts, a squash court and a naturally preserved swimming pool. The magnificent scene of spectacular birdlife just like that of Trafalgar's square in England is a must-see for all tourists within Obudu resort. (African Sun, 2011) Furthermore, the resort offers a long cable car system that cannot be found anywhere else in Africa. Cable cars are a great innovation that has been used in Switzerland, Australia and France. The

development of the car system has brought about a huge development in mountain tourism such as hiking, mountain biking and other outdoor activities (Ateljevic and Page 2009, 11-12) The cable car easily carries tourists and their luggage from the tropical climate of the base of the mountain right to the hotel reception area on the mountain side which is always in the clouds and it is accompanied by a reasonable drop in temperature. Obudu Mountain resort is just a place to be when considering visiting the south-eastern part of Nigeria. From the mouth-watering reception to a magnificent satisfaction in the delivery of service, Obudu remains the tourists' delight in Nigeria.

Calabar is one of the most recognized states for tourist attractions in Nigeria. From the magnificent architectural work to natural beauty and historical monument, it is quite obvious that there is no other state as relaxing as Calabar. That is the reason why the city is called "the people's paradise"

3.1.3 Argungu fishing festival, Kebbi state

Argungu, a small community in the northwestern part of Kebbi state in Nigeria, has turned a tourist attraction for thousands of people all around the globe. Traditionally, fishing and agriculture are the main economic activities of the inhabitants. Tourists, both local and international, troop into the village of Argungu every year to witness the Argungu fishing festival. It is an annual 4-day event that takes place in the Argungu emirate. This festival, no doubt, has put this small community onto the world tourism map. Known for its socio-economic and cultural activities, Argungu festival is one of the leading fishing festivals in Nigeria. The festival originated as a shared gesture between the people of Argungu and the neighbouring state Sokoto, when the Sultan of Sokoto, Hassan Dan Mu'azu, made a historical visit in 1934 to end the conflict between the two rival neighbours. In honour of the Sultan's visit, a grand fishing contest was organized by the then Emir of Argungu, Muhammadu Sama. Since then, Argungu fishing festival combined with other cultural and sporting activities has survived and up till now, it has remained one of the prides of Northern Nigerians as the festival has given them global recognition in the world of coastal tourism. The co-existence of a particular lifestyle based on coastal activities such as fishing has greatly contributed to maintaining already constructed typical lifestyle and culture (Hall, Muller and Saarinen 2009,

154). More than 30,000 able young men who were fishermen would follow the signals from the custodian of the river, then run into the river and make every effort to bring out fishes of difference sizes. They were also joined by small boats and canoes filled with drummers to cheer them up on their effort to bring out the biggest fish. In the water with them are huge men who are there to assist the fishermen to drive the fish into shallow water. Below is a scene of Argungu fishing festival (Graph 3)



Graph 3. Scene of Argungu fishing festival

Competitors are only allowed to use traditional fishing net as the tradition requires though some fishermen prefers to catch the fish with their bare hand (catching fish with bare hands is known as nodding and it is also practice in the south of USA). Several fishing nets were cast and thousands of fishes were harvested, from the huge Nile perch to a peculiar balloon fish. The fisherman with the biggest fish will be the winner of the day and he will be awarded approximately 8,000 US dollars and a brand new car. The biggest fish will later be presented to the Emir as part of the tradition that started the event. The festival is also marked with other cultural events and competitions such as swimming, dancing, local wrestling, drinking, canoe racing and wide duck hunting (Next, 2009). This festival has attracted about 500,000 people from both Africa and across the world. International media such as CNN and BBC are always present in the event. Argungu is a leading cultural activity in Nigeria. Apart from being a

tourists' delight, it has also served as an economic advantage for the people of the host community. In other words, the festival has made a socio-economic impact on the people of Argungu kingdom. The festivals has been marked with a lot of positive remarks from international media, world tourism organization, tourism experts and both local and international tourists. It has been tagged as the most cultural activity that could ever happen to Nigeria (Next, 2009).

Other tourists' attractions in Nigeria include Oba's Palace, Agemo Festival, Egungun festival, Oro festival, Idanre Hills, Olumirin waterfalls, Osun shrine, Opa Oranmiyan at Ife, Ife city halls, Ooni of ife palace, Osun festival, Erin ijesa waterfall, Ibadan University zoo, Agodi Zoological Garden, Ode Ibadan festival, Plateau National Museum, Water glass boatyard, Isaka holiday cruise, Monument of King Jaja of Opobo, Gidabi rock and Tomb of Usman Dan Fodio and many more (Motherland Nigeria, 2002).

It is crystal clear that Nigeria has varieties of tourist attractions which are spread all over the states. However, it is essential for visitors to know the rules and regulations guiding some of the festivals in Nigeria. As it is very welcoming to all and sundry, it is, advisable to understand the norms and values of the festivals to the host community.

3.2 The importance of tourism in Nigeria

Tourism is a vital factor that can contribute to any country's economy. In fact, it can directly be stated that tourism has a connecting link with the cultural, social, economic and intellectual potentials of a nation and the current trends show that tourism is defined as one of the most profitable and fast-growing industries in the globe. It is an industry that has many sectors which can independently contribute to the economy of a nation. Such sectors include transportation, travel and tourism, tour operation, restaurants, hotels, telecommunications, construction and manufacturing, just to mention few. According to World Travel and Tourism Council (WTTC) and International Hotel and Restaurant Association (IH&RA), tourism not only assists in job creation and wealth acquisition, but also contributes to sustainable development of a nation. Equivalently, tourism stimulates recreational, educational and socio-cultural values in Nigeria. Tourists who travel to Nigeria bring along their own value system and exchange their values to the way of life of Nigerians and vice versa. By so doing, socio-

cultural and educational exchange occurs between the host community and the visitors and thereby widens their horizons and also teaches them how to appreciate other people's culture and value system (Adora 2010, 19). On the other hand, tourism has a great economic advantage in Nigeria. Tourism experts argue that tourism is a catalyst to economic development as it generates foreign exchange for the country. The income generated from the international tourists is an essential source of earnings in Nigeria and from the economic point of view, it encourages financial flow from other countries into Nigeria. (Adora 2010, 19)

In a country such as Britain, tourism plays an essential part to the development of the economy. In 1999, research reveals that over 25.5 million people visited Britain for tourism purposes and made tourism expenditure to grow to about 61 billion pounds and the total jobs created in the tourism related business were estimated to around nearly 1.8 million. In the same year, figures show that international tourists spent over 13 billion pounds thereby contributing immensely to the GDP in Britain (UK House of Common, 2000). Similarly, in Spain, tourism is the major contributory factor to national development. Between 1996 and 1999, the inbound tourism in Spain increased at a fast rate giving a figure of more than 10 million with an annual growth rate of about 12%. Also, the component of tourism demands also increased from 27 million in 1996 to 34 million in 1999 (INE, 2002). There is clear evidence that tourism plays a significant role in the GDP of Spain.

Another major benefit of tourism to Nigeria is its capacity to stimulate infrastructural development in the country. As a matter of fact, the authentic reason for most of the states in Nigeria to invest in tourism is the ability to benefit from the provision of infrastructural facilities. One of such states is Cross River. The Cross river state government has embarked on the development of new infrastructural facilities such as roads and water supply and the improvement on the existing facilities such as airports, electricity, hotels and tourist village such Obudu Mountain ranch and Tinapa (Adora 2010, 19)

Another vital importance of tourism in Nigeria is the area of employment opportunities. The development of infrastructural facilities create jobs for people. It is quite obvious in Nigeria that the tourism sector employs a large number of people providing a variety of jobs ranging from transportation to accommodation as the case may be. As it was mentioned earlier, the creation of infrastructure such as roads, water supply, electricity and the construction and

maintenance of hotels and airports provides unlimited number of jobs for both skilled and unskilled labour, particularly in Cross river state where the state government has embarked on an essential tourism development project in the state (Adora 2010, 20). Furthermore, tourism is an element of promoting international goodwill and relationships among several nations of the world. For the fact that tourism is a socio-cultural phenomenon, promoting various cultures and value system, it encourages regional understanding, cooperation and social interaction among Nigerians and different visitors from across the world.

Tourism has played a vital role in the development of Nigeria. The importance of tourism to Nigerian socio-economic values cannot be underrated. It has played a significant role in the lives of many Nigerians and it has also help to foster relationships with the people of the outside world.

3.3 Coastal tourism in Nigeria

Coastal tourism is based on the combination of resources at the interface of land and sea that offers tourist amenities such as beaches, scenic beauty, rich terrestrial and marine biodiversity, diversified socio-cultural and historical heritage, hygiene food, good infrastructural facilities and economic activities (UNEP, 2009). This has been made possible by the fact that the area is located around the ocean and it has encouraged many coastal tourist activities such as fishing, shell fishing, shell collection, swimming, diving, boating, surfing, wind-surfing, jet-skiing, bird watching, snorkeling and so on. Countries like Nigeria that are involved in the promotion of their coastal areas for tourism purposes are beginning to be aware of the reason to protect such areas in order to maintain their natural beauty to preserve it as a tourism destination. In the medium-sized cities such as Lagos, tourism functions as secondary economic activities except those with comparative advantages, natural and historical elements and competitive values. These areas with such values have tourism as their primary and secondary economic activities. In these types of regions, tourism has full length of advantages because of the tourist amenities that were bestowed in such area (UNEP, 2009). The history of tourism along the coastal line of Lagos can be traced to the Roman time when the first villas were constructed in the southern part of the Apennine peninsula. After the roman time, basically in the 18 century and onward, coastal tourism started to be regarded as a factor generated from the sea and sun.

During the last few centuries, coastal recreational activities such as beach swimming have been on the increase in both numbers and volume. In fact, it has really preoccupied a unique place in coastal tourism (UNEP, 2009). In Africa, Nigeria has been blessed with abundant coastal line which encourages coastal tourism at any level.

3.3.1 Nigerian coastal region

A coast is a land that borders a sea, ocean or other large water bodies. A coastal terrain is often made up of many types of mineral such as salts, sands and clay, sandstones, basalts and granite. The terrains also vary in elevation from a sea level swamp or beach to high cliff. A coastal plain is any flat low geographical region near the sea (Awosika, 2001).

The coastal environment of Nigeria is a rich and diverse ecosystem with natural resources, vegetation, and large human agglomerations. It is a narrow strip of land bordered by the gulf of Guinea economic zone of the central Atlantic Ocean. The Nigerian coastal regions have about 25% of the national population and cover a total of 9 states namely Lagos, Ogun, Ondo, Edo, Bayelsa, Rivers, Cross River and Akwa-Ibom. The people living very close to the coastal environment in Nigeria like any other Nigerians are highly diverse culturally. Historical differences in their population have been imposed by their peculiar riverine geography in which isolated settlements on the available dry land are linked by mazes of anastomosing creeks and waterways which foster small ancient city states. The eastern coastland has the Ibos, Ibibios, Ifiks, and Annangs as their majority tribes while the western coastland consist of the Yorubas, Urohbos, Itsekiri and Edo. The Nigerian coastal areas experience a tropical climate consisting of a rainy season from April to October and dry season from November to March (Awosika, 2001).

The southern coastline of Nigeria consists of Lagos, Ogun, and Ondo and the eastern part consists of Cross River and Akwa-Ibom state. The region is a low-land area of about 20-50 meters. The area has a sub-equatorial climate with heavily rainfall during the rainy season and a temperature of about 27 degrees. The region is influenced by the south-west trade wind. The vegetation type is tropical rainforest with tall evergreen trees. Some areas like Lagos, Uyo, and Calabar have a mangrove swamp forest. (Awosika, 2001)

3.3.2 Problems of Nigerian coastal Zones

Nigeria is endowed with water resources, but these resources still pose problems in the region. Some of the problems of Nigeria's coastal areas are water pollution which includes water contamination, toxic substances, oil spills, air pollution and sewage pollution. Others are flooding which includes sea level rise, sand mining, land degradation. We also have forestry which includes biodiversity loss, deforestation and mangrove loss. Fisheries which includes habitat degradation and stock depletion and lastly erosion which includes coastal and riverbank erosion. (Okeke, 2003)

In conclusion, Nigeria has a tourism potential to reckon with, but unfortunately the resources have never been harnessed to meet up with the required standard. The development of tourism in Nigeria is a diverse project that needed attention from all the three tiers of government. Looking at the resources at hand such as good weather, beaches, monuments, historical sites and hospitable people, Nigeria should be leading the other African countries in the provision of tourism, but such is not the case. Nevertheless, Nigeria is blessed with abundant tourism destinations so if properly managed, it will compete with the rest of the world.

4. TOURIST ATTRACTIONS IN LAGOS STATE

Lagos state is located in the western part of Nigeria. It is assumed to be the economic and industrial capital of Nigeria. Being the smallest state in Nigeria in terms of size, having an area of 365,861 hectares in which 75,755 are water, it has the second highest population which is over 11% of the total national estimate. According to the website of the Lagos state government, Lagos has a population of 17 million out of the 150 million national population. The United Nation declared that the present growth rate of Lagos State will make her the 3rd largest mega city in the world by the year 2015, after Tokyo in Japan and Bombay in India. In terms of Tourism, Lagos is blessed with abundant tourism destinations, such as the coastal region which was evaluated as the most beautiful riverine area in Nigeria (Lagos state Government 2009). Lagos has several tourist attractions spread across the state. Apart from being a historical city in Nigeria, it is known to be the most attractive in terms of business and pleasure to both local and international tourists. Apart from seaside and resorts, Lagos also has historical places, like the first missionary post and houses. These are the first two buildings in Nigeria. National Museums which houses important relics such as traditional Benin bronzes and the replica of the Festac' 77 symbols. The state is also rich in art and culture. The popular 'EYO FESTIVAL' attracts more than 10 million people annually to Lagos. Other tourists attractions includes beaches, King's palace, African shrine, 5 star hotels, national art theatre, National amusement parks, water parks, botanical garden, Silverbird Galleria, markets, conducive weather and hospitable people among others. (Motherland Nigeria, 2002)

4.1 The coastal region of Lagos state

Some of the coastal regions of Lagos state are Ikoyi and Victoria Island. The areas consist of complexes made up of residential, commercial and tourist facilities. Victoria Island is situated on eastern mole down the drift side of the natural inlet into the Lagos harbour and also has the most popular beach known as Bar Beach. On the other hand, Ikoyi is surrounded by Lagos Lagoon and 5 cowries' creek. Both areas are 3 meters above sea level according to research. The low lying topography thus makes the coastline highly susceptible to flooding by waves. The coastal region, however, is taken care of by a new state ministry established by the Lagos state government. The Ministry is known as Ministry of Waterfront and Infrastructural

Development. The ministry was created from the then Lagos State Waterfront and Tourism Development Cooperation (Awolaja, 2010). The ministry is charged with the responsibility of providing infrastructural facilities for the development of the waterfront, protecting the area from flooding and avoiding illegalities within the coastal area. It is also saddled with the responsibility of protecting all waterfront areas in Lagos state being in Urban or rural area and develops the state to a tourist destination with an attraction to international tourists and observers.

However, Lagos state is known for abundant coastal region. Located along the gulf of Guinea, Lagos has over 10 beaches and all serve the need of the tourists both local and international. These beaches are mostly quite on weekdays and maybe has a little patronage on the weekends by people of Lagos, but international tourists, who are in Nigeria for leisure tourism are always there to have a feel of the natural beauty. However, all the beaches are invaded on public holidays. Different names are given to these beaches based on their location. The names are bar beach, Lekki beach, Alpha beach, Eleko beach, Akodo beach and Lighthouse beach among others. (Lagos live, 2006)

Bar beach is named after the ‘sand bar’ that characterize the coastline of Lagos and that makes it very famous. It is located on Victoria Island along Ahmadu Bello way. This beach is run by the school of Oceanography, which is a few kilometers from the beach and it attracts tourists from across the world. The conducive atmosphere, combined with the beautiful wave of the water, makes the beach a place to be. The next page shows a picture of bar beach in its natural state (Graph 4).



Graph 4. Bar beach in a natural state

Bar beach is characterized by the “sex tourists” who come around to give sexual satisfaction to their respective customers. In a nutshell, the sex tourism within the beach makes it more popular and very welcoming to all and sundry. A beach known as Kuramo beach was carved-out of bar beach some few years ago to give more popularity to sex tourism within the region. Kuramo beach, which is side-by-side to bar beach, is the wish of every male visitors whose intention is to satisfy sexual need. (Lagos live, 2006).

Lekki beach can be found in the village of Maiyegun. It attracts over 3 million people annually and it is famous for its musical jamboree. It is located at the city centre along Lekki-Epe expressway. This beach is known for its unique environment and tourists can set up a small party or get-together with the use of canopies made of palm fronds with the roast of barbecue to go with it. The next page shows a picture of Lekki beach in its natural beauty (Graph 5).



Graph 5. Scene of the beauty of Lekki beach

It is extremely healthy and convenient for families, couples, or group of friends. Very close to this beach is campaign Africana which is also a tourist centre. (Oshundeyi and Babarinde, 2010)

Eleko beach is located along the same axis as the Lekki and Alpha beach. It is presently the most sought after tourist destination by visitors because of its hygiene and privacy. This is perhaps the best organized beach along Lekki-Epe expressway. The beach is situated around a friendly atmosphere and the security of lives and properties is 100% guaranteed. (Lagos live, 2006). The next page shows a view of what Eleko beach looks like (Graph 6).



Graph 6. A view of Eleko beach

The hygienic nature of the environment combined with maximum relaxation atmosphere makes Eleko stand out among the beaches in Lagos.

Akodo beach is another beach in Lagos known as Eko Tourist Resort. It is a private-run beach located on the same axis as the rest of the beaches, Akodo beach is blessed with state-of-the-art facilities such as well modernized chalets and a large conference hall to suit the tourists' need. It also has a restaurant which serves both local and international menus. Apart from being a modernized beach, the security of lives and property is assure (Lagos live, 2006).

4.2 Socio-economic value of Lagos coastline

The coastline of Lagos no doubt has a potential socio-economic value to the lives of people. However, the climatic condition and ecosystem of the area provides economic value beyond their beauty to the host community in such a way that it supports their livelihood through the provision of food and materials, trades, waste processing and other important riverine goods and services. In other words, it provides job opportunities for the inhabitants to improve their standard of living (URS, 2007). It also encourages skilled labours like entertainers, massagers and those involved in arts. These set of skilled labours come to the coastal region to showcase

their talent and thereby get paid for it. Apart from that, the lands around this region always get appreciated. It thereby increases the monetary value of the land. Furthermore, businesses like hotels and restaurants are bound to boom on daily basis because of the attraction the coastline possesses (URS, 2007). The coastlines of Lagos also provide benefits such as recreation, socio-cultural heritage and other leisure activities. The social values are the benefits tourists enjoy from the coastline through direct use of the ecosystems. Tourists visit the coast annually because of the recreational benefit that is endowed in this region. Recreational use of the coast is an important service and probably one of the benefits of the coast that is foremost in people's mind when thinking of their own personal gain from the coast (URS, 2007). The coast is a relaxation spot for tourists both local and international. Tourists find pleasure in visiting the coastline on the weekend to shed away the stress incurred during the weekdays. As a matter of fact, some local tourists make the coastline their daily routine immediately after work. The value of the coast line cannot be over-emphasized. International tourists also regard the coastal region as a holiday resort for maximum enjoyment and moving away from their original environment.

4.3 Problems of the coastline of Lagos

It is quite clear that there is no place of enjoyment and satisfaction without a problem. Among the problems of the coastline that were observed during the research is over-congestion which is caused by thousands of people trooping into the area at the same time. This problem is mostly encountered during the holidays. This particular problem leads to inadequate parking facilities. A high number of people coming to the seaside with cars and other vehicles at the same time will encounter parking problems. The coastal area is particularly vulnerable to pollution and direct and indirect damage from human activities (Black sea scene 2011). Therefore, pollution is also a major problem in the coast area of Lagos. The pollution comes in form of solid waste generated from the visitors within the waterside. Visitors are not given proper orientation on how to keep the area neat and tidy. One common thing on the seaside is inadequate safety measures. Lifesavers, as they are popularly called, are not available in the region. Another problem in the area is the negligence from the side of the government. As

important as the coastline is to Lagos state government, little attention is paid to the maintenance of the area, thereby leaving the area without proper policy on sustainability.

Tourism in Nigeria is every tourist's delight. Apart from the exotic natural beauty, Nigeria is popularly known for rich socio-cultural values that label her as the beauty of Africa. However, Lagos has most of these attractions and it is obvious that no one will drive round Nigeria without stopping by in Lagos to have a look at the tourist destinations endowed in it. Lagos coastline attracts over 25 million tourists annually and it is one of the major tourist attractions in the western part of Nigeria. Furthermore, apart from being a coastal city in Nigeria, Lagos state is rich in history, especially in terms of colonial administration and slave trading. The penetration of the colonial masters started in Lagos and up till now, all the colonial tools and equipments are still intact at the museum for reference purpose. In this wise, it is crystal clear that Lagos owns a bigger share of tourist attraction compared to other states in Nigeria.

5. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY AND ANALYSIS

5.1 Method of Research

Data for this research work is obtained through several methods which includes qualitative research method, direct conversation, and personal research among others. The type of qualitative research method that is applied in this study includes interviews, observations, information gathered from tourism experts, as well as people living and benefiting from the coastal region. In other words, the research method includes data collection and analysis of quality information from the real source rather than numerical data (Veal 2006, 193). Taking into consideration the socio-economic sustainability, the opinions of the local people are very important in determining the extent of the impact of the subject matter. As a matter of fact, the information gathered from both the people from the destination region and the views of the experts, combined with a few observations, will be regarded as the authentic base for the outcome of this research. Meanwhile, the reliability and validity of this research work will be based on the qualitative research method applied.

In that sense, reliability is an extent to which a questionnaire, interview, observation, conversation and any other research measures produce the same result on repeated trials. That is the degree at which interviewee's responses would remain the same on a particular survey over a period of time and is a sign of reliability. On the contrary, reliability is considered to be at risk when a survey is carried out over time, performed by different people or the survey is highly subjective (Last, 2001). In this vein, different results are bound to be generated thereby rendering the research work unreliable. For this study, the research was carried out by one person with a reliable method of research which extensively reveal the reliability of the work. On the other hand, validity is the extent at which a research instrument measures what is out to measure in a research work. Validity tends to measure two essential parts: internal and external. Internal validity measures the legitimacy of the result of a particular research study because of the way the group is selected and how data were analyzed, while external validity, also known as generalization, involves whether the result produced by the research is transferable to other groups of interest to confirm its validity (Last, 2001). With all sincerity, it is through adequate and proper research method and execution of strict formalities that a high

level of validity be internal or external can be achieved. Meanwhile, these two fundamental and important measurements will be discussed and assessed in detail in later chapters.

However, considering the quality of this research topic, the type of interview that will be conducted is a semi-structured interview. A semi-structured interview is one of the most regularly used interviews in qualitative research methods. Being an open personal interview, it includes among others, a few numbers of some qualitative procedures and different types of materials representing a particular situation. The method of qualitative research is described as too easy and in that case, there are no forms of guidance on the qualitative method. But nevertheless, in an industry such as tourism, which is more descriptive, this type of method still remains the best (Veal, 2006. 194). In this vein, a quantitative research method was totally opted out being a method that is more evaluative rather than being descriptive.

Meanwhile, there is a big difference between qualitative and quantitative method. While the former is based on analysis on qualitative information through interviews and observation, the later has a basis of numerical data collection. And one of the basic aims of the research work is to derive a subjective understanding of socio-economic impact of a tourism destination and not actually on the findings of numerical or statistical figures. The qualitative research method involves interviews that are semi-structured in nature in which one or more areas will be explored through a number of questions (Stephen and Smith 2010, 109). The flexibility of a qualitative research method makes it suitable for interviews in this thesis. Apart from that, one of the reasons why qualitative method is essential for this research is that with a few interviews, the aim of carrying out the research is revealed. In other words, there is no need for excess information, rather little information with concrete fact.

5.2 Qualitative research method

The qualitative research method is a research on the natural settings of the subject matter which attempt to make sense and interpret the phenomenon in terms of natural meaning brought into it. In other words, the research intends to penetrate into deeper significance that the subject of the research ascribes to the topic being researched. It also intends to collate all necessary information about relatively few cases rather than the more limited facts about each of the large number of cases which is a typical method used in quantitative analysis method

(Veal 2006, 193). Qualitative research method can also be interpretive and naturalistic in nature to its subject topic and it gives priority to what the data has contributed in the research or interview question. An interview is a formally arranged interaction where questions are involved and information is exchanged. There are three types of interviews namely structured interview, semi-structured interview and unstructured interview. In this study, the semi structured interview was adopted in order to get to the root of the research. Observation is one of the easiest, though technical, parts of research methods. Observation involves looking and sighting and in most cases it is referred to as an obstructive method of research. Obstructive in such a way that the observer is not in contact with the observed and still carries out the observation successfully (Veal, 2006. 173). Observation is quite necessary in qualitative research in such a way that it helps in backing up and finalizing the findings.

It is essential to know that qualitative research is the best method for this research work. The method enables the researcher to get to the root of the study. Apart from the fact that it will make this paper easy for anyone to read and understand, it will also enable the author to properly investigate and make a genuine report on people's need and inspiration.

5.3 Analysis

The research interview was conducted with two tourism experts and four residents from the host community. The average age of the interviewees range from 35 – 55 years. Some declined vehemently in revealing their age as it has a great impact on their personality. Though six interviews are not enough to make a general conclusion, observation plays a vital role in bringing out the best in this research work. Thorough observation was made and conclusions are drawn based on the two qualitative methods applied. The residents and tourism experts mentioned in the implementation plan are the two categories of people that would be most effective to reveal, basically, the socio-economic impact of tourism development along the coastal line of Lagos state. While the people from the host community shed more light on the impact of tourism as it affects their lives, the experts give a general overview of the whole subject matter.

5.3.1 Analysis of the expert's interview

Theme 1 is about the tourism development in Nigeria. This question was meant to measure the level of tourism development in Nigeria in general. All the interviewees bear their thought on the recent development, while some shared the view of how it was in the past. Interviewee E revealed that since 1999, the government has played a significant role in ensuring that tourism resources are fully utilized to meet the standards of the developed countries. She appreciated the master plan that was put in place to drive tourism in Nigeria. She further emphasized that master plan is the basis for development and it requires the process of utilizing available tourism resources for maximum use. Interviewee D was of the view that the development of tourism is slow in Nigeria and it has suffered a great negligence and setbacks. Nigeria is blessed with several tourism potentials, such as water resources and mountains, but little was done to harness it to a world-class standard. He did not fail to reveal that the government was focusing on crude oil as the only means of revenue generation, leaving behind the necessities of tourism which, if channeled properly, will serve as a second revenue generation for Nigerian economy. It is quite clear that tourism development in Nigeria is on the increase due to private investors and the fact that the government have started to see the advantages of investing in the tourism industry in Nigeria.

Theme 2 is about the development along the coastline of Lagos. This is a question directly involved in analyzing tourism development along the coastal line of Lagos state. The experts' views were prominent. They reflected on the issue of development along the coastal line of Lagos state. Government effort was appreciated towards ensuring that the coastal line remains one of the best Nigerian attractions within the Lagos metropolis. Eko beach plan was a policy strategy being praised by interviewee E. She reserved appraisal on the advantages of the plan which she described as a policy that enhanced housing development in front of the beach. She also explained that the plan would not only bring about development of tourism in the area, but also prevent a possible future strategy that might emerge from the water. On the other hand, interviewee D showered appraisal on the tourism resources Lagos state is blessed with, in which the coastal line is one of them. His view was quite different to the other experts. He based his opinion on the maintenance and management of the coastal line as a major element for tourism development in Lagos. He further emphasized on the present development along

the coastal line, but it has not been made attractive in such a way that people would visit on a daily basis. The experts explained the need for development based on their different ideas and experience in the field:

There is what is known as the Eko beach plan. That's a major housing development in front of the bar-beach. In the bar-beach, we used to have turbulence for some time that took place back in the days, how would I put it now? What it used to be when we were growing up. But now, there is a housing complex that is coming up there by the Shaguri brothers and I think that will significantly hold back the water. Interviewee E.

Lagos as a state and as a coastal city is well-blessed with tourism resources in the country. The water resources particularly, we have the Eleko-beach, we have the Bar-beach, we have so many beaches. The Badagry beach is there. These resources are there unfortunately, they have not been properly managed to the extent that can lead to a full blown development in the country. If you look at the way people patronize these areas or these resorts centres during this festive period: like this time around I mean the Christmas and New Year, people will go and thereafter, shortly after that, the business will go down. Interviewee D.

While interviewee D explored the issue of inadequate security and packing facilities as one of the problems along the coast line, interviewee E emphasized on the fast rate at which hotels, restaurants, bars and resorts are coming up in the coastal area. All these facilities are tools for social-economic development of tourism along the coast line of Lagos state. The coast line of Lagos state is a prominent tourist destination in the region and if properly maintained and managed, it will not only be a revenue generating factor for the economy, but also serve as a relaxation spot from tourists across the world.

Theme 3 is about the future expectations along the coastal region as a tourist attraction in Lagos. This question was basically directed to the tourism experts who are meant to foresee the future of tourism development along the coastal line. Experts shared their mind in what the coastal line of Lagos will be in the next couple of years. Interviewee E argued that the springing-up of hotels, restaurants, bars and resorts in every corner of the coastal area will make Lagos state attractive to both local and international tourists in the next two or three years. She backed her argument on the policy plan of the federal government to make Lagos a mega city by 2020.

The housing complex in place and hotels springing-up here and there, I think Lagos will be a destination in the next 2-3years because Lagos is becoming a mega city and

with a mega city, you need places to relax and with the development on the coastal line of Lagos, you know being an Island, I think this will be a tourism destination in the next 2-3 years. It will be a place to really reckon with. Interviewee E

For that reason, some wise tourism investors have seen the coastline as a good target for hotel and resort business. The future of the area as a tourist attraction in Lagos is bright. Interviewee D argued that putting some features in place will give way to a better tomorrow as far as the coastal area is concerned. He further argued that there should be a data-bank which will contain the information of incoming tourists, residents, tourism resources available and people's opinions on the particular tourist destination. He explained that:

The first thing we need to do is to have a data bank. Let's conduct accurate research work. Lets know the pattern; how many people go in there to enjoy the facilities, how many resides there, and how many people come there for short-term stay, let us have data on all these demand and supply. Let's know the facilities that are there and the infrastructure. Then, let us equally know the yawning of the people along this line. What do they expect that are not there, we need to know so that we can put the right thing that will really attract people to the place.

He suggested that using the data-bank system will encourage development along the coast line thereby making it more attractive. Having accurate information will help the government to know where to focus attention and thereby investing resources in such area. All this in place, the future expectations will be good and secured. The future of the coast line of Lagos looks quite realistic as a tourist attraction based on the fact that many proposals and projects had been put in place to make it worthy and attractive for potential visitors.

Theme 4 is about the socio-economic characteristic of the coastal area as it affects the host community. This question was basically formed to develop the view of the interviewees on the characteristics of the coastal region to the people from a socio-economic point of view. The coastal line of Lagos has many advantages and benefits. Interviewee E argues that the presence of development in the area has given room to several establishments of tourism businesses which in turn create job opportunities for the host community. Apart from job creation, interviewee D emphasized on the fact that the coastal line of Lagos has helped many residents derived their livelihood through fishing, farming and palm tapping. He claimed that:

For socio-economic characteristics, there are two ways to it; if you look at the people that are residing in this coastal area, generally, they are fisherman and some of them are farmer that derived their livelihood on palm product and some of them they still cultivate some vegetable along that area, sugarcane and so on, and so forth. So generally, if you look at it from the perspective of the people that are living in that community essentially, they are farmers, they are fishermen, but when you look at the socio-economic characteristics of those in the immediate community, I mean the adjoining communities, areas outside the coastal region itself, you will find-out that most of the people around that area are again traders.

He further emphasized that another social-economic benefit of the region is that it serves as a relaxation sport for workers living around the area and as a holiday resort for tourists from across the world. Interviewee E also expresses her mind on the fact that the coastal area is a source of revenue generation to the government in such a way that all the businesses located in the region pay tax on a monthly basis. This is one of the major social-economic advantages of the coastal area to the government. From the realistic point of view, the coastline has an adverse positive effect on the host community in terms of income generation and job creation and it also serve as a relaxation spot for both local and international visitors.

Theme 5 is about the way forward to towards tourism development in Nigeria regarding the coastal area of Lagos. For every situation, there must be a way forward. Therefore, this question was brought up to give an insight on how tourism can be developed in Nigeria, especially on the coast line of Lagos state being the case study. Tourism experts expressed their mind on the way forward toward the development of tourism in Nigeria in general and along the coast line in particular. Interviewee E argued that promotion is the key to development of tourism as far as Nigeria is concerned. Nigeria has vast potentials of tourism resources, but the awareness is lacking. She opens up on the fact that Nigerian tourism especially the coast line of Lagos is not known to the rest of the world. Advertisement and awareness campaigns should be a major focus if Nigeria is to develop her tourism:

Promotion is the key factor in tourism because you can have the most beautiful coast line region and nobody knows about it. I have also discovered that there is a place in Delta state, along the same Atlantic coast line with Lagos and we are finding-out that there is a lot of development on this coastline. You see, for you to know about it, Nigeria has to work a lot on promoting this beautiful area we have. We have sunshine, we have all sorts that can make us the best in the world so all we need to do now is to spend money to promote and put the right people in place. Interviewee E

She further emphasized on the need for more tourism education in every higher institution in Nigeria. More schools should be encouraged by the government in the establishment of tourism studies with well-trained lecturers and good monitoring methods in order to ensure that professionals in the field were produced. In this vein, she did not fail to appreciate the effort of the government in the policy of staff training in the tourism department in various institutions. She further encouraged the government to pay more attention to tourism development and put more focus on maintenance culture, as this is one of the key factors for sustainability.

Interviewee D shed more light on the practice of eco-tourism in Nigeria as a basis for tourism development. He claimed Nigeria is known for natural beauty and socio-cultural heritage and with the practice of eco-tourism in place, the sky is the limit to the development of tourism along the coastal line of Lagos and Nigeria in general. Furthermore, he explained that the tourism resources should be properly managed and sustained to meet the standard of the western world and for that reason, attractive infrastructure should be put in place to commensurate the available resources. Apart from that, he urged that the government to put up a political-will and show more concern about developing tourism in terms of good publicity, awareness and documentary to market the coastal line of Lagos and other tourist attractions in Nigeria known to the rest of the world:

Government has to change its attitude to that sector. We should start to look at that sector as another sector that can help us to boost the economy of the country. We can use that sector to rebrand the image of Nigeria. Whatever people read in paper, by the time they get here, they find out that look! There is a mis-representation of facts. They can only know that when they come here because Nigeria, by any standard, we are very hospitable and we are friendly. So when people come here, they will see that Nigeria is a nice country. The weather is good, we don't have problem of ash weather. The weather is very good, people are friendly and all they need do is just to know.

Interviewee D

He further explained the need of a data-bank in the tourism industry. He believed that collations of facts, data and information within the tourism sub-sectors will enable the government and other private investors to understand the area in which improvement is needed and how it should be carried out. If the proposals of the experts are everything to go by, tourism will surely grow at a fast rate thereby giving room for socio-economic development in Nigeria.

5.3.2 Analysis of the resident's interview

Theme 1 discussed about the level of tourism in Nigeria. The residents, on the other hand, stated their views on the backwardness of tourism in Nigeria. Interviewee A said that tourism in Nigeria has not improved as expected, if comparison has to be made to other countries of the world. Though some agreed that there were improvement compared to before, the development is very slow. From another perspective, interviewee B revealed that tourism in Nigeria is fast-growing and the government has started to be more concerned about the development. However if the encouragement can continue and maintenance culture is appreciated, tourism in Nigeria will meet up with the standard of the developed countries. Interviewee C compromised this claimed by commending on the fact that though there is a presence of tourism in Nigeria, but the government has not done anything to channel the resources into a proper use. Interviewee F, who is a manager in one of the hotels located along the coast line, described the level of tourism in Nigeria from the business point of view. He claimed that many hotels are springing up everywhere and this is a result of an increase in the awareness of tourism in Nigeria thereby, the level of tourism is appreciable as far as Nigeria is concerned. From the resident's point of view, it is obvious that the level of tourism in Nigeria has greatly improved and if the government can continue to support the industry, there will be no limit to its expansion in Nigeria.

Theme 2 discussed about the socio-economic characteristics of the coastline of Lagos. The residents further appreciate the region as a means of making money through petty trading and at the same time, serve as a relaxation sports. Interviewee B who basically visited the coastal area for leisure purposes praise the effort of the government on the development of the area though agitating for more attention. A resident was of the opinion that visiting the coastal area is cheap and affordable with maximum enjoyment and relaxation. The region is endowed with good climatic conditions which are ideal for resorts and sightseeing. Interviewee F, who works in one of the hotels located along the coastal line, expresses the importance of the riverine area to his hotel business:

If you look at Eko hotel, one of the important things we are selling is the location. That gives us an edge ahead of other hotels. Because here, we have different kinds of rooms and the most sellable ones are the one facing the coastline. Many guests will always

demand for that, I can tell you if we have 300 rooms facing the sea, I can tell you, we will sell all.

He convincingly revealed that his hotel is generating more profit as a result of increase in demand from customers in which the location is the major factor for the success. In other words, the coastal line positively affects the hotel business. The coastline has a great impact on the residents as it serves as a basis for profit making in the community.

Theme 3 discussed about the way forward to tourism development in Nigeria regarding the coastal area of Lagos. The residents shared their opinion on the way forward to tourism development along the coastline of Lagos in particular and in Nigeria in general. They bear their mind on the facilities such as transportation in order to enhance good accessibility to the coastal region. Interviewee A was of the opinion that facilitating the transportation industry in Nigeria will go a long way in enhancing easy access to tourist destinations in Nigeria. He further emphasized the provision of necessities such as chairs and canopies around the beach in order to beautify it. Apart from that, he called on the investors to build more hotels and restaurants around the coastal line of Lagos to make it more attractive for international tourists. Interviewee B emphasized on the need for security measures such as water-guide and life-savers at the beach in case of emergency. She believed with the presence of such security, life and properties will be in safer hands, thereby encouraging people to come to the beach. Interviewee C emphasized on the need to give support to the government in the development of tourism in Nigeria. He believed that the government cannot do it alone. So, he called for government-public partnership as a major way for rapid development, not only on the coastal line but also to Nigerian tourism in general:

We need to look into private-government partnership. For example, since the federal government has refused to see tourism as a money-making venture, the private organisations in Nigeria are trying to bring it to the further look. Apart from oil, tourism can also be another second income generation for the country. The way forward is for the government to sit down, and partner with the private organisations whereby a lot of our tourist sites can be turned into a legacy, can be turned into the money-making venture, for example, Lagos state government is partnering with a lot of private organisations. Tourism is a government-private sector and it is bringing a lot of revenue, the Eleko beach, even the Badagry beach has been conscientious to a private body to manage. At the federal level the Yankari game reserves, the Idanri waterfalls can be conscientious to private body that will work hand-in-hand with the

government to turn most of these tourism sites to a legacy and also, to a money-making venture. Interviewee C

He is of the opinion that the government cannot provide tourism by itself. So, government-public partnership is the key towards enhancing the development of tourism in Nigeria. The residents has revealed that if the government can invite private bodies in the development of the tourism sector in Nigeria, Nigerian tourism industry will be an industry to reckon with in few years time.

The opinion of the residents is not differing from that of the experts. Both categories of people are of the opinion of developing tourism in Nigeria. They believe the basis of enhancing the tourism industry is by making adequate proposals and agitating the government to pay more attention to the industry so as to make Nigeria a tourist destination for both local and international visitors. However, the aim of the interview is to acknowledge how tourism development along the coastal line of Lagos state has benefited the residents from a socio-economic point of view. It was also used to evaluate how tourism development has improved the life of the people of Lagos state and practically, how residents have benefited from the advancement of tourism potential along the coastal region. In that case, the analysis was based on each interview question from the two categories of people.

5.4 Observations

Observation is one of the key elements in the qualitative research method. It involves looking, sighting and listening very carefully. It is also referred to as an obstructive method of research. The observer is not in direct contact with the observed and still executes the observation successfully (Veal 2006, 173). The purpose of carrying out an observation in this research work is to study the impact of tourism development along the coastal line on the people from the natural setting without influencing their behaviour. In this case, the data from observation will provide deeper quality and richer understanding than any other types of qualitative research method such as interviews. While interview methods study an opinion from an individual point of view, observation tends to retrieve data on a collective basis (Trochim, 1999). However, the basis of the observation is categorized in two ways: tourism development along the coastal line of Lagos state and its socio-economic impact on the people.

5.4.1 Tourism development along the coastal line of Lagos state

It was observed that there are significant developments along the coastal line of Lagos. Compared to other coastal countries of the world, like Spain, the coastal line has not been developed to any specific standard. Nigeria is a developing country, tourism along the coastal line is just coming-up and it will take some few more years to reach the level of requirements at it occurs in other developed coastal countries. The coastal region of Lagos state has witnessed many infrastructural developments like good road network, modern housing and transportation facilities. The roads leading to each part of the coastal line have been properly renovated and the government of Lagos state has put special transportation facilities in place known as ‘‘BRT BUS’’ to easily convey visitors to each coastline destinations irrespective of the traffic. Furthermore, a special lane was created on the road called ‘‘BRT LANE’’ to ensure smooth ride to every tourist destinations in Lagos.

Along the coastline, there are noticeable improvements in the establishment of tourism businesses such as hotels, restaurants, bars, guest houses and bread and breakfasts. The tourism businesses are available to give maximum refreshment and relaxation to potential tourists who visit the beaches. Free government initiated parking facilities are also available for visitors with vehicles. Apart from that, some private investors also create a parking space within the residential area which is a few meters to the beach for an affordable price. It is also observed that a setback has been created along the shore of the beaches to encourage safety. The setback is between 10-20 meter which is enough for visitors to relax and at the same time feel the touch of the water. Some private beaches, such as ‘‘Oniru private beach’’, build a musical stand very close to the shore of the water to entertain potential visitors. Overall, the development of tourism along the coast line of Lagos state is quite encouraging and attractive.

On the other hand, it was observed that on holidays, all the facilities mentioned above are not enough to meet the demands of thousands of visitors to the coastline. The observation was carried out on a Christmas holiday in 2010 and it was quite clear that over-congestion is one of the major problems during the festive period. This particular problem leads to insufficient parking space which in turn disturbs the flow of traffic. Hotels, bars and restaurants are filled up in such a way that visitors have to queue for hours to buy whatever they need. However, early bookings were advised by the hotels and restaurants owners to avoid the queue. It was

also observed that the whole beach was littered with waste generated from the tourists. This was observed to be a result of huge presence of visitors. However, these problems were more common in the public beaches.

5.4.2 Socio-economic impact of the coastline of Lagos state

The impact of the coastline cannot be over over-emphasized. From a socio-economic point of view, it was observed that the presence of the coast line has an adverse positive effect on the host community. The availability of tourism enterprises such as hotels, restaurants and bars has created unlimited job opportunities for the residents on Lagos. The coastline has also paved the way for the youth in the area to discover their talents in music, arts and animations. On weekly basis, youths of the area come around to entertain the visitors at the beach and get paid for it. Several art-works were also displayed for potential buyers within the coastal region. Apart from that, hotels and restaurants located in the area were experiencing patronization from visitors which gives an added advantage on the business profit. It was also observed that the people in the host community engaged in fishing, farming, horsing and palm tapping to sustain their livelihood. The horsing is a leisure activity whereby the visitors would move around with the horse for a specific period of time and pay an affordable fee for the service. It is a common phenomenon among the beaches in Lagos. Other money-making activities which the residents engaged themselves in include massage, gaming, water-guide and photographing.

The coastline was a relaxation spot for not just the visitors, but also the residents of the area. Residents came out from their various homes to have fun and relax till dawn. The workers who reside in the coastal area also pass by the beaches after a hard day's job to relax with some bottles of drinks before finally heading home. The area also serves as a holiday resort for local and international tourists.

It was obvious that there is a steady development along the coastal line Lagos state. The area is improving on a yearly basis. The more development, the more the positive impact it will have on the residents in the area. Observation has made it clear that the impact is quite positive on a socio-economic ground, but the need for constant development along the coastal area will

go a long way in improving the lives of the people. Some more works need to be done to checkmate the holiday period where thousands of people troop in at the same time.

5.5 Findings

The study examined the socio-economic impact of tourism development along the coastline of Lagos state. It could be deduced that the presence of the coastline has a great effect on the lives of the host community in many ways. The following paragraphs reveal the findings based on the socio-economic impact of the coastline to the inhabitants.

The research carried out showed that the majority of the people living in the coastal area in the region of Epe and Ibeju-Lekki are predominantly into fishing and palm tapping to sustain their livelihood. Being the primary occupation in the region, fishing and palm tapping are the jobs of the less educated inhabitants of the community.

The research also showed that the recent tourism development along the coastline has drastically reduced social unrest in the area i.e. the establishment of tourism businesses such as hotels and restaurants which in turn employed the majority of the youth in the area has helped in curbing the social evils. It has also encouraged the youth to engage in a money-making entertainment such as drama display and music to keep them away from social disorderliness such as fighting, stealing and other social unrest. As a matter of fact, the coastline is a home for relaxation and refreshment for both residents and potential tourists.

The food products produced by the people are put up for sale in every part of Lagos and this has improved the resident's potential income and thereby increases their standard of living and also encourages them to work harder in order to keep their job.

Research indicated that the festive period is the peak period in the region whereby all tourism businesses such as hotels, guest houses, B and B, restaurants and bars make excess profits and inhabitants also make money from selling their goods and services.

To an average extent, the coastline was able to create awareness of the potential of the area through patronage from visitors to the beaches. But the fact remains that the infrastructure

available cannot meet the needs of the visitors, especially during the festive period. It has also created awareness to buyers of water products such as fish.

Research also indicates that private organizations were given the opportunities to invest in the region in order to ensure rapid development, but internal problems such as illegal taxes discourage the private investors.

Research revealed that there is easy accessibility to the coastal region. The transportation facilities provided by Lagos state government are efficient to some extent to ensure uninterrupted traffic flow to coastal destinations. Other facilities such as parking space and set-backs were put in place to ensure conveniences for the visitors. In the real sense, the parking space is not enough during the festive period but there is availability of private parking spaces that attract additional fees.

During the festive period, research indicated that there are a lot of problems in the area such as over-congestion, slow traffic flow, pollution and inadequate parking space.

Research showed that there is no marine security such as life-savers and water guides in case of emergency in the water. This is one of the major problems in the coastal area.

Finally, research also indicates that the maintenance of the coastal region is very low. The government has not given much attention needed in the area. In other words, the political will that can drive coastal tourism in the area is not available.

All these illustrations above are the summary of findings which were retrieved from the interviews and observation carried out in the region. It was clear that the socio-economic impact of the area to the host community is positive and encouraging. However, much is still needed to be done to improve the area in terms of development to meet the required standard. The more development, the greater positive effect it will have on the inhabitants. The next chapter revealed some recommendations on the way forward to attaining positive results in achieving tourism development in the coastal region of Lagos state.

5.6 Reliability and Validity

It is essential to evaluate reliability and validity in carrying out a research work, be it by qualitative or quantitative method. The importance of any research is to know if the study is reliable and valid. The use of reliability and validity are mostly common in quantitative research method but recently, it has been readopted in the qualitative research system. Since these two elements are used to evaluate the authentic base of a research, they should be fine-tuned for their uses in a naturalistic approach.

Reliability is an element evaluation to an extent at which the findings of a particular research would be similar if the same research were to be reconducted at a later date with a totally different subject. It is also a concept that is mostly used in quantitative research method, but in recent time, it has been adopted to fit in to all kind of research work. If the idea of testing reliability in a research is a way of depending on the information given, then the most important test of any qualitative research method is its quality. In this case, reliability in its real sense is a criteria used to determine the quality of a quantitative research and while in qualitative, the reliability should be evaluated through trustworthiness, credibility and dependability. This theory directly define the evaluation of reliability in this thesis on how far the interview report can be trusted, the credibility of the interview conducted, the neutrality and understanding of the interview questions and the knowledge of the interviewees on the subject matter.

The interviews were very intensive and non-biased and all the interviewees have a broad knowledge about the interview themes and concepts. The reliability was further reinforced by accurate personal observation combined with the raw information gathered from the interviews. Furthermore, two of the interviewees were tourism experts who have spent more than 15 years in active tourism, hospitality and environmental research which directly indicate that information gathered from them are highly reliable, credible and dependable. Also, four out of the six other interviewees were residents of Lagos state who were directly affected by the impacts of the coastal line and of which the basis of this research depend upon. Moreover, the information from this thesis work has a great extent of reliability on the fact that the researcher was a resident of Lagos for over 28 years and all his stages of education till the

highest level was laddered in Lagos which signified that he has both basic and broad knowledge about the research and the case study area.

Nevertheless, in as much as this research has a great extent of reliability, the issue of weakness cannot be rule out to a certain level. Carrying out a research on a community which comprises of group of people that are subjected to changes over time can create loopholes in a research work. While a personal report may be accurate, research on numbers of people can present a shady picture based on the fact that people have different views and opinion about a particular issue. Furthermore, asking the same questions from different people at different locations even within the same locality is likely to produce different results. This is the reason why great caution was exercised in this thesis to ensure generalization in order to arrive at accurate results. However, the observations carried out in this thesis were done in a natural setting without a direct contact with the observed. This creates a picture of accuracy and shows the degree of reliability.

The issue of validity is appreciated irrespective of the type of research method applied in a study. It is the extent at which a particular test measures what it ought to measure. In the real sense, the determination of validity in a research work is not statistics rather a contingent construction grounded in the process and intention of research methods and projects. Research experts argue that validity should be measured in order to support the idea of checks and balances in every research carried out. This is because the essence of a research is the collection of facts and information in order to prove a particular theory or topic and the collection of information will be useless, if it were not accurate or relevant as the case may be. In other words, if the information gathered was not valid. Tourism research is faced with several difficulties in measuring validity, purely because empirical research is totally concerned with people's attitude and behavior and for information on these, the research relies on people's opinion in form of responses to an interview. In this thesis, the interview questions were drafted in accordance to the topic and the interviewees were chosen on the basis of knowledge on the subject matter. As a matter of fact, the tourism experts interviewed were still functioning in the field in terms of practice and academics.

The sustainability of trustworthiness of any research study depends on the issue qualitatively discussed as reliability and validity. In this sense, measuring the truth through reliability and

validity is based on the idea of trustworthiness. The interview conducted and the observation made in this thesis were thoroughly tested and trusted and the researcher has a positive view about the results. To be honest, any research-minded individuals would question why the interviews with few numbers of people in this thesis justify the interest of the whole community. However, it should be noted that though the interviewees were few in numbers, their opinions count a lot in determining the goal and outcome of this research. This is because four out of the six interviewees were residents of the case study area and the other two were tourism experts. Observations were also conducted to back-up the interviews. The interpretation of the interviews and observations conform to the aim of the survey. With this set of interviewees and personal observation, the concept of validity in this thesis work is dependable and trusted. In a nutshell, validity of this research was good bearing in mind the low number of interviewees.

If the idea of reliability and validity, quality and trustworthiness were meant to evaluate and differentiate a well structured research work to a bad one, then testing and upgrading the reliability, validity, trustworthiness and quality will be vital to the research irrespective of the methodology applied.

6. RECOMMENDATIONS AND CONCLUSION

Having gone through a critical survey on the impact of tourism along the coastal line of Lagos state, it is important to suggest and recommend possible solutions for the improvement of tourism development in the study area in order to positively have an impact on the host community.

6.1 Recommendations

The government should provide infrastructural facilities in the coastal area. Facilities such as parking space and good road networking should be provided in the coastal area. Though these facilities exist at the moment, it is not enough to meet the need of the visitors, especially during the festive period. Providing these facilities will enhance and direct actions towards developing the coastal zone as a tourist destination. It will also ensure free flow of traffic in the area, thereby giving the residents peace of mind about the usual traffic jam along the study area during the festive period. As a matter of fact, it will also provide jobs for the residents of the area in terms of road construction and maintenance of the parking space. It is well known that facilities play a significant role in enhancing national development. In other words, if these facilities are put in place, it will serve as an element of development in the coastal region in particular and the country in general.

The coastline should be expanded. To avoid over-congestion on the coastal line, more development should be encouraged to other virgin coastline. An observation in this research shows that there are some coastline areas along the same coastal zone of Lagos which remain untapped. The government should extend development to these areas to serve as a tourist destination. Extension of development to such areas will directly reduce over-congestion on the already existing beaches in Lagos. Apart from that, the development will bring about job opportunities to the residents of Lagos which signify an improvement in their socio-economic well-being.

Security should also be provided within the coastline of Lagos to ensure safety of lives in the water. Security personnel such as lifesavers and water-guides should be the main priority of the government within the beaches. This will create a good impression among the visitors on the safety of their life. In this regard, the government should partner with the inhabitants of the coastal region to form a strong water-security in the area. If these can be put in place, it will serve as a social benefit to the tourists and an economic benefit to the inhabitants of the host community.

Media awareness is a contributing factor to any tourist destination in the world. The government should try as much as they can to market the coast line of Lagos as a potential tourist destination. Other coastal destinations of the world such as Miami Beach in Florida and Coastal del sol in Spain are known globally through media promotion and advertisement. The coastal zone of Lagos has all it takes to match up with the rest of the world in terms of coastal tourism. In that sense, proper and efficient promotion strategy should be implemented and executed in order to market the area and create global awareness.

Coastal zone management should be encouraged. The coastal area of Lagos should be properly managed and maintained by the government. The issue of pollution and solid waste disposal should be properly organized. It is important to know that most of the beaches were shanties and dump areas for residents and visitors and if proper management is introduced, it will eradicate the irregularities and make the region a hygienic environment. It is advisable to introduce a community based environmental sanitation on a weekly basis to arrest environmental degradation and unwanted disposal of waste in the water.

The government should come up with a proper policy implementation that would protect the coastal environment from loosing value and also protect the inhabitants, investors and other tourism stakeholders in the area. The policy should be harnessed in such a way that it will ensure sustainability of the coastal zone.

The host community should be encouraged to participate in the development of the coastal area through a community-based programme put in place by the government. The programme should be totally funded by the government and the representatives of the community should be part of the policy making. This type of programme will give the community a sense of belonging in bringing development to their area.

Government-private partnership should be encouraged to stimulate development in the region. In the advanced world, public and private partnership promotes development in any tourism destination. Therefore, the government should encourage partnership with private individuals in promoting the coastal region of Lagos. Also, the government should endeavour to cooperate with hoteliers, restaurants and bar owners, civil society groups, banks and other institutions operating in the vicinity of the coastal zone to constantly execute human capacity programmes for the use of the communities in order to further reduce unemployment and youth restiveness in the region.

Finally, the government should endeavour to pay absolute attention towards developing tourism along the coastal line of Lagos state. The development of the coastal line as a tourist destination should be an uppermost priority to the three tiers of government (Federal, State and Local government)

6.2 Conclusion

This research has shown that tourism development along the coastal line of Lagos has many benefits that can aid socio-economic and human development in Lagos. Based on the research findings, it is concluded that tourism is a valuable contributor to community sustainability and therefore, the government should assist the tourism industry through partnership with host communities as a backup options for more intensive community participation in line with tourism development. Furthermore, the relationship between tourism, socio-economic well-being and needs of the society has to be coordinated. It is quite obvious that if there is no strong commitment and dedication to the goals and objectives of tourism along the coastal line of Lagos, the venture is likely to fail both socially and economically. In that case, the

government should rise to their responsibility by giving all needed support to the tourism industry in Nigeria in general and along the coastal line in particular so that our dear nation will be a force to reckon with the like of Spain, France, Greece, Brazil and other tourism nations.

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APPENDICES

Appendix 1. Interview themes for tourism experts in Nigeria

Research: socio-economic impact of tourism development in Nigeria. Case study of tourism attractions along the coastal line of Lagos state

Type of interview: semi-structured interview

- Theme 1: tourism development in Nigeria
- Theme 2: tourism development along the coastal line of Lagos state
- Theme 3: future expectation along the coastal region as a tourist attraction in Lagos state
- Theme 4: socio-economic characteristics of the coastal area as it affects the host community and the tourists
- Theme 5: the way forward towards tourism development in Nigeria as regard to the coastal area of Lagos state

Appendix 2. Interview themes for the residents of Lagos

Research: socio-economic impact of tourism development in Nigeria. Case study of tourism attractions along the coastal line of Lagos state

Type of interview: semi-structured interview

- Theme 1: the level of tourism in Nigeria
- Theme 2: socio-economic characteristics of the coastal line of Lagos state
- Theme 3: the way forward towards tourism development in Nigeria as regard to the coastal area of Lagos state