



Assessment of the Perception of Outdoor Recreational Facilities users in Ado-Ekiti, Ekiti State, Nigeria

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ABSTRACT: The objective of this paper was to assess the perception of outdoor recreational facilities users in Ado-Ekiti, Ekiti State, Nigeria using appropriate standard techniques after harvesting data from structured questionnaires was administered to users (customers) in the 5 sampled recreational centers. The result of the findings established that there is a low level of involvement with only 18% of respondents specifying frequent engagement and involvement. Addressing these challenges, plans were made to motivate more involvement across the population range in active recreation involvement in the town. It is foretold that this will also serve as an precedent/model for other towns in the country.

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Recreation is reported as an undertaking that individual choose to occupy in when at leisure, and it may be all-round, consisting physical, cognitive, psychological and social elements (Broadhurst, 2001). Recreation comprises undertakings that people do for pleasure, frequently to restore/revitalize the body and mind. Recreation, therefore, comprises types of undertakings like sojourning place such as parks, forest areas, lakes, rivers, and forest as well as involving in various practices such as trekking, fishing, hunting, and camping. Engaging in recreational undertakings is of substantial benefit for sustaining mental and physical well-being of people, families, and communities (Neuvonen *et al.*, 2007). As revealed in many studies, involvement in recreational

undertakings two or three times a week or for half an hour a day is helpful for anthropogenic health (Pouta and Sievanen, 2001; Yoade, 2022). Outdoor recreation on the other hand, is simply recreation that is consistently executed outdoors although; there are a few undertakings like swimming that can take place either outdoors or indoors. Outdoor recreation is of specific importance topographically as it frequently involves the extensive use of areas of land or water which are often short in supply (Seeley 2010). For some, outdoor recreation is an integral part of their routine. For some it is an unplanned outcome of another undertaking, while for others, it is a quest which influences fewer captivations. The request for outdoor recreation is component of the comprehensive

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request for leisure. It is stirred by the accessibility of an individual's time, energy, and willingness to approach areas. A surge population which is well educated, wealthier and more mobile will place a weighty request on many outdoor recreational undertakings (Yoade *et al.*, 2021). Recreation is a basic human need like the basic need to breath, walk, eat, drink, sit, sleep and worship. However, one of the problems that besets outdoor recreation, especially the existence of the limited information on outdoor recreation system. The bulk of the scanty literature on it deals with outdoor recreation in the countryside at the national and regional level in developed countries where it only outlines the general spatial pattern of recreational demand and participation (Obateru, 2003).

Outdoor recreation's endowment to well-being can be investigated in the condition of wholeness. The World Health Organization (2003) defines well-being as a state of thorough physical, mental and social welfare and not solely the vacuity of disease or infirmity. This definition proceeds from a particularly medical standard of well-being approaching the concept of welfare.

The Alberta Centre for Well Being (2012) finds that the concept of welfare or maximum well-being comprises a mild equilibrium among physical, psychological, spiritual, intellectual and social well-being and then lists a broad spectrum of proportions, from robustness, nourishment and anxiety control to reflection, education, and connections. Outdoor recreation nudges on all those facets of well-being and can promote not only state of well-being but also psychological welfare. Just being outdoors, for instance, has been shown to provide health well-beings.

Recreational facilities are required for the very juvenile to the very aged, for learners and for specialists, for teams and for people, for indoors and for outdoor (Seely, 2002). Outdoor recreational facilities are grouped. Attah (2006) view demand for recreation from the demographic, socio-economic and time factor point of views. Bello (2010) equally considers demand for recreation from demographic, education and mobility perspectives and Hussain (2012) based his analysis of demand for recreational activities and facilities on economic characteristics as well as demographic considerations. The main purpose of recreation is essentially the relaxation and revitalization of individual so that they may effectively rebound to their periodic undertakings, which are not recreational but reasonably profitably. It involves physical, mental and emotional undertakings. It can

honor the stakeholders in terms of rational, physical and social development, improved health, bettered citizenship and other standards of personal growth. Many researches have been conducted out to regulate the positive satisfactions (both physical and psychological) of recreational open spaces on human beings. The performance of the open spaces in providing a healthy surrounding was also listed in some Nigerian cities like Lagos. But the true admiration of the inputs which recreation could make to the quality of life in the environment appears to be just, compelling only more than lip service it receives from public officials. Hence analysis on information of recreation use and drifts is important for a proper estimation of recreational activities. This is the focus of the study which estimates demand based on recreation use and trends information. Hence, the objective of this paper was to assess the perception of outdoor recreational facilities users in Ado-Ekiti, Ekiti State, Nigeria

MATERIALS AND METHODS

The Study Area: Ado Ekiti is the capital of Ekiti State, which is one of the State in Nigeria. Ado-Ekiti is located between latitudes 7°19 and 7°29 north of the equator and longitudes 5°3 and 5°22 east of the Greenwich meridian. Ado Ekiti is also headquarter of Ado local government in Ekiti State which share boundary with Irepodun, Gboyin, Ise-Orun and Ikere local Government. It has a figure of satellite towns around it. To the North is Iworoko, about 16 kilometres away from the city; to the east are Are and Afao, about 16 kilometres; to the West are Iyin and Igede, about 20km and to the South is Ikere, about 18 km. Ado-Ekiti take joy the privilege of being a nodal town and is located at the core of the State; hence roads that preceed to other sections of the state assemble in the city (Oriye, 2013). Ado-Ekiti covered an area of 2.5 square kilometres (sq. km) in 1956, but by 1996 it had grown to about 19.6 sq.km. Currently the city encompasses an area of 36.7 sq. km (Olugbenga and Ifesanya, 2013). The State benefits tropical climate with two definite seasons. These are the wet season (April–October) and the dry season (November–March). Temperature ranges between 21° and 28 °C with high humidity. The south westerly wind and the northeast trade winds blow in the rainy and dry (harmattan) seasons respectively. Tropical forest exists in the south, while savannah occupies the northern peripheries. The State is mainly an upland zone, rising over 250 meters above sea level. It lies on an area underlain by metamorphic rock. It is generally undulating country with an attribute landscape that comprises of ancient plains collapsed by step-sided out-crops that may exist uniquely or in categories or ridges. Such rocks out-crops exist mainly at Aramoko,

Efon-Alaaye, Ikere-Ekiti, Igbara-Odo-Ekiti and Okemesi-Ekiti. The State is dotted with uneven hills, remarkable ones being Ikere-Ekiti Hills in the south, Efon-Alaaye Hills on the western boundary and Ado Ekiti Hills in the centre.

Sample Collection and Analysis: Both primary and secondary data were utilized for this study. These are first-hand information that was gathered from field survey through questionnaires, interviews with the respondents and observation of the study area. Reconnaissance and field survey was carried out which involved the visit to the study area, to assess the perception of people on outdoor recreation facilities in the study area. A population consists of specific conceivable traits, elements, events, people, subjects or observation, which relates to the situation of interest in a study to carried out. In carrying out this study, information were gotten from selected Outdoor recreation centre in Ado-Ekiti which include Prosperous Royal Hotel, Fountain Hotel, Oluyemi Kayode Stadium, Midas Hotel, and De-jewel apartment.

The observatory survey taken note of user's perception of outdoor recreational facilities in Ado-Ekiti. The selected location was zone into six to administered 180 questionnaires. The questionnaire was designed to determine user's perception of outdoor recreational facilities. In each of the zone, 30 respondents who are users and management of each outdoor recreational facilities center will be randomly sampled. A total number of 180 questionnaires were administered out of which 150 questionnaires were retrieved. The collected data were analysis using descriptive statistic of tables and graphical presentations.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Findings established that majority of the respondents are male as 56% of them were represented while 44% are female. It is glaring from the findings that a large percentage of the respondents were single; 74% of them were represented. Meanwhile, 26% of the respondents are married as seen from the graph. This shows that singles or unmarried people patronise recreational centres more than married people. Findings showed that large frequencies of the respondent (82%) are within the age of 21-40 years, and 12% are within 41-60 years while 2% are less than 20 years of age. This shows that youths participate in recreational activities more than adults. Findings revealed that of large frequencies of the respondents have other types of occupation (Table 1). Findings showed that 94% of the recreational centres are owned by private organizations while 6% are owned by the government. This shows that private individuals

participate in hotel and recreational management more than government. This indicates that, provision of hotel and recreational activities is a source of income to members of the society/public.

Table 1. Socio-demographic characteristics of the respondents

	Frequency	Percentages of Respondent's
Gender		
Male	84	56.0
Female	66	44.0
Age		
Less than 20 yrs	6	4.0
21-40 yrs	126	86.0
41-60 yrs	18	12.0
Marital status		
Single	111	74.0
Married	39	26.0
Academic Qualification		
Primary	21	14.0
Secondary	51	34.0
Tertiary	78	52.0
Occupation		
Students	9	6.0
Artisans	3	2.0
Business men	12	8.0
Civil servant	126	84.0
Ownership		
Private	141	94.0
Government	9	6.0
Total	150	100.0

Source: Filed Survey, 2018

Level of patronage: Findings revealed the level of patronage of the recreational center. From the table below, it is obvious that the level of patronage of the recreational center is regular (Table 2). This shows a higher demand for outdoor recreational activities in the study area.

Table 2. Level of patronage

	Frequency	Percentages of Respondent's (%)
Level of patronage		
Regularly	141	94.0
Occasionally	6	4.0
Rarely	3	2.0
Total	150	100.0

Source: Filed Survey, 2018

Level of patronization from people outside Ado-Ekiti: Findings established that there is higher patronage from people outside Ekiti State. This shows that visitors outside Ado-Ekiti patronize these hotels and recreational centers on high frequency. This happens monthly or weekends and during public holidays (Table 3).

Accessibility to the recreational centers: Findings indicated that majority of this recreational centers have poor accessibility. The implication of this has negative effects on patronage on some of these recreational centers (Table 4).

Table 3. Level of patronization from people outside Ado-Ekiti

	Frequency	Percentages of Respondent's (%)
Level of Patronization from People Outside Ado-Ekiti.		
Yes	144	96.0
No	6	4.0
Total	150	100.0

Source: Filed Survey, 2018

Table 4. Accessibility to the recreational centers

	Frequency	Percentages of Respondent's
Accessibility to the recreational Centers		
Very accessible	129	86.0
Fairly accessible	18	12.0
Poorly accessible	3	2.0
Total	150	100.0

Source: Filed Survey, 2018

Type of Outdoor Recreational Facilities: From the below, majority of the recreational center sampled and interviewed fall into the Hotel category with 86%, beer/pepper soup joint and sport complex has approximately 2%, while others (Indoor/Outdoor, Amusement Park, Natural/Tourist center, Monument/Historical Park) shared the remaining percentages (plate 1, 2, 3 and 4). This shows that people invest in hotel management because it is a source of income that brings high profit to investors (Table 5).

Table 5. Type of outdoor recreational facilities

	Frequency	Percentages of Respondent's
Type of Outdoor Recreational Facilities		
Hotel	135	86.0
Beer/pepper soup joint	3	2.0
Sport complex	3	2.0
Others	9	6.0
Total	150	100.0

Source: Filed Survey, 2018

Findings showed that majority of the outdoor recreational facilities are swimming pool with 24%, while others (high jump facility, basketball pitch, table tennis, football field) shared the remaining percentages (plate 5 and 6).

Findings established that the recreational centers advertise on media using television and radio platform. This is to introduce their business presented and their product to members of the public for patronage. Findings revealed that the available facilities provided for recreation is adequate and enough (plate 7 and 8).



Plate 1. Fountain Hotel in the Study Area



Plate 2. Fountain Hotel "Ayo Olopon"



Plate 3. Fountain Hotel Volleyball Court



Plate 4. Ekiti State Sports Council

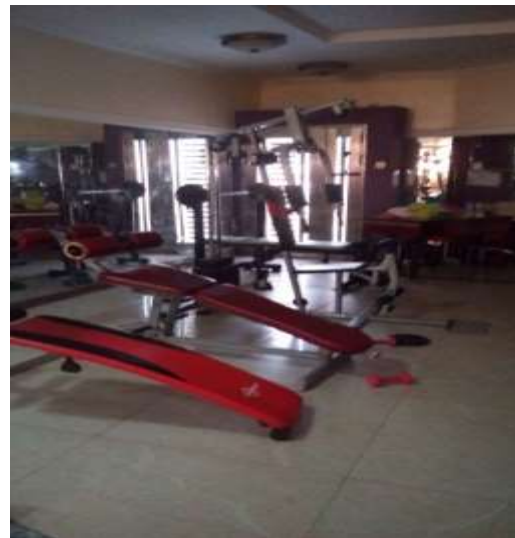


Plate 7. Midas Hotel Gymnasium Room



Plate 5. Fountain Hotel Swimming Pool In Bad Condition



Plate 8: Prosperous Royal Hotel Table-Tennis



Plate 6. Midas Hotel Swimming Pool Room

Findings revealed that Swimming is the best recreational activity of most of the respondents. This indicates that people engage in swimming more than any outdoor recreational activities, both private and government should improve.

Findings also showed that 88% of the respondents go for recreation for fun while 8% is for exercise and 2% for weight reduction.

This indicates that people recreate for fun. Finding revealed that 54% of the respondents visit recreational centre once in a week and 30% twice a week while the others share the remaining percentage.

This shows that most of people participate in recreational activities especially on weekends (Table 6).

Table 6. Socio-demographic characteristics of the respondents

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	Frequency	Percentages of Respondent's
Type of Outdoor Recreational Facilities		
Swimming pool	36	24.0
Football field	3	2.0
Table tennis	6	4.0
Others	36	24.0
Advertisement of Recreational Centers on Media		
Yes	87	58.0
No	63	42.0
Availability of Facilities at the Creation Centers		
Yes	81	54.0
No	69	46.0
Recreational activity		
Football	57	38.0
Basketball	9	6.0
Swimming	69	46.0
Table tennis	12	8.0
Other	3	2.0
Reason for Participating in Recreational Activities		
Fun	135	90.0
Exercise	12	8.0
Reduction of weight	3	2.0
Recreational periods		
Once a week	78	52.0
Twice a week	45	30.0
Thrice a week	12	6.0
Not at all	6	4.0
Every day	9	8.0
Total	150	100.0

Source: Filed Survey, 2018

Conclusion: The result of the study has shown that the outdoor recreational facilities are inadequate in the study area and not properly maintained. Therefore, there should be an upgrade in the recreational facilities in government recreational centers to increase the participation in recreating in Ado-Ekiti. Also after the upgrade of recreation facilities in study area, there should be a proper management and maintenance of those facilities. Furthermore, Ministry of Tourism should regulate and moderate the facility managers on charges based on the kind of facilities and services rendered to enable the ordinary people to have access to recreation activities. People should be made aware of the existing outdoor recreational activities such as football match, volley ball, table tennis etc. and the benefit of engaging in it. Looking at the benefit rather than having the feeling that it's a mere waste of money and time. This should be done through adequate enlightenment campaign, disabusing their minds against the wrong perception of recreation activities through, the National Orientation Agency of Nigeria.

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