



The Tourism Industry Conundrum and the Nigeria Experience

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ABSTRACT

Tourism is arguably one of the world's natural goldmines that impact positively on the economy of any nation. This paper attempts an evaluation of the development of the tourism industry in Nigeria as a nation from 1953 when the seeds of tourism were gradually being planted in the country to 2012, the period during which the gains of tourism were becoming visible in the Nigerian economy. The paper thus, explores the contributions of tourism to the economic growth and development of Nigeria with some reference to the Cross River region. The paper reveals that bright tourism redlines are visible in the flora and fauna of the nation, in the material and human elements, and in the character, philosophy and direction of the government. From its hills and mountains to its waters and swamps, the nation has a corporate identity that draws tourists in throngs, and captures the interest of the investor and international agencies, financial and otherwise. The paper concludes that Nigeria is fast becoming the prime tourism destination of the world with its beautiful beaches, historical sites, and stunning flora and fauna, waterfalls and lakes. Growth in tourism has provided the nation with a budget to improve services, make infrastructure investments and has helped grow other sectors of the economy. In spite of the benefits to be derived from tourism, this paper advises that government should not lose sight of the negative and retrogressive impact of the programme on the land and people, and should make early plans to stem its evil effects in future, for they are bound to occur with time. Government should also view other sectors of the economy with interest, and should harness them with tourism so as to achieve a robust economic development for the nation.

INTRODUCTION

This paper starts with an attempted definition of tourism; thereafter, it examines what tourism is all about. The paper goes on to review the study of tourism and the development of tourism in Nigeria. Tourism resources and its significance to the Nigerian economy is also examined. The paper further takes a critical look at tourism development in the Cross River region and its tourism sites. The positive and negative impacts of tourism are considered in this paper, while the paper also proffers solutions to the evil and retrogressive aspects of tourism programmes in the country.

Definition

Writers have given various definitions to what tourism is all about. For example, Kelly (1998), considers that tourism includes all travelling except commuting. This definition is too all embracing, for it would involve not only all out-of-home recreation, but also travelling for such purposes as visiting doctors. In other words, this definition fails to differentiate tourism from other forms of mobility. Another definition, necessarily arbitrary, is the practical definition preferred by international bodies such as the World Tourism Organisation, whereby tourism includes all travels that involves a stay of at least one night, but less than one year away from home. This therefore includes travel for such purposes as visiting friends, or relatives, or to undertake business activities. It is a definition based on the duration rather than motivation of mobility. This definition then has the advantage of being relatively easily measurable, which gives it apparent objectivity. However, it stands in contrast to the experimental definition of leisure. Nevertheless, it is the definition commonly used within the literature of tourism.

What tourism is all about

It could therefore be argued that tourism is a growing global business with more leisure time and disposable income. More people are travelling and more of them choosing to visit places. Tourism therefore comprises an export and a generator of income and employment standing beyond traditional primary production and the emergent industrialization, and is so fervently favoured in recent times (Edet J. A., 2006:9-12). Indeed, tourism, conceivably can bolster capacity of or the transition to the more diverse and sophisticated economy currently being envisaged.

The study of tourism

The study of tourism is the study of people away from their usual habitat, of the establishments which respond to the requirements of travelers, and the impact that they have on the economic, physical and social well being of their hosts. Edet (12) states that it involves the motivations and experiences

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of the tourists, the expectations of, and adjustments made by the residents of the reception areas, and the roles played by the numerous agencies and institutions which intercede for them.

International worldwide tourism

Tourism gained international recognition in 1925. Ayodele and Falade (1992) posit that international tourism was started in the Netherlands by one Mr. Deventer. Tourism had since then matured into a strong industry which now restores hope in the economic status of most developed nations of the world, as well as injects sanity and beauty into the entire environment. Tourism business is reputed to be the world's number one means of employment. Through this business transaction, each year, over 600 million people travel all over the world. Hundreds of millions more journey within their home country, doing so for both work and pleasure. As a result, tourism industry which includes hotels, resorts, airlines, travel agencies and other businesses that cater to travelers is described as the world's number one employer worldwide. Worldwide tourism as a matter of fact generates an estimated four trillion dollars annually. Individual tourists may not view themselves as a part of a world peace movement, but this is how the UN Tourism Organisation describes the industry (Effiom, 2006:117).

The seeds of modern tourism industry in the west

It could be argued that the seeds of modern tourists industry in the West were sown especially in the 19th century. As the industrial revolution swelled the ranks and file of the middle class in Europe and the United States, a growing number of people found themselves with both the money and the time to travel. The 20th century has been regarded as a century of tourist boom. The growing familiarity within foreigners fostered by tourism did not however restrain the outbreak of two world wars during the first half of the 20th century.

Rather than ruining tourism, Effiom (2006: 118) argues that the social changes and technological advances spurred by those wars actually accelerated the tempo and growth of the world tourism industry. As air travel became faster and less expensive, highways spread across continents, and motor vehicles proliferated. By the middle of the 20th century, holiday and tourist travel became an accepted part of western culture, and were available to most classes of the society. In addition, millions of household acquired television sets, and became fascinated by pictures of exotic locations, thus fueling the urge to travel.

During the 1960s, the number of international tourists reached 70 million each year. By the mid 1990s, that figure increased to over 500 million. Around the globe, tourist resorts sprang up to cater to both international and domestic travelers. Industries not directly associated with tourism benefitted since tourists consume vast quantities of food and drinks,

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and spend money on numerous other foods and services. Today, tourism is important to the economy of over one hundred and twenty five countries of the world.

Tourism development in Nigeria

According to Olokesusi (1987: 81), the first attempt at tourism development in Nigeria was made when Nigeria was still under British colonial rule. It was during this period, precisely in 1953 that the first attempt at the management of Nigerian tourism resources was made through the establishment of the Colonial Antiquities Commission. The Commission was asked to identify and preserve national monuments and antiquities. In 1959, an Ad-Hoc Committee on tourism was inaugurated. The committee which came under the auspices of the Nigerian Ministry of Commerce and Industry was put together by the then National government of Nigeria. Emanating from the activities of this committee was the Nigerian Tourist Association established in 1962 as a quasi-governmental organization. The association was charged with the promotion of a healthy domestic tourism programme in the country, and international tourism for its foreign exchange benefits.

In 1963, the Nigerian Tourist Association became a member of the International Union of Official Travel Organisation, now World Tourism Organisation (WTO) – an international body devoted to tourism. It was however, in 1975, thirteen years after the establishment of the Nigerian Tourism Association that tourism received positive attention in the nation's economic planning with an allocation of N120 million from the then military government. In December 19, 1976, the military government enacted the decree number 54 which formally established the Nigerian Tourist Board. Olukesusi (1987: 85), informs us that the Board was charged with the responsibility of promoting the development of tourism in Nigeria through co-ordinated researches, planning and publicity. Among the functions of the Board were: to encourage people living in Nigeria to take their holidays therein, and people from abroad to visit Nigeria; to encourage the provision and improvement of tourism amenities and facilities in Nigeria, including the development of hotels and ancillary facilities; to render financial assistance to the states in the field of tourism; and to assist in the development of museums and historic sites, parks, game reserves, beaches, natural beauty spots, holiday resorts and souvenir industries.

Pursuant to the establishment of the Nigerian Tourist Board, most state governments inaugurated state tourist committees charged with the responsibility of taking positive measures to develop tourism in their respective jurisdictions. In 1985, for instance, the Lagos State government set up a twelve member committee to oversee the development of tourism in the state. This committee metamorphosed into the Ministry of Home Affairs and Tourism in Lagos State. In the same vein, the Kaduna State government in 1986 reconstituted a state tourism committee charged with the

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responsibility of harmonizing government tourism policies by considering the prevalent economic position of tourism investors in the state.

In February 1987, the Anambra State government constituted the Mmonwu festival to boost tourism in the State. The Plateau State government went into partnership with private investors in certain tourism ventures in the State. The Plateau amusement park limited, the proprietors of Jos amusement park, and the Rock Hotel Limited – owners of Jos Sheraton Hotel are two of such government private sector investments. The urge to promote tourism was then a prominent feature in many of the states of the federation.

Following the inadequacies of the Nigerian Tourist Board and the State tourist committees' inability to function and perform adequately, the decree number 81 of 1992 was promulgated establishing the Nigerian Tourism Development Corporation to oversee tourism development in the country. The corporation was regulated by the then Ministry of Commerce and Tourism which was later reconstituted and named Ministry of Culture and Tourism by the Obasanjo civilian administration in January, 2000. Section 7, number 1 of the decree also established state tourism boards in each state of the federation, while the same decree section 10, no. 1 also established for each local government of a state a committee known as local government tourism committee. These committees and boards were geared towards building a strong, virile and portent tourism industry in the country.

Anam posits that the Nigerian government in her quest to diversify her mono-cultural economy, which is heavily dependent on petroleum export, has decided to take some measures to promote travel and tourism. The measures include the establishment of the National Tourism Policy (NTP) in 1990, the birth of the Nigerian Tourism Development Corporation (NTDC) in 1992, the founding of the National Institute for Hospitality and Tourism Bureau (NTB), a tour operating company of NTDC, (NTDC, 2001), the adoption of a Tourism Master Plan and National Tourism Council with the President as Chairman – the aims of these measures can be summarized as follows: to make Nigeria the ultimate tourism destination in Africa, and, to make tourism one of the greatest foreign exchange earners in an oil dependent economy. The debate going on now is on what has prevented Nigeria from being first, a preferred destination for tourism, and secondly, why Nigeria has not been ranked as a top tourist destination in the world despite the numerous tourism destinations that abound in the country.

Tourism resources in Nigeria

Tourism resources here refers to those resources which consist of the wealth and materials available to an individual or a nation, and which can be used to achieve desired objectives (Ekpe: 38). Two basic types of resources can be identified: natural and cultural resources. Natural resources here include the material gifts of nature like mountains, lakes, rivers, waterfalls, plain grass lands, minerals, soils, animals and plants; while cultural resources would

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refer to those rich-non material attributes acquired within the society and transmitted through generations. These include beliefs, festivals, architecture, masquerades, dances, drama, iron working, wood work, carving, moulding, metal works, paintings, drawing, etc. The Olulumo Rock in Ogun State and Ogbunike Cave in Anambra can be classified as examples of cultural resources (W. A. Lipe, 1984:6; Ekpe, 38). Nigeria's prime natural tourism resources include the following: the Ikogosi Warm Springs at Ekiti State, the Owu Falls in Kwara State being the steepest natural waterfalls in West Africa, the Niger – Benue Confluence where the rivers Niger and Benue joins at Lokoja, the Assop Falls located about forty kilometers from Jos, the Wikki Warm Springs deep inside the Yankari Game Reserve, the Kainji Lake Game Reserve located in Niger and Kwara States – here could be found elephants, lions, hippos, and crocodiles in their natural habitats; and the Esie museum which displays terracotta, artifacts and figurines dating from the 13th to the 16th centuries in Ilorin in Kwara State (Ekpe, 2012: 35-38).

There are also the golf courses in Abuja, Lamingo in Jos, Ewekoro, Ikeja, Ilorin, Ibadan and in other parts of Nigeria. The rock painting of Birnin Kudu in Jigawa State, the Obudu Cattle Ranch in Cross River State, the Zuma Rock in Abuja, Three Sister Hills in Adamawa State, Lebeno Beach in Akwa Ibom State – famous for bathing and swimming, the Yankari Game Reserve in Bauchi State, the Gurara Falls in Borno village in Niger State, the Olumo Rock in Ogun State and the Isaac Boro Park in the Rivers State. In fact the list is endless.

The cultural tourism resources of Nigeria include, the Eyo festival which is the annual festival of the Eko people of Lagos State. There is also, the Kwa-Ghir festival of the Tiv people of Benue State, the Durbar – this is usually a festival culminating in a horse race at the behest of an Emir – a traditional ruler. With roots in the Islamic way of life, the Durbar is colourful, exciting and open to all to watch. There is also the Argungu fishing festival in Sokoto State, the Boat regatta of the Ijaw of the Niger Delta area, the New yam festivals of the Igbo and the Yakurr of Cross River State, the Itsekiri Juju festival of Delta State, still the Argungu fishing and cultural festival celebrated in Kebbi State, the Egungu festival of Ogun State, the Osun festival celebrated in honour of the ancient gods of Yorubaland (Ekpe, 42-45).

Significance of tourism to the Nigerian economy

It could be argued that at the moment, tourism seem to be the king of all public enterprise in Nigeria. It is not only known to be the greatest earner of global foreign receipts, it is also the world's fastest growing economic sector. According to Ude (2002:10) and Effiom (2006:116), tourism generates over US \$693 billion capital investment, and providing over 200 million jobs globally. It also contributes substantially to the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) of not only Nigeria, but of major world economies like the United

States, India, Brazil, Tanzania, Morocco, South Africa, Egypt, Zimbabwe and Kenya. These countries have been trail blazers in tourism.

Beyond this, the industry's role in eradicating poverty and generating income employment is taking the centre stage of socio-economic debates, particularly in developing economies. According to the World Tourism Report of 2004, tourism is regarded as "the world's most important source of employment. It stimulates enormous investment, infrastructure, most of which also helps to improve the living conditions of local people, and provides governments with substantial tax revenues. Most new tourism jobs and businesses are created helping to equalize economic opportunities" (W.T. Report, 2004). Similarly, Okorafor (1995:2), states that, "with the possible exception of mineral oil, the tourist trade is the most important item in world trade with its attendant overwhelming economic impacts". Thus, an effective implementation of tourism programme will definitely stimulate the growth of the economy of Nigeria.

An economic sector with these intrinsic credentials is particularly significance to Nigeria that is threatened by poverty. In Nigeria, poverty and unemployment has become a scourge, apparently defying quick solution. However, tourism is capable of handling poverty because it is an economic programme where the peoples' wealth is put in their hands. The economic benefit of tourism derive from the fact that not only do they act as a source of revenue, employment and physical development catalyst, they also stimulate the improvement of such facilities that are incidental to tourism development such as communication and other ancillary services. For we cannot talk about effective tourism development when those factors that directly or indirectly influence tourism are not improved. As rightly underscored by Alagoa, "Domestic tourism has great potentials in terms of numbers and the benefits to the economy and to national understanding and mutual respect between peoples and the national integration" (Alagoa, 1988:7).

Nigeria's vast tourism treasures have created new jobs in the tourism industry and in the services sectors as a result of tourist visitations to the country. The number of international and domestic tourists increased by more than 10 percent in 2003 due to the important events that took place in Nigeria between October and December when the 8th All African Games and the meeting of the Commonwealth heads of states took place. These events increased the employment opportunities in hotels, restaurants, gift shops, travel agencies, and in the various tourist destinations in the country.

Tourism could also be used to resuscitate the culture of a given tourist destination. Tilburg argues that apart from improving the condition of the people, tourism can be made to preserve rather than disfigure the cultural as well as the physical character of a country (Tilburg H. L., 1973: 109). UNESCO similarly observes that, "tourists bring money. It is only natural that, part of this money should serve to maintain, to restore, and to display the monuments and thus the monuments attracts still more tourists" (UNESCO, Paris, 1970:16).

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At this point, it could be argued that revenue from petroleum and its by-products may be terminal as this is controlled by geological phenomena – which are prone to natural changes or research pursuits which may result in the discovery of other resources of energy. But, unlike petroleum, revenue from tourism is sustained and could be a lot more diversified than that from petroleum because of the multi various activities which make up the tourist industry. Thus, since Nigeria cannot afford to be left behind in the present world economic order, it is imperative that the nation puts in place continuous effort for intensive and extensive development of the tourist industry.

Tourism development: The Cross River example

The Cross River region is one of the 36 states of Nigeria, and as presently constituted has an area of 23,075 km, and a population of 2 million. It lies between latitude 5°32' and 4°27' north and longitude 7°50' and 2°20' east (www.crossriverforum.com/goog. position). The region is bordered on the north by Benue State, on the south by Akwa Ibom State, on the east by the Republic of Cameroon, and to the west by both Ebonyi and Abia States (Erim, E. O., 1988:40). The area lies within the tropical zone, but the Obudu Plateau (Cattle ranch) with an altitude of 1,575.76 metres above sea level has a temperate climate all the year round. Like other regions in the southern part of Nigeria, the region has two main climatic seasons; the raining season which starts by the middle of April to October, and the dry season which begins from November to the middle of April. The eighteen local government areas include Abi, Akamkpa, Akpabuyo, Biase, Yakurr, Boki, Ikom, Etung, Obanliku, Obubra, Odukpani, Calabar South, Calabar Municipality, Bekwarra, Ogoja, Bakassi, Obudu and Yala.

Cross River is one of the most significant in Nigeria's economic wealth. The extensive land mass of the region is extremely rich in forest, agriculture, animal, mineral and tourism resources. The region holds about one third of the country's total reserve area of 6.101.29km (Nwakonobi G., 2004: 61). Economically viable, the region has valuable wood species such as iroko trees, mahogany, aphara, opepe, obeche, abura, utile, teak, mangrove and many others (Effiom, 2006:99-103). The flora and fauna species inventory of the region is very rich with many of them endemic to the region. There are two humid primates – the Cross River gorilla, gorilla Delhi, and the chimpanzee pantroghodytes among others. Here can also be found the once considered extinct bird the bare-headed rock fowl *R pcarthalis*.

It could be argued that the development of tourism in the region is super imposed on the fact that tourism is an evolutionary science as well as contemporary. The world's economic shift to tourism is based on the notion that a nation or state endowed with reserved resources like gold or diamond normally concentrates on industrial activities on such resources. The resources that abound in the region that encourages tourism development include historical monuments, natural beauty and warm climate, scenic hills,

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lakes, beaches, waterfalls, wildlife sanctuaries, peaceful atmosphere and the rich culture with their inbuilt natural advantages.

Tourism sites in the Cross River region

The Obudu Cattle Ranch is one of the many tourism sites of the region. This ranch offers the leisure seeker and the conference goer complete satisfaction. Situated on the Oshie ridge of the Sankwala mountains, this 'mountain retreat' is a great favourite with Nigerians as well as their neighbours in Ghana and Cameroon, and even recently across the world. The Obudu mountain resort and its cable car said to be Africa's longest cable car system, the restaurants, natural swimming pools, squash courts, equipped gym, flood lit tennis courts, etc, makes the ranch a complete holiday resort and a befitting relaxation centre.

For the purposes of space, we shall briefly mention other sites. There is the Tinapa business resort conceived as an alternative entertainment and retail destination to what is available in Dubai or South Africa. The Afi mountain wildlife sanctuary, the canopy walkway, the Calabar drill monkey sanctuary (CERCOPAN), the Calabar Marina Beach resort, the Calabar Museum, the Cross River National Park, the Ikom monoliths, and the Mary Slessor's tomb at Akpap Okoyong are all among these tourism sites in the region.

Festivals as aspects of tourism

Another aspect of tourism worthy of mention is festivals. Nwakonobi (2004:61), defines a festival as a special occasion when people celebrate something dear to them. He further posits that, "festivals constitute some of the most interesting manifestations of Nigerian culture". Thus, festivals usually involves such colourful activities as masquerade display, dubars, boat regattas and colourful traditional dances. In the region, we have the Cross River Christmas festival in Calabar occasioned by Christmas lighting ceremonies, fashion shows, food demonstration and cultural exhibitions, talent shows, music concert, fun fairs, carol services, parades, picnics, and the annual boat regatta which is a colourful display of flamboyantly decorated boats by pitting local riverine teams against each other.

Other festivals include the Calabar carnival, the Leboku festival of the Yakurr people of the region, and sports. Sports accounted for the upshot in travels across the world with more number of tourists embarking on leisure travels to watch continental, regional or national games often played in the Calabar sports stadium. The Commonwealth games, the Olympic games, the FIFA world cup, the European foot ball leagues, etc, have over the years drawn many tourists to different parts of the world.

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Positive impact of tourism

The major objective of developing the tourism industry in Nigeria is maximizing potential negative impacts. Tourism increases employment opportunities. Additional job creation ranging from low wage entry level to high paying professional positions in management and technical fields; it generates income and raises standards of living. Particularly in the rural areas, the diversification created by tourism helps communities that are possibly dependent on only one industry. As tourism grows, additional opportunities are created for investments, development and infrastructure spending.

Achonwa (2008:5) posits that the tourism industry has the potential to become a major driver of the Cross River economy, wean the states' dependence on the monthly federation account allocations, provide a viable means of income for individuals, small, medium and large scale enterprises centered on the provision of related goods and services. The hotel and hospitality industry in Nigeria has witnessed dramatic growth and activity over the last ten years with the Cross River Tourism Bureau recording over 250 registered hotels in the area.

Tourism often induce involvement in public utilities such as water, sewage, side walks, lighting, parking lots, public restrooms, litter control and landscaping. Improvement benefits tourists and residents alike. Likewise, tourism encourages improvement in transport infrastructure resulting in the upgrading of roads, airports, public transportation, and sanitation. It increases opportunities for shopping and adding to healthy competitiveness. It often increases a community's tax revenue lodging and sales taxes most notably increase, but additional tax revenue include air travel and other transportation taxes, business taxes and fuel taxes. New jobs arising from tourism generates income tax revenue for government.

The future of tourism in Nigeria

What is the future of tourism in Nigeria? This question is pertinent arising from the insufficient attention, improper policies, programmed corruption and the general indifference and apathy that government has towards the development of this and other sectors of the economy which has been the order of the day. The scenario becomes more alarming and worrisome, particularly when one considers the fact that internationally acclaimed tourist sites in Nigeria like the Obudu Cattle Ranch in Cross River, the Cross River National Park, the Yankari Games Reserve in Benue State, the Ikogosi Hills of Jos in Plateau State, just to mention a few, were either undeveloped or left to pine away by past governments (Udeh, 2002:10). In its totality, Nigeria is yet to reap the benefit of her rich tourism potentials if she would be serious with the programme. For it seems the programme is still in its infancy, because, if the results were to be there, its positive impacts would have been visibly felt by the generality of the people.

Negative impacts of tourism

In their study titled “The Future of Tourism in the World”, Leonard J. Lickerish and Carl L. Jenkins pointed to the negative impact of tourism all over the world. The authors argue that there are striking examples from almost every country in the world where tourism development has been identified as being the main cause of environmental degradation (see Effiom, 2006:123). Examples of environmental problems occasioned by tourists could be seen in India and Egypt. In India, the historic Taj Mahal is suffering wear and tear arising from visitors, and in Egypt, the ancient pyramids are also being threatened by large number of visitors.

Uncontrolled tourism can kill or stunt vegetation when hordes of visitors tramp through preserves. Moreover, species can be endangered when tourist collect items such as rare seashells and coral, or when local residents gather these items to sell to tourists. Tourists produce pollution, an average of one kilogram of solid waste and a litter each day or per tourist according to estimates by the United National Environmental Programme. Even the most remote locations could suffer from tourist pollution. A report from the Rainforest Action Network has it that in popular Himalayan tourist routes, litter has been strewn along the trail, and the Alpine forest has been decimated by travelers looking for fuel to heat and bath water (Effiom, 2006:124).

Furthermore, tourists often consume a disproportionate amount of resources at the expense of the local inhabitants. James Mark’s study, titled “*Tourism and the Economy* (1990), reveals that tourists in Grenada consume seven times as much as residents. He added that directly or indirectly, tourism account for forty percent of the total energy consumed in Hawaii, although an average of only one out of every eight people in Hawaii is a tourist (Effiom, 125).

Financial loses

It could be argued that while tourists may spend a lot of money to visit developing countries, for instance Nigeria, most of the monies hardly benefit the local people. The World Bank estimated that only 45 percent of the revenue raised by tourists reaches the coffers of the host country. Most of the money flow back to the development countries by way of oversea tour operators, and foreign owned accommodation. If the World Bank’s report is to be accepted, one would now ask the question, of what financial benefit is tourism to Nigeria?

Adverse Social Impact

Relatively affluent western tourists visiting developing countries can have other subtle and sometimes not so subtle adverse effects on local cultures. Tourists for instance, often bring their material comfort with them. For the

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local people, such wealth may be unimagined. Many locals come to desire such expensive things but cannot pay for them without major life style changes – changes that may involve detrimental social behavior.

Loss of Cultural and Community Identity

The present mad rush for tourist development in Nigeria has not yet yielded any meaningful and any visible results, and if not checked, could lead to the loss of cultural and community identity of the people, and usher in conflict in traditional society over the use of community owned lands and natural resources. It could also lead to increased antisocial activities such as crime and prostitution. Of recent, while celebrating the Calabar carnival, a troupe from Brazil paraded some women who danced naked along the streets of Calabar in the name of carnival and tourism. Isn't that antisocial? Is that the features of our Nigerian culture?

Often tourists feel free of restraint, so they engage in activities that they would not share in if they were at home around family and friends. Thus, the morality of tourists as a result has become a problem of serious consequences. World wide concern is growing over the effects of tourism in child prostitution. In 2004, for instance, CNN news agency reported that reliable estimates points to sixteen to twenty thousand child sex victims in Mexico largely in border, urban, and in tourist areas (Effiom, 2006:26).

CONCLUSION

Nigerian government should be aware of the likely negative repercussions of tourism on the people and on the environment, and should from the start take early precautionary measures to stem the ugly tide of tourism's retrogressive consequences in future, because, they are bound to occur with time. Thus, in her pursuit of tourism, government should not only focus on the financial and economic benefits the programme is likely to offer, after all, it has been said that money is certainly not every thing in life. Government should put on ground propelling mechanism that will check and permanently stem the ugly and evil aspects of tourism.

Overdependence on the oil sector by Nigeria has grossly affected other sectors of the economy. Today, nobody talks about the groundnut pyramids of Kano, coal of Enugu, tin and columbite of Jos – Plateau, cocoa of the West, etc., which used to generate a lot of revenue for the country hence complementing the oil sector. To redress this situation therefore, Anam (2012: 17), posits that there is need to invest in this industry and develop it to meet international standards. But in her pursuit of tourism, government should not lose sight of the development of other sectors of the economy. The country is rich in abundant mineral resources waiting to be fully

exploited. The country also has vast forestry and fishery resources, there are also laudable agricultural and industrialization programmes on ground. Thus, the emphasis should not be completely shifted to tourism. Tourism programmes should be pursued with caution, government should also pursue the development of other sectors of the Nigerian economy with all amount of honesty and sincerity so that the common man can reap the benefits of belonging to a civilized society. The pursuit of tourism with other sectors of the economy inclusive, is the only way that this country can be transformed, all things being equal, into a paradise in Africa.

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