

**EVALUATION OF IKOGOSI WARM SPRING; A POTENTIAL GEOTOURIST SITE  
IN EKITI STATE, SOUTHWEST, NIGERIA.  
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**ABSTRACT:** *Government's objectives for the establishment of Ikogosi Warm Spring as a tourist attraction was investigated vis-à-vis its current status, operation and contribution to adjoining community in an evaluative study. Various methods of sampling technique were employed to select sample for this study. First, purposive sampling method was used to select 100 residents of the Ikogosi community who are 18 years and above. Secondly, accidental and availability sampling methods was also used to select 100 tourists among the tourist that patronize Ikogosi Warm Spring. Thirdly, random sampling method was then employed to select 25 respondents each from the staff of Ekiti State Tourism Board, Ekiti State Board of Internal Revenue, Ekiti State Ministry of Finance and Ikogosi Warm Spring Resort Limited. This same method was used to select 100 respondents from other tourism stake holders (comprising of Hoteliers, Tour Operators, Travel Agents, Restaurants and Car Hire Services Operators etc) within Ekiti State. In all a total of 400 respondents were selected. The findings of this study shows that the operation of Ikogosi Warm Spring is still in line with the goals and objectives with which it was established as a tourist attraction. This is evident in the findings of this study as indicated that the attraction contributes to promotion of recreation and tourism and improvement of standard of living in the community and consequently in the state at large, providing jobs for the people and income for the government. Even though, it is evident that there are challenges facing the local people of Ikogosi-Ekiti where the attraction is located, it should also be noted that most of the population still believe that the gains of these attractions far outweighs the losses. The study concludes that the emergence of Ikogosi Warm Spring Resort Limited provided enormous social and economic benefits to the immediate local community in terms of employment, infrastructure, and income generation hence, both public and private investors should invest more capital in Tourism.*

**KEYWORDS:** Evaluation, Ikogosi Warm Spring, Geotourist Site

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## **INTRODUCTION**

### **Background of the Study**

Tourism promotion and development being one of the eight point agenda of the current Governor of Ekiti State (Dr. Kayode Fayemi) has given majority of the tourism potentials in the state the governments' attention. Out of the twenty-one tourism potentials listed for development and promotion in Ekiti State (which includes: Ikogosi Warm Spring and Resort, Arinta Water Falls, Kosegbe Stone, Orole Hill, Olosunta Hills, Fajuyi Memorial Park, Erin Ayonigba River, Efon Alaaye Hills, Okemesi Hills, Olota, Ajo, Age, Ayoba, Uta Epe Hills, Ooni River, Osun River, Egbigbu Lake, Esa Cave, Oroke Ewo War Site and Ero Dam); the Ikogosi Warm Spring seems to

standout because of the uniqueness of its features as compared to any other of such worldwide. The features of the other twenty tourism potential in Ekiti State can also be found in some other states within Nigeria and abroad. In the case of the Ikogosi warm Spring, it is not just the warm spring, rather its uniqueness lies in the fact that there is also a cold spring flowing side by side the warm spring and both the warm and the cold springs meeting at a point and then continue to flow onward together with another mysterious behavior whereby each spring retaining its thermal identity (ekititourism.com, 2012). This uniqueness also makes it the first of such occurrence in the world. This uniqueness accounts for the potentials of the Ikogosi Warm Spring Resort to be a destination of choice for tourist from far and near. More so, amongst all the aforementioned tourist attractions in Ekiti State, the Ikogosi Warm and Cold Spring which is geotouristic in nature seems to have been the most favourable in terms of governments' attention in the area of investment for development and promotion of tourism in Ekiti State most especially during this present administration of Governor Kayode Fayemi.

## **STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM**

It is not every abiotic natural resource that can be mined, some needed to be preserved in their natural state in order to ensure retention of their naturalness. The environment of most of such natural resources needs to be declared either as a protected area (such as, a forest reserve or a game reserve) or a park, monument, heritage site or sanctuary which is usually backed by legislation. In the event of a Government willing to develop a site with geological features for tourism use, such site can then be pronounced a geotourism site. An upgrade of such an environment thereby transforms the place to a destination of choice to tourist. Geotourism sites are the most widely visited of all natural attractions worldwide (Elzbieta Slomka Et al, 2006). The Ondo State Government recognized the immense benefit that tourism can provide to the Community and so declared the Ikogosi Warm and Cold Spring as a Tourism Destination in 1976. The site which was first discovered by a native hunter named "Ogangan" in the early 19<sup>th</sup> century in the course of his usual hunting exercise was first publicized by the late Nigerian Educator and Writer "Dr. Tai Solarin" in the 1960s and since then, it has been visited for learning purposes by students on excursion and tourist. A British Baptist Reverend named John Macgee later took control of the site and built youth camp and chapel around the site for religious purposes (David Mc'Gee, 2009). The aim of the government for declaring the site as tourist destination in 1976 was to promote recreation and tourism in the state, improve standard of living and generate income for the state. Since then, there has been yearly budgetary allocation for the site; Recently, in the year 2012, Ekiti State Government led by Dr. John Kayode Fayemi Spent about the sum of 1.258 billion naira on renovation and upgrading of the facilities at the tourist destination for the first phase development (Ozolua Uhakheme, 2012). Also the sum of 900 million naira has budgeted for the second phase development of the site for the year 2013 with the aim of reclaiming the goal of the tourist attraction and transforming the place to a world-class tourist destination, promote recreation and tourism in the state and generate more income for the state government.

However, since Ikogosi Warm Spring as a tourist destination has been receiving government budgetary allocation yearly and with the renew vigour place on the site by the present administration, there is a need to understand the extent at which government has achieve her objective as a guide for policy implementation. As laudable as this task may be, there is no existing study known to authors directed towards this. It is on this basis that the present study focuses on

the evaluation of Ikogosi Warm Spring; A potential Geotourism site in Ekiti State, Southwest, Nigeria. The need to do this constitutes the focus of this study.

### **Aim and Objectives**

The aim of the study is to evaluate the effectiveness of Ikogosi Warm Spring to the socio-economic development of Ekiti State. The aim of the Study will be achieved through the following specific objectives.

1. Identify the Origin and the objective of Ikogosi Warm Spring.
2. Investigate the level of tourist patronage and their perception about the effectiveness of the Ikogosi Warm Spring.
3. Examine the socio-economic contribution of the Ikogosi Warm Spring.
4. Determine the constraint hindering the Ikogosi Warm Spring from achieving its objectives
5. Suggest appropriate measures to improve the effectiveness of the project

### **STUDY AREA**

Description of the Ikogosi Warm Spring.

In the heart of Ikogosi, a small, quiet town with rich, local customs, in the Western part of Ekiti State (Ekiti Tourism Corridor), lies a warm spring which has now catapulted Ikogosi-Ekiti to national and international limelight ([ekititourism.com](http://ekititourism.com), 2012). What is mysterious about the Ikogosi Warm Spring is the fact that, flowing side by side the warm spring, is another spring, a cold one. According to experts, it is a geological wonder to have such occurrence out of the same rock formation and this Ekiti flagship tourist destination is said to be the only one of its kind discovered anywhere in the world. The warm and cold springs of Ikogosi originate from a close proximity, come to a meeting point, and flow onward together with each spring retaining its thermal identity. It represents uniqueness and is the first of such occurrence in the world. The warm spring has a temperature of up to 70<sup>0</sup>C at the source and 37<sup>0</sup>C after meeting the cold spring. The meeting point of the warm and cold springs is a unique attraction to tourists. (Jimoh, 2012).

The springs sprout out and flow with a constant temperature and volume up to 150 litres/seconds from morning till night, at all seasons, all-year round. The whole environment of the spring has been deliberately left untampered with, for eco-tourism appeal while the source of the warm spring has been provided with a viewing structure for easy spotting by tourists. Strangely also, there is a tree and a palm growing from the same source at the meeting point area of the warm and cold springs. A wonderful work of Mother Nature! Another unique quality of the Ikogosi Warm Spring is its acclaimed curative power. It is widely-believed to have some kind of therapeutic effect which relieves body aches and all sorts of ailments. A lot of tourists visiting the place take advantage of the large warm water swimming pool provided for this purpose and other recreational needs. It is also the home of the 5-star Gossy Brand Spring Water bottled by UAC of Nigeria.

### **Geographical Location**

Ikogosi-Ekiti, where the warm spring is located is in Ekiti West Local government of Ekiti State of Nigeria. It is situated in a valley and from the surrounding hills rises the warm spring. The Vegetation of this resort centre is a highly thick forest. This natural and rich vegetation is closely maintained and protected from arbitrary deforestation. The area covered by this resort centre is

about 31.38 and it is highly protected from erosion by tall and evergreen trees. These trees also serve as a sort of canopy under which tourists could stay during the dry season and sunny days. The undulating topography of the entire tourist centre and the symmetry of the surrounding hills add more to the aesthetic beauty of this centre. There is a pass that cuts across the Tourist centre to the equally popular Erinta Water Falls at Ipole Iloro, a few kilometres to the Warm Spring (ekititourism.com, 2012).

The Haven of tourists in Nigeria. Ekiti State is richly endowed with tourism potentials. Tourists to the state would be irresistibly charmed with the beauties of Ikogosi where warm and cold water oozing from different sources flowing separately to join in a pool but each retaining its thermal identity. Ikogosi Warm spring is about 55km from Akure, the Ondo State capital. Ikogosi is located in Ekiti West LGA which is about 30km from Ado-Ekiti, the Ekiti State Capital (ekititourism.com, 2012).



Figure 1: map of Nigeria depicting Ekiti State as the shaded area on the map.



Figure 2: Map of Ekiti State.

## LITERATURE

The findings of many scholars have greatly indicated that tourism has many social and economy impacts on the host community.

As much as the host community gains in terms of infrastructure, jobs creation, social welfare among others, there are also negative effects like pressure on the environment, terrorist attacks among others. This chapter will be looking at different authors and their views on the contribution of tourism to the host communities.

## The Tourism Industry

Tourism is an act of people's travel to and stays in places outside their usual environment for more than twenty-four (24) hours and not more than one consecutive year for leisure, business and other purposes not related to the exercise of an activity remunerated from within the place visited (World Tourism Organization, 2004). Tourism, the world largest export earner is considered by many to be the world's largest industry; this is because of the complexity and dynamic nature of the industry. A well-developed Tourism sector has a lot of benefit to be accrued for the economy of state, region or nation. This will be in forms of turning the economy of such area around for good; it has the potential of creating jobs and generating income at international, national, regional

and local level (Awake Magazines 2008, Vol9). However, Tourism and the Environment are inextricably linked, this is because the sustainability of tourism depends on attractive environmental factors. Environment in this case (which may either be natural or manmade) denotes the physical setting within which tourist activities take place. Examples are coastal resort, tracts or stretch of country side, historic cities, mountain ranges, lakes, land setting, picturesque villages, parks, museums and galleries, that provide the stimulus for so much tourist travel.

Natural and cultural environment no doubt form an integral part of economic survival and human identity. While natural environments are scene and resources of nature, including Mountains, Valleys, Rivers, Forestlands, Grasslands, Wilderness, Wildlife, Minerals, Marine resources e.t.c Cultural environment are creation of man often expressed in the physical landscape including Parks, Gardens, Settlements. Transportation networks, Farmlands, Technology etc (Afolabi et'al, 2010). The harnessing of such environment for tourism is not new, nature and artifacts has from the beginning formed the bedrock of human economy sustenance and living. Apart from some business related motives as well as reasons of aesthetic appreciation and pleasure, touristic visit and recreation to exotic and familiar environment are undertaken, fundamentally for social and health reasons (Kukoyi I.A, 2012).

The World Tourism Organization (WTO) is the lead agency responsible for the development of standardized tourism definitions. This agency state that tourism is defined by “the set of activities of a person travelling to a place outside his or her usual environment for at least one night, but less than a year, and whose main purpose of travel is other than the exercise of an activity remunerated from within the place visited.” The phrase “usual environment” excludes trips within the person’s community of residence and routing communicating trips. The phrase “exercise of an activity remunerated from within the place visited” exclude migration for temporary work paid by an economic agent resident in the place visited. This, however does not apply to business related travel such as sales calls, installation of equipment, or conversions where the traveler’s employer is located elsewhere than place visited.

In historical terms, tourism is a relatively new development and only recently has it been considered worthy of serious business endeavor. The tourism sector according to Cooper (2005) is of sufficient economic importance and its impacts upon economy, environment and societies is significant enough for the subject of tourism to deserve academic consideration. The concept of modern tourism simply rapidly developing. Our world has become one global village due to innovations, inversion, modern communication and transportation to the extent that people can have breakfast in London, lunch in Boston and dinner in Japan. Today millions of people seem to enjoy the prospect of moving from one continent to another in a matter of Tourism generally divided into the following categories; WTO (2002).

1. Domestic Tourism: residents of a country visiting destinations in their own country
2. Inbound Tourism: visit to a country by non –residents.
3. Outbound Tourism: resident of a country visiting destination in other countries.
4. Internal Tourism: the combination of domestic tourism and inbound tourisms.
5. National Tourism: the combination of domestic and outbound tourism.
6. International Tourism: the combination of inbound and outbound tourism.

Tourist destination can be viewed from five broad sectors namely; attraction, transport, accommodation, supporting facilities and infrastructure. Attractions encourage tourists to visit the location, the transport services enable them to do so, the accommodation and supporting facilities alike (e.g. shops, banks, restaurants, hostel) cater for the tourists' wellbeing during their stay, and the infrastructure assures the essentials functioning of all the above sectors.

The tourism industry is often defined as those enterprises and organizations involved in facilitating travel and activities away from one's usual environment. One challenge in this approach to defining tourism is of course, the fact that many enterprises which produce commodities for tourists also serve non-tourists.

Nelson (1993) for example, opined that more restaurant meals are consumed by local residents than by tourists, local attraction may draw local residents as well as tourists. A conceptual solution to this problem was proposed by the Canadian National Task Force on Tourism Data (1985). They proposed dividing tourism business into two tiers. Tier 1 firms are those that would not exist in the absence of tourism. Example includes hostels, airlines cruise ships and travel agents. Tier 2 firms are those that would continue to exist in the absence of tourism, but in a diminished form. These businesses include taxis, restaurants, rental car agencies, gifts shops, attractions and events. Attractions are an integral part of the tourism product. For many tourist destinations around the world, it is their attractions that often serve as the catalyst for tourist visits. Attractions are numerous, diverse, fragmented geographically and often have limited resources at their disposal for purpose of management. Cooper (2005). Attractions provide the single most important reason for leisure tourism to a destination. Watson (2002) pointed out that many of the components of the tourism trip for example, transport and accommodation are demands derived from the consumer's transport and accommodation are demands derived from the consumer's desire to enjoy what a destination has to offer in terms of things to see and do.

Fyall (2003) also cited many example of where attraction has played important roles in the regeneration of an area or destination. He said that the success of the Guggenheim museum in Bilbao, Spain and the National Museum of New Zealand and its contribution to the development of Wellington as a destination are two examples of the best practices where such attractions are used to pull in visitors, meet local residents and develop stronger tourism activities within the destination.

The latest trend in the tourism industry is called "ecotourism" which refers to travel that combines preserving the natural world and sustaining the well being of the human cultures that inhabit. Mowforth and Munt, (2003) in general, ecotourism differs from traditional tourism in two main respect; first, ecotourism openly promotes environmentally friendly travel and seeks to ensure that visitors do not disturb the natural environment of flora and fauna, or do they leave behind rubbish and hazardous materials, which can disrupt the delicate ecosystem. A second aspect of ecotourism is that it seeks to promote "sustainable tourism. Tourism that destroys the natural environment or that leads to the disappearances of local human cultures and values is not compatible with ecotourism. An early example of ecotourism occurred in Kenya in the 1970s when the Kenya Government began to collect fees for tourists to support conservation and park maintenance in the wildlife reserve.

## THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

The rapid expansion of the tourism industry has provided many economic benefits and affected every facet of contemporary societies including employment, government revenue and cultural manifestations. However, tourism can also be considered a problematic phenomenon, promoting dependency, underdevelopment and adverse socio-cultural effects, especially for developing countries.

For the purpose of this research work, the “social exchange theory” shall be considered.

### What Is Social Exchange Theory

Social Exchange Theory is a social psychological and sociological perspective that explains social change and stability as a process of negotiated exchanges between parties. Social Exchange Theory posits that all human relationships are formed by the use of a subjective cost-benefit analysis and the comparison of alternatives. The theory has roots in economics, psychology and sociology. Social Exchange Theory features many of the main assumptions found in rational choice theory and structuralism.

### Basic Concepts of the Social Exchange Theory

**Costs** are the elements of relational life that have negative value to a person, such as the effort put into a relationship and the negatives of a partner. (Costs can be time, money, effort etc.)

**Rewards** are the elements of a relationship that have positive value. (Rewards can be sense of acceptance, support, and companionship etc.)

The Social Exchange perspective argues that people calculate the overall worth of a particular relationship by subtracting its costs from the rewards it provides.

### Worth = Rewards – Costs

If worth is a positive number, it is positive relationship. On the contrary, negative number indicates a negative relationship. The worth of a relationship influences its outcome, or whether people will continue with a relationship or terminate it. Positive relationships are expected to endure, whereas negative relationships will probably terminate. The Social Exchange Theory explains social exchange and stability as a process of negotiated exchanges between parties. Social Exchange Theory explores the nature of exchanges between parties. As with everything dealing with the Social Exchange Theory it has its outcome satisfaction and dependence of relationships. Both parties in a social exchange take responsibility for one another and depend on each other. According to Laura Stafford (2008), economic exchanges and social exchanges have some differences: Social exchanges involve a connection with another person; social exchanges involve trust, not legal obligations; social exchanges are more flexible; and social exchanges rarely involve explicit bargaining. “The guiding force of interpersonal relationships is the advancement of both parties’ self-interest” Michael Roloff (1981) Interpersonal exchanges are thought to be analogous to economic exchanges where people are satisfied when they receive a fair return for their expenditures. Fulfilling self-interest is often common within the economic realm of the Social Exchange Theory where competition and greed can be common. At the core of the Social Exchange Theory is the outcome derived of subtracting the costs from the rewards. Rewards can be material (economic) or symbolic (attention, advice or status) and typically bring satisfaction to the individual. For example in a relationship, a boyfriend/girlfriend could provide their significant other with security and trust which could be considered rewards within the relationship.

Diminished Marginal Utility can occur within an exchange if the reward in question has been received repeatedly, the other party will lose interest in the reward. Costs can be viewed as punishments or discomfort such as physical or emotional pain. In a relationship, if conflict arises often, it could be viewed as a cost. Since individuals have different values, costs and rewards can vary depending on the individual's values and beliefs.

### **Outcome = Rewards - Costs**

George Homan developed five key propositions that assist in structuring individual's behaviors based on rewards and costs. The first proposition, the Success Proposition states that behavior that creates positive outcomes is likely to be repeated. The second proposition, the Stimulus Proposition believes that behavior if an individual's behavior is rewarded in the past, the individual will continue the previous behavior. The third proposition, the Value proposition believes that if the result of a behavioral action is considered valuable to the individual, it is more likely for that behavior to occur. The fourth proposition, the Deprivation-satiation proposition believes that if an individual has received the same reward several times, the value of that reward will diminish. Lastly the fifth proposition, discusses when emotions occur due to different reward situations.

### **Theoretical Propositions**

1. Individuals choose those alternatives from which they expect the most profit.
2. Cost being equal, they choose alternatives from which they anticipate the greatest rewards.
3. Rewards being equal, they choose alternatives from which they anticipate the fewest costs.
4. Immediate outcomes being equal, they choose those alternatives that promise better long- term outcomes.
5. Long-term outcomes being perceived as equal, they choose alternatives providing better immediate outcomes.
6. Costs and other rewards being equal, individuals choose the alternatives that supply or can be expected to supply the most social approval (or those that promise the least social disapproval).
7. Costs and other rewards being equal, individuals choose statuses and relationships that provide the most autonomy.
8. Other rewards and costs equal, individuals choose alternatives characterized by the least ambiguity in terms of expected future events and outcomes.
9. Other costs and rewards equal, they choose alternatives that offer the most security for them.

### **Methodology**

The researcher used the survey method because this kind of study involves the collection of data in their natural state. This method was chosen because the researcher wants to collect data on phenomena that cannot be directly observed therefore, people's opinions are needed for the study. Population of this study comprise of adult indigenes of Ikogosi-Ekiti Community who are 18years old and above, Workers of the Ikogosi Warm Spring Resort, Management and Staff of the Ekiti State Tourism Board, the Management and staff of Ekiti State Board of Internal Revenue, Staff in the Ekiti State Ministry of Finance and other selected tourism stakeholders in Ekiti State. The



researcher believes that they would be able to give detailed and valid information on the topic under research.

The researcher administer not less than 100 questionnaires to the selected respondents from each category of the respondents, this gives a total of 400 questionnaires that was administered.

### Data Analysis

The data for this research work was analyzed using tables, charts, percentage frequency and chi-square.

The table was used for presentation of data on the distribution of questionnaires used, the percentage frequency was used in the presentation of the socio-demographic data of the respondents, the charts were used to present the level of awareness of the respondents about the case study while of the opinion of the respondents on the three hypotheses were analyzed using of chi square.

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Contribution of Ikogosi Warm Spring Towards Promotion of Recreation and Tourism and Improvement on Standard of Living in Ekiti State.

TABLE 1

	SA	A	N S	D	SD	TOTAL
CMP	400 (255.4)	70 (160.6)	30 (52.6)	10 (32.9)	10 (8.9)	520
HC	620 (731.8)	540 (460.2)	170 (150.9)	120 (94.3)	40 (52.8)	1490
VT	920 (952.8)	610 (599.2)	200(196.5)	120 (122.8)	90 (68.8)	1940
TOTAL	1940	1220	400	250	140	<b>2950</b>

### NOTE:

SA → Strongly Agree

A → Agree

NS → Not Sure

D → Disagree

SD → Strongly Disagree

CMP → Concerned Ministries and Parastatals

HC → Host Community

VT → Visiting Tourist

The factors considered for promotion of recreation and tourism and improved standard of living included good roads, hotels and restaurants, electricity, portable water, school, market, health center, police post, jobs and housing, however there was provision for more options. Table 1 indicates that from the responses gathered on the contribution of Ikogosi Warm Spring towards promotion of recreation and tourism and improvement on standard of living, the greatest response (1940) 'strongly agree' followed by (1220) 'agree' that Ikogosi Warm Spring has made the community benefit a lot. Corroborating the findings, and elder in the community Chief Ojo Ogunmodede in an interview with the researcher, said the road leading to the community was reconstructed because of the existence of the warm spring. More so, residents in the community always benefits from most of the social amenities put in place for the tourist. He further said that the Ikogosi Warm Spring is a source of glory for the community, *"this warm and cold spring meeting here attracted Late Reverend John McGee to this community and he built a camp here, it*

*attracted United African Company here and they built Gossy Water Factory, it attracted the Governments and they developed the site, it attracted wealthy indigenes of the community and they are investing in the village, and the community is benefiting from all these investments, it has also been attracting different kinds of visitors to the community and the community is also benefiting from their spending. I am very sure that there is more to come”.*

**HYPOTHESIS 1.**

**H<sub>0</sub>:** Ikogosi Warm Spring is not promoting recreation and tourism and improving standard of living in Ekiti State

**H<sub>1</sub>:** Ikogosi Warm Spring is promoting recreation and tourism and improving standard of living in Ekiti State

Using chi square to determine the discrepancy between the observed value and the expected value Mathematically;

$$X^2_{cal} = \sum_{l=1}^{n=3} (Observed\ Frequency - Expected\ Frequency / Expected\ frequency)$$

Therefore,  $X^2 = \sum (O-E)^2 / E$

$$X^2_{0.958} = 2.73 \text{ (table value)}$$

Decision: since  $X^2_{cal} = 203.34 > X^2_{0.95}(8) = 2.73$ , the null hypothesis is rejected hence, we conclude that Ikogosi Warm Spring is promoting recreation and tourism and improving standard of living in Ekiti State.

Table 2: POSITIVE IMPACTS

	A	SA	N	D	SD	TOTAL
PECI	180 (195.9)	330 (282.9)	20 (39.9)	40 (46.9)	9 (12.9)	579
PSCI	270 (222.3)	260 (321.1)	50 (45.3)	70 (53.5)	7 (14.8)	657
PENI	90 (121.8)	190 (321.1)	40 (24.8)	20 (29.3)	20 (8.1)	360
	540	780	110	130	36	1596

**NOTE:**

SA → Strongly Agree

A → Agree

NS → Not Sure

D → Disagree

SD → Strongly Disagree

PECI → Positive Economic Impacts

PSCI → Positive Social and Cultural Impacts

PENI → Positive Environmental Impacts

Table 2 shows that the respondents massively ‘agree’ and ‘strongly agree’ that Ikogosi Warm Spring have a positive impact on the economic, social and environmental status of their community. The data presented in table 2 is further evaluated mathematically using chi square as shown below to test hypothesis II.

$$X^2_{cal} = \sum_{l=1}^{n=3} (Observed\ Frequency - Expected\ Frequency / Expected\ frequency)$$

Therefore,  $X^2 = \sum (O-E)^2 / E$

$$X^2_{0.958} = 2.73 \text{ (table value)}$$

Decision: since  $X^2_{cal} = 144.94 > X^2_{0.95}(8) = 2.73$ , the null hypothesis is rejected hence, we conclude that Ikogosi Warm Spring has a positive impact on the socio-economic development of Ekiti State. This can also be buttressed with the information gathered in an exclusive interview with the General Manager of the Ekiti State Tourism Board, who informed that over 500 people were engaged during the re-construction work on daily basis. The General Manager also informed that the recent upgrading of the Ikogosi warm Spring Resort has raised Ekiti State status in the committee of tourist friendly states in Nigeria.

Table 3: NEGATIVE IMPACTS

	A	SA	N	D	SD	TOTAL
NECI	90 (75.4)	4 (14.5)	60 (64.6)	150 (110.5)	50 (89.0)	354
NSCI	140 (127.8)	20 (24.6)	110 (109.6)	160 (187.2)	170 (150.7)	600
NENI	50 (76.7)	30 (14.8)	70 (65.9)	100 (112.3)	170 (150.7)	360
	280	54	240	410	330	1314

**NOTE:**

SA → Strongly Agree

A → Agree

NS → Not Sure

D → Disagree

SD → Strongly Disagree

NECI → Negative Economic Impacts

NSCI → Negative Social and Cultural Impacts

NENI → Negative Environmental Impacts

Table 3 reveals that majority of the respondents ‘disagree’ and ‘strongly disagree’ that Ikogosi Warm Spring has a negative impact on the community. The factors considered included; high cost of living, loss of ecosystem, erosion, loss of cultural values, overcrowding, crime rate, pollution and crises. The data presented in table 3 reveals that Ikogosi warm Spring has limited negative impact on the community. Minority of the responses ‘agree’ and ‘strongly agree’ that Ikogosi Warm Spring is impacting negatively on the community whereas majority of the responses ‘disagree’ and ‘strongly disagree’ that Ikogosi Warm Spring has a negative impact on the community.

**HYPOTHESIS III.**

**H<sub>0</sub>:** Ikogosi Warm Spring has a negative impact on the socio-economic development of Ekiti State.

**H<sub>1</sub>:** Ikogosi Warm Spring does not have a negative impact on the socio-economic development of Ekiti State.

$$X^2_{cal} = \sum_{l=1}^{n=3} (\text{Observed Frequency} - \text{Expected Frequency})^2 / \text{Expected frequency}$$

Therefore,  $X^2 = \sum (O-E)^2 / E$

$$X^2_{0.95,8} = 2.73 \text{ (table value)}$$

Decision: since  $X^2_{cal} = 80.81 > X^2_{0.95}(8) = 2.73$ , the null hypothesis is rejected hence, we conclude that Ikogosi Warm Spring does not have a significant negative impact on the socio-economic development of Ekiti State. This is corroborated with information gathered in an interview with another resident of Ikogosi Ekiti Mr Ogunwole Taiwo, who informed that even though the community is facing some challenges arising from visiting tourist who sometimes over speed

within the community thereby resulting in accidents killing their domestic animals and sometimes injure community people. He said that during peak periods when the site receives a lot of visitors which is normally during festive holidays, although occurs less frequently poses a lot of concern to the people living in the host community for example, most of the youth do not go to farm, they are attracted to rendering domestic services to the tourists, hence there is scarcity of fresh farm produce in the market. Another major concern is increase in cost of living, traders and other service providers increases prices of goods and services respectively even though they make more money. From the information gathered from the interview with Mr Ogunwole Taiwo, it is evident that there are challenges facing the local people of Ikogosi-Ekiti where an attraction is located, it should also be noted that most of the population still believe that the gains of these attractions far outweighs the losses as indicated in table 3. The findings confirm early study by Jimoh (2011), about cost of tourism attraction to the host community as follows:

- Over independent on the income generated from tourism thereby neglecting other local products.
- May change individual behavior and family relationship
- Attracts visitors whose lifestyles and ideas conflicts with the community
- Competes with local residents for available services, facilities and existing recreational opportunities among others

**Perception of the Tourists on Their Experience at the Ikogosi Warm Spring Resort.**

The factors considered to determine the perception of the respondents included;

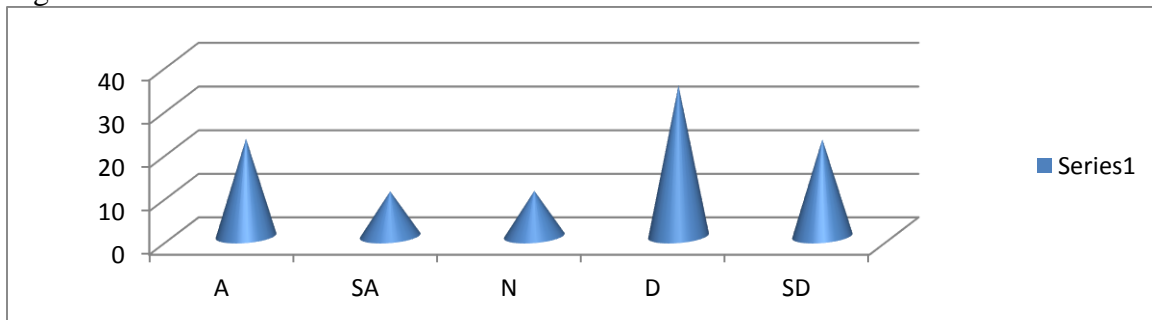
- Inadequate provision of facilities.
- Poor publicity.
- Poor Service delivery.
- Poor Value for money spent.
- Poor Residents’ attitude.

Table 4

	A	SA	N	D	SD	TOTAL
Percentage Response	22.4	10.3	10.4	34.6	22.3	100

Source: Field Work 2013.

Figure 3



Source: Field Work 2013.

Figure 3 shows that majority of the respondents 34.6% ‘disagree’ and 22.3% ‘strongly disagree’ with the factors considered. This means that 56.9% of the respondents had a satisfactory

experience with the facilities provided, the service delivery, value for money spent and the attitude of the residents in the local community. This findings is corroborated with information gathered in an exclusive interview with one of the visiting tourist who lodge at the resort, Mr. Sulaiman Adewale, he said he got to know about the place when he was a final-year university undergraduate at the Ekiti State University, Ado-Ekiti and his Department organized an excursion to the site during their Departmental week in the year 2010. *‘When I visited this site prior the reconstruction project in the year 2010, I felt so bad looking at a goldmine wasting away in a poor state like Ekiti, and the government is not doing anything to tap it. You need to see bushes everywhere, structures abandoned, dilapidated buildings with filth and spirogyra growth around the swimming pool area, broken seats for tourist to relax around the pool, and there were just two workers there with very poor service delivery, one of them couldn’t even speak good english. Aside from the warm and cold spring and the confluence they formed at the site, there was just nothing attractive about the site, the pool that could have been appealing to me looks so un-kept, I can’t just imagine myself swimming in that kind of pool. I was disappointed in the departmental executives for organizing such a dulling trip for the department. But when I saw the new face of Ikogosi Warm Spring in a magazine in January this year, I was surprised, I Couldn’t believe what I saw, not much later I watched another documentary on the new Ikogosi Warm Spring Resort on Channels Television in Lagos, then I was convinced and I said to myself, I must re-visit this site, and here I am. My experience this time around is a reverse of what I experienced the last time I came here and its really amazing, I never believed this place could be this lovely, is it the lodging facilities or the prompt response room services rendered, the serene environment, the car park, or the ultra modern newly constructed chalets, internet facilities and the new facilities at pool side. This visit has completely changed my orientation about tourism in Nigeria, I’m just happy that I came here.*

## CONCLUSION

From the above findings, it is very evident that Ikogosi Warm Spring is a potential geotourist site capable of promoting recreation and tourism and improving the standard of living in Ikogosi-Ekiti, Ekiti State. Also Ikogosi Warm Spring Resort operates with little negative impact on the host community but has a lot of positive impact on the environment, social and economic status of the host community and Ekiti State at large. The study also concludes that the emergence of Ikogosi Warm Spring Resort Limited provided enormous social and economic benefits to the immediate local community in terms of employment, infrastructure, and income generation hence, both public and private investors should invest more capital in Tourism.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

In view of the findings of this study, the following suggestions and recommendations are hereby made. Since the reconstruction work at the Ikogosi Warm Spring, the experience of tourist has always been positive, the management should ensure that they keep-it-up, organize regular training for their workers and ensure that their service delivery to every guest is a passport to invite another guest. As laudable as the decision of the Ekiti State government it, to have giving the management of Ikogosi Warm Spring to a private company to manage, there should still be room to permit Ekiti State Tourism Board and dedicated community representatives in policy making and implementation in order for check and balance in the decisions taken by the company. It should be

noted that the major point of attraction at the site is a natural phenomenon (the warm and the cold spring forming a confluence) which traditionally belongs to the host community, now that the site has been privatized and access to the site restricted, the local community people should be made to benefit from the dividends of the investment in terms of social responsibilities from the company. The management of the company should encourage community participation in further development of the place in order to continue to enjoy the cooperation and support of the local people. The management of Ikogosi Warm Spring and Resort should always put the concept of carrying capacity into consideration so that tourists' satisfaction at the site is not jeopardized and facilities at the site are not over-burdened in order to ensure their longevity for sustainable use.

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