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Full Length Research Paper

Policy and Politics of Infrastructure Provision for Tourism Development and Growth: A Study of Ekiti State

***Kolawole, G.T., Oyediran, O. B., Adedeji, E. O., Attahiru, H., Chikezie, J.**

Tourism Department, Federal College of Wildlife Management, New Bussa, Niger State, Nigeria.
*Corresponding author E-mail: *kollytheddy@yahoo.com*

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ABSTRACT: The paper is based on the policy and politics of infrastructural provision for tourism development and growth in Ekiti state. The objectives are: to identify the state government tourism related policies, to examine how politics affect the tourism policies, and to investigate the state of infrastructural provisions in the state government. The research instruments that were used to collect data in this study include the use of primary and secondary methods of data collection. Questionnaires and the use of data from related material like journals, textbooks and internet were used. The sampling techniques that were used in this research work include purposive and multistage random sampling methods. The purposive sampling was used because government officials of tourism board were involved. The multistage sampling was used because Ekiti state was first divided into sixteen local government areas, ten local government were selected and ten wards were selected from the ten local government selected. Ten questionnaires were administered to ten people in each of these wards to get the data needed. The names of the areas are; Moba, Idoosi, Oye, Ijero, Ilejemeje, Ado, Aramoko, Ekiti West, Ekiti east and Ifelodun local government areas. The data collected were subjected to statistical computation using descriptive analysis such as table, chart and simple percentage. The demographic characteristics data of the respondent show that the female category had the highest percentage of 52% of the respondents were shown on the tables. Other variables were shown respectively. The identified government related policies on tourism industry in Ekiti state and the state of compliances observed as follows: the level of compliance and application of the tourism policies are very poor. Only on festivals and events had 85% of the total respondents' other policies were nil. It is seen from the chart that politics affects policy of government because of the following: Lack of government will to fund the industry taking 37% of the respondents, why all the above options have 57% of the respondents. On the level of infrastructural provision in the study area, the road infrastructure has 22% of the total respondents that the roads are not totally bad but manageable while 36% were of the opinion that they were bad. On electricity supply 38% of the total respondent claimed that electricity is not being supplied as sort while 29% of the respondents claimed that the light is stable. The supply of good running water had 11% of the respondents meaning the regular supply of water is poor. Support services like banking, Accommodations, post office and internet services were found to be poor too because all the respondents claimed that they said no. The strength of every economy is a mirror image of the infrastructural development of the country and this is governed by the policy and politics prevailing in the country. Government should partner with corporate organizations and private individuals to modify and formulate policies and political agenda that will foster rapid infrastructure developments. In respect of the research carried out, the findings necessitate the following recommendations: Government should intensify efforts to provide infrastructure in the study area Organs of NTDC should be extended to the local government areas for the policies related to tourism to be executed in the study areas. There must be an adequate promotion of tourism potentials.

Keywords: Policy, politics, infrastructure, tourism, development, and growth

INTRODUCTION

According to Lopez-Acevedo et al. (2012), Governments around the world face constant pressures from citizens to provide more and better services, and to do this under a tight fiscal environment. However, the inability of providing these infrastructural services has affected tourism development and growth over the years. Policy is a principle guiding decisions to achieve national outcomes. Policies are generally adopted by the topmost governing body within an organisation or by a specialised government agency.

Politics is the practice and the theory of influencing other people on a civic or individual level, (Oxford Dictionary English, 2003). Infrastructure is the basic physical and organizational structures needed for the operation of a society such as industries, buildings, roads, etc. (Sullivan and Sheffrin, 2003).

Policy and politics of infrastructural provision can be superimposed and explained as the effect of human influence on the rules and principles guiding the provision, development and maintenance of the physical modules of interconnected systems providing commodities and services essential to enable, sustain, or enhance good societal living conditions (Oyedele, 2012). The objective of the study is to examine the policy and politics of infrastructural provision for tourism development and growth in Ekiti state.

Specific objectives

1 To identify the state government tourism related policies.
2 To examine how politics affect the tourism policies.
3 To investigate the state of infrastructural provisions in the state government

Scope and limitation of the study

The scope of this study is limited to the assessment of the policies and politics of infrastructural provisions for the development of tourism in Ekiti state. It also covered the effects and the challenges of the politics and the policies infrastructure provision.

Significance of the study

Having completed this research work and the recommendations are strictly adhered to, it will create limelight to the politics of governmental provisions of infrastructures for the development and growth of tourism. It will also open up more researches in tourism industry.

METHODOLOGY

Location and size of the study area

Ekiti is a state in western Nigeria declared a state on 1 October 1996. The area total is 6,353km^2 (2,452.9sqmi). The population as at 2005 was 2,737,186. It was carved out of Ondo state. It has sixteen local government areas. 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 undulated country with a characteristic landscape that consists of old plains broken by step-sided out-crops that may occur singularly or in groups or ridges. Such rocks outcrops exist mainly at Aramoko, Efon- Alaaye, Ikere- Ekiti, Igbara –Odo Ekiti and Oke-Imesi Ekiti. The state is dotted with rugged hills, notable ones being Ikere-Ekiti. Hills in the south, Efon-Alaaye hill in the west boundary and Ado- Ekiti in the center (Figure 1).

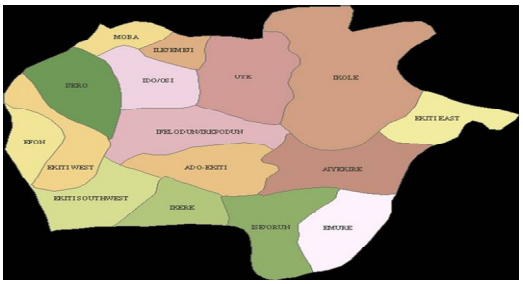

Figure 1. Map of Ekiti state(Google map).

Climate and vegetation

The state enjoys tropical climate with two distinct seasons. These are the raining season (April- October) and the dry season (November-March). Temperature ranges between 21'º and 28'ºC with high humidity. The south westerly wind and the northeast trade winds blow in the rainy and dry (Hamattan) seasons respectively. The tropical forest exists in the south, while savannah occupies the northern peripheries.

Study population and sample size

The research instruments that were used to collect data in this study include the use of primary and secondary methods of data collection. Questionnaires and the use of data from related material like journals, text books and internet were used. The study populations for this study were the staffs of the state tourism board, and some selected local government areas. The sample size was put at one hundred (100) respondents.

Table 1: Demographic characteristics of the respondents.

Demographics	Categories	Percentages
Sex		
	Male	48
	Female	52
Total		100
Nationality	Nigeria	100
Literacy		
	Literate	90
	Illiterate	10
Total		100
Age		
	15-26	-
	25-30	2
	30-35	14
	40-45	22
	45and above	62
Total		100
Occupation		
	Civil servants	98
	Unemployed	2
	Trading	-
	Students	-
Total		100

Table 2: Identified government tourism related policies and their compliances Compliances percentages.

Creation of enabling environment for tourism to flourish	NIL	100%
Standardisation, registration, inspection, classification and grading of the Hospitality and Tourism enterprises in the LG	Nil	,,
Publicizing and promoting of Nigeria's tourism potentials in LGs through print and electronic media/internet	Nil	,,
Up-to-date tourism statistical data, establishment of tourism Data Bank and implementation of Tourism Satellite	Nil	,,
Production of Annual Tourism Statistical Data and Tourism Satellite Account.	Nil	,,
Planning, coordinating, and assisting in the development of tourist's sites throughout the country.	Nil	,,
Facilitating and encouraging private sector and local community's participation in the development of the tourism industry	Nil	,,
Coordination and promotion of major tourism/cultural events such as festivals to promote tourism	85	85

Source: Survey 2018

Sampling technique

The sampling techniques that were used in this research work include purposive and multistage random sampling methods. The purposive sampling was used because government officials of tourism board were involved. The multistage sampling was used because Ekiti state was first divided into sixteen local government areas, ten local governments were selected and ten wards were selected from the ten local governments selected. Ten questionnaires for ten people were administered to each of these wards to get the data needed. The names of the areas are; Moba, Idoosi, Oye, Ijero, Ilejemeje, Ado, Aramoko, Ekiti West, Ekiti east and Ifelodun local government areas.

Data analysis

The data collected were subjected to statistical computation using descriptive analysis such as table, chart and simple percentage.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Table 1 shows the socio demographic characteristics data of the respondents. From the results it was observed

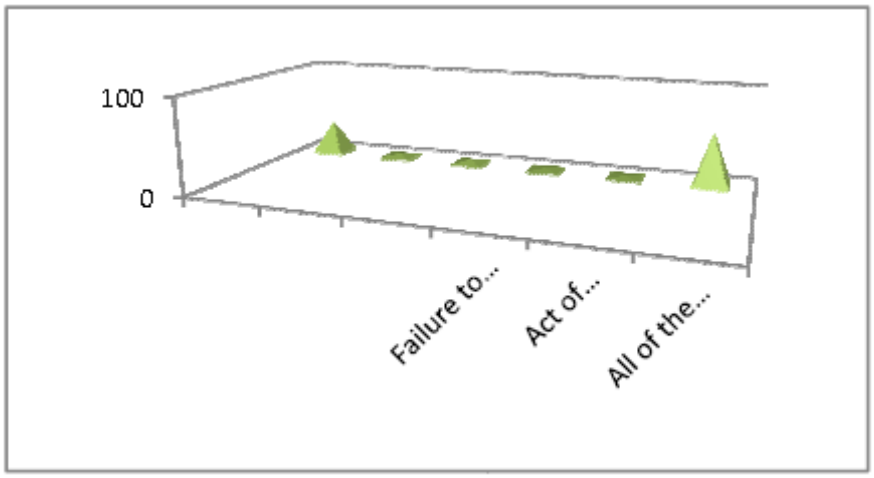

Figure 2: The way politics affect the policies.
Source-: Survey 2018.

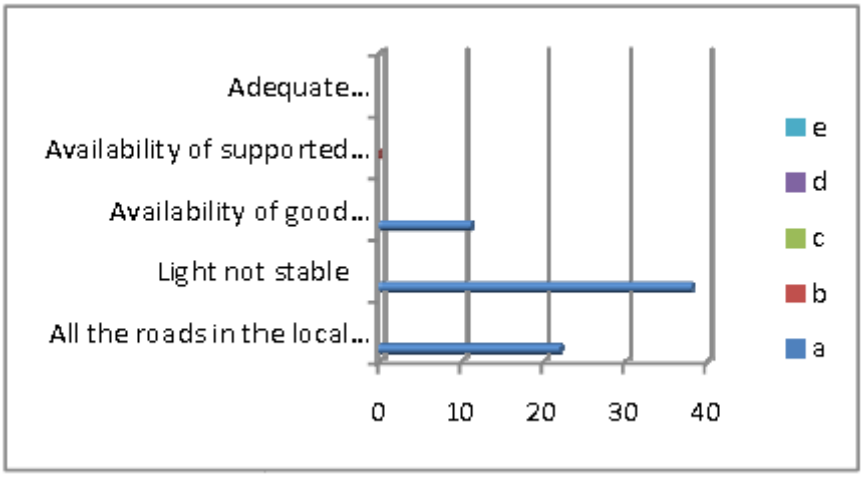

Figure 3: Level of infrastructural provision.
Source-: Survey 2018.

that the female category had the highest percentage of 52% of the total respondents while male had 48%. On Nationality, all the participants were Nigerians making 100% of the respondents. Other variables were shown respectively. Table 2 shows the identified government related policies on tourism industry in Ekiti state and the state of compliances. It is gathered that at the local government area the level of compliance and application of the tourism policies are very poor. Only on festivals and events had 85% of the total respondents' other policies were nil. It is seen from (Figure 2) that politics affects policy of government because of the following: Lack of government will to fund the industry taking 37% of the respondents, why all the above options have 57% of the respondents. Figure 3 shows the level of infrastructural provision in the study area. On the road infrastructure 22% of the total respondents were of the opinion that the roads are not totally bad but manageable while 36% were of the opinion that they were bad. On electricity supply 38% of the total respondent claimed that electricity is not being supplied as sort while 29% of the respondents claimed that the light is stable. The supply of good running water had 11% of the respondents meaning the regular supply of water is poor. Support services like banking, Accommodations, post office and internet services were found to be poor too because all the respondents claimed that they said no.

Conclusion

The strength of every economy is a mirror image of the infrastructural development of the country and this is governed by the policy and politics prevailing in the

country. Government should partner with corporate organisations and private individuals to modify and formulate a policies and political agenda that will foster rapid infrastructure developments.

Recommendations

In respect of the research carried out, the findings necessitate the following recommendations: Government should intensify efforts to provide infrastructure in the study area. Organs of NTDC should be extended to the local government areas for the policies related to tourism to be executed in the study areas. There must be an adequate promotion of tourism potentials.

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