

EFFECT OF RECREATIONAL CENTRES ON URBAN DEVELOPMENT IN NIGERIA

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***Abstract:** Recreational centres can enhance urban development since the centres encourage participation of people in various activities that can promote human development. These centres apart from providing recreational facilities to people, also reduce the problem of inequality since they are open to both genders. This study determines the impact of recreational centres on urban development in Ikorodu Local Government Area of Lagos State, Nigeria. Specifically, the study identifies the types of recreational centres in the study area; examines the frequency of participation in recreational activities; identifies factors to be considered before patronizing recreational centres; and determine the impact of recreational centres on the development of Ikorodu Local Government Area. A total number of 300 respondents were sampled randomly. Data were sourced from both primary and secondary sources. Descriptive statistics such as frequency tables, mean, cross tabulations and inferential statistics such as chi-square were used to analyze the gathered data. Findings revealed that recreational centres have positive impacts on the socio-economic development of Ikorodu LGA with calculated value (3.84) greater than critical value (0.00). The study concludes by emphasizing the need for creation of databases on recreation centres, expansion and provision of recreational facilities in residential areas.*

***Keywords:** Development, Employment Opportunities, Recreation, Tourism, Urban areas*

INTRODUCTION

Tourism is a collection of activities, services and industries which deliver a travel experience comprising transportation, accommodation, eating, drinking, retail shops, entertainment businesses and other hospitality services provided for individuals or groups travelling away from home (UNWTO, 2008). Recreation is to renew or enliven through the influence of pleasurable surroundings. Recreation consists of an activity or experience

usually chosen voluntarily by the participants either because of satisfaction, pleasure or creative enrichment derived, or because of certain personal or social values to be gained from it. It may also be perceived as the process of participation, or as the emotional state derived from involvement (Richard 1966 cited in veal 1994). Falade (1990b) opined that recreation is consumption of activity than the price paid to participate in it. In Ikorodu Local Government Area, a lot of recreational centres are springing up and one now wonders what could be responsible for this. This work is aimed at determining the impact of recreational centres on the socio-economic development of Ikorodu Local Government Area of Lagos state. The objectives of this research include: to identify types of recreational centres in the study area; examine the frequency of participation; identify factors to be considered before patronizing recreational centres in the study Area; and determine the impact of recreational centres on the development of Ikorodu Local Government Area.

The choice of Lagos State is justified by its potential for recreational centres in general and because of the wide spread of recreational centres. Recreational land use requires special locational attributes and reasonable finance for their realization. Ikorodu Local Government Area (LGA) possesses these unique locational attributes and quality population to encourage the huge investment necessary to realize these potentials.

CONCEPT OF RECREATIONAL CENTRE

Dabiri (2006) ascertained that recreation can be described as the consumption of leisure or leisure facilities for the purpose of refreshing oneself. There is a clear-cut difference between active recreation which involves participants in sports and games, and passive recreation in which the individual is essentially a spectrum in the centre. Recreation is also viewed as an activity that people engage in during their free time, enjoy and recognize as having socially redeeming value.

Recreational activities can take place either indoors or outdoors. Types of recreational places include parks, playgrounds, walkways, stadium, school playing fields, and recreational club grounds, hotels with facilities, discos, and health clubs, golf, polo and racecourses. Recreational centres, therefore, can be conceptualized as those centres, spaces, spots or sites on which recreational activities can be carried out whether natural or artificial spaces (Okoh, 2010).

Recreational Carrying Capacity is the character of use that can be supported over a specified time by an area developed at a certain level

without causing excessive damage to either the physical environment or the experience for the visitor. This means that recreational carrying capacity can be defined as the capacity of the environment to cater for maximum aggregate user satisfaction while taking into account the view of the people already there. Physical Carrying Capacity (facility carrying capacity) involves the types and number of facilities intended to support visitors' needs such as land available, the number of beds spaces and car parks that can be physically accommodated within an area. The upper limit of capacity is regarded as the number of spaces required to ensure recreational activities area density that is efficient and safe for user (Mason, 2008). Campbell (1967) 's model of tourism identified different pattern of tourist stay and travel trips, the recreational activity itself is the main element of tourist trip, while for someone on vacation the journeys constitute the main activity of the trip, with several stopovers being made on a road trip away from the city (figure 1). Recreational travel is scattered radially from the city whereas vacation travel is essentially linear and highway oriented.

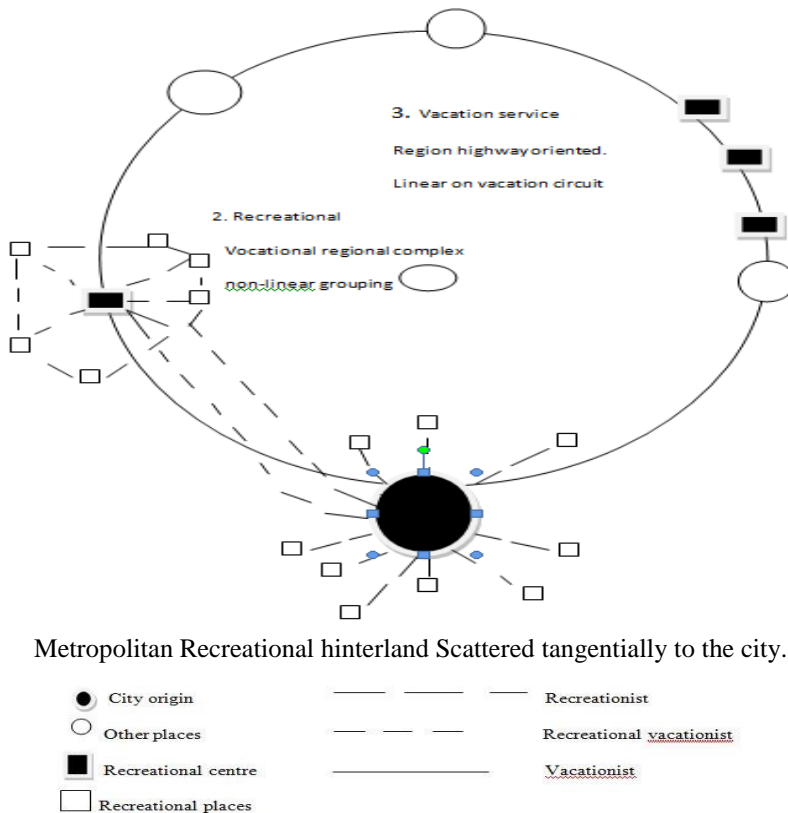


Figure 1: Campbell's model of recreational and vocational travel
Source: Redrawn from Pearce (1995)

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Study Area

Ikorodu is a city and a Local Government Area in Lagos state. It shares a boundary with Ogun state. Ikorodu has a coordinate of $6^{\circ}30' N$ $3^{\circ}30' E$ / $6^{\circ}60' N$ $3^{\circ}50' E$ (fig 2) with an estimated land area of 152 square meters (Shokoya 2009). There are two main seasons, namely: the dry and the wet season. The rainy season usually lasts from April to October and the dry season from October to March. Monthly rainfall between the first rainfall peak in May through July averages over 300mm, while the second peak in August through September gets down to about 75mm, with usually lower intensity and in January as low as 35mm. The coastal plain sands predominantly cover the northern parts of the state around Ikeja towards Agege, Alagbado, Magodo and Iju, Ikorodu and its northeast axis, and Epe axis from the edge of the lagoon to the north.

The main vegetation types are the swamp forest of the coastal belt and dry lowland rainforest. Ikorodu, a fast-growing town, also has key settlements which include: Isawo, Agbede, Agunfoye, Imota, Igbokuta, Ewu-Elepe, Ijede, Baiyeku, Ibese, Ipakodo and Igbogbo. These settlements are experiencing rapid growth due to influx of people from Lagos metropolis and other parts of the country (Elias, 2002). It has a population density of 1,997 per square kilometer. According to the National Population Census (2006) Ikorodu was enumerated to have a population of 535,619.

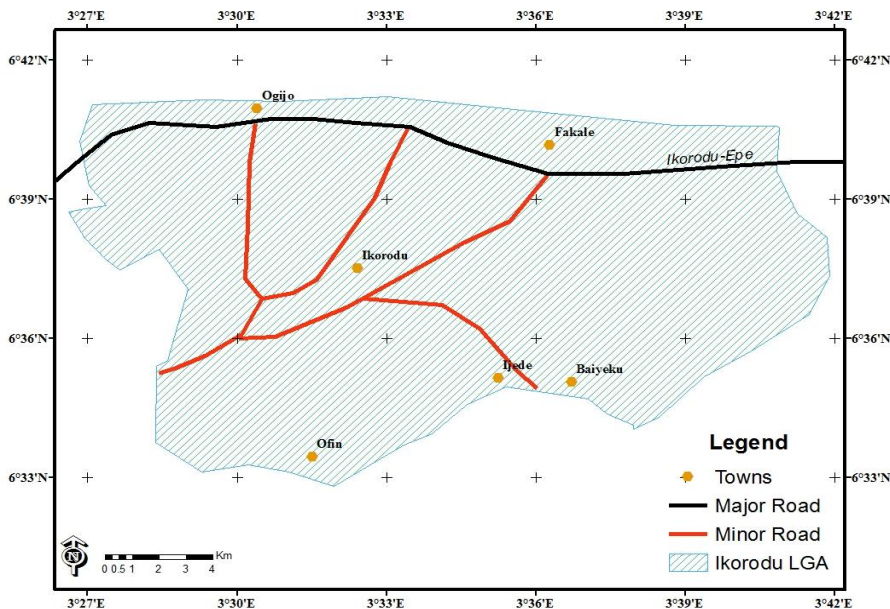


Figure 2: Map of Ikorodu local Government Area of Lagos

Both primary and secondary sources of data were employed for this research. Primary sources of data include information obtained from the researcher's reconnaissance survey, oral interviews, and questionnaire administration. The secondary source of data employed includes published and unpublished journals and articles from the Lagos state Ministry of Environment, Lagos state Ministry of Tourism and International Affairs, textbooks.

A total of three hundred copies of questionnaire were distributed using random sampling technique within Ikorodu local government area. Descriptive statistics such as frequency tables, standard deviation, mean, cross tabulations and inferential statistics chi-square was used to test the socio-economic impacts using the formula below:

$$\chi^2 = \frac{\sum (O - E)^2}{E}$$

Where: O is the observed variance.
E is the expected variance.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Socio-economic Characteristics of Respondents

From Table 1, age distribution of recreationist shows that majority are between 15-50years (90.9%). This implies that the youths and the active working-class citizens are more involved in recreation compared to those above 50 years (9.1%). Sex distribution of respondent shows that men (60%) participate more in recreational activities than women (40%). The table revealed further that the civil servants 114 (38.7%) and self-employed 74 (24.7%) constitute the majority of the respondents. It can be deduced that people who mostly patronize the recreational centres are those who are employed in one form or the other and can afford the services provided by these centres. Most of the respondents are educated. About 293 (97.7%) are formally educated while 7 (2.3%) had no formal education. This shows that most people who patronize recreational centres are educated.

It was observed that 39% of the users earn above N50,000 per month while 18% earn between N41,000-N50,000, 14.3% earn between N31,000-N40,000, 13.3% earn between N21,000-N30,000, 9% earn between N11,000-N20,000 and 5% earn less than N10,000 per month. This implies that income level determines participation in recreational activities. In other words, participation in outdoor recreation is determined by the level of income.

Table 1: Socio-economic Characteristics of Respondents

Characteristics	Frequency	Percentage	Cumulative Percentage
Sex			
Male	180	60	60.0
Female	120	40	100.0
Total	300	100	
Ages of Respondents			
15-25 years	130	43.3	43.3
26-35 years	91	30.3	73.7
36-50 years	52	17.3	91.0
Above 50 years	27	9.0	100.0
Total	300	100	
Occupation			
Unemployed	66	22.0	22.0
Civil servant	114	38.7	60.7
Self-Employed	74	24.7	85.7
Others	44	14.7	100.0
Total	300	100	
Level of Education			
No formal education	7	2.3	2.3
Primary Education	17	5.7	45.0
Secondary Education	118	39.3	97.7
Tertiary Education	158	52.7	100.0
Total	300	100	
Monthly Income			
Below 10,000	17	5.7	5.7
10,000-20,000	27	9	14.7
21,000-30,000	40	13.3	28
31,000-40,000	43	14.3	42
41,000-50,000	56	18.7	61
Above 50,000	117	39	100
Total	300	100	

Types of Recreational Centres in Ikorodu LGA

Most of these recreational centres have more than one recreational facility. For instance, a hotel can have a restaurant, a nightclub, swimming pool, etc., aside from its major accommodation facilities. Figure 3 shows that there are more eateries than hotels, parks, gardens, game houses and night clubs in the study.

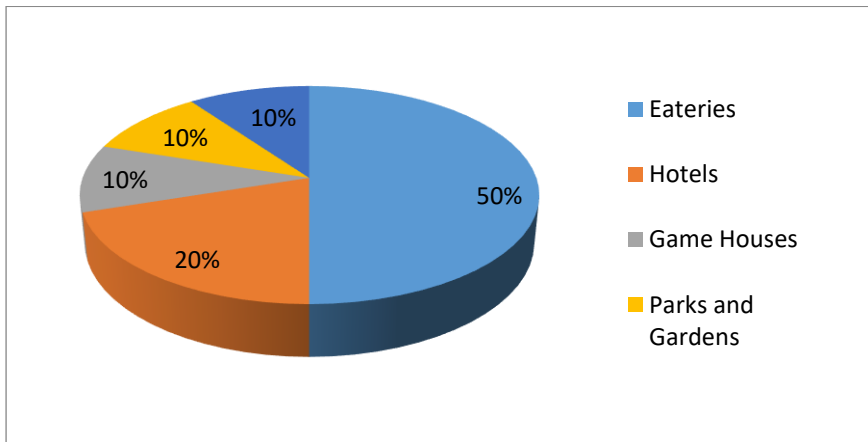


Figure 3: Recreational centres in Ikorodu LGA

Frequency of Patronage in Recreational Activities

It was observed that 7.3% of the respondents visit the recreational centre daily, 33.3% visit the centre on a weekly basis, 60(20.0%) of the respondents visit on monthly basis while 118(39.3%) of the respondents visits the recreational centres only during festive season indicated in Table 2. This therefore implies that most of the recreational centres enjoy the highest patronage during festive seasons.

Table 2: Frequency of Participation in Recreational Activities

Times of Visit	Frequency	Percentage
Daily	22	7.3
Weekly	100	33.3
Monthly	60	20.0
During festive seasons	118	39.3
Total	300	100.0

Table 3: Factors for Patronizing Recreational Centres

Factors	Frequency	Percentage
Facilities in the center	20	6.7
Cleanliness	10	3.3
Proximity	60	20
Security	40	13.3
Cost	150	50
Parking space	20	6.7
Others (such as customer care, popularity etc)	0	0

Table 3 displays the various factors considered by recreational centres users before patronizing the recreational centres. It is shown from the table that the first factor considered by the recreational centres users is cost (50%). This includes the cost of paying for the services rendered by the recreational centres. The second factor is the proximity (20%) in terms of distance to their place of work or homes. This factor is also related to cost. The third factor is security. People nowadays are security conscious as a result of insecurity issues trending in the country.

Table 4: Test of Hypothesis for the Socio-economic Impacts of Recreational centres on Ikorodu LGA

S/N	Recreational centres	Labels	Socio Economic impact		X ² -crit	X ² -tab	DF	Sig	Remarks
			Low impact	High impact					
1	Parks and Gardens	No	17(63.0%)	10(37.0%)	3.84	9.913	1	.002	Sig.
		Yes	89(39.6%)	184(67.4%)					
2	Eateries	No	21(42.9%)	28(57.1%)	3.84	1.451	1	.149	Sig
		Yes	85(33.9%)	166(66.1%)					
3	Hotels	No	65(45.5%)	78(54.5%)	3.84	12.251	1	.000	Sig
		Yes	41(26.1%)	116(73.9%)					
		Yes	66(32.7%)	136(67.3%)					
4	Playground	No	45(43.3%)	59(56.7%)	3.84	4.388	1	.025	Sig
		Yes	61(31.1%)	135(68.9%)					
		Yes	57(32.0%)	121(68.0%)					
5	Nightclub	No	49(45.0%)	60(55.0%)	3.84	6.935	1	.006	Sig
		Yes	57(32.0%)	134(70.2%)					
6	Bar	No	64(47.8%)	70(52.2%)	3.84	16.370	1	.000	Sig
		Yes	42(25.3%)	124(74.7%)					

Significance Level = 0.05
 DF (Degree of Freedom) = 1

H₀: Recreational centres have no significant impact on the livelihood of the residents of Ikorodu LGA.

H₁: Recreational centres have significant impact on the livelihood of the residents on Ikorodu LGA.

Table 4 shows six different recreation centres and their impact on socio-economic development of Ikorodu LGA. If X^2 -Critical value is more than the X^2 -Calculated value in Ikorodu Local Government. However, the null hypothesis (H₀) will be accepted when the X^2 calculated is less than the table value at the appropriate significance level while the alternative hypothesis (H₁) is rejected when the X^2 calculated value is greater than the table value at the appropriate significance level. Therefore, the null hypothesis is rejected. Thus, recreational centres have a significant impact on the livelihood of the residents of Ikorodu LGA. In other words, recreational centres have positive impacts on the socio-economic development of Ikorodu LGA.

CONCLUSION

Recreation and tourism constitute two sides of the same coin. For the promotion of recreation in any city or country it is necessary to develop recreational facilities that will enhance private sectors, public sectors, and users' participation. The findings of this work point out clearly that if recreational facilities are well invested in, they will in the long run lead to a more positive impact on the socio-economic development of Ikorodu L.G.A of Lagos State. The study recommends that a database should be created on recreation centres, expansion, and provision of recreational facilities in residential areas, utilization of opportunities created by urban renewals and strategic urban planning, with the objectives of providing communal open spaces and well-equipped playgrounds for easy accessibility especially to children. Adoption of inclusive approaches that ensure participation of all stakeholders including Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs) at State and Local Governments, as well as the civil society organizations in recreation is recommended.

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