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## An Assessment of Communal Efforts towards Developing Arinta Waterfall as a Tourist Attraction

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### **Abstract:**

*The willingness and ability of local communities to participate in the development of tourism resources has remained an issue of debate in tourism development. Data for the study were from five hundred and twenty four (524) buildings/housing units form the target population which is the sample population from which half of the buildings which is 262 buildings were sampled. The research work focused on the assessment of communal efforts towards developing Arinta water fall as a tourist attraction. The study established that the availability of the waterfall in Ipole-Iloro has not really have a significant effect on the community's economy as well as infrastructures. On the same vein, it was shown that there is little support geared from the community towards the development of the tourist centre, hence, it can be said to be in a poor state. The study concluded that efforts should be made to ensure towards the development of the tourist centre in other to make it an attractive sight-seeing and pleasurable centre for people's visit.*

**Keywords:** Waterfall, water based tourism and communal support

### **1. Introduction**

A waterfall is a place where water flows over a vertical drop in the course of a stream or river. Waterfalls also occur where melt water drops over the edge of a tabular iceberg or ice shelf. Waterfalls are commonly formed when a river is young. At these times the channel is often narrow and deep (Pelekelo, 2007). The water flows among rocks and splashes down with great force to the evergreen vegetation around. The area can also serve as mountaineering. The breeze at the waterfalls is cool and refreshing. The whole scenery is fascinating and idyllic. Arinta waterfall is used for drinking, bathing, and as medicine by indigenes and other tourists alike (Ijasan, 2011). communities can be geographical spaces as well as social groups. This might be immigrants, a student community on a campus, the aged or the gay community. People sharing values, beliefs, practices and cultures also constitute communities, for example, religious groups (Langa, 2010). Tourism is highly seasonal, and in many places around the globe peak occurs mostly at the dry season. In fact, a great number of important tourism destinations are located in areas where future conflicts over water supply are highly likely, if not inevitable. The consumption of water per tourist varies widely, and may range from 100 to 2,000 litres per capita per day, being infrequently higher than that spent by the local population (Gössling, 2001; Garcia and Servera, 2003).

Tourism potentials are located in the rural communities and as such, the rural communities are well endowed with these natural gifts of nature. The rural areas contribute significantly to our national development in terms of human and material resources, most especially in the area of tourism and recreation activities (Bankole and Afolabi, 2010). According to Hall and Harkonen (2006), "water-based tourism, sport, leisure, and recreation experiences" has been coined. In doing this, recognition is given to the overlap among tourism, sport, recreation, and leisure as well as to the diversity in water resources that may be used for the former. Such water resources include salt, estuarine, fresh, and frozen water in their various formations.

Matarrita-Cascante, Brennan, & Luloff, (2011) and Marciszewska, (2006) have identifies various dimensions of communal support at global level. First, there can be participation in decision making, formulation and selection of alternative plans. Secondly, people can also be involved in the project implementation through labour, monetary and material donations towards realization of their goals. Thirdly, the beneficiary communities can equally participate through the benefit derived from the provision of electricity, roads and water supply. Finally, the citizens can as well participate through project evaluation of completed and ongoing works. This helps to ascertain the quality of work done by the service providers. The people who benefit must have some levels of autonomy over projects in their domain.

## 2. Statement of the Research Problem

There is no gainsaying of the merit of waterfall tourism. Despite the importance of tourism to nations, the problems associated with tourism are quite enormous. For Nigeria to attain a greater height in her efforts to revamp the downward economy trend caused by mono-economic reliance on crude oil and the world economic meltdown, tourism should be recognized as one of the strategies that can be employed in the revival process bearing in mind the vast resources available in the country. With the enormous potentials of Ikogosi Warm and cold springs and Arinta Waterfall to improve the local and state economy, the effect has not been significant in the host communities. Ipole-Iloro still remains under-developed in term of infrastructure and social amenities.

Ijasan and Izobo-Martins (2012) emphasize the opinion of the local residents as regards the challenges and prospects of Arinta waterfall tourist centre. It also surveys the level of awareness of the people of Ipole-Iloro in relation to the Arinta waterfall located in their community but did not touch on the physical or attitudinal constraints by residents or the efforts that have been made by the people towards the promoting Arinta waterfall as a tourist attraction. Also, the study did not touch the physical and attitudinal communal constraints against the development of Arinta waterfall tourist attraction. Based on the foregoing argument it is evidenced that the Ipole-Iloro community has not been explored on certain fronts.

## 3. Research Questions

- What are the benefits of Arinta waterfall tourist resort to Ipole-Iloro town?
- What efforts have been made by the community towards developing or promoting Arinta waterfall as a tourist attraction?

## 4. Aim and Objectives of the Study

The aim of the study is to assess communal efforts towards developing Arinta Waterfall as a tourist attraction. However, the specified objectives of the study are to:-

- Examine The Benefits Of Arinta Waterfall Tourist Resort To Ipole-Iloro Town;
- Examine The Efforts The Community Is Making Towards Developing Arinta Waterfall As A Tourist Attraction.

## 5. The Study Area

Ipole-Iloro is one of the towns under Ekiti West Local Government Area of Ekiti State in Western Nigeria which is situated between lofty, steep-sided and heavily wooded, North-south trending hills about 27.4 km east of Ilesha (Osun State), and about 10.5 km Southeast of Efon Alaye (Ekiti State). It is located at 7°25' and 8°05' N latitude and 4°45' and 5°46' E longitude. The elevation of the general area is between 457.0-487.5m. Temperature ranges between 21° and 28°C with high humidity. The south westerly wind and the northeast trade winds blow in the rainy and dry (Harmattan) seasons respectively. Tropical forest exists in the south, while savannah occupies the northern peripheries. Arinta waterfall is one of the beauties of Nigeria in terms of natural endowment. Located in the western part of Nigeria, known as Ekiti state. Ipole-Iloro has a good local natural environment combined with rich culture and history and these form the basis of what makes the community a tourists' destination Godfrey and Clarke (2000). The multiple cascades of Arinta waterfall is said to consist of seven distinct cascades in all (Clarke, 2000). Another wonderful attraction at one of the seven cascades of the waterfall is a cobble called 'the wonderful stone' (Ojo, 2013). A research recently carried out by an Afro American indicated that the water falls could generate electricity (Hydro-electric power). This resort centre is naturally endowed with thick and evergreen forest.

The state has many natural resources that are yet untapped. A combination of factors, both geographical and socio-cultural makes the state a good tourist destination in the country. Because of its size and physical location, spans several vegetation belts. The equatorial climate provides radiant sunshine most of the year round. The project town Ipole-Iloro is in Ekiti West Local Government Area in Ekiti State. It is necessary to analyze the basic infrastructure and because this will help in proper planning. The existing infrastructures and the socio-cultural values of the people are appraised as these are useful in knowing the existing condition of the town. The basic amenities that make life in Ipole-Iloro much more meaningful to enhance the people include: Education, Health, Religion main groups of religion i.e. Christians, Muslims and traditional worshippers.

## 6. Literature Review

### 6.1. The Concept of Waterfalls and Tourism

In treating waterfalls as gifts of nature which can be used to satisfy human wants and be exploited for profit, it may be helpful to consider these landforms within an existing conceptual framework which classifies and shows relationships between natural resources of various kinds. Before proceeding, however, it is necessary to point out that, while a distinction can be made between "landscape" and "scenery" (Jackson 1984), in the following discussion the two terms are used more or less interchangeably. Perhaps "landscape" is used more in Jimoh, 2011 sense of "everything that I see and sense when I am out of doors", while "scenery" is applied more to landscape with which there is a strictly visual aesthetic engagement. The concept of tourism is perceived differently by different people. According to Ecolab (2012), the scholar proposed that in order to conceptualize tourism adequately, academics need to go beyond the economic and appreciate the relationships of tourism, leisure and recreation with other social practices. While Frauman and Banks (2011) portrayed tourism as creating an ordering effect that involves organizing humans and non humans, document,

texts, physical devices, architectures and many more. Tourism therefore cannot be merely a business activity; it is link with objects, systems, machines, bureaucratic processes, sites, photo graphs, desires visitors and local.

### 6.2. Communal Support in Tourism Development

Community dwellers are often willing and ready to invest their own resources in activities perceived to be beneficial to them and to their community. They are prepared to take leadership role, responsibility, and work in collaboration with the national government and also devise means to sustained community initiated projects. This is evidenced by a case studies carried out in Australia, Canada, Thailand and Uganda Yusuf (2003). Ijasan and Izobo-martins (2012) argued that community engagement and impact of development must be given high recognition as lack of community acceptance can have adverse effect on any development. If tourism is well planned, it will be help to open up rural areas which will balance tourist demands, local human, cultural and natural resources. There is a need for tourism promotion and awareness. It is indeed disheartening when majority of people living in a neighbourhood are oblivious of the vast natural endowment within their community. Community interest and social capital can be developed through coordinated attempts and efforts by the community, planners, government and the developers.

In Africa, the participatory theme in the development process has become very prominent, such that development is virtually defined in terms of people's participation. There has been so far massive support toward community participation dating as far back as 1970s, when ILO assisted rural workers organizations and also supported their educational activities to bring about effective participation (Elishiba, 2011).

National development entails finding solutions to the problems of environmental or natural resources exploitation and degradation; health, human settlement, educational and cultural enhancement for a better and more meaningful living standards (Harris, 1997). This emphasizes the importance of involving local communities in any development project or program which is meant to improve their own welfare, hence the term "community participation". Harris described it as local community involvement in the development, maintenance and sustainable management of their natural or environmental resources. The involvement of local people in the design of strategies and management of natural resources is paramount to the success of any conservation project (Gössling, Peeters, Hall, Dubois, Ceron, Lehmann and Scott, 2012).

### 6.3. Research Methods

Ipole-Iloro which is the study area for this research consists of a total number of 563 housing units.

Streets Name	Housing Units
Inuta	115
Ijale Odo/Oke	58
Iwaji	65
Iloro	101
Odo Oja	41
Okesa	69
Oke Adura	47
Oke Ijoko	28
Total	524

Table 1: Name and Number of Housing Units in Ipole-Iloro  
Source: Field Survey, 2019

The five hundred and twenty four (524) buildings/housing units form the target population from which sample was drawn for the study. In order to determine the total number of questionnaires that was administered to residents, 50% of the housing units in each ward presented on table 1 were selected as sample size and household heads of the selected 50% residential buildings were given questionnaires for data collection. Only 1 household head per building were given the questionnaire to. 50% is manageable because, the essence of this percentage is due to the homogeneity of the population of the study area and this corroborate (Bankole, 2006) that says 50% of any sample size is enough to get the accurate information. He further indicates that formula may end up given inaccurate information and it will affect the research. Ojo, 2015 opined that sample proportions are ideal and reasonable because no fixed percentage is ideal; rather, sample size is determined by the circumstances surrounding the study situation. Therefore, 50% of 524 buildings, which amounted to 262 buildings, were represented as sample size of this study. Hence, a total sum of two hundred and sixty two copies of questionnaire were produced and administered to the household heads resident in the study area. The research employed various descriptive analysis techniques in order to proof the researcher's validity and reliability.

## 7. Results and Discussion

The research findings are discussed below with the tables containing information from the survey carried out by the author in 2019.

Responses	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Very Low	137	52.3
Low	123	47.0
Average	2	0.7
High	-	-
Very High	-	-
Total	262	100

*Table 2: Level of Employment or Income provided by Tourist centre to the Community  
Source: Field Survey, 2019*

Table 2 shows the response of the respondents concerning the level of income and employment generated and provided by the tourist centre to the community. The table shows that large number of respondents 52.3% and 47.0% opined that the availability of the tourist centre has never really influenced or enhanced the level of employment generation and level of income of people in the community. However, a little number of the population 0.7% stands on the average side. As a result of this, we can deduce that the availability of the tourist centre has not really helped in increasing the level of economic development of the community which correlate with the fact that the people of the town has not been benefiting from the waterfall (Table 7). No wonder according to Omotoso and Omotoba (2016), the level of encouragement of local people was low due to the low level of employment provided in the community. It is no gainsaying that tourism has provided employment opportunities around the world, no wonder, in the work of Irshad (2010), he look into some benefits of rural tourism as job retention, job creation, new business opportunities and career opportunities for youths which is all closely related to employment opportunities but reverse is the case in Ipole-Iloro.

Responses	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Very Low	138	52.7
Low	124	47.3
Average	-	-
High	-	-
Very High	-	-
Total	262	100

*Table 3: Level of Water from the Waterfall Respondents' Use in Their Businesses  
Source: Field Survey, 2019*

Table 3 shows the response of the respondents concerning the level of water generated from the waterfall that the respondents use in their businesses. It shows that large number of respondents (52.7% and 47.3%) respectively opined that the level of water generated from the waterfall that they use in their businesses is generally low and very low. According to Tamir (2015), the quality of lives of local people support in tourism can be achieved by provision of essential amenities such as good housing, portable water and power supply. In the same rein, Harwood (2010) noted that essential facilities are needed to plan for community support in a remote location. As a result of this (low level of water generated from the waterfall for business), we can deduce that the water from the tourist centre has not really been use or exploited for business activities in the study area which can also be traced to the low level of development of the tourist centre.

Responses	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Road	262	100
Electricity	-	-
Market	-	-
Pipe Borne Water	-	-
Others	-	-
Total	262	100

*Table 4: Infrastructures Improved By the Government as a Result of the Tourist Centre in the Community  
Source: Field Survey, 2019*

Table 4 shows the response of the respondents on the extent to which the waterfall has improved infrastructure in the community. It can be seen that large number of respondents (76.4% and 15.6%) respectively indicated that the availability of the waterfall has not really helped to improve the infrastructure in the community while just little percentage of 8.0% stood on the fence. And this can also be observed on all other infrastructures present in the community apart from road all other infrastructures present are in poor state condition in the study area

Responses	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Protection Or Security	250	95.4
Sales Of Souvenir Items	-	-
Public Enlightenment	6	2.3
Cleaning Of The Tourist Centre	6	2.3
Organizing Festivals	-	-
None Of The Above	-	-
Total	262	100

Table 5: Efforts Made by the Community towards Promoting Arinta Waterfall

Source: Field Survey, 2019

Table 5 shows the efforts made by the Community towards promoting Arinta Waterfall. In the table, we can see that 95.4% of the respondents opined that the community members do engage in providing security for the tourist centre. On the other end, 2.3% and 2.3% opined that cleaning of the tourist centre is the only major way the community is contributing towards the development of the tourist centre as well as public sensitization. If the community intervention will thrive in Ekiti State, the host communities will be major stakeholders, and therefore, their involvement is a necessary prerequisite.

Responses	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Very Low	-	-
Low	-	-
Average	109	41.6
High	153	58.4
Very High	-	-
Total	262	100

Table 6: Evaluation of Communal Efforts towards

Developing the Tourist Centre

Source: Field Survey, 2019

Table 6 shows the evaluation of communal efforts towards developing the tourist centre. In the table we can see that 58.4% of the respondents evaluated the community efforts towards the development of the tourist centre to be high while 41.6% of the respondents opine and rate the communal support to be generally average. Therefore we can conclude that the community is putting effort in supporting very actively in the development process of the tourist centre. This is in tandem with Omoregie (2012) who noted that meetings with government officials, seminars, and workshops are ways by which local people can know much about tourism and can also be encouraged to invest in the industry. Fandi (2015), when local people take leading roles as worker, it helps in the preservation of natural and cultural entities in the host communities. As such, it will also increase their active support in tourism.

## 8. Summary

The results presented show the assessment of communal efforts towards developing Arinta waterfall in Ipole-Iloro in Ekiti State as a tourist attraction. The researcher administered Two Hundred and Sixty two (262) questionnaires in the study area. It has been shown in the series of results from the data collected that the tourist centre has not really been serving as a major source of employment, on the same note, the water generated for businesses by the people of the town from the waterfall for their businesses has generally been low, although it was shown that the availability of the waterfall has helped greatly in the development of the road infrastructures improved, therefore, the tourist centre hasn't been really serving as a means of income or a source of economic development in the study area, and this can be traced from the research to the poor condition of the tourist centre, the tourist centre has not been modernized therefore lacking several facilities that could enhance proper attraction of visitors, this is significant because there is no or little intervention by the government and other agencies or bodies to enhance and finance the development of the tourist centre unlike the neighbouring centre (Ikogosi warm and cold spring).

From the research made, it was clearly shown that the people of the community has not really been supporting the development of the tourist centre in that most of them are not really concern or show no concern about the condition of the tourist centre. No wonder Aprilia and Astuti (2018) noted that community support tourism is only a product of uniqueness of attraction; this implies that for any community, the knowledge of community intervention in tourism will likely make rural people to work more on the uniqueness of attraction, consequently, which will attract more visitors.

## 9. Conclusions

This research work investigated the level of community involvement of community dwellers in the study area. This study was able to assess how satisfied community members are with tourism in their community. But the level of community involvement is still very low due to the low level of encouragement to participate in community tourism by the government. The result also shows that facilities and amenities are still wanting in the communities of the study area. If the facilities are in place, tourism at the community level will surely spring up and the centre will be able to attract tourists from all over the world. Lack of local participation in tourism, neglect by government especially in the tourism sector, lack

of encouragement of community dwellers and use of top-down approach are the major constraints to the development of tourism.

## 10. Recommendations

Communities should be actively involved in tourism; their various involvements will surely help in the rapid development of tourism in this community. They could also be encouraged by provision of incentives to people living in the host community.

"Information is power" "a person not informed is already deformed". A reason why awareness and advertisement are very compulsory prerequisite to the development of community tourism in the study area.

There should be opportunities for local people to participate in development, make decisions on it and gain access to all the processes of development and this will require empowering them. Training in practical management skills and techniques for economic activity should be provided for concerned members in the community and communal support tourism activities that are relevant to tourism development should be integrated.

All development relating to communal support in the community has to be based on the sustainable development concept and the potential and capacity of local communities in research, development, marketing and group management should be fostered and effort to increase environmental conservation knowledge and awareness among local people should persist.

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