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A SOCIO-ECONOMIC IMPACT OF IKOGOSI WARM SPRING AS A TOURIST CENTRE ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF EKITI STATE, 1996-2023

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Abstract

Tourism is the act and process of spending time away from home in pursuit of recreation, relaxation, and pleasure, while making use of the commercial provision of services. As such, tourism is a product of modern social arrangements, beginning in Western Europe in the 17th century, although it has antecedents in classical antiquity. The impact of tourism toward the development of a town, Local Government, State or even a Country cannot be under estimated and that is why this paper examines the socio-economic impact of Ikogosi Warm Spring as a tourist Centre on the development of Ekiti State. How it has projected the image of the state internationally and how it has generated huge revenue to the coffer of the State. It uses simple historical methodology involving the use of oral interviews and secondary sources. The paper revealed the historical background of the people of Ikogosi Ekiti, impacts of the Warm Spring on them, the socio-economic impact to the development of the State, how it has become a tourist attraction to visitors both within and outside Nigeria and wonders of the spring to the tourists at the visit. It concluded that Ikogosi Warm Spring as a tourist Centre has contributed in no small measure to the development of the State in revenue generation, recreational services, relaxation Centre and brought the State into reckoning among committee of States both within and outside the Country Nigeria.

Keywords: Socio-economic impact, Tourism, Ikogosi Warm Spring, Development, Ekiti State.

Introduction

According to Macintosh and Goeldner (1986), tourism is a collection of activities, services, and industries which deliver a travel experience comprising transportation, accommodation, eating and drinking establishments, retails shops, entertainments businesses and other hospitality services provided for individuals or group of individuals. Hunziker and Krapf (1941) in their book "(Fremdenverkehr), view Tourism as sum of the phenomena and relationships arising from the travel and stay of non-residents, in so far as they do not lead to permanent residence and are not connected to any earning activity.

According to Sculled (1992), tourism is the sum of operation, mainly of economy nature which directly related to the entry, stay and movement of foreigner inside certain country, city or region. Mathieson and Wall (1992) Created a good working definition of tourism as the movement of people to destinations, and the facilities created to cater to their needs Mclntosh and Gupta in Yoeti (1992) define tourism is the sum of phenomena and relationship arising

from the travel and stay of none resident,and so far, they do not lead the permanent residence and are not connected with earning activity. Then, that definition accepted by the international of association of scientific expert in tourism. According to two Swiss scientific experts in tourism, Henniker and Kraft (1996) tourism is the sum of phenomena and relationship arising from the travel and stay of none resident and so far, they do not lead the permanent residence and are not connected with earning activity. Then that definition accepted by the international of association of scientific expert in tourism. For Leiper (19810), tourism as an open system of five elements interacting with broader environments, the human element, tourist, three geographical elements, generating region, transit route and destinations region, and an economic element, the tourist industry.

Richard Sihite (2000) describes tourism as follows: Tourism was a journey that is done for a while, which was held from one place to another leaving its place, with a plan and with the intention of not a strive or to make a living in the places visited, but simply for to enjoy leisure activities and to meet diverse desire. Kodhyat (1983) describes tourism as travelling from one place to another, temporary, done individually or in groups, in an effort to seek a balance or a harmony and the happiness to the environment in the social, cultural, natural and the science. James J. Spillane(1982) in his opinion argues that tourism is an activity to travel in order to get pleasure, find satisfaction, knowing something, improve health, enjoy sports or a rest, to fulfil the task, pilgrimages and others. Frankling (2003) Tourism becomes absolutely everything associable with acts of tourist, or put into its proper form tantological "tourism is touri". Richardson and Fluker (2004) were of opinion that tourism comprises the activities or persons, travelling to and staying in place outside Reviews their usual environment for not more than one consecutive year for leisure, and other business purpose.

From the descriptions and opinions of different scholars regarding the concept of tourism, it can be agreed upon that tourism involve the temporary movement of individual or groups from their residence to another place for a visit in search of pleasure or leisure or for discovery of a new ideas, academic research, new business knowledge, relaxation or for recreational purpose which maybe for financial gains or something else.

Historical Background of Ikogosi Ekiti and Ikogosi Warm Spring

According to Chief Olu Adeniji an octogenarian, Ekiti born, trained from the then University of Ife now Obafemi Awolowo University Ile-Ife, an indigene of Ikogosi Ekiti. The founding father Olosun by name was said to be a direct son of Oduduwa. Around 5th and 6th century in annoyance he left Ile-Ife due to Chieftaincy tussle and he left the stool. He was a hunter and was asked where he was going to, he answered wherever his conscience directs. Not that he left for Erio then to Aramoko, he passed through Ogotun Ekiti in a very thick forest on a hill and he saw a plain land (Ikogosi Ekiti) where he settled along with his followers who are young hunters. He went back to Ile-Ife to consult oracle as touching the plain land he discovered. He was told by the oracle that the place was going to be a very great town. Why coming back from Ile-Ife where he went for consultation with the oracle, he killed a very big animal which the Yoruba call 'Igala' and he quickly remembered the word of the oracle which said he would be great and wealthy, which the killing of the wild animal called Igala in Yoruba symbolized. He made prepared fire in order to cook the animal for eating and thereafter proceeded on his journey through Ogotun to the plain land where there were no occupants at all. He then started his hunting expedition and found an area to be warmer than where he

was coming from. According to traditional history, it falls within the period of harmattan when extreme coldness was in place. Having found a particular area warmer than others, he became fearful and eager to inquire what was happening. Suddenly he heard a sound of running water and he was thirsty then. He entered through a place where the cold and the warm met. In an attempt not to drink dirty water, he climbed up to discover stone water of different colours, black, blue, white etc. he ran away from there and went bn back to Ife to consult the oracle again. The oracle told him not to be fearful at all as the place is distinct from other area as something unique was there. He later went back to the area and started searching for the source of the water by scratching the ground. Necessary sacrifice was made. Eventually the progenitor of Ikogosi Ekiti Olosun settled on the hill where he came through from Ile-Ife very close to the point of discovery the warm spring. As a great and powerful hunter Olosun was, he do engage his hunting expedition as far as Igbara-Odo and wherever he kill animal, he would prepare it for eating at the spot. He never made any hut in all of those places he hunted. After some days in the forest on hunting exercise, his people were worried and in doubt whether he had been killed by wild animal. His people went to consult oracle as to what happened to him and how he could be found. Eventually few of them found him. They thereby contemplated about where to settle, and he quickly opted for where the warm spring was found. As at that period, no place where warm water of such was found. The fear of such propelled them to consult the oracle again, and they were told not settle near that warm water. They decided keep some distance from the water in strict obedience to what the oracle said.Olosun was told to be careful about the kind of people he would be accommodating as kinsmen. Eventually, Olosun became the first king of Ikogosi Ekiti. The town called Ikogosi Ekiti is made up different quarters such as: Isogba which means a meeting point of the 'elders. This entails the point at which the witches, wizards, sorcerers and soothsayers meet. Isogba later became a family history but a quarter any longer. Due to expansion, there are Iluja quarter, Ilaro quarter, Ori quarter, Okelele quarter, Erigbe quarter, Ilajumu quarter. Historically, Ikogosi is one unlike some other towns where each quarter would claim migration from different area which is to say, different historical or traditional origin. All the aforementioned quarters originated from Isogba but extended and super extended to different quarters.

The untold stories of Ikogosi Ekiti warm and cold spring have this to say, according to hearsay, the warm and cold spring were two women who married to the same husband but their rivalry aggravated to internal rift between the both of them and they transformed to cold and warm spring. Accordingly, the temperamental wife became the warm spring while the gentle one transformed to cold spring. This angered their husband and served as a form of ridicule to him. Thereby, he transformed into hill which adjudged to be sacred in which sacrifice were being made to. The myth also emphasized according to traditional legend that, the Ikogosi Warm Spring was discovered by a local powerful hunter named Ogunkugan during his hunting expedition so thirsty and tired, he was force to stop by at the water fountain which he later discovered that the temperature of the place was different from the usual one as it was higher than the normal temperature of stream with similar manners. He quickly found his way straight to Obas palace to report the usual things discovered. The Oba chose some retinue of traditional Chiefs to ascertain the authenticity of the story. When it was confirmed to be true, they thought of the place to be idolized and they immediately made one of the Chiefs Baaleshi by name the spiritual head of the place of the warm Spring which they traditionally called 'Awo' and the adjourning cold spring which has a meeting point was

traditionally called 'Awele'. The warm spring became a place of worship and point to commune with the gods by the community people for a very long time during the olden days. It continued till the advent of the Baptist Missionary Church in the town.

Summarily put, the progenitor and the founding father of Ikogosi Ekiti was a great and powerful hunter called Olosun and he was the one who discovered the warm and the cold spring during his hunting expedition. As at the period of discovery, nowhere in the world was found to be like that of the warm spring thereby made it a Centre of attraction to every dick and harry globally.

An Historical overview of Tourism in Ekiti State

Ekiti State is one of the states created by the Military Government in October 1, 1996 and it blessed with material resources and human resources in abundant with lots of mineral resources and skilled manpower. The state is known for huge investment in education with a very many numbers of Professors. Aside this, one area which the state has a great potential for development is Tourism. The state has developed tremendously in the area of Tourism to the extent that, once Ekiti state is mentioned, there are some tourist areas that readily come to mind and this include the very Ikogosi Warm Spring. There are also the Arinta Water Falls in Ipole-Iloro, Olosunta and Orole Hills in Ikere Ekiti, Adekunle FajuyiMemorial Park and Ewi's palace in Ado Ekiti, Esu Shrine in Ijelu Ekiti, Elemi River in Igede Ekiti, The source of River Osun in Igede Ekiti, Ogun Shrine in Ire Ekiti, the Sacred fish Erin Ayonigba in Erijiyan Ekiti, Esa cave in Iyin Ekiti, Fabunmi monuments site in Okemesi Ekiti, Ero dam in Ikun Ekiti, Egbe dam in Egbe Ekiti, Oroke Ewo War Centre in Ilupeju Ekiti, Ooni River in Efon Alaaye, Egigbu Artificial Lake in Ayetoro Ekiti,Adari Hills in Isan Ekiti and other rocks of attraction to tourists at Aramoko, Efon Alaaye, Igbara Odo Ekiti and Okemesi Ekiti. During the Administration of Dr John Kayode Fayemi as the Governor of Ekiti State, he placed a serious priority on Tourism by giving it its rightful place in the development effort f the state. Tourism development was listed as the number seven in the Governor 8-Point Agenda. This was a move to make the state one of the leading tourism state and Centre of attraction among the committee of states in the whole Federation of Nigeria. Aside making Tourism as one of his Administration cardinal points for development, he created an enabling environment through favourable policy for tourism to thrive and generate revenue to the coffer of the state. A place was created in Ministry of Culture, Arts and Tourism which was in consonance with the Federal Government position regarding Tourism development. There was a direct budgetary allocation for development of Tourism which stood at about One hundred and forty six million naira in the year 2011. Another milestone achievement during Dr Kayode Fayemi's Administration toward Tourism development was the creation of the Bureau of Tourism development whose major objectives and aims were to make the homogenous state a most attractive destination for relaxation and holiday by building a heliport, hotel of international standard and accommodation facilities, developing Efon Alaaye, Okemesi, Ipole-Iloro, Ikogosi Tourism corridor.

Social impact of Ikogosi Warm Spring on the development of Ekiti State

According to Femi Olokesusi (1989), tourism is a form of recreation that requires leaving home for some other places, whether near or far. There is a social dimension to tourism growth. Employment is one of the most readily available indicators to begin measuring the social impact of tourism since job creation specifically create enabling environment and improve the

living standard of the people. In this regard, there are many social benefits of the Warm Spring to the development of the State and the entire citizenry especially the immediate community. These include; preserving the local culture and heritage of the people in the state, strengthening communities to enhance social interaction, foster unity and serve as a vehicle of togetherness among the citizen, provision of social amenities, commercialization of culture and art, revitalization of customs and art forms and the preservation of heritage. Socially, Ikogosi Warm Spring has been a tourist attraction to tourists around the world due to the concerted effort made toward the preservation and protection of the local culture which has hitherto contributed to the conservation and sustainable management of the natural resources, the protection of local heritage, and a renaissance of the indigenous cultures, cultural arts and crafts. It has been a catalyst for strengthening a local community of Ikogosi in way that events in which the local residents have been the primary participants and spectators are often rejuvenated and developed in response to the interest of the tourists. In the aspect of job creation to the local community which will be discussed under the economic impact, people with jobs are bound to be happier and more sociable than those without any means of livelihood or a disposable income. Provision of social services which involve facilities and infrastructure is another social impact of Ikogosi Warm Spring as adequate amenities are in place to make the place habitable for the prospective tourist and equally available for use by the local residents in case of any event provided, they can afford the cost. Local people gained new roads, new sewage system, new playgrounds and a secured environment devoid of any security threat which is a menace in the present-day society. Preservation of cultural heritage is another aspect in which Ikogosi warm spring has been socially impactful. The belief that the natural water heals all manner of sicknesses and diseases is still preserved and valid till date. Socially, Ikogosi Warm Spring is more than a convergence point of warm and cold water, it is a place that offers a whole lots of life experiences from engaging with local culture to unwinding in the tranquility of nature, it provides an opportunity for excitement and relaxation which is second to none anywhere in the world. This is suffixes to say that, whether one is an adventure seeker, a lover of nature-oriented things or one who is looking for a quiet retreat, the warm spring at Ikogosi Ekiti is a place to visit. In furtherance of the social impact of the warm spring, it is not just a destination but the memories created and the experience of being in a convergence point where nature and culture mixed together to form a robust tapestry of beauty and mystery.

Economic impact of Ikogosi Warm Spring on the Development of Ekiti State

Okoli (2011) explained the role of tourism industry in the economic survival of countries and states across the world; hence the industry is described as having economic regeneration and stabilized potential given its roles in employment creation, income generation and infrastructural development. It was further revealed according to the research and statistics that, tourism has become a pivot in enhancement of the needed socio-economic development of states across the world as it has displaced many income generation sources having taking an important position after oil in the strata of resources generation in recent years.

Take for instance, according to world tourism organization (UNWTO) in 2011, the economic contribution of tourism globally was put at about $6.3million in GDP with about 200 million jobs directly created, hence, showing that the industry is contributing significantly to the service economy of the world with enormous potentials for socio-economic development. However, the pandemic years seriously dealt a blow on world economies in which tourism

was not left out because according to the statistics released at the wake of the post pandemic years, it shows notable decrease in the level of income generation and other economic hardship that accompanied the pandemic years. Thus, according to the World Travel and Tourism Council (WTTC), by 2022 of the post pandemic year, there were notable changes as the tourism industry had seamlessly contributed 7.6% to global GDP, an increase of 22% from 2021 and only 23% below 2019 levels. The tourism industry also supported 22 million new jobs in 2022, representing a 7.9% increase on 2021, and only 11.4% below 2019. The World Tourism Organization (UNWTO) reported that international tourism saw a strong rebound in the first five months of 2022, with almost 250 million international arrivals recorded, recovering almost half (46%) of pre-pandemic 2019 levels.

However, Ikogosi warm spring in Ekiti State was not left out in these strata of the economic statistical analysis even despite the fact that, according to research conducted, that the contribution of warm spring tourist Centre to the socio-economic development of Ekiti State over the years has been at the median pedestal due to many factors abounded that has rear its ugly head against the sustainability of the natural resort, but despite many of the odds, the ecotourism Centre been a natural based tourist site, taking into cognizance the natural ecological attractions to the host community had helped in protecting the environment, profiting the host community people by providing an alternative and sustainable source of livelihood to the locals, conservation of biodiversity, promotion of small and medium tourism enterprises, active local participation, ownership and business opportunities, particularly for rural people; and above generating revenue into the covers of the state government which serves as alternative revenue means for the state and also educating and serving the pleasure of tourists (Telfer and Sharpley, 2007). Thus, setting the records straight in this research, the economic impact of Ikogosi warm spring reflected in double lens approach i.e. the natural spring over the years has contributed and impacted both the locals and the government both state and federal. However, revealing through the local lens, available records and research conducted posit and stated that, Ikogosi tourist Centre has brought both national and international recognition to the local community, which has influenced rapid population growth of the community thereby having a direct effect on the local economic activities of the community and the surrounded communities. This invariably has brought about expansion of the local market, both the periodic and the daily marketing engagements as presence of more foreigners are been felt in the community markets.

In this regard also, the changes and expansion in the local economy of the community has brought about more wealth creation which can be felt in the construction of some infrastructural facilities by government and individual in the community for commercial purposes, thereby improving the standard of living of many locals due to enhancement of local participation as a result of the warm spring presence. Moreover, the wealth creation argument became more pronounced in the year 2019 with the acquisition of the Gossy warm spring by Saro Africa international Nigeria Limited under the administration of Governor Kayode Fayemi in his bid to revamp the state economy and resuscitate the moribund facility as part of arrangement to generate additional revenue to the covers of the state forming one of the key areas of his eight-points development agenda.

The development creates massive employment opportunities to the citizens of the state which the locals formed reasonable percentage of the working population at the resort. Even apart

from this aforementioned, there was an improvement in the transportation sector of the host communities as many youths of the community were engaging in motorcycle transportation operation transporting tourist from the bus terminal of the community to the tourist Centre, thus brought about youth engagement and empowerment. This in other word had a great impact on the social order of the community as the engagement of the aforementioned drastically reduced the rate of crime in the environs as a result of increase in the commercial activities of the community.

On a large scale, from the period of exchange of baton and collaboration between the Baptist missionary and the state government under the then military government in the old Ondo State, this was the period when the state government started putting in place some infrastructural and recreational facilities in a bid of changing the face of the resort to be more classical and attractive to more tourist for more revenue purpose for the state down to the establishment of Gossy warm spring in 2003, and the establishment of Gossy Bottle Water plant by UAC of lately under public private partnership programme, through to the period of state partnership and the official takeover by Sao Africa international in 2018, Ikogosi warm spring in its capacity had contributed significantly to the internal generated revenue to the covers of Ekiti State. It has alternatively increased the income and business infrastructure of the state. The internally generated revenue (IGR) that the state government collects from various sources within its jurisdiction, such as taxes, fines, fees, licenses, earnings, sales, interest, and dividend which is an important indicator of the state's economic performance and fiscal capacity.

However, in the course of the research of this work, due to the fact that prior to the recent time, lack of digital documentations of some components of the IGR led to lack of the basic needed statistical data for the purpose of getting vital information in this respect, but be at its May, according to the Joint Tax Board1, the IGR of Ekiti State periscoping the IGR from 2010 to 2020 shown in the table below:

Year	IGR (N million)
2010	2,848.72
2011	3,091.56
2012	3,249.84
2013	3,966.88
2014	3,712.02
2015	3,655.76
2016	2,991.03
2017	4,967.86
2018	6,473.90
2019	8,469.71
2020	6,440.11

The table was decimated at 2020 owing to the fact that, the only available records was pegged at 2020 saved 2023 that was yet to be concluded, this may be a result of the problematic covid19 pandemic that ravaged the whole world for months.

However, to make an explicit analysis of the contribution of tourism sector to the IGR of Ekiti State as a result of the aforementioned point i.e late exposure to digitalized documentation of

data made it uneasy to calculate, because there is no official data available on the revenue generated by tourism in Ekiti State. Be as it may, based on some assumptions and available information from a web search result, one can estimate it as follows: Using 2018 when there was a significant increase in the income generated IGR of the state. Lumbering and tourism made significant contributions to the local economy of Ekiti State in the aforementioned year as the State total IGR was pegged at NGN6,588,391,065.65 and a total GDP of $2.8 billion. Thus, assuming that tourism accounts for 10% of the total IGR of Ekiti State in each year from 2010 to 2020, which is a reasonable assumption given the importance of tourism in the state, then the revenue generated by tourism, would be 10% of the IGR figures shown in the table above.

Therefore, the tourism sector's contribution to the IGR of Ekiti State from 2010 to 2020 would be as shown in the table below:

Year	Tourism Revenue (N million)
2010	284.87
2011	309.16
2012	324.98
2013	396.69
2014	371.20
2015	365.58
2016	299.10
2017	496.79
2018	647.39
2019	846.97
2020	644.01

These estimates are based on some assumptions and may not reflect the actual situation of tourism in Ekiti State. However, it provides a rough idea of how much tourism contributes to the IGR of Ekiti State.

Also, according to findings, it was established that the presence of the ecotourism Centre and most importantly the revamp of the resort at competing level of world class resort standard under the administration of Governor Kayode Fayemi greatly turns the resort to cynosure of eyes of attraction for influx of foreign investors thereby contributed immensely to the economic development of the state. This was felt in the increase of hotels patronage and subsequent infrastructural development and partnership with the state by investors within the state. Also the use of the Centre by groups and government officials for conferences, seminars and retreats has greatly contributed to the economic wellbeing of the host communities and by extension the Internally Generated Revenue (IGR) of the State. However, the presence of these ecotourism centres and the establishment of the Gossy bottled water company create and generated more employment opportunities for both the host and the citizen of the state and the country at large. This hitherto helped in reduction of dependency ratio among many of the vulnerable youths and adult. These invariably improve their standard of living and changed their economic status.

Government Contributions to the Development of Ikogosi Warm Spring in Ekiti State

The contributions of successive Government to the development of Ikogosi Warm Spring from 1996 cannot be underestimated, but it is imperative to briefly mention here the effort of the past Administration before the creation of Ekiti State. Worthy of mentioning is Late General Adeyinka Adebayo Administration the then Governor of Western region of Nigeria., He intervened in the controversy and uproar between Tai Solarin and Rev. MacGee over the refusal over the latter to offer an accommodation to the students who Tai Solarin led on an excursion to the Warm Spring. The argument of Rev. MacGee was that, the tariff which the former offered for a night was low and did not pre-book his accommodation. This made the students to sleep in the open field. The petition filed by Tai Solarin against Rev. MacGee called the attention of the Western State government under General Adeyinka Adebayo which raised the fame of the place. It enabled the government to direct the takeover of the site by the Western State government and construction of an enclosure at the source of the Warm Spring. The Administration was known to have being the first to lay foundation of a building there after the exit of Rev. MacGee. It was noted that subsequent military governors and administrators added no value of much importance to it until the era of General Olusegun Obasanjo led administration towards the tail end who gave a parting gift of one million naira each to the nineteen states in 1978 for development of tourism. Chief Adekunle Ajasin who later became the governor of Ondo State then utilized the money meant for tourism development well by collaborating with Nigerian Tourist Board the under the leadership of Alhaji Ahmed Gumel which later metamorphosized to Nigerian Tourism Development Corporation (NTDC) to administer in constructing some chalets thereby gave a face lift to the state of the Warm Spring. The collaboration continued even after the death of Chief Adekunle Ajasin till the period of Colonel Opaleye the then military administrator, who put more seriousness into action by maintaining the agreement with the Nigerian Tourism Development Corporation NTDC) which led to construction of swimming pool, the gate house, zoological garden and furnished the chalets appropriately. The period of Colonel Opaleye was adjudged as the golden period for Ikogosi Warm Spring. It was this period that Colonel Opaleye decreed that the State Executive council meeting be held at the site. After the exit of Opaleye Administration, not much attention was paid to the spring and was left in the hand of Ministry of Tourism and Tourism board to Administer. According to Wale Ojo-Lanre 2012, a General Manager of Ekiti State Tourism Board, the site was made to be degenerated and deserted as the lion in the zoo was made to suffer hunger for many days that it killed and consumed the zoo keeper. This caused a lot of chaos and phobia for people to venture into the terrain.

The period of Otunba Adeniyi Adebayo the first Executive Governor after the creation of Ekiti State in 1st of October 1996 was another remarkable experience as touching the role played toward bringing back of the lost glory of the Spring. The site being already degenerated and left in the position of total abandonment was brought back to life. His Administration planned Economic summit for the state and the site was made the venue. The chalets were renovated and made habitable for the guests. The bulk of the renovation embarked on by Otunba Adeniyi Adebayo Administration were jettisoned by his successor Dr Ayodele Fayose who instead was said to have ordered the total removal of all the fixtures, the fittings, the beddings, the furniture, the electronic gadgets just because he felt it was the meeting point of his opponents. This act of abandonment led to infrastructural collapse, damage of the transformer

through burning, which disconnected the spring from the national grid and rendered the chalets to become abode of reptiles as a result of bush in the entire area.

The Administration of Engineer Segun could not do anything worthwhile because his predecessor left no template for him to work with as regard Ikogosi Warm Spring despite the fact that he had a blueprint on making the area a tourism zone due to proximity to Arinta water fall at Ipole-Iloro which is another tourist attraction in Ekiti. On the touring visit of the site by one Mr. Wale Ojo-Lanre an expert in tourism business with Jethro travel consultant and some expatriates from South Africa, what they met according Mr. Wale Ojo-Lanre was total neglect and they were stunned that Government of any country could neglect such, as what would have been a source of huge revenue to the coffer of the state. There was nothing cheering about the place which was met unkempt, dirty and the swimming pool was left in a sorry state. The Administration of Dr John Kayode Fayemi brought back the lost glory of Ikogosi Warm Spring as series of renovations was carried out to make the place not only habitable, but equally attracted tourist from far and near around the globe to visit. The old wrecked chalets were transformed into duplexes, the abandoned gate house was reconstructed with new set of shops, renovation was carried out on the old swimming pool with introduction of fountain, dressing room, a bar and sitting platform. Lots of state programmes such as capacity training, seminars, conferences and host of others were meant to take place there. Without any prejudice or unnecessary sentiments, with the array of transformation carried out and successfully implemented by the Administration of Dr John Kayode Fayemi in Ikogosi Warm Spring, one can say he is the messiah who has permanently put a stop to the rise and fall of the one of the major tourist Centre in the world.

Conclusion and recommendations

From the research conducted, it was discovered that in no small measure, Ikogosi Warm Spring has contributed to the development of Ekiti State socially and economically. It has served and still serving as a vehicle of cultural preservation and instrument of maintaining the heritage of the people. It has encouraged creation of job opportunities especially to the teeming Youth across the length and breadth of Ekiti State. On the area of revenue generation, it has tremendously brought improvement to the internally revenue generation of the state thereby increased the Gross Domestic Product (GDP). It has improved the standard of living of the immediate community and the state at large. In the area of social amenities, provision of portable water supply, rehabilitation of roads and construction of lock up shops had been enhanced as a result of the Spring. It has exposed the local community to the wider world and thereby brought the host community to international reckoning.

The study has revealed the historical background of Ikogosi Ekiti being the community where the Spring situates. It has showcased the historical overview of tourism in Ekiti State by listing other places of tourist attraction in the State aside the Warm Spring, the social impact of the tourist Centre to the host community as well as the entire state, the economic viability and impact in term of revenue generation to the coffer of the State, employment opportunities to the teeming population, popularizing the image of the State among the international community by bringing people from far and near for recreational and relaxation purposes.

It is hereby recommended that Government should be more proactive by doing the following:

Provision of more budgetary allocation for tourism in the State annual budget so as to explore the opportunity which tourism can offer especially in the area of revenue generation and creation of more job opportunities for the State.

Enhance more participatory opportunities to the host community so as to foster unity between the tourist and the local community.

Provision of mandatory constitutional backing for all future Administrations toward adequate funding of the tourist Centre to avoid neglect by subsequent Governments so as to discourage damage and destruction of the infrastructural facilities in the site of the spring. This can be achieved through the State House of Assembly for upward transmission to the governor for accent to become an extant law.

Encouragement of Government-Private Partnership towards funding and overseeing of the tourism site. This will enhance proper maintenance of the place and make it more habitable to the guest who may visit for either relaxation or recreational purposes.

Provision of adequate security architecture to safeguard life and properties against the unscrupulous elements who may want to often truncate the peace and tranquility of the State. Without any iota of doubt, if all these could be taken into consideration and giving proper implementations, Ikogosi Warm Spring as well as other tourist attractions in the State will be more socially and economically impactful and bring the desired results.

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