THE ROLE OF INFRASTRUCTURE IN TOURISM DEVELOPMENT: A CASE STUDY OF SELECTED RESOURCE POTENTIALS IN THE SOUTH EASTERN STATES

BY

SAM-AMOBI, CHINWE

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DEPARTMENT OF URBAN AND REGIONAL PLANNING UNIVERSITY OF NIGERIA ENUGU CAMPUS

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ABSTRACT

In recent years, there has been continuous growth in the world domestic and international tourism. Many countries are embracing tourism for its prominent contributions to economic, social and political benefits and bounties. Nigeria is poised and bracing up towards employing tourism as a stable tool for economic enhancement.

This research is an attempt at examining the inter-relationship between tourism development (as measured by number of tourists) and infrastructural provision within the study area.

Eight resource centers were selected spanning four of the eastern states viz: Abia, Imo, Anambra and Enugu States. To effectively guide the course of this study, four research questions and three hypotheses were formulated.

Extensive data collection techniques were adopted in the course of this study, only primary data were used in testing the three hypotheses. Simple random sampling and random systematic sampling techniques were adopted in survey of buildings. A total of 500 questionnaires were distributed in the various resource communities. Seventy eight per cent success was recorded as 384 were duly returned and properly filled.
Three major statistical tools were used in this study. Factor Analysis was used to identify any underlying relationship between the independent variables. Multiple Linear Regression (MLR) was used to establish the relationship between usage of the resource centers and infrastructure facility available. Analysis of variance was used to determine whether a significant difference exists in the level of infrastructure provision between the three types of resources selected.

The research findings show that there is no significant relationship between number of tourists and the level of infrastructure provision within the resource centers and within the resource communities. The results also shows that there is a significant difference in the level of infrastructure provision in the three types of resources.

A major policy implication of this study is the need to set up proper channels and strategies for sustained research efforts with a view to developing and adequate data base system. The study concludes that other factors and not infrastructure provision is responsible for the low response to the tourist resource centers.