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Sustaining Leisure Places Culture and Clients Safety in Southwest, Nigeria

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Abstract

Leisure places intended for entertainment, recreation, and social interaction appear to be losing core cultural value, while insecurity and violence have turned many into danger zones for clients and visitors. This study examines clients' reactions to insecurity and safety in some selected leisure venues of South West Nigeria. Anchored in Social Control Theory, the study treats institutional measures as rational and essential for guaranteeing safety in these spaces. Using a mixed-methods design, we collected quantitative and qualitative data from four leisure venues in Ekiti and Ondo States. Thirty respondents and five key informants were randomly selected at each site -120 questionnaires distributed; 20 key informant interviews conducted. Quantitative data were analyzed in SPSS; qualitative interviews were transcribed and reported verbatim to complement the survey findings. Results show that 84.7% of respondents have experienced antisocial behavior, including extortion (90%), theft of valuables (85%), grabbing (88%), threats to life (75%), property insecurity (85%), fear of attack (84%), and panic (86%). These cultural shocks and security challenges may undermine the socio-cultural sustainability of leisure spaces and client safety. The paper therefore recommended that most leisure places relevant operators and stakeholders should provide the necessary man power and modern security facilities needed to guarantee leisure places security for clients' safety, while clients should also adopt precautionary measures.

Keywords: Leisure places, Danger zone, Clients, Hoodlums, Edifice

Introduction

Leisure places were designed with basic social facilities for public pleasure, entertainment, recreation and relaxation in order to enhance the quality of life of human settlements. The aesthetics, visual order and cultural characteristics of most leisure places were provided or equipped with both natural and artificial social

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amenities to attract clients' patronages from all works of life. Thus, leisure places were either culturally and legitimately designed by government or private operators to enhanced sustainable and constant cohesive and congregative community life and feelings (Odeku& Rudolf, 2019; Carmona, De Magalhaes & Hammond, 2008). Hence, leisure places features distinguished them as important factors for measuring quality community lifestyle that identify with peoples' socio-cultural values. The artificial or natural endowments of most leisure places provided important opportunity, quality privileges and aesthetics environment for both the community and the visitors. The entertainment, relaxation and recreation provided in such laudable edifice come with little cost but with the utmost aim of job creation, revenue generation and quality services to the clients, staff and community where such monument was located (Ibama, et.al, 2015). Employed waiters, waiter's assistance, receptionists, managers, cleaners, securities etc. were often trained and oriented to provide the required essential services to the visitors or customers demand for leisure (Rezazadeh1 &Yazarloo, 2017).

Customers and visitors that were supposed to spend quality time in leisure places for convenient and comfortable relaxation with quality pleasure - to relief them from the usual uniform and dull city or urban life (Rezazadeh1 &Yazarloo, 2017) - were rather becoming afraid or skeptical about spending quality time in leisure places. This is because such grandeur - created for succor or relief are more or less becoming abode to crime and criminality. leisure places –supposedly a peaceful and tranquil atmosphere for enjoyment and relaxation with adequate protection for lives and properties are rather becoming crime zone in Nigeria and most African State. Insecurity caused by unemployment and other socio-cultural factors is denying individuals the opportunity to be relieved from the stressful conditions and problems of urbanization and city life style - shaped by work demand and contributes to unhealthy living -. For instance, South Africa is riddled with various dimensions of violent crimes that is crippling not only the development but equally threatening people's freedom and humanity existence (Odeku & Rudolf, 2019; Chutel, 2017). Unemployment and poverty are no-doubt connected to the rising wave of crime with serious implications on Nigerian national development (Adebayo, 2013). The continuous increase in unemployment and poverty rate in Nigeria despite the abundant human and natural resources is capable of threatening if not undermining any democratic and developmental practices.

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Unemployment, though a global phenomenon that either deprive, deny or disengage eligible workforce of a nation in the service of their nation, is in recent times leading to spate of poverty and insecurity. This is having a serious economic and social implication that is affecting both youth and adult directly or indirectly in Nigeria. Unemployed youth and adult in their quest for survival may degenerate to hoodlum and thereby involves in all manners of crimes - robbery, car snatching pilfering, kidnapping, extortion, internet scam, and other social media crimes - leading to perennial society unrest and unstable socio-economic structure that is currently bedeviling the nations Nigeria. The state of unrests witnessed recently in both Northern and Southern Nigeria and the end SARS peaceful youth demonstration in Lagos that lead to the killing of numerous youths by unknown armed uniform-men in 2020 as well as several other security challenges could be attributed to the increasing rate of insecurity and agency extortion in the nation.

Most leisure places in Nigeria is currently facing serious security challenges- making them more or less a danger zone client as a result of youth unemployment and wide spread poverty in the society. Youth population is more than half of Nigeria's population according to 2016 census (Mbachu & Alake, 2016). This set of people were expected to diversify their energy and strengths into national productivity and development of the country. However, the increasing rate of unemployment and the quest for survival is rather propelling most of them into becoming hoodlum culpable of heinous crime in most leisure places (Oluwaleye, 2021). Unemployment and poverty is no-doubt a major factor promoting youth involvement in crime and insecurity that is bedeviling the nation at large. This, most times create or instills fear and panic into the populace, citizenry and client who are supposed to patronized leisure places (Oluwaleye, 2021). Most client rather stay in the comfort of their home instead of patronizing leisure places that will subject them to undesirable pain, agony, extortion, loss of lives and properties.

Voice of America (VA,2018) as cited in Oluwaleye 2021) reported Nigeria's unemployment official figure to be 16 million with additional 2 million projection by the end of the year 2018 while Trading Economics (2019) recorded that unemployment rate in Nigeria increased to 23.10 percent in the third quarter from 22.70 percent in the second quarter of 2018. Thus, unemployment rate in Nigeria increased from averaged of 12.31 percent 2006 to 23.10 percent in the third quarter of 2018 (Akwagyiram, 2018; Trading Economics, 2019). The high unemployment rate in Nigeria has been attributed to many factors including rapid rural unban

migration, population growth, incessant corruption, decline manufacturing sector, inappropriate policy and bad governance (Oluwaleye, 2021; Ekeji, 2019).

Surprisingly, there was consensus agreement among scholars that idleness and deprivation is connected to criminality, as idle mind is devil workshop, thus, provision of employment opportunity would decrease the chance of illegal work and criminal act (Oluwaleye, 2021; Ekeji, 2019; Kostadis, 2017; Jelilov & Ndanitsa 2015; Adebayo, 2013; Ajaegbu, 2012). These scholars also argued that socio-economic inequality, lack of opportunities for social advancement and unemployment are some of the root causes of crime and violence. Hence, it's not too far to states that most of the crimes characterized with violence that endanger the security and stability of patronages to most leisure places is making the edifice dysfunctional. For instance, the recent tragic and brutal attack on Catholic church in Owo, Nigeria on June 5th 2022 that led to killing of many worshippers and that of the two couples at the open grounds of Rhodes Park, Kensington in 2015, by a gang of armed hooligans while strolling and enjoying the ambience of the park call for the country's national security safety measures in public places (Hlatshaneni, 2019 as cited in Odeku &Rudolf 2019).Therefore, a concerted effort towards finding a lasting solution that will guaranteed quality patronage and optimal sustainability functioning of social activities in public places most be uphold.

Much scholarly work is yet to be done on sustaining leisure places security and client's safety in Africa and let alone Nigeria where the study is carried out. The study being the first of its kind would nonetheless be very valuable, educative and informative locally and globally. The paper is set to be an eye opener or a pathfinder to other researcher who may be interested and willing to carry out similar study both in the same and different cultural setting. Since, no study has look into the variables under consideration, it is therefore, necessary and of great importance to carry out the study, while other study may be required to complement and validates its findings and recommendations.

Based on the above, the paper is set to examine ways to sustain leisure places security and client's safety in southwest Nigeria. The paper further aims at interrogating clients to understand the prevalence of insecurity and safety in leisure places in southeast Nigeria and to document client's reaction toward necessary security measure in most leisure places. Thus, the paper probed and attested to the

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reactions of clients over these antisocial behaviours in some selected leisure places in southwest Nigeria.

Methodology

The study reviewed contemporary literature on crime prevalence and control measures for leisure-place security. A mixed-methods design was used in four sites: Ikogosi Warm Springs and Fajuyi Memorial Park (Ekiti); Idanre Hills and Owo Museum of Antiques (Ondo). Sites were purposively chosen because they attract high visitor numbers and represent both natural and built leisure settings. At each site we randomly sampled 30 clients (e.g., every 5th entrant) and 5 key informants (managers, security personnel, and regular patrons), giving 120 questionnaires and 20 interviews. Questionnaires captured experiences of insecurity (extortion, theft, threats, etc.); interviews explored reactions and suggested safety measures. Quantitative data were analysed in SPSS (frequencies, percentages); qualitative data were transcribed and coded by content analysis.

Review of the Literature

Series of research conducted on the benefits, uses and perceptions of leisure places indicated their important contribution to broader sustainability and imperatives healthier lifestyles to local residents (Edwin &Suveshnee 2014; Peschardt, Schipperijn&Stigsdotter 2012). Thus, leisure places create relaxation and recreational opportunities, especially for both visitors, citizenry and local indigenes residing in close proximity to these spaces. Urban leisure places as defined by Swanwick, Dunnett and Woolley (2003) is a mixture of public or green open space, either natural, semi-natural or artificial outside ecological space that consists of both plant and animal biodiversity (M'Ikiugu, Kinoshitaa&Tashiroa, 2012), and natural or human-modified (transformed) urban outdoor environments consisting of considerable amounts of vegetation. (Budruk, Thomas & Tyrrell, 2009). Haq (2011) asserts that substantial research has shown that accelerated urban growth has brought about numerous undesirable environmental concerns that have triggered significant stress on land cover. Urban leisure spaces are increasingly under stress. This is not unique to South Africa. For example, Baur, Tynon and Gómez (2013) suggest that urban development pressures worldwide as well as shrinking budgets are placing pressure on natural resource professionals to ensure that urban green spaces remain a priority for decision-makers.

Sociocultural and Socioeconomic Value of Leisure Places

The importance of leisure places has been highlighted by numerous scholars such as Sreetheran and van den Bosch, (2014); Qureshi, Breuste and Jim, (2013); Wolch, Byrne and Newell, (2014) etc. include both social and environmental benefits. For example, Pillay and Pahlad (2014) indicate that these spaces "provide a range of benefits to communities in the form of recreation, education, relaxation and aesthetic appeal". Similar sentiments are expressed by Haq (2011) that leisure places provide several benefits such as environmental/ ecological, recreational/ leisure, social, psychological, health and aesthetic functions within urban areas. Wolch et al., 2014; Adebayo and Musvoto (2013); Bowler et.al (2010); Jim and Chen (2006); and Leeuwen, et.al (2010) highlight the ecological importance of leisure places to includes habitat provision and biodiversity conservation, air quality improvement/ removal of air pollutants, offsetting carbon emissions and carbon sequestration, erosion control, and regulation of micro-climates/ relieve the impacts of increased temperatures and natural disaster events.

Thus, leisure places are viewed as being critical as they have the potential to provide multiple environmental benefits, including the mitigation of climate related impacts within urban areas. However, Cilliers, et. al (2014) state that most African societies lack the awareness on how to optimally interact with these spaces whilst maximizing intended benefits, resulting in concomitant under-utilization and degradation of these places. These important edifices play a critical role in urban environments from providing different socioeconomic functions ranging from production and agriculture to health and ecology (Leeuwen et al., 2010). Open spaces also have several leisure and recreational uses which include parks and gardens, playgrounds, picnic areas, sport areas, etc. Dinnie, et.al (2013) indicate that leisure places provide a variety of socio-psychological benefits that contribute to human well-being by providing recreational activities, health improvements, and livelihood provision.

The recreational benefits of most open leisure places are portrayed by their abilities to serve as attractive and relaxing spaces where people can socialize and engage in social interactions, participate in outdoor activities and relieve stress (Dinnie, et al., 2013; Haq, 2011). Thus, most leisure places destinations and settings encourage clients/patronages walking and strolling in the neighborhood for healthier lifestyles with increased physical activity (Lee &Maheswaran, 2010). Koohsari, et.al, (2013). Zhou and Rana (2012) specifically note that the pursuit of recreation, leisure and

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excitement are most often time satisfied in leisure places. Thus, most leisure places provided both individual, group and as well as community level benefits. Thus, Francis, et.al (2012) stated that leisure places should bring about strong sense of community and improved wellbeing, increased feelings of safety and security, encourage participation in community affairs and civic responsibility. Therefore, well utilized and properly integrated leisure places in any community should be patronize to contribute to broader social cohesion and interaction.

Insecurity in Leisure Places

Many clients' patronages are rather withdrawn towards most leisure places that are no longer conducive for their recreational needs and personal security (Hayward and Weitzer, 1984). Other studies have shown that many of the supposed clients have resorted to indoor activities as they feel safer and less exposed to being a victim of crime compared to leisure places insecurity (Chiesura, 2004). Thus, the weakened social control mechanism is contributing and promoting all manners of criminal activities such as drug-dealings, killings, rape and muggings occur, and, thereby affecting social cohesion in leisure places, (Mavuso, 2016). Thus, leisure places operators and the government should develop a proactive plan to better manage and protect not only the infrastructure and facilities but also safety to life and properties of clients. For instance, the high levels of crime and violence occurring in most public leisure areas, especially in Africa, indicated the operators and government are yet to provide adequate and necessary protection to life and property in such society (Odeku& Rudolf, 2019; Simone, 2004). Thus, sanctions and punishments for criminal offences around leisure place should be made swift, severe and effectively enforced in order to make leisure places habitable and safe for the public users.

The government of Nigeria and the operators should properly manage, adequately equip and decently maintain leisure place to enhance optimal utilization and guarantee clients patronage safety. These could be achieved through proactive and preventive social control mechanism against any insecurity or unaccepted antisocial behaviour in leisure places like the South African government that has continuously increased the budget allocated for safety and justice sectors to control and prevent incessant insecurity to promote foreign investment towards the country (Odeku& Rudolf, 2019). South Africa government also involves in a joint initiative agreement with the German's government - Inclusive Violence and Crime Prevention (IVCP)

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Programme. The IVCP Programme aims to support the existence and realization of South Africa's government strategic outcome that guaranteed individual safety. This is achieved by promoting and enhancing an integrated, systematic approach towards the formation of safer communities within the country. The main purpose of the Programme is to enhance the current and future conditions of the government in order to implement measures that are aimed at preventing violence, with the assistance of the national and provincial spheres of South Africa's government (Odeku & Rudolf, 2019; VCPP, 2012). To optimize passive surveillance in leisure Nigeria government and operators should also consider developing a range of activities that will minister to and are suitable to control and prevent crime. However, employment opportunities should be considered sacrosanct to eradicate poverty among the youth and able body adult, and, also to engage and redirect their mind from involving in criminal activities (Adebayo, 2013; Ajaegbu, 2012; Kostadis, 2017).

Theoretical Explanation/Framework

The study adopted Social Control Theory (SCT) propounded by the American criminologists, Travis Hirsch in the late 1960s and recently used by Ogini (2020) as essential institution measure against the perpetrators of such heinous act in leisure places in Nigeria. The theory being an off-shoot of rational choice approach, views "human behaviour as being guided by hedonistic principle or pleasure-seeking tendency. According to the author, individual action is guided by institutional dictates from conventional social groups such as the government, schools and family. As indicated by Travis Hirsch exceptional authority is important to clarify individual action.

Social control is regularly the promptest wellspring for safety or compromised for conflict resolution, and no unique inspiration is required to clarify such conduct. Human beings generally are active and flexible organisms who will engage in a wide range of activities, except the range is limited by processes of socialization and social control. The social control mechanisms that reduce conflict, promote conformity and secured life include residents' social ties and the degree to which institution exercise social control on it subject. These ties may encourage groups' and individual's ability to create and participate in social authority over others in the social network to enhance conformity to emergency order.

The Social Control medium can either be formal or informal provided it is observed and obeyed to significantly and directly promote orderliness and reduce unnecessary socio-cultural risk. Social control mechanism includes all mechanisms that must be strictly adhere to by all and sundry in the society on daily basis. Ogini, (2020); Odeku and Rudolf, (2019) noted that adequate social control mechanism enables peaceful existences and reduces social threat in the society. Thus, leisure places operator like most society should endeavor to put in place viable social control mechanism to prevent if not to control it impending danger of crime and insecurity in such area.

Findings

❖ Demographic Characteristics of the Respondents

Table 1: Sociodemographic Characteristics of Participants (n = 120)

	Total *n* = 120		male *n* = 50		Female *n* = 70		p
	N	%	n	%	n	%	
Age							
18-27 years	30	(25.0)	12	(10.0)	18	(15.0)	
28-37 years	40	(33.3)	15	(12.5)	25	(20.8)	
38 years above	50	(41.7)	23	(19.2)	27	(22.5)	
Marital status							
Single	50	(41.7)	21	(17.5)	29	(24.2)	
Married	40	(33.3)	18	(15.0)	22	(18.3)	
Divorced	30	(25.0)	11	(9.2)	19	(15.8)	
Others	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Educational background							
No formal	12	(10.0)	3	(2.5)	9	(7.5)	
Primary	24	(20.0)	9	(7.5)	15	(12.5)	
Secondary	36	(30.0)	17	(14.2)	19	(15.8)	
Tertiary	48	(40.0)	21	(17.5)	27	(22.5)	

Source: Field Work (2025)

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The data presented in Table I show the socio-demographic characteristics of the studied respondents. The sample of 120 respondents selected in the study area is made up of 50 males and 70 females. The age distribution of the respondents shows that 25.0% were between the age range of 18 to 27 years. Specifically, 33.3% of the respondents were between the age range of 28 to 37 years, while 41.7% of the respondents were aged within 38years and above. The marital status distribution of the respondents shows that 41.7% were single, 33.3% were married, while 25.0% were divorced. Educational distribution of respondents shows that 10.0% of the respondents had no formal education. 20.0% had primary education, 30.0% had secondary education, while 40.0% had tertiary form of education.

Table 2: Prevalence of Criminal Activities In Leisure Places(n = 120)

	Total *n* = 120		Male *n* = 50		Female *n* = 70		p
	N	100%	N	41.7%	N	58.3%	
Questions							
Are you aware of leisure places insecurity?							
No	24	(20.0)	15	(12.5)	9	(7.5)	0.6
Yes	96	(80.0)	35	(29.2)	61	(50.8)	
What is the leisure places like?							
Crime zone	90	(75.0)	30	(25.0)	60	(50.0)	
Recreational zone	30	(25.0)	20	(16.7)	10	(8.3)	0.50
Have you experience leisure places crime?							
Yes	88	(73.3.0)	30	(25.0)	58	(48.3)	
No	32	(26.7)	20	(16.7)	12	(10.0)	0.60
If yes, how do you feel been a victim?							
Panic	99	(82.5)	36	(30/0)	63	(52.5)	
Relief	21	(17.5)	14	(11.7)	7	(5.8)	0.5

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Forms of crime in leisure places							
Vicious attacks	96	(80.0)	42	(35.0)	54	(45.0)	
Inadequate safety to property	102	(85.0)	42	(35.0)	60	(50.0)	
Stealing and Snatching	84	(70.0)	36	(30.0)	48	(40.0)	
Physical Assaults	90	(75.0)	33	(27.5)	57	(47.5)	
Threat to life	102	(85.0)		-	-	-	
Extortion	108	(90.0)	48	(40.0)	60	(50.0)	

Source: Field Work (2025)

The data presented in Table II show the findings on the criminal activities happening in leisure places in Nigeria. Findings indicated that majority of the respondents are not just aware but were victims of leisure places insecurity. Thus, the series of criminal actives is drastically affecting client's patronages and social cohesion in leisure places. This was ascertained by respondent's affirmative responses towards some questions asked. Data shows that respondents were aware of criminal activities happening in most leisure places by 96(80%). 90(75%), of the respondents identified most leisure places as crime zone rather than being recreational places. 88 (73.3%) stated they were once victims of leisure places crime. 99(82.5%) were panic been victims while 96(80%) acknowledged that they were victim's series of crimes ranging from vicious attack, coercion, stealing and snatching, physical assault and extortion in leisure places. The probes from the Key Informant also support the respondents' view, that clients are both aware and victim of leisure places crime. The following lines from the KIIs illuminates further:

"I became aware of leisure places crime when I in company of a female guest was attacked by a group of mobs last year preferably – on valentine day – we were stuck beside my car while leaving and some valuables stolen at gun point. It done on us that they were spying on us among the crowd while discussing vital issues and having fun as usual" (Male-informant, aged 42years, graduate, businessman and a client)

Another informant said:

"My own experience was pathetic, I and two of my colleagues were onrush and extorted by a group of armed boys as we were about leaving. The panic at the sight of gun coerces us to comply as we began to sweat profusely." (Male-informant, aged 36years, graduate, public servant and a client)

This explains the effect of criminal activities to respondent's patronages in most leisure places. This implies that the most significant challenges facing client's patronage in most leisure places in Nigeria is inadequate safety measures against the criminal activities that is bedeviling most leisure places. Thus, most respondents' views were rational as they rather seek safety compare to the grave consequences of becoming a subject to all manners of criminal activities in leisure places.

Table 3: Clients Reaction Towards Safety Measure in Leisure Places (n = 120)

	Total *n* = 120		**Male *n* = 50**		**Female *n* = 70**		**p**
	N	100%	N	66.7%	N	33.3%	
Questions							
How is leisure places becoming?							
Conducive	30	(25.0)	18	(15.0)	12	(10.0)	0.67
Not conducive	90	(75.0)	32	(26.7)	58	(48.3)	
What is your patronages like?							
Regularly	24	(20.0)	18	(15.0)	6	(5.0)	0.33
Irregularly	96	(80.0)	32	(26.7)	64	(53.3)	
If irregularly, reason							
Inadequate safety to property	102	(85.0)	38	(31.7)	64	(53.3)	0.50
Fear of attack	101	(84.2)	38	(31.7)	63	(52.5)	
How is safety generally							
Not guaranteed	108	(90.0)	35	(29.1)	63	(53.3)	
Guaranteed	12	(10.0)	15	(12.5)	7	(5.8)	0.46

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Your view about the place							
Discouraging	100	(83.3)	32	(26.7)	58	(48.3)	
Encouraging	20	(16.7)	18	(15.0)	12	(10.0)	0.67

Source: Field Work (2025)

The data presented in Table III show the findings on client reaction toward safety measure in leisure places. The result showed low patronages to these leisure places for the sake of client's safety. The reasons mention by respondents includes the following: 90(75%) of the respondents were of the opinion that leisure places are becoming not-conducive environment. 96(80%) of the respondent involved in irregular patronage. 102(85%) acknowledge inadequate safety to property while 101(84.2) attested to fear of attack in leisure places making it unsafe for client's patronage. 108(90%) of the respondents stated that client safety is not guaranteed in leisure places while 100(83%) attested to the facts that most leisure places were discouraging client patronages. The probe from the Key Informant was in tandem with the respondent's view, that clients are both aware and victim of leisure places crime. The following lines from the KIIs illuminates further:

"Safety to life and property is very sacrosanct and when such cannot be guaranteed in leisure places it will make it not conducive, affect the business operation and patronage. As once a victim, am always skeptical of patronizing leisure places and when I do, it is always with fear and caution couple with the facts that I wouldn't want to be victimized the second time" (Male-informant, aged 42years, graduate, businessman and a client)

Another informant said:

"Sincerely the fear of been a victim make most leisure places unsafe and discouraging to most customers. I too hardly come around, am here today because I had a special discussion meeting with a client who insisted we should do it here" (Male-informant, aged 40years, graduate, school proprietor and a client)

The respondents and the informants are of the opinion that insecurity against client life and valuable properties is the major key preventing if not denying the core value and reasons for creating most leisure places. Hence, these discouraging factors needs urgent attentions from hampering leisure places sustainable development

focus and the expected pleasure and relaxation clients hope to derive in most leisure places.

Conclusion

Leisure places were meant for peoples' enjoyment, relaxation, and recuperation from the daily mundane stress life as a result of workload and business schedule. However, such edifice that was supposed to be a safe and secure abode for social gathering, job opportunities and businesses discussions, were rather becoming insecure. This is against the globally acknowledged or expected procedure and safety operational norms of leisure places. The study identified major insecurity against client safety and patronage to most leisure places to include vicious attack, coercion, stealing and snatching, physical assault and extortion. These criminal activities that were most times perpetrated in leisure places are rather unfortunately endemic with impunity towards clients and detrimental to the core socio-cultural and socioeconomic value of such precious edifice.

Recommendations

The paper therefore makes the following suggestion as recommendation

1. The services of law enforcement agency and well-trained security officers to prevent and control such insecurity for client safety.
2. To maintain a sustainable socio-cultural and socioeconomic value in leisure places in Nigeria, safety should be guaranteed to promote clients' patronage and safety. This may require a comprehensive and integrative strategy involving many stakeholders, especially the government; leisure places operators and the host community gate keepers.
3. Client patronizing leisure places should also be mindful and conscious of their environment for safety.
4. It is also essential to include host community members in the development, planning, programming and maintenance of client safety in leisure places in the society. While this study identified most leisure places as danger zone due to some perpetrated crime towards clients in Nigeria, it is our suggestion that further studies be conducted to investigate the extent to which these criminal behaviour influence customer patronage to leisure places.

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- All Authors **Conceptualization, and intellectual revisions. Data collection, interpretation, and drafting of manuscript**
- The authors agree to take responsibility for every facet of the work, making sure that any concerns about its integrity or veracity are thoroughly examined and addressed
- This paper is one of very few studies that have investigated leisure places culture and clients safety in Southwest, Nigeria. The paper's essential contribution reveals that government, leisure places operators and the host community should maintain a comprehensive and integrative operational security strategy that guaranteed and sustained leisure places cultural value, clients' patronage and safety in most Nigerian leisure places

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