



2 TOURISTS' PERCEPTION OF THEME PARK AS A DRIVER OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT: THE CASE OF SHOPRITE THEME PARK IN IBADAN

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Abstract

Sustainable development involves responsible and judicious utilization of resources by the present generation, while, ensuring that the future generations will also be able to meet and use such resources. The economic and environmental dimensions of sustainable development are examined in this study. This study aimed to examine theme parks as drivers of sustainable development using Shoprite Theme Park in Ibadan. A structured survey instrument was used to collect data from 270 respondents for this study. The collected data were analysed using frequency, percentage, standard deviation and mean. Based on the research findings, it is evident that the theme park generally has negative impacts on the environment, while on the contrary, the theme park has positive impacts on the economy of the study area.

Keywords: Theme park, sustainable development, environment, waste management.

INTRODUCTION

According to the World Tourism Organization (2001), tourism involves the actions of individuals travelling to and staying in destinations that are not their normal places of residence for not over one consecutive year for leisure, business and other purposes. It is pertinent for people to disengage from work at certain periods, to unwind and relax. A relaxed mind is capable of getting individuals better prepped up for work subsequently. Tourism destinations generally serve as a pull to tourists. Tourism destinations can have natural or cultural affinities. Meanwhile, there are other tourism sectors like hotels, theme parks, and casinos, that can also attract people from different quarters. Kruse (2013) noted that the theme park concept depicts a destination that captures it all, the place that embodies it all, the surveillance and control, and the imitation that does not have an end. Theme and amusement parks are essentially destinations with manual and electronic-

driven toys, swings and facilities. Gupta & Sharma (2017) noted that amusement parks and theme parks are concepts for various leisure-based attractions, rides, and other events in a destination that people in their numbers can enjoy. It is an enclosed area with fun facilities capable of attracting people. Liang & Li (2021) stated that the definition in terms of enclosed areas with well-managed access implies that theme parks have solid boundaries and portray physical, economic and cultural separation from the surroundings. Although it attracts people from different areas, access to it is restricted, controlled and well-managed. It is essentially always open for fun seekers. Theme parks are very big recreational parks, inclusive of attractions, eateries and shopping marts (Levochkina, 2018). The facilities in amusement parks are usually expensive, hence, it must be ensured that visitors engage with and operationalize the facilities responsibly. Based on the fact that theme parks are

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composed of expensive facilities scattered in a themed area, many tourists get enthused by these facilities and are thus compelled to take a lot of pictures while at the park. Heo et al. (2023) noted that the tourists at theme parks take many pictures, as a result of different facilities and decorations at the park. These facilities are usually painted with attractive colours, to attract people easily.

Milman (2009) opined that a theme park is a business entity for commercial gains with offerings such as rides, shows, merchandise, meals and different entertainment in themed environments. These attractions are essentially made of electric motors, swings and facilities capable of fascinating visitors cum tourists. It is a composition of different forms of gadgets/facilities that are well arranged in a themed environment. The facilities at theme parks can be fully explored, such that unlimited satisfaction and joy can be derived from their exploration.

There have been various efforts at defining sustainable development/sustainability, but most of the definitions have been vague (Feitelson & Stern, 2023). It essentially means responsible utilization of assets/facilities, in a way that the incoming generation will be able to also meet and utilize such assets/facilities. Salas-Zapata & Ortiz-Munoz (2019) noted that the meaning of sustainability can be examined from three perspectives namely, a compilation of conditions that can guide human actions; humanity's aim; and objects or dimensions of concern. Bidhya (2023) stated that The dimensions of sustainable development are intertwined as well as mutual. Nugraheni et al. (2019) stated the sections of sustainable development are employment, hygiene and social cohesiveness, as well as inclusivity and coherence. Habimana et al. (2023) noted that in specific terms sustainable development depicts ways

to organize societies for them to continue existing on a sustainable basis. Tourism attractions are essentially facilities or assets that must be cherished and responsibly engaged so that they can also meet the tourism desires of the incoming generation. Thus, sustainable tourism is responsible engagement of tourism attractions and their environments in a way that ensures that they will also be able to meet the desires of the incoming generation and their longevity. Without sustainable tourism, it is not certain that the incoming generation will meet the tourism facilities and attractions used or explored by the present generation. Though there have been a plethora of studies on sustainable development (Change et al., 2016; Cho, 2020; Doncheva, 2019; Feitelson & Stern, 2023; Silva & Cândido, 2016; Wei & Lujun 2014 amongst others), and on theme parks (Dong & Sui, 2013; Milman; 2010; Milman et al., 2010; Wei et al., 2020 among others), there has been a paucity of studies examining theme park as a driver of sustainable development. This study was therefore aimed at examining tourists' perception of theme parks as a driver of sustainable development in Ibadan. Specifically, the study examines tourists' perceived impact of the park on social infrastructure, the economy and the environment.

LITERATURE REVIEW

Triple Bottom Line Theory

The triple bottom line (TBL) of people, planet and profit is a concept that was coined by Elkington in 1997 and it has been well adopted and engaged globally (Chabowski et al., 2011; Svensson & Wagner, 2015). Sustainable development is essentially underpinned by the triple bottom line theory. Santosh & Nirmala (2023) noted that the practices of Triple



Bottom Line is underscored by the report of the performance of a business entity based on three pillars: economy, environment and social. Tseng et al. (2018) noted that each of the three domains of triple bottom line theory aligns with the sustainable development dimensions: being prosperous economically implies quality of life attained via productive capacities of the firms; integrity of the environment is connected with the limited capacity of ecological systems to be regenerative; as well as social equity borders around the right of stakeholders to access resources.

The theory connects the planet with its people, especially in the light of generating economic gains (profits). The theory reiterates responsible usage or exploration of the environment while generating profits.

Sustainable Development

Sustainable development essentially implies development rooted in sustainable practices. It implies activities and practices capable of ensuring the longevity of amenities, facilities and resources. Tomislav (2018) opined that there is dynamism and regular evolution associated with sustainable development, thus, it depicts attending to the aspirations of the present generation bearing in mind that the future of the incoming generation must not be jeopardized. It rests on a tripod of economy, environment and society. Practices of sustainable development ensure that the components of the tripods are judiciously utilized to ascertain that they will be preserved for future generations. Hopwood et al. (2005) noted that sustainable development is a consequence of burgeoning knowledge of the world's connection amidst growing problems associated with the environment, social and economic concerns that

deal with poverty and inequality as well as it pertains to a hygienic future for mankind.

Judicious utilization of these components could be done by engaging approaches such as preservation, conservation, reconstruction, consolidation and so on. Olawuyi & Posun (2021) opined that sustainable development revolves around activities that could maintain the structure as well as constituents of resources via protection from self-destruction, arrest from damage and reconstruction. Sustainable development ensures that the future is guaranteed to be bequeathed with valuable resources embellished with historical depths from the present. Habimana et al. (2023) noted this implies that there is consideration of contemporary as well as future imperative, for instance, environmental preservations and nature or societal/financial equities.

Olawuyi (2023) noted that sustainable development is underscored by the practise of preservation and successful passing down of cultural value, attribute, belief systems as well as ethical codes from one generation to another. It implies present activities to ascertain a good and memorable future. Sustainability could be generally referred to as government-informed decisions that depict continual life conditions for future generations; while sustainable development is essentially a process and is connected with controlled change which brings enhanced conditions for the individual(s) involved in such developments (Habimana et al., 2023). Bidhya (2023) stated that sustainable development implies systematical plans as well as procedures to achieve development goals for contemporary times and the future to different extents via significant usage of available resources in the ecosystem for addressing societal welfare and financial development. It



facilitates conscious efforts vis-à-vis the preservation of valuable assets so that they live for a very long time. This conscious effort is expected from the Government and other stakeholders in the Country or State. Habimana et al., (2023) noted that in specific terms sustainable development depicts ways to organize societies for them to continue existing on a sustainable basis. It helps in the organization and management of societal units/components in a bid to ensure the longevity of these units/components. Amoiradis (2023) stated that sustainable development gives the assurance of ecology not being negatively affected. It ensures that Indigenous areas have financial gains from the natural resource at the same time leading to the prevention of the spread of aliens from non-sustainable enhanceent of tourism.

One of the main aims of sustainable development is to establish quality life for human beings without destroying the environment. Nugraheni et al., (2019) stated that various phases of sustainable development are connected to the essential requirements as well as life's quality and impressive governance for achieving the ideals of societal class as well as the necessity to participate in the communities. It ensures that the carrying capacity of an environment is not exceeded to ensure that such an environment could yield better produce in the future. Amoiradis (2023) stated that sustainable development gives the assurance of ecology not being negatively affected, hence, rather than going after the commercialization of exploiting sites, there is a concentration on carrying capacities of controlling the deterioration of the environment as well as ensuring long-run sustainable development.

It preserves the oral tradition of a group so that it does not get lost or disjointed at any point in time. Devi (2021) noted that the concept of sustainable

development is engaged in ensuring that development is being operationalized via a means that the conservation of natural assets is guaranteed, as well as assurance of passing the assets or resources to the incoming generation. The definition of sustainable development by the Brundtland Commission in 1987 is that it is the development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations (UN, 1987). This is in reference to its capability to preserve/conserv three concepts, namely, economy, environment and social. Boström (2012) opined that the connections that exist amongst the three dimensions of sustainable development are believed to exhibit compatibility as well as mutuality in terms of supporting one another.

Dragouni (2017) noted that sustainable development leads to the provision of a robust perception of the economic, societal as well as heritage-based tourism influence on destinations, consequent upon the fact that it envisaged unhindered small-scale as well as different perspectives. There is a holistic examination and engagement of the economy, societal ethics cum values and the environment in the discussion of sustainable development. Although, some authors argue that one of the pillars has more prominence or importance than others. Dempsey et al. (2011) noted that amidst the trio of pillars of sustainable development, socially sustainable development has the lowest development as well frequently gets suggested to be part of economic/environmental sustainable development. Nugraheni et al. (2019) stated that the sustainable development's social pillar is regarded as having less importance when compared with the other pillars, while economic pillars are the second generally instituted section of the social pillar. Amoiradis (2023) stated that the economic dimension concentrates on



the costs-benefits of financial engagements, socio-cultural dimension gives the assurance of systematic development privileges for the Indigenous areas, the dimension of the environment focuses on conservations as well as long-run control of resources, while transversal dimension creates supports via policies as well as infrastructural development.

The efficient utilization of a tourism asset/resource, vis-à-vis its financial gains and protection of its environment, can also be underscored by the concept of sustainable development. Notably, sustainable development is the concept that underpins and drives sustainable tourism. Olawuyi & Posun (2021) noted that sustainable tourism emanates from sustainable development. Sustainable tourism essentially operationalizes the paradigms of sustainable development for tourism. Nugraheni et al. (2020) submitted that three trajectories of sustainable development focus on the environment, economy and society, therefore, sustainable tourism is a derivative of sustainable development, hence, the three trajectories of sustainable development apply to sustainable tourism development. Sustainable tourism implies appropriate use and engagement of different components of tourism, so that irrespective of their engagement and usage they can be preserved for the incoming generation.

Theme Parks and Sustainable Development

Sustainable development is a topical issue in both academic and professional discourses. The dimensions of sustainable development can either have an effect on theme parks or theme parks could have an effect on these dimensions. A theme park can enhance an environment or deplete an environment. Elghonaimy & AlSaeed (2021) opined that the consideration of the environment in all theme park

buildings is a germane point for all green designs. Therefore, it must be ensured that environmentally friendly materials are engaged in designing and building a theme park. Ma et al. (2023) argued that there are bound to be either negative or positive environmental impacts where theme park project is executed. Three measures were considered while examining the impacts of the theme park on the environment and they are the fragility of each space that there may be destruction or demolition of existing natural habitats, physical as well as ecological loads in the area as a result of the intensity of people at various times of the year, and the tourists' pressure as a result of their activities that could result into a strain on indigenous infrastructures.

Although building construction usually result in the breaking of land and disruption of the natural habitat of some fauna and flora components it must be ensured that endangered species are not involved. Meanwhile, a theme park should be able to facilitate the environmental aesthetics of a community. Zhang et al. (2016) noted that theme parks were usually engaged for reflecting how healthy a Chinese city tourism image is. This simply implies that the environmentally conscious development of a theme park could also result in social upliftment of the area, especially, in the light of infrastructural development and maintenance. According to Swarbrooke (2002), it is expected that there will be many social gains for a theme park to engage in sustainable development. Theme park as a business entity is established for profit making, therefore it would be connected with other business entities in the community. Elghonaimy & AlSaeed (2021) argued that the gains from theme parks should revolve around the creation and increment in employment opportunities,



encouragement of tourists to visit and allowing foreign currencies to be used in the country, while, encouraging local communities to preserve their resources. Hence, theme parks are essentially foreign exchange earners for different communities and Nations. Wang & Zhou (2008) concluded that Chinese theme parks should implement a sustainable development strategy premised on the idea of an experience economy to be able to have the significance of development introduced via the economy.

In light of the fact that theme parks can impact the economy and the environment, then theme parks can be considered to impact sustainable development. Elghonaimy & AlSaeed (2021) opined that a theme park and attraction substantively add to the sustainable development of sites in different regions that could be inclusive of infrastructural investment, creation of jobs, tax revenue, tourism revenue, contribution as well as sustenance of communities. Gupta & Sharma (2017) opined that theme parks and amusement parks are not restricted to attracting an impressive number of visitors, but, they do likewise make available thousands of employment opportunities. Irrespective of the fact that a theme park is a capital-intensive business, it has experienced significant growth, as a lot of people are investing in it. Based on the fact that it is indeed a capital-intensive project, it has received Government intervention and subvention in various parts of the world. Milman et al. (2010) noted that theme parks have gotten different levels of Government support, premised on the fact that it is capable of providing leisure and recreational assets for community dwellers and visitors. Even though the cost of investment in a theme park is huge,

it can churn up good returns on investment for its owner. Wang et al. (2023) noted that for various foreign theme parks 30% of generated income is from entrance fees, 30% from retail as well as 40% from meals and lodging. Just like all business engagement theme parks have experienced financial downturns at some points, but it is presently a booming business that generates a lot of revenue. Sasaki et al. (1997) noted that in the 1980s various big leisure and themed parks inclusive of Disneyland were established in Japan with the intent of impressive financial gains, however, in the 1990s the business boom regressed. Milman (2010) noted that there has been a rapid growth of the theme park sector on a global basis over the past three decades, concerning theme park sizes, capacity products as well as entertainment. Liang & Li (2023) noted that with respect to the recent growth trajectory, the theme park sector in China is experiencing a boom.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Study Area

Shoprite, a shopping mall is in the Challenge area, Ibadan southwest local government area, Ibadan, Oyo state, Nigeria. The headquarters of the Local Government Areas LGA is in the Oluyole estate district of Ibadan with the LGA made up of districts such as Ring Road, Oke Ado, Isale-osi, Oke-bola gege and Oluyole estate. Ibadan Southwest LGA shares borders with Ibadan Northwest, Ido, Ibadan North, and Ibadan Southeast LGAs. The Shoprite is located right in the reserved and serene environment of the LGA. There are other offices and a High Court close to the Shoprite building.

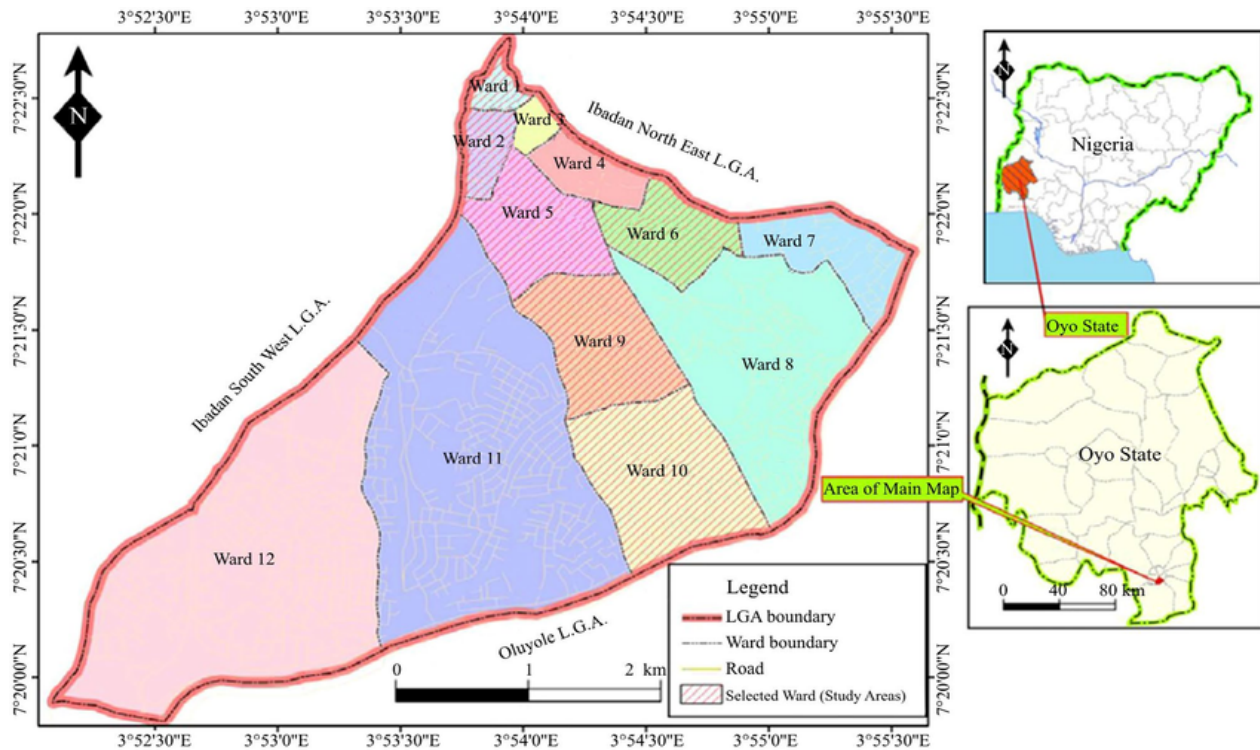


Figure 1: Map of Ibadan South West Local Government

Source: Taiwo (2016)

Research Design

Bostley (2019) noted that a research design is a plan of study providing the connection between the problem statement to relevant as well as attainable empirical framework. Descriptive research design is a creation of data gathering, analysis and presentation evident in research write-ups (Khanday & Khanam, 2019). Descriptive research design is essentially a form of quantitative research design, but it could also be used for qualitative research (McCombes, 2022). The study also employs the quantitative approach for data collection and analysis based on the descriptive research design.

Sample Size

There is no established data on the precise number of tourists who visit the theme park. Based on the fact that the population is unknown, the modified Cochran’s formula for determining sample size for an unknown population was used. The sample size is therefore 270 based on the following formular;

$$n = \frac{z^2pq}{e^2} \quad n = \frac{(1.645)^2(0.5)(0.5)}{(0.05)^2} = 270$$

n is the sample size

z is the value found in Cochran's table

p is the (estimated) proportion of the population

q is 1-p

e is the desired level of precision



Sampling Technique

Because there is no record or register for the total number of people visiting the park, a convenient sampling technique was adopted. Respondents were chosen based on their availability and willingness to take part in the study. Some tourists were indeed engrossed in their leisure activities and they made it clear that they could not spare time to fill out the research instrument. Thus, the research instrument was only administered to those who were willing to spare time to fill it out.

Research Instrument

The research instrument used for this study is a structured questionnaire. The questionnaire contains demographic sections and other sections structured with the aid of a LIKERT scale. Section A comprises of the demographic characteristics of the respondents. Section B consist of questions on the impact of the park on the environment. Section C consist of questions on the impact of the park on the economy. Section D consist of questions on the impact of the park on infrastructural development of the community. Section E comprises of questions on the theme park generally. While section A consists of nominally scaled questions, section B to E consists of ordinally scaled questions, ranked on a 4 Likert scale of Strongly disagree equating to 1, to Strongly agree equating to 4. The questions were gotten from instruments used in topical publications (Chang et al., 2021 & Elghonaimy & AlSaeed, 2021).

Data Collection and Analysis

Data was collected from the respondents with the use of a structured questionnaire. The managers at the park were intimated with the intent of the researcher vis-a-vis collecting data from respondents with the aid of questionnaire. The questionnaires were administered to the respondents at the park. The questionnaires were directly administered to each of the respondents physically. Completed questionnaires were retrieved from the respondents on the spot. It was however ensured that tourists in the adult demography were the only set of people at the park that the questionnaires were administered to. The collected data were analysed with Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS). The data were analysed descriptively with frequency, percentage, mean and standard deviation.

RESULTS AND INTERPRETATION

Demographic Characteristics of Respondents

The demographic distribution for this research revealed that a little more than half of the respondents are male (50.7%). Likewise, more than half of the respondents are within the age range of 18 to 24 (54.8%). This analysis further shows that more than half of the respondents are single (54.8%). Similarly, half of the respondents are undergraduates (50.0%). Thus the target population for the study could be described as youthful and single.

**Table 1: Demographic Characteristics of Respondents**

Characteristic	Frequency	Percentage
Gender		
Male	137	50.7
Female	133	49.3
Total	270	100
Age		
Less than 18	10	3.7
18 to 24	148	54.8
25 to 31	94	34.8
Others	18	6.7
Total	270	100
Marital status		
Married	62	23.0
Single	202	74.8
Others	6	2.2
Total	270	100
Educational Qualification		
SSCE	13	4.8
Undergraduate	135	50.0
Graduate	85	31.5
Others	37	13.7
Total	270	100.0

Source: Author's Survey (2022)

The Impact of the Park on the Environment

The analysis revealed that 53% and 37.4% respectively of the respondents strongly agreed and agreed that the park has led to the beautification of the environment. 25.9% and 50.7% of the respondents respectively strongly agreed and agreed that the park has made the environment cleaner. More than half of the respondents (24.1% strongly agreed and 42.6% agreed) that the pollution of the environment has been reduced as a result of the presence of the park. 23.3% and 47.8% of the respondents respectively strongly agreed and agreed submitted that as a result of the presence of visitors at the park, there is an increased deposit of waste in the environment. 25.9% and 50% of the respondents agreed and 50% disagreed that the theme park has led to the increase in gas emissions.

14.1% and 48.5% of the respondents strongly agreed and agreed that the park has led to the loss of biological diversity. The respondents however expressed indifference and disagreement to indicators for the negative impact of the park on the environment. These include the park has led to increased gas emission ($\bar{X} = 2.64 \pm 0.85$), the park has led to the loss of biological diversity ($\bar{X} = 2.34 \pm 0.85$), the pollution of the environment has reduced as a result of the presence of the park ($\bar{X} = 2.16 \pm 0.86$), as a result of the presence of the visitors at the park there is increased deposit of waste in the environment ($\bar{X} = 2.13 \pm 0.87$). They also disagreed that as a result of the park the environment is cleaner ($\bar{X} = -1.99 \pm 0.75$) and that the park has led to the beautification of the environment ($\bar{X} = 1.59 \pm 0.74$).

**Table 2: The Impact of the Park on the Environment**

Statement	SA	A	D	SD	Mean±SD
The park has led to the beautification of the environment.	143(53%)	101(37.4%)	18(6.7%)	8(3.0%)	1.59±0.74
As a result of the park, the environment is cleaner	70(25.9%)	137(50.7%)	57(21.1%)	6(2.2%)	1.99±0.75
The pollution of the environment has been reduced as a result of the presence of the park	65(24.1%)	115(42.6%)	74(27.4%)	16(5.9%)	2.16±0.86
As a result of the presence of visitors at the park, there is an increased deposit of waste in the environment	63(23.3%)	129(37.8%)	57(21.1%)	21(7.8%)	2.13±0.97
The park has led to an increase in gas emission	31(11.5%)	70(25.9%)	135(50%)	34(12.6%)	2.64±0.85
The park has led to the loss of biological diversity	38(14.1%)	131(48.5%)	73(27.0%)	28(10.4%)	2.34±0.85

Source: Author's Survey (2022)

Table 3: The Impact of the Park on the Economy

Statement	SA	A	D	SD	Mean±SD
The park has led to the growth and multiplication of businesses	136(50.4%)	88(32.6%)	22(9.6%)	20(7.4%)	1.74±0.91
The Park has led to an increase in job creation	62(23.0%)	135(50.0%)	55(20.4%)	18(6.7%)	2.11±0.83
The Park has attracted complementary businesses	62(23.0%)	135(50.0%)	55(20.4%)	18(6.7%)	2.11±0.83
The park has enhanced foreign exchange earning	39(14.4%)	88(32.6%)	109(40.4%)	34(12.6%)	2.51±0.89
The Park has led to an increase in wealth distribution	53(19.6%)	118(43.7%)	69(25.6%)	30(11.1%)	2.28±0.91
The Park has caused inflation in the area	51(18.9%)	22(5.2%)	73(27.0%)	24(8.9%)	2.26±0.87

Source: Author's Survey (2022)

The Impact of the Park on the Economy

It is evident from the analysis that 50.4% and 32.6% of the respondents respectively strongly agreed and agreed that the park has led to the growth and

multiplication of businesses. 23% strongly agreed and 50% agreed that the theme park has led to increased job creation in the community. More than half of the respondents posited that the park has attracted complementary businesses (23% strongly agreed and



50% agreed). 32.6% of the respondents agreed and 40.4% disagreed that the park has enhanced foreign exchange earnings. 19.6% and 43.7% of the respondents respectively agreed that the park has led to increased wealth distribution in the community.

Nearly 19% and 45.2% of the respondents strongly agreed and agreed that the park has caused inflation in the area. The respondents however largely expressed agreement to the indicators of the impact of the park on the economy. This include, the park has enhanced

foreign exchange earnings ($\bar{X} = 2.51 \pm 0.89$), the park has led to increased wealth distribution ($\bar{X} = 2.28 \pm 0.91$), the park has caused inflation ($\bar{X} = 2.26 \pm 0.87$), the park has led to increased job creation ($\bar{X} = 2.11 \pm 0.83$), the park has led to the growth and multiplication of businesses ($\bar{X} = 1.74 \pm 0.91$), the park has enhanced foreign exchange earnings ($\bar{X} = 2.51 \pm 0.89$) and the park has attracted complimentary businesses ($\bar{X} = 1.88 \pm 0.79$).

Table 4: The Impact of the Park on Social Infrastructure

Statement	SA	A	D	SD	Mean±SD
There is a steady distribution of power supply	129(47.8%)	81(30.0%)	32(11.9%)	28(10.4%)	1.85±1.00
There is enhanced transport system	81(30.0%)	129(47.8%)	52(19.3%)	8(3.0%)	1.95±0.78
There is an enhancement of telecommunication facilities in the community	56(20.7%)	128(47.4%)	67(24.8%)	19(7.0%)	2.18±0.84
The park has led to a better drainage system	45(16.7%)	112(41.5%)	75(27.8%)	38(14.1%)	2.39±0.93
There is provision of pipe-borne water in the community	44(16.3%)	72(26.7%)	108(40.0%)	46(17.0%)	2.58±0.96
There are available medical outlets in the community	38(14.1%)	102(37.9%)	82(30.4%)	48(17.8%)	2.52±0.94
The park has led to the preservation of Government facilities	46(17.0%)	103(38.1%)	82(30.4%)	39(14.4%)	2.42±0.94

Source: Author's Survey (2022)

The Impact of the Park on Social Infrastructure

47.8% and 30.0% of the respondents strongly agreed and agreed respectively that there is steady distribution of power supply. Over half of the respondents (30.0% strongly agreed and 47.8% agreed) that there is enhanced transport system. 20.7% and 47.4% of the respondents strongly agreed and agreed respectively that there is enhancement of

telecommunication facilities in the community. 41.5% and 27.8% of the respondents strongly agreed and agreed respectively that the park has led to a better drainage system. 40% and 17% of the respondents disagreed and strongly disagreed respectively that there is provision of pipe-borne water. 37.8% of the respondents agreed, while, 30.4% disagreed that there are available medical outlets in the community. 17.0%



and 38.1% of the respondents strongly agreed and agreed respectively that the park has led to the preservation of government facilities. The respondents largely expressed agreement to the indicators of the impact of the park on social infrastructure. This include, there is a steady distribution of power supply ($\bar{X}=1.85\pm1.00$), there is enhanced transport system ($\bar{X}=1.95\pm0.78$), there is an enhancement of

telecommunication facilities in the community ($\bar{X}=2.18\pm0.84$), the park has led to a better drainage system ($\bar{X}=2.39\pm0.93$), there is provision of pipe-borne water in the community ($\bar{X}=2.68\pm0.96$), there are available medical outlets in the community ($\bar{X}=2.52\pm0.94$) and the park has led to the preservation of Government facilities ($\bar{X}=2.42\pm0.94$).

Table 5: Tourists' Perception of the Park

Statement	SA	A	D	SD	Mean±SD
The park is of a global standard	118(43.7%)	107(39.6%)	28(10.4%)	17(6.3%)	1.79±0.87
There are enough amenities in the park	75(27.8%)	125(46.3%)	51(18.7%)	19(7.0%)	2.05±0.87
Amenities in the park are in very good condition	80(29.6%)	140(51.9%)	31(11.5%)	19(7.0%)	1.96±0.83
The park essentially has modern facilities	77(28.5%)	150(55.6%)	26(9.6%)	17(6.3%)	1.94±0.79
It is easy to locate the park	102(37.8%)	135(50.0%)	24(8.9%)	9(3.3%)	1.78±2.00

Source: Author's Survey (2022)

Tourists' Perception of the Park

Table 5 shows that 43.7% and 39.6% of the respondents respectively strongly agreed and agreed that the park is of a global standard. More than half of the respondents (43.7% strongly agreed and 39.6% agreed) noted that the park has enough amenities. 29.6% and 51.9% of the respondents respectively strongly agreed and agreed that the amenities of the park are in good condition. 28.5% and 55.6% of the respondents also strongly agreed and agreed respectively that the park essentially has modern facilities. Over half of the respondents (37.8% strongly agreed and 50% agreed) noted that it is easy to locate the park. The respondents perception of of the park includes, the park is of a global standard (\bar{X}

$=1.79\pm0.87$), there are enough amenities in the park ($\bar{X}=2.05\pm0.87$), amenities in the park are in very good condition ($\bar{X}=1.96\pm0.83$), the park essentially has modern facilities ($\bar{X}=1.94\pm0.79$) and it is easy to locate the park ($\bar{X}=1.78\pm2.00$).

DISCUSSION

The fact that a significant proportion of the respondents (53% strongly agreed and 37.4% agreed) submitted that the park can lead to environmental beautification aligns with the submission of William et al. (2019) that while these acts of cleaning and greening are essential to placemaking, they are motivated by the achievement of broader aesthetic and social goals. The submission that the environment is



cleaner as a result of the park is contrary to the submission of Dusanka & Zarko (2016) that since hygiene and cleaning products may contain toxicological and eco-toxicological properties, they can negatively affect human and environmental health. The position that pollution of the environment has reduced is contrary to the submission of Shuang-Hau & Jian-meng (2022) that tourism destinations have caused tremendous pressure on the surrounding and regional environment. The submission that the park has led to the loss of biological diversity aligns with the submission of Jeffrey et al. (2016) that the tourism industry can negatively affect wildlife, plants and natural ecosystems through habitat destruction, pollution, over-exploitation of natural resources and visitor impacts to sensitive ecosystems. The analysis revealed that the park was perceived to have more negative impacts on the environment. These are the fact that the park has led to the increase in gas emission, the park has led to the loss of biological diversity, and as a result of the presence of visitors at the park, there is increased deposit of waste in the environment. Ghobadi & Verdian (2016) noted that part of the irreparable negative impacts of tourism on cities is waste pollution, polluted water from seashores and rivers, as well as variations in the landscape and scenery of the hinterlands and cities. The negative impacts of the park on the environment are usually precipitated by the actions and behaviors of tourists at the park. Olawuyi (2024) noted that different forms of tourists behavioral tendencies at a tourism site can be tracked and analysed using data analytics. It is evident that theme parks are known to result in or escalate the beautification of any area where it is sited. Levochkina (2018) asserts that a major example of a theme park contributing to the enhancement of a territory is Walt

Disney World, because, Orlando ab-initio was essentially an agrarian area, known for citrus fruits, but Walt Disney has significantly led to its development and attractiveness.

The essence of drawing out the negative impacts of the theme park on the environment is to ensure that they will subsequently be ameliorated or controlled, to have environmental sustainability. Baloch et al. (2023) opined that sustainability of the environment is an intentional effort for the future targeted at the conservation of social and cultural heritage as well as the preservation of nature-based assets in protecting the ecosystem via the support of individuals' health as well as financial capacities. There must be intentional efforts by the owners of various tourism destinations, inclusive of theme parks and government agencies to reduce and control environmental degradation and air pollution as a result of tourism patronage. Zhang et al. (2020) submitted that tourism locations in China are advocating for instant policies to mitigate air pollution as well as improve the sustainable development of the environment. Notably, standard deviation and mean values were used to rank the indicators as follows; the park has led to an increase in gas emission, the park has led to the loss of biological diversity, the pollution of the environment has reduced as a result of the presence of the park, as a result of the presence of the visitors at the park, there is increased deposit of waste in the environment, as a result of the park, the environment is cleaner, the park has led to the beautification of the environment.

Theme park resulting in the growth and multiplication of businesses aligns with the submission of Ady et al. (2010) that it is evident that theme parks and attractions contribute greatly to the



sustainability of destinations in many areas. The theme park has enhanced wealth distribution in the community, which is corroborated by David (2013) who submitted that economic wealth is increasingly concentrated in areas where parks are cited. The study revealed that the park has a positive influence on the economy of the park's community. Hence, the general perception of the tourists with respect to the impact of the park on the economy is positive and satisfactorily. It is evident that good tourists patronage at the resort is consequent of the positive perception of the tourists about the resort (Olawuyi et al., 2024). The positive impacts of the park on the economy are in the following order; the park has enhanced foreign exchange earnings, the park has led to an increase in wealth distribution, the park has led to an increase in job creation, the park has led to the growth and multiplication of businesses, the park has attracted complementary businesses. Sasaki et al. (1997) asserted that theme parks in Japan have raised employment to 1711 persons with regards to the direct impact on the park, and 573 persons in indirect impact. At least, the theme park will employ some people who live in the park's community, city and state. Milman et al. (2010) opined that a theme park contributes to the sustainable development of a destination via the provision of jobs for different sections of the labour market. Theme parks have significantly added to the improvement of the financial register of tourism (Dong & Siu, 2013). The rank score for the indicators of the impact of the park on the economy (12.78 ± 5.2) were rated critically based on their mean and standard deviation as follows, the park has enhanced foreign exchange earnings, the park has led to the increase in wealth distribution, the park has caused inflation, the park has led to the increase in job creation, the park has led to the growth and multiplication of businesses,

the park has enhanced foreign exchange earnings and the park has attracted complimentary businesses. It is also notable that there is a significant relationship between the economy of the park and the infrastructural development of the community. In the same vein, there is a significant relationship between the economy of the park and the park's environment.

The presence of tourists at a tourism destination can negatively impact the environment of the tourism destination, most time as a result of the naivety of the tourists about the waste management practises of such tourism destination. Edmundo & Navia (2015) opined that additionally, tourists are usually not informed about the management of waste in a particular area, as a result of the fact that the tourists are temporarily present in such area, so they might not take time to comprehend waste management practises peculiar to such area. Conscious or unconscious illicit littering of the ground of tourism destinations with wastes by tourists will have a resultant negative impact on the tourism destination's environment. Seifi & Ghobadi (2017) noted that tourism activities are capable of damaging the environment as well as causing several societal challenges. A Tourism destination can either quickly intimate tourists of the waste management procedures of the tourism destination or ensure that waste bins are placed at close range in the tourism destination. Aziz & Jefri (2019) stated that tourism management could inform tourists to be environmentally aware of waste-reduction-reuse-recycling activities. It is therefore notable that in the light of the transformative learning theory adopted for this study, it is expected of the owners cum managers of a theme park to continually study the different dimensions of the impact of the theme park on the environment; and also ensure that there are established procedures to inform tourists



about waste management procedures and regulations of the park. This can enhance tourists' and prospective tourists' perceptions about theme parks) submitted that It is trite that specific indicators can influence people's perception of tourism destinations negatively or positively (Ogundare et al., 2022; Olawuyi et al., 2017).

CONCLUSION

With respect to the mean values of the indicators of environmental impacts of the park, the impact of the park is highest with regards to its capacity to contribute to increased gaseous emissions, while, the least impact of the park is regarding the capacity of the park to lead to the beautification of the environment. On the contrary, the park has positive impacts on the economy of the study area. Concerning the mean values of the indicators of economic impact of the park, the impact of the park is highest in regards to its capacity to enhance foreign exchange earnings and the least impact of the park is in regards to its capacity to attract complimentary business. In light of the triple bottom theory adopted, it implies that the theme park gives preference to profit generation with less importance to the destruction of the environment (planet). The destruction or crass disregard of the environment equates to gradual destruction of human beings because human beings heavily depend on the environment for sustenance. As much as possible, a balance should therefore be struck between profit generation and preservation of the environment.

Recommendations

To ensure the sustainable development of the park, management of should switch to ecofriendly energy source so as to reduce emission of harmful gases.

Also, they should encourage planting of trees, so as to reduce the depletion of wildlife and intensify efforts at reducing environmental degradation and pollution.

Suggestions for Future Research

Scholars may study tourists satisfaction with respect to service quality at shoprite's theme park. In the same vein the engagement of information systems for advertising the theme park may be examined in the future by scholars.

Conflict of Interest

The authors declare no conflict of interest.

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