



IMPROVING THE SERVICES AND FACILITIES OF BAUCHI STATE MUSEUM FOR SUSTAINABLE HERITAGE TOURISM IN THE NORTH EAST NIGERIA

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ABSTRACT

Bauchi state is a state with much tourism potentials. Nigeria as a nation is rich in tourism and /or national ancient treasures. This paper tries to examine how to improve the services and facilities of Bauchi state museum for sustainability. The study was conducted to identify the existing challenges facing the museum. Conceptual definitions of museum were made. An observation and a check list method was used to find out missing

Introduction

Bauchi state is the pearl of tourism. That gave the concept of establishing the state museum by the military administrator in person of Brigadier Sani Sami in 1985. The original concept of sitting the museum was to preserve national and ancient treasures. The museum was sited close to nature because of the formation of rocks behind its environment where it is situated. The museum complex houses the artifacts and facilities such as archaeological, ethnographic and Eco facts material that are exhibited for tourists and visitors

The major aim of the museum is to collect, preserve, and exhibit and entertain and also attract tourists and visitor to the state, considering the fact that Bauchi is the pearl of tourism. But due to the negligence and poor management of the museum, most of the arts, crafts and facilities have been dilapidated. Most of the facilities that are expected to be seen in the museum are not found thereby discouraging tourist and visitor from visiting the museum.

Objectives

- i. To investigate the current state of Bauchi State museum
- ii. To discover the challenges facing Bauchi State museum



facilities that were actually needed in the museum that would have been a source of attraction to tourists and visitors visiting the state. This research recommends that achieving a sustainable museum requires the supervisions of professional body such as the tourism board whose mandate is to identity, take decision, develop, protect and preserve the arts and crafts for now and for future use.

Keywords: Museum, Facilities, Tourism, Preserve, Bauchi.

- iii. To proffer solution in revamping the museum for better service delivery

Literature review

Conceptual Framework

Every corner of the world has come to recognize museum as the obvious means of attracting tourist and visitors. Despite the increasing concern and turn out of literatures on the topic, some people still lack the knowledge of what museum is all about. Lewis G., a museum expert stated that museum originated from the Word mouseion in classical Greece (in Greek) which was a place of contemplation or philosophical institution or a temple of the muses.

However, Greek term has led the way in establishing different definitions from different Perspectives. According to American Association of Museum, museum is defined as a nonprofit permanent establishment, not existing primarily for the purpose of conducting temporary exhibition, exempt from federal and state income taxes, open to the public and administered in the public interest, for the purpose of conserving and preserving, studying interpreting, assembling, and exhibiting to the public for its instruction and enjoyment object and specimens of educational and cultural value, including artistic scientific (whether animate or inanimate), historical and technological material.

Burcaw (1990) defined museum as an institution for the preservation of those objects which best illustrate the phenomena of nature and the works of man, and the utilization of these for the increase in knowledge and for the culture and enlightens the people. He further, stated that museum in definition should include botanical gardens; zoological parks aquaria planetaria, historical societies and historical houses and sites which meets the requirements.

Matsuda (1984) defined museum as an institution which collects and preserves material concerned with history, anthropology, industry, art, history and so on, and exhibits them to the general public from an educational point of view, and carries out projects needed to contribute to the public education, study and recreation on the material.



Barbour (1992) defined museum as institution which collects documents preserve, exhibits interprets material evidence and associated information for the public benefit. The entire museum is a nonprofit making institution. Rather it is meant to collect evidence and people and/or their environment, and educational point of view and carries out projects needed to contribute to public education study and recreation.

Importance of Museum

In Nigeria museum plays an important role in conserving cultural resources against decay. South west museums and libraries Association champion are of the view that museums provide a unique interactive experience of getting up close to things we usually only see in books, newspapers or on the television. Seeing the decorated calabash for example, is totally different to seeing one of the million of printed version; the perception you get of something from a second-hand source is often completely different to the one you get when you see something physically with your own eyes.

Education

Education can not only be acquired in a classroom. Studies have shown that most persons get better educated when they go out on field study like visiting museums to see artifacts and paintings; such visit enables them to be acquainted and get quick retention to things they have been taught in the schools. But reverse is the case to some museums in Nigeria. No wonder former president, chief Olusegun Obasanjo in the event marking his book launch at the Olusegun Obasanjo Presidential library (OOPL) Ogun state mentioned the decay in Nigeria museums. Stating that museum which was supposed to preserve our national treasures as an institution is in pathetic state.

SMLAC (2009) pointed out that museums can be an extremely valuable source of creativity, particularly organizations such as art galleries or photographic exhibitions as many people believed they are inspired and subsequently want to try such activities themselves. It is important that museum are maintained to ensure all products are displayed and kept in the possible state of better environment; this will make it possible for many generation to experience and be inspired by the artifacts they see.

Tourism and the People

Museums are also a significant factor in attracting tourists and visitors to the people. Museums play an important role by helping the people through job creation, and sales of handicrafts. It is important to tourists who leave their normal place of abode because they will have to spend some days in the hotel. Therefore, museum is important because it generates foreign exchange to the state and to the country at large.



Research:

Museum serves as a classroom for many students, especially students studying anthropology, history and archaeology. Museum helps to unrivalled wealth of information to many persons undertaking research.

The Role of Museum in Tourism Promotion

Museum could be seen as a catalyst for the promotion of tourism. Many nations have started using museums to attract tourists and visitors. According to Tien (2017) national museum in Taipei which has a worldwide reputation attracts many thousands of visitor every year in order to extend its impact. She further, emphasizes that the national palace museum is currently attempting to join other museums and private sector agencies to form a museum cluster. Though, studies have shown that museum as an institution were established for the purpose of education, and learning, collection, conservation, research and enjoyment. However, most museums have come to realize their potentials by attracting cultural activities such as traditional dances, firm and drama display and as well as traditional cuisines. According to research carried out by Tien in 2006 it shows that the reason foreign tourists gave for visiting Taipei was its fine food. However, during their visit their main activities were going to the night market, shopping and visiting heritage sides in the museum. The most popular attractions were night market, which drew 41 out every 100 visitors and the national palace museum which was visited by 27% of tourists. This is so because when tourists and visitors visit museum, they will normally consumed food, drinks even accommodations. The policy studies institute (PSI) (1992) cited in Tien (2017) argues that museums can attract tourists and day-trippers into the locality to spend money on admissions thereby promoting the tourism and hospitality institutions within the region. However, for a museum to attract visitors and promote tourism there is need to put in place functional facilities and high maintenance standard for effective service delivery.

Case study:

Improving the Facilities and Services of Bauchi State Museum

Bauchi state museum has been used as case study in this paper. It tries to investigate the condition of Bauchi State museum; the essence is to ensure that the facilities of the museum are improved upon. Museums have been founded for a variety of purposes: to serve as recreational facilities, scholarly venues, or the educational resources, to contribute to the quality of life of the area where they are situated, to attract tourism to a region, to promote civil pride or nationalistic endeavour, or even to transmit overtly ideological concepts. Geoffrey (2017) Given such a variety of purposes, Buachi state museum has not realized, its original concept, due to poor management and negligence



of the museum by the management which resulted to the dilapidation of the buildings, artifacts and facilities, poor documentation of the artifacts etc.

The Following are the Required Facilities of a Museum:

1. **Art and Galleries:** the art gallery is a building that exhibit different types of arts and craft. Most of the ethnographic objects are displayed showing the ancient treasures of the country such as idoma face mask, Benin and ife bronze castings Hausa and Yoruba musical instruments as well as object of weaving and blacksmithing in the pre-colonial Nigeria societies.
2. **Zoological Parks:** is a facility in which animals are contained within enclosure, displayed to the public and in which they may also breed. Animals that are supposed to be seen in the zoological garden should be in a confined setting to avoid human contacts.
3. **Transport:** the museums should be an avenue to exhibit some of the earliest mechanized vehicles used in Bauchi state and the country at large, such vehicles include Bedford kit car, Albion lorry and traction engine; and the prototype cars used by Sir Abubakar Tafabalewa and other.
4. **Traditional kitchen / Bar:** is a facility structure to traditional desire. It is designed to show case traditional cuisines of the people as well as their local wine. The cutleries used in the kitchen are of the local types.
5. **Pottery Museum:** Is an aspect of the gallery that show case the specimen of pottery work from all over the country such as olden ceramics and pots.

Other Facilities required are as Follows:

6. Botanical Garden
7. Library
8. Natural historical Gallery
9. Children's/Youth gallery
10. Maintenance Department
11. Amphitheatre
12. Offices
13. car Park
14. Photographic Gallery
15. Aquarium/Aquatic Zoo

Challenges facing Bauchi State museum

Major challenges confronting Bauchi state museum is lack of interest by successive governments and poor funding of the museum. Since the development of the museum by the then military administrator, no successive governments have tried renovating the



infrastructure or replacing the bad facilities which had led to the bad shape of the building.

METHODOLOGY

The method used for this research was field study based on observation supported by checklist (documentation). The method was adopted based on the fact that the museum no longer receives visitors and tourists. Only two staff were in the premises. The research is supported with a picture of the buildings. See appendix.

Conclusion

Studies have shown that museum is an institution whose major function is to preserve ancient and national treasures for the purpose of education and learning. But the current state of Bauchi State Museum does not represent a true value of a modern museum since it is characterized by dilapidated structures and obsolete facilities. Therefore, it is the responsibility of the government of the state to revamp its museum as it will enable her live up to its slogan as the pearl of tourism.

Policy Recommendation

Achieving a sustainable museum will only be realized through the following points:

1. Government should involve professional bodies such as the state tourism board whose part of its mandate is to identify, take decision, protect and preserve the arts and crafts for now and future use.
2. Government should set up educational programmes that will train and re-train the staff of the museum on measures to change their attitude towards government owned establishments.
3. There should be policy re-evaluation regarding the museum in Bauchi state, while partnering with professionals and stakeholders to providing advices and measures on how best to achieve a sustainable museum that will serve as posterity to the state and the country at large.
4. Government should take a survey and provide enabling environment by re-building the structures and replacing the dilapidated facilities. Thereafter, collaborate with interested private agencies that will be willing to manage it effectively and efficiently.

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Appendix 1 left side view of the museum



Appendix 2 front view of the museum



Appendix 3 right side view of the museum



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