

# Factors Affecting the Development of Recreational Facilities in Awka South Urban Areas of Anambra State, Nigeria

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## ABSTRACT

This research project was aimed at studying “ factors affecting the development of recreational facilities in Awka South Urban Areas of Anambra State, Nigeria. In order to achieve this, the objectives of the study include, to assess the present state of recreational facilities in Awka-south urban area, to identify the factors affecting the development of recreational centers and facilities in Awka-south urban area, to determine the economic prospects of recreational facilities in Awka-south urban area, and to determine the Importance of recreation the host and tourists in Awka south Urban Areas. The sampling technique used was stratified systematic random sampling technique. This sample is preferred because it is simple, easy to use and allows a chance for every member of the sample frame to be selected. The instrument for this research work was closed-ended questionnaire. The research need was obtained from primary and secondary sources. Using Taro Yamanie formula, a sample size of 100 respondents was used to obtained data, out of which 82 were retrieved which was used to analyzed data. The researcher also identified shortage of funds, inadequate equipment, open space, insecurity and inadequate recreation facilities and infrastructures as the factors affecting the development of recreational centers in Awka South. Revenue generation, employment and GDP were the economic prospects of recreation centers in Awka South. Operational and In good state, operational and in bad state, closed and in good state and closed and in bad state were also identified as the state of recreational facilities assessment in Awka Sout, physical health, mental and improves quality life are the importance of recreation in Awka south Urban Areas The searcher recommended that the government should set up a tourism policy for a sustainable recreational centers and improve in fundings, recreation facilities and infrastructures in Awka South Urban Areas.

**Keywords:** Recreation, facilities, Awka South, Urban Areas and development.

## INTRODUCTION

Increased population in Nigerian cities has led to the demand for more spaces for land uses like residential, commercial, public, agricultural and industrial activities at the expense of creational and open spaces (Ogundele and Jegede, 2011). This has resulted in multiple developments of squatter settlements, ghettos and illegal structures that describe our urban settings and once beautiful cities (Fasakin, 2009; Alibi, 2010 and Aluko, 2011). It is to be noted that this fast growing developments are not accompanied by necessary planning, development designs and physical planning provisions hence, unguided and uncontrolled developments are prevalent (Olujimi, 2009; Alibi, 2010 and Wald and Hosteller, 2010).

However, despite these huge drastic planning and oversights of development cannot deemphasize the unquantifiable value and need for recreational facilities in our cities today. Recreational is described as the activity that individuals value at leisure, and it is highly multifaceted, comprising of physical, cognitive, emotional and social elements (Broadhurst, 2001). This includes all forms of recreation like visiting locations as parks, green areas, lakes, rivers and forest also participating in numerous exercises like trekking, fishing, hunting and camping (Hurd and Anderson, 2010; Kara and Demirci, 2010). It is

exclusively an activity that individual partake and being part of human life, which exists in many alternate forms, found suited by individual interests and by how socially the community is depicted. Recreational activities may be communal or individual, active or passive, outdoor or indoor, healthy or harmful and, of uttermost advantage to the society, (Ezeamaka and Oluwole, 2016).

Economically, He and Jia (2004) noted that parks and private planted areas surrounding buildings have a marked effect on many aspects of the quality of the urban environment and the richness of life in a city. Similarly, Chiesura (2004) contributed that, the presence of natural areas contributes to the quality of life in many ways and besides many environmental and ecological services, urban nature provide important social and psychological benefits to human life with meaning and emotions. Furthermore, Thompson (2002) acknowledged that, access to some form of “nature” is a fundamental human need and therefore, a vital part of access to open space and its attendant facilities. In addition, Ahaimba, Dimunna and Okogun,

(2008) emphasized that physical environment is an important component of the environment and it is through that which organisms, individual, community or population are in contact.

## LITERATURE REVIEW

### Concept Of Recreation

Man has started recreation right from the day God created Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden. Many people actually carry out recreational activities without knowing what it is. Recreation dates back to the history of man. However organized recreation began when the industrial revolution hit Great Britain in the 1700s. There were different forms of recreation in then days. For instance the Romans had where they watched chariot races and other entertainment shows. The Greeks had Amphitheatre where they viewed drama and comedy and other entertainment sport spectacles on earth, even bull fights by gladiators. Even the Bible discusses singing, dancing, music and other forms of acceptable recreation, so even the

most ancient civilizations enjoyed entertainment and recreation.

After independence in 1960, the Nigerian government used domestic and international sporting events to foster a sense of national identity among the various ethnic groups and to gain recognition (Culled from Ibama et, al. 2015).

### Recreation in Nigeria

In pre-colonial times the sports of wrestling was a vehicle for expressing individual and social identity, status and prestige. British colonizers introduced others ports to Nigeria in the early 20th century football (soccer), boxing, athletics (track and field) and tennis spread through mission schools, real companies, the armed forces and the colonial bureaucracy.

After independence in 1960, the Nigerian government used domestic and international sporting events to foster a sense of national identity among the various ethnic groups and to gain recognition (Culled from Ibama et, al. 2015).

In a recreational context, the relationship between the quality of recreation experience and the recreation environment is reciprocal (Budruk & Manning, 2006). Based upon this, a conceptual framework was developed for the 2004 study on indicator development. According to Pigram and Jenkins (1999), the relationship between the use and environmental impacts of outdoor recreation depends on three factors: (1) the attributes and characteristics of the environment, (2) recreational use, and (3) management strategies.

Recreation is an activity of leisure. The term recreation appears to have been used in English first in the late 14th century, first in the sense of ‘refreshment or curing of a sick person’, and from old French in turn from Latin (re: again, creare: ‘to create, to bring forth, beget’(Daniels,1995).

According to Countryside Recreation Research, recreation is any pursuit engaged upon during leisure time, other than pursuits to which people are normally ‘highly committed’ such things as optional shopping, overtime, secondary work, house repairs, car maintenance, further education, homework, child care, religion and political. Recreation is considered an activity through which leisure maybe experienced and enjoyed but it is also seen as a social institution, socially organized for social purposes (Grant and Allan, 1991).

### **Benefits of recreation**

“All work and no play, makes Jack a dull boy” goes a popular saying. Various studies have shown the importance of recreation in one’s life specifically in three various aspects and they are:

- (1) Physical health
- (2) Mental health and
- (3) Improved quality life

### **Economic prospects of Recreational facilities /centers**

Recreational activities bring along numerous benefits to the surrounding community, and they vary from one country to another.

#### **Generating Revenue**

The primary objective of most recreational facilities is to serve the community, but they make considerable returns as well. They offer leisure activities like rock climbing, golfing, pools, community playgrounds, and nature parks at a fee. They attract a significant number of attendances, and although most of them charge lower entry fees, they still make substantial profits due to the higher turnover. The facilities can maintain year-round activities, particularly online gaming, and they might still operate offseason maintaining constant income flow (Anas, 2020).

#### **Reducing Unemployment**

Different recreation facilities spread throughout various regions in a country offer varying services, which helps to curb inflation and lessen unemployment levels. The facilities have established public service jobs like facility construction, developments, transport, gaming providers, service provision, among many, which will improve the quality of life in the regions. Alternatively, they provide socialization platforms for employees to strengthen ties, share skills, and interact for effective service delivery. (Anas, 2020).

#### **Increasing Tourism**

Outdoor recreation facilities boost tourism in a region, increasing income generation. They serve as local hubs for social activities and people will regularly spend money to spend time out with their loved ones within these facilities. Tourism is a growing segment worldwide driven by the urge for recreational activities where people are more focused on exploring various regions to make memories and, as a result, contributes to increased foreign exchange (Anas, 2020).

## **FACTORS AFFECTING RECREATION DEVELOPMENT**

### **Availability Of Funds And Access To Recreational Facilities Or**

#### **Centres:**

Lack of funds has been identified as one of the major factors militating against the development of

recreation. Recreational attitude survey reveals that over 60% of Nigerians interviewed indicated that they are hardly met with the provision of basic needs (food and shelter) for their families (Igbojekwe, 2009). Basic principles of economics tell us that most consumers have limited income for any period of time, thus they must, certainly balance the needs and cost of goods and services.

### **Level Of Economic Development:**

The poor economy of Nigeria denies most Nigerians accessibility to recreational centres and facilities. In Nigeria, the economic condition in which the citizens survive just at subsistence level does not relate well for recreational development. Over 60% of Nigerians live below poverty level/ line of US\$1.00 per day (Okafor, 2005). In a seminar on “the need for statutory holiday calendar towards development of domestic tourism in Nigeria include low purchasing power of the Nigerian worker arising from the weakness of the national economy....and general lack of vacation culture in Nigeria”.

### **Lack Of Awareness Of The Importance Of Recreation:**

Lack of knowledge of the importance of recreation has been identified as another factor militating against the development of recreational culture. A greater percentage of Nigerians are not really aware that recreation improves the quality of their mental and physical wellbeing.

As recreation provides pay offs for the individual, he/she is refreshed from the routine of tiredness accrued through his/her active participation in recreational facilities, especially those activities that helps the individual show his/her creative ability and achieve self-fulfillment, thus, relieving the individual of daily stress.

### **Value Conflicts: Work Ethics Against Leisure:**

Another factor is influencing the development of recreation/tourism culture is work ethics. According to Elmer (1973), work ethics has its central theme that the individual's moral duty is to be industrious continuously “to earn his salt”, and the harder one works, the more moral he is supposed to be, in other words, hard work is the means of demonstrating worthiness in terms of self-discipline, rejection of worldly pleasures and righteous success.

### **Personality and Social Class:**

Engagement in and choice of leisure-time activities is related to personality and social variables such as sex, age, educational attainment and social class (Elmer, 1973). The choice of recreational activities is dependent on the personality qualities of an individual through which he/she expresses he/her needs. These range from ability to socialize, cultivation of personality growth and business relationships to maintaining class (both social and political) in a particular peer group.

### **Government Attitudes and Policies Towards Recreation:**

Government attitudes and policies towards recreation is another factor that influences the development of recreation. While some government policies are favourable other are not. The provision of land for the use of recreational purposes involves, for the most part, outdoor activities on sites consciously developed and well-equipped with facilities that allows both active and passive recreational activities. The lack of recreational space and facilities is confronting in both urban centers and rural communities especially, where every piece of land is owned by an individual. In this case, government policies such as Land Use Act (LUA of 1978), the 3rd and 4th National Development Plans are favourable towards recreation.

Lack of funds has been identified as one of the major factors militating against the development of recreation. Recreational attitude survey reveals that over 60% of Nigerians interviewed indicated that they are hardly met with the provision of basic needs (food and shelter) for their families (Igbojekwe, 2009).

Basic principles of economics tell us that most consumers have limited income for any period of time, thus they must, certainly balance the needs and cost of goods and services. Omorogbe-Osagie (1995) says, “In Nigeria today, where the average family can hardly provide three square meals in a day, the question of saving towards visiting places of historical importance and tourist attractions is not a priority”.

The poor economy of Nigeria denies most Nigerians accessibility to recreational centres and facilities. In Nigeria, the economic condition in which the citizens survive just at subsistence level does not relate well for recreational development. Over 60% of Nigerians live below poverty level/ line of US\$1.00 per day (Okafor, 2005). In a seminar on “the need for statutory holiday calendar towards development of domestic tourism in Nigeria include low purchasing power of the Nigerian worker arising from the weakness of the national economy....and general lack of vacation culture in Nigeria”. Recreational activities bring along numerous benefits to the surrounding community, and they vary from one country to another.

The primary objective of most recreational facilities is to serve the community, but they make considerable returns as well. They offer leisure activities like rock climbing, golfing, pools, community playgrounds, and nature parks at a fee. They attract a significant number of attendances, and although most of them charge lower entry fees, they still make substantial profits due to the higher turnover. The facilities can maintain year-round activities, particularly online gaming, and they might still operate offseason maintaining constant income flow (Anas, 2020).

## RESEARCH METHODS

### Study Area

Awka is the capital city of Anambra state, Nigeria. The city was declared capital on 21 august, 1991, after the creation of Anambra and Enugu state, which moved the capital from enugu to awka. Awka-south has an estimated population of 189,049 (NPC, 2006), and over 2.5 million as of a 2018 estimate. Strategically, Awka-south is located midway between two major cities in Northern Igboland, Onitsha and Enugu. Awka-south local government area is made up of nine towns namely Amawbia, Awka, Ezinato, Isiagu, Mbaikwu, Nibo, Nise, Okpuno and Umuawulu.(Awka-south, last accessed 23rd January, 2022)



Figure 1: Map of Nigeria showing Anambra State

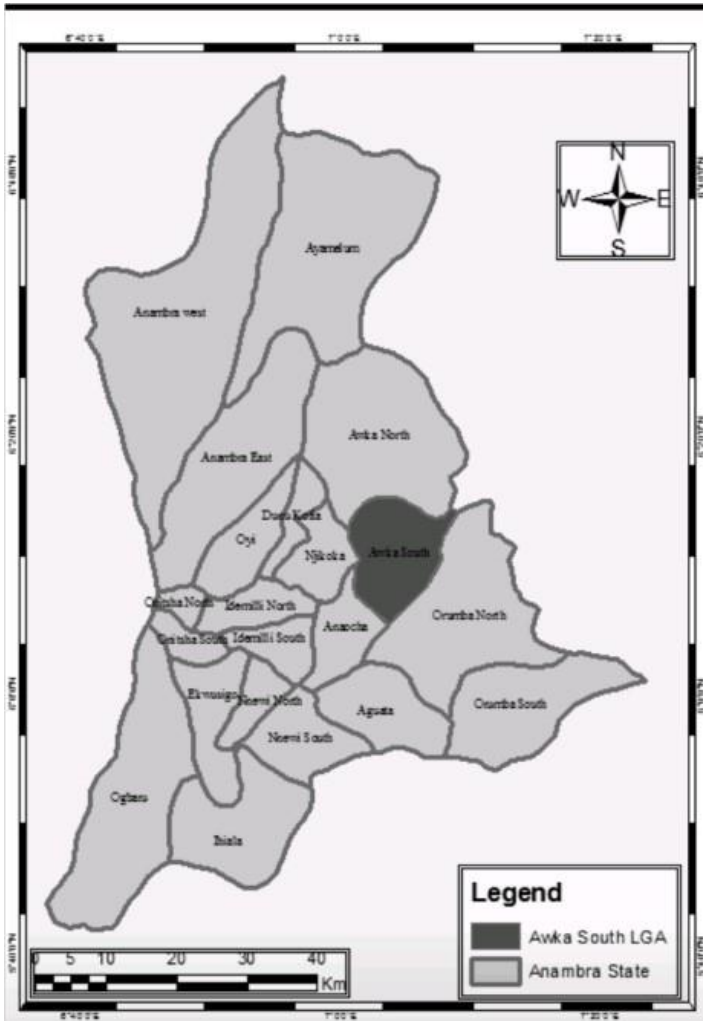


Figure 2: Map of Anambra State Showing Awka South

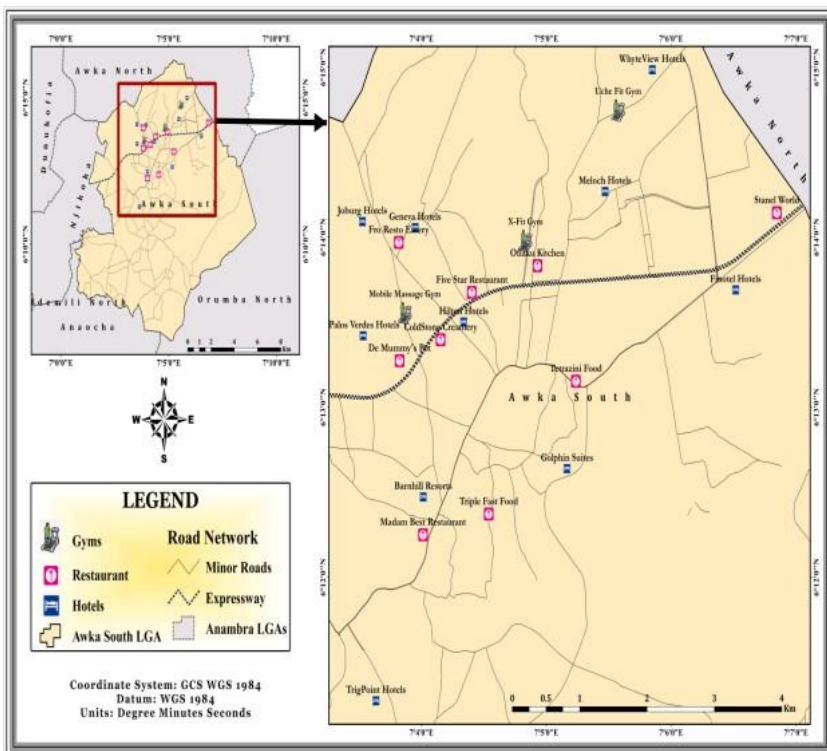


Figure 3: Map of Awka-south showing some recreational facilities.

**Sampling Technique:**

The area for the study is Awka-south community that comprises of nine towns. This area is made up of about 85 hotels, 15 parks and gardens, 8 spas, 6 athletics centre, 1 cinema, 34 entertainment centres, 27 eateries and 1 sport arena. Commercial, industrial and administration activities are the major occupation of the inhabitants of the area. There is also a substantial and commercial farm scattered in the outskirts of the town where they harvest cassava, maize, vegetables and rear eggs. The sample therefore comprises of all residents of Awka-south community.

The sampling technique used was a stratified systematic random sampling technique. This sample is preferred because it is simple, easy to use and allows a chance for every member of the sample frame to be selected.

The formula used to determine the sample size is the Yaro Yamane's formula which is

$$n = \frac{N}{1 + N(e^2)} \text{ where}$$

n- is the sample size

N- is the population of the study area

1- constant

(e<sup>2</sup>)- is the margin error in the calculation.

Note: this study allow ten (10) percent margin of error in calculating the optimal sample size (i.e. 0.1). Noting that the population size (N) in this case is 189,049, the estimated sample size is calculated as

$$n = \frac{N}{1 + N(e^2)}$$

$$n = \frac{189,049}{1 + 189,049(0.12)}$$

$$n = \frac{189,049}{1 + 1890.49}$$

$$n = \frac{189,049}{1891.49}$$

$$n = 99.95$$

Approximate sample size will now be: 100

Total questionnaires administered will now be 100 for the purpose of the study.

**Method of data collection:**

The data on which the study is based was collected from two sources which are both primary and secondary sources. The data from the primary source was collected from the people present in the recreational facility through questionnaires in the selected recreational facility at each town and from the residents in other towns where recreational facility cannot be found. The secondary data was gotten from government publications, maps, journals.

Hundred questionnaires (100) were administered in the study area, while (82) was returned which was used to analyze the data. The questionnaires were administered in one recreation facility in each town and in household basis in areas where there is no recreational facility. The questionnaires were distributed randomly at the recreation facility centres such as X-fit aerobics centre at Aroma, Geneva Hotel and suites

at Okpuno, Witness Garden Hotels at Ifite, Prince Paradise at Amawbia, Pontoon Suites at Nibo and then on household basis in places like Ezinato, Mbaukwu, Isiagu and Nise.

**Method of data analysis:**

The data gotten from the questionnaires were presented in tables and figures using simple percentage method. Such that;

Y= No of questionnaires distributed

Z= no of questuinnaires returned

100= Percentage for conversion

**RESULTS AND DISCUSSION**

**Table 4.1 Marital Status of the respondents**

Responses	Frequency	Total %
Single	49	59.8%
Married	32	39%
Divorced	1	1.2%
None	0	0%
<b>TOATAL</b>	<b>82</b>	<b>100</b>

Table 4.1 shows that among all respondents, 49 respondents represents 59.8% were singles, 39% were married and 1.2% were divorced. However, 49 respondents represents 59.8% has the highest number of respondents.

**Table4.2: Gender of the Respondent**

Responses	Frequency	Total %
Male	48	58.5%
Female	34	41.5%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>82</b>	<b>100%</b>

**Table 4.2: Shows** that 48 respondents represents 58.5% were males while 34 rspondents represents 41.5% were females. This was due to the fact that the men were willing to participate more than the women.

**Table4.3: Marital Status of The Respondentritaa**

Response	Frequency	Total %
Single	49	59.8
Married	32	39
Divorced	1	1.2
None	0	0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>82</b>	<b>100</b>

Table 4.3 shows that among all respondents, 59.8% were single, 39% were married and 1.2% was divorced.



It shows that 49 respondents represents 59.8% has the highest number of respondents. It might be due to the fact that single men and women do have more free time than the married men and women.

**Table4.4: Age Range of Respondents**

Response	Frequency	Total %
18-28	25	30.5
29-39	21	25.6%
40-50	12	14.6%
51-61	16	19.5%
62-above	8	9.8%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>82</b>	<b>100%</b>

Table 4.4 shows that 30.5% of the respondents fall within the age range of 18-28, while 25.6% fall in the age bracket of 29-39, 14.6% fall in between 40-50, 19.5% between 51-61 and 9.8% between 62 and above. This table reveals that those between 18-28 use recreational facilities more often than any other age range.

**Table4.5: Educational Status of the Respondents**

Response	Frequency	Total %
None	6	7.3%
Primary	6	7.3%
Secondary	23	28.1%
Tertiary	47	57.3%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>82</b>	<b>100%</b>

Table 4.5 shows that 7.3% of the respondents had no formal education, 7.3% had only primary school education, 28.1% stopped at secondary level. This number does not include secondary school students in any way as most of the respondents are either graduate or undergraduates who can find time for recreation without any parental obstruction. 57.3% of the respondents are undergraduates and graduates.

**Table4.6: Occupation of Respondents**

Response	Frequency	Total%
Students	14	17%
Self-employed	34	41.5
Civil-servant	15	18.3
Trader	15	18.3
Others	4	4.9
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>82</b>	<b>100%</b>

Table 4.6 shows the occupation of the respondents. 41.5% of the total respondents are self employed, only 4.9% of the population do other things like gym trainers, company drivers 31 and so on. About 18.3% of the population are traders and another 18.3% are civil servants while the remaining 17% are students.

**Table 4.7 Monthly income of the respondents**

Responses	Frequency	Total
Below 30,000	20	24.4%
30,000-70,000	30	36.6%
80,000-129,000	20	24.4%
130,00and above	12	14.6%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>82</b>	<b>100%</b>

Table 4.7 above categorized the respondents' monthly income into five groups. Majority of the respondents earn at least a minimum wage of 30,000-79,000 with a total of 36.6%, it is followed by those who earn at least 80,000-129,000 at 24.4% and then only 14.6% of the respondents earn from 130,000 and above. The 24.4% of those who earn below 30,000 are majorly undergraduates and a few working class persons.

**Table 4.8 What are the present state of recreation facilities in Awka-south urban?**

Response	Frequency	Total%
Operation and in good state	30	59.6
Operational and in bad state	10	9.2
Closed and in good state	8	15.4
Closed and in bad state	3	5.8
<b>TOATAL</b>	<b>82</b>	<b>100%</b>

Table 4.8 (b) shows the state of recreational facilities in their areas. 59.6% of the 52 respondents agreed that the recreational facilities in their are operational and in good state, 19.2% gave their own that the recreational facility in their area are operational and in bad state, 15.4% agreed that the recreational centres are still good but were closed due to some reasons and the remaining 5.8% said the recreational facility are closed due to its bad state.

**Table4.9:Factors that affects Recreational Facilities in Awka South**

Response	Frequency	Total%
Inadequate funds	35	42.6
Shortage of open space	25	30.4
Inadequate Recreational Equipment	22	26.8
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>82</b>	<b>100%</b>

Table4.9: Shows 42.6% as inadequate funds, 30.4% reviews shortage of open space while 26.8% reviews inadequate recreational equipment. However, 35 respondents representing 42.6% has the highest number of respondents which means that low income of funds affects visitors to visit such tourism centers.

**Table4.10:The Economic Prospects of Recreation in Awka South Urban Areas?**

Response	Frequency	Total%
Revenue generation	20	24.1%
Employment opportunities	50	60.9%
Growth Domestic Products	12	14.6%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>82</b>	<b>100%</b>

Table 4.10: Shows that 20 respondents represents 24.1% reviews revenue generation, 50 respondents represents 60.9% reviews employment opportunities while, which has the highest number while 12 respondents represents 14.6% reviews Growth Domestic Products(GDP).It shows that the state would benefit greatly if only the recreation centers are developed and managed at international standard

**Table 4.11: Benefits of recreation in Awka-south Urban Areas**

Response	Frequency	Percentage
Physical health	40	48.
Mental health	20	24.
Improves quality life	22	26
Total	82	100

Table 4.11 shows that 40 respondents represents 48% reviews physical health, 20 respondents represents 24% reviews mental health while 22 respondents represents 26% reviews improves quality life. However, 40 respondents which represents 48% has the highest number of respondents.

**Table 4.12. Solutions To The Factors Affecting Recreational Facilities In Awka-South Urban Area**

Response	Frequency	Percentage%
Provision of security/ and open-space	31	37
Provision of adequate funds and adequate recreational facilities for infrastructure development.	51	62
Total	82	100

Table 4.12 shows that 31 respondents represents 37% says provision of security and open space while 51 respondents, which has the highest numbers says provision of adequate funds and adequate recreational facilities. Therefore, there is need for government to provides adequate facilities and infrastructure to the stakeholders and communities.

## CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION

The result truly reveals that , shortage of open space, inadequate funds and inadequate recreational equipment, insecurity, and adequate infrastructure development are the challenges of recreational facilities in Awka South Urban Areas. Also identified is the economic prospects of recreation in Awka Urban areas as revenue generation, Growth Domestic Products and employment opportunities; The researcher found that Operation are in good state, operation are in bad state, closed and in good state and closed and in bad state as the state of recreation facilities in Awka South Urban Areas.

However, the government needs to redesign a tourism policy that will go a long way in addressing all that were identified in this study for a sustainable tourism development in Awka South, Anambra State and in Nigeria in general.

Provision of adequate funds, open-space, security, adequate infrastructure and recreation facilities in Awka Urban Areas. The Government should ensure that areas where there are no recreational facilities/centers, one or two should be provided for the people. The government should also look into the case of security as it is one of the major issues affecting recreational participation. The owners of recreational facilities should endeavor to manage their facilities very well as this is also help in attracting people to their centers. The government and owners of recreational facilities should organize vigorous programs of recreation space development and management.

## RESEARCH LIMITATION AND DIRECTION FOR FUTURE STUDIES

The researcher recommends that, there should be further study on the factors affecting the development of recreational facilities in Awka South Urban Areas. However, the study was not funded by any groups, individual, organization or institution, hence the reason for limiting the study to its scope. For future studies, it is of a great necessity that the present study is carried out in other recreation centers within the country. Hence, help to discuss the factors which are similar to each other and also those different from each centers and which are not discussed in this study.

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