

Editor's comments:

I have carefully read the manuscript.

The problem covered in the manuscript is very interesting and important to the sustainable development on the global scale.

Nevertheless, there are several arguable aspects. I have some question before the final decision

The sampling is rather limited. According to the table 1 the sampling is 2.7% of the total. Considering the population in the area, it will be a benefit for the study to interview more people.

It is not clear stated that respondents had multiple answer choices for the tables 4 and 5.

It could be that the respondents were aware of the problem before and gave suitable answers.

How can this be, that the sample of respondents in table 1 for Okomu National Park is 109; and in Table 6: Ecological behavior of the rural publics of Okomu Park – line first is 110?

Also there are some questions concerning the correspondence of the totl answers in tables 6 and 7.

Author's feedback:

I do appreciate the editor's comments and issues highlighted. I must say they are very important and requires explanations. I will make efforts to explain each as follows:

1. There are set methods for obtaining sample size for any study from the population. This sampling size is determined based on sampling error, population size, variation in population with respect to characteristics of interests. I used the chart set up by research advisor (2006) using Krejcie and Morgan (1970). This has being noted as common by several authors (Chuan and Penyelidikan, 2006 and has been applied by researchers such as:
 - a) Oladeji, S. O. and Olatayo, k. 2013. Ecotourism Industry a Panacea for Sustainable Economic Development In Rural Communities: Case Study Of Osse River Park, Ondo –State, Nigeria. *Journal of Sustainable Development in Africa*. 15(8):72-93
 - b) Kimaiyo, L. C. Kitainge, K. K. and Too, J. 2016. Influence of Trainee Teacher Philosophy about Teaching and Learning on Integration of Computer Technology into Future Teaching Practices. *American Journal of applied Psychology*. 4(1):17-22
 - c) Chakraborty, D. 2014. Socio-economic determinants of growth of rural entrepreneurship in sonitpur district of Assam-an empirical study. *Journal of behavioural economics, finance, entrepreneurship, accounting and transport*. 2(1):26-34

I must highlight however that the population size of communities in Okomu had identified errors from source document which have been corrected. If there are however other methods for sample size determination we are will to learn for future studies.

2. Tables 4, 5, 6 and 7 are all rated questions. They are rated across from 1 to 4. A respondent is entitled to choose a single response from the four. These scales are predetermined. Summing up horizontally across the 4 rated (eg. a 15 items Likert-type scale and was ordered on a four-point rating from strongly disagree (SD = 1), disagree (D = 2), agree (A = 3) and strongly agree (SA = 4) responses for each question on the gives the total response from all the respondents which is the "n".

All observed omissions have been effected. I would be gladly look into other observations if there any.

Thank you as I look forward to hearing from you soon.