DIJBAR
www.daagu.org
Volume-2 Issue-1

Participation of Local People in Community Based Ecotourism (CBET) Development Project in Ethiopia, a Case of Eastern Zone of Tigray

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ABSTRACT

Ethiopia, especially Tigray region is the origin of plenty of tourism resources like Rock Hewon churches, Axum obelisk, endemic animals and different cultural heritages, then the sector is growing fast even the tourism policy highlights for active participation of local people in tourism. Yet, CBET project is the best formal mechanism for community participation from the tourism sector. Hence the objective of this study was to assess the participation of local people in CBET development in Ethiopia, in case of eastern zone of Tigray region. Cross sectional design was applied to conduct a study at the point of time and descriptive method was used to describe the nature of the problem. Total of 163 samples was participated from the target population using judgmental from non-members of CBET communities and convenient from members of CBET and tour guides. The finding showed that, there is low participation of communities especially females in the sector, High illiteracy, less knowledge of communities in the sector than the tour guides and members of CBET. Only few peoples were engaged in the CBET project. Generally the community's involvement in the sector was found low. Then the recommendation is that, communities especially female participation in the sector should be encouraged, income from the sector should be expanded by training local community in different income generating activities. Generally Assuring integration of the national, regional, local and public-private efforts towards ecotourism development is a best action to develop the sector.

Keywords: Eco-t*ourism*, Community participation, CBET Members, Tour Guides

Citation: Haftu K/mariam*, Meseret Meresa, Gebremichael Tsegay (2020). Participation of Local People in Community Based Ecotourism (CBET) Development Project in Ethiopia, a Case of Eastern Zone of Tigray. Daagu International Journal of Basic & Applied Research-DIJBAR. Volume2, Issue-1, pp (52-65)

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Received: 19/03/2020

Accepted: 30/05/2020

Published: 29/06/2020

OPEN ACCESS

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1. INTRODUCTION

There is a preponderance of literature and evidence which supports the notion that tourism is one of the fastest growing sectors in the world with almost $1.2 trillion worth of bookings having being made in 2016 (World Travel and Tourism Council, 2017). In this equation, it is important to consider local community participation in tourism ventures and community growth, while the environment is sustained in a win-win scenario.

In Ethiopia tourism sector was actually a pioneer on the continent and a strong competitor to a current powerhouse on the country Kenya. But today, Kenya's tourism industry attracts many more times the tourist arrivals as Ethiopia does (by almost a factor of 5 in 2007). What was true in 1960's is still true today; Ethiopia has as many attractions and a greater variety than its southern neighbor to share with tourists. It just has not been able to capitalize on its resources like Kenya has (Melaku, 2010). Despite its relative slow growth, tourism sector is growing fast and stands as the third foreign exchange earner, following coffee and oilseeds, Mann (2006).

Different types of tourism will assume different forms and functions, and how they are developed and managed will also influence the degree to which they can contribute to development. In this regard, CBET projects have become a two-edged sword for achieving natural resource conservation and improved livelihoods of host communities (Spenceley & Snyman, 2012).

At best, ecotourism projects tend to aim for the 'involvement' of local people, and at worst, ecotourism projects can ignore the issue of local participation completely. Such projects frequently fail after a relatively short period of time, Garrod (2003).

The tourism policy of Ethiopia which is endorsed in 2009 highlight some specific provisions for active participation of local people in tourism. Yet, despite this policy call for community involvement in tourism, there is still no formal mechanism for community participation. In Ethiopia in general and in Tigray, a regional state in northern Ethiopia, in particular, tourism is always complained for not benefiting the host community of local destination areas mainly in rural areas. Although some change is taking place with regard to tourism, the change is not satisfactory for local communities in Tigray. Chernet (2008).

Even though, the degree of benefit accruing to the local economy is unknown; in Ethiopia there are already small scale benefits to the community in general and the poor in particular with considerable difference between the regions and the destinations. The elites or influential people are also among the most benefited usually the tour operators and local tour guides, (Kubsa 2007). This situation leads to debate on tourism development in Ethiopia. Domination of the sector by small groups of private investors means that adverse impact on the environment and local communities have received insufficient attention, (Connell and Rugendyke 2008). However, the more that local resident's gain from tourism, the more they will be motivated to protect the area's natural and cultural heritage and support tourism activities (Liu, 2003).

Therefore community participation in tourism development can be observed from two different angles: Participation of the local community in the decision-making process and participation in the sharing of the benefits of tourism (Wijesundara & Wimalaratana, 2016). On account of the foregoing, community participation in tourism could be seen as a model of tourism development whereby local communities take an active role in the management of tourism in their communities, are empowered to take control over the entire tourism development process, and are direct beneficiaries of the resultant benefits of tourism development.

Some researchers have done studies on community based ecotourism in different parts of Ethiopia such as (Micheal, 2008; Cherinet, 2008). These researches have mainly focused on surveying potentials for community based ecotourism development and value of ecotourism for economic development. Sntayehu A. (2015) also studied on the issue of potentialities of community participation in CBET in Choke mountain northern Ethiopia. However, this study focused in one specific mountain and few people. But this study covered different tourist attraction sits such as rock hiwon churches, cultural aspects, mountains trekking etc in wide districts in the region.

This study contributed to the existed literature by assessing the CBET development which is the new and best project to upgrade the tourism industry from the perspective of the community. The use of the CBET approach is very relevant to the conservation of the tourism resources in the study area. This is because the tourism areas of Tigray region shares boundaries and owned by a large number of local communities. Therefore the objective of the study was to assess the Participation of Local People in Community Based Ecotourism (CBET) Development Project in Ethiopia, a Case of Eastern Zone of Tigray, Ethiopia. Specifically the CBET project implementation, major practices and participation of the community in CBET development was the concern of the study.

2. MATERIALS AND METHODS

This research was used cross sectional design to assess the problem and collect data at a point of time. Descriptive method was used to describe both quantitative and qualitative data's collected from both primary (collected using questionnaire, oral interview and focused group discussion) and secondary data (collected from different sources such as documents, and reports) in order to support the primary data.

The target populations of the study was the combination of communities involved on the CBET, other communities (non-members of CBET), employees (managers) and tourist guides found in different tourism sites of eastern zone of Tigray region such Hawzien, Adigrat, Wukro, Atsbi and Freweyni. Accordingly 163 participants were selected from the target populations using Yamane's (1967) sampling size determination formula.

Respondents were selected conveniently and judgmentally techniques based on respondents familiarity to the area, availability and willingness. It is commonly acceptable level as it may be also taken based on value judgment (Kothari, 1990). Finally qualitative and quantitative analysis was made using descriptive statistical techniques.

3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

It is true that the sample respondents for this study were 163. However the finding was analyzed using 138 respondents because the remaining 25 respondents didn't fulfill and turned back the questionnaire correctly. Here the following started by demographic profile of respondents.

3.1 Background of Respondents

Table 1. Demographic Profile of Respondents

Description		Groups			Total	Percentage
		Member of CBET	Tour guides	Other Community		
Sex of respondents	Female	13	6	8	27	20%
	Male	48	24	39	111	80%
	Total	**61**	**30**	**47**	**138**	**100%**
Age of respondents	less than 18	0	0	5	5	3.6
	19-30	6	16	14	36	26.1
	31-40	28	11	19	58	42.0
	above 40	27	3	9	39	28.3
	Total	**61**	**30**	**47**	**138**	**100.0**
Educational level of respondents	Illiterate	16	0	13	29	21.0
	Elementary / secondary school	24	5	19	48	34.8
	College	21	7	13	41	29.7
	Degree and above	0	18	2	20	14.5
	Total	**61**	**30**	**47**	**138**	**100**
Marital status of respondents	Married	51	4	41	96	**70**
	Single	10	26	6	42	**30**
	Total	**61**	**30**	**47**	**138**	**100**
Family Size	1-3	17	23	6	46	**33**
	3-5	25	7	11	43	**31**
	Above 5	19	0	30	49	**36**
	Total	**61**	**30**	**47**	**138**	**100**

Source: own survey, (2018)

The gender distribution in the above table showed females were less participated than males which account only 20%. But males were 80%. So low participation of females may leads to poor utilization of tourism resources.

About age of respondents, from the total 138 samples, 96(70%) of them were the age group for Table 1. So adult aged groups and youths were found less participants in CBET development activities. About educational level of respondents, Few of them (14.5%) were also degree and above holders and they are tour guides, but majority of them (64.5%) are college and below educated. So illiteracy and less skill may affect for CBET development.

Marital status of respondents showed most of tour guides are small aged and unmarried than the other community and CBET members.
About family size of respondents no one tour guide were found above five family sizes. But other communities and the CBET members 49(35%) have above five family size because. This indicated most tour guides have small family size than community and the members of CBET.

3.2 Practices of CBET Development in Eastern zone of Tigray

3.2.1 Local Communities Knowledge of CBET Development

CBET is a very controversial and debated term to anyone. As a result it is difficult to reach in a common consensus for the definition of it but concept. However, there are certain guiding principles of CBET focus on Environment: (Provides environmental education, Increases public Environmental consciousness, Fosters healthy attitudes and behaviors towards nature), Economic: (Contributes to lasting local economic development, Profits earned retained within local communities, Equal distribution of revenue) and socio-cultural spheres of a destination (Promotes local people's active participation, Promotes local ownership and Enhances local communities' equilibrium & Empowerment), Wall, (1997), Alexander & Whitehouse (2004).

Table 2. Knowledge of Respondents about Community Based Ecotourism

Question		Groups			Total	Percent
		Member of CBET	Tour guides	Community		
Do you know what CBET means?	yes	54	24	23	101	**73**
	no	7	6	24	37	**27**
Total		**61**	**30**	**47**	**138**	**100%**

Source own survey, (2018)

The knowledge of respondents towards the community based ecotourism development indicates comparing to the members of CBET and tour guides shown in Table 2, the non-members (community) has no knowledge about the CBET development. In line with this according to Garrod (2003), such projects which have less participation of community were frequently failed after a relatively short period of time.
According to the information gained from interview (tourism marketing expert), although the international tourism did not develop with the pace that it should have been developed, but when compared with domestic tourism, it is on a better situation both in the region in general and in the study areas in particular. The low level of domestic tourism starts from the lack of knowledge about what tourism is among the local communities. Therefore, it is important to know how the local communities understand what CBET development is.

3.2.2 Involvement of Local People in Tourism Development

Community participation can be seen as either an integral component of empowerment or as both a cause and an effect of empowerment (Perkins & et.al., 1996). The success

of any CBET activities in particular and tourism in general dominantly depends on the active participation of the local communities. The same is true for eastern Tigray tourism areas.

Table 3. Involvement of Local People in CBET Development

Question			Groups			Total	Percent
			Member of CBET	Tour guides	Community		
Does the wereda tourism office facilitate the involvement of local communities for the development of the ecotourism sector?		Yes	21	10	15	46	33
		No	40	20	32	92	67
Total			**61**	**30**	**47**	**138**	**100**
In what type of tourism activities are you (your family member) involved currently?	Guiding		6	30	4	40	29
	Supplying vehicle		53	0	0	53	38
	Employee in lodges		2	0	3	5	4
	Selling handicrafts		0	0	0	0	0
	Supplying mule		0	0	0	0	0
	Trekking		0	0	0	0	0
	Others		0	0	15	15	11
	Not participate		0	0	25	25	18
Total			**61**	**30**	**47**	**138**	**100**

Source: own survey, (2018)

As shown in Table3 indicated respondents were asked about the participation of local people in tourism activities for the development of the sector. The result shows 92 (67%) of them replied “no”, but the remaining 46(33%) said “yes”. this result has no difference in different groups. So majority of the respondents were said “no”. This implies the tourism offices in every wereda did not well participating communities in different tourism development activities.

The second point is about the type of tourism activities that the respondents or any of their family members is engaged. According to the finding out of 63 members of CBET 53 (84%) of them were engaged in supplying of vehicle. This vehicle was given from the support of the NGO’s; new millennium villages’ project. Then it is possible to say they are using only one vehicle which is provided by the NGO.

Similarly the tour guides also engaged in guiding activity only. There is no another alternative activities done by them, rather simply keeping their round to go to guide visitors. The non-member communities are also, almost out of the total 47 respondents 25 (53%) of them are said that, they never participate even any of their family was participated in any tourism activity. 15(32%) of the communities were participated in any other tourism activities like guarding to visitors, giving key and opening the visiting areas such as churches. Only few of them 4 and 3 communities were replied as their family members are engaged in guiding and employees in the lodges respectively. Generally from the sum total respondents 53 (38%) respondents were participated in supplying vehicle which is covered by the members of CBET guiding and 40(21%) from the total samples also participated in guiding activity which is covered by the tour guides. The remaining 25 (18%) and 15 (11%) respondents were said not participated

and they participated in other activities such as guiding, and locking and unlocking the key of the visiting areas and materials respectively. This finding implies the members of CBET and the tour guides were only participated in one side. But there are a lot of alternative activities that enhance income generation. The communities who are the best owners of the tourism area were not used from the tourism income. This may leads to inappropriate utilization of tourism resources.

Table 4. Source of Income of Society and Contribution of Tourism

Question		Group membership			Total	Percent
		Member of CBET	Tour guides	Community		
What is your source of income?	Involving in Tourism	6	5	0	11	8
	daily labor	5	2	4	11	8
	Trade	4	2	1	7	5
	farmer	46	2	36	84	61
	Unemployed	0	19	6	25	18
Total		**61**	**30**	**47**	**138**	**100%**
Is tourism contributing to the economic development of the village?	yes	44	22	33	99	72
	no	13	6	12	31	22
	I don't know	4	2	2	8	6
Total		**61**	**30**	**47**	**138**	**100%**
If your answer for the above question is "yes'' are the benefits fairly distributed in the village's community?	yes	27	8	15	50	37
	no	34	21	32	87	63
Total		**61**	**29**	**47**	**137**	**100%**

Source: own survey, (2018)

The above table 4 shows about the source of income of the society and the contribution of tourism to the society. The first statement is about source of income. Accordingly most of the members of CBET were farmers which indicate, 46 out of the total 61 sampled respondents which covered 75%. Only few respondents said involved in tourism (6), daily labor (5) and trade(4). Most of the tour guides, 19 out of 30 which accounts (63%) were said as they are unemployed. Only five of them have said involved on tourism. The remaining six respondents were said daily labor, trade and farmer in equal proportion. The communities have never chosen the involvement on tourism. 36 out of 47 sampled communities (that accounts 77% of them) were farmers and the remaining few are unemployed (6) and daily labor (4).

Generally 84 (61%) of the respondents were found their income is depend on farming which is covered by the members of CBET and non-member communities. 25(18%) of the respondents also replies as they are unemployed. This number is covered by the tour guides. The remaining 11 (8%) were said involved in tourism, 11 (8%) also said on daily labor and 7 (5%) were said on trade.

From this finding it is observed that most of the members of CBET and other none member communities are farmers and the tour guides are unemployed. So even if they are in tourism activity (especially members of CBET and tour guides), they are not taken as the regular job rather supplementary job. Their major income is still not from tourism. This shows the income gained from tourism is limited. This is true that they are doing only one specific activity such that supplying vehicle and guiding respectively. This creates a low income of tourism to the society.

Currently trekking activities are becoming a special concern for tourism planners with respect to its negative environmental impact. In this regard, the basic development guidance of Tigray CBET is 'high value, tourism where much number of guests was allowed to visit each sites per day. Camping of tourists in the community based ecotourism sites is not restricted.

Best environmental practices will lead to change of attitude and perception that communities have over the environment. This will gradually result change in the habit of communities. On the other hand, there is a general belief that generation of income from tourism increases the awareness of communities about the economic value of the existing natural resources. This further leads to improved conservation and protection practices. Consequently, communities develop positive thinking and practice over their household and livelihood pattern. Therefore, sampled households were asked whether they bring change concerning the use of natural resources after the coming of tourism like on housing, cooking, toilet, etc. In general, to date there is no organized trekking regulations and monitoring mechanisms supported with scientific study in the study area. In addition, code of ethics for tourists, guides and other entities is not developed.

3.3 Major Benefits of CBET Development in the Study Area

3.3.1 Socio Cultural Aspect

The main principles or elements of ecotourism are designed to maximize the social benefits of tourism while minimizing the negative ones. Unless proper management and accepted standards where the needs and preferences of all groups are respected and designed to manage the impact of visitors; the interactive process between host and guest creates benefit and impose costs over the culture of the host society. As a matter of fact, the mission statement of developing community based ecotourism in eastern zone of Tigray by TESFA say publicly ensure sustainable improvements in the livelihood of the local communities while also contributing to the protection of cultural resources which are found around that such as Meskel celebration in Adigrat, Ashenda, traditional foods like Tihlo, Giezm, and the like.

3.3.2 Economic Aspect of CBET Development

Community based ecotourism is a key in which developing nations have an opportunity to overcome poverty; the challenge in developing such programs is to create economic opportunities for local communities that incentivize the protection of local natural and cultural resources. Economic indicators included benefits and benefit-sharing within the community.

3.3.3 Tourism as a Source of Income

Running of CBET business is one means of injecting foreign currency to the country. An interest in helping to enhance living conditions and the need to protect the environment in the eastern zone were the driving force behind the running of CBET project. The central development philosophy is creating community owned and managed private sector enterprises in rural Ethiopia. For this case there are some initiations of CBET in eastern zone of Tigray which is the most rich in different tourist attractions such as rock hiwan churches and different eco trekking destinations. In this context knowledge of the communities on the overall tourism and CBET development is one clue that helps to initiate well for the sector.

The following table is one sample taken from Hawzien wereda annual report about the number of tourist inflow and income generated from them.

Table 5. Number of Tourists Flow and Income from the Sector

Number of tourists flow and monthly income in 2017/2018														
No.	Country	July	Aug	Sep.	Oct.	Nov	Dec.	Jan.	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Total	Dollar
1.	France	443	73	352	124	290	319	150	409	316	193	24	2682	917,010
2.	Italy	150	55	153	31	83	89	88	223	75	165	15	1038	352,935
3.	Germany	163	30	115	72	93	93	82	106	89	40	16	729	244,260
4.	Spain	127	156	85	43	84	61	34	116	27	56	3	697	239,430
5.	America	81	62	71	83	254	119	42	135	117	110	8	921	314,985
6.	Britain	191	27	53	59	53	78	76	85	84	71	15	638	214,935
7.	Diaspora	223	110	49	119	43	19	26	40	57	31	7	636	217,005
8.	Others	336	41	253	31	244	120	220	170	89	90	64	1318	432,630
9.	Total	1639	553	1121	562	1101	319	238	1284	845	756	152	8,654	2,933,190

Source: Annual report of tourism office in Hawzien Wereda 2017/18.

The above Table 5 presents the number of tourist inflow in one year and income to the tourism sector. According to Ato Weldegebriel the current tourism officer of Hawzien the plan for 2017/2018 was to increase the tourist inflow to 6,400. But the result shown 8,654; which is above the plan. This is the result of good promotion activity. The total amount of dollar gained from the tourists is 2,933,190. This is calculated by 8,654 tourists can be stay an average day of 1.5 and expected to spent 230 dollar per day. When it is expressed in terms of current exchange of rate of Birr to dollar (27.79), it gives 81,513,350 birr. So this is a yearly income, equal to around 60% of the yearly budget of Hawzien wereda, i.e. 130.5 million. These shows to what extent tourism can generate income, but as per the wereda officers' interview it is still unutilized resources. As per the data collected from interview and observation, there is huge amount of money that incurred from the sector. But the main problem is still in the distribution of this much amount of money to the community. The real owners of the resources are the communities, but in terms of benefit, they didn't.

3.4 Benefit-Sharing Mechanisms

The operational definition for the term benefit sharing involves gaining an equitable dividend from revenues generated from CBET businesses and activities. The notion of

benefit sharing goes beyond one time compensation payment. It requires treating the communities that host the natural and cultural resources as legitimate partners and co-owners.

Benefit sharing is important matter in thinking about ways to sustainably develop and manage natural and cultural tourism resources, and equally important, to improve equity when allocating the benefits and costs within society. Experiences from around the world show that benefit sharing is positive from all stakeholders' perspectives. From the most governments' perspective, benefit sharing is a practical policy tool to achieve greater social inclusiveness and to balance social, economic and environmental factors in the planning, design, implementation and operation aspects. From the communities' perspective, benefit sharing increases capacity to work effectively with governments and other organizations. From the perspective of potential investors, either from the public or private sectors, the presence of an explicit policy framework and practical provisions for benefit sharing is an indicator that locally affected communities are likely to support the development. As a consequence, the investor's risk exposure is reduced and investors are more inclined to become financing partners. The interview made with one of the local communities' representative about the benefit sharing mechanisms in the tourism area has applied indicated the tourist destination areas many tourists were arrived every year. These tourists give money to the churches, monasteries, tour guides and the culture and tourism office and invest more many in the large hotels and lodges. But, the local communities do not get any money or other benefits from the tourists' arrival on the tourism area of eastern zone of Tigray. Therefore, the local communities feel disappointed with the tourists. As a result, they request the government and other concerned bodies to think the case again but still no enough solution was made.

3.5 Activities carried out to Develop CBET Project by the Tourism Office

Table 6. Yearly performance analysis of tourism in 2010 E.C and plan of 2011

No.	Activities carried out	Performance of 2010E.C	Plan for2011 E.C
1.	Creation of Job opportunities	485	650
2.	Effective Budget and material utilization	100	100
3.	Number of supervision carried out	12	12
4.	Performance Assurance of institutions and hotels	70	80
5.	Female participation	56.75	60
6.	Increase foreign tourist inflow	10,087	11,000
7.	Increase domestic tourists	6,477	7,500
8.	Initiate tourism clubs	33	43
9.	Expansion of tourism books in to libraries	2,023	2,500
10.	Documentation of new non movable tourism resources	13	5
11.	Documentation of movable resources	550	395

12.	Registering the documented tourism resources	95	100
13.	Develop the local language	125	112
14.	Increase promotional activity	4	4
15.	Write the history of traditional churches	9	10

Source: sample annual performance report of tourism sector in Hawzien wereda 2010 E.C.

As per the above Table 6 shown, the lists of activities are the most critical activities to all the communities and the performance report in general is at good track having of some limitations. From the limitation especially, the promotional activity is planned at statuesque, but must increase since it increased the number of tourists flow. Some of the limitations observed were also the report is only one year report; there is no organized previous report. As an office it was opened and started functionally no more than two year. Additionally the office has shortage of skillful and experienced employees.

4. CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION

In the previous finding and discussion part the study tried to assess the participation of local people in CBET development in eastern zone of Tigray. The finding showed that there is low participation of females in tourism and tourism related activities. So low participation of females may leads to poor utilization of tourism resources. Most of the members of CBET are farmers but the tour guides are not involved in the project. This may lead to more unemployed for the youths because it is a supplementary job for farmers, but it was better to participate more unemployed youths than the farmers. Few tour guides are usually degree holders but most of the members of CBET were found illiterate. So, illiteracy is observed as a bottleneck for the development of tourism. With regard to the knowledge about the CBET development, non-members (community) have low knowledge comparing to the members of CBET and tour guides. So this low knowledge of the community was hindering to participate more in the sector. This indicates there are few individuals involved in the project. About the expansion of income from tourism, the members of CBET and the tour guides were only participated in one activity, which means there are no alternative activities that enhance income generation. The communities also not used from the tourism's income. This may leads to poor utilization of tourism resources. About the sources of income of respondents it is observed, even if they engaged in tourism activity (especially members of CBET and tour guides), they are not taken as the regular job rather supplementary job. Their major income is still from farming not from tourism. This showed that the income gained to them from tourism is limited. This is true that they are doing only one specific activity such that supplying vehicle by few groups and guiding respectively. This creates a low income of tourism to the society. According to wereda tourism officers the tourist inflow is increasing rapidly. Other practices of CBET development activities in the area understudy are emergence of Performance Assurance of institutions and hotels,

increase Female participation, Increase foreign tourist inflow, Increase domestic tourists, Initiate tourism clubs, Expansion of tourism books in to libraries, Documentation and registering of new non movable and movable resources and etc.
The interview and observation result showed that there is huge amount of money that incurred from the sector. But the main problem is still in the distribution of this much amount of money to the stake holders (community). The real owners of the resources are the communities, but in terms benefit, they are not. This is the most drawback of tourism industry. CBET development is started to reduce such problem, but the application of the reality is still at doubt.
Based on the findings and conclusion made, the following possible recommendations were forwarded so as to help to solve the problems understudy. As the first point of discussion showed about the gender difference in participation in tourism, females were fewer participants in tourism. But they are the most actors in the economy. So the tourism office in each weredas in particular and bureau of tourism and culture in general should develop new policy that helps females to engage in tourism because the tourism economy cannot develop without the involvement of females being females are the main actors in the economy. Unemployed youths should be better participants in all activities of the sector than the farmers to reduce unemployment rate and to provide good service to customers. This is because of the youths are more educated than the farmers. Hence education is the key factor for the development of CBET. With regard to the practice of CBET development in the area, awareness creation should create first to all stake holders. One of the major activities to make ecotourism as a force of change is by promoting community livelihood through intensive tourism awareness creation programs at grass root level. The communities should be aware of the advantages and disadvantages of CBE in particular. This includes the importance of preservation and conservation of heritages, participation of the community as collective groups to develop and run tourism, appraising the psychological relations of host-tourist, providing proper service and hosting tourists properly etc. As the level of usage from tourism is low, all the tour guides, members of CBET and other communities should expand different activities so as to enhance the income from the sector. Mostly the communities are not used from the sector. So government should reorganize in new fashion that involved the community. Most of the profits were taken by the hotels, lodges, and tour operators. So the real owners of the tourism site were not used from the sector. The new system which is used to share the income to the communities should create by the government. The tour guiding service must not take as the supplementary job rather it should be taken as the regular job and the best income generator job and expanded in to another similar income generating activity. Finally, providing training and graduating local community on the craft production, organization of cultural events, etc. are suggested to diversify economic participation in tourism.

Limitation for Further Study

This study focused on the Eco-tourism development practices in eastern zone of Tigray. So it focused only the limited study area, but it was better to study in Ethiopian

perspective. Furthermore, this study didn't cover the main challenges and opportunities of the CBET project, rather simply assessed the practice and way of its implementation. Finally the study didn't cover the whole community for investigation, rather simply fixed target populations. Hence a researcher who can cover those limitations can do further investigation.

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Acknowledgement

We want to thank to Adigrat University for funding of this study. Next we want to thank to the sample respondents for giving of valuable data about the issue understudy at the expense of their time. Lastly we acknowledge to the employees of tourism office in Hawzien for their cooperation in finding the actual data and fill the survey.