
BY

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PG/M.SC/08/50409

A THESIS PRESENTED TO THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNIVERSITY OF NIGERIA, NSUKKA.IN PARTIAL FUFILMENT OF THE REQUIREMENTS FOR THE AWARD OF MASTERS OF SCIENCE (M.sc) DEGREE IN PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION.

AUGUST, 2011.

TITLE PAGE

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Head of Department.

DEDICATION

This work is dedicated to God Almighty and to my lovely dad and mum,
ACKNOWLEDGMENT

I wish to use this opportunity to express my immense gratitude to God Almighty for His guidance and protection. Also for the grace he bestowed upon me throughout the period of this research work and to my caring parents High Chief and Lolo S.I. Eze, you must surely reap the fruits of your labour.

My sincere love also goes to my siblings, Ikenna, Ogochukwu, Chibuzo, Nnamdi, Oluchi, KelechiUjunwa, my nieces Favourand Onyinyechi, also to aunty Theresa, I really love you all.

My profound gratitude also goes to my amiable supervisor, Prof.
Chike Ofuebe for his helpful guidance and constructive criticisms throughout the period of this research work, you are an ‘epitome of academic excellence’ and to my lecturers in the Department of Public Administration and Local Government, University of Nigeria Nsukka, especially to Prof. Fab.O. Onah (the HOD), Prof. F.C. Okoli, Dr (Mrs) M.A.O. Obi, Dr (Mrs) O. Uzuegbulam, Prof. C.N. Oguonu, Prof. R.C Onah, Dr C.U. Agalamanyi, Dr O.U. Nnadozie among others for guiding me through the hurdles of academic development.

To my friends, Dr Aja, Junior, Obyno, Ogoo, Ben, Nonso, Lucky, J.C, Anita, Chidimma, Emeka Okafor and others too numerous to mention here, you are all wonderful. To Henry, Bob, and Gadaffi, you guys are awesome.

Finally, my unqualified gratitude goes to the authors and writers whose thoughts and ideas aided the execution of a study such as this. I want to say a big thanks to you all for making this study a great success.

Eze Henry Emeka,
Department of PALG,
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Nsukka.
August, 2011.
LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

(AIDS) Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome
(SAGEN) Acceleration of Girls’ Child Education in Nigeria
(ACT) Acetaminin Combination Therapy
(AFRODAD) African Forum and Network on Debt and Development
(AfrEA) African Evaluation Association
(BASA) Boys Approved School
(CGS) Conditional Grants Scheme
(CFI) Child Friendly Initiative
(CORP) Community Resource Persons
(CSO) Civil Society Organization
(DAC) Development Assistance Committee
(DSF) Development Strategic Framework
(DFID) Department for International Development
(ECA) Economic Commission for Africa
(ECONDAD) Economic Community of West African State Network for Debt and Development
(EIA) Environmental Impact Assessment
(FCA) Fadama Community Associations
(FFLH) Female Functional Literacy for Health
(FSS) Financial Strategy System
(FMC) Federal Medical Centre
(GDI) Gender-related Development Index
(GNI) Gross National Income
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Acronym</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>HIV</td>
<td>Human Immunodeficiency Virus</td>
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<tr>
<td>PAP</td>
<td>Imo Poverty Alleviation Programme</td>
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<tr>
<td>ICBHW</td>
<td>Intensive Capacity Building for Health Workers</td>
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<td>ICS</td>
<td>Integrated Child Survival</td>
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<td>IDSR</td>
<td>Integrated Disease Surveillance and Response</td>
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<td>IMCI</td>
<td>Integrated Management of Childhood Illness</td>
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<td>IMNCHS</td>
<td>Integrated Maternal New born and Child Health Strategy</td>
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<td>IFI</td>
<td>International Financial Institutions</td>
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<td>PAP</td>
<td>Imo state Poverty Alleviation Programme</td>
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<tr>
<td>IPT</td>
<td>Intermittent Preventive Treatment</td>
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<td>LLINs</td>
<td>Long Lasting Insecticide Nets</td>
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<td>MDG</td>
<td>Millennium Development Goals</td>
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<td>MSS</td>
<td>Midwives Services Scheme</td>
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<tr>
<td>MDA</td>
<td>Ministries, Departments and Agencies</td>
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<tr>
<td>NAFDAC</td>
<td>National Agency for Food and Drug Administration and Control</td>
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<td>NCEMA</td>
<td>National Centre for Economic Management and Administration</td>
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<td>NEEDS</td>
<td>National Economic Empowerment and Development Strategy</td>
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<td>NPC</td>
<td>National Planning Commission</td>
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<td>NAPEP</td>
<td>National Poverty Eradication Programme</td>
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<td>NTI</td>
<td>National Teachers Institute</td>
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<td>NAR</td>
<td>Net Attendance Ratio</td>
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<td>NER</td>
<td>Net Enrolment Ratio</td>
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<td>NEPAD</td>
<td>New Partnership for Africa’s Development</td>
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<td>NDDC</td>
<td>Niger Delta Development Commission</td>
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<td>NGO</td>
<td>Non-Governmental Organizations</td>
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<td>ODA</td>
<td>Official Development Assistance</td>
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<tr>
<td>OECD</td>
<td>Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development</td>
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<td>ODA</td>
<td>Overseas Development Assistance</td>
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<tr>
<td>ORBRDA</td>
<td>Owena-River Basin and Rural Development Authority</td>
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<tr>
<td>PMTCT</td>
<td>Prevention of Mother to Child Transmission</td>
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<td>PHC</td>
<td>Primary Comprehensive health Care</td>
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<td>PHC</td>
<td>Primary Health Care</td>
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<tr>
<td>STME</td>
<td>Science, technology and mathematics Education</td>
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<td>SSAP-MDG</td>
<td>Senior Special Assistant to the President on MDGs</td>
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<tr>
<td>Acronym</td>
<td>Full Form</td>
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<tr>
<td>SMEs</td>
<td>Small and Medium Enterprises</td>
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<td>SEEDS</td>
<td>State Economic and Empowerment Development Strategy</td>
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<td>SSHDP</td>
<td>State Strategic Health Development Plans</td>
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<td>SDE</td>
<td>State Directorate of Employment</td>
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<td>SAP</td>
<td>Structural Adjustment Programmes</td>
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<td>TB</td>
<td>Tuberculosis</td>
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<td>UN</td>
<td>United Nations</td>
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<td>UNDP</td>
<td>United Nations Development Programme</td>
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<td>UNECA</td>
<td>United Nations Economic Commission for Africa</td>
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<td>UBE</td>
<td>Universal Basic Education</td>
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<td>UNICEF</td>
<td>United Nations International Children’s Emergency Fund</td>
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<td>VPF</td>
<td>Virtual Poverty Fund</td>
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<td>WFP</td>
<td>World Food Programme</td>
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ABSTRACT

The development or underdevelopment of any nation largely depends on the performance and outcome of the various indicators of development within that society. This is important because, the level of development in any nation is highly dependent on the existence of stable economic, social and political environment; also among them are the provisions of basic social amenities and infrastructural facilities as set out by the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). This study is aimed at evaluating the impact of the Millennium Development Goals in Nigeria with Imo state as a case study. However, the extensive utilization of the evaluation theory in the course of conducting this research, showed that, there are no significant impacts made so far in the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals to the development of Imo State, at the end of which we therefore recommended that, the state government must devise functional and effective development strategies and
economic plans targeted towards the attainment of the Millennium Development Goals in the state by the year 2015.

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5.2
CHAPTER ONE
INTRODUCTION

1.1 BACKGROUND TO THE STUDY

Generally all over the world, issues relating to eradication of absolute poverty and hunger, reduction of infant and maternal mortality rates, achievement of universal primary education, promotion of gender equality and girl child education, combating of Human Immuno Virus/Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (HIV/AIDS), malaria and other related diseases, enthronement of human rights and social justice, among others, have occupied a central position and the differences in approach among nations is a function of the varying socio-political and economic environments prevalent in those societies. These issues, when properly resolved and appropriate strategies adopted to make them feasible can bring about human development. Human development in this situation becomes much more than the rise or fall of the
national income, rather, it is all about creating an environment in which people can develop their full potentials and bring about a productive and creative lives in accordance with their needs and aspirations for the future (Barry, 2008).

The above assertions imply that human development involves a process by which an individual or a society interacts with its environments (both physical and biological environments). This interaction results in the transformation of both the individual and his environment, producing a socially desirable enhancement, which benefits the entire society (Ozoemenam, 2003:367). Thus, it aims at an unending improvement in the capacity of the individual and society to control the forces of nature as well as of humanity at large (Ofuebe, 1998). World leaders committed themselves to respecting “all internationally recognized human rights and fundamental freedoms, including the right to development”. Part was devoted to economic, social and cultural rights, the rights of women, migrants and minorities, and the need to ensure genuine participation (UN, 2008).

However, considering the tenets of human development and its implications to national development, we can arguably state that Africa and other third world regions of the world, have between the periods of colonialism to post-colonial periods, and between the periods of the 1970’s up to the 1990s been very far from attaining a greater level of sustainable human and environmental development (UNDP, 1996).

During the above mentioned periods, Africa was not only lagging
behind the development activities but was trapped in a vicious circle of borrowing and donor dependency syndrome (Okosun et al, 2010:165). This is due to the fact that, despite its enormous natural and human resource endowments, the continent has been trailing behind in all socio-economic indices of development when compared with the metropolitan or developed countries of the world like the United States of America, Britain, France, among others; a clear fact that described Africa as “a continent in despair” (Ogunmola and Badmus, 2010:1).

Oftentimes, Africa and other developing countries of the world have been characterised with high rates of poverty, ignorance, diseases, poor environmental conditions, ethnic and religious conflicts among other social vices (UNDP, 2008); a sorry state that has necessitated different forms of assistance, aids and special development interventions by the developed countries and other development partners (both local and international), in order to rescue these states in despair and restore their dignity and pride in the international body polity and human development around the world.

The situation in Nigeria does not fare better as the continent’s most populous country has been confronting with development challenges and crisis of governance especially with the foray of military on its political scene. Nigeria was among the world’s fifty (50) richest countries in the early 1970s but slumped to find itself among the twenty five (25) poorest countries in the world at the dawn of the 21st century. Despite its natural resource endowments and
being the sixth (6th) largest oil exporter and eight (8th) largest deposit of natural gas in the world (Soludo, 2006), it has the majority of poor population after China and India. Moreover, the persistence and pervasiveness of the indicators of underdevelopment which includes - poverty, hunger, illiteracy, unemployment, maternal and child mortality, diseases, environmental degradation, abuse of human rights etc; in the Nigerian society, remains one of the most pressing social issues confronting governance in the country (Soludo, 2006).

Nigeria’s crisis of development became compounded with the adoption of the Bretton Wood's institutions-inspired Structural Adjustment Programmes (SAPs), which enabled the Nigerian government’s development plans and planning to give way to the rule of the market. This situation, contends Oladele(2009);

Had devastating consequences for social sectors such as education and health which served the public goods. Unfortunately, the Structural Adjustment Programmes (SAPs) failed to deliver on all it promised, this left both the state and the people worse off...The lesson learnt from Structural Adjustment Programmes (SAPs) is that African states (including Nigeria) are unable to meet the basic needs of their people when they externalize their economies and/or embrace the market.

Thus, the quest to liberate Africa and other third world regions from the aforementioned issues bordering on poverty and hunger, poor health conditions, social inequalities, political instability, environmental degradation
and abuse of human rights led to the adoption of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) by the United Nations (UN) which origin can be traced to the September 2000 gathering of 189 Heads of state and Government for the United Nations Millennium Summit where the declaration was ratified (UN, 2000).

The United Nations General Assembly adopted the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) during the Millennium Summit in New York in September 2000 (United Nations, 2000). In this document, the United Nations Organization (UNO) set out a series of eight (8) goals and eighteen (18) sub-goals, most with numerical targets, to be achieved by the year 2015. These goals address key areas of development such as poverty, education, gender equity, child and maternal health, disease, environmental sustainability, and international cooperation (United Nations, 2000).

Regarded as part of the social and democratic approach to governance in a global society, The Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) represents an unparalleled global commitment to free human beings especially those in the developing countries of Africa, Asia and the Oceania from the bondage of absolute poverty and wretchedness (Ogunmola and Badmus, 2010). The Millennium Declaration seen by many researchers and development partners as one of the most vital UN documents in recent time, offers the international society, both rich and poor the golden opportunity to have a common position and integrate vision on the best ways to address and solve the
multidimensional problems facing humanity and to promote sustainable development (Otive, 2006).

The adoption of the millennium declaration also provides the Third World countries, especially Africa, the new opportunity and drive to alleviate poverty and reverse the deterioration in human developments. The Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) also represents the international community’s commitment to provide an accountability framework and global partnership for progressively eradicating poverty in all its dimensions. With this declaration, developing countries are requested to prepare bold national strategies to achieve the MDGs for making measurable improvements in the lives of the world’s poorest citizens. Developed countries for their own part would increase their assistance to developing countries, particularly through high-level Overseas Development Assistance (ODA) (Ogunmola and Badmus, 2010).

Although adopted by the United Nations (UN) at the Millennium Summit, many of the goals had been articulated at numerous conferences throughout the 1990s. For instance, the Copenhagen Declaration, output of the 1995 World Summit for Social Development, mentioned all the topics that were later included in the MDGs except water, sanitation, and affordable essential drugs (United Nations, 1995).

Other conferences had more narrowly defined goals in which they addressed a specific problem such as education or the environment. The ideas

Most conferences, unlike the Millennium Summit, did not specify numerical targets and timetables. The World Summit for Children in 1990 however did establish quantitative targets, such as to reduce the under-five mortality rate by 33% or to 70/1000 live births by the year 2000 (Poling, 2003). Additional quantitative targets were set for maternal mortality, malnutrition, access to drinking water and sanitation, primary school enrollment and completion, and adult literacy (United Nations, 1990).

Throughout the 1990s, negotiators at other conferences consistently reiterated previous commitments such as those made at the World Summit for Children. Yet only two other conferences in the 1990s established quantitative targets for other areas of development. The Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) include numerical targets for most of the goals. In situations where targets had been set during previous conferences, the targets were reiterated in the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and the timeline extended to 2015 (UN, 2003).
Despite Nigeria’s huge resource potentials and claim of its commitment to the realization of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) by 2015, meeting these fundamental eight (8) goals is a daunting task. This challenge is not unconnected with the uncoordinated policy actions in those vital areas that the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) aim to achieve as well as the problems of heavy external debt burden, poverty, corruption, etc (AFRODAD, 2005).

However, the impact of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), which is the focal point of this study have been the utmost concern of many authors, researchers, development agencies and the entire citizenry of Nigeria, Sub Saharan Africa (SSA) and other third world or developing countries of the world (Okosun et al, 2010; Udeh,2000; AFRODAD, 2005; World Bank, 2003).

The cardinal areas of interests being the attainment of the conditionality to meet with the Declaration’s eight (8) MDGs to cover with the following areas:

1. To eradicate extreme poverty and hunger. The target is to halve the proportion of people living on less than $1 daily and those suffering from hunger by 2015,

2. To achieve Universal Primary (Basic) Education. The target is to achieve universal basic completion by 2015,

3. To promote gender equality and women empowerment. The target is to totally overcome gender disparities in both primary and secondary education
enrolment by 2005 and achieve equity at all levels by 2015,

4. To reduce child mortality. The target is to reduce child mortality rate by \( \frac{2}{3} \) by 2015,

5. To improve maternal health. The basic target is to reduce by \( \frac{3}{4} \) the proportion of women dying in childbirth by 2015,

6 To combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases. The grand target is to stop and commence to reverse the incidence of HIV/AIDS malaria and other diseases by 2015,

7. To ensure environmental sustainability. The target is to reduce by half the proportion of people without access to clean drinking water and basic sanitation, and lastly,

8. To develop a global partnership for development. This goal recognizes the importance of the collaboration between the have and have-nots to eradicate poverty and extreme hunger.

To achieve these goals, world leaders through the Millennium Declaration recognized and emphasized their shared responsibilities to eradicate poverty globally. In this regards, Third World countries including Africa, reaffirmed their commitments to strengthen governance, institutions and policies, while developed countries for their own part, pledged an additional and more sustainable debt relief and increased trade and technology opportunities for the countries of Global South (UNDP, 2004).

1.2 STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM
As already stated in the preceding sections, Nigeria is challenged by socio-political and economic setbacks. Its total economic performance since the time of its political independence in October 1960 has not been impressive. During the first four decades of independence, for instance, between 1960 and 2000, the average annual growth rate of Gross Domestic Product (GDP) was less than 4% (AFRODAD, 2005).

Nigeria rely on revenues from the sales of its crude oil, unfortunately, this has not been translated into positive results as the country’s economic performance has continued to be weak while the incidences of poverty are on the increase. Despite the fact that the country has produced several billion dollars worth of oil since 1960s, this has only translated into a low socio-economic developments and improvements in the quality of life of average people (UNDP, 2003 and Lal, 1999).

Udeh (2000) also argues that between 1981 and 1999, Nigeria received over $228 billion from oil export receipt and sadly, the number of people living on a less than $1 per day more than doubled in three decades, for instance, between 1970 and 2000. He further contends that “the proportion of the population living in poverty increased from 36% in 1970 to 70% in 2000”.

Furthermore, Nigeria’s per capita income of US$260 in 2000 is much less than, indeed it is only one-third of its level, US$780, in 1980 (AFRODAD, 2005:3; see also World Bank, 2003). Another factor plaguing the development of the economy is the country’s huge external debts and debts service burden
that have become highly unbearable. It is argued that Nigeria had little or no external debt before the mid-1980s as it undertook limited external borrowing. Even after its 30-month civil war (1967-1970), Nigeria external debts were less than a billion dollar.

Unfortunately, the situation took a dramatic turn in the late 1980s as external debts figures soared to almost $9 billion as loans were contracted from both official and private sources. Apparently, the reasons for the appalling turn of situation can be located within the context of military intervention in politics (Ugolor and Atakpu, 2002).

The country endured almost 30 years of military rule in the first four decades of its independence with negative consequences on its socio-economic situation. Under military rule, loans were irresponsibly contracted by military leaderships who plundered the nation’s wealth including external loans for personal enrichment. From General Muhammadu Buhari to General Abdul Salami Abubakar through General Ibrahim Babangida, military rule and leaderships were marked by wholesale looting of national treasury and corruption with serious human rights violations.

The real motives for external borrowing that the public sector needed to provide infrastructure, create jobs, etc with the overall objective of alleviating poverty became varnished as military dictators and cronies, as well as unscrupulous compradors embarked on looting spree (Ugolor and Atakpu, 2002). Under Babangida (1985-1993) more than $12.2 billion in oil revenues
disappeared while under its successor, General Abacha (1993-1998) between $1 and $3 was personally stolen (Human Rights Watch, 2007: 16-17).

Apart from the fact that military rule is characterized by lack of transparency, accountability, and good governance “much of the failure of policy and the lack of development have been attributed to the abnormal situation where a country was denied democracy and the rule of law, but rather was forcibly subjected to military misrule” (AFRODAD, 2005: 3).

The hopes that the advent of democratic rule in May 1999 will bring back the country’s lost glory, relief, development and rapid socio-economic growth became dashed as “misguided macroeconomic and debts management policies under civilian rule have meant continued sluggish growth of real GDP, high inflation, and deepening poverty” (AFRODAD, 2005: 3).

Thus, Nigeria, despite the advent of democracy, entered the Third Millennium with poor economic records. Between 1999 and 2003, growth in real output averaging 3.5% per annum and with a population of growth rate of between 2.8% and 3% per annum, this portends little or no step forward in alleviating poverty and improves the socioeconomic lots of average Nigerians. This economic picture looks bleak and far behind the required minimum growth rate of real GDP of 7% per annum to significantly reduce the number of people living in absolute poverty by half in 2015 and lead to the realization of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) (UNDP, 2003; Lal, 1999). This implies that much has to be done by the Nigerian government for the MDGs to
be achieved.

The performance of the Nigerian economy during the first five years of its Fourth Republic (May 1999-2008) is dissatisfying. The annual average growth of real GDP was estimated at approximately 3.5% while the importance of other sectors is quickly declining (Lewis, 2004). In specific term, the performance of the manufacturing sector is weak and fast declining while the rate of inflation increased from 6.6% in 1999 to 6.9% in 2000. It increased to 18.9% in 2001 but later stood at 14% in 2003 (see World Bank, 2005; UNDP 2004). Consequently, the level of gross external reserves remained relatively buoyant, growing from as low as $5.4 billion in 1999 to $9.4 in 2000, and later increased to $10.4 billion in 2001. It fell to a level of $7.3 billion in 2002. Conversely, it is massive external debt-service payments that have continued to drain the Nigerian economy.

However, in view of these problems described above and in order to proffer possible ways of ameliorating them and to meet the all important task of achieving the 2015 target year for attainment of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) in Imo state of Nigeria, the following research questions were therefore, posited:

1. What is the impact of the Millennium Development Goals to Imo state’s development?

2. What are the key challenges in achieving the Millennium Development Goals in Imo state?
3. What policy strategies can be adopted to ensure the achievement of the goals in Imo state?

1.3 OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

The Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) are eight time-bound international development goals the world leaders endorsed at the UN Millennium Summit held in September 2000. The MDGs represent an agenda-setting for transforming the living conditions of all peoples at the turn of the third millennium. They also translate to a bold initiative through which the world leaders hope to bridge the chasm between the rich and poor nations of the world and create a new order of global partnership, development and prosperity (Ugolor and Atakpu, 2002).

In the light of the above, the objective of this study was set out generally to assess the level of attainment of the Millennium Development Goals and its impacts in Imo state of Nigeria. Specifically, this study intends to achieve the following objectives:

1. To find out the impact of the Millennium Development Goals to Imo state’s development,

2. To examine the key challenges in achieving the Millennium Development Goals in Imo state; and

3. To proffer policy strategies needed to achieve the Millennium Development Goals in Imo state.

1.4 SIGNIFICANCE OF THE STUDY
The development or underdevelopment of any nation largely depends on the performance and outcome of the various indicators of development within that society. This is important because, the level of development in any nation is highly dependent on the existence of stable economic, social and political environment; also among them, are the provisions of basic social amenities and infrastructural facilities as set out by the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)(Iro, 2008). Therefore, the significance of this study now includes the following:

Empirically, this study will serve as a foundation and base for further researches that are intended to assess or examine the targets of the MDGs and their achievements in Nigeria. In other words, future researchers in this field will find it very useful as a reliable reference material.

Theoretically, this study will contribute greatly to support the existing theories of development by helping to enrich the bank of knowledge through its reliable findings on the impacts of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) in Nigeria.

Practically, this study is considered significant because it will contribute to the growth and development of Nigeria, especially, by due consideration and application of the suggested alternatives in making plans and policies of development in Nigeria by the policy makers, administrators and other development agencies.

1.5 SCOPE AND LIMITATIONS OF THE STUDY
The scope of this study is on evaluation of the impact of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) in Imo state between the periods of 2000-2008, to achieve this aim; the various local government areas that constitute the geographical components of the state formed the basis of this study.

Initiating and concluding a research work successfully is always difficult and there exist many constraints militating against a good research work. Among these limitations/constraints as experienced in this research include the inability of key respondents to come up with relevant information that would have enhanced the course of this research, for some reasons best known to them.

Misunderstanding and misconception of the subject of study also posed some limitations to this study hence, some employees of the Government Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs) who are responsible for the execution of government policies on the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), as well as some community leaders felt the study was meant to expose some corrupt practices of their various offices, thereby leading to their concealing some vital information necessary to the success of this study.

Another limitation is lack of finances needed to execute a research project of this magnitude. It was a big challenge because the local government areas and communities covered in this work are wide and there exists quite a great distance between each other, also the respondents whose majority constitutes poor rural dwellers, unemployed and students always request for mobilization
before any assistance is given to this researcher.

However, amidst these major and other minor constraints, the research was successfully carried out through persistence and perseverance.

CHAPTER TWO
LITERATURE REVIEW AND RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

2.1 LITERATURE REVIEW

INTRODUCTION

In order to describe, summarize, evaluate and/clarify the related works of other scholars in our field of study, especially as relates to the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and also to establish a fundamental basis for this research work, the related literatures were reviewed under the following Headings:

(i) The concept of the Millennium Development Goals
(ii) The origin of the Millennium Development Goals
(iii) Overview of the Millennium Development Goals in Nigeria
(iv) The impacts of the Millennium Development Goals in the following areas:

➢ Millennium Development Goals and Poverty in Imo State.
Millennium Development Goals and Education in Imo State.

Millennium Development Goals and promotion of Gender Equality in Imo State.

Millennium Development Goals and Health improvement in Imo State.

Millennium Development Goals and Environmental sustainability in Imo State.

Millennium Development Goals and global partnerships for development in Imo State.

(v) The challenges of achieving the Millennium Development Goals in Imo State.

2.1.1 THE CONCEPT OF MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS (MDGs)

We recognize that, in addition to our separate responsibilities to our individual societies, we have a collective responsibility to uphold the principles of human dignity, equality and equity at the global level. As leaders we have a duty therefore to the entire world’s people, especially the most vulnerable and, in particular, the children of the world, to whom the future belongs.

(UN Millennium Declaration: 2000).

The historic assertions as stated above introduced the literature review of this research topic. The statement marked a major landmark in development activities around the world; which had necessitated this multifaceted, multi-tasked and internationally articulated development strategy, which was set out mostly to develop the various regions of the world irrespective of their status;

Using the words of (Ogbemudia, 2007 in Alabi and Adams, 2009), the Millennium Development Goals are “the World’s time-bound set of eight (8) Goals that are inter-dependent and address extreme issues on poverty in its varying dimensions, such as education, equality, health, and the Environment”. Otive (2006), also stated that, the declaration is “an unprecedented global commitment and one of the most significant United Nations documents of recent time”. It offers a common and integrated vision on how to tackle some of the major challenges facing the world.

Alabi and Adams (2009), refer to this concept as “a new global partnership to reduce poverty, improve health, and promote peace, human rights, gender equality, and environmental sustainability”. As a new and articulate form of development activities, the MDGs which are currently the highest-level expression of the international community’s development priorities; set forth specific goals to be achieved by particular dates and identified concrete indicators for following them up.

These goals formed a common international minimum level of achievement, based on the recognition of the main challenges faced by the different countries regardless of their stage of development, which varies sharply between countries and regions. It represents an unparalleled global
commitment to free human beings especially those in the Third World regions from the bondage of absolute poverty and wretchedness (Abama and kwaja, 2009:24, and World Bank: 2005).

Moreover, Birchall (2004) stated that; behind the goals there are sophisticated thinking which is embodied in the declaration and are stated thus: “First, they express a broad, multidimensional view of development. In a reaction to the Structural Adjustment Programmes (SAPs) of the previous decade, they go beyond a simple faith in economic growth as a panacea for human ills. They talked about human development, placing human well-being and poverty reduction at the centre of global development objectives” (UN, 2003:27).

Secondly, the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) are based on a set of fundamental values: freedom, equality, solidarity, tolerance, respect for nature, and shared responsibility.

Thirdly, the goals are linked to the economic, social and cultural rights set out in the UN’s Universal Declaration of Human Rights. This means they are not just pious hopes but ‘claimable rights’, and action to achieve them is not just charity but an obligation for which we are all – as citizens – accountable.

Fourthly, this obligation is spelled out in more detail as ‘a global partnership based on mutual responsibilities between developing and rich countries’. What this means is that developing country governments have the primary responsibility for making the best use of their own resources and
governing their countries properly, while rich countries are responsible for ensuring a fair international trading system and providing more money, (Birchall 2004:23).

Furthermore, the significant features of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) is that, they seem to focus on developmental issues, leaving options of how to implement actions to achieve the goals open for interpretation. Therefore, they are challenges that must be tackled through economic, social and political means within the society.

2.1.2 ORIGIN OF THE MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS

According to Onuoha, (2008), “the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) grew out of the various agreements and resolutions of world organizations in the past decade, and it is aimed at addressing the ever-growing poverty among the populace, especially, in developing countries”.

Writing on the origin, evolution and progress of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs); the United Nations Human Development Index Report (2003), stated that:

The Millennium Development Goals reflect key aims of various United Nations (UN) development conferences in the 1990s. Thus they are the product of many national, regional and international consultations that involved millions of people and represented a wide range of interests, including those of governments, civil society organizations and private sector actors. These conferences emphasized the multidimensional nature of development— with human well-being as its end.

According to the report, the Goals also build on the momentum created by
the International Development Goals, devised in 1996 by the Development Assistance Committee (DAC) of the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) to define how its 23 bilateral donors would work together to improve lives in developing countries in the 21st century. The Organization for Economic Development (OECD) goals set an important precedent because they were time-bound and quantifiable, and so could be monitored and help mobilizes support (UN, 2003).

Moreover, Adeolu and Ojor (2010) noted that, after the Millennium Declaration in September 2000, the partnership between rich and poor countries was reaffirmed in November 2001 to launch the Doha Round on International Trade. Soon after, world leaders met again at the March 2002 International Conference on Financing for development in Monterrey, Mexico, establishing a landmark framework for global development partnership in which developed and developing countries agreed to take joint actions for poverty reduction.

Later that same year, UN member states gathered at the World Summit on sustainable development in Johannesburg, South Africa, where they reaffirmed the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) as the World’s time bound developmental goals (UN, 2002a). As part of the social and democratic approach to governance in a global society, MDGs represents an unparalleled global commitment to free human beings especially those in the Third World regions from the bondage of absolute poverty and wretchedness.
The Millennium Development Goals address many of the most enduring failures of human development. Unlike the objectives of the first, second and third UN Development Decades (1960s, 1970s, 1980s), which mostly focused on economic growth, the Goals place human well-being and poverty reduction at the centre of global development objectives (UN, 2003).

Although adopted by the UN at the Millennium Summit, many of the goals had been articulated at numerous conferences throughout the 1990s. For instance, the Copenhagen Declaration, output of the 1995 World Summit for Social Development, mentioned all the topics that were later included in the MDGs except water, sanitation, and affordable essential drugs (United Nations, 1995). Other conferences had more narrowly defined goals in which they addressed a specific problem such as education or the environment.

According to the UN (2003), the ideas embodied in the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) were articulated in each of these conferences including the World Summit for Children (1990), Education for All (1990), the UN Conference on Environment and Development (1992), the International Conference on Nutrition (1992), the International Conference on Population and Development (1994), the Fourth World Conference on Women (1995), and Habitat II (1996) among others (UN, 2003).

Most conferences, unlike the Millennium Summit, did not specify numerical targets and timetables. The World Summit for Children in 1990 however did establish quantitative targets, such as to reduce the under-five...
mortality rate by 33% or to 70/1000 live births by the year 2000 (United Nations, 1990). Additional quantitative targets were set for maternal mortality, malnutrition, access to drinking water and sanitation, primary school enrolment and completion, and adult literacy (United Nations, 1990).

2.1.3 OVERVIEW OF THE MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS IN NIGERIA

Following the Millennium Declaration of 2000, Nigeria began the systematic implementation of several policies and programmes to help it attain the different targets set for the MDGs by 2015. Over the years, stakeholders have modified a few targets and refocused them to reflect local peculiarities as well as target more specific and measurable problems (Nigeria MDGs report, 2007).

The Nigeria MDGs report, (2007), also observed that the macroeconomic foundations for pro-poor growth in Nigeria are more benign today than they were about one or two decades ago. Impressive progress has been made in meeting the targets of the National Economic Empowerment and Development Strategy (NEEDS: 2004-2007) which is the Nigerian equivalent of a PRSP (Nigeria MDGs report, 2007).

Bello and Roslan (2009) (in Alabi and Adams, 2009) posited that if we rekindle our minds, the problem that face Nigeria and in fact many African countries are strategic development planning, making choices between alternative development paths, confronted with competitive global economy.
However, human and capital resources have become the core on which to build strategies for future economic growth, therefore, the basis of any strategic development plan rest on social, health, environment, human and technological indicators which the new development paradigm contain—MDGs.

According to them, forecasting these most valuable indicators is essential for short, medium and long term strategic economic growth and development for Nigeria to accomplish its vision of financial strategy system (FSS) 2020 and indeed to be among the twenty largest economies of the world as put forward by Goldman Sachs (2007b) global reports on the N-11 (Next eleven countries that are like BRICs). Consequently, Nigeria needs to achieve the millennium development goals by 2015 for it to sustained economic growth and development, which should prelude FSS 2020. This therefore will propel effort on FSS 2020 of joining the twenty biggest economies of the world (Alabi and Adams, 2009).

The aftermath of Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) declaration by the world leaders in September 2000 at the United Nations Millennium Summit, paved the way for the creation of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) office in Nigeria (MDGs Office, 2008).

It was established as a secretariat charged with the responsibility of executing MDGs affairs in the country, headed by Senior Special Assistant to the President on MDGs (SSAP-MDGs). Since then it is commonly known as the MDGs office, subsequently, other offices were opened in all thirty (36)
states of the federation and they have been operating on projects and programs
down the ladder to local governments (MDGs Office, 2008).

2.1.4 STRUCTURE OF THE MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS
IN NIGERIA

The Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) office functions as
secretariat to the presidential committee, which guides the nation towards the
achievement of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). The presidential
committee consists of the following;

(i) The president;
(ii) The vice president;
(iii) The secretary to the government of the federation;
(iv) The head of civil service of the federation;
(v) Representatives from Ministries Departments and Agencies(MDAs);
(vi) Six (6) governors, (One representing each geo-political zone);
(vii) One member each from upper and lower chambers of the National
Assembly;
(viii) Private sector;
(ix) Civil society;
(x) International partners;
(xi) Senior special Assistant to the President on MDGs (SSAP-MDGs); and
(xii) Special adviser to the president on projects and programs,
(MDGs Office, 2008).
According to the Nigerian MDGs report (2007), as a result of the commitment by the Nigerian Government towards achieving the goals, Virtual Poverty Fund (VPF) was established to house debt relief gains. In the year 2007, two innovative mechanisms for achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) were put in place; first, Conditional Grants Scheme (CGS) to states and subsequently to local governments to execute projects and programs.

Secondly, social safety nets scheme. This scheme provides cash or in-kind transfer to the poorest in the society (MDG Office, 2008). Since then, the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) office had been coming up with one scheme or the other to galvanize effort to achieve the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) by 2015, (MDGs Office, 2008).

2.1.5 IMPACT OF THE MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS IN NIGERIA

Goals of the millennium declaration include those dedicated to eradicating poverty, achieving universal primary education, promoting gender equality and empowering women, reducing child mortality, improving maternal health, combating HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases, ensuring environmental sustainability and developing a global partnership for development. The progress of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) in Nigeria with special reference to Imo State is assessed in this section based on the eight main goals, the goals and their impacts are discussed here below:
2.1.6 MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS AND POVERTY IN NIGERIA

The eradication of extreme poverty takes centre stage in the Millennium Declaration. United Nations Member States proclaim that, “they will spare no effort to free our fellow men, women and children from the abject and dehumanizing conditions of extreme poverty, to which more than a billion of them are currently subjected” (UN, 2000)

According to Onyenechere (2010) and the MDGs Report in Nigeria (2007); the proportion of the population living in relative poverty was expected to have fallen to 28.78 per cent in 2007, if the MDGs target is to be met in 2015. However, among every ten Nigerians in that year, five were still living in poverty and an analysis of poverty incidence by sectors indicated that poverty was more pronounced in the rural areas than in the urban centre (MDGs Office, 2008).

Similarly, while poverty was more pronounced among farmers and larger households headed by persons with lower levels of education, income inequality was more pronounced in urban centres. Unemployment rate in Nigeria rose from about 12 out of 100 working age people in 1999 to 18 in 2005 with the rate of youth unemployment rising in the urban areas than in the rural (NPC, 2007; Onyenechere, 2010).

Akindele and Adebo (2004: 55), in their own view, stated, that self-sufficiency and self-reliance in food production has always been a daunting
task for the policy makers in Nigeria, especially, after the ephemeral oil boom of the mid-1970s. In fact, this challenging situation is not confined to Nigeria but is spread among developing countries of the world.

Examining poverty conditions in Nigeria, Richards (1978) also stated that a retrospective look at the Nigeria’s economic pattern shows that before the civil war the country relied on its agricultural base for its export earnings that represented 66 per cent of the country’s foreign exchange, while it rose to 73.4 per cent in 1968 when activities in the oil sector were paralyzed due to the country’s civil war (1967-1970), (Richard, 1978).

Moreover the importation of food further wreaked serious havocs on agriculture when full exploitation of oil resumed in earnest and consequently, “the government could think of no other alternative than to mortgage the country’s economic future to the good behaviour and concordance of the multinationals and the local capitalists” (Richard, 1978: 224).

According to the UN (2004), Poverty pervades the Nigerian population. Poverty is still noticeable and its eradication is a daunting task for the government. The eradication of poverty is a significant objective in policy formulation and implementation in the emancipation of human being (UNDP, 2004).

The Millennium Development Goals Report statistics (2006), shows that, “35% of the population lives in extreme poverty while much as 54% are poor in relative terms, almost 52% on less than a dollar a day” (NPC, 2007). In
general, poverty is more pervasive in the North than in the South of Nigeria. For example, the poverty rate is 67.3% in the North East zone, 62.9% in North West, 62.3% in North Central, 51% in the South-South, 42% in the South West, and 34% in the South East (NPC, 2007). Expectedly, this situation is further compounded by the increase in the country’s population, thus resulting in an increase in the growing number of the poor that rose “from 39 million in 1992 to 69 million in 2004” (NPC, 2007).

Odulana and Olomajeye, (1999) and Osinubi, (2003) also lamented this scourge by stating that, Poverty has also taken an alarming dimension as the population of the urban poor is fast increasing due to the rapid growth of the population as well as the rural exodus to urban centers where rural migrants live in deplorable conditions; in addition to intra-urban and peri-urban migration. Migration is also partly due to serious lack of job opportunities in the rural areas.

Moreover, the case of Imo State is not exceptional. This is owing to the fact that, poverty rates have been on the increase despite the activities of poverty reduction agencies in the state, namely-NEPAD, SEEDS, SDE, SMEDAN, LEEMP, IMO PAP, etc (Onyenechere, 2010).

The high level of unemployment has also contributed immensely contributed to poverty in Imo State. The former Minister of Labour, Adetokunbo Kayode, has himself underlined the state of the prevalence of unemployment in the country by relying on the World Bank figure of 40
million of unemployed Nigerians as he stated that “unemployment has assumed a different and worrisome dimension” (The Guardian, 2009a). Imo state also shares in this high figure of unemployment in Nigeria, notwithstanding the activities of some agencies to create employment in the state.

Onyenechere, (2010), also noted that, another problem often associated with poverty in Imo state is child labour, which is widespread in the rural areas and the urban centres. In the rural areas of the country children are habitually used on farms whereas they are found engaged in nefarious activities in urban centres.

According to the UNICEF, (2009), Successive governments have mapped out strategies to fight, reduce, or eradicate poverty. However, poverty continues to, not only defy solutions, but escalating.

Another corollary of poverty in Imo state is malnutrition. This is why Ajani, Adebukola, and Oyindamola, (2006: 66), noted that, in fact, “malnutrition is a silent emergency in Nigeria, among children under age five, 29 per cent are underweight. Nearly 3 million children are suffering from chronic malnutrition and more than 1 million from stunting”. Malnutrition in the country is due partly to a high rate of food insecurity which is still a nagging experience. The case study of food insecurity in the cities of Lagos and Ibadan (the most urbanised cities of Nigeria) shows that there is “a high prevalence of over 70 % to be ‘food insecure’ ” (Ajani et al, 2006: 66).
To be sure, poverty has also its ramifications in health. The health sector has been in constant decay since the 1980s (Ogumola and Badmus, 2010). Poverty in conjunction with inadequate health policy have not only critically affected the improvement in health but also undermined the attainment of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) in that area. The spate of diseases is still serious. For example, the UNICEF Executive Director, Ms. Ann Veneman acknowledged the emergency in child health care. In her words, “more children die in Nigeria than any other country in Africa, largely from preventable diseases” (UNICEF, 2009).

AFRODAD (2005), Ogunmola and Badmus (2010), stated that, in accordance with the Nigeria’s quests towards poverty eradication as a means of achieving the Millennium Development Goals in the country; the federal government in 2004, unveiled the National Economic Empowerment and Development Strategy (NEEDS) and its state level Counterpart State Economic and Empowerment Development Strategy (SEEDS). The economic reform process encompasses strategies to achieve the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

Onyenechere, (2010), also comments that, Imo state has various programmes and projects to tackle poverty incidences in the state, some of which include:

(i) State Directorate of Employment (SDE)

(ii) State Economic Empowerment and Development Strategy (SEEDS)
(iii) Imo PAP (Poverty Alleviation Programme)
(iv) Imo SMEDAN
(v) Imo FADAMA
(vi) Imo LEEMP
(vii) EU MPP6.

2.1.7 MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS AND EDUCATION IN NIGERIA

The quest for eradication of illiteracy in modern societies is a basic concern of every society in the world. This is because education is one of the vital indices used in the categorization of nations as developed or developing (Yusuf, et al; 2009). Lack of basic education is a silent killer of large number of poorest children in the developing world (Gene, 2005).

According to the United Nations (2009); the number of children of primary-school age who are out of school has declined markedly in recent years, yet upwards of 72 million children around the world – about half in sub-Saharan Africa – remain out of school. Unequal opportunities resulting from biases based on gender, ethnicity, income, language or disabilities represent major obstacles to universal education. In developing countries, children in the poorest 20 per cent of the population are three times less likely to be enrolled
in primary school than children in the wealthiest 20 per cent.

For Nigeria to be categorized as a developed nation, she must get rid of illiteracy among the citizens by ensuring that every member of the society has access to western education (UN, 2009). The goal for primary education in the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) identifies three indicators:

(i) the net enrolment rate in primary school,

(ii) the persistence of children from grade 1 through grade 5, and

(iii) the literacy rate of 15-24 year olds. (UN, 2008)

According to UNESCO; the Net Enrolment Ratio (NER) divides the number of enrolled children of the official age group by the total number of children in that age group. This indicator does not count children older or younger than the official age group even though they might be enrolled in school (UNESCO Institute for Statistics, 2002:10).

The second indicator measures the percent of children who started grade one (1) who reached grade five (5). Fifth grade is particularly important because studies have shown that children need five years of schooling for sustainable literacy and numeracy (UNESCO Institute for Statistics, 2002:14). This indicator gives policymakers an idea of how many students drop out of school.

There are many reasons why children drop out of school including poor health (UNESCO Institute for Statistics, 2001:42), financial difficulties, and the distance to school. Another reason children leave school is low school
quality (UNESCO Institute for Statistics, 2001:42). Persistence to grade 5 can therefore, with caution, also act as a proxy for school quality. Data is not routinely collected in all countries for persistence to grade five, so it is estimated through a combination of cohort analysis modeling and observations (UNESCO Institute for Statistics, 2002:14).

Young adult literacy rates are the final indicator for the education goal. Literacy is a skill that can be an outcome of successful primary education, but there is no direct correlation between literacy and primary education. Although some children learn to read during primary school, others do not, and still others learn to read outside of school through family or religious activities (World Bank, 2001:12).

While enrolment rates and persistence to grade five (5) measure inputs to education such as time spent in school, literacy rates measure achievement. But since literacy is not necessarily acquired through formal schooling, there are no indicators trying to directly measure the quality of education. Yet, school quality is a major issue in the developing world where access to books and chalkboards is limited, and where teacher-student ratios can be more than 40:1 (World Bank, 2001:11).

Quality of education is especially important as enrolments increase because there might be a quality-quantity trade-off in education (Ichima, 2008). Although persistence to grade 5 can be used as a proxy for school quality, a more comprehensive approach to monitoring schooling adds another indicator
to directly measure school quality. Few data are available about school quality, but a reasonable proxy is the student-teacher ratio in primary school. Educational achievement is more difficult with more students per teacher so this measure can monitor school quality as enrolments increase to meet the MDGs (World Bank, 2001:36).

Education is an important key for the development of any society. In fact, education is an instrument a society can use to solve her problems. Obiageli (2006) noted that education alone, if well planned and delivered, is capable of strengthening our democracy and engendering economic growth. Thus, education is an essential phenomenon through which human and natural resources are harnessed for the common good of humanity.

The federal government of Nigeria recognized this fact as basic schools teachers were involved in the nationwide Millennium Development Goals Project (MDGs) re-training workshops since 2006 for development of teaching skills in the four core subject namely English studies, mathematics, basic science and technology and social studies including development of instructional materials. The workshops were organized by the National Teachers Institute (NTI) on behalf of the Federal Ministry of Education of Nigeria for basic school teachers in all the six geo-political zones of the country (Yusuf, et al; 2009).

According to Ahmed (2006), Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) Project of the NTI which started in 2006, involved re-training 145,000 primary
school teachers across the Federation between 4th and 29th September 2006; training which covered innovative ways of teaching primary school core subjects (English, Mathematics, Science and Social Studies), improvisation of instructional materials, school-Based Assessment, and basic computer skills), sensitization of teachers on new 9-year Basic Education curricula. In addition, NTI used experienced consultants and resource persons in the training that was conducted in four (4) centres in each state (a centre in each State Capital and each senatorial district) and involved the use of self-instructional modules, audio and video programmes.

Sharehu (2009) observed that in Nigeria, unlike other countries, the re-retraining of teachers had not received the desire the desired attention from Local, State and Federal Governments. This is because there has not been any systematic attention to update regularly the knowledge and skills of teacher in the light of changes in curriculum and the wider society. It is this neglect that in turn affected the quality of teaching in schools. It is in recognition of this that the Federal Government has, under the Millennium Development Goals Project, directed the Institute to re-train primary school teachers in Nigeria.

According to Onwuka (1996) quoted in Akindele and Adebo (2004), it is the effort of the teachers that a curriculum which is designed by the planners depends to a large extent for its success in terms of leading to the appropriate ends of education in the society. The teaching profession has been generally viewed as the backbone of Nigerian education. Based on this view, much is
expected of a teacher who is believed to hold the key to the nation’s educational development. The teacher is expected to be a provider. As a provider, he/she should give the learner both the problem and the materials with which to solve those problems. The nature of the problem he/she gives the learner and the learner’s cognitive development will determine the kind of materials he provides for the solution.

The Nigerian MDGs report (2007); categorically stated also that; the country is on the road to achieving the goal of universal primary education by 2015. Net enrolment ratio in primary education has consistently increased. From about 8 in every 10 eligible children in 2004, it increased to 9 in 2007 as a result of the implementation of Universal Basic Education (UBE) programme. This was complemented with the upsurge in the establishment of private primary schools. Literacy rate has also continued to increase; the urban areas have, however, fared better relative to the rural areas. Primary Six completion rate however declined from 8 pupils out of 10 in 2004 to 7 in 2007. The literacy rate of 15-24-year-olds also raised from 6 out of 10 students to 8 during the same period. In all these indicators females lag behind males and more seriously in primary completion rate.

Although there have been some level of improvement in the Imo state’s education sector, there have been calls for more and equitable improvement in the sector (Onyenechere, 2010; Onwuachu, et al, 2010).

In Imo State, as in every other states in Nigeria, the allocation of
resources to Science, technology and mathematics Education (STME) in junior secondary school education deserve serious attention because this level of education is now part of the Universal Basic Education programme expressed in goal two of the MDGS, (Onwuachu, et al, 2010).

2.1.8 MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS AND PROMOTION OF GENDER EQUALITY IN NIGERIA

This goal is directed at achieving gender equity and empowering women. It has a single target which calls for the elimination of gender disparity in primary and secondary education, preferably by 2005, and in all levels of education no later than 2015 (Poling, 2003). Achieving gender equity is an essential goal in itself and it is absolutely critical for meeting all the 2015 targets. The date set for achieving gender parity in primary and secondary education is 2005, ten years before the 2015 targets (UNICEF 2004).

According to Ichima (2003), the United Nations (UN) proposes to achieve gender equity by eliminating the gender disparity in primary and secondary education. Schooling is a necessary first step towards equity, but it is difficult to measure gender equity through school enrolment numbers. For instance, girls tend to have higher dropout rates than boys.

Schools with biased teachers can also perpetuate gender stereotypes and inequality so that school, rather than being a place of empowerment, can become an arena for harassment.

Moreover, educational quality can differ by the gender of students such
that male students get preferential access to resources and female students are assigned menial tasks during school time (UNIFEM, 2000:66). In all these ways, school enrolment ratios fail to accurately assess girls’ educational opportunities.

Although school is a necessary first step towards empowerment, it is a not sufficient measure of gender equity. At the 10-year follow-up to the Education for All conference (1990), the UN made a distinction between equal access to education and gender equality noting that:

Merely ensuring access to education for girls is not enough; unsafe school environments and biases in teacher behaviour and training, teaching and learning processes, and curricula and textbooks often lead to lower completion and achievement rates for girls…comprehensive efforts therefore need to be made at all levels and in all areas to eliminate gender discrimination and to promote mutual respect between girls and boys… (WEF Drafting Committee, 2000:17).

According to UNIFEM, (2000:76), real empowerment goes beyond equal access to education and increases women’s autonomy and voice within society. Two of the UN indicators target political and economic participation. Political participation is measured by the per cent of women in the national parliament. But, although having women in parliament is an important step towards gender equity, quotas can make this indicator meaningless in terms of how women actually affect the legislative agenda.

An ideal gender equity indicator would measure access to resources, which
is similar to what the UN measures when looking at the share of women in wage employment. This indicator shows the proportion of total salaried and wage employment available to women, a proxy for the extent to which women are empowered to seek employment in wage-earning sectors (UNIFEM, 2000: 72).

Unfortunately, it does not directly address access to resources because even if women get jobs in salaried sectors, they are frequently still paid less than men for the same amount of work. Finally, an increase in the number of women working in wage-earning sectors can also reflect low-income women being forced into menial tasks as family income falls. The indicator, then, cannot differentiate between when women choose (an inherently empowering situation) to enter the wage-labour force, and when they are forced to do so.

Another indicator available for measuring women’s status in the economy is to look at women’s wages as a percentage of men’s wages. Few developing countries collect statistics of this type, limiting the indicator’s usefulness in this study (Alabi and Adams, 2009).

The Gender-related Development Index (GDI) is yet another way to measure gender equity, as it takes health, education, and economics into consideration at the same time. The GDI was first described in UNDP’s Human Development Report in 1995 (UNDP, 1995), and aggregates measures of life expectancy, literacy, education, and earned income (UNDP, 2002:252-257). Unfortunately, the index is still inherently a development index and most countries rank nearly the same on both the GDI and UNDP’s Human Development Index which looks
at development, but does not consider gender. Ideally a good indicator for gender would isolate gender equity issues so the measure is not affected by absolute level of development.

All these suggested indicators still cannot really measure women’s empowerment, because the concept is multifaceted, with tangible and intangible elements. Additionally, the international community has not developed a method for identifying, defining, and collecting data on the many aspects of empowerment (UNIFEM, 2000:63).

Most reports confine themselves to the indicators already collected by the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development or the United Nations despite their flaws. What is really needed, however, is an analysis of the information gaps and proposals for new indicators of gender equity to fill those gaps. Because all the indicators available for measuring gender equity are fraught with methodological issues, no indicators are selected for further analysis and examination of countries’ status on gender equity will await better data (Poling, 2003).

The UN report (2008), also stated that, Women have more income-earning opportunities than ever before. Overall, women occupy almost 40 per cent of all paid jobs outside agriculture, compared to 35 per cent in 1990. But almost two thirds of women in the developing world, work in vulnerable jobs as own-account and unpaid family workers. In Southern Asia and sub-Saharan Africa, this type of work accounts for more than 80 per cent of all jobs for women.
Ichima (2003), also posited that women are also disproportionately represented in part-time, seasonal and short-term informal jobs; and they are therefore deprived of job security and benefits. Occupations continue to be gender-specific, and female dominated positions tend to be characterized by inferior status, lower pay and poorer working conditions. Although well-educated women have advanced and the share of women managers is increasing, most women remain in low-status, less valued jobs and face greater barriers to higher level positions. As a result, women have greater difficulty translating their labour into paid work and their paid work into higher, more secure incomes.

Even in the government sector, where women often enjoy equal job security and benefits, they are more likely to work in local rather than central government. In an attempt to redress these inequities, development partners have focused on gender equality and empowerment. In 2005-2006, for example, one sixth of bilateral aid was allocated to sectors for the purpose of improving women’s status (UN, 2008).

In relation to Nigeria, Progress towards this goal according to the Nigeria’s MDGs report (2007) is improving gradually but inequality continues to subsist in various aspects of life of men and women in Nigeria. For instance, the proportion of girls enrolled in primary, secondary and tertiary education is still lower than that of boys (about 8 girls to every 10 boys), but there is a positive trend in girls’ enrolment for all levels of education. For primary school
enrolment, there was sustained increase in girls’ enrolment from 2000 to 2007, while in the secondary schools, a steady increase in girl’s enrolment was observed from 2005 when about 9 girls to every 10 boys were in school. Women are still grossly under-represented at the highest decision making levels, such as the National Assembly.

Although there has been some improvement (from 3 women to 100 men in 2000 to about 8 women to 100 men in 2007), the rate of improvement is considered very slow in relation to the 30 women to every 100 men recommended by the Beijing Platform for Action which has been adopted as the national policy.

The policy environment has been improving with increased advocacy on Acceleration of Girls’ Child Education in Nigeria (SAGEN), Child Friendly Initiative, mainstreaming into state and local government development strategies, Female Functional Literacy for Health (FFLH) Project, etc. Since 1999, the federal government has started to balance gender in top-level decision making. This has started to yield positive results at the state level too. As at 2008, there were several female deputy governors (e.g. in Anambra, Ogun, Osun, Plateau, Lagos, and Imo states) compared to only 2 in 2003, while the number of women Speakers at the State Houses of Assembly had also increased (Nigeria MDGs report, 2007).

2.1.9 MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS AND HEALTH
IMPROVEMENT IN NIGERIA

The discussions in the progresses made by the Millennium Development Goals in Nigeria are summarised under the caption of the health related goals, which include the Goal 4: Reduce child mortality; Goal 5: Improve maternal health and Goal 6: Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria, and other diseases. According to some recorded reports on the progresses made so far by the Millennium Development Goals in the health sector, it was clearly identified that there have been positive contributions of the declaration in this discipline (Nigeria MDGs report, 2007).

The UN report (2008), stated that in 2006, for the first time since mortality data have been gathered, annual deaths among children under five dipped below 10 million. Nevertheless, the death of millions of children from preventable causes each year is unacceptable. A child born in a developing country is over 13 times more likely to die within the first five years of life than a child born in an industrialized country. Sub-Saharan Africa accounts for about half the deaths of children under five in the developing world.

Substantial progress has been made in reducing child deaths. Since 1990, the mortality rate for children under age five in developing countries dropped by 28 per cent—from 100 deaths per 1,000 live births to 72 in 2008. Globally, the total number of under-five deaths declined from 12.5 million in 1990 to 8.8 million in 2008. This means that, in 2008, 10,000 fewer children died each day than in 1990. An encouraging sign is the acceleration of progress after the year 2000:
the average annual rate of decline increased to 2.3 per cent for the period 2000 to 2008, compared to 1.4 per cent in the 1990s (UN, 2010).

Despite these achievements, and the fact that most child deaths are preventable or treatable, many countries still have unacceptably high levels of child mortality and have made little or no progress in recent years. What’s more, among the 67 countries with high child mortality rates (defined as 40 or more deaths per 1,000 live births), only 10 are on track to meet the MDG target on child survival. The highest rates of child mortality continue to be found in sub-Saharan Africa (UN, 2010).

The UN reported that in 2008, one in seven children there died before their fifth birthday; the highest levels were in Western and Central Africa, where one in six children died before age five (169 deaths per 1,000 live births). All 34 countries with under-five mortality rates exceeding 100 per 1,000 live births in 2008 are in sub-Saharan Africa, except Afghanistan. Less than five mortality, in sub-Saharan Africa has declined by 22 per cent since 1990, the rate of improvement is insufficient to meet the target. Furthermore, high levels of fertility, combined with a still large percentage of under-five deaths, have resulted in an increase in the absolute number of children who have died—from 4.0 million in 1990 to 4.4 million in 2008. Sub-Saharan Africa accounted for half of the 8.8 million deaths in children under five worldwide in 2008 (UN, 2010).

On the other hand; maternal deaths can be caused directly by pregnancy or
indirectly when pregnancy or delivery aggravates a pre-existing condition (Alabi and Adams, 2009). It is difficult to obtain accurate statistics about the maternal mortality ratio of a society especially in developing countries where vital registration systems are absent or inadequate and many births occur outside specialized facilities (Alabi and Adams, 2009). To combat the problem of inaccurate or incomplete information, another indicator is frequently used to measure the percentage of births attended by a skilled health professional (Alabi and Adams, 2009). Skilled health professionals, according to the World Bank, are “personnel trained to give the necessary supervision, care, and advice to women during pregnancy, labour, and the postpartum period, to conduct deliveries on their own, and to care for the new-borns” (World Bank, 2002). Although it is difficult to translate the qualifications of a “skilled health professional” across political, linguistic, and cultural boundaries (Alabi and Adams, 2009), the UN identified the proportion of births attended by a skilled professional as the second indicator for maternal health.

Moreover, the three indicators identified for HIV/AIDS are the prevalence of HIV among 15-24 year-old pregnant women, condom use as a percent of total contraception use, and the number of children orphaned by HIV/AIDS. The prevalence rate is collected among pregnant women between 15 and 24 years of age because surveillance of that population is set up at antenatal clinics (UNAIDS, 2002b:56).

While it is important to know the percentage of the population that is
currently affected by HIV/AIDS, which this first indicator describes for a subset of the population, it is also good to know the incidence rate of the disease—that is, how many new people contract it each year. Incidence data is more difficult to collect than prevalence data, but it is a better measure of the current rate of spread of the disease (Ichima, 2003:20).

UNAIDS uses the prevalence rate of HIV among 15-24 year-old pregnant women as a proxy for the incidence rate. At older ages, the HIV prevalence does not reflect the newly infected population because of the long duration of the disease. But since younger peoples’ infections probably occurred recently, prevalence in young people is a proxy for the incidence rate. Because of this correlation, one would expect behavioural changes in the population to be reflected by a change in the prevalence rate of young people earlier than they would be reflected in the prevalence of the total population (UNAIDS, 2002:56).

Presently only safe behaviours can prevent HIV infection, so it is important to measure knowledge about and practice of these behaviours. The condom use rate of the contraceptive prevalence rate shows the extent to which people who use contraception are using condoms. This measure is imperfect because it does not indicate what percentage of the population is using contraception more generally. For instance, the condom use rate could be 90%, but if less than half of the sexually active people use contraception, then population is still at significant risk (Ichima, 2003:21).

Changing norms of behaviour indicate that knowledge of ways to prevent
contracting the virus has been disseminated and is being acted upon by the population. To measure the dissemination of knowledge more directly, UNAIDS has started collecting knowledge indicators such as “the percent of females who know that a healthy person can be infected with HIV/AIDS” (UNAIDS, 2002a:205-206).

If people know that a healthy-looking person can be infected, they can act to reduce their risk of infection (UNAIDS, 2002b:44). Indicators of knowledge dissemination also show an increase in knowledge over fairly short periods of time where actual epidemiologic evidence of behavioral changes would not surface until later (UNAIDS, 2002b:44). Adding this knowledge indicator would help policymakers gauge the success of HIV/AIDS education campaigns.

The final indicator identified by the UN (2000) to measure HIV is the number of children orphaned due to HIV/AIDS. Due to the time it takes for AIDS to progress, the current number of orphans reflects past prevalence rates in the population. It will be very difficult to make progress in this indicator because any changes that are made to reduce the spread of HIV will not be seen as a reduction of the orphan population for nearly a decade. At the same time, it is important to monitor the number of orphans because their numbers are indicative of the stress that HIV/AIDS places on communities (WHO, 2000).

In addition to HIV/AIDS, this goal mentions reducing the impact of other diseases, among which malaria and tuberculosis are most important. To monitor progress on decreasing the impact of malaria and tuberculosis (TB), the UN uses
the prevalence and death rates associated with malaria and TB. These basic epidemiologic data are essential to understanding endemic disease. For malaria, the UN also measures the proportion of the population in malaria risk areas using effective malaria prevention and treatment measures. Like the condom use rate above, this indicator attempts to measure behaviors that can prevent the disease (WHO, 2000).

Nigeria had not made much progress in achieving the health goals of the Millennium development Goals. In this fit, the Nigerian MDGs report (2007), pointed out clearly that Under-5 mortality rate also increased from 184 per 1000 live births in 2000 to 201 per 1000 live births in 2007.

This trend may continue if critical steps are not taken to address the situation. This is in spite of the introduction of Integrated Management of Childhood Illness (IMCI) Strategy, Integrated Maternal New born and Child Health Strategy (IMNCHS), Integrated Disease Surveillance and Response (IDSR), intensive capacity building for health workers and Community Resource Persons (CORPs) and the Integrated Child Survival and Development Strategic Framework and Plan of Action (2005-2009) to guide implementation of child survival interventions by government at all levels.

Imo state also benefitted from the implementation of debt relief gains in this area, the state shared immensely from the activities of the MDGs and the ministry of health in the 166 new primary health care centres that were built and 207 rehabilitated across the country in 2006 alone. The commitment of the
National Agency for Food and Drug Administration and Control (NAFDAC) to eradicate fake drug has contributed immensely to reducing risks associated with this menace (Nigeria MDGs Report, 2007).

2.1.10 MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS AND ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY IN NIGERIA

The UNDP, UNFPA, UNICEF and WFP (2010:12) have indicated that on ensuring environmental sustainability (MDG 7), the world is on track to achieving the MDG drinking water target. Today, 87 per cent of the world’s population uses drinking water from improved sources: 54 per cent uses a piped connection in their dwelling (plot or yard), and 33 per cent uses other improved drinking water sources. This translates into 5.7 billion people worldwide who are now using drinking water from an improved source, an increase of 1.6 billion since 1990. About 3.6 billion people use a piped connection that provides running water in or near their homes.

Although, estimates for 2006 show that the population still reliant on unimproved drinking water sources has fallen below one billion. However, improved drinking water coverage in sub-Saharan Africa is still considerably lower than in other regions. Nevertheless, it has increased, from 49 per cent in 1990 to 58 per cent in 2006, which means that an additional 207 million Africans are now using safe sources of drinking water (UNDP, UNFPA, UNICEF and WFP, 2010:12).

Sanitation coverage, however, is far from satisfactory. The world is not on
track to meeting the MDG sanitation target, and 2.5 billion people still lack access to improved sanitation, including 1.2 billion who have no facilities at all. The message is clear: there is a need to greatly accelerate progress in sanitation, particularly in sub-Saharan Africa and South Asia. Some 18 per cent of the world’s population practices indiscriminate or open defecation. Open defecation is still most widely practiced in South Asia and sub-Saharan Africa – by 48 per cent and 28 per cent of the population, respectively. In contrast, this practice is common among only 3 per cent of the population in Eastern Asia (UNDP, UNFPA, UNICEF and WFP, 2010:12).

In Nigeria, the target of achieving environmental sustainability, in relation to the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) in the country have not really been achieved, this is why the Nigerian MDGs report (2007:13), noted that, The proportion of land area covered by forests fell from 14.6 per cent in 2000 to 12.6 per cent in 2007 against the target of 20 per cent by 2015. This is largely attributable to lack of serious commitment to the various afforestation programmes. Gas flaring has also continued to constitute environmental menace in the oil producing areas, even though the proportion of gas flared fell from 53.0 per cent in 2000 to 34.0 per cent in 2007.

With respect to potable water, the proportion of people with access to safe drinking water gradually raised from 54.0 per cent in 2000 to 60.0 per cent in 2005/2006. The proportion of population with access to basic sanitation also dropped from 42.9 per cent in 2000 to 38 per cent in recent times. The poor
progress in achieving access to basic sanitation is partly a result of the expansion and development of squatter settlements and slums. Many neighbourhoods lack basic sanitation facilities and this trend is likely to continue unless painstaking efforts are made in this direction. Government’s increasing recognition of the need for sustainable development is an opportunity for making progress on this goal (Nigeria MDGs report, 2007:14).

According to the report above, the 2008 deadline for gas flaring, the implementation of strategic gas master plan and the use of gas-fired electricity provided opportunities to meet some of the targets. Construction of dams and urban renewal of federal and some state governments and ocean reclamation also created some impact, (Nigeria MDGs report, 2007:15).

2.1.11 MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS, GLOBAL PARTNERSHIPS AND NIGERIA’S DEVELOPMENT

According to Poling (2003:27), “this goal has six sub goals, more than any other goals of the MDGs. Five sub goals reflect different aspects of a global partnership for development; they discuss official development assistance, market access, debt, access to essential drugs, and access to communications technology”.

The indicators chosen by the UN for the sub goals addressing Official Development Assistance (ODA) are:

1. net ODA as a percentage of donor’s Gross National Income (GNI),
2. proportion of bilateral ODA donated to basic social services,
proportion of ODA that is untied, and the proportion of ODA received in
landlocked and
Small Island Developing States as a percent of their GNIs.

There has been a goal in the international community since the New International Economic Order in 1974 that industrialized nations should give 0.7% of their GNI as development assistance each year (United Nations, 1974).

UNDP, UNFPA, UNICEF and WFP, (2010) also shows that further progress has been made towards fulfilling the promises embodied in MDG 8. However, the global partnership for development has suffered significant setbacks, mostly arising from the recent state of the world economy. In the countdown to 2015, urgent responses are needed to bridge the existing implementation gaps to make good on the promises made to achieve the Millennium Development Goals.

According to the report, official development assistance (ODA) reached its highest level ever in 2008; there remain large delivery gaps in meeting existing commitments. The 2010 Gleneagles target is approximately $154 billion in present values; additional flows of $17 billion a year would be required to achieve this target. Aid to Africa reached some $26 billion in 2008 but is still about $20 billion short of being on track. Future flows of ODA to poor countries are at risk at a time when they need to be increased both to protect hard-won progress towards the MDGs and to counter the effects of the global economic and financial crisis (UNDP, UNFPA, UNICEF and WFP, 2010:13).
Furthermore, according to the UNDP, UNFPA, UNICEF and WFP, (2010:12); many essential medicines are inaccessible to the poor in developing countries for two main reasons: first, there are large gaps in availability in both the public and private sectors; second, the prices of the medicines that are available are not affordable to the poor. Connectivity continues to increase, with internet users and telephone subscribers, especially for mobile telephones, expanding worldwide. Newer applications of technology for a wide range of developmental efforts are also being experimented within various parts of the world, including for rapid assessments, real-time monitoring and social data transmission, and response to emergencies (UNDP, UNFPA, UNICEF and WFP, 2010:13).

Improving Nigeria’s competitiveness in order to benefit maximally from globalization is an issue of concern. This includes improving access to basic infrastructure (transport, energy, water, and social infrastructure – health and education), improved security of life and property and reducing the cost of doing business in the country. Others include promoting Nigeria’s goods, especially making its agricultural products accessible to Western markets through the removal of trade barriers and agricultural subsidies on developed countries’ products. There is also a need to encourage all states to reinforce their debt management mechanisms to forestall a relapse into an unsustainable debt regime which could weaken the country’s fiscal position and threaten the attainment of the MDGs (Nigeria MDGs report, 2007:15).
2.1.12 THE CHALLENGES OF ACHIEVING THE MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS IN NIGERIA.

Putting the attainment of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) in the Nigerian context, it is clear that they are real challenges. Flowing from our discussions on the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) above, the Nigerian government is obviously overwhelmed by the tasks (Ogunmola and Badmus, 2010). The positive social impacts that the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) can make in the lives of Nigerians were considered by the International Financial institutions (IFIs) in giving debt relief to Nigeria (Ogunmola and Badmus, 2010).

However, findings in the course of the literatures reviewed have shown that the aims of the MDGs are yet to be effectively achieved in Nigeria (Onyenechere, 2010; Ogunmola and Badmus, 2010; Yusuf et al, 2009; Awofadeji, 2009; Adeolu and Ojor, 2010; Okosun et al, 2010). For instance Onyenechere, (2010) in the cause of his study discovered through observations that revealed the absence of project by many of the agencies of the government in delivering the aims of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

The Vanguard (2009), quoted in Ogunmola and Badmus, (2010), noted that “so far, the Nigerian government score sheet is unimpressive to the extent that the House of Representatives has threatened to stop financial allocations to any ministry or parastatals that has failed to implement the MDGs”. According to Awofadeji, (2009), major challenges towards the achievement of the MDGs in
Nigeria is the ‘corruption’ that is said to have defined the spending of the Debt Relief Funds (DRF). He posited that across states, there are reports of contracts for projects that were not executed leading to the discovery of no projects during site visits, in a situation where the contractors were fully mobilized.

According to Adeolu and Ojor, (2010), these sad developments notwithstanding, an analysis of government posturing tend to show that its emphasis seems not to be on the evaluation of the impact of the DRFs spending on the targeted communities, leading to the achievement of the MDGs, as it is on the quantum of funds disbursed.

The other major challenges about the MDGs projects in Nigeria, according to Adeolu and Ojor, (2010), is lack of proper coordination among the tiers of the government, for instance- the federal, state and local governments. In this situation, it is evident that at the same location and locality, same type of projects, say primary health centres, were sited and funded both by the federal government and states as well as multilateral donor agencies, with attendant cost implications, at a time when with proper coordination and institutional collaboration, this duplication would have been avoided and eliminated (Adeolu and Ojor, 2010; Nwokeoma, 2009; Ogunmola and Badmus, 2010).

Another major challenge was enumerated by Adeolu and Ojor, (2010), to involve the subsisting absence of needs assessment by the implementing agency, before the contracts were awarded. The resultant effect of this development is that projects were sited in localities where they were not needed by the
beneficiary communities.

In conclusion, all the authors in the reviewed literatures have clearly posited that, the real challenges that militate against the realization of the MDGs is those of policy implementation of the MDGs because adequate budgetary allocations have been made by the government. Hence, the implementation of MDGs in Nigeria have been characterized by deeply entrenched corruption, gross inefficiency and wastefulness (Onyenechere, 2010; (Ogunmola and Badmus, 2010; Yusuf et al, 2009; Awofadeji, 2009; Adeolu and Ojor, 2010; Okosun et al, 2010).

2.1.13 GAP IN LITERATURE

Having carefully reviewed literatures from various authors in this discipline, though they critically analysed the concept of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), the relationship they established between the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals entirely all over the world (including the developed and developing countries) together with that of developing countries as Nigeria is biased. This is because they did not state categorically the external factors that would have equally hampered the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) in Nigeria.

Nigeria and other similar societies of the third world regions or the developing countries, are characterised by what Nnadozie (2004), referred to as “a neo-colonial or peripheral capitalist states, in which some of the problems in the conceptualization of the Nigerian state is the rear-guard battle between the
national bourgeoisie and the international capitals for capital accumulation”.

Therefore, Nigerian state as posited above in the relationship with the developed world is that of the master-servant arrangement. This is why there has been great fears about the Millennium Development Goals by the neo-Marxist school of thoughts like Nnadozie, (2004), Ake, (1994), Rodney (1990)etc; because of their sceptical belief that, the same people who underdeveloped Africa have come to bring back development to Africa. Only time shall tell the motives behind the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

Furthermore, there exists shortage of literatures of this discipline in the case of Imo state, most of the works of these authors were premised on Western socio-political and economic ideology, thereby making its applicability in Imo state and the Nigerian situations very difficult, if not totally impossible.

All these problems and inadequacies put together therefore necessitated the idea of carrying out this research. This work was deemed very necessary because it deals with the most salient areas of development that Nigeria can adhere to, and can bring about a total transformation to the Nigerian economy. More importantly, the study is designed within the Nigerian environment which is of utmost important to the researcher as against any other prevailing society used as a benchmark by the various authors in the course of our literature review.

2.2 HYPOTHESES
A research hypothesis is a tentative explanation for the observation of a phenomenon, or scientific problem that can be tested by further investigation (Anikwe, 2010). It can also be seen as something taken to be true for the purpose of argument or investigation; an assumption or the antecedent of a conditional statement.

It is also seen by Asika (2009), as “a tentative statement about relationships that exist between two or among many variables. It is a conjectural statement about relationships and need to be tested and subsequently accepted or rejected”. Many other scholars have in one way or the other, expressed the importance of hypothesis in research studies.

Osuala (1975), noted that “hypothesis is in a real sense the core of the study in which it is used”. He went further to state that, “it guides the researcher in planning the course of the inquiry, choosing the kind of data needed, in deciding the proper statistical treatment and in examining the result of the study”.

Asika (2009), posited also that “hypothesis assist us in the explanation or solution of a particular problem, and also aids in perceiving the connection between phenomena and the behaviours which they exhibit”.

In the light of the above expositions, this study intends to examine the following hypotheses;

**H1** There is no significant relationship between the Millennium Development Goals and the development of Imo state.
H2  The key challenges in achieving the Millennium Development Goals does not hinder the development of Imo state.

H3 Inadequate implementation of policies on the Millennium Development Goals by the Government does not increase low impact of the Goals in Imo state.

2.3  OPERATIONALIZATION OF KEY CONCEPTS

In researches, it is a usual practice for the researcher to give the operational meaning of key concepts as they relate to the study. This is to enable the reader to have a clear view and understanding of what the terms and concepts used in the research is all about and also not to give a wrong meaning between the ideas of the researcher and that of the reader. This is the whole ideal about operationalization of the key concepts, and in this work, the following key concepts in the hypotheses have been operationalized as follows:

(a) Development: This simply refers to the gradual growth towards advancement in a society. It is a multi-dimensional increase in human capacity to produce and reproduce within its environment for the purpose of advancement within the society in the relative future.

(b) Challenges: Challenges in the context of our discussion implies those characteristic factors that impedes on the proper implementation of policies thereby causing policy weaknesses, ineffectiveness and inefficiency.
(c) **Achieve:** This refers to the act of succeeding in execution of a particular project and getting the set aims and objectives of that project. Achieving involves the setting of agenda and meeting it through an already stated processes and procedures.

(d) **Hinder:** This involves the difficulties experienced in achieving or attaining a particular goal or objectives. It involves those activities that make a programme or project not to be achieved accurately with utmost efficiency in accordance with the set objectives of that programme or project.

(e) **Key:** This refers to the important and salient areas of activities that are involved in the course of executing a particular work or in government terms, policies. It is also necessary and very important to the understanding of a particular concept or activity.

(f) **Inadequate:** Inadequate here implies an improper way of performing a particular function, especially when compared with an adequately recognized way of performing that particular function.

(g) **Implementation:** This refers to the execution of an already stated plan of action. It involves the use of state machineries such as the Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs) in executing a planned course of action.

(h) **Policies:** Policies here refers to what government through the laws of the land, have decided to do or not to do. These policies are made as a
strategic means of solving particular problems within the society.

(i) **Impacts:** These are the resultant effects that a particular policy or activities of the government, international organizations, and multilateral donor agencies, have in the lives of the beneficiaries of the action.

(j) **Goals:** These are set aims and objectives that a particular policy or programme intends to achieve within a particular time frame or a geographical area.

(k) **Millennium Development Goals:** These are eight (8) time bound goals and eighteen (18) sub-goals, most with numerical targets, to be achieved by the year 2015. These goals address key areas of development such as poverty, education, gender equity, child and maternal health, disease, environmental sustainability, and international cooperation as set out by the United Nations Organization (UNO) at the Millennium Summit held in the year 2000.

2.4 **RESEARCH METHODOLOGY**

2.4.1 **Type of Study**

The researcher used a descriptive survey method for the study, in which questionnaires were carefully administered to respondents, which represent the population of the study.

2.4.2 **Methods of Data Collection**

The methods of data collection for this study were grouped into two,
namely; the primary and secondary data collection. The both source of data (for instance, primary and secondary sources) were extensively used for the purpose of drawing an empirical conclusion for proper analysis of the study so as to come up with objective findings.

(1) Primary Data

The primary data for this study were obtained through the distribution of questionnaires to direct beneficiaries of the MDGs projects in Imo state and data from direct responses to interviews which were designed for selected staff of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) implementation offices and agencies in Imo state. The essence of this exercise is to enable the researcher obtain more detailed, reliable and up-to-date information on the topic of research from the aforementioned respondents.

(2) Secondary Data

The main sources of the secondary data for this study were obtained through the review of relevant literature or use of materials from text books, website pages, articles, publications and journals and also through relevant official administrative documents of Imo state government.

2.4.3 Population of Study

In order to attain an acceptable standard format of research work, the population of the study must be involved. Population is a total set of items a researcher wants to analyze (Obi, 2005:72). This may be a group of people, house, records, items, objects etc.
In the light of the above therefore, the study covers the population of about 3,934,899, which is the estimated population of the study area by the National Population Commission (2006). This number makes the population of the study but since it will be very difficult, if not totally impossible to reach every member of the population, and in order to ensure manageability and accurate empirical conclusion, a sample was drawn from the population.

2.4.4 Sample and Sampling Technique

Sample of Study

Three hundred (300) respondents out of the entire population were used as the sample size of this study. They were selected using cluster (or area) sampling procedure, whereby the State is divided into the three (3) constitutionally recognized senatorial zones of Okigwe, Orlu and Owerri respectively, and one (1) local government was selected from each of the zones using random sampling.

The local governments where systematically selected, so as to reflect Urban settlements (Owerri Municipal), Semi-urban settlements (Okigwe) and Rural settlements (Orlu) respectively, and one hundred (100) questionnaires where administered in each local government (using stratified random sampling), among community heads (20), women leaders (20), town union Presidents (20), youth leaders (20) and local government staff (20). This sample size was selected using the simple random sampling method and amounted to the three hundred (300) questionnaires that were administered in
the course of this study.

In this process, adequate care was taken in administering the questionnaires in order to ensure that the opinions of those sampled adequately represent the target population.

**Sampling Technique**

The need for a representative sample in this study cannot be doubted when one takes the size of the target population in consideration. As Nwana (1981) noted, the problem of a study is not only how to minimize large sample errors but also how to reach at the most relevant members of our representative samples.

In order to ensure the above, out of the two sampling techniques that can be employed in social sciences, namely, the probability and the non-probability sampling techniques, the probability sampling technique was adopted for this study and within the probability sampling technique, cluster, stratified, and simple random sampling techniques were adopted by the researcher so as to pave way for easy calculation of the sampling errors and also to make good estimation of the characteristics of the target population.

**2.4.5 Data Gathering Instrument**

The instruments for gathering data for this study include the following;

(i) **Documentary Instruments**

This research work involves the collection of documentary materials written by various scholars and also some official administrative
documents and records from the government ministries and agencies involved in the execution of the Millennium Development Goals in Imo state. These documents were collected, organized and subjected to critical analysis. This was done to enable the researcher to make a comparative study of the data from the literature reviewed and responses from respondents.

(ii) Questionnaire Instrument

A highly structured questionnaire was prepared and personally administered by the researcher. In order to ensure that accurate information was gotten and ensure that the questionnaire covers the entire population of the study, its distribution cut across the entire selected local government areas and they constitute the target population.

(iii) Personal Interview

The researcher also made use of personal interview so as to obtain first-hand information in the course of this study. It is a data gathering instrument that enables the researcher to have in-depth knowledge of the research topic through face to face interaction. This instrument was used because it gives opportunity for deeper probing into issues of study.

2.4.6 Validity and Reliability of Instruments

The success of any research depends on the validity and reliability of its data gathering instruments. Validity means the appropriateness of an instrument in measuring what it is intended to measure. This is why Goode and
Hart (1952) stated that, “a measuring instrument or a scale possesses validity when it actually measures what it claims to measure”. Hour et al (2000), stated that validity means the degree to which a research instrument serves the purpose for which it was constructed.

In order to effectively ensure the validity of the instruments used for this study, the instruments were subjected to content validity measurement which involves face validity and predictive validity. The primary aim of adopting this method is to ensure that the instruments measure what they were designed to measure.

More so, we ensured also the validity of the instruments by ensuring that the contents of the instruments provide the needed information for the research topic especially as contained in the questionnaire designed for this study, presented in simple terms by avoiding technical terms for easy understanding by the respondents and are also logically and systematically arranged.

The researcher also ensured the validity of the instruments by making sure that the contents of the instruments are consistent with both the objectives and hypotheses of the study. Also, efforts were made to ensure that all aspects considered relevant to the study are adequate covered.

Reliability on the other hand, implies the ability of an instrument to produce the same results credibly, dependably and consistently over some time when applied to the same sample (Goode and Hart, 1952).
Therefore, in order to ensure that the instruments are reliable and pave way for accurate testing of hypotheses of study which will in turn enable a dependable and objective deduction, inferences and conclusions, internal consistency method was effectively adopted. This was achieved by cross-checking our information alongside other sources of data collection and by ensuring that the facts and figures collected from other sources mentioned earlier are accurate and would remain the same if the collection is repeated over time.

Also, the reliability of this study was ensured by making use of the pretest method which entails piloting the instruments on a small group of respondents, different from the target group (Oguonu and Anugwom, 2006), although within the same place of study. This was done for various times so as to compare whether there will be consistency between their former responses and the later.

To also ensure that the instruments have high reliability, the questionnaire was structurally constructed in a simple, concise and unambiguous manner so as to allow easy understanding of the questions by the respondents and so as to ensure consistency in their answers.

Finally, in order to ensure this research possesses high validity, external criterion method was adopted and was achieved by checking how correct the findings of a particular instrument is by comparing the results with existing knowledge as well as the findings of the research gotten from
questionnaire. These methods described above were carefully employed so as to ensure that the study is highly reliable and valid.

2.4.7 Methods of Data Analysis

Since multi-data gathering instruments were used in the course of this research, it then implied that different types of statistical tools would be used, so as to ensure accurate analysis of the data collected.

Therefore, the data collected from the respondents was analyzed using statistical tables. With these tables, it was easy to see the opinion of respondents at a simple glance and conclusions were easily drawn among them. Simple percentages and chi-square were also used to analyze the data generated from the study and also to test the hypotheses formulated for this research.

2.5 Theoretical Framework

By theoretical framework, we mean a device or scheme for adopting or applying the assumptions, postulations and principles of a theory in the description and analysis of a research problem. It is a way of describing, analyzing, interpreting and predicating phenomena (Obasi, 1999).

Theoretical framework is very important in any meaningful research work. It facilitates the understanding of the nature of the inter-relationships that exist among the variables that surround the subject matter.

Originally, the word theory is a technical term from the ancient Greek. It is derived from the word *theoria*, meaning ‘looking at, viewing, and
beholding’. It is also referred to as a proposed explanation of empirical phenomena. Theoretical framework serves as analytical tools for understanding, explaining and making predictions about a subject matter.

However, in the course of this study, we adopted ‘evaluation theory’ in the evaluation and discussion of the impact of the Millennium Development Goals in Nigeria, a case study of Imo state, between the periods of 2000-2008.

Evaluation is the systematic exploration and judgement of working processes, experiences and outcomes. It pays special attention to aims, values, perceptions, needs and resources. It also provides the conceptual framework for assessing the effectiveness of evaluation practice (Madison, 2002).

Much of the current interest in evaluation theory and practice can be directly linked to the expansion of government programmes (often described as the 'New Deal') during the 1930s in the United States and the implementation of various initiatives during the 1960s (Shadish, Cork and Leviton 1991).

However, from the 1960s, evaluation grew as an activity, a specialist field of employment with its own professional bodies, and as a body of theory. With large sums of state money flowing into new agencies (with projects and programmes often controlled or influenced by people employed by the state to manage such funds) officials and politicians looked to increased monitoring and review both to curb what they saw as 'abuses', and to increase the effectiveness and efficiency of their programmes (Smith, 2006).
2.5.1 Features of Evaluation Theory

Smith (2006), observed that evaluation in the social sciences have many common properties which include:

(1) Evaluation as a research process entails gathering, ordering and making judgments about information in a methodical way.

(2) Evaluation is something more than monitoring. It involves making careful judgements about the worth, significance and meaning of phenomenon.

(3) Evaluation is very sophisticated. It involves, developing criteria or standards that are both meaningful and honour for the work and those involved.

(4) Evaluation operates at a number of levels. It is used to explore and judge practice and programmes and projects.

(5) Evaluation if it is to have any meaning must look at the people involved, the processes and any outcomes we can identify. This makes the focus enquiry rather than measurement - although some measurement might be involved (Rowlands 1991 quoted in Smith, 2006).

Shadish, Cook, and Leviton (1991), also consider five components to be important to evaluation theory, they include: (a) Knowledge (b) Value (c) Use (c) Social Programming and (e) Practice

Basically, evaluation is either about proving something is working or
needed, or improving practice or a project (Rogers and Smith, 2006). The first often arises out of our accountability to funders, managers and crucially, the people involved. The second is born of a wish to do what we do better; we look to evaluation as an aid to strengthen our practice, organization and programmes (Chelimsky 1997, in Smith, 2006).

Therefore, it is very important in the course of our study, to explore the three key dimensions or distinctions and some of the theory associated in evaluation as posited by Smith (2006), they include;

(1) **Programme and project evaluation:** This form of evaluation is typically concerned with making judgements about the effectiveness, efficiency and sustainability of pieces of work, projects or programmes. Here evaluation is essentially a management tool which enables the policy makers to establish their policy outcomes and prepare the future causes of action.

(2) **Practice evaluation.** This form of evaluation is directed at the enhancement of work undertaken with particular individuals and groups, and to the development of participants in the development activities. It tends to be an integral part of the performance process. In order to respond to a situation workers have to make sense of what is going on, and how they can best intervene (or not intervene). Similarly, other participants may also be encouraged or take it upon themselves to make judgements about the situation. In other words, they evaluate the
situation and their part in it. Such evaluation is sometimes described as educative or pedagogical as it seeks to foster learning.

(3) **Summative or formative evaluation:** Evaluations can be summative or formative and can also be primarily directed at one of two ends:

- Formative evaluation enables people and agencies make judgements about the work undertaken; to identify their knowledge, attitudes and skills, and to understand the changes that have occurred in these; and to increase their ability to assess their learning and performance.

- Summative evaluation enables people and agencies to demonstrate that they have fulfilled the objectives of the programme or project, or to demonstrate they have achieved the standard required.

**2.5.2 Application of Evaluation Theory to the Study**

Based on the assumptions of evaluation theory, it is our interest and aim to submit that the theory fits into the framework of our study.

Evaluation methods assume that, there are policies, plans, projects and programmes already put in place by the Government of Imo state in concurrence with the plans of the Federal Government of Nigeria towards the implementation of policies to meet the 2015 target year for the attainment of the Millennium Development Goals.

The Government of Imo state had made various policies towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals. Some of these policies include; the State Economic Empowerment and Development Strategies
(SEEDS), National Poverty Eradication Programme (NAPEP), Imo state Poverty Alleviation Programme (PAP), State Directorate of Employment (SDE), State Policies on Education, Health, Agriculture, Environment, Tourism and Investments.

Meanwhile, the application of evaluation theory and methods as our framework in the study of the aforementioned policies by the Imo state Government will enable us to establish, through our findings, if these policies met the three key dimensions of the evaluation theory (programme and project, practice and summative or formative dimensions) and also the time targets of the Millennium Development Goals in their planning and implementation.

Finally, the effective and efficient use of the evaluation theory in this study enabled the researcher to make proper findings and analysis of the impact of the aforementioned policies, programmes and projects aimed at achieving the Millennium Development Goals in Imo State from 2000 - 2008.
CHAPTER THREE

BACKGROUND INFORMATION OF IMO STATE OF NIGERIA

2.6  INTRODUCTION

In order to have a clear understanding of our area of study, which constitutes our case study for the evaluation of the impact of the Millennium Development Goals in Nigeria, we therefore presented the background information of our study area in the following sub-headings:

(i)  General Information

(ii) Local Government Areas

(iii) Geographical Information

(iv) The Imo People

(v) The State’s Economy

(vi) Tourism in Imo State
GENERAL INFORMATION

Imo State was created on February 3, 1976 out of the old East Central State by the then regime of General Murtala Mohammed. It has an estimated population of about 3,934,899 (2006 Estimate) and by her slogan referred to as ‘Eastern Heartland’. It has Owerri as her state capital and largest city. Other major towns are Okigwe, Oguta, Nkwerre, Orlu, Mbaise, Mbano, Mbieri, Ideato, Awo-Idemili, Ohaji, Obowo, Ngor-Okpuala, Uzoagba, Emekuku, Oredo, Mgbidi. See figure 3.1 for map of Imo state including the Local Government Areas

LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREAS IN IMO STATE

Imo constitutes a total of twenty seven (27) local governments which are recognized by the 1999 constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, and other constituted Development Centres. The local Governments include the following:


GEOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION

Situated in south eastern Nigeria, Imo State covers an area of 5,530 square kilometres. Imo State shares boundaries with Enugu and Ebonyi States to the
north, Anambra State to the west, Rivers State to the south and Cross River and Akwa Ibom States to the east.

Imo State derives its name from Imo River, which takes its course from the Okigwe/Awka upland. It lies within latitudes 4°45'N and 7°15'N, and longitude 6°50'E and 7°25'E. Imo State has many rivers. The main rivers in the state are Imo, Otamiri and Njaba. The major lakes are in Oguta and Abadaba in Obowu local government area.

The main streams draining the state are Imo, Otamiri, Njaba and Orasi rivers, all of which have very few tributaries. With the exception of Imo River, this runs through the area underlain by the Imo Shales, other rivers rise within the coastal plain sands. Generally, river valleys constitute the major physical features, which are often marshy. The vegetation is tropical rain forest.

THE IMO PEOPLE

The inhabitants of Imo State are Igbo. The official language of the state is Igbo alongside English. Imo State has a rich cultural heritage. This is manifested in dressing, music, dance, festivals, and arts and crafts. Imo State indigenes are predominantly Christians of different denominations, but mostly Catholicism. Some people in the state still practice traditional religions.

THE STATE ECONOMY

The State is blessed with abundant natural resources. These include crude oil, lead, zinc, white clay, fine sand, limestone and natural gas in commercial
quantities. The state also produces agricultural produce such as palm produce, cocoa and rubber. The main staple crops are yam, cassava, cocoyam and maize.

Learned professionals, entrepreneurs and seasoned artists also abound in the state. Works of art produced in the state include: carved doors, walking sticks of different designs, sculptures, flutes, wooden mortars and pestles, gongs, and the famous talking drums. Metal works and various types of fabrications are locally produced.

Industries include Fuason Industries, Owerri, which produces galvanized iron sheets, the Afrik Enterprises, Awo-Omama, a pharmaceutical company, Imo Concord Hotel, Owerri. Industries that had been partially privatized include card packaged Industry, Orlu, Resin Paints Limited, Aboh Mbaise and Aluminium Extrusion Industry, Inyisi. Industries in the private sector include Sab Spare Parts and Allied Accessories, Okigwe, which make motor-spare parts, Oma Pharmaceutical, Awomoma, which produces drugs and medicines, Magil Industries Atta, which makes steel, sponge, bread, polythene and paper. Economic trees like the iroko, mahogany, obeche, Melina, bamboo, rubber palm and oil palm are in abundance.

The state also boasts of various international markets which include; Ekeonunwa market Owerri, International Market Orlu, Ekeututu international market among others. The State also has an International Airport to boost its economic and tourism potentials.

TOURISM IN IMO STATE
There are many traditional festivals observed in the State. Each community has different festivals celebrated in honor of ancient deities or to mark an important event in the history of the area. There are different festivals to usher in the harvest season, the most popular being the Ahiajoku Festival, which is observed in all the farming communities. Traditional music and dances include Abiigbo, Ekpe, Ikoro, Okonko, Mmanwu, etc. Some art & cultural centers include: The Mbari Cultural Center at Owerri, Eke Nguru in Aboh Mbaise and Igwekala shrine in Umunoha are traditional art and craft centers that depict the culture and heritage of the Igbo.

CHAPTER FOUR

DATA PRESENTATION AND ANALYSIS

INTRODUCTION

This chapter focuses on the presentation and analysis of the data gathered in the course of field research. It tried to examine, analyse and discuss the various information generated from field observations, responses by the respondents and secondary data representing claims by the Government of Imo state, the state Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs) in relation to the implementation and monitoring of Millennium Development Goals Projects in Imo State.

The researcher used tables, charts and other statistical instruments such as percentages and chi-square ($X^2$) to analyse the information gathered in the
course of this study. The primary data for this study was collected through the use of structured questionnaire that contained multiple answers in which copies were directly administered to respondents.

Our subjects were mainly people dwelling both within the urban and rural communities of the state, and constitutes male population of about (37.5%) and female (62.5%) of which majority of them are educated above WASCE/SSCE, with occupations showing traders (11.11%), Farmers (6.25%), Civil Servants (34.72%) and students (42.01%), these populations, cuts across the various age groups ranging from 18 years and above.

The results and findings were discussed in the ensuing sections of this chapter.

4.2 PRESENTATION OF RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS BASED ON THE RESEARCH QUESTION ONE
In this section, the data analysis is presented thus; a qualitative assessment of the impact of Millennium Development Goals in Imo State’s development.

The Research Question One is stated as follows:

“What is the impact of the Millennium Development Goals to Imo State’s development”?

The Research objective one is stated as follows:

“To find out the impact of the Millennium Development Goals to Imo State’s development”.

The testing Hypothesis one (H1) is stated thus:
“There is no significant relationship between the Millennium Development Goals and the development of Imo State”.

The results are shown in the table below indicating the goals and targets as stipulated in the questionnaire on areas covering the following:

**Goal One:** Eradicate Extreme Poverty and Hunger.

**Goal Two:** Achieve Universal Primary Education.

**Goal Three:** Promote Gender Equity and Empower Women.

**Goal Four:** Reduce Child Mortality.

**Goal Five:** Improve Maternal Health.

**Goal Six:** Combat HIV/AIDS, Malaria and other Diseases.

**Goal Seven:** Ensure Environmental sustainability.

**Goal Eight:** Develop a global Partnership for Development.

**Table 4.1: Responses on level of significance of Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and extent of impact on the development of Imo state**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Agree</th>
<th>Disagree</th>
<th>Chi-Square</th>
<th>df</th>
<th>Table Value</th>
<th>Decision</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>223</td>
<td>55</td>
<td>10.91</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>15.51</td>
<td>Null Hypothesis accepted</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(77.43%)

(19.10%)

Source: Field Survey, 2011.

From table 4.1 above, the calculation of Chi-square ($X^2$) using 0.05 level of significance, the result showed that, the calculated $X^2$ value 10.91 is less than the table $X^2$ value 15.51. Since the calculated $X^2$ is less than the critical table value $X^2$, it is accepted that, there is no significant relationship between the Millennium Development Goals and the development of Imo state.
However, some of these claims were authenticated by the findings made in the course of examining other sources that were available during the study. These were presented herein according to each goal of the MDGs.

4.2.1: GOAL ONE: ERADICATION OF EXTREME POVERTY AND HUNGER

Baseline data revealed that, the quest to eradicate extreme and absolute poverty in Imo state have been head on. The status of poverty incidences as a result of policy thrusts of the state Government is indicated in the table below.


<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Indicator</th>
<th>1996</th>
<th>2008</th>
<th>Target 2015</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Percentage of Population living in relative Poverty</td>
<td>56%</td>
<td>48%</td>
<td>38%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Percentage of Population living in extreme Poverty</td>
<td>Nil</td>
<td>Nil</td>
<td>Lack of Data</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Field Survey, 2011.

Using relative poverty measures, it was found in the course of this study that, the proportion of people living below the national poverty line (2/3 of the average annual expenditure in Imo state declined from 56% in 1996 to 48% in 2008 (table 4.2). This represents a declining rate of 8% over a period of 12 years.

Moreover, evidences showed that, the reduction of poverty in Imo state stems from the opportunities created by massive investments in infrastructures, micro credits, as well as human capital development (Ohakim, 2010:8). This was also facilitated by the establishment of a poverty alleviation bureau which
has tackled poverty in the state with a multifaceted approach, which ranges from skills acquisition to transportation, as well as micro-credit schemes of the state Government (Ohakim, 2008). Ohakim (2010:13) also noted that, the Fadama III project has been on course in the state with the 20 qualified Local Government Areas of the State sharing from the counterpart contribution of ₦115, 857, 672 from the state Government and the recognized Eighty Fadama Community Associations (FCAs) which was formed with a total of 1, 272 Fadama User Groups with a membership strength of 15, 563 farmers which have received in form of loan, a total of ₦53, 294, 621 from the State Government.

To boost her agricultural production also, the state claimed to have procured and distributed about 25,000 metric tons of fertilizer at the cost of ₦2.86 billion to farmers at subsidized rate of 50% within the study period. Moreso, to tackle absolute hunger among her citizenry and ensuring commercial agriculture, the state received the sum of one billion (₦1bn) for on lending to genuine farmers at a single digit interest rate of 7% (Ohakim, 2010:8).

The State Government in 2005 encapsulated the desire of Imo people to attract external supports and assistance by articulating a “tripod vision” with agriculture, industrialization and value re-orientation as core elements (IMO SEEDS, 2005).

However, facts emerging from an independent study by Amobi et al, (2005),
revealed that, 80% of the population engages in subsistence farming of food crops including rice, cassava, maize, plantain, yam and cocoyam. About 40% of over 500,000 cultivable lands are un-utilized thereby making it quite impossible to produce important essential crops that can include oil palm, rubber, cocoa, cashew and kola-nuts within the strengths of the state’s agricultural potentials.

4.2.2: ACHIEVE UNIVERSAL PRIMARY EDUCATION IN IMO STATE

The Millennium Development Goal 2 underscores the fact that, education is the key that unlocks human potentials and the provision of universal primary education that is of quality and gender responsive will enhance equity and equality of opportunities, create ample entry opportunities for women and youths to different fields of human endeavours, as well as enhance their economic power and these will have spillover effects on family nutrition levels, the rate of infants and maternal mortality as well as the general well-being of the citizens (Nwamou and Izuagba, 2010)

Therefore, this aspect of data presentation and analysis is set out to:

(1) Find out if public schools in Imo state are being constructed, renovated or equipped through the assistance of MDGs.

(2) Discover the current state of facilities in the state owned schools.

4.2.2.1 EDUCATION TARGETS OF IMO STATE GOVERNMENT

The targets as published by the State Planning and Economic Development Commission (2005) include the following:
1. To increase the literacy level from 55% in 2004 to 80% for children, women and adults by 2007.

2. To increase the enrolment of males from 55% in 2004 to 75% for primary and 65% in 2004 to 80% for secondary schools by 2007.


4. To establish additional 204 libraries by 2007 to tally with number of secondary schools.

5. To establish 133 additional laboratories by year 2007 to decongest existing ones.

6. To empower 80% of the women socially, culturally and economically by 2007.

7. To achieve 50% of adult literacy by 2007.

8. To achieve increased awareness in environmental education and reproductive health.

4.2.2.2. RESULTS AND FINDINGS

In the course of administering of questionnaires, field observations and examination of secondary materials for this study, the following were discovered.

(a) QUESTIONNAIRE

The administration of qualitative questionnaire in relation to the collaboration of Imo State Government and Millennium Development Goals, it
shows that 140 respondents with about 48.61% of the sampled population and 120 of them with about 41.67% of the sampled population disagreed and strongly disagree respectively when the question was posed to them on how much they can agree, that public schools in the state were either constructed, renovated or equipped by the State Government through the assistance of the Millennium Development Goals. Moreso, 4 respondents with about 1.39% of the sampled population and 6 of them with about 2.08% simply agreed and strongly agree, while 18 respondents with about 6.25 of the sampled population remained undecided. This result is shown in the table below.

**Table 4.3: Results from questionnaire responses on MDGs Goal 2**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Responses</th>
<th>No of Respondents</th>
<th>Percentage (%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Strongly Agree</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>1.39</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Agree</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>2.08</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Undecided</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>6.25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Disagree</td>
<td>140</td>
<td>48.61</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Strongly Disagree</td>
<td>120</td>
<td>41.67</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>288</strong></td>
<td><strong>100</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Source:** Field Survey; 2011.

(b) **RESULTS FROM FIELD OBSERVATIONS**

On the spot investigation by the researcher in the study area, showed that, most of the schools visited lacked various infrastructural facilities as were mentioned earlier. It was also discovered that out of 1,230 primary schools and 307 secondary schools owned and managed by the State Government, only a meagre member of them can boost of modern infrastructural facilities in the
In a close related study by Asiabaka and Mbakwem (2007), in which 135 primary schools were selected for study across the three (3) senatorial zones of Orlu, Okigwe and Owerri, it showed that just a few of them have basic facilities. These facts are shown in the table below.

**Table 4.4: Facilities Available in Primary Schools in Imo State.**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Facility</th>
<th>No of Schools Available</th>
<th>Percentage (%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Computers</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Libraries</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1.48</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Laboratory</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Music</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>5.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fine Arts</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Water</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>2.96</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Communication/telephone</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Science resource corner</td>
<td>Uncoordinated</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Electricity</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transportation</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sanitation</td>
<td>135</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Refuse Disposal</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Toilet</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1.48</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>First Aid</td>
<td>118</td>
<td>87.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Recreation (Football only)</td>
<td>135</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Source:** Asiabaka and Mbakwem, 2007.

The results from table 4.4 above shows that, only five out of the one hundred and thirty five schools had regular and good water supply, all others had none, two schools had libraries, two had functional toilets. However, only one school located in the urban area had forty eight VIP latrines with a population of 1470 pupils. This is in line with the Federal Government stipulated one toilet to not more than twenty five pupils.

Only one school located in the urban area had no farm/garden as a result
of lack of space. All others had both farms and vegetable gardens. Seven schools had facilities for music while only two schools had facilities for arts. No government primary school had transportation facilities.

Results also showed that all the schools visited had fairly adequate first aid boxes except six schools. Four schools located in the urban area had block walls. Only one school had two paid security men. One school had well managed landscape. All others had flowers in the school compound but they were not well planned. Findings also indicated that all the schools visited were clean and well kept; however, burning was the only means of refuse disposal (Asiabaka and Mbakwem, 2007).

(c) DATA FROM THE STATE GOVERNMENT SOURCES

Facts emerging from the State Government revealed that, the government had continued to provide conducive learning environment by rehabilitating 35 secondary schools spread across the three senatorial zones in the state. The sum of ₦17, 900,00m was released to public secondary schools in the state for the procurement of science chemicals and reagents for practical examinations as at 2008. Government also disbursed over ₦200m for the accreditation of vital courses in Imo state university and the final accreditation of the College of Medicine of the state owned University (Ohakim, 2008).

The State Government according to Ohakim (2008) disbursed the sum of ₦90, 000,000m for the accreditation of subjects in the Technical colleges by
NABTEB and recruited 50 Technical teachers for the 4 Technical Colleges in the state. It also initiated but yet to complete the projects as listed below under the UBE/FGN interventions programme after it paid its counterpart contribution of ₦227.77m.

**The projects include:**

(a) Construction of 3-room classroom-blocks in 35 schools.

(b) Renovation/Rehabilitation of classroom-blocks in 46 schools.

(c) Recruitment of 717 teachers and purchase of 623 nursery furniture.

(d) 1,886 2-seater desks were distributed to primary schools in the state.

The state Government also attracted 71 computers from Nigerians in Northern Ireland and initiated collaboration/partnership agreement between High Schools in the State of Tennessee U.S.A. and six secondary schools in Imo state (Ohakim, 2008).

However, a study conducted by Ebo (2010) on the Millennium Development Goals–based planning in Africa: lessons, Experiences and Challenges; A case study of Nigeria and published by the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA) showed that Imo state recorded an improved performance in the sub-national dimension of MDGs progress report in Education as shown in Appendix V of the same report. This is achieved by the determination of the State Government to meet the target of MDGs (two) by the year 2015. The result for Imo state as shown in the report in relation to other states in Nigeria is presented in the tables below.
Table 4.5: Imo state-level MDGs indicators-Education

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>72.6</td>
<td>96.8</td>
<td>73.6</td>
<td>96.4</td>
<td>64.6</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


Table 4.6: Imo State-level MDGs indicators-Education

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.02</td>
<td>1.1</td>
<td>94.6</td>
<td>98.1</td>
<td>77.0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


Tables 4.5 and 4.6 above shows that, Imo state have fared relatively well in the national discuss for the attainment of Goal 2 of the MDGs. They showed that by 2007, 72.6% of children of primary school age were attending Grade 1, 96.8% primary school attendance ratio, 73.6% secondary school net attendance, 96.4% reached Grade 5 among those that entered Grade 1, 64.6% of net primary school completion rate, gender parity index for primary school in net attendance ratio of girls to boys stood at 1.02 while gender parity index for secondary school in net attendance ratio of girls to boys was 1.1.
The percentage of women aged between 15-24 that are literate stood at 94.6%, primary school net attendance ratio (NAR) for girls was 98.1% in the same year while secondary school net attendance ratio (NAR) stood at 77.0% for girls in the same year.

However, these achievements could not go on well because of some major challenges noticed in the course of this study which include:

(i) Shortage of teachers at the primary and secondary as well as tertiary levels;
(ii) Inadequate infrastructural facilities;
(iii) Lack of textbooks, poor reading culture and lack of reading aids;
(iv) Poorly equipped laboratories, school libraries and lack of audio-visual facilities;
(v) Lack of trained care givers and inadequate facilities for nursery education;
(vi) Irregular payment of teachers’ salaries and allowances
(vii) Lack of political will by the government to tackle these problems.

4.2.3: GOAL 3: PROMOTE GENDER EQUITY AND EMPOWER WOMEN

Gender issues according to the UN description assesses the implications for women and men of any planned action, including legislation, policies or programmes, in all areas and at all levels, in order to achieve social justice and sustainable human development. In this regard, women and men’s needs,
priorities and rights are planned for as a means for achieving the full rights of all citizens hence the shift to gender in development. The women and youths have been recognized as catalysts for change, as such then active participation in decision-making leads to significant improvement in community health and development.

This section of data presentation, discussion and analysis is set out to find out the following:

(a) The rate of involvement by women in development programmes of Imo State Government.

(b) The impact made so far on improvement of the living standard of women in the state.

4.2.3.1. GENDER EQUITY AND WOMEN EMPOWERMENT TARGETS OF IMO STATE GOVERNMENT

1. Establishment of a disable home at Mgbe in Orlu Local Government Area for skills development.

2. Construction of Women Development Centre at Egbu for skills acquisition.

3. Renovation of Destitute Centre at Umuneke Ngor.

4. Establishment of Monitoring Centre at Arondizuogu for trafficking in girls and children.

5. Establishment of an orphanage for the care and custody of children in Owerri.
6. Renovation of Boys Approved School (BASA) at Arondizuogu.
7. Establishment of parliamentary building for children at Orlu.

4.2.3.2 RESULTS AND FINDINGS

In the process of administering the qualitative structured questionnaire, field observations and examination of secondary materials, our findings were stated under the following headings:

(a) QUESTIONNAIRE

The results recorded in this study from the administration of structured questionnaire showed that, on the level of discrimination against women in the distribution of Poverty Eradication schemes of the State Government, the respondents reacted thus: 81 respondents with about 28.13% and 79 with about 27.43% agreed and strongly agreed on the above named issue, while 62 of them with about 21.53% and 47 with about 16.32% disagreed and strongly disagreed to the same fact, moreso, 19 respondents with about 6.6% of the sampled population remained undecided. This result is shown in the table below.

Table 4.7: Response on gender issues in Imo State

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Responses</th>
<th>No of Respondents</th>
<th>Percentage (%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Strongly Agree</td>
<td>79</td>
<td>27.43</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Agree</td>
<td>81</td>
<td>28.13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Undecided</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>6.60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Disagree</td>
<td>62</td>
<td>21.53</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Strongly Disagree</td>
<td>47</td>
<td>16.32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>288</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Field Survey, 2011.
The responses from our field survey as shown in the table above, depicts that, there is no noticeable incidences of discrimination against women in the planning and execution of development projects and programmes in Imo state.

(b) **DATA FROM GOVERNMENT SOURCES**

The Imo SEEDS document recorded that, the Government Ministry in charge of women affairs in its efforts to address issues relating to gender policies, is pursuing several programmes which are stated below.

(1) **GIRL-CHILD EDUCATION**

The State Government have tried to actualize this objective through sensitization awareness programme which was initially aimed at girl child education and later diversified to accommodate programmes like campaign against male child drop outs and others. This campaign as evidenced in the State Economic Empowerment and Development Strategy (SEEDS) document is in tune with the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and has been carried out in all the 27 Local Government Areas of the state. This also shows that between 1999 and 2004, 18 campaigns were carried out with a total of 3,100 participants benefiting.

(2) **EDUCATION/TRAINING OF WOMEN**

The State Government through the supervising Ministry in collaboration with Local Government Areas has created Women Development Departments in all the 27 Local Government Areas of the state with the aim of
educating/training women. We gathered also, that the Ministry has organized appropriate training for women on various skills like production of tie and die cloths, soap, cream and powder making including how to prepare “Imo spices” which has benefited well over 1,120 women in the state.

(3) **VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN**

Evidence also showed that, the State Government through the supervising Ministry and Agencies have received over 197 complaints of cases ranging from batter, acid attacks to neglect, rejection and violet attacks. Others include;

(4) Implementation and domestication of CEDAW.

(5) Poverty reduction among women.

(6) Women in decision making positions, etc.

The Imo State Government according to Ohakim (2010) has recorded some achievements in relation to women affairs and social development, some of which include;

(a) Empowerment of 200 orphans and vulnerable children.

(b) Awareness creation on the ills of illegal adoption.

(c) Strengthened strategies for the promotion of gender equality and the welfare of widows in the state.

(d) Empowered indigent widows with cash, hair dryers and clothes.

However, a study conducted by Amobi *et al* in 2005 on “gender mainstreaming” on development targets of the State Government revealed the
results as shown in the table below.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sub-Heads</th>
<th>Comments/Notes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| General +represent Positive -represent negative/inadequacy | + Acknowledges that there is a gender imbalance in education, agriculture and civil service.  
+ It is the only document in the zone with strong gender commitments in the area of security and property rights issue. This is central to women’s personal security and used of public space.  
+ proposes strategies to combat child abuse and youth HIV/AIDS education.  
+ Legislations on child and widow rights and programmes for the physically challenged.  
+ Mainstream gender, HIV/AIDS and environment into legislative and capacity building initiatives to prepare for domestication of CEDAW - But fails to effectively reflect such intention in other priorities. |
| Policy Target                          | - Most of the targets (with exception of the industrialization sector) do not consider gender stakes under priority sectors and do not pay any attention to reducing gender disparities.                                                                                                                                                   |
| Agriculture and Food Security          | - Gender disaggregated data is a huge gap but document informs that most farmers are women.  
- It assumes that women and men farmers have equal access to productive resources.  
- Strategies are not gendered to ensure that women access infrastructure, agricultural inputs, training and information as well as men.  
- Document is silent on coping strategies in even of natural disasters.                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| Industrialization                      | -Absence of sex-disaggregated data undermines women’s contribution the growth of the economy through SMEs.  
- Most of the strategies are not specific and do not align with targets.  
- However one strategy targets training 1,000 unemployed male and female youth on business skills.  
-Some strategies that can close gender gaps did not take into consideration some factors, and retrogress equality objectives.                                                                                                                                 |
| Health and HIV/AIDS                    | + Targets and strategies focused on reducing maternal and infant mortality.  
+Target increased budgetary allocation and VCCT but does not say how this can enhance access to antiretroviral drugs.  
-However, there is need for gender sensitive monitoring and evaluation indicators.  
+ provides a HIV/AIDS prevalence rate 3.1% but did not disaggregate population by sex or category.  
+Mainstreamed HIV/AIDS in education, tourism, housing, agriculture but not gender targeted.                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| Education | + Provides gender disaggregated data.  
+ Policy thrust addresses gender imbalances in enrolment and increased awareness of reproductive health education and HIV/AIDS. 
+ Targets and strategies are designed to close gender gaps. |


### 4.3.4 DISCUSSION OF GOALS 4, 5 AND 6 OF THE MDGS

**GOAL 4:** REDUCE CHILD MORTALITY  
**GOAL 5:** IMPROVE MATERNAL HEALTH  
**GOAL 5:** COMBAT HIV/AIDS, MALARIA AND OTHER DISEASES.

This section of data presentation was set out to find out the following:

(a) The progress made by Imo State Government on health management.

(b) The impact made so far to achieve the goals on reducing child mortality, improving maternal health and combating HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases in Imo State.

### 4.2.4.1. HEALTH TARGETS OF IMO STATE GOVERNMENT

The Imo State Health targets as published by the State Planning and Economic Development Commission (2005) include the following:

1. Capacity building to ensure availability of quality health services with professionals.

2. To ensure availability of well trained staff in all fields.
3. Rehabilitation of dilapidated health facilities for efficient and effective healthcare delivery.

4. To create awareness among the citizenry about the essence of good health.

5. To train and retrain about 1000 health personnel on HIV/AIDS issues by 2007.

6. Commitment to the delivery and administration of ARV treatment and drugs.

7. Enforce a policy on safe injections and health blood transfusion.

8. Institutionalize a protection mechanism for HIV/AIDS health workers.


4.2.4.2. RESULTS AND FINDINGS

We discovered the following as listed below in the course of questionnaire administration, field observations and examination of secondary materials for this study.

(a) QUESTIONNAIRE RESULTS AND FIELD OBSERVATIONS

A qualitative assessment of extent of reach on schemes or rather how far reaching these schemes as mentioned earlier have turned out to be was undertaken for the sampled population. The results are shown in table 4.9 below.

Table 4.9: Responses on the Facilities and adequate healthcare services delivery in Imo State
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Responses</th>
<th>No of Respondents</th>
<th>Percentage (%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Strongly Agree</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>2.43</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Agree</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>3.82</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Undecided</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>3.47</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Disagree</td>
<td>126</td>
<td>43.75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Strongly Disagree</td>
<td>134</td>
<td>46.53</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>288</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Field Survey, 2011.

It was gathered from table 4.9 above that, 46.53% of the respondents strongly disagreed while 43.75% disagree on the issue beckoning on improved health care delivery services by the Imo State Government to the citizenry. However, 2.43% of the sampled population strongly agreed and 3.82 simply agreed while 3.47 remained undecided on the same issue.

Moreover, our observations during the field trips revealed that among the several health facilities visited in the course of this research, only but a few of them have been given a minor facelift while many others are in a dilapidated conditions. We also noticed that, the few health care centres whose facilities were improved recently include those located in the urban centres while those in the rural communities of Okigwe and Orlu did not acknowledge any government attention.

(b) DATA FROM GOVERNMENT SOURCES

Facts emerging from Government sources revealed that, Imo State health care service delivery which is tailored along the 3 tiers of primary, secondary and tertiary health services has 17 General Hospitals, with 46 Doctors/Consultants, 1 teaching hospital, 717 staff nurses and midwives, 19
pharmacists and 22 laboratory scientists/Technicians. There are also 33 private hospitals, 12 mission hospitals, 1282 health centres, which are supervised by the Ministry of Health through the Health Management Board (HMB) which maintains a supervisory role on the secondary health care system while the Local Government Councils Manage the Primary Health Care (PHC) facilities.

There is also a good functional relationship between the state and other major stakeholders in health delivery services including health oriented NGOs, CSOs, UN Agencies like WHO, Bilateral Donor and Development Partners. The medical schools, schools of nursing and midwifery as well as schools of health technology train the different cadres of health personnel in the state. The state has taken part actively in all supplemental immunization campaigns since the inception of the polio eradication initiative, and a total of 382 Government health facilities and 155 private health facilities including mission health facilities and hospitals participate in immunization services in the state (IMO SEEDs, 2005).

On HIV/AIDS, the state has also achieved great improvements by reducing the HIV prevalence rate from 7.8% in 1999 to 4.3% in 2001 and 3.1% in 2004. However the statistical data from the Federal Medical Centre (FMC) which is the only centre for the provision of the ARV drugs in the state is still very alarming and is presented in table 4.10 below.

**TABLE 4.10: HIV Statistics for FMC Owerri from 1995-2004**
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Total screened</th>
<th>Total Positive</th>
<th>% Positive</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1995</td>
<td>1,306</td>
<td>76</td>
<td>5.81</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1996</td>
<td>4,622</td>
<td>214</td>
<td>4.63</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1997</td>
<td>5,335</td>
<td>242</td>
<td>4.54</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1998</td>
<td>5,157</td>
<td>331</td>
<td>6.42</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1999</td>
<td>7,228</td>
<td>607</td>
<td>8.40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2000</td>
<td>7,774</td>
<td>618</td>
<td>7.95</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2001</td>
<td>9,550</td>
<td>1,038</td>
<td>10.87</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2002</td>
<td>8,557</td>
<td>1,264</td>
<td>14.74</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2003</td>
<td>11,736</td>
<td>1,749</td>
<td>14.90</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2004</td>
<td>8,873</td>
<td>1,125</td>
<td>12.68</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Source:** Imo State Planning and Economic Development Commission, Owerri.

Notwithstanding all these facts, the State Government has also claimed to achieve the following according to Ohakim (2010:20).

1. Private sector involvement in the planning and implementation of health programmes in the state. This is evidenced in the development of Imo State Strategic Health Development Plans (SSHDP).

2. A total of 170 surgeries and 6,212 patients were treated of various ailments in the first phase of the free medical treatment held in the study period in collaboration with medical experts from the U.S.A.

3. 2,999 patients from Imo state and other neighboring states of South South, South East and South West were treated of various eye diseases under the partnership programme with Tulsi-Chanrai Foundation of India. Also 4,050 patients of Imo state received free medical/eye treatment in the first phase of free eye treatment/outreach conducted by the state ministry of health while 567 patients were referred to Tulsi-Chanrai Foundation for surgery.
4. As a result of improved and sustained immunization programme, the state recorded a low infant mortality rate of 114/1000 live births above the National average of 157/1000 live births. With this improvement and sustained efforts, the state will achieve the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) target of 75/1000 live births by the year 2015.

5. The taskforce on the Midwives Services Scheme (MSS) also recorded appreciable progress as the present maternal mortality rate for the state has dropped to 400/100,000 against the National average of 545/100,000. It is hoped that the state will meet the MDGs target of 136/100,000 by the year 2015.

6. The state has continued to sustain its Guinea worm and polio free situation since 2003 and 2005 respectively.

7. The State Government distributed a total of 249,000 doses of Acetamenin Combination Therapy (ACT) drugs supplied through Global Fund for the treatment of malaria in all ages and 68, 214 doses of Intermittent Preventive Treatment (IPT) drugs for pregnant women. Also, 1, 839, 700 units of Long Lasting Insecticide Nets (LLINs) were procured and distributed with the support from Global Fund for Universal distribution Campaign.

8. Presently, Imo state is offering free maternal and under 5 health care services in the three (3) Local Government Areas of Aboh Mbaise, Orlu and Isiala Mbano covering a total number of 56, 315 children and 11,
256 pregnant women. 3 additional Local Government Areas- Mba
toli, Orsu and Obowo have also been identified for inclusion into the
programme.

9. To check the spread of HIV/AIDS in the state, an Anti-Retroviral
Treatment Centre was constructed at Imo State University Teaching
Hospital Orlu. Also, the HIV/AIDS unit of the state ministry of health
delivered services from the 6 HIV counseling and testing centres and
300 packets of HIV testing kits were procured and supplied to service
delivery points (SDP). 70 health care workers were trained on
HIV/AIDS counseling and testing and Prevention of Mother to Child
Transmission (PMTCT).

10. Extensive renovation of the OPD, Emergency, Pharmacy, Male, female
and special wards including perimeter fencing was on-going at the
General Hospital, Awo-Omamma. The State Government has also
approved the sum of ₦110,000,641.64 million for the installation of
Radiology Equipment at Imo State University Teaching Hospital.

11. In order to strengthen the health care and improve the three-way referral
system, of care, Government through the support of the World Bank
procured and distributed the following to the Health centres and
Emergency Obstetric Health Care centres in the state:

(a) 8 new ambulances

(b) 10 new 20KVA Generating Plants
(c) Cold Boxes
(d) Motor-cycles
(e) Solar refrigerators etc.

12. Free drugs were distributed to sickle cell patients at the sickle cell clinic of the General Hospital Owerri (Ohakim, 2010).

However, facts emerging from our findings revealed the following:

1. Limited health facilities to meet the adequate health care needs of the teeming population of the state.
2. Inadequate staff—there is only 46 medical doctors in the state owned hospitals with 1 consultant only.
3. No doctor in any of the Primary Comprehensive health Care (PHC) centres.
4. Dilapidated infrastructures.
5. Non-availability of drugs in most of the hospitals.
6. There is no Standard Dental and eye care services centres in the state.
7. There is only one centre (FMC) which provides ARV drugs for HIV/AIDS patients within and around Imo state.
8. No statistical data showing the prevalence rate on HIV/AIDS in Imo state in areas such as gender, youths, children and orphan.

4.2.5 DISCUSSION OF GOALS 7 AND 8 OF THE MDGS

GOAL 7: ENSURE ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY
GOAL 8: DEVELOP A GLOBAL PARTNERSHIP FOR DEVELOPMENT

Imo state is endowed with abundant environmental, human and natural resources. However, high population growth rate and increasing demand for these resources threaten environmental sustainability. The environmental situation is challenges by myriad of problems, which impact negatively on the utilization of the resources for development and poverty alleviation.

Moreso, the need to attract foreign investors in the nascent economy of the state have been a major concern of both the Federal and State governments and also the interests of private local investors. This section of the research therefore, is set to find out the following:

(1) The policy thrusts of Imo State Government towards enhancing environmental sustainability and economic welfare of her entire citizenry.

(2) Establish the impacts made so far by those policies.

4.2.5.1: ENVIRONMENTAL AND ECONOMIC TARGETS OF IMO STATE GOVERNMENT
1. Maintaining an effective database on the compliance status of industries.

2. Persuade oil companies to comply with Federal Government regulations on oil spillage.

4. Identify all erosion sites, channelize all land areas and construct solid drainage systems and embankments where necessary.

5. Improve access to potable/safe drinking water for both urban and rural population by 40%.

6. Embark on environmental sanitation awareness campaign at local government levels.

7. Privatization of public enterprises in partnership with the state chamber of commerce.

8. Access technical assistance from donor agencies and the Bureau for Public Enterprises (BPE) for smooth and professional handling of the privatization exercise.

9. To privatize the under listed companies by 2007:

   (a) The standard shoe company, Owerri

   (b) Imo Hotel limited, Owerri.

   (c) Clay products limited, Ezinnachi.

   (d) Resin and points industry, Aboh Mbaise.

   (e) The Avutu Modern poultry, Obowo.

4.5.5.2: RESULTS AND FINDINGS

Facts emerging from questionnaire administration, field observations and examination of secondary materials are discussed herein.

(a) QUESTIONNAIRE RESULTS AND FIELD OBSERVATION
The assessment of the implementation level of Goal 7 and 8 of the MDGs as mentioned above, using the sampled respondents whose reactions were shown in the table below.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Responses</th>
<th>No of Respondents</th>
<th>Percentage (%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Strongly Agree</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>1.04</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Agree</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>1.74</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Undecided</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>3.13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Disagree</td>
<td>167</td>
<td>57.99</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Strongly Disagree</td>
<td>104</td>
<td>36.11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>288</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Source:** Field Survey, 2011.

It is discernable from the table above that, 104 and 167 respondents with about 36.11% and 57.99% either strongly disagreed or simply disagreed, 3 and 5 respondents with about 1.04% and 1.74% strongly agreed and simply agreed, while 9 respondents with about 3.13% remained undecided.

The above facts apparently showed that, the entire citizenry to whose benefits those policies are initiated and executed have not felt any significant impact of the projects as thought of by the state government. Moreover, we discovered during field observations that, although the state Government has done a lot in achieving her economic and environmental policy targets through the Tripod vision and clean and green initiative, its impacts are only felt in and
around the major areas of Owerri, the state capital. Not much effects/impacts are felt in the rural communities of Okigwe and Orlu, where erosion has washed away most of their arable lands in the interior communities.

(b) **DATA FROM GOVERNMENT SOURCES**

Ohakim (2010:19) noted that the State Government embarked on the execution/rehabilitation of some water schemes across the state which includes:

(i) Four (4) Small Town water scheme located at Owerri North Local Government Area (Orji and Egbeada), Eluama/Oleme and Iyiechu in Orlu and Okigwe Local Government Areas respectively.

(ii) Six(6) motorized water schemes located at Akabo, Ahiara in Ahiazu Mbaise Local Government Area, Atta in Ikedurie Local Government Area, Umukagu Nsu and Umuelemai in Ehime and Isiala Mbano Local Government Areas, Difenafai and Amiri in Ideato South and Oru East Local Government Areas respectively.

(iii) Conversion of 35 old water schemes to solar powered schemes and the construction of 32 new solar powered water schemes located in various communities of the state.

Also, Government rehabilitated a total or nine rural water schemes located in various Local Government Areas of the state through the Quick win Project of the MDGs (Ohakim, 2010).
However, an independent study conducted by Nkwocha and Egejuru (2010), indicated that in recent times, a number of donor agencies have contributed in the provision of water supply and sanitation systems in Imo state where there are perceived gaps in access to these services. They have through different programmes, engaged in the provision of water facilities in both the urban and rural areas, which are shown in the table below.

Table 4.12: Population, Land, area and density of Imo state by localities and provision of potable water to the people.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Local Government Areas</th>
<th>No of Communities</th>
<th>Population</th>
<th>Total No of water and sanitation projects</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Aboh Mbaise</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>152,187</td>
<td>04</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Ahiazu Mbaise</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>128,608</td>
<td>05</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Ehime Mbano</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>125,950</td>
<td>04</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Ezinihite Mbaise</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>11,508</td>
<td>06</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. Ideato North</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>170,106</td>
<td>01</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. Ideato South</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>111,892</td>
<td>01</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7. Ihitte Uboma</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>93547</td>
<td>02</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8. Ikeduru</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>141,377</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9. Isiala Mbano</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>138,618</td>
<td>07</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10. Isu</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>77,424</td>
<td>01</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11. Mbaezi Mbafiri</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>195,971</td>
<td>06</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12. Ngor Okpala</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>122,249</td>
<td>01</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13. Njaba</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>108,394</td>
<td>04</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14. Nkwere</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>70,313</td>
<td>03</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15. Nwangele</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>95,768</td>
<td>04</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16. Obowo</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>84,882</td>
<td>01</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17. Oguta</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>114,430</td>
<td>02</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18. Ohajili/Egbema</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>157,029</td>
<td>01</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19. Okigwe</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>85,685</td>
<td>02</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20. Oguimo</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>83,595</td>
<td>04</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21. Orlu</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>154,366</td>
<td>05</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22. Orsu</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>120,405</td>
<td>03</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23. Oru East</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>109,807</td>
<td>03</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24. Oru West</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>87,149</td>
<td>03</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25. Owerri Municipal</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>129,245</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The table above shows a considerable percentage increase in the quantity of water supply relative to total household needs after the execution of the water projects in Imo state.

The State Government has also continued to champion the clean and Green initiative to ensure the realization of clean and healthy environments for the entire citizenry.

Moreso, 75 out of 460 identified erosion sites across the 27 local government areas of the state are under resolution and the state Government has also initiated and concluded discussions with Shayaz Group on the Industrial Development of Imo state under the PPP initiative (Ohakim, 2010).

However, facts emerging from our findings indicated that, the state Government have not convincingly implemented the state’s policy on poverty eradication which can in turn effect/impact positively to the economic development of the state.

4.4 PRESENTATION OF RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS ON THE RESEARCH QUESTION TWO

The presentation and analysis of data in this section is based on a qualitative assessment of the key challenges in achieving the Millennium Development Goals in Imo State.
The Research question two was stated as follows:

“What are the key challenges in achieving the Millennium Development Goals in Imo State”?

The research objective two was stated as follows:

“To examine the key challenges in achieving the Millennium Development Goals in Imo State”.

The Hypothesis two (H₂) was stated as follows:

“The key challenges in achieving the Millennium Development Goals does not hinder the development of Imo State”.

Results from the tested hypothesis two (2) is shown in the table below.

**Table 4.13: Responses on the key challenges in achieving the MDGs in Imo State.**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Agree</th>
<th>Disagree</th>
<th>Chi-Square (x²)</th>
<th>df</th>
<th>Table value</th>
<th>Decision rejected</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>168</td>
<td>120</td>
<td>25.99</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>15.51</td>
<td>rejected</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>58.3%</td>
<td>41.67%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Field Survey, 2011.

From table 4.13 above, the calculation of Chi-square (x²) at 0.05 level of significance, showed the following results; the calculated Chi-square (x²) value 25.99 is greater than the critical table value (x²) 15.51. Since, the calculated X² is greater than the critical table value X², it is therefore rejected which implies; that, the key challenges in achieving the Millennium Development Goals hinders the development of Imo State.

However, these results were authenticated by findings made in the course of examining other sources that were available during this study. They were
presented herein according to the goals of MDGs.

4.3.1 THE MAJOR CHALLENGES IN ACHIEVING MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS IN IMO STATE

It was discovered in the course of this study that, although the State Government have strived to ensure the achievability of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) in Imo State, there were facts emerging from our field observations and the administration of qualitative questionnaire that, obviously the objectives of the MDGs does not match the reality on ground which is suggestive that certain leakages beset the flow of expected deliverables. The results of which were shown in the table below.

Table 4.14: Responses on the existence of obstacles in achieving MDGs in Imo State.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Responses</th>
<th>No of Respondents</th>
<th>Percentage (%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Strongly Agree</td>
<td>131</td>
<td>45.49</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Agree</td>
<td>117</td>
<td>40.63</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Undecided</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>6.94</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Disagree</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>4.51</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Strongly Disagree</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>2.43</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>288</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Field Survey, 2011.

Issues bordering on the existence of obstacles encountered in attaining the major targets of MDGs in 2015, table 4.14 above shows that, 131 respondents with about (45.49%) and 117 of them with about 40. 63% either strongly agreed or simply agreed that such obstacles exist, 13 respondents with about 4.51% and 7 of them with about 2.43% strongly and disagreed that such also exist, while 20 respondents with about 6.94% remained undecided.
These challenges as were identified in the course of this study are stated below and they include:

(1) Corruption

(2) Embezzlement

(3) Misappropriation of Public Funds by political office holders.

(4) Lack of communication and non-involving of beneficiaries in project planning and execution.

(5) Gender insensitivity in planning some sectoral reforms in the state.

(6) Engaging in some projects as a means of political compensation rather than the felt needs of the people.

(7) Abandonment and non-completion of projects by the contractors handling them.

(8) Lack of effective and efficient monitoring and evaluation systems in the state.

(9) Lack of stringent policy measures to curb the menace of corruption in the state.

(10) Lack of private sector participation and absence of major international donor agencies in the state.

(11) Inadequate financing of projects. Etc

4.4 PRESENTATION OF RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS ON RESEARCH QUESTION THREE

The presentation and Analysis of data in this section was aimed at
examining the possible ways of ensuring the attainment of Millennium Development Goals in Imo State.

The research question three (3) was stated as follows:

“What policy strategies can be adopted to ensure the achievement of the goals in Imo State”?

The research objective three (3) was stated thus:

“To proffer policy strategies needed to achieve the Millennium Development Goals in Imo State”.

Hypothesis three (H3) was stated as follows:

“Inadequate implementation of policies on the Millennium Development Goals by the Government does not increase low impact of the Goals in Imo State”.

The results of this presentation was depicted in the administration of questionnaire to the respondents on issues bordering on the fact that, Imo State Government can ensure proper implementation of the aims and aspirations of the Millennium Development Goals through good and functional development policies as shown in the table below.

**Table 4.15: Responses on good and functional development policies on the achievement of MDGs in Imo State.**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Responses</th>
<th>No of Respondents</th>
<th>Percentage (%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Strongly Agree</td>
<td>182</td>
<td>63.19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Agree</td>
<td>90</td>
<td>31.25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Undecided</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0.35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Disagree</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>2.08</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Strongly Disagree</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>3.13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>288</strong></td>
<td><strong>100</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Source:** Field Survey, 2011.
There is an indication of strong agreement by respondents that, the Government of Imo State can ensure proper implementation of the aims and aspirations of the Millennium Development Goals through good and functional development policies. With 182 respondents (63.19%) showing strong agreement, 90 respondents (31.25%) simply agreed, 9 of them with about 3.13% strongly disagreed, 6 of them with about 2.08% simply disagreed while 1 respondent remained undecided on the issue. This implies that, the people who represented the entire citizenry in this study, believes and supported the fact that, rational reforms needed to be instituted by the State Government, so as to ensure the attainment of Millennium Development Goals by the state in the target year 2015.

4.5 DISCUSSION OF FINDINGS

In the preceding chapters of this study, precisely in chapters one and two, research questions, objectives and hypotheses were posited with a view to unravel or investigate the “Impact of the Millennium Development Goals in Nigeria, using Imo State as a Case Study. From the investigations conducted using the primary and secondary source of data collection, the following findings were observed:

- Majority of the citizens of Imo State, do not have prior understanding of the concepts and objectives of Millennium Development Goals in Nigeria. The researcher discovered in the course of this study that,
the sampled population and subsequent findings from relevant literatures that the people of the state have no prior knowledge in whatever ramification of what MDGs in all about.

- The development plans and activities of the MDGs that tend to half poverty all over the world by the year 2015 have not fully reached the interiors areas of the state. The researcher observed that in the rural communities of Okigwe and Orlu, the health policies of the Government towards reducing infant and maternal mortality in the rural areas were scantily felt, for instance, the insecticide treated nets that were meant to be distributed free of charge to these pre-determined beneficiaries, were still being sold at higher costs.

- The Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) have not significantly impacted in the development of the various localities that constituted the study area. The state has witnessed much development prior to the advent of the MDGs and which the MDGs have not really affected in a noticed momentum.

- The supposed beneficiaries of the development meant to achieve the Millennium Development Goals are not integrated in the planning and implementation of such projects in the state.

- There has not been any significant increase in the income of people in the state, especially in the rural areas. The implication of this is that, goal one (1) of the Millennium Development Goals which is to
“eradicate extreme poverty and hunger, and the target to have the proportion of people living on less than one dollar ($1) daily and those suffering from hunger by 2015”, cannot be realized in the state, if the trend continues.

- The Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) have not significantly actualized its objectives in Imo State due to certain prevalent obstacles that trends to thwart the plans and programmes of the goals.

- It was also observed that certain human factors such as corruption, insubordination, political interference, misappropriation of public funds among others, had in one way or another, hindered the implementation strategies of the Millennium Development Goals in Imo state.

- Challenges in implementing the Millennium Development Goals and that of poor implementation of development policies by the Government and her agencies, have adversely affected the development of the state.

- Eradication of the aforementioned obstacles and ameliorating the major challenges in the achievement of development objectives of the Millennium Development Goals can bring about effective development of Imo State.
• The Government of Imo state must ensure proper implementation of good development plans and policies and good governance in order to ensure proper implementation of the Millennium Development Goals in the state.

• It was also discovered that, the government of Imo state has various development plans, policies, programmes and partnerships aimed at developing the state more evenly.

• The Millennium Development Goals can thrive effectively, if adequate policy implementation, monitoring and evaluation by the government and her agencies in the course of achieving the goals and in turn, improve the quality of infrastructural facilities in the state.

4.6 DISCUSSION OF HYPOTHESES

Three hypotheses were posited in this study with a view of evaluating the impact of Millennium Development Goals in Nigeria, with Imo state as case study.

Our first hypothesis was aimed at investigating whether there is any significant relationship between Millennium Development Goals and the development of Imo state. After the statistical testing and analysis of the research question meant for the hypothesis using Chi-square method, it was discovered that, there is no relationship between the Millennium Development Goals and the development of Imo state. In order to ensure that, the results
from the statistical testing were accurate, we compared the results with our findings from other sources and it showed that, there is no significant relationship between the two study variables. These results signified that, when the Millennium Development Goals are aligned to the state’s development policies and strategies, it will foster effective and practicable development.

The second hypothesis which stated that, the key challenges in achieving the Millennium Development Goals, does not hinder the development of Imo state, was also statistically tested and analyzed using the Chi-square method and it was discovered that, the key challenges actually hinders the development of Imo state. In order to test the accuracy of these results, we compared them with findings from other secondary material and there was equal correspondence with both results. This shows that, if proper care is taken in the implementation of development initiatives of the MDGs, there will be improved standard of living among the people of the state.

It was also discovered after testing the third hypothesis, that with or without the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), development can still take place, if adequate policy measures are taken to ensure that the objectives of government are properly executed, to the optimum satisfaction of both the state government and the entire citizenry.
CHAPTER FIVE

SUMMARY, RECOMMENDATION AND CONCLUSION

5.1 SUMMARY

This study is an attempt aimed at the evaluation of the impact of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) in Nigeria, using Imo State as a case study. It was carried out with a view to critically ascertain whether, the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) with their development strategies, having been in operation for many years, has made any significant impact in the development of Imo state for the well-being of her entire citizenry. It also aimed at discovering whether there is any significant relationship between the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and development of the state.

However, the researcher commenced this study by undergoing an exposition on background of the study which constitutes the lingering human development problems and of critical issues that led to the initiation, adoption and declaration of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) by the World
leaders in the year 2000. It also discussed the early problems that have defaced
the levels and stages of human development in the third world countries and
particularly in Africa and Nigeria.

The statement of problem exposed the economic setbacks and socio-
political challenges that have impinged on the economic and social cultural
liberation of Nigeria. It also enumerated much of economic strategies that have
been adopted by the country to liberate her entire citizenry from the
dehumanizing effects of abject poverty, the strategies that never achieved
better results in relation to the set objectives. The section did not stop at
enumerating the aforementioned issues, but went ahead to highlight the
research question which served as a foundational guide to the entire research
work.

The objectives which this study intended to achieve in the end were also
stated as the succeeding section after the statement of the problem. This was
closely followed by the exposition on the significances of the study which
includes the empirical, theoretical and practical significance of the study, both
to the study area and the entire country.

More so, the scope and limitation of this study which includes the scope or
area that this study intends to cover and the possible limitation or setbacks
which might be encountered in the course of this research work formed the
concluding part the first chapter.
In the second chapter of this research work, the researcher comprehensively reviewed the ideas and well articulated works of other contemporary authors and scholars, that contributed in the body of knowledge as relates to development studies literatures on the historical development of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), and the application of the Goals on the vital areas of human development were also discussed. These areas include that of poverty eradication, health related issues, gender related issues, and the global partnership for economic development; all were expansively reviewed in the literature review.

The second chapter also included the statement of research hypotheses, operationalization of key concepts that were used in the hypotheses. This was followed by the research methodology which embodied the type of study, method of data collection, population of study, sample and sampling techniques, data gathering instruments, validity and reliability of instrument and lastly included the methods of data analysis. Theoretical framework, its relevance and application on the study where also discussed in the same chapter two.

The third chapter of this work comprehensively dealt with the background information of Imo State. The chapter discussed the origin, size and population of the state and other relevant information such as tourism in the state, economic potential of the state and solid minerals that were naturally deposited.
in the state. It also talked about the people of the state and the hospitality nature of Imo State.

The fourth chapter of this study dealt with data presentation, analysis and discussion of findings from the data gathered through the administration of questionnaire on the respondents who form the population of study in this research work. The testing and analysis of the research hypothesis were also embodied in this chapter while the discussion on the implication of the findings formed the concluding part of the chapter.

The last chapter of this research work (which is chapter five) formed the concluding part of the entire research and embodies the summary, recommendations and conclusion.

5.2 CONCLUSION

This study was carried out to ascertain the impact of the Millennium Development Goals in Nigeria; with special reference to Imo State. The study discovered that a well geared effort to properly align the development activities of the State Government and that of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), will foster effective social and infrastructural development of the State.

The study also discovered the levels of significance that exist in the relationship between the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and development of Imo State. This goes ahead to imply that, the state can meet up
with the target year, to achieve the main targets of the MDGs which is aimed at halving poverty in the entire world by the year 2015. However, there is no doubt that, this study would not cover some important areas, which would equally have formed the cardinal areas in a study like this, but were not adequately discussed. There might also be some important issues that were not raised in the course of this study. Such inadequacies or inabilities might have the casual effects of limitations to this study. We are of great confidence that future research would be intensified towards these shortcomings and/or inadequacies.

5.3 RECOMMENDATIONS

The importance of development that is all encompassing as embodies in the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) cannot be over emphasized, and having a fair knowledge of the roles that, the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) can play in the development of Imo State in particular and Nigeria at large, and also in view of our findings in the course of this study, we hereby recommend the following:

1. Proper and effective channels of communication and enlightenment should be made available by both the Government of Imo State and other operating agencies of the MDGs in the state, so as to enlighten the people, especially those in the rural areas on the objectives, plans and
policies of the Millennium Development Goals in alliance with the government to bring about a sustainable development in Imo state.

2. Development activities of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) must be properly aligned with those of the state Government, in order to foster coherent development strategies that are in consonance with the felt needs of the people of Imo State.

3. To supplement the efforts made by the State Government in the provision of essential services and amenities, such as construction of roads, provision of electricity, building of schools and Primary Health Care (PHC) facilities, provision of safe and portable drinking water among other services; the millennium Development Goals (MDGs) through its operating agencies in the state should intervene in the areas that, the state funds cannot carry on, especially within its intervention period.

4. The activities of the Government agencies, such as the National Poverty Eradication Programme (NAPEP), Imo State Directorate of Employment, NEPAD, LEEMP, EU-MPP6, Niger Delta Development Commission (NDDC), State Economic Empowerment and Development Strategies (SEEDS), SUBEB, and Other related agencies should be enhanced through the provision of adequate funds and integration into the rural communities, so as to deliver the even development plans of the state government to the nooks and corners of the state.
5. The farmers and all those that engage in agricultural processing activities within the rural communities; should be encouraged by the state Government, the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) through its operating agencies and other development partners. They should be given equal opportunities to access loans from the commercial and development banks which will enable them to increase their ventures in agricultural production, increase their ventures in agricultural production, aimed at economic and self-sustenance, towards eradication of absolute poverty to meet the target of the MDGs.

6. The Government should also appreciate the importance of intermediation of fieldworkers, who shuttle and liaises between agencies and rural population on the development needs of the areas and the possible ways of meeting these needs. These field workers should also be empowered and their activities be closely monitored in order to meet the target of operations.

7. The Government of Imo State should revisit and strengthen up the poverty reduction agencies by employing every possible means of reaching the development needs of the grassroots.

8. Efforts should be intensified by both the state and federal governments towards the eradication of all man made obstacles of development which include; corruption in high places, misappropriation and expropriation of funds by public office holders, insubordination, tribalism and
nepotism, among others, that have eaten deep into the Nigerian public service.

9. The activist groups and civil society organizations should monitor closely, activities of agencies to ensure transparency and efficiency in the discharge of duties and functions of such agencies of development.

10. The masses, which are the direct beneficiaries of the development activities of the government of Imo State; should be assisted in listing them and implementing them. This must be done so as to ensure that, the development programmes of the government and her agencies go in tune with the felt needs and aspirations of the people.
BIBLIOGRAPHY

BOOKS


the 2008 Rural Development Seminar in Imo State University, Owerri, March 19-21, 2008.


**JOURNALS**


**GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS**


**NEWSPAPER PUBLICATIONS**


**UNPUBLISHED WORKS/PAPERS**


INTERNET MATERIALS


APPENDIX I

QUESTIONNAIRE

APPENDIX 1

QUESTIONNAIRE

Department of Public Administration
And Local Government
University of Nigeria, Nsukka.
10th March, 2011.

Dear Respondent,

QUESTIONNAIRE

This questionnaire is part of a research work being undertaken at the above named University for the award of Master of Science (M.Sc) Degree in Public Administration.

You are kindly requested to complete the attached questionnaire carefully by giving honest answers to the questions. Information provided will be treated with the strictest confidentiality and it has nothing to do with your job or person.

Thanks in anticipation of your cooperation.
RESEARCH QUESTIONNAIRE

Please read each question carefully after which you indicate your answers by making a tick (✓) in the boxes against the answers you have chosen.

SECTION ONE
PERSONAL DATA

1. Local Government Area? .....................................................................................................................................

2. Sex? (a) Male  (b) Female

3. Marital Status? (a) Single  (b) Married  (c) Divorced  (d) Widowed

4. Age Range? (a) Under 20 years  (b) 20 – 29 years  (c) 30 – 39 years  (d) 40 – 49 years  (e) 50 and above

5. Educational qualification? (a) WASC/GCE, O/L  (b) OND  (c) HND  (d) Degree  (e) Others specify

6. Occupation?
(a) Artisan
(b) Farming
(c) Civil/Public Servant

(d) Student  

(e) Others specify………………………………………………

SECTION TWO

Instructions: Tick (√) the appropriate column that represents your level/degree of agreement. The keys are as follows:

(i) SA = Strongly Agree  (ii) A = Agree  (iii) U = Undecided
(iv) D = Disagree  (v) SD = Strongly Disagree

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>S/n</th>
<th>Questions</th>
<th>SA</th>
<th>A</th>
<th>U</th>
<th>D</th>
<th>SD</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Do you agree that members of your community have prior understanding of the policy thrust and</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>implementation strategies of the Millennium Development Goals in Imo State.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>The planned development strategies adopted by the Millennium Development Goals have reached a</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>greater part of the population within your locality.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>There had been noticeable reduction in the poverty level, since the introduction of the</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Millennium Development Goals in your area.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>How much do you agree that, public schools in your community were constructed, renovated or</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>equipped through the assistance from the Millennium Development Goals.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Show your agreement that Primary Health Care (PHC) centres and the general hospitals in your</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>town have</td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number</td>
<td>Question</td>
<td></td>
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<td>------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6.</td>
<td>Do you agree that the Government of Imo State, in collaboration with the Millennium Development Goals, have provided your community with such social amenities as portable water, accessible roads and other rural infrastructural facilities.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7.</td>
<td>How much do you agree that efficient health services are provided at affordable rates within your locality.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8.</td>
<td>There have been guaranteed government interventions through agricultural incentives, loans and other credit facilities to the farmers’ co-operative societies in your locality since the introduction of the Millennium Development Goals in the State.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9.</td>
<td>Show your agreement that there had been massive socio-economic and political awareness and those youths of your community has been empowered economically through the skills acquisition and economic empowerment programmes of NAPEP and the NDE.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10.</td>
<td>How much can you attest to the fact that there is no significant relationship between the Millennium Development Goals and the development of your area.</td>
<td></td>
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<td>11.</td>
<td>Do you agree that there are obstacles encountered in achieving the objectives of the Millennium Development Goals in your locality.</td>
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<td>12.</td>
<td>How much can you attest that human factors such as corruption, embezzlement and misappropriation of public funds, has necessitated the improper implementation of the Millennium Development Goals projects in your community.</td>
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| 13.    | Show your agreement that exclusion of the project beneficiaries (i.e. the people of your community) in
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<th>No.</th>
<th>Question</th>
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<tr>
<td>14.</td>
<td>The women of your locality are discriminated against, in the distribution of Poverty Eradication Schemes of the State Government.</td>
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<td>15.</td>
<td>Do you think that, schools located within your locality, are operating below the Minimum Academic Standard because they are not fully equipped to meet the needs and aspirations of the teeming population of your locality.</td>
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<td>16.</td>
<td>Do you also agree that, Primary Health Care (PHC) centres located within your area have not lived up to standard due to poor facilities and unqualified medical personnel?</td>
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<td>17.</td>
<td>Show your agreement that the Millennium Development Goals Projects are located in some areas for political reasons rather than on felt needs of the people.</td>
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<td>18.</td>
<td>How best do you agree that abandonment and non-completion of projects by their contractors have posed major challenges to the realization of the Millennium Development Goals in your area?</td>
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<td>19.</td>
<td>Show your agreement that the State Government pays only ‘Lip service’ to the development needs of your locality rather than embarking on the provision of essential infrastructural facilities that aims towards the realization of the Millennium Development Goals in your State.</td>
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<td>20.</td>
<td>Do you agree that, the key challenges in achieving the Millennium Development Goals does not hinder the development of your area.</td>
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<tr>
<td>21.</td>
<td>Show your agreement that the government of Imo State,</td>
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can ensure proper implementation of the aims and aspirations of the Millennium Development Goals through good and functional development policies.

22. Do you also agree that, the review of the implementation techniques of the State agencies like NAPEP, SDE, SEEDS, LEEMP, NDDC, etc can enhance the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals in your community.

23. Show your agreement that, adequate monitoring and evaluation of the Millennium Development Goals Projects, can improve the quality of infrastructure in your area.

24. Do you agree that development projects of the State Government can thrive better if the target beneficiaries (i.e. your community members) and their representatives participate fully in the planning and implementation of such projects.

25. How much can you attest to the fact that stringent policy measures be instituted at all levels of government to forestall the obstacles that corruption can cause in the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals in your area.

26. Government through her various agencies, should conduct a periodic and on-the-spot assessment of development projects, so as to ensure that they meet the required standard.

27. How best do you agree that adequate consideration be given to women and children in the planning and implementation of projects for the realization of the Millennium Development Goals.

28. Do you agree that more time should be given to the State government, in order to meet with the requirements for the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals.
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<td>29.</td>
<td>Do you agree that the goals and targets of the MDGs be aligned and integrated into the development programmes and projects of the state government, in order to ensure that such goals and targets are carried along in the development plans of the State.</td>
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<td>30.</td>
<td>Show your agreement that inadequate implementation of policies on the Millennium Development Goals by the government does not increase the low impact of the goals in your community.</td>
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