



ASSESSMENT OF MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS ON RURAL DEVELOPMENT IN IVO LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA OF EBONYI STATE (2000-2015)

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Abstract: *The study on the assessment of Millennium Development Goals on Rural Development in Ivo local Government Area of Ebonyi State was undertaken with a view to address the problems of poverty, poor health and education standard, lack of basic amenities among other things in Ebonyi State. The study which employed survey design was objectively meant to examine the extent to which MDGs were implemented in Ivo Local Government Area of Ebonyi State; determine the effects of MDGs on the human capital development of Ivo Local Government Area of Ebonyi State among others. Two hundred and fifty persons selected from Ivo local government area were studied using multi stage sampling. The anchorage theoretical perspective was the Power Elite theory propounded by Vilfredo Pareto (1848-1923) and supported by Gaetano Mosca (1858-1923). The three hypotheses of the study were analyzed using Pearson correlation. After the analysis of data, findings revealed that despite the huge financial resources ploughed into the Millennium Development Goals in various sectors there has been no remarkable evidence of development in the rural areas of Ivo Local Government Area of Ebonyi State. The study therefore recommended that Nigeria and indeed Ebonyi State should ensure that development is achieved in the rural areas of Ivo Local Government Area of the state using the current goals.*

Keywords: Millennium Development Goals, Rural Development,

1.1 Background to the Study

The issue of rural development has been a major contention against the Nigerian State since independence. This contention has attracted the attention and interests of both government and non-governmental agencies within and outside the country, leading to the formulations and implementations of policies and programmes geared towards addressing the developmental backwardness of the rural areas.

It is upon the failure of programmes and policies such as the Structural Adjustment Programme (SAP), Better Life Foundation Programme (BLFP), Operation Feed the

Nation (OFN), Green Revolution (GR), etc which their adoption were inspired by the Brethon Woods institutions and Nigerian government to address the major issues of development in the rural areas such as poverty, hunger, lack of access to medical and health facilities, social inequalities, political instability, environmental degradation and abuse of human rights. To actually arrest the situation, the United Nation's Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) which has development agenda or goals for the rural areas emerged as one of the major priorities among other painstaking issues.

Udenze (2016) posited that the crisis of Nigeria's rural development became compounded by the failure of SAP to

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deliver in all its promises, but left both the state and the people worse than they were. The lessons according to him showed that Nigeria was unable to meet the basic needs of the people, especially at the rural areas. Therefore, to liberate Africa and other third world countries from development quagmire, evident in poverty and hunger, poor health conditions, social inequalities, political instability, environmental degradation and abuse of human rights, the United Nations (UN) adopted the Millennium Development Goals/MDGs.

Agalamayl (2017), noted that Nigeria was among the 189 countries from across the world that endorsed the United Nations Millennium Declaration in New York in September 2000, which contained eight time-bound Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and their indicators, to be achieved by respective countries by the year 2015. The eight MDGs were set and stated as follows: (1) Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger (2); Achieve universal primary education (3); Promote gender equality and empower women (4); Reduce child mortality (5); Improve maternal health (6); Combat HIV and AIDS (7); Malaria and other diseases (8); Ensure environmental sustainability and develop a global partnership for development which are the indices of rural development.

Thiesmeyer (2009) in Udenze (2016) established that the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) were framed within the post-war discourses of development that also gave the basic human needs and human security. The Goals set out a consideration of the failures of the earlier strategies along with agenda for the accelerated reduction of rural underdevelopment and its accompanied human insecurities.

Onodugo (2011) established that since Nigeria endorsed the year 2000 Millennium Declaration of the United Nations, the government has taken a wide range of steps to achieve the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) across the length and breadth of the country. To demonstrate Government's commitment to this world project, Nigeria created a Virtual Poverty Fund in 2005 to

support the sectors directly responsible for implementing MDG projects and programmes. The Fund received a boost in 2006 with additional funding to Nigeria by the Paris Club as debt relief amounting to ₦110 billion for MDG projects and other pro-poor initiatives of government.

Again, the Federal Government of Nigeria (FGN) gave visibility and due emphasis to the MDG programmes through the establishment of an MDG Office and appointment of a Senior Special Assistant to the President to take charge of the Office as well as the establishment of a Presidential Committee to assess the implementation of the MDG programmes in Nigeria. Furthermore, government has anchored most of her policies, plans and programmes such as the NEEDS, 7-point Agenda and Vision 20-2020, among others on the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

Uka (2014) posited that Ebonyi State cued into the MDGs Conditional Grant Scheme in 2009 to join the committee of states benefiting from the Federal Government Debt Relief Grant from the Paris Club. He further maintained that if there is any state that will need the Millennium Development Goals programme most, it is Ebonyi State which according to him the state has suffered deprivation and marginalization to the extent that guinea worm infestation has become part of their history owing to lack of good drinking water; lack of good roads and above all, lack of good healthcare facilities and amenities for good education.

Okutu (2014) reported that the team of Ebonyi State MDGs leadership which warned the communities in the state against vandalization of MDG projects in their rural areas, announced the completion of healthcare centres in the 13 local government areas of the state as part of its commitment to infrastructural development of the rural communities for enhancement of socio-economic condition of rural dwellers. The team which encouraged the rural dwellers to desist from patronizing unqualified health personnel in the rural areas as well urged them to take advantage of the health facilities provided by the



MDGs to improve on the state of their health. Also, noted that Ebonyi state government had invested huge funds in the Millennium Development Goals Health projects and enjoined members of the Community Management Committees to carry out their assignment diligently without compromise.

Kalu (2018) noted in her critical appraisal of MDG programmes on education in Ebonyi State revealed that MDGs did not achieve its set projects and programmes objectives in Ivo local government area even education which she blamed on the poor payment of teachers and denial of other motivational incentives by the government in power.

1.2 Statement of the Problem

The problem of rural development in Ivo local government area of Ebonyi State has been identified as one of the major challenges of the area. It is not in doubt that MDGs which are the initiatives of the United Nations as collaborated by many countries of the world including Nigeria are targeted at addressing the challenges faced by the rural dwellers in terms of development.

Indeed, rural development in Ivo local government area of Ebonyi State has been in a deplorable state despite the huge spending on MDGs. Developments remains unattainable because of avalanche presence of poor health facilities leading to high rate of infant and maternal mortality in the area; lack of access to portable water; bad road network; poor educational facilities; lack of empowerment of the rural dwellers and even non-availability of electricity. In the same vein, the rural areas of Ivo Local Government Area of Ebonyi State despite the presence of MDGs representatives did not witness remarkable development during the time because of poor implementation of MDGs projects and programmes. This is because some major projects of MDGs which would have affected rural dwellers of Ivo L.G.A of Ebonyi State were either politicized, hijacked by politicians or the contracts awarded to non-professionals who executed shabby jobs at the detriment of the people of the area.

Decomposing the concept of rural development as it relates to the subject matter, it should be borne in mind that rural development has diverse trajectories which include human capital development and infrastructural development. Achieving human capital development is a critical factor in achieving rural development because every other aspect of development is dependent on the extent at which human capital of the community is developed. Through standard education and health sector as well as quality nutrition for the rural dwellers, the human capital can be enhanced. In the same vein, the infrastructural aspect of the rural sector manifests in tangible elements like good road, good housing, and portable water among others.

Although, it is quite clear that MDGs as envisioned by the United Nations came with various goals aimed at solving the major challenges faced by the world, especially the rural areas, but it is remarkable that implementation of these goals faced difficult challenges in Ivo Local Government Area of Ebonyi State. These challenges can be attributed to environmental factors, political factors, factor bordering on implementation as well as corruption.

1.3 Objectives of the Study

The broad objective of this study was to assess Millennium Development Goals and their implementation for rural development in Ivo Local Government Area of Ebonyi State. Specifically the objectives are:

1. To examine the extent to which Millennium Development Goals were implemented in Ivo Local Government Area of Ebonyi State.
2. To determine the effect of Millennium Development Goals programmes on the development of human capital of Ivo Local Government Area of Ebonyi State.
3. To examine the challenges encountered during the Implementation of infrastructural projects of Millennium Development Goals in Ivo Local Government Area of Ebonyi State.

1.4 Research Questions

The following research questions were designed in an attempt to achieve the objectives of the study. They are:



1. To what extent was Millennium Development Goals implemented in Ivo Local Government Area of Ebonyi State?
2. What effect has Millennium Development Goals on the human capital development of Ivo Local Government Area of Ebonyi State?
3. What are the challenges encountered during the Implementation of infrastructural projects of MDGs in Ivo Local Government Area of Ebonyi State?

1.5 Hypotheses

The following null hypotheses were to guide the study:

H_{A1}: Millennium Development Goals were not adequately implemented in Ivo Local Government Area of Ebonyi State.

H_{A2}: Millennium Development Goals programmes did not have effects on human capital development of Ivo Local Government Area of Ebonyi State.

Review Of Related Literature

2.1. Millennium Development Goals

Onodugo (2011) posited that the concept which came into existence in September, 2000 with 189 nations' representatives including 149 heads of state and government in attendance at the United Nations Headquarters in New York is a high level international development goals tied to eighteen (8) socio-economic indicators aimed at achieving the transformation of the living conditions of all people at the turn of the third millennium. According to the author, the goals were to be pursued by various member countries aided by supportive collaboration from at least twenty-three(23) international organizations and were meant to be achieved or realized in 2015. The eight MDGs according to him include: to Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger; achieve universal basic education; promote gender equality and empower women; reduce child mortality; improve maternal health; combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases; ensure environmental sustainability; and develop a global partnership for development.

DFID (2007) in Kolawole et al (2014) established that MDGs were introduced as a wider attempt to encourage the international community to stop talking about making a difference in developing world and join forces to start doing something about it. Alongside the goals are series of 18 targets were also drawn up to give the international community a number of tangible improvement aimed at a fixed period of time. The intention is that almost all of these targets will be achieved by 2015.

From the foregoing, it is adduced that the concept, Millennium Development Goal is an international initiative geared towards all round development of the member countries including Nigeria.

2.1.2 Concept of Rural Communities

Communities in earlier years of human existence were a few loosely organized collections of families who carried on mutually interdependent activities. The village or rural communities adopted agriculture as an occupation and way of life. Rural communities do have small population size – low population density.

Omoruyi (2001) defines a rural area as a geographical location or area inhabited by a population of less than 5,000 people, majority of whom are farmers and whose economy is predominantly agrarian in nature.

2.1.3 Rural Development

The concept of rural development like other concepts in social sciences has no generally accepted definition. The following definitions by the scholars will help to understand the subject under study. Idris (2011) sees rural development as a continued set of actions by government agencies, NGO's and the rural populace to improving the living conditions of the rural people and also as a process which lead to series of changes within the confine of a given rural setting and which eventually result in the improvement in the general conditions of the rural dwellers. The changes in living conditions depend on a variety of factors such as improvement in education, health, water supply, feeder road networks, electrification amongst others. Provision of these means democratic



dividends in the Nigerian democracy. This is because, they all constitutes campaign promises and political manifestos of elections campaigns in Nigeria. Rural development is a comprehensive mode of social transformation, a socio-economic change seeking to bring about more equitable distribution of resources within the society, and a veritable acceptance of the principle of growth from below. This emphasized the need to ensure socio-economic balance and equitable distribution of wealth and resources among people and among the rural populace.

Ndangra (2005) maintained that rural development is broadly seen as an integrated process involving the implementation of sectoral programmes and provision of social services under the surveillance and the full participation of the major relevant stakeholders. That is, an educational process which seeks to create opportunities for rural people to satisfy their human, economic, social and psychic needs. Rural development according to UN in Nwali (2019) is the qualitative changes which are brought about within the rural populations. Rural development deals with details of the process of improving the living conditions of rural communities in such a way as to bridge the gap between these communities and their urban counterparts so as to make the rural economies self-sustaining and retentive of its population which has been drifting steadily to the urban centres .

Diejemaoh (2003) cited in Nwali, Nwoba & Elom (2014) defined rural development as a process of not only increasing the level of per capita income in the rural areas, but also the improvement in the quality of life of the rural population measured by food and nutritional level, health, education, recreation and security. Rural development is a strategy designed to improve the economic and social life of those who live in rural areas, and for development agencies, the target is usually the rural poor. Rural development entails the process whereby those who are living in rural areas have a good standard of living.

Change in the living standards of rural populace in terms of their general or total way of life. Rural development

actions are mainly aimed at the social and economic development of the areas. In Europe, rural development actions also integrate environmental management as a core component (Ezeani, 2012). Rural development programs are usually top-down from the local or regional authorities, regional development agencies, NGOs, national governments or international development organizations. Rural development aims at finding the ways to improve the rural lives with participation of the rural people themselves so as to meet the required need of the rural area. Onwuka (2010) sees the notion as connoting the condition and percentage of the labour force in the agricultural sector, although the rightly argues that a programme of rural development goes beyond agricultural, and includes the sum-total of the country's economic development efforts in the rural areas.

Further clarification of the concept is offered by Adegboye (2011) who defined rural development as the "development of the rural people in such a continued manner as to enable them to most effectively and efficiently utilize their intellect technology and other resources for further development for both themselves and their resources. According to Paul & Ogbu (2013) Rural development means; "the restructuring of the economy in order to satisfy the material needs and aspirations of the rural masses and to promote individual and collective incentives to participate in the process of development".

This involves a host of multi sectional activities including the improvement of agriculture; the promotion of rural industries, the creation of the requisite infrastructure and social overheads, as well as the establishment of appropriate decentralized structures in order to allow mass participation.

However, the review showed that the concept, rural development is encompassing processes geared towards extending development to the grassroots areas. The development could be human, social, infrastructural etc.



2.3. Empirical Review

2.3.1 MDGs and Development

Onodugo (2011) wrote on the assessment and progress report on Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) 2 and 3 in the south-eastern states of Nigeria with the objective of disaggregating and measuring the MDGs attainment levels in the states of the south eastern region of Nigeria with a view to suggesting ways of managing state resources towards achieving the targets of the initiatives. The study adopted both secondary and primary methods of data collections and recommended the need for improved governance through transparency, accountability and enhanced political will to guaranty adequate funding, effective service delivery, implementation and achievement of MDGs targets in the state; MDAs and Local Government staff should be equipped with adequate skills through capacity training to enable them effectively implement the MDGs programmes and projects in the state; A Monitoring and Evaluation(M&E) framework should be developed and a functional M&E system should be entrenched within government for effective tracking ,management and measurement of progress in the achievement of the MDGs; Effective participation of all key stakeholders, the federal MDAs, State Agencies, Local Government, Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) and private sector, in the design ,implementation, monitoring and evaluation of MDGs projects will ensure maximum results and faster realization of the MDGs in Abia State; A participatory community needs assessment involving MDGs operators and community representatives should form an integral part of the MDGs implementation process. This will guarantee

community ownership of the completed projects and their sustainability. A CDD strategy could be used to ensure effective community involvement and successful project performance; Projects in such sectors as education, youths development, agriculture, environment ,urban and housing development and women affairs need to be scaled up to fast track and achieve significantly the MDGs Targets by 2015.

However, this study like other social discuss was highly criticized for paying too much attention on disaggregating and measuring the MDGs attainment levels in the states of the south eastern region of Nigeria especially suggesting ways of managing state resources towards achieving the targets of the initiatives but could not make any attempt to step the study down to the grassroots areas especially Ivo local government area knowing too well that the assessment approach of MDGs implementations are better achievable at the local government level than states.

Kolawole et al (2014) posited through the topic, Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) in Nigeria: issues and problems with intention to investigate the issues and problems of MDGs in Nigeria. The secondary method of data collection was thoroughly explored in this article and suggested that the efforts to achieve the MDGs in Nigeria should be coordinated by all tiers of government in the following areas: a. Government in implementing NEEDS, SEEDS and LEEDS: the three (NEEDS, SEEDS and LEEDS) are holistic planning framework geared towards harnessing the potentials of Nigeria's vast human and natural resources to develop the country. To get the benefits envisaged by the plan. This requires that all hands be on deck, meaning,



coordination of efforts of Federal, State and Local governments in genuine partnership with all and sundry. Moreover, realizing this vision for Nigeria relies on ensuring that the set targets and programmes so defined are implemented effectively and that the beneficiaries are involved in monitoring and evaluating the processes. b. Promote participation of rural people: Participation of rural people is necessary for sustainable development. It means that the people who are affected by project or programme should be involved in all stages of it, including the planning, implementation and monitoring.

This is the only way that the essential human element of the project or programme can be incorporated in it. In practice, it entails that all rural development programmes targeted at attaining the MDGs should ensure beneficiaries involvement in its design, implementation, monitoring progress and evaluation. c. Promotion of Rural Entrepreneurship: This includes engagement in off-farm and off-season income earning ventures. This is necessary because labour intensive agriculture practiced in the rural areas alone may prove inadequate means of alleviation of rural poverty. Moreover, many rural households derive a significant proportion of their income from non-farm activities and the counter cyclical nature of non-farm employment smoothen the seasonal pattern of earnings. This point should be taken very seriously because entrepreneurship is a catalyst to alleviate poverty. Even though NUC have recommended the teaching of entrepreneurship in all existing and functioning tertiary institutions in Nigeria, not all institutions have complied with this order and even those that have complied, most of them are not doing any practical at all.

Thus, it is not a complete dose of knowledge. d. Adequate funding of rural development: Provision of adequate funding of rural development activities is necessary to address rural poverty and reverse the neglect suffered in the past. With enough funding there will be rural revival in forms of agricultural development, rural employment which raise rural incomes and also helped to stem rural urban migration. For the MDGs not to be a tall dream, the analysis, facts and figures discussed above is dependent on a function of comprehensive development of the rural areas and improvement in the living standard of the rural people. The abandonment of the rural areas is what led to the status we are today in Nigeria as a result of bad leaders that have been ruling the country right from when Nigeria got her roundtable independent.

From the above, the study concentrated much on investigating the issues and problems of MDGs in the entire parts of the country which made it literally impossible for the study to assess the degree of the implementations in the rural areas especially Ivo local government area of Ebonyi State.

3.0: Research method

3.1 Research Design

The research design that was used for this study was survey design

3.2 Sources of Data

The sources of data collection in the study were categorized into primary and secondary sources. The Primary Source of Data collection was primarily questionnaire while the Secondary Sources of Data collection was the use of documented materials such as textbooks, newspapers, internet materials and journal articles relevant to the study



3.3 Area of the Study

The study was conducted in Ivo Local Government Area of Ebonyi State. Ivo is one of the thirteen local government areas in Ebonyi state Nigeria created in 1996. It is located in the southern senatorial zones of Ebonyi state and shares boundaries with (Aniri L.G.A.) and Abia state (Uturu). It's headquartered is located in the town of Isiaka. It covers an area of 850km² and has a population of 121,363 people (census 2006), latitude of 05⁰-56^N and longitude 07⁰-41^E. The two dominant in Ivo towns include Akaeze and Ishiagu, home of the Federal College of Agriculture, Ishiagu.

3.4 Population of the Study

The population of the study was targeted at 667 people. This comprises of political office holders past and present, traditional rulers and their cabinet members and the elites in Ivo local government area who are lettered and has idea of what is Millennium Development Goals.

3.5 Sample and Sampling Technique

The sampling size was determined using Taro Yamani (1965) formular given as follows:

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

Where n stands for Desired Sample

N = Entire Population

I = Constant

e = Accepted margin of errors (0.05)²

Therefore:

$$n = \frac{667}{1 + \frac{667(0.05)^2}{667}}$$

$$n = \frac{667}{1 + \frac{667(0.0025)^2}{667}}$$

$$n = \frac{667}{1 + \frac{667(0.0025)}{667}}$$

$$n = \frac{667}{1 + 1.6675}$$

$$n = \frac{667}{2.6675}$$

$$n = 250$$

Thus, a total of 250 persons were selected as the sample size of the study. Accordingly, the total population was divided according to the 5 autonomous communities of the area which include; Ishiagu, Okue, Ihie, Umobor and Akaezeukwu communities in line with their various population ratios using proportionate allocation. Accordingly, the population is represented thus:

Ishiagu	- 143
Okue	- 138
Ihie	- 133
Umobor	-123
Akaezeukwu	- 130
Total	<u>667</u>

The adopted technique for this study is the multi stage sampling technique. Multi stage sampling technique is a sampling technique useful in selecting research samples as they appear in stages. The researcher adopted this method because of the large magnitude of the population under study.

At the first stage, a population of the whole of Ivo local government area of Ebonyi State was selected. In another stage, the local government area was stratified into the five (5) communities which made up the area which included; Ishiagu, Okue, Ihie, Umobor and Akaezeukwu communities using the Bowler's formular. This is done to ensure that all relevant elements to this research would be included. We will apply the Sampling Distribution using Bowler's Proportional Allocation Technique, which state.

$$n_i = n \frac{(N_i)}{N}$$

where n= Sample

N= population

I = constant



$$e = 0.05$$

N_1 = Population size for individual institution

$$\text{Ishiagu} = n_1 = n \frac{(N_1)}{N}$$

$$n_1 = 250 \frac{(143)}{667}$$

$$n_1 = 53$$

$$\text{Okue} = n_2 = n \frac{(N_2)}{N}$$

$$n_2 = 250 \frac{(138)}{667}$$

$$n_2 = 52$$

$$\text{Ihie} = n_3 = n \frac{(N_3)}{N}$$

$$n_3 = 250 \frac{(133)}{667}$$

$$n_3 = 50$$

$$\text{Umobor}, = n_4 = n \frac{(N_4)}{N}$$

$$n_4 = 250 \frac{(123)}{667}$$

$$n_4 = 46$$

$$\text{Akaezeukwu} = n_5 = n \frac{(N_5)}{N}$$

$$n_5 = 250 \frac{(130)}{667}$$

$$n_5 = 49$$

Accordingly, the sample size for each community is represented thus:

Ishiagu	- 53
Okue	- 52
Ihie	- 50
Umobor	- 46
Akaezeukwu	-49
Total	<u>250</u>

Therefore, the sample size = 250.

3.6 Instrument for Data Collection

The instrument used for data collection for this study was structured questionnaire. Questionnaire is a list of

questions, logically presented and forwarded to a respondent for his/her response.

The questions included in questionnaire were determined by the research questions and hypotheses while the method of analysis was adopted for the study.

An examination of the available literature showed that Likert 5. point-scale of measurement is most suitable for this study. It also elicited responses from the selected members of Ivo local government area of Ebonyi State.

3.7 Validity of Research Instrument

Content and face validity of the instrument was established by submitting the research questions to the supervisor and three lecturers in the department. This helped the researcher to avoid bringing in some variables that are not relevant, and also prevented the researcher from super imposing her emotions and biases which will derail the research from the measurement of the variables studied.

3.8 Reliability of Research Instrument

The researcher adopted data triangulation to ensure the reliability of this study. To extract relevant information from existing documents using descriptive statistical analysis, data triangulation helped to combine data drawn from different sources, different scholars at different times, different places and seasons.

3.9 Methods of Data Analysis

The statistical methods used to analyze the data generated from the respondents were percentage, chart and mean while the Chi-square, Pearson correlation and regression were used to analyze and test hypothesis. The choice of this Pearson correlation is because of the nature of the study. The study seeks to establish the extent of the relationship between identified variables.

- Nominal Scale will be utilized in this investigation which shows segment profile. Five Point Scale: Five points scale will be used in the study in most questions i.e. Strongly Agree, Agree, Neutral, Disagree, and Strongly Disagree.
- Tables: The data collected are prepared in the form of table, the tables enable us to have an impression of the data used,



based on the table presented, Likert rating system will be used to determine the nature of the responses.

Chi-square (χ^2) Statistic: This is the test of two or more attributes. The test here involves testing the extent to which Millennium Development Goals were not adequately implemented in Ivo Local Government Area of Ebonyi State and Millennium Development Goals programmes did not have effects on human capital development of Ivo Local Government Area of Ebonyi State.

The formula to be used is:

$$\chi^2 = \sum \frac{(O-E)^2}{E}$$

Were, $\chi^2 =$ Chi-Square test
 E = Expected frequency
 O = Observed frequency

R-squared

R-squared is a measure in statistics of how close the data are to the fitted regression line. It is the percentage of the response variable (Millennium Development Goals) variation that is explained by a linear model. Generally, the higher the R-squared, the better the model fits the data (Frost, 2013).

Table 6: Descriptive Statistics for perception regarding use of Millennium Development Goals implementation

S/n	Items	SA (5)	A (4)	N (3)	D (2)	SD (1)	Total response	cut-off mean (\bar{x}) (2.5)	Standard Deviation	Decision
1	Millennium development goals were implemented timely and effectively in Ivo Local Government Area of Ebonyi State; 2000-2015.	7	14	47	90	74	232	1.9655	.95284	REJECT
2	Poor and defective tendencies characterized the implementation of millennium development goals in Ivo Local government area of Ebonyi State, 2000-2015.	74	90	47	14	7	232	3.9052	1.01485	ACCEPT
3	Clear evidence of elites influence and political manipulations led to ineffective implementation of millennium development goals in Ivo	55	110	41	17	9	232	3.7974	1.00965	ACCEPT

$$R - \text{squared}(R^2) = \frac{\text{Explained variation}}{\text{Total variation}} = 1 - \frac{\text{Unexplained variation}}{\text{Total variation}}$$

R-squared is always between 0 and 100%. 0% means the model explains none of the variability of the response data around its mean. 100% indicates that the model explains all the variability of the response data around its mean.

4.0 Data Presentation and Analysis

The data generated from the respondents regarding the issue involved in this study were presented and analysis followed.

4.1 Statistical Data

In addressing the above research questions, the researcher applied the likert 5 point. The cut-off means score 2.5. Tables 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 and 8 respectively were used to answer the question using eight questionnaire items.



	local government area of Ebonyi State, 2000-2015.									
4	In Ivo local government of Ebonyi State, implementation of millennium development goals, 2000-2015 failed to ensure incorporation and participation of Ivo people which led to the goals not making the needed impact on the people.	52	11 3	41	15	11	232	3.7759	1.02003	ACCEPT
5	The citizens of Ivo local government area of Ebonyi State, were reluctant over millennium development goals, 2000-2015 because they were not fully integrated in the implementation of the goals in the area.	74	90	47	14	7	232	3.9052	1.01485	ACCEPT
6	The millennium development goals in Ivo local government area of Ebonyi State, 2000-2015 were handled by mostly non indigenes of the area that were not conversant with the peculiarities of the area and this led to the goals not having much effect on the citizens.	48	10 1	51	26	6	232	3.6810	1.01588	ACCEPT
7	Decisions on the implementation of millennium development goals in Ivo local government area of Ebonyi State, 2000-2015 were mostly taken by the desk officers who are not citizens and state based politicians influenced them and this made the citizens of the area not to have much effects of the millennium development goals.	49	10 4	47	25	7	232	3.7026	1.01606	ACCEPT



8	High rate of endemic and pandemic diseases, bad road network, lack of portable drinking water, low quality education and health facilities still characterize most of communities of Ivo local government area of Ebonyi State despite implementation of millennium development, 2000-2015.	74	90	47	14	7	232	3.9052	1.01485	ACCEPT
	Total Responses	43	71	36	21	128	1856			
		3	2	8	5					

Source: *Researcher's field survey (2021)*

SA=Strongly Agree, A=Agree, N=Neutral, D=Disagree, SD = Strongly Disagree

Disagree

In Table 6 above, the cut-off mean is 2.5 which are the average score on the five-point scale of this type of Likert structured questionnaire. Based on this cut-off mean, any item that has a mean score from 2.5 and above is accepted while an item that scores below it is rejected. Hence, the table above shows the perception regarding use of Millennium Development Goals implementation: Poor and defective tendencies characterized the implementation of Millennium Development Goals in Ivo Local government area of Ebonyi State, 2000-2015 (3.9052); Clear evidence of elites influence and political manipulations led to ineffective implementation of Millennium Development Goals in Ivo local government area of Ebonyi State, 2000-2015 (3.7974); In Ivo local government of Ebonyi State, implementation of Millennium Development Goals, 2000-2015 failed to ensure incorporation and participation of Ivo people which led to the goals not making the needed impact on the people (3.7759); The citizens of Ivo local government area of Ebonyi State, were reluctant over Millennium Development Goals, 2000-2015 because they were not fully integrated in the implementation of the goals in the area (3.9052); The Millennium Development Goals

in Ivo local government area of Ebonyi State, 2000-2015 were handled by mostly non indigenes of the area that were not conversant with the peculiarities of the area and this led to the goals not having much effect on the citizens (3.6810); Decisions on the implementation of Millennium Development Goals in Ivo local government area of Ebonyi State, 2000-2015 were mostly taken by the desk officers who are not citizens and state based politicians influenced them and this made the citizens of the area not to have much effects of the Millennium Development Goals (3.7026), and High rate of endemic and pandemic diseases, bad road network, lack of portable drinking water, low quality education and health facilities still characterize most of communities of Ivo local government area of Ebonyi State despite implementation of Millennium Development, 2000-2015 (3.9052) were all accepted or significant except Millennium Development Goals were implemented timely and effectively in Ivo Local Government Area of Ebonyi State; 2000-2015 (1.9655) was rejected or not significant.



Testing for Hypothesis 1:

Ho: Millennium Development Goals were adequately implemented in Ivo Local Government Area of Ebonyi State.

H1: Millennium Development Goals were not adequately implemented in Ivo Local Government Area of Ebonyi State.

Decision Rules

Decision Rule 1: If the calculated value of chi-square is greater than the tabulated chi-square value at 5% level of significance reject Ho and accept H1 Otherwise reject H1

Table 7: Responses on Millennium Development Goals implementation in Ivo Local Government Area of Ebonyi State?

Response	Observed (f _{ij})	Expected (E _{ij})	(f _{ij} -E _{ij}) ² /E _{ij}
Strongly agreed (5)	6	46.4	35.1759
Agreed (4)	18	46.4	17.3828
Neutral (3)	44	46.4	0.1241
Disagreed (2)	99	46.4	59.6284
strongly disagreed(1)	65	46.4	7.4560
Total	232		119.7672

Source: Survey by researcher

Descriptive Statistics

	N	Mean	Std. Deviation	Minimum	Maximum
Observed_fij	232	3.8362	1.02728	1.00	5.00
Expected_Eij	357	46.4000	.00000	46.40	46.40

Test Statistics

	Observed_fij
Chi-Square	119.7672 ^a
Df	4
Asymp. Sig.	.000

a. 0 cells (.0%) have expected frequencies less than 5. The minimum expected cell frequency is 46.4.



Decision rule:

Since the chi-square test ($\chi^2 = 119.7672^a$) is significant at 0.05 level of significance, sig. (Asymp. Sig.) which equals $0.000 < 0.05$, reject the null hypothesis (Ho) which states that Millennium Development Goals were adequately implemented in Ivo Local Government Area of Ebonyi State and accept the alternative hypothesis (HI) which states that Millennium Development Goals were not adequately implemented in Ivo Local Government Area of Ebonyi State.

Table 8: Descriptive Statistics for perception regarding use of Millennium Development Goals on human capital development

S/n	Items	SA (5)	A (4)	N (3)	D (2)	SD (1)	Total response	cut-off mean (\bar{x}) (2.5)	Standard Deviation	Decision
9	The education standard in Ivo local government area is close to nothing and the economic activities still not upgrading people’s life despite the millennium development goals in the area, 2000-2015.	58	99	44	25	6	232	3.7672	1.02655	ACCEPT
10	The health system in Ivo Local Government Area of Ebonyi State did not improve remarkably even during and after the millennium development goals in the area, 2000-2015.	71	93	44	15	9	232	3.8793	1.04988	ACCEPT
11	Residents of Ivo local government area of Ebonyi State still relied on minimal self help activities to build and maintain education and health facilities despite millennium development goals in the area, 2000-2015.	20	30	38	98	46	232	2.4828	1.19510	ACCEPT
12	School enrollment at all levels of education significantly improved in Ivo local government area of Ebonyi State thereby improving	29	49	32	73	49	232	2.7241	1.34252	ACCEPT



	human capital base because of millennium development goals in the area, 2000-2015.									
13	Despite the millennium development goals in Ivo local government area of Ebonyi State, 2000-2015, human talents of the citizens were not harnessed and the rate of human capital of the citizens of the area did not fare better.	74	90	47	14	7	232	3.9052	1.01485	ACCEPT
14	Some projects and programmes of the millennium development goals aimed at improving human capital such as ICT in Ivo local government area of Ebonyi State, 2000-2015 still have the facility centers under lock and key and the target citizens are yet to have access to the knowledge to enable improvement of their human potentials.	49	105	51	23	4	232	3.7414	.95908	ACCEPT
15	There is still downward rate of human capital development as evidenced in high rate of illiteracy in Ivo local government area of Ebonyi State despite millennium development goals in the area, 2000-2015.	54	110	44	20	4	232	3.7759	.95877	REJECT
16	As a result of high rate of illiteracy due to lack of human capital development in Ivo local government area of Ebonyi State, citizens resort to minor jobs such as Keke and Okada riding while the female	64	100	47	16	5	232	3.8707	.96726	ACCEPT



counterparts became vulnerable to early and unwanted pregnancies despite millennium development goals in the area, 2000-2015.									
Total Responses	41 9	67 6	34 7	28 4	13 0	1856			

Source: Survey by researcher

In Table 8 above, the cut-off mean is 2.5 which are the average score on the five-point scale of this type of Likert structured questionnaire. Based on this cut-off mean, any item that has a mean score from 2.5 and above is accepted while an item that scores below it is rejected. Hence, the table above shows the perception regarding use of Millennium Development Goals on human capital development: The education standard in Ivo local government area is close to nothing and the economic activities still not upgrading people’s life despite the Millennium Development Goals in the area, 2000-2015. (3.7672); The health system in Ivo Local Government Area of Ebonyi State did not improve remarkably even during and after the Millennium Development Goals in the area, 2000-2015. (3.8793); Residents of Ivo local government area of Ebonyi State still relied on minimal self help activities to build and maintain education and health facilities despite Millennium Development Goals in the area, 2000-2015. (2.4828); School enrolment at all levels of education significantly improved in Ivo local government area of Ebonyi State thereby improving human capital base because of Millennium Development Goals in the area, 2000-2015. (2.7241); Despite the millennium development goals in Ivo local government area of Ebonyi State, 2000-2015, human talents of the citizens were not harnessed and the rate of human capital of the citizens of the area did not fare better (3.9052); Some projects and programmes of the Millennium Development Goals aimed at improving human capital

such as ICT in Ivo local government area of Ebonyi State, 2000-2015 still have the facility centers under lock and key and the target citizens are yet to have access to the knowledge to enable improvement of their human potentials (3.7414), There is still downward rate of human capital development as evidenced in high rate of illiteracy in Ivo local government area of Ebonyi State despite millennium development goals in the area, 2000-2015 (3.7759), and As a result of high rate of illiteracy due to lack of human capital development in Ivo local government area of Ebonyi State, citizens resort to minor jobs such as Keke and Okada riding while the female counterparts became vulnerable to early and unwanted pregnancies despite Millennium Development Goals in the area, 2000-2015 (3.8707) were all accepted or significant.

Testing for Hypothesis 2:

Ho: Millennium Development Goals programmes have effects on human capital development of Ivo Local Government Area of Ebonyi State.

H1: Millennium Development Goals programmes did not have effects on human capital development of Ivo Local Government Area of Ebonyi State.

Decision Rules

Decision Rule 1: If the calculated value of chi-square is greater than the tabulated chi-square value at 5% level of significance reject Ho and accept H1 Otherwise reject H1.



Table 9: Responses on Millennium development programmes goals effects on human capital development of implementation in Ivo Local Government Area of Ebonyi State?

Response	Observed (f _{ij})	Expected (E _{ij})	(f _{ij} -E _{ij}) ² /E _{ij}
Strongly agreed (5)	69	46.4	11.0078
Agreed (4)	87	46.4	35.5250
Neutral (3)	52	46.4	0.6758
Disagreed (2)	19	46.4	16.1802
strongly disagreed(1)	5	46.4	36.9388
Total	232		100.3276

Source: *Researcher's field survey (2021)*

Descriptive Statistics

	N	Mean	Std. Deviation	Minimum	Maximum
Observed_fij	232	3.8448	1.01165	1.00	5.00
Expected_Eij	357	46.4000	.00000	46.40	46.40

Test Statistics

	Observed_fij
Chi-Square	100.3276 ^a
Df	4
Asymp. Sig.	.000

a. 0 cells (.0%) have expected frequencies less than 5. The minimum expected cell frequency is 46.4.

Decision rule:

Since the chi-square test ($\chi^2 = 100.3276^a$) is significant at 0.05 level of significance, sig. (Asymp. Sig.) which equals 0.000 < 0.05, reject the null hypothesis (H₀) which states that Millennium Development Goals programmes have effects on human capital development of Ivo Local Government Area of Ebonyi State and accept the alternative hypothesis (H₁) which states that Millennium Development Goals programmes did not have effects on human Capital development of Ivo Local Government Area of Ebonyi State.

Table 10: Descriptive Statistics for perception regarding challenges encountered during the Implementation of infrastructural projects

S/n	Items	SA (5)	A (4)	N (3)	D (2)	SD (1)	Total response	cut-off mean (x̄) (2.5)	Standard Deviation	Decision
17	In Ivo local government area of Ebonyi State, high rate of poor rural infrastructures has remained unabated in the area despite millennium development goals because the projects were not handled by experts and/or professionals.	60	99	49	21	3	232	3.8276	.96048	ACCEPT
18	Millennium development goals projects during the period of implementation in Ivo local government area of Ebonyi State, 2000-2015 were hijacked by politicians who never implemented them to the specific standard and as required.	29	49	32	73	49	232	2.7241	1.34252	ACCEPT



19	What is replete in most communities of Ivo local government area of Ebonyi State is heavy presence of abandoned and unused MDG projects.	49	104	47	25	7	232	3.9052	1.01485	ACCEPT
20	Amongst the challenges encountered during the implementation of millennium development goals in Ivo local government area of Ebonyi State, 2000-2015 were both environmental, political and cultural which caused the goals to be less effective on the people of the area	47	105	44	28	8	232	3.6897	1.03542	ACCEPT
21	Due to the fact that the citizens of Ivo local government area of Ebonyi State were not fully integrated in the implementation of the millennium development goals in the area, 2000-2015, some people resisted the implementation of the goals which led to the current underdevelopment of the area.	74	90	47	14	7	232	3.7414	.95908	ACCEPT
22	Community tussles, crises and war in some community of Ivo local government area of Ebonyi State, affected the implementation of millennium development goals in the area, 2000-2015.	44	107	52	21	9	232	3.6724	1.00884	ACCEPT
23	Political dominance, party politics, ranchour, bitterness and acrimony amongst citizens of Ivo local government area of Ebonyi State were some of the hindrances to the implementation of millennium development goals in the area, 2000-2015.	62	100	47	16	7	232	3.8362	.99735	ACCEPT
	Total Responses	365	654	316	200	89	1624			

Source: *Researcher's field survey (2021)*

In Table 10 above, the cut-off mean is 2.5 which are the average score on the five-point scale of this type of Likert structured questionnaire. Based on this cut-off mean, any item that has a mean score from 2.5 and above is accepted while an item that scores below it is rejected. Hence, the

table above shows the perception regarding challenges encountered during the Implementation of infrastructural projects: In Ivo local government area of Ebonyi State, high rate of poor rural infrastructures has remained unabated in the area despite Millennium Development



Goals because the projects were not handled by experts and/or professionals.(3.8276); Millennium development goals projects during the period of implementation in Ivo local Government area of Ebonyi State, 2000-2015 were hijacked by politicians who never implemented them to the specific standard and as required (2.7241); What is replete in most communities of Ivo local Government area of Ebonyi State is heavy presence of abandoned an unused MDG projects (3.9052); amongst the challenges encountered during the implementation of millennium development goals in Ivo local Government area of Ebonyi State, 2000-2015 were both environmental, political and cultural which caused the goals to be less effective on the people of the area (3.6897); Due to the fact that the citizens of Ivo local Government area of Ebonyi State were not fully integrated in the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals in the area, 2000-2015, some people resisted the implementation of the goals which led to the current underdevelopment of the area (3.7414); Community tussles, crises and war in some community of Ivo local Government area of Ebonyi State, affected the implementation of Millennium Development Goals in the area, 2000-2015. (3.6724), , and Political dominance, party politics, ranchour, bitterness and acrimony amongst citizens of Ivo local government area of Ebonyi State were some of the hindrances to the implementation of Millennium Development Goals in the area, 2000-2015 (3.8707) were all accepted or significant.

4.3 Discussion of Major Findings

Millennium Development Goals were not adequately implemented in Ivo Local Government Area of Ebonyi State, the poor implementation of the MDGs in Ivo local government area of Ebonyi State has contributed to poor rural development of the area. Indeed, political interference, endemic corruption among MDGs desk and field officers, tribalism and nepotism in the citing and execution of MDGs projects and programmes made it to become exercise in futility in terms of achieving rural development.

Arising from the above situation which clearly undermined development in the rural areas of Ivo Local Government Area of Ebonyi State, it was evident that Millennium Development Goals did not have effects on human capital development of Ivo Local Government Area of Ebonyi State. The effects of MDGs programme on the development of Ivo Local Government Area of Ebonyi State could not be felt; rather, the area became more characterized by poor road network, poor human and infrastructural development among others.

It was also discovered in the cost of this work that one of the challenges encountered during the MDGs project implementation was political interference during project conception and execution. Another finding was the issue of corruption, connivance between contractors and MDGs desk/field officers, and above all, environmental degradation.

5.2 Conclusion

Rural development in Nigeria has over the years stood as a major challenge that seemed to be defying possible solutions. It is not in doubt that before the early 1970s, all development efforts of different countries of the world were concentrated at the urban centers. It was during the period of 1970s that there was remarkable shift of development initiatives towards the rural centres. Different measures and strategies were applied towards ensuring development at the rural areas.

Apart from individual countries' efforts towards rural development, the United Nations in the year 2000 adopted the Millennium Development Goals as major efforts towards ensuring even development of the rural setting across the globe. Evaluation of this global efforts, especially in Ivo Local Government Area of Ebonyi State showed that MDGs did not significantly address the issue of development in the area due to various factors ranging from poor implementation of the set goals in the area, endemic corruption amongst desk/field officers of the MDGs to political interference, manipulation of development initiatives as well as environmental factors.



5.3 Recommendations

Premised on the foregoing findings therefore, the study recommended that:

1. Nigeria and indeed Ebonyi State should ensure that development is attained in the rural areas of Ivo Local Government Area of the state using the current goals (Sustainable Development Goals SDGs).
2. Politicians should be discouraged from manipulating development initiatives if efforts in developing the area should not become efforts in futility.
3. The conception, citing and execution of development projects and programmes should be allowed in the hands of experts and the community people themselves.

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