

**MILLIENNIUM VILLAGE PROJECT AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT IN AFRICA CRITICAL ANALYSIS**

**Edema Olagoke Olaniji, Ph.D**  
**Department of Social Sciences**  
**Rufus Giwa Polytechnic, Owo, Ondo State**

**ABSTRACT**

*The world leaders in 2000 met to set forth quantified and time bound development goals to address the issues of poverty, education, health quality and environment to be achieved in year 2015. The United Nations Development programme in its efforts to achieve these goals, introduced the concept of millennium Village Projects as a veritable tools of development through community participation in some selected African countries . Therefore, 12 village clusters were selected with two clusters in Nigeria. The Pamphila in Kaduna State and Ibaramu/Ikaramu cluster in Ondo State. Simple proportion techniques involve tabulation, conversion of figures into percentage were and inter printing them to give definition result. The research identified that the MVP is holistic, that is, the goals have to be achieved "together" for minimum benefit. The project is capital intensive which could lead to being dependent on foreign aids for forgive assistance. The research work recommends that government showed finance the project kindly, that local government Area showed be continued. Also, it, should encourage the use of local products and technology in other to reduce inflow of foreign products while of will enhance capital development of local people and enhance sustainability in Africa*

**Keywords: Millennium village project, rural development, community participation, Nigeria perspective, MDGs, UNDP.**

**INTRODUCTION**

The growing abject poverty in the world, especially in the developing countries made the United Nations, at its convention held in September, 2000 in New York, City agreed and resolved to take steps at addressing the ever growing poverty among nations. Consequently, the United Nations put in place a new focus for addressing the issues that are currently undermining the development of the international community with a renewed vigour and sense of urgency in achieving specific benchmark within a given time span (i.e. 2000 - 2015) (*Katsel 2004:42*). This culminated into the design of the eight Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), which are; eradication of extreme poverty and hunger, achievement of universal primary education, promotion of gender equality and empowerment of women, reduction of child mortality, reduction of maternal mortality, combating the Scourge HIV/AIDS, malaria and other communicable diseases, ensuring environmental sustainability, and evolving a global partnership for development. (*Ibid, 2004:43*)

This is the first time that a holistic strategy to meet the development needs of the world has been established, with measurable targets and defined indicators". (*Salami and Balogun, 2006 in Ndako 2006: 3*). The dynamics of international development demands that sovereign states be active participants in the global arena. Hence, states of the world subscribed to the resolution, including Nigeria. Likewise, all the thirty-six (36) states in Nigeria are committed to the programme.

To corroborate these claims, Olaley (2008:19) stressed that "efforts are being made by the Federal and State Governments to meet most of the requirement of the MDGs as in the Universal Basic Education, the immunization programmes against polio, and other diseases, Roll Back Malaria Project, the war against HIV/AIDS, assimilation of women into governance and girl-child education".

In its effort to achieve the goals, The United Nations, therefore, designed a millennium village project to demonstrate how the eight MDGs can be met in rural areas through community – led

development. The millennium village concept, a bottom–up approach for lifting villages out of the trap of poverty, is operated with financial and technical support from the Earth/Columbia University, The Millennium Promise, The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), government and donors (*Sach op cit:13*).

The first millennium village started in Sauri, Kenya, in 2004; therefore, its immediate success has led to the establishment of seventy-five (75) other such villages in twelve (12) African countries. (*Sach 2006:12*).

#### **Locations of 12 Millennium Villagers in Africa**

<b>Country</b>	<b>State/Province/District</b>	<b>Villages</b>
Ghana	Amansi West District	Bansaaso
Kenya	Garissa	Dertu
Malawi	Zombz District	Mwandama
Mali	Segou Region	Tiby
Nigeria	Ondo State, Kaduna State	Ikaram/Ibaram, Pampaida
Tanzania	Uyui District	Mbola
Uganda	Isingiro District	Ruhiira
Ethiopia	Koraro	Koraro
Kenya	Siaya District	Sauri
Senegal		Potou
Rwanda		Mayange

#### **Source: Culled from Millennium Project Report 2006**

In Nigeria, there are two village clusters. These are the Ibaram/Ikaram Millennium Village Cluster in Ondo State and the Pampaida Millennium Village Cluster in Kaduna State. (*Ibid:12*).

#### **Statement of the Problem**

The problems of development lie with the development agents such as government, the multinationals, IMF, World Bank and the imperial powers. Each of these agents propagates an idea of development that is of interest to it and the images of the world. Ake (*2001:49*) believed that all the talk of development and partnership in development does not really reflect a consensus on what development is and how it might be realized. (*ibid:49*).

If the issues raised above are pertinent, the problems, therefore, Would MDGs survive with our leader's long-standing reputations for waste, corruption, mismanagement and shameless dependence on foreign aids, More so, when majority of these leaders are agents of international capitalist interests in Nigeria?

Given the fact that external aid is involved with distrust, inefficient institutions, foreign domination and manipulations, there is the need to access the United Nations Development and MDGs programmes in Ondo State and its effect on participatory sustainable development by the communities concerned.

#### **Objectives of the Study**

This study sets out to achieve the following objectives:

- i. To examine the impact of United Nations Development Programmes funding and monitoring of its targeted goals on: poverty reduction, improved maternal and child health, universal primary education, improved safe water and sanitation in Ondo State with a view to attaining the benchmark of millennium goals.
- ii. To examine the effect of poverty reduction, universal primary education, improved maternal and child health, improved safe water and sanitation on the welfare of the people in the communities and

- iii. To determine the involvement of the communities in the projects and the sustainability of the projects especially after the expiration of the funding of the programme by the International partners concerned.

### **Justification of the Study**

It has been argued that development programmes, either in Ondo State or Nigeria, has not been adjudged successful. It becomes, expedient therefore, to study the workability, effectiveness and sustainability of the most recent and first holistic approach to the developmental needs of the developing nations of the world by the United Nations. Moreso, when it is further observed that this is a new dispensation of community driven development (i.e. bottom-up approach) as against the former top-bottom approach to development with its pilot project (MVP) at Ibaram/Ikaram in Ondo State.

### **Assumptions of the Study**

This study set out to test two basic assumptions. They are as follows:

- ii. That MVP may not eventually provide positive sustainable development in the face of unequal socio-economic relations.
- iv. That evolving a coherent value frame works with which the benefactors could be mobilized would change the socio-economic, and human capacity development of the people.

### **Hypothesis**

Sequel to the above stated assumptions, the hypotheses to be tested are:

- (i) The Millennium Development Goals Programme in Ondo State has had positive effects on the inhabitants of Ibaram/Ikaram millennium village.
- (ii) The Millennium Development Goals Programme has evolved some coherent values that have changed the socio-economic and human capacity of the people in Ibaram/ Ikaram millennium village.

## **METHODOLOGY**

### **Study Area**

The study area is Ondo State of Nigeria with reference to Ikaram/Ibaram Millennium cluster village. This cluster is made up of seven communities namely; Erusu, Ibaram, Iyani, Ase, Gedegede. Ikaram and Ajowa with about 30,000 populations (*NPC: 1996*) the cluster are predominantly Yoruba speaking communities. This study is limited to the assessment of the efforts of the UNDP in attaining the MDGs benchmarks and their impact on this cluster.

### **Design of the Questionnaire**

Questionnaire is the major instrument used in collecting data in this study. There are twenty-one questions in all and each question deals with different aspects of the information needed. There are four sections, Section A deals with the social and demographic characteristics of the respondents. Section B deals with the involvement of the individuals and community, Section C deals with the benefits derivable from the project while Section D deals with possible challenges and suggestions on how the project could be sustained.

### **Data Collection**

Methods used in this study were questionnaire, observation of social infrastructural facilities and unstructured in-depth interview for two heads of schools, medical institutions and two agricultural extension officers and traditional leaders of the communities concerned.

Questionnaires were administered to two hundred and fifty single-stage cluster sampled respondents in a population (less than 30,000) of people between the ages of fifteen and seventy-

five years, by three adequately trained and briefed hired Field Assistants, while two hundred and eight questionnaires were returned.

Similarly, relevant data were gathered from books, Surfing of the internet, periodicals, published and unpublished works on development, poverty related issues and Millennium Development Goals to complement the qualitative data in the study area.

### **Data Analysis**

The data collected by Survey questionnaire were numberized and the methods of simple proportion and test of hypothesis were used to analyze the data. Simple proportion techniques involve the use of tabulation, conversion of figures into percentages, and interpreting them to give definite result. The in-depth interview conducted was analyzed and relevant statements were quoted where necessary and used as supplements to the survey analysis.

#### **Theoretical Framework**

Dependency theory is the major thrusts of the study. The Theory originated in the classical Marxist analysis of imperialism in the 1910s and 1920s, especially in the works of Lenin and Luxemburg (*Lee 1988:178*). It became popular in the 1960s and 1970s as a criticism of modernization theory (i.e. development theory). Among the proponents of dependency theory are Paul Baran (*1957*), A.G. Frank (*1967*), E.H. Cardoso (*1973*), and others.

### **Concepts of Dependency Theory**

Dependence theory represents one of the theories developed by some radical political economists to explain the underdeveloped status of Africa in particular. Santos ( 1971:226) emphasized the historical dimension of the dependency relationship thus:

An historical condition which shapes a certain structure of the world economy such that it favour some countries to the detriment of others and limit the development Possibilities of the subordinate economics a situation in which the economy of a certain group of countries is conditioned by the development and expansion of another economy, to which their own is subjected.

Also, Gregory (*1982:74-75*) posits that dependency theory explains "an unequal relationship where the weaker of the parties is dominated by the stronger". Ihonvbere (*1989:27*) opined that "Dependency theory deals with the nature of capitalism in the non-industrialized world and the possibilities or otherwise of development in the context of the dynamics of global capitalism".

From these definitions, therefore, three features can be identified as common indexes of dependency theories, according to Susane Bodenheim (*1971:157*).

- i. That dependency characterized the international system, which comprises of two sets of states called dominant/dependent, center/periphery or metropolitan/satellite. The dominant/metropolitan or core states are the advanced industrial nation, while dependent, periphery or satellite are those states of Latin America, Asia and Africa which have low per capital income and which rely heavily on the export of a single commodity for foreign exchange earnings.
- ii. That external forces are of singular importance to the economic activities within the dependent states. These external forces include multinational corporations, international commodity markets, foreign assistance, community and any other means by which the advanced industrialized countries can represent their economy, and
- iii. That the relations between dominant and dependent states are dynamic because the interactions between the two set of states tend to not only reinforce, but also intensify the unequal patterns. (*ibid: 157*). In summary, therefore the premises of dependency theory are stated below.

- a. Poor nations provide market access to wealthy nations, permitting the wealthy nations to enjoy a higher standard of living.
- b. Wealthy nation's entirely perpetuate a state dependence by various means. This influence may be multifaceted, involving economics, media control, politics, banking and finance, education, culture, sport and all aspects of human resources development and
- c. Wealthy nation's actively counter attempts by dependent nations to resist their influences by means of economic sanction and/or the use of military force. (*Suckel 1969:23-24*). Therefore, according to Santos (*1971:227*) "Dependency theory is a very deep-seated historical process, rooted in the internationalization of capitalism; it is also an ongoing process (i.e. dynamic)". Thus, the dependency theory approach to the assessment of United Nations Development and Millennium Development Programmes in Ondo State and with its effect on the host communities is relevant to this study because it analyses the motive for putting in place the MDGS project, whether it is for dependent or interdependent economic purpose. Also it will ascertain the benefits of the programme and its sustainability in the State and particularly the MVP which could enhance global partnership for development.

### Literature Review

There are different perspectives to development, but a general consensus that development will lead to good change manifested in increased capacity of people to have control over material assets, intellectual resources and ideology and obtain physical necessities of life (*Igbuzor 2006:15*). Today, a prominent topic commonly talked about is the need for development and its universality. Rodney (*1972:9*) opined that a society develops economically as its members increase jointly their capacity for dealing with the environment. This however entails science as the law of nature and the inherent struggles to exploiting the resources of nature. To buttress this, Quattara (*1996:69*) sees development as a movement by which society undergoes changes, decides its own change direction and realizes change in itself. Consequently, Quattara identified two fundamental issues that development is a change, and development is desired and directed.

African societies, therefore, undergo change, not just for the pleasure of it but in so far as that change also builds up conditions of satisfying a certain number of aspirations.

Thirkwal (*2005:45*) identified three basic components or core values that must be included in any true meaning of development; these are life sustenance, self-esteem and freedom (*Ibid:43*). Life sustenance is concerned with the provision of basic needs of life and to be fully developed as a nation is to be able to meet the basic needs of people in the areas of health, housing, clothing, food and minimal education. He clarified that a nation may have a relatively high average standard of living and an impressive growth performance over years, but still have a poor provision of basic needs, leaving large sections of the population in an under developed state.

This X-rays the view of Agboola (*2003:82*) "that development means both qualitative and quantitative growth facilities an opportunities made available to the people by government/international organizations like UNDP over a period of time which facilitates opportunity that could ultimately improve appreciably their quality life and economic well-being.

UNDP (*1994*) that postulated that sustainable human development is only realized if economic development alleviates poverty and ensures equitable wealth distribution; provides people with jobs, options and opportunities that are social, institutional, rational and environment sustainable, resource based, empowers people, particularly women, the poor and the disadvantaged and ensures their mobilization and participation in the development and takes place within an enabling political environment of good governance (*Awosika 2004:182 – 183*).

MDGs project is seen as a holistic approach to development of the world, especially the developing world in the sense that it affects all segments of the society; it provides additional entry point to engage government and non-government institutions on development issues and it provides the

link between local and international actions towards human centered development. Hence, the hallmark of MDGs is development because it draws together in a single agenda, issues of priority that are required to address the development question (*Igbuzor 2006:16 emphasis mine*).

Akinde ( 2008:42), believed that "as lofty as the MDGs frame work appears, the realization is hinged on the tackling of the latent suspicious and the problems inherent in the eight MDG "developing a global partnership" which is the problem of resolving the intractable difficult solution of neo-colonial development paradigm which favours globalized economy with its lopsided structure. Therefore, he concluded that the realization of the lofty targets of MDGs is not a matter of economic development rhetoric of growth rate, inflation rate, GDP, etc. but a thorough, strong political will and learning from the past efforts with a view to charting a new way for the future.

Mc Donnell (2004) in his survey on MDGs noted "How much do people know about the MDGs" conclude that early results from polls in Canada, Sweden, The United Kingdom and The United States reveal that there is very little awareness about the existence of the goals. This scholar noticed wide country differences and group differences. For examples, Swedish's given priority to all eight MDGs, while Canadians think the goals are too numerous and too vague. Women and young people tend to be more optimistic than men and the older groups. In all, People are skeptical about the possibility of achieving these goals, especially those concerning the environment and halving extreme poverty. ([www.oecd.org/dev/opinion](http://www.oecd.org/dev/opinion)).

**Table 4.6:****Awareness Of The Respondents About MDGS Project**

	<b>NO. OF RESPONSES</b>	<b>PERCENTAGE</b>
<b>YES</b>	176	81.11
<b>NO</b>	41	18.89
<b>TOTAL</b>	217	100

Source: Field Data (2009)

From the Table 4.6, above it can be discerned that 81.11 percent of the respondents are aware of the Millennium Village Project at one stage or the other in their areas, while only 18.89 per cent of the respondent claimed not be aware of the projects at all.

**Table 4.7:****The Stages Of Involvement Of The Community Concerned**

	<b>EXECUTION</b>	<b>COMPLETION</b>	<b>CONCEPTION</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>
<b>NUMBERS</b>	113	90	17	220
<b>PERCENTAGE</b>	51.36	40.95	7.69	100

Source: Field Data (2009)

The Table 4.7 suggests that 51.36 per cent became involved in the projects at execution stage, 40.95 per cent (90 respondents) became involved at completion stage, while 7.69 per cent (17 respondents) got involved at conception stage. This, therefore, depicts that the elite in the community were the only people that were involved in the formation and planning while the execution of the projects is done by other members of the community.

**Table 4.8:****Concerns Consultation with The Respondents Before Execution Of The Mv Project**

	<b>NO. OF PERSONS</b>	<b>PERCENTAGE</b>
<b>YES</b>	81	35.16
<b>NO</b>	143	63.84
<b>TOTAL</b>	224	100

Source: Field Data (2009)

The majority 63.84 per cent (143 respondents) claimed they were not consulted before the MVP was conceived. However, 36.16 (81 respondents) indicate that they were consulted. It shows that only small groups (elite) were consulted on behalf of the community. This undermines the interest of the majority of the benefactors.

**Table 4.9:**  
**Numbers of Household That Benefited From The Projects**

	<b>NO. OF PERSONS</b>	<b>PERCENTAGE</b>
<b>YES</b>	126	57.27
<b>NO</b>	94	42.73
<b>TOTAL</b>	220	100

Source: Field Data (2009)

From table 4.9 above, it could be deduced that 57.27 per cent (126 respondents) household benefited from the Millennium Village Project, 42.73 per cent (94 respondents) household claimed not to have benefited from the projects. In the same vein, the table 4.10 below shows that 66.82 per cent of members of the community benefited while 33.18 is said not to benefit from the project.

**TABLE 4.10:**  
**Number of Persons That Benefited From The Projects**

	<b>NO. OF PERSONS</b>	<b>PERCENTAGE</b>
<b>YES</b>	147	66.82
<b>NO</b>	73	33.18
<b>TOTAL</b>	220	100

Source: Field Data (2009)

**Table 4.11:**  
**Identification of New Projects In The Community**

	<b>SCHOOL</b>	<b>MEDICAL CENTRE</b>	<b>BORE HOLE</b>	<b>ROAD CONSTRUCTION</b>	<b>AGRICULTURE</b>	<b>NONE</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>
<b>NUMBER</b>	99	104	26	5	66	23	323
<b>PERCENTAGE</b>	30.65	32.20	8.05	1.55	20.43	7.12	100

Source: Field Data (2009)

From Table 4.11, 30.65 per cent (99 respondents) claimed that school projects were obvious; likewise 32.20 per cent (104 respondents) indicated medical facilities, while 20.43 per cent (66 respondents) claimed Agricultural facilities. About 8.05 per cent (26 respondents), 1.55 per cent (5 respondents) and 7.12 per cent (23 respondents) claimed Borehole, Road Construction and no project at all respectively.

	<b>VERY LOW PRIORITY</b>	<b>LOW PRIORITY</b>	<b>AVERAGE PRIORITY</b>	<b>HIGH PRIORITY</b>	<b>VERY HIGH PRIORITY</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>
<b>NUMBERS</b>	23	23	101	52	19	218
<b>PERCENTAGE</b>	10.55	10.55	46.33	23.85	8.72	100

**Table 4.12: THE RESPONSES TO THE PRIORITY OF NEW PROJECTS**

Source: Field Data (2009)

Table 4.12 above shows that 21.10 per cent of respondents rated these projects as low priority to the people (the benefactors). 46.33 per cent (101 respondents) claimed the projects are of average priority while 23.85 per cent indicated that the projects are of high and very high priority respectively.

**Table 4.13: The Benefits Obtained From Mv Project**

	<b>EDUCATION</b>	<b>MEDICAL TREATMENT</b>	<b>CHILD DELIVERY</b>	<b>AGRICULTURE</b>	<b>GOOD ROAD</b>	<b>NONE</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>
<b>NUMBERS</b>	51	155	16	41	3	9	275
<b>PERCENTAGE</b>	18.55	56.36	5.82	14.91	1.09	3.27	100

Source: Field Data (2009)

Table 4.13 indicates that 18.55 per cent of the respondents benefited from education, 62.18 per cent respondents claim to have benefited from medical treatment/child delivery. Also, 14.91 percent respondents benefited from Agricultural facilities while 1.09 per cent respondents benefited from Road Construction and 3.27 per cent claimed to have benefited from none of the projects.

	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>Not sure</b>
Numbers	76	85	34
Percentage	37	44	17

	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>Not sure</b>
Numbers	9	178	7
Percentage	5	91	4

	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>Not sure</b>
Numbers	158	25	11
Percentage	81	13	6

	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>Not sure</b>
Numbers	89	86	16
Percentage	47	45	8

	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>Not sure</b>
Numbers	113	58	21
Percentage	59	30	11

	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>		<b>Not sure</b>
Numbers	34	144		14
Percentage	18	75		7

**Table 4.14: Impact of The Project**

14. Since the project, we now have adequate supply of water
15. Since the project, we now have adequate medical treatment
- Since the project, we now have good road network

Since the project, enrolment in school has increased and the standard of school improved

Since the project, we now have an increase in agricultural projects

Since the project, my income has improved

Table: 4.14 depicts the impacts of the projects in the following order:

81 per cent of the respondents claimed that medical treatment takes the lead in the impact made on the benefactor. 59 per cent attested to the fact that agricultural education activities followed in the order. Also, education trails it with 47 per cent while adequate water supply and increase in income of the benefactor followed with 37 per cent and 18 per cent respectively. Road network has the least input with 5 per cent of the population

(ii) The Millennium Village Project has evolved some coherent values that have changed the socio-economic and human capacity of the people in Ibaram/ Ikaram millennium village cluster.

### **Findings**

The Millennium Village Project is committed to 5 years of funding and anticipated that the community will become economically self-sustaining in commercial farming and non-farm activities within the period. The system or process does not forge any linkage between industries or small scale industry and agriculture generate employment and/or transfer of knowhow and technology to the people. The committee systems are used in leasing/release of agricultural inputs, machinery tractors, while interested farmers apply to the committee. Few people benefited from the meagre inputs made available, because of personal differences, political differences and other bottlenecks, inputs and other materials are either released late or not released at all to the applicants. There is no total capacity building for the communities for necessary achievement of community level ownership and long term village level sustainability. Income growth has not improved significantly, since the project started because of lack of stimulation in craftsmanship, agro-allied work and trading.

Medical Assistants engaged in dispensing of drugs from house to house for the treatment of children between the ages of 01 – 05 years. There is the distribution of treated mosquito nets. Pregnant women visit the health centres for medical treatment. The medical equipment and personnel required are not adequately available in the cluster.

Awareness in respect of HIV/AIDS and other diseases is low, because for poor public education and the media required for enlightenment are not available or not on ground. The Anti-retroviral drugs, Anti-retroviral therapy centers and diagnosis centres are about 200km from these communities (i.e. Akure). Besides the drugs are highly expensive and are less accessible.

Building of blocks of classrooms and renovation of some primary schools were carried out in all the communities. These primary schools are equipped with the necessary instructional materials. Four Information and Communication Technology Centres (ICT) are established in four communities with installed computer for e-learning. The renovation, equipping the centre and staffing were done under the MVP to ensure maximum use of the centres. These centres engage in the training of youth in the environs in computer operation, internet browsing facilities and other services.

Degraded water infrastructure and poor management capacity of the officials or experts have made these communities lack access to adequately protected sources of water that is close to their dwellings. Moreso, when there is no pipe borne water and the boreholes provided under MVP are unproductive (i.e. malfunctioning). According to some respondents "we only drink water on the television, but water is not available in the communities". (Field work 2009)

Road network in the cluster is poor. The poor road condition affected both the feeder and rural roads. For instance, the bridge linking Ajowa with the other communities has broken down and been abandoned; hence the communities are cut-off from other towns. There is no adequate saving facilities; unable to invest the available income or increase physical assets that will lead to economic growth. It was observed that there is no banking facility in the area, market for agricultural products or any other commercial activities. Also, there is no ware house to keep their agricultural products for future sales.

In addition, there is inadequate manpower in the service of the programme, hence, distribution of goods is delayed or goods do not get to the appropriate place on time or at all. This makes the programme less effective and efficient as expected.

Un-controlled logging, tree felling and depleting of forest resources are a hazard to the environment. Also are the uncontrolled and unprofessional use of agro-chemical, coupled with primitive procedures of meat hunting (poaching), bush burning, exterminating wildlife and biodiversity (*Adebayo 2004:23*).

There is a wide gap between planned projects and implemented projects. The project is expected to enjoy partnership with some bodies for skill acquisition, productivity of the benefactors and sustainability of the project.

Therefore, there is no local capacity building for the communities for necessary achievement of expected community level ownership and long term village level sustainability.

Private Sector of the economy and Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) have not been contributing to MDGs fund. This is because these groups are skeptical about government's ability to use funds efficiently and effectively. The operators of the sector are of the opinion that this fund could be squandered or diverted through corruption.

Also, the participation of some private people through provision of basic social services in which event user fees are charged has prevented the poor from accessing basic services as water, primary/junior secondary education, health and transportation. Moreso, when government failed to be responsible, responsive and alert to its constitutional roles. This detracts the achievement of the MDGs I the Village cluster.

## **RECOMMENDATIONS**

The argument to the effect that we are economically backward is already stale and unconvincing. So also has the complaint about being a country in the throes of huge foreign debt, become too trite. All that is required is better management of existing resources under a focused leadership. Empowerment of beneficiaries should transcend welfare package but include maximum investment in human capital development through definite capacity building with a view to achieving self-sustaining economic development. For example, the fund allocated to agricultural development should be increased to give required vitality and vigor to generate the desired effect and employment. Also, the programme should encourage farmers in other agricultural related activities (i.e. diversification) other than crop farming (e.g. poultry, piggery, rabbitary etc.). Similarly, the programme should ensure that provisions are made available for faculties to process, preserve and store agricultural products with a view to prolonging shelf lives of these products. Rapid intervention in the provision of infrastructural facilities, among others, is the rehabilitation and construction of roads. For example, there is an urgent need to construct the bridge linking Gedegede with Ajowa for effective and efficient transportation and distribution network for goods and services. This is necessary in that good road network is adjudged to be the foundation for any rural people empowerment and development. (*Anthonio, 1979:212 - 217*).

The local government area of the affected communities should be involved in the conception, execution and monitoring of the project more than the state government. This is necessary in that when local governments partner with the UNDP and work with the villages, it creates and ensures real community-led actions plan tailored towards the villages' specific needs and designed to achieve the MDGs. Any policy or meaningful effort aimed at empowering a majority of Nigerians to get out of poverty has to be firmly rooted in local government. Having noted that the local government is nearest to the beneficiaries, it will foster better relationship with the communities and protect the interest of these communities than the state government (Omer 2008).

Provision of Sales Avenue and up to date market information system should be improved upon through efficient, effective and maximum utilization of the ICT centres and construction of local market stalls for the people in these areas.

There could be sustained public enlightenment concerning the disadvantages in uncontrolled procreation. Government should therefore introduce Family Planning and Sex education methods to these rural men, women and ladies who may not understand them.

Government should make supply of kerosene cheap and affordable to rural dwellers in order to discourage felling of trees for domestic use. Also, these rural dwellers should be involved in the formulation, enforcement and enlightens in the policy, law and regulation that has to do with the protection of environment. Government should stimulate and support the development of the craft, art and design capacity of the people. This is because the sector accounts for most employments; there should be technical and other forms of assistance like access to appropriate sources of credit with reasonable lending rate. Construction of new roads, rehabilitation of the existing roads and expansion of other physical and social services should be pursued vigorously to ensure movement of labour to and from the area. The Technocrats handling development programmes, especially MDGs as well as Sectoral experts in the Ministries, Department and NGOS need to be trained in the design, implementation and monitoring of the MDGs. Also, there is the need for capacity building of the implementers in the collection and analysis of data on MDGs in the effective implementation of its policy and programme. There is the urgent need to reform the institution and administrative frame work for MDGs resource management. This will enhance effective and efficient utilization of present and future resources for optimum benefit by the people. Also, the re-engineering would ensure due process, diligence, transparency and accountability. Also, government should encourage and take steps to ensure local capacity building by domesticating technical assistance as much as possible. This is because merely funding expatiates consultants, without building domestic capacity cannot guarantee sustenance of the MDGs. The huge fund required by this programme required a strong and broad based revenue generation. This can be done by exerting considerable efforts to improve the domestic non-oil tax sector and diversity with a view to steering the nation's economy away from dependence on oil revenue. Likewise, state and local governments should exert significant efforts to boost IGR by tapping potential sources of revenue to complement the federal allocation. This is necessary because non-oil sector will provide a more stable and predictable revenue than the oil sector which is highly susceptible to the vagaries of the international market. Government should resolve that development assistance that may be coming must be in the form of grant and technical assistance geared towards human, technical and institutional capacity building for the achievement of the MDGs.

Government and other stakeholders should encourage the private sector to contribute in kind, to adapt specific MDGs interventions or to step up corporate social responsibility in MDGs programme implementation.

## **CONCLUSION**

Development programmes seek to implement long-term solutions to the problems of developing countries by treating the necessary capacity needed to provide such sustainable solution to their problems. This programme could be a single transformative project or a series of project targeted at several aspects of society.

MV Project being one of such programmes seen to be holistic and that it affects all the segments of the society. The goals are interrelated and interdependent as trying to tackle one goal, involves the other. It could be said, therefore, that these goals are interdependent in a number of complex ways. For example, to alleviate poverty, Nigeria must increase the opportunities for chronic empowerment whilst concurrently providing essential social services to the poor.

Having established the holistic nature of MDGs, there is the need to examine other features or components that make development project appropriate productive and sustainable. A project is appropriate, if it is acceptable to its recipients and owners, affordable and sustainable in the content in which it is executed.

Also, a productive project or generating project must be able to contribute to national development and to encourage self-reliance. Furthermore, that such development programme must

produce ramifying effects for national development and self-reliance in terms of investments and skilled man power, as well as innovative ideas and catalytic effects (*Gitelson, 1975:9 – 10*).

Nigeria or Ondo State has tried to integrate some of the MDGs into her NEEDS or SEEDS strategy. This is believed to be a comprehensive socio-economic reform compact that guides Nigeria towards achieving the benchmarks by year 2015. It is, however, quite unfortunate that much has not been done on human capital development on the field which could generate required catalytic effects on needed development. This becomes necessary in order to ensure reliability and effectiveness of the project. Moreso, resources are easily pooled to facilitate project implementation and accountability at the grassroots. The MDGs equally provide additional entry point to engaging government on development, and it provides the link between local and international actions towards human centred development. Also, one becomes skeptical about the dependence of Nigeria development on foreign assistance when estimated fund needed for this project cannot be sourced domestically. This, often times, leads to uncertainty and could make Nigeria relapse unto unguarded borrowings. Conclusively, this research work has not pretended that the goals may be achieved by 2015, as it is going to be a long-term project. However, we must ensure that the positive impact measures of the MDGs affect the human capacity build-up of the beneficiaries through their income growth. This is because what we have now is "Cosmetic Development". In doing this, there is the need to deviate from the perspective of the West tailored development programmes but as a development standard based on self-reliant principle devoid of corruption and dependable on foreign capital. This underscores the need to ensure transparent, accountable and responsive governance. This translates to building synergy among all the three tiers of government in Nigeria. Above all, the interdependence between the MDGs demands that government should collaborate with private sector and the civil society/organization to address these goals at once. One cannot invest in water and leave power supply or construction of roads and invest in health or education vice-versa. If this is not done, the UNDP monitoring efforts on the goals will be wasted and unaccomplishing. The MDGs are the minimum we should be achieving in all these sectors if we are to be sincere to human development.

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