



Millennium Development Goals and Poverty Eradication in Enugu State

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Abstract

The challenges facing humanity prior to the 21st century was instrumental to the fusing together of world leaders to brainstorm and initiate strategies on how best to tackle the problems that threaten human existence. This move led to the emergence and launching of eight Millennium Development Goals initiative with a strong task to world leaders to evolve policies that will help address the identifiable challenge. In line with this, Nigerian government through the National Economic Empowerment and Development Strategy articulated viable ways to achieve the eight Millennium Development Goals by the year 2015. At the state level, Enugu State Government replicated the federal initiative and developed the State policy to complement the efforts of the federal government. In the light of the above, the paper seeks to examine the extent at which the Millennium Development Goals was achieved in Enugu state vis-a-viz: Has the implementation of the Millennium Development Goal led to reduction in the maternal mortality in Enugu state? The objective of this paper is to determine whether the implementation of Millennium Development Goals led to reduction of maternal mortality in Enugu state. The aid of secondary data and complex Interdependent theory offered theoretical explanation on why the incidence of maternal mortality has persisted despite all efforts by Enugu State government in check-mating the menace. The paper argues the inability of Enugu state to tap into the potentials availed by the globalization as major impediment for non-realization of the Millennium Development Goals 1 and 5. As a result, Enugu State can achieve this goal if the state government explores multi-dimensional approaches that will incorporate inter-state and trans-national entities that form the major stakeholder in globalization process.

Keyword: Maternal Mortality, MDGs, Strategic Framework, Poverty, SEEDs, NEEDs.

Introduction

The poverty situation in Nigeria is on high side and several attempts made by successive governments to ameliorate the scourge became futile, despite abundant resources in Nigeria.) Nigerian natural and human resources potentials in the first four decades of its independence remained largely untapped and even mismanaged (Chukwuemeka 2009, Omotola, 2008). The level of poverty is geometrically increasing deeply and pervasive, with about 70 percent of the population living in abject poverty (Abu, 2009 and Eze, 2009). However, the fight against poverty is the central plank of development plan since 1960 and almost 15 ministries, 14 specialized agencies, 19 donor agencies and non-governmental organizations have been involved in this crusade yet many Nigerians still live in poverty (Soludo, 2003). The failure to combat this phenomenon has been blamed on infrastructural decay, endemic corruption,

poor governance and accountability (Okonjo-Iweala, 2003). The recognition of poverty as a common denominator in the global community brought Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) a lime light and adopted in September 2000 (Ovwasa, 2006; DAC, 2001). The goal of Millennium Declaration is an offshoot of MDGs to free all men, women and children from abject and dehumanizing conditions of extreme poverty in 2015. In view of this, MDGs have been domesticated through the creation of MDGs office, despite the implementation of other poverty eradication agencies in Nigeria the scourge remain unabated. According to UNDP Report (2003), poverty incidence in Nigeria is more preponderant in rural areas, where poverty eradication programmes are in short supply and most times non-existent. It is so pathetic that a country rich in oil and gas with other natural resources cannot boast of putting food on the table of its citizens. An average Nigerian is living below one dollar per day, it is as a result of this malady in third World countries that United Nations in year 2000 met on Millennium Summit in USA and arrived at Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). Nigeria keyed into MDGS with policy document called National Economic Empowerment and Development Strategy (NEEDS) for the action goal of wealth creation, employment generation, poverty reduction and value re-orientation. The intent of NEEDS is to meet goals of MDGs, especially poverty reduction. According to Mohammed (2006) MDGS indicators relate to poverty reduction and hunger in the case of Nigeria, poverty is accelerating at a terrific speed, progress towards minimizing the menace at a slow pace. The failure of implementation is attributed to weak commitment on countries policymakers that gave poverty reduction low priority (Edoh, 2003). Enugu state is made up of 299 communities, only Enugu North, Enugu south and Enugu East stand as cities and urban area. About 75% of the population live in rural areas to solidify the assertion that Enugu is a rural state (Nwankwo, 1998). The failure of rural development can be equated to the state as a whole to develop. The state is one of the state's housing the Ibo ethnic group, each of the rural communities is genealogically in a web of patriarchal descent. In terms of land use, financial resources and consequent development of the local communities and indeed of the state in general, these are absentee members of the communities. The state is one the Nigeria's lowest poverty rates at 32.1% in 2007 an index of 48%, but the spirit of self reliance is very high among them. HIV/AIDS prevalence of 4.23% in 2005, infant mortality rate estimated at about 88 per 1000 and under-5 mortality rate of 142 per 1000. Internally generated revenue is 15% total State revenue in 2007, while the rest (85%) come from the federation allocation. The net primary school completion rate is 52% while 88% of women between 15- 24 years are literate (Ebo, 2009). The economy of the state is on unbalance tripod of public sector and organized private sector (Nwankwo, 2010). The preoccupation of this paper will evaluate MDGs and poverty eradication in Enugu state, Nigeria. The adoption of millennium development goals (MDGs) and poverty eradication in Enugu state within the period under investigation will examine the problems and prospects of achieving a remarkable reduction in Nigeria's poverty profile within the framework of MDGs.

Millennium Development Goals in Nigeria

The circumstance surrounding the idea of Millennium Development Goals was principally due to the resolution and commitment of the world leaders to adopt common and proactive measures towards addressing the fundamental challenges threatening human existence most especially in the developing economies of the world (ECA, 2014, and UN, 2015). It was



observed that the level of poverty and its effects have deepened in the peripheral socio-economic formation and there was need to address the menace in the new millennium. The historical overview of the Millennium Development Goals initiative can be found in the works of DFID (2007), Chukwuemeka (2009), Nnamani (2012), Abur et al (2013), Kolawole et al (2014), According to the Socialist International cited in Elekwa (2008), the Millennium Development Goals is part of the social democratic approach to governance in a global society. The MDGs were introduced and agreed on at the united nation millennium summit in September 2000 with 189 heads of states and government committed on behalf of their people in the millennium declaration to free their fellow citizens from the abject dehumanizing conditions of extreme poverty. The declaration reaffirms universal values of equality, mutual respect, and shared responsibilities for the conditions of all peoples and seeks to redress the lopsided benefits of globalization. At the heart of the declaration are human rights, peace gender equality, environment and the pressing priorities of the least developed countries and Africa. Eight development goals emerged from this declaration, firmly committing governments to an ambitious set of goals and targets by a deadline of 2015. In the same vein, DFID (2007) while presenting the historical overview of the initiative posited that the MDGs were introduced as of 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 a series of 18 targets were also drawn up to join to give the international community a number of tangible improvement to aim for within a fixed period of time and also make it easier for them to progress to date. The intention is that almost all these targets will be achieved by 2015. The Millennium Development Goals explicitly recognize in goal 8 that eradicating poverty and its underlying causes requires a global partnership for development. In the goals rich and poor country leaders recognized their shared role and responsibilities to eradicate poverty worldwide. Developing countries Pledged to strengthen governance, institutions and develop countries for their parts, committed to additional and more effective and more sustainable debt relief and increase trade and technology, opportunities for poor countries.

The specific objectives of MDGs according to MDG Nigeria (2010) are;

1. To eradicate extreme poverty and hunger.
2. To achieve universal primary education.
3. To promote gender equality and empower women.
4. To reduce child mortality.
5. To improve maternal health.
6. To combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases.
7. To ensure environmental sustainability.
8. To develop global partnership for development.

This manifested in the launching of the National Economic Empowerment and Development Strategy (NEEDS) at national level, State Economic Empowerment and Development Strategy (SEEDS) at state level, Local Economic Empowerment and Development Strategy

(LEEDS) at local level (AFPODEV, 2006). There was an attempt towards Community Economic Empowerment and Development Strategy (CEEDS) and the Family Economic Empowerment and Development Strategy (FEEDS). Moreover, the Medium Term Sector Strategies (MTSS) were developed to guide the preparation and implementation of the Medium Term Expenditure Framework (MTEF), with 57 percent of total capital spending earmarked for the MDGs related sectors (Kolawole, 2014). The extents at which the MDG initiatives have impacted on the lives of the Nigerian populace have been subject of intellectual inquiry, arguments and discourse. The works of Chukwuemeka (2009), Anger (2010), Abur (2014) identified challenges such as corruption, lack of political will, infrastructural inadequacies and others, as the major impediments to the actualization of the Millennium Development Goals initiatives in Nigeria. Nnamani (2012) note that the roles outlined above in inhibiting Nigeria from achieving the Millennium Development Goals initiatives however differed and maintained that the failure can be located in the inability of Nigerian leadership to strictly adhere to the basic dictates of politics. According to him, the ideal politics is always human-centred and emphasis is always aimed at maximizing the human welfare. Nnamani (2012), contrast the popular notion of politics held by the Nigerian leadership and policy-makers as fundamentally an avenue and platform for plundering and amassing of commonwealth for self-services rather than for the welfare of the generality of Nigerian citizens.

Theoretical Framework

Traditionally, this seeks to interrogate the dynamics and nature of interaction between sovereign states especially developed and developing economies have been analyzed within the framework of dependency approach. As captured by Okolie (2006), many scholar falls into the temptation of deploying the dependency theory, which in most case misdirect by emphasizing the untenable policy of delinking, a situation that is quite impossible and impracticable in the present world global village. The contemporary globalized international system where interconnectivity and interdependence between and among states becomes imperative, and a necessary condition for achieving meaningful economic development by states, thereby, foreclosing the contending notion of isolation from the global system. The current globalized world operates under the regimes of capitalism emanate from the paradigm of socio-economic liberalism on the complex interdependence as analytical tool (Onuoha and Omenka, 2014).

Historically, the complex interdependent theory emerged in the 1970s as a counterpoise to political realist paradigm in international politics and become foundational to current theories that have been categorized as liberalism, neo-liberalism and liberal institutionalism. The complex interdependence was developed by Keohane and Nye (1977) and popularized by Okolie (2006). The theory contends that states and their fortunes are inextricably tied together and as a result, interdependence between states in the international political economy becomes an objective necessity and inevitable. The theorists recognized that the various and complex transnational connections and interdependencies between states and societies were increasing while the use of military force and power balancing are decreasing but remain important. In making use of the concept of interdependence, Keohane and Nye (1977) differentiated between interdependence and dependence in the role of power in politics and relations between international actors.



The following are basic assumptions underlining the complex interdependent theory as articulated in Okolie (2006):

- a. There exist multiple channels that connect societies. These channels can be in the form of interstate, trans-governmental and transnational relations.
- b. The inter states relationships consists of multiple issues that are not arranged in a clear or consistent hierarchy. This means inter alia, that military security does not dominate the agenda, distinction between domestic and foreign issues becomes blurred while inadequate policy coordination on these issues involves significant costs;
- c. Military force plays a relatively minor role in international relations mainly because “it is not used by governments toward other government within the region, or on the issues, when complex interdependence prevails”.

In this sense, Okolie (2014) quoted in Nye (1987) posited that the contemporary global order is bound to thrive on inequality and exploitation. In anticipation of these problems of inequality and exploitation, especially as raised by the realists, the theorists introduced the concept of ‘regimes’ to mitigate anarchy and enhance mutual cooperation. As a result, the main actors of this era are renegotiated global regimes and other non-territorial actors such as multinational corporations, international organizations. The theory is relevant in explaining the contemporary world in which no country can be an island unto itself. Since no nation is naturally equipped or endowed with all the resources that it requires in sustaining itself, it becomes necessary for nations must relate with one another in order to survive. The basic contribution of this theory is that it directs attention to the fact that nations are intricately dependent on one another, to the extent that in every relations that there must be winners and losers. Thus, the theory accepts and indicates the realities of unequal gains from trade two or more interacting nations. In applying the theory, we observe that Nigeria’s formal accession to the MDG development initiative was borne out of the notion that no nation can achieve meaningful development in isolation of others, most especially in this period of globalization. Hence, the suitable approach towards solving the enormous developmental challenges would be through collaborative effort and interdependent linkage. Thus, this theory will help us to appreciate the fact that:

- a. Nigeria cannot sufficiently solve her problem without recourse or alignment with the globally accepted initiative or partnership.
- b. It is economically and efficient for one country to engage in proffering practical solutions and rendering assistance to problems of Nigeria.
- c. Nigeria is absolutely dependent or independent economically to solve her problem.

Nigeria can reap the endless potentials afforded by globalization to restructure productive base of her economy so as to address the seemingly challenges that threatens its existence

MDGs and Poverty Eradication

Some scholars carried out a study on Millennium Development Goals and poverty reduction and these can be located in the works of United Nation (2014), UNDP (2008), Mohammed (2006), Abur et al (2013) among numerous others. For instance, Bello (2007) noted that over

70% of 140 million Nigerians live below the poverty line of one dollar per a day amidst the MDGs initiatives. He blamed deficient and inadequate infrastructural facilities from the rapid urbanization process which increases unemployment and by extension poverty. In the same vein, Oshewolo (2010) while assessing the NEEDs strategic framework argued that the underdeveloped nature of inter-sectoral governance system built on institutional interaction among sectors is a serious challenge. The uncoordinated collaborative efforts between the states, market and civil society is hampering government's interventionist programmes on poverty eradication. Similarly, official report released by the UNDP (2008) stated that the human development report of 2007/2008 on Nigeria showed that the human development index for Nigeria is 0.470, which gives the country a rank of 158th out of 177 countries. Life expectancy was 46.5 percent ranking Nigeria as 165th and adult literacy rate (% ages 15 and older) was 69.1, ranking Nigeria as 104th out of 177, the report also indicated the human poverty index value of 37.3 percent for Nigeria which ranked the country as 80th among 108 developing countries for which index were calculated .

Mohammed (2006) contended that poverty eradication in Nigeria via the MDGs framework has continued to appear as a Herculean task. According to him, MDGs goals, targets and indicators relating to poverty reduction and hunger, are quite relevant in the case of Nigeria. While poverty is accelerating at a terrific speed, progress towards minimizing the menace is at a slow pace. Implementation of the partnerships goals has lagged, and significant progress is apparent only in debt reduction. Meanwhile, Odion (2009) while studying the extent of poverty amidst the MDG initiative noted that 70% of the over 140 million Nigerians currently live below the poverty line of one dollar per day. The rapid urbanization, put over 5 percent per annum, exerts severe pressure on ailing infrastructure. Nigeria is further ranked as one of the twenty five poorest nations in the world. This intensifies youth unemployment. Igbuzor (2006) observes that Nigeria is among the 20 countries in the world with the widest gap between the rich and the poor. According to Earth Trends (2003), the total income earned by the richest 20 percent of the population is 55.7 percent while the total income earned by the poorest 20 percent is 4.4 percent. In terms of human development index, Nigeria is ranked 158th of the 159 countries surveyed in 2005 (CIA World Fact Book, 2009; Oshewolo, 2010). Nonetheless, Abur et al (2013) after appraising the MDG efforts in eradicating poverty in Nigeria contended that the idea failed to justify the purpose of its initiation. It is disheartening to discover that Nigerian government did not meet these targets as contained in the policy document. Nigerians primary health care and the rate of unemployment is increasing on a daily basis and ineffective policy implementation by Nigerian agencies established to accomplish the MDG goals.

According to Garba (2006), all poverty eradication programmes in Nigeria since independence have not produced the desired effect. He contended that the programmes were mostly not designed to alleviate poverty; they lacked clearly defined policy framework with proper guidelines for poverty alleviation; they suffer from political instability, interference, policy and macroeconomic dislocations; and are riddled with corruption, political deception, outright kleptomania and distasteful looting. Ofor & Ofole (2014) while appraising the efficacy of MDG in reducing the poverty situation in Nigeria however, observed that despite providing a platform or roadmap for the development process, there are limitations in utilizing the MDGs as a framework for delivering or measuring development. He noted that



for Nigeria to meet the goals in 2015 there is need to formulate and implement policies that will promote transparency and accountability; overcome institutional constraints; promote pro-poor growth; bring structural change; enhance distributive equity; engender social and cultural re-orientation; engineer political transformation; promote human development; practice inclusive urban development; generate employment and transform power relations.

Aribigbola (2009) studied the institutional constraints to achieving the MDGs in Africa, using Akure Millennium City and Ikaram/Ibaram Millennium Villages both in Ondo state. He observed that although both the Millennium City and village projects have taken off as programmed, the effect of the programme has not been widespread especially in Akure, though the effect of the programme seems visible in the millennium village. He discovered that the problems which programmes are designed to solve are still widespread and the lack of adequate conceptualization of the project militate against full implementation of the project. He identified lack of conceptualisation and understanding both by the implementers and the will of the people at the grass root, over politicization by the government, lack of interest on the part of grass root would-be beneficiary/ community and inadequate funding and capacity under utilisation as the major problems militating against the success of the project. He recommended collective participation that will carry the community along in project design, and implementation as crucial to achievement of the MDGs cum complete removal of civil service bureaucracy.

Oloyode (2006) argued that for MDGs objective of reducing poverty to be realized there is need for establishment of an appropriate political and institutional framework to guide states intervention and market reform. He observed that MDGs being benefits accrued from globalisation requires Africa repositioning through appropriate policy measures. He argued that with appropriate policy measure, Africa in general and Nigeria in particular can attract more capital flows and benefit immensely from full integration into the world economy, which will culminate into speedy realisation of the MDGs objective of alleviating poverty.

Ajayi (2008) studied the success of MDGs in Millennium Village Project and found that Nigeria is at present off track and very slow, when it comes to MDGs implementation and execution. Agbu (2006) observed that for Nigeria to part take of the benefits of MDGs, it is imperative for the country to adopt a practical approach by collaborating with the other countries of the South, and other south multilateral groups in negotiating for better terms of engagement with the developed world. He cited the membership of Nigeria in the Developing Eight (D-8), consisting of Nigeria, Iran, Indonesia, Turkey, Egypt, Bangladesh, Pakistan and Malaysia who unanimously agreed to promote trade among themselves through reforming their custom services and other policies that hinders the free flow of goods and services across their borders to tackle poverty. Alao (2014) examined the challenges of inequality and poverty reduction among Nigerian women and youth with focus on inclusive growth in post 2015 MDG. Employing content analysis of secondary literature was undertaken to address the problem of the study. She found that poverty in Nigeria is not affected due to misdirection of programmes from rural to urban areas, inadequate funding, and lack of control,

transparency and accountability and inadequate coverage of the poor. The poverty in Nigeria can be substantively reduced if an all inclusive approach is adopted covering entrepreneurial training backed with monitoring and accommodation of large coverage of the poor in the programme in post 2015 MDG plans. This unanimously advocated for the reappraisal of the MDG policy framework has failed to address the issue of poverty in Nigeria. The overall National Economic Empowerment Development Strategy at the national level without assessing the progress made by the State Economic Empowerment Development Strategy most especially as it relates to Enugu state.

MDGs and Employment Creation

Unemployment is one of the most serious problems facing Nigeria today (Oshinowo ad Buhari, 2015). This view was equally shared by FGN/MDG (2013) that unemployment has remained one of Nigeria's most challenging socioeconomic burdens. According to the report, the poverty situation is underpinned by the high national unemployment rate- estimated at 23.90% in 2011 as compared to 21.10% in 2010 and 19.70% in 2009. Adebisi and Oni (2012) lamented that the bad situation has been exacerbated by mass production of graduates and school leavers from primary schools, secondary schools, colleges of education, polytechnics and universities without proportionate creation of employment opportunities. In this direction, one components of MDGs idea of poverty reduction is creation of employment and job opportunities for the citizens of Nigeria. Also, President Jonathan acknowledges the fact that unemployment had become one of the biggest challenges in Nigeria and that it could only be addressed with innovative ideas that would empower youths to create jobs. The prioritization of employment generation is not far-fetched as the country is still grappling with youth restiveness, armed robbery and terrorist activities occasioned by the growing incidence of unemployment (NEEDS, 2003; Igbuzor, 2011). UN (2014) observed that while other regions have recorded progress in terms of employment generation, the Sub-Saharan Africa which Nigeria is part of, are lagging behind due to the persistent rise in the unemployment rate. An official study of the National Bureau of statistics (2010) on the national unemployment rates for Nigeria between 2000 and 2009 amidst the MDG-NEEDS policy framework have shown that the rate of unemployment in Nigeria have risen astronomically. According to the report, unemployed persons constituted 31.1%, 13.6% in 2001, 12.6% in 2002, 13.4% in 2004, 13.7% in 2006, 14.9% in 2008, and 19.7% in 2009. Bambale (2014) studied the extent to which NEEDS have succeeded in creating job opportunities in order to reduce poverty between 2004 and 2007. NEEDS has not made a significant impact on Nigeria's infrastructures and standard of living of the majority and therefore status of poverty remain at an alarming rate. He stated that the failure of NEEDS to significantly generate employment and reduce poverty has been attributed largely to weak institutional frameworks and lack of political will in the Nigerian state. The poverty reduction and economic progress in Nigeria insist that majority of Nigerians must have access to quality education and leadership must be committed to the economic reform agenda, encourage development of State institutions and create an enabling investment environment.

Kpelai (2013) examined the strategies adopted by the Federal Government of Nigeria through National Poverty Eradication Programme (NAPEP) and its impact creating job in Benue State and found that the strategies employed by NAPEP have not made significant impact in improving the lives of beneficiaries in Benue State due to structural defects in



implementation strategies adopted by NAPEP such as corruption, poor funding and untimely release of funds, weak monitoring and impact assessment plans, bad governance are major problems constraining the successful implementation of poverty reduction programmes in Nigeria. They recommended that poverty reduction strategies should be constructively structured to effectively target the poor who are the actual beneficiaries; the anti-corruption crusade stand of the Federal Government reinvigorated especially with related cases of poverty reduction programmes; a sound educational curriculum are required at all levels of our educational system on entrepreneurial education and values reorientation; adopting of global approach to infrastructural development and improve access of the poor to micro-credit facilities. Onwumele (2012) reviewed the impact of government policies such as the National Directorate of Employment and the National Economic Empowerment and Development Strategy to ascertain their contributions to employment generation in Nigeria. Rather than aligning with the outcome of the previous studies, he rather found that the policies despite the challenges that confronted them recorded significant progress within the period under study. He advocated for policy alignment and the incorporation of relevant stakeholders such as the private sectors in order to achieve meaningful result. Mukhtar et al (2015) examined how unemployment among Nigerian youth is becoming an alarming issue and posing a serious challenge to the MDGs, the causes and consequences of youth unemployment, critical evaluation on the successes and failures of the MDGs. They noted that Nigeria had witnessed several youth violence and fierce agitations in different parts of the country from Civil War, Movement for the Emancipation of Niger Delta, Bakassi Boys to Boko Haram insurgency which are directly or indirectly attributable to joblessness among the youth. They argued that even in 2015, the deadline for the achievements of MDG goals; there are hundreds of thousands if not a million, more youth who are already in the labour market for more than five years but no job. It is clear that Nigeria is largely populated and that there is high rate of unemployment among youth when an employment advertisement is announced. They argued that the death of many youths due to rowdiness in Abuja during the Nigerian Immigration Service recruitment screening in 2014 is an instance. They stated that achieving a society with more employment opportunities for youth will not just reduce poverty or make Millennium Development Goals reality, it will enhance peace and stability so that it will remain a better place to live. One of the best strategies for meeting the MDGs' goal of eradicating poverty to ensure that youth benefit from MDGs is to make jobs available for people. The strategy for making jobs available does not reside in public or civil service. The idea of promoting vocational, technical training programs and special empowerment schemes for the youths is viable measures for tackling unemployment crisis bedeviling Nigerian youth. Chuma-Mkandawire (2013) view the turbulent economic environment, job creation is pressing global development priority because jobs are scarce or available livelihoods leave households in poverty there is less growth, less security and human development. Job creation and livelihoods goal would be realistic if it upgrades the objective of productive employment as a central goal of the post-2015 development agenda, and these

objectives was added to MDGs in 2005 as the targets of the first MDGs, to eradicate extreme poverty and hunger (<http://dailyindependentnig.com/2013/04/>).

The problem of unemployment in Nigeria as a means of achieving Millennium Development Goal 1, different scholars provided unified opinions. Maina (2013) argued that one of the practical ways of solving the perennial challenges posed by the incidence of unemployment and attain the Millennium Development Goals is through entrepreneurial education. Beetseh and Ahima (2012) note that the vitality of entrepreneurship education as a potent tool for equipping beneficiaries to emerge as job creators in crucial Nigeria's business and economic environment remains a catalyst in achieving millennium development goal one. The government intervention to incorporate entrepreneurship education will help boost employment and end poverty in Nigeria. Salihu (2013) agreed with the view of Maina (2013), entrepreneurship is a panacea to achieve the transformation agenda of President Jonathan and Millennium Development Goals in Nigeria. Ayozie (2004) mentioned the role of entrepreneurship in accelerated industrial development by enlarging the supply of entrepreneurs and the enlarging of small and medium enterprise sector, which offers better potential for employment generation and wider dispersal of industrial ownership. Moreover, Kpelai (2013) assert the role of MDG policies in employment generation in Benue state but the contending intellectual works has shown that none have replicated such in Enugu state.

MDGs Programs in Enugu State, National Poverty Eradication Programme (NAPEP)

The high incidence of poverty in Nigeria occasioned by the burgeoning unemployment rate was the impetus behind the establishment of the National Poverty Eradication Programme in 2001 by President Obasanjo administration. According to Okoye & Onyeukwu (2007), the responsibility of synergizing all stakeholders in poverty eradication cum employment generation in Nigeria (federal, state and local levels), civil society organizations, organized private sectors, women groups and concerned individuals. The idea behind the establishment of NAPEP arose from the failures of successive colonial and post-colonial poverty alleviation programmes to achieve the stated objectives. NAPEP was established as a remedial likewise alternative poverty alleviation programme, which was principally aimed at enhancing the living conditions of the Nigerian populace, including especially the poor and unemployed as could be seen in both the urban and rural areas in Nigeria. The stakeholders recognized reasons responsible for the inadequacy of anti-poverty measures over the years include inadequate involvement of stakeholders, poor management and implementation arrangements and lack of proper coordination. All these have received attention in designing NAPEP and to make it different from all past efforts. The mandate is to monitor and coordinate all poverty eradication cum employment generation strategies in order to ensure better delivery, maximum impact and effective utilization of resources (Okoye and Onyukwu 2007). The government organized National Poverty Eradication Programme into four schemes to enhance qualitative service delivery as follows:

- i. **Youth Empowerment Scheme (YES):** This scheme was carved out and has the responsibility of addressing the problems of unemployment by equipping the youths with relevant skill and engaging them productively. The Youth Empowerment Scheme (YES)



deals with capacity acquisition, mandatory attachment, productivity improvement, credit delivery, technology development and enterprise promotion.

- ii. **Rural Infrastructure Development Scheme (RDS):** The major function of this scheme is to provide the necessary infrastructural facilities that would give impetus for job creation and entrepreneurial activities in the rural areas. It has been argued that poor basic amenities was responsible for the high rate of unemployment in rural areas. The scheme has the duty to provide portable and irrigation water, transport (rural and urban), rural energy and power supply.
- iii. **Social Welfare Services Scheme (SOWESS):** This deals with intervention in special education, primary health care services, establishment and maintenance of recreational centers, public awareness facilities, youth and student hostels, development, environmental protection facilities, food security, provision of agricultural input, provision of micro and macro credits delivery, rural telecommunication facilities, provision of mass transit and maintenance culture.
- iv. **National Resources Development and Conservation Scheme(NRDCS):** This deals with the harnessing of agriculture, water, solid minerals resources, conservation of land and space particularly for the convenient and effective utilization by small scale operators and the immediate community (Okoye and Onyukwu, 2007). However, as an integral part of Nigeria, the National Poverty Eradication was established and launched in Enugu State with the mandate of initiating and implementing programmes that will create job opportunities for the citizens of the state. According to the report of the Department for International Development (DFID) in 2003, the only Scheme of the NAPEP initiative implemented in Enugu state was the Youth Empowerment Scheme with the following components namely; Mandatory Attachment Programme and the Capacity Acquisition Programme.

The Mandatory Attachment Programme (MAP) is the component of the YES exclusively reserved for the unemployed graduates of Universities and Polytechnic, and holders of the Nigerian Certificate of Education (NCE). Trainees are attached to employers for two years in order to acquire relevant job skills. Participants are supposed to receive a monthly stipend of N10, 000 naira for the duration of their attachment. Meanwhile, the Capacity Acquisition Programme (CAP) targets holders of First School-leaving Certificates and Secondary School leavers. Participants are trained for three months in trades such as tailoring, carpentry, plumbing or hairdressing, receiving a monthly stipend of 3,500 naira, after which they are settled in employment and offered trade equipment at a subsidized price (DFID, 2003). Others are Village Economic Development Solution Scheme (VEDSS) and COPE. However, the National Poverty Eradication Programme through the Village Economic Development Solution Scheme empowered about five hundred cooperative societies in Enugu State in November 2010. According to the Coordinator of NAPEP in Enugu State, Mr. Hyacinth Ngwu, about 5000 Enugu indigenes were given soft loans to establish small-scale businesses in their local areas (<http://www.thetidewsonline.com/2010/11/15/enugu-napep-scheme>).

Similarly, the National Poverty Eradication Programme (NAPEP), through the Care of the People (COPE) component of NAPEP, disbursed the sum of N84,000 to each of the 700 households selected from 10 local government areas in the state to benefit from the first phase of the project. National Coordinator of NAPEP, Dr. Magnus Kpakol, who disbursed the funds to the first batch of 55 beneficiaries from Enugu East Local government Area, explained that COPE is Nigeria's version of a conditional cash transfer (CCT) programme, was designed to alleviate the hardship faced by a number of extreme poor in the country through the provision of monthly grants in form of cash transfer to their households to be investment in human capital development. He said that the conditions for participating households include school attendance for basic school aged children and the accessing of government free Medicare for children under five years, Enugu state was selected by NAPEP to be among the first 12 states in the country, to kick-start the implementation of the programme at its pilot phase last year ([h www.thetidewsonline.com/enugu-napep-scheme](http://www.thetidewsonline.com/enugu-napep-scheme)).

Millennium Development Goals and Unemployment in Enugu State

Unemployment is a phenomenon that has gained wide prominence in the international system and every civilized and responsible government have been grappling with how best to checkmate the menace from constituting social problems in their respective states. Moreover, scholars especially from the humanities and social sciences segments have been inundated with the task of providing and outlining the basic criteria for measuring and understanding the concept of unemployment. According to International Labour Organization (1982) unemployment is defined as the resolution concerning the statistics economically active population, employment, unemployment and underemployment, adopted by the 13th International Conference of Labour Statisticians in Geneva. The unemployed comprise all persons above a specified age who during the reference period were without work, currently available for work, seeking work but could not find any work. This definition also included people who have lost their jobs and those who have voluntarily left work. This definition was corroborated by Englama (2001) who maintained that a person is to be unemployed when he or she is able and willing to work and is available for work (that a person is actively looking for employment) but does not have work. Morio & Zoctizoum (1980) quoted in Nwagwu (2014) provided a holistic and exhaustive approach towards the understanding of the concept of unemployment. According to them, unemployment is defined as works available for employment whose contract of employment has terminated or been temporarily suspended and who are without a job and seeking paid employment; persons never previously employed whose most recent status was other than that of employee, together with persons who had been in retirement, who were available for work during the specified period and were seeking paid employment; persons without a job and currently available for work who have made arrangements to start a new job at a date subsequent to the specified period; and persons temporarily or indefinitely laid off without pay. In the same manner, Briggs (1973) conceptualized unemployment as the difference between the amounts of labour employed at current wage and working conditions, and the amount of labour not hired at these levels. In every state, there exist two categories of the population namely; the economically active and the economically inactive. Economically, it refers to the group of people or the segment of population that is willing to work, including those engaged in the production of goods and



services and those who are unemployed. Whereas, the unemployed refers to people who are willing and capable to work but are unable to find suitable paid employment. However, the economically inactive segment of the population refers to people who are neither working nor looking for jobs. In this categorization, we can find the old and retired persons, full time students, those below the legal age for work, the invalids, and the housewives, among numerous others. In terms of typologies, Njoku & Ihugba (2011) outlined different types of unemployment are reproduced in the tables below:

Table Showing Typologies of Unemployment

S/N	Type	Definition
1	Structural Unemployment	Occurs when there is a change in the structure of an industry or the economic activities of the country. As an economy develops over time the type of industries may well change. This may be because people's tastes have changed or it may be because technology has moved on and the product or service is no longer in demand.
2	Frictional Unemployment	This type of unemployment is caused by industrial friction, such as, immobility of labour, ignorance of job opportunities, shortage of raw materials and breakdown of machinery, etc. Jobs may exist, yet the workers may be unable to fill them either because they do not possess the necessary skill, or because they are not aware of the existence of such jobs. They may remain unemployed on account of the shortage of raw materials, or mechanical defects in the working of plants. On average it will take an individual a reasonable period of time for him or her to search for the right

		job.
3	Seasonal Unemployment	This is due to seasonal variations in the activities of particular industries caused by climatic changes, changes in fashions or by the inherent nature of such industries. The rain coat factories are closed down in dry season throwing the workers out of their jobs because there is no demand for rain coat during dry season. Likewise, the sugar industry is seasonal in the sense that the crushing of sugar-cane is done only in a particular season. Such seasonal industries are bound to give rise to seasonal unemployment.
4	Cyclical Unemployment	This type of unemployment (also known as Keynesian unemployment or the demand deficient unemployment) is due to the operation of the business cycle. This arises at a time when the aggregate effective demand of the community becomes deficient in relation to the productive capacity of the country. In other words, when the aggregate demand falls below the full employment level, it is not sufficient to purchase the full employment level of output.
5	Disguised Unemployment	This refers to the mass unemployment and underemployment which prevail in the agricultural sector of an underdeveloped and overpopulated country. For example, if there are four persons trying to cultivate an area of land that could be cultivated as well by three persons, then only three of these persons are really fully employed and the remaining fourth person represents disguised unemployment. The people in underdeveloped countries are outwardly employed but actually they are unemployed, the reason being that agricultural production would suffer no reduction if a certain number of them are actually withdrawn from agriculture.

Sources: Njoku & Ihugba 2011.

Finally, the unemployment rate is expressed as percentage of the total number of persons available for employment at any time. It can be illustrated mathematically:

$$\text{Unemployment rate} = \frac{\text{Unemployed Workers}}{\text{Total Labour Force}}$$

National Directorate for Employment

Unemployment and poverty, especially among school leavers and graduates of tertiary institutions, has remained one of the fundamental challenges threatening the economic development of Nigeria. This problem started assuming crisis proportions during the economic recession of the 1980s and continued to worsen with the implementation of economic reform policies such as currency devaluation, deregulation, trade liberalization, privatization and the enthronement of market forces of which resulted in low capacity utilization in industries, the collapse of various businesses, and massive staff rationalization in both government and private agencies (www.nde.org.ng). National Directorate for Employment has implemented some of their programmes in Enugu State aimed at addressing the high incidence of unemployment in the state. For instance, in 2009, the agency registered no fewer than 320 out of 800 unemployed youths who applied for its skill acquisition and job training scheme that will be attached to master craftsmen in various vocations for the duration



of their training. The state Coordinator, Mrs. Buchi Ojei who said this during an induction programme for successful candidates noted that the training would empower the beneficiaries to become self-reliant, insisting that they could not continue to walk the streets looking for non-existent jobs. She stated that the registered youths would receive training in catering and cosmetology, GSM repairs, Information and Communication Technology and others, and would be paid N2000 monthly stipend throughout the duration of their training. She said that the beneficiaries would be given equipment for resettlement after their training programmes, calling on commercial banks to partner with her agency by giving low interest loans to grandaunts of NDE programmes, like Nigerian Agricultural Cooperative and Development Bank. The NDE coordinator said that the establishment of skills acquisition job training programmes and outlets would lead to the creation of a new generation of self-employed youths who on their own would become employers of labour. According to her, we also have plans to train 250 people in various vocations as part of our ongoing programme to address unemployment and poverty in the country. We want to appeal to commercial banks to partner with us in the area of low interest loans for our trainees. Tackling unemployment is capital intensive and NDE cannot do it alone (<http://www.nigerianbestforum.com/nde-for-skill-acquisition-in-enugu/>). The National Directorate of Employment (NDE) has trained no fewer than 500 youths in various skills under its “schools-on-wheel” vocational training programme in Udenu local government in November, 2011. He states that 200 of the beneficiaries had been resettled by NDE with the assistance of the local government administration. According to the State Coordinator, Mr. Asomugha, commercial sex workers were among those trained by the directorate, while 50 widows also benefited from the trainings in trades such as hair dressing, cosmetology, soap and body cream making as well as catering. In the same 2011, the state Coordinator states that three skill acquisition centres under the MDGs were created in the state to train at least 100 youths before December 31. The centres, he added, were at Ogurute in Igboeze-North local government area, Agbani in Nkanu West local government Area and Nenwe, in Aninri local government area. The coordinator said the youth would be trained in GSM repairs, welding, cosmetology, autotronics, ICT, and computer repairs (<http://www.thetidenewsonline.com/2011/nde-trains-500-youths-in-enugu/>).

Enugu State Agricultural Programme: Songhai Initiative

The Enugu State Agricultural Programme, the Songhai Initiative, which was adopted by the state in 2009, is a knowledge-based agricultural system intended to engage the large number of unemployed youth for training, capacity building and setting up of large-scale farms alongside Public-Private Partnership in the agricultural sector. The Songhai Initiative is the major driver of the State Government's policy and coordinates agricultural projects within the state. Through this model, Enugu State aims to achieve self-sufficiency in food production and agro-allied products by 2015 and 80% export capacity by 2020 by increasing

its production of grade A crops that are up to export standard. Its goals include not only youth/graduate employment and food security but also in turn poverty reduction.

The system functions as a multi-dimension partnership between the state government, local governments, agricultural development consultants and the farmers (graduates who are the owners of the farms). The scheme coordinated, self-sufficient agricultural output in the state is produced. The state is moving towards making agriculture a viable business that will create employment opportunities for citizens and boost its agro-allied industries.

The scheme coordinated by Enugu State Agricultural Development Authority (ENSADA) provides improved seedlings, pesticides, subsidized tractors and other modern farm equipment as well as offering technical advice given by agricultural extension workers at reduced costs. It supports capacity building in the form of training of extension officers and farmers offering opportunities for skills development. In addition, it has established a microcredit fund for small and medium-scale farmers in the state. The Director of Songhai Initiative, Rev.Father Nzeamujo, noted that they had trained over 200 Enugu graduates to work in the farm settlements in local government areas (<http://www.vanguardngr.com/enugu-boosts-mechanized-farming-with-27-tractors-worth-n79m/>).

Enugu State Ministry of Human Development and Poverty Reduction

The Ministry of Human Development and Poverty Reduction is coordinating the development and implementation of Enugu Poverty Reduction and Wealth Creation Strategy (EPRWCS). The strategy itself, which is the first of its kind in the country, is a simple document, aimed at achieving the goals of poverty reduction, employment generation and wealth creation within the shortest possible time. The target of this strategy is to effectively address inequality and alter the noxious social configuration which alienates many of our countrymen. The strategy consists of improved communication and participatory governance, improved public expenditure management, leveraging on existing institutions, and, public sector reforms. The government is well aware that an enabling climate must be created in the state. Thus the state government has included as part of its poverty alleviation and wealth creation strategy, a well crafted programme of building a culture of entrepreneurship and self help, creating an investment friendly environment, providing access to capital, cultivating sustainable environmental management standards, improving basic infrastructure, and improved delivery of basic social services. The strategy achieves its objectives, government has designed to involve all high officials of the state, including political appointees, permanent secretaries and directors, in information gathering so as to effectively prioritize objectives and deploy resources. This will ensure the effectiveness of the delivery of such programmes as adult literacy, early child care centers, primary healthcare projects, school meals, orphan/foster parenting scheme, care for the elderly and the disabled, and prevention as well as care for the people living with HIV / AIDS. In addition, the government has designed a formidable Neighbourhood Association Programme (NAP) as a support to the poverty reduction strategy. The Neighbourhood Associations emerge from this programme to ensure the participation of everyone in the state in the programmes of the strategy, particularly in the area of pollution prevention and control, solid waste management, water resources management, sanitation, town planning and delivery of the various loan schemes (<http://www.enugustate.gov.ng/min-human-dev/>).



Maternal Mortality in Enugu State

The Millennium Development Goals initiative was launched in the year 2000 by world leaders with the expectation of achieving all the targets outlined in the eight components objectives by the year. Empirical studies have shown that poverty has become endemic in Nigeria, with almost 70 percent of the population living below the poverty line. Poverty manifests in form of low income, poor health and education, malnutrition political exclusion, high maternal and child mortality rate, among others. In line with the MDG initiative, the federal government of Nigeria launched national economic empowerment and development strategy, a comprehensive framework targeted to address the perennial challenges of poverty and its effects. Similarly, Enugu state suffers its share of the problem as available statistics indicate poverty in the state to be 60 percent (http://escaiedu.com/en/office_provost.php). In collaborating the idea of the Federal government, the Enugu state government in 2004, launched her state economic Empowerment and Development Strategy (SEEDs). It is a framework initiated to work out modalities and position Enugu state to the path of attaining and advancing the Millennium Development Goals. The strategy has the overarching goal of achieving sustainable poverty reduction through the enhancement of human capabilities. One of the core area targeted in this regard is the reduction of prevailing high rate of maternal mortality in the state. The efficacy of Millennium Development Goals objective is reducing the high cases of maternal mortality in Enugu state.

Appraisal of Enugu State Government Policies in MDG 5

Meanwhile, Enugu state, being a segment of Nigeria is not free from the incidence of maternal mortality. In line with the Millennium Development Goal 5 which connotes improving maternal health, the state Government swung into action by evolving action plans that will help to mitigate the increasing rate of maternal mortality. The guidance of State Economic Empowerment and Development Strategy (SEED), several policies and programs aimed at fighting the high rate if maternal mortality were developed from 2003 to 2014. The following measures or policy actions were taken viz:

1. The establishment of the District Health System in October 2003.
2. Partnership for transforming Health System (PATHS) with Enugu State Government in 2003
3. The policy on Free Maternal and Child Health (FMCH) Care in Enugu State in 2007.
4. Introduction of Integrated maternal and neonatal child health programme.
5. Family planning programme
6. Safe motherhood programme

The District Health System in Enugu State

The District Health System (DHS) is a form of decentralized provision of health care where health facilities, health care workers, management and administrative structures are organized to serve a specific geographic region or population. The concept of a District Health System is closely linked with the primary health care movement and is considered to be a more effective way of providing integrated health services and involving communities than a centralized approach. Whilst the District Health System strategy aims to improve the delivery and utilization of government health services by eliminating parallel services, strengthening referral systems and creating structures for community accountability, country experiences

suggest that implementation of this policy is complex and can be hindered by several factors including: power struggles between State and local level actors, non-compliance or unavailability of health workers, insufficient financial resources and inadequate health system infrastructure. The idea of district health system was conceived by the erstwhile Governor, Dr. Chimaroke Nnamani in June, 2003 and became part of Enugu State Health Policy in October, 2003. However, the District Health System legal framework was developed in June, 2004 and sent to the State House of Assembly for passage into law in October, 2004. The DHS Bill was deliberated on the floor of the House and passed into law July, 2005, while the executive assent was accorded in August, 2005. The idea was nurtured in response to the health indicators of Enugu State, as with those of the country at large, which were generally poor. Nigeria was ranked 187th of the 191 UN members states in the year 2000 (WHO, 2002), infant and maternal mortality is one highest in Africa. Specifically, these characteristics manifested in the following poor health indicators for Enugu State (2004):

- i. Infant mortality rate 110 per 1000 live birth
- ii. Under-five mortality rate 170 per 1000 children
- iii. Maternal mortality rate 144 per 10, 000
- iv. Crude death rate 18 per 1000 population
- v. Crude birth rate 45 per 1000 population
- vi. Life Expectancy at birth 51 years
- vii. Total fertility rate 5.6
- viii. Rate of population growth 2.85%

The Enugu District Health System aims at delivering a range of health care services to population groups ranging from 160,000 and 600,000 people through a structured management system integrates primary and secondary health services.

Partnership for Transforming Health System (PATHS)

The Partnership for Transforming Health Systems (PATHS) is the United Kingdom's Department for International Development's governance programme for strengthening health assistance in Nigeria. It is a development initiative that aims to ensure that Nigeria achieves the health related Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). It is funded by the UK Aid through the Department for International Development. PATHS improve the planning, financing, and delivery of health care services for poor and vulnerable population groups in five states of Enugu, Jigawa, Kaduna, Kano, and Lagos. This approach encompasses partnerships, coordination; advocacy and strategic engagement with decision makers at all levels; strengthen institutions for improved accountability; integrate program management; and reliance on Nigerian-led teams.

More specifically, PATHS seeks to:

- i. Improve health sector governance and management systems. At the federal level, this includes coordinating planning and budgeting cycles to increase the disbursement of budgetary allocations, and expanding the use of national health management information systems data for planning and decision making. At the state and district/local government authority (LGA) level, PATHS is also meshing planning and budgetary cycles, working with state ministries of health (SMOH) to provide primary health facilities with adequate numbers of trained health workers; increasing SMOH capacity to do procurement; and improving facility collection of timely and complete data.
- ii. Develop a model for delivery of quality MCH services. This includes making sure health facilities have essential drugs consistently available; improving facility infrastructure; providing health staff with the equipment and training they need to provide quality services; improving referral systems and emergency transportation for MCH services; and coordinating supportive supervision to ensure improved standards of care.



- iii. Increase health system accountability and responsiveness. PATHS works to establish and support Facility Health Committees through which citizens can raise concerns and demand accountability from facilities and government authorities and advocate for including civil society organizations in policy making and budgeting.
- iv. Strengthen the capacity of citizens to make informed choices about prevention, treatment, and care. PATHS use public service announcements, community meetings, plays, and other modes of outreach to increase citizen knowledge of important health issues.

Free Maternal and Child Health Services in Enugu State

In 2007, the Enugu state Government launched the maternal and child health services. It was against the backdrop of high infant and maternal mortality rates in the State as in other parts of Nigeria. The programme is for all pregnant women in the State to have free antenatal, intranatal and postnatal services like laboratory tests and blood transfusion services. The policy document provides free MCH service for women from 12 weeks of pregnancy to six weeks after delivery and children between 0 to 59 months. It was designed to achieve:

1. Accelerated reduction in maternal and child mortalities in Enugu state through increased access to health care services and removal of user fees.
2. To provide skilled attendance during pregnancy, child birth and postnatal periods.
3. To strengthen the capacity of individuals, families and communities to improve Maternal and Child Health Services
4. To ensure equity in service delivery especially MCH and promote good governance.
5. To assist in the attainment of the health related MDGs especially goals 4 and 5.

The programme was flagged-off at Udi District Hospital on 17th December 2007, with the then Minister of Health in attendance. Full complement of toolkits is in place including policy brief, implementation guidelines, registration cards, reference forms and invoices. The local government areas (LGAs) bought into the programme now provide 50% of estimated 14 million Naira per month fund requirement of the programme.

Family Planning

Family planning is when to have children and the use of birth control and other techniques to implement such plans. Other techniques commonly used sexuality education, prevention and management of sexually transmitted infections, pre-conception counselling and management, and infertility management. Family planning services is defined as educational, comprehensive medical or social activities which enable individuals, including minors, to determine freely the number and spacing of their children and to select the means by which this may be achieved. WHO (2011) states about maternal health that maternal health refers to the health of women during pregnancy, childbirth and the postpartum period. While motherhood is often a positive and fulfilling experience, for too many women it is associated with suffering, ill-health and even death. About 99% of maternal deaths occur in developing countries; more than half occur in sub-Saharan Africa and almost one third in South Asia. Both early and late motherhood have increased risks. Young teenagers face a higher risk of complications and death as a result of pregnancy. Waiting until the mother is at least 18 years old before trying to have children improves maternal and child health. Also, if additional children are desired after a child is born; it is healthier for the mother and the child to wait at least 2 years after the previous birth before attempting to conceive. After miscarriage or

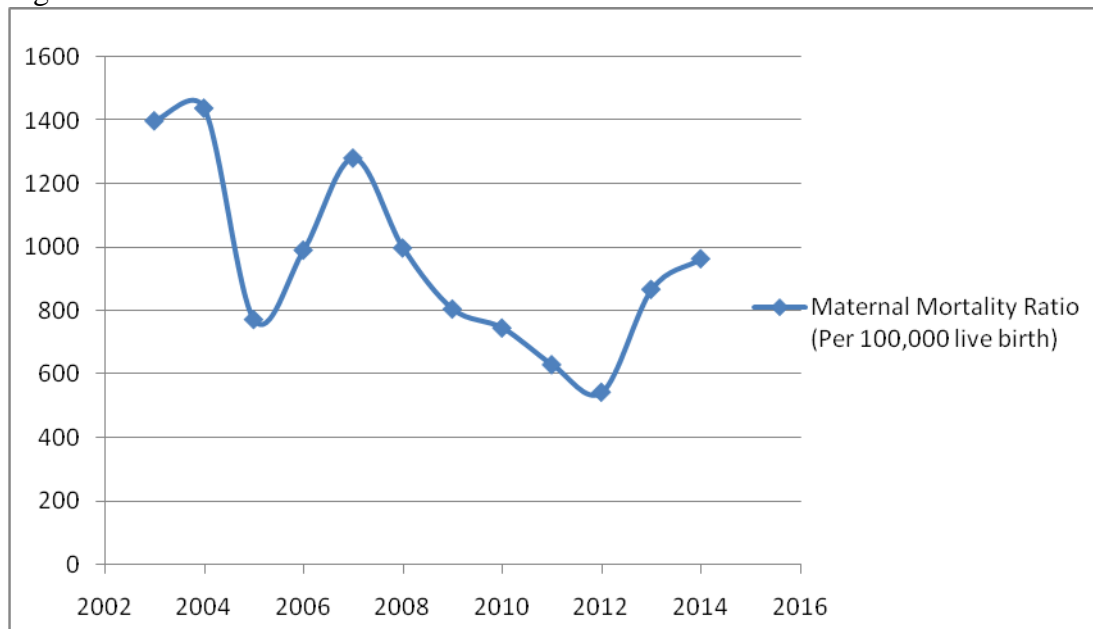
abortion, it is healthier to wait at least 6 months. When planning a family, women should be aware that reproductive risks increase with the age of the woman. Like older men, older women have a higher chance of having a child with autism or down syndrome, the chances of having multiple births increases, which cause further late-pregnancy risks, they have an increased chance of developing gestational diabetes, the need for a Caesarean section is greater, older women's bodies are not as well-suited for delivering a baby. The risk of older mothers has a higher risk of a long labour, putting the baby in distress. Family planning benefits the health and well-being of women and families throughout the world. It is on the basis of the above benefits that Enugu state government introduced and adopted family planning initiatives which involve birth control, assisted reproductive technology and family planning programs. In the pursuit of this policy, the Enugu State Government established the Family planning units in all public hospitals so as to ameliorate the incidences of maternal mortality in the state. For instance, Ezugwu et al (2009) determine the trend of maternal mortality ratio in Enugu state teaching hospital from 2004 to 2008 indicate the following:

Maternal Mortality Ratio in Enugu State from 2000-2014

Year	Maternal Mortality Ratio (Per 100,000 live birth)
2003	1400
2004	1440
2005	772
2006	991
2007	1282
2008	998
2009	805
2010	745
2011	629
2012	542
2013	867
2014	964

Sources: WHO, 2000, 2001, 2003, 2007, 2008, 2011; NDHS: 2002, 2008, 2009, 2013,

Fig. 3



Okebuinor: 2010, Ezugwu et al: 2009

From the above, it remains incontestable that Enugu State has not achieved the universally agreed Millennium Development Goal 5, the state government's effort yielded remarkable progress in decreasing the figure from initial 1400 in 2003 to the present figure of 984 in 2014, the state is far from achieving the UN baseline of 275 per 100,000. Also the Enugu State Governor, Ifeanyi Ugwuanyi while flagging off the 2015 first round of the maternal newborn and child health and re-launching of the State Free Maternal and Child Health in Enugu State Teaching Hospital Enugu on July 3, 2015, lamented the high maternal rate in the state (<http://theadvocatengr.com/governor-ugwuanyi-laments-high-maternal-infant-mortality-rate-in-nigeria>). The failure of MDGs initiative to achieve the target of halving the maternal mortality ratio by the year 2015 in Enugu state can be attributed to the inability of state to develop coherent and workable interdependent strategies that will enable it thrive in this era of globalization.

Concluding Remarks

Poverty is eminent in Enugu State and this requires a pragmatic approach to minimize it. Increasing the employment rate is not only the way out of this trap is to make sure that most vulnerable group of the economy is taken care of to enhance economic development in Enugu State. This failure was recorded amidst all the governmental policies implemented and executed within the time frame of the programme to checkmate the trend. Improved maternal health and employment creation remains a sine qua non for the continued existence of a state.

No society can procreate without healthy worthy and also no society can progress without any meaningful job available for its citizens. It is necessary for government to evolve and implement strategic frameworks that is fundamental in achieving an improved maternal health and providing jobs for its citizens in Enugu State while taking cognizance of globalization process.

In order to achieve the millennium development goal 1 and 5, the Enugu State government must prioritize the following.

- 1) Explore multidimensional means of solving the challenges enshrined in the millennium development goals most especially the goals numbers 1 and 5.
- 2) Develop collaborative working policy that will include all the stakeholders most especially the international or interstate agencies in order to put heads together and solve the challenges posed by the increasing rate of material mortality.
- 3) Align with the best global practices as it has become evident that a corrupt-free state will always get the support of the international donor agencies.
- 4) The agricultural sector should be revitalized to provide employment opportunities like it did in the sixties and seventies.
- 5) Emphasis should be laid on skill acquisition in educational system so as to produce graduates that will provide employment or labour than seekers of employment.

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