

LITERACY AND THE REALIZATION OF THE MDGS IN RURAL NIGERIA

Uche Eme-Uche

Ms., Federal College of Education, Department of Social Studies, Eha-Amufu Nigeria.
uchemeuche@yahoo.com

Abstract

Literacy stands out as one of the foremost challenges that confront the realization of the Millennium Development Goals by the 2015 target. In line with Nigeria's commitments to the United Nations human rights instruments on education as in Education For All (EFA), the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs, Goal 2) and the United Nations Literacy Decade (UNLD); the Federal Government of Nigeria promulgated policies/laws to enforce universal access to basic education with literacy as its cardinal objective. Consequently; the Federal Government of Nigeria established corresponding institutions for implementing the policies and initiated literacy programmes for the target populations at their various locations. Unfortunately; contrary to the anticipated educational outcome, access to basic education though improving, regional and gender differences are still significant. In addition quality, specifically; basic literacy skills of reading, writing and numeracy are not assured rather literacy rate in Nigeria has diminished remarkably. The challenges of the implementation of literacy programmes in rural communities of Nigeria are enormous and would likely persist. This fact informs the exigency for new pathways to literacy in rural Nigeria in view of the 2015 development goals target.

Keywords: Literacy, pathways, rural development