

## **SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS IN NIGERIA: WHAT ROLE(S) FOR NIGERIA'S INDIGENOUS LANGUAGES?**

**Olagoke Alamu**  
Ekiti State University  
Ado-Ekiti, Ekiti State, **NIGERIA**

### **ABSTRACT**

This paper takes a critical look at the roles of Nigeria's indigenous languages in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals in Nigeria. The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) or the Global Goals (GGs) is a United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) policy guideline and funding programme which should be implemented by all member countries between 2016, when it came into effect, and 2030. An assessment of the level of implementation of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) in Nigeria, which serves as a springboard for the SDGs, and which was to be implemented between 2000-2015 reveals that Nigeria has not met twenty five percent of the MDGs. The great challenges of the country have not been met with great action by government. Our observation has shown that the high level of illiteracy has been responsible for underdevelopment and poverty in Nigeria. Information to provide guidance by government to majority of the people on sustainable development can only come from the use of indigenous languages if only 79 million Nigerians out of a population of 156 million can speak and understand English.

**Keywords:** Millennium Development Goals, Sustainable Development Goals, Indigenous languages, Literacy, Language Planning.