INFORMATION AND 2030 SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AGENDA

BY

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Introduction

"Sustainable development is development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own need (WCED, 1987: 43). It contains within it two concepts, the concept of "needs in particular the essential needs of the World's poor, to which overriding priority should be given, and the idea of limitation imposed by the state of technology and social organization on the environment's ability to meet present and future needs" (WECD, 1987: 43). A core principle of sustainable development is to improve human well-being and sustain those improvements over time, through passing the means of survival-on-to future generation unimpaired and building, or at least not diminishing, the total stock capital. It also requires the integration of social, economic, environmental and governance goals in decision making.

Education is an essential and indispensable tool for achieving sustainability. People around the world recognize that current economic development trends are not sustainable and that public

awareness, education and training are keys to moving society toward sustainability. As Helgason (1998) pointed out States face a triple task at the national level:

First they need to continue building a domestic social and economic environment that is more secure, stable and equitable, particularly for the most vulnerable population groups.

Second, they want to take advantage of opportunities for increased production, trade and income offered by globalization, while balancing against the danger of being swamped by it domestically.

Thirdly, they have a stake in numerous international governance structure and standards which are emerging to deal with such shared and global concerns as the environment, crime narcotics,, transnational corporation or labour migration.

The need for effective governance at national level is truly great. In fact, the attainment of economic and social objectives by developing countries will largely depend on their ability to strengthen their governance institutions and processes through effective dissemination of necessary information to the stakeholders. On this premise, this paper examines the relevance of information on the 2030" "Agenda for sustainable development".

Sustainable Development: What is it?

Sustainable development is that development that meets our present needs without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs (UN/ISDR, 2009). The United

Nation asserts that the components that work together to produce sustainable development are economic development, social development, and environmental protection (McKeown 2002: UN General Assembly 2005). These three must be conceptualized together, planned together and implemented together to achieve the desired results. Sustainable development has a moral dimension that demands a great sense of responsibility from the leader and the follower.

National Economic Empowerment and Development Strategies (NEEDS) in Nigeria

Mabogunje (2000) has shown that in terms of its economic development, "Nigeria's 40years (1960-2000) history as a nation can be divided into five distinct periods

the era of colonial development: 1954-1966

the great age of central planning: 1967-1975

the years of illusory development: 1975-1983

the structural adjustment years: 1984-1999, and

the dawn of privatization and poverty reduction: 1999-clate

The impact of the policies of the last three development periods is of particular interest to a discussion of the present state of the economy The 1975-1983 period was the oil boom era when the nation earned considerably high levels of foreign income and a large number of developmental initiatives were started. Unfortunately, this era also witnessed the neglect of agriculture

and the dependence on imported goods. Inflation then became high.

The 1984-1988 periods witnessed the structural adjustment programme (SAP). This period produced positive economic results such as encouraging the boosting of agricultural production, and the performance of domestic resource based manufacturing sector (UNIDO, 2000). However, this was also the era when the naira lost its value significantly and resulted in considerable pauperization of the people.

The period starting from 1999 has been characterized by the promotion of private sector led economy with the government providing an enabling environment through policy and infrastructural development. A major thrust has been the privatization or commercialization of state owned enterprises (S0Es) which hitherto played prominent roles in the economic sector. The justification for privatization can be seen from the results of a survey carried out by UNIDO (2000) in which 80 percent of 34 State Owned Enterprises (SOE) were found to be operating at a loss. By the end of 1992, the government had spent N53 billion on the SOE; over a 25 year period. Yet the assets of these establishments were only N900 million (Babatope, 2000). Thus the efforts on privatization should hopefully reduce the loss of government funds through the SOEs.

Over the years, the poor performance of the economy was attributed to a host of factors: military rule of twenty eight out of forty six years since

independence in which there was a lack of democracy, transparency and accountability; high level of corruption, declining productivity, low morale among public servants, heavy reliance on exports especially crude oil, weak diversification of economic base, mismanagement and inconsistent macro-economic policies (Obadina, 1999) Since the restoration of democratic government in 1999, the administration of President Olusegun Obasanjo has tried to operate an economy which is market oriented, private sector led, highly competitive, internally and globally, particularly in areas of comparative advantage, technology-driven, broad-based, humane open and inter nationally significant. The objectives have been to:

a. Revive and grow Nigeria's comatose economy.

b. Significantly raise the standard of living of the people.

c. Put Nigerians back, to gainful work and create new employment opportunities.

d. Reposition the economy to participate beneficially in the global economy.

e. Make Nigeria the hub of the West African economy.

f. Poverty Reduction.

The justification for a major emphasis on poverty reduction can be traced to the persistence of poverty in the country despite some achievements in economic growth. To give figures, the incidence of poverty increased from 27.2 percent in 1980 to 46.3 percent in 1996, representing 67.1 million people. The depth and severity of poverty thus worsened during the period. In absolute terms, it

meant that the population in poverty increased from 17.7 million, 34.7 million and 67.1 million in 1980, 1985 and 1996 respectively.

Given the nature of the poverty problem in Nigeria and lessons from previous efforts to address the problem, it became imperative that poverty reduction must depend largely on the achievements of sustained growth, accompanied by economic development process that is people oriented. Such growth must outstrip population growth for a sustained period of time to have any real effect with recognized environmental protection as an integral part of the development process (Anon 2000).

NEEDS now brings a new consensus and shared vision on the future of the country. It is bold and broad based and it aims to form the core of an implementation modality of a new development strategy which suggests a holistic approach with emphasis on broad economic growth, poverty reduction, human capital development and provision of safety nets and targeted intervention to ensure inclusion and created opportunities and empowerment for the vulnerable and poor in the society. It is also a strategy, which should help the country to achieve the targets of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

What then is NEEDS?

NEEDS is Nigeria's National Economic Empowerment and Development Strategy. It is the country's home grown Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper (PRSP)

which has been developed on the lessons learnt during the two year efforts to produce the internationally recognized Interim Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper (I-PRSP). NEEDS has also been built on the consultative processes associated with the I-PRSP but more importantly it is also a MEDIUM-TERM DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY (2003-2007).

An important role for NEEDs is that it will be a nationally coordinated framework of action to be implemented in close collaboration with the State Government who will themselves develop their own State Economic Empowerment and Development Strategy (SEEDS), NEEDS thus demonstrates commitment at both the Federal and State Government levels. It is also fully owned by Nigerians and it contains selective and focused programmes of reforms that would become not only basis for budgeting but also the basis for developing a new social 'charter for the country.

Statement of Vision and Mission of NEEDS

One of Nigeria's effort toward poverty reduction is the introduction of NEEDS. According to Imevbore (2004) the following are the statements of visions and mission, of NEEDS The statement of NEEDS vision was taken from the 2001 Kuru Declaration. It is stated as follows:

> *To build a truly great African democratic country, politically united, integrated and stable, economically prosperous, socially organized with equal opportunity for all and responsibility from all, to become the catalyst of*

(African) Renaissance and making adequate, all embracing contributions, sub-regionally, regionally and globally.

To use this instrumentality of the National Economic Empowerment and Development Strategy (NEEDS) as a nationally coordinated framework of action in close collaboration with state governments and other stakeholders to consolidate the achievements of the last four years 1999-2003 and build a solid foundation for the attainment of Nigeria's long term vision. Over the medium term, NEEDS will lay the foundation and achieve significant progress in the areas of wealth creations employment generation and poverty reduction.

Core Values

NEEDS hopes to lay a solid foundation for a national self-rediscovery and strong values based upon:

1. Enterprise, competition and efficiency at all levels

2. Equity and care for the weak and vulnerable

3. Moral rectitude, respect for traditional values and extolling of our culture.

4. A value system for public service that makes efficient service delivery to the citizens

5. Discipline at all levels of leadership,

Fundamental Principles

NEEDS is based upon the Fundamental Objectives and Principles of State Policy stated in the 1999 Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria as follows:

1. The security and welfare of the people shall be the primary purpose of government;
2. The State shall within the context of the ideals and objectives for which provisions are made in this Constitutions

   a) harness the resources of the nation, promote national prosperity and an efficient, dynamic and self-reliant economy;

   b) control the national economy in such a manner to secure the maximum welfare, freedom and happiness of every citizen on the basis of social justice and equality of status and opportunity.

The state shall direct its policy towards ensuring:

a) the promotion of a planned and balanced economic development;

b) that the material resources of the nation are harnessed and distributed as best as possible to serve the common good;

c) that the economic system is not operated in such a manner as to permit the concentration of wealth or the means of production and exchange in the hands of few individuals or of a group; and

d) that suitable and adequate shelter, suitable and adequate food, reasonable national minimum living wage, old age care and pensions, and unemployment, sick benefits and welfare of the disabled are provided for all citizens.

e) Government shall direct its policy towards ensuring tliat there are equal and adequate educational opportunities at all levels.

f) The national ethics shall be Discipline, Integrity, and Dignity of Labour, Social Justice, Religious Tolerance, Self-Reliance and Patriotism.

g) an incentive structure that rewards and celebrates private enterprise, entrepreneurial spirit aid excellence; and

h) new forms of partnership among all stakeholders in the economy to promote prosperity among all arms of government; Federal state and Local public private, civil society and the International Community, and indeed all stakeholders

(i) A public service that delivers prompt and quality service to the people

NEEDs rests on four key strategies

(j)   Reforming the way Government works and its Institutions

(k)   Growing the Private Sector

 (i)   Implementing a social charter for the people and; k) Re-orientation of the people with an enduring African value system.

Additional information on the macro-economic framework of NEEDs. With regard to its financing, the document explains clearly that NEEDS "will require a heavy investment programme to jump start the economy in a manner that is pro-poor and poverty -reducing. Aside from the projected investment by the-federal and state governments as well as the private sector, there is still a residual financing gap, which requires special efforts to mobilize the required finance. The President has already set up a standing committee on Funds Mobilization to assist in mobilizing some of the funds that are required.

With the emergence of Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) in year 2000 NEEDs were subsumed in goals. According to Akinwunmi (2000) who claimed that:

> *In September 2000, 189 Head of states adopted the United Nations Millennium Declaration due to the increasing rate of hunger and poverty in the Lees-developing countries (LDC). This document was then translated into a roadmap setting out goals to be reached by 2015. The eight-millennium development goals (MDGS) were based on agreement made at the United Nations conference in the 1990s and represent commitments from both developed and developing countries.*

The millennium goals include challenges for rich and poor countries alike. They set targets for developing countries to improve life of the poor, halve the number of people living on less than one dollar a day, halve the number of global poor living in hunger, ensure all children complete primary education, promote gender equity and women empowerment, reduce by two-thirds child mortality, improve maternal health, increase access to-clean water and reduce environmental degradation. The MDGS also recognise potential contributions from developed countries of trade, assistance, debt relief, and access to essential medicines and technology transfer.

Five years after the millennium declaration, many countries have made progress towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDGS), but many more lag behind. Faster progress is needed in reducing-maternal and child deaths and boosting primary-school enrolments, according to the World Bank's report (World Development Indicators (WD1), 2005).

The bank's annual compendium of economics, social, environmental, business and technology indicators, the WIX, reports that only 33 countries are on track to reach the 2015 goal of reducing child mortality by two-thirds from its 1990 level. Almost I million children a year in developing countries die before the age of five, most from causes that are readily preventable in rich countries. These include respiratory infection, diarrhoea, measles and malaria, which together cause 48 percent of child deaths in the developing world. The most difficult challenges is

faced by sub Saharan Africa, where child mortality has fallen only marginally, from 187 deaths per Thousand in 1990 to 171 deaths in 2003.

On primary education, 51 countries have achieved the goal of complete enrolment, but over 100 million primary school age children remain out of school; almost 60 percent of them are girls. This situation ensures despite overwhelming evidence that teaching children how to read, write, and count can boost economic growth, arrest the spread of AIDS, and break the cycle of poverty. South Asia and Sub-Saharan Africa lag far behind the "Education for All" goal. In this remark, it will be justifiable to say that: education in Nigeria has suffered tremendously, ranging from poor finance, low enrolment rate, poor quality staff and a host of other problems. But with the targets of the millennium development goals (MDGS) for-developing countries like Nigeria, some efforts have been put in place to meet the MDGS target in 2015.

Such efforts include, the National Economic Empowerment Development Strategy (NEEDS), which considered education especially basic education - as the key bridge to the future. According to the Federal Bureau of Statistics (FBS), half of the Nigerian population are children and to take charge of their lives in the future despite all these efforts the Federal government's budget allocation for education is still poor; the allocation of resources to the Universal Basic Education is not equitably distributed.

It is assumed that the UBE programme, according to the policy thrust of the NEEDS document, has good intention to improve education which includes infrastructural development to expand institutional capacity to produce quality manpower. And this will expand total school enrolment thereby increasing the literacy level. In other words, poor funding could mar this and inequitable allocation of resources to schools both in the urban and rural schools.

Turning to income poverty, according to WDI 400 million people climbed out of extreme poverty (living on less than $1 a day) between 1982 and 2001, reducing the world's poorest to 1.1 billion people. But in sub-Sahara Africa, the number of extremely poor almost doubled from 164 million to 313 million. That of Nigeria is not an exception where 70% of the 130 million population is poor. Africa's lack of progress on the MDGS is largely due to slow growth, complicated by disease, famine, armed conflict, and illiteracy. By the end of 2003, for example, 15 million children worldwide had lost one or both parents to AIDS, 12 million of them in Africa alone. Similarly, about 85 percent of malaria deaths occurred in sub-Saharan Africa. It is against this background that the Heads of States of the United Nations set out the eight-Millennium Development Goals (MDGS) to be achieved in 2015. The late 1980s and 1990 were difficult times for the world's poor given sharply lower GDP in developing countries of sub-Saharan Africa and South Asia, where hunger and poverty are on the increase. Within this period and 2001, it was discovered that the number of extremely poor people in the

world fell to 1.1 billion, but increased almost to double from 164 million to 31 in sub-Saharan Africa. This situation, according to the World Bank (2004), is as a result of poor education, hunger, poverty, and high rate of diseases. Therefore, there is need to find solutions to this ugly situation, which has almost become an epidemic to the developing countries. Where these problems of hunger, poverty, poor education, poor-health care, and high rate of child and maternal death are not addressed, the developing countries will run into more economic doom in the nearest future. There will be persistent increase of, lack of manpower to pilot the affairs of economic growth and development, which will lead to lack of doctors, engineers, teachers, lawyers, and other highly rated professionals. These events largely will make the developing countries dependent on the developed countries.

The National Economic Empowerment and Development Strategies (NEEDS) objectives were over taken by the 2020 Agenda for sustainable Development. Based on the failure or the inability to accomplish the MDGs the 2030 Agenda was therefore put on ground. This agenda is a plan of action for people, planet and prosperity. It also seeks to strengthen universal peace in larger freedom. We recognize that eradicating poverty in all its forms and dimensions, including extreme poverty, is the greatest global challenge and an indispensable requirement for sustainable development.

All countries and all stakeholders, acting in collaborative partnership, will implement this plan. We are resolved to free, the

human race from the tyranny of poverty and want and to heal and secure our planet, We are determined to take the bold and transformative steps which are urgently needed to sift the world on to a sustainable and resilient path. As we embark on this collective journey, we pledge that no one will be left behind.

The 17 Sustainable Development Goals and 169 targets which were announced demonstrate the scale and ambition of this new universal Agenda. They seek to build on the Millennium Development Goals and complete what they did not achieve. They seek to realize the human rights of all and to achieve gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls. They are integrated and indivisible and balance the three dimensions of sustainable development the economic, social and environmental.

The Goals and targets will stimulate action over the next I5 years in area of critical importance for humanity and the planet:

People

We are determined to end poverty and hunger, in all their forms and dimensions and to ensure that all human beings *can* fulfill their potential in dignity and equality and in a healthy environment.

Planet

We are determined to protect the planet from degradation,

including through sustainable consumption and production, sustainably managing its natural resources and taking urgent action and climate change. So that it can support the needs of the present and future generations.

Prosperity

We are determined to ensure that all human beings can enjoy prosperous and fulfilling lives and that economic, social and technological progress occurs in harmony with nature.

Peace

We are determined to foster peaceful, just and inclusive societies which are free from fear and violence. There can be no sustainable development without peace and no peace without sustainable development.

Partnership

We are determined to mobilize the means required to implement this Agenda through a revitalized Global Partnership for Sustainable Development based on a spirit of strengthened global solidarity focused in particular on the needs of the poorest and most vulnerable and with the participation of all countries, all stakeholders and all people.

The interlinkages and integrated nature of the Sustainable Development Goals are of crucial importance in ensuring that the purpose of the new Agenda is realized. If we realize our ambitions across the full extent of the Agenda, the lives of all will be

profoundly improved and or world will be transformed for the better.

Conclusion and Recommendations

As at July 2015. most of the objectives of the MDG were not realized. If NEEDS objectives and the MDGs were not realized, what then is the probability that the 2030 Agenda would be realised? However, the following should be noted as conclusion to this paper.

Necessary information show Nigeria has been committed to pursuing, sustainable development since 1998 (Imevbore (2004) Sustainable development after all means managing growth in the world economics in a way that avoids disaster for the environment and reduces the intolerable gaps between the 'haves' and the have nots.':

In pursuing sustainable development, it was agreed earlier on to tackle poverty especially in the developing world and shaping a development programme that will prioritize this global campaign in a sustainable way at global, national and local levels

The new approach to poverty reduction in Nigeria should be viewed as not just a lack of income, education and health facilities but also lack of information on empowerment, good governance and security against shocks, Seen in this light, local empowerment has been considered as a form of poverty reduction in its own right, quite independent of its income effects. This new approach also provides excellent opportunities

to reduce poverty by improving information mechanism within the environment. It also provides opportunities to draw out the links between poverty and environment and it demonstrates that sound and equitable management of the environment is integral to achieving the Millennium Development Goals and ensuring environmental sustainability.

Poverty, hunger and ill health are now most acute in Nigeria and in many areas, these problems are compounded by the degradation of the natural environment through, pollution deterioration of the land and soil and loss of natural resources, Often health discussion focus on the provision of health care and drugs. But in many instances, there are better returns in sustainability terms from investment in environmental and social improvements that can reduce diseases. The important task is to run the statement of priorities into concrete programmes that can be delivered.

If the full scope of the challenge of sustainable development is to be met in Nigeria, it must be addressed in a more coherent and more aggressive manner in the next decade than it was in the past decade. The linked challenges of confronting and coping with environmental changes and poverty reduction should best be implemented by firm commitment to the United Nations Millennium Development Goals, including the overarching goal of halving extreme poverty by the year 2015.

The resultant strategy for sustainable development must have the following six aims:

1.   Overcoming poverty through sustained growth in the economy
2.   Integration of environment and economics in policy making
3.   Ensuring conservation and enhancement of the national resources base
4.   Ensuring a sustainable level of population
5.   Implementing a precautionary principle in risk management
6.   Strengthening the institutional basis of governance

On the basis that NEEDs provides the consensual framework, which could weave these aims together in a laudable manner, the following practical recommendations are made through effective information data base on:

1. Cognizant of the range of. social, cultural and regional diversity in Nigeria and the central role of environment in efforts to address the twin priorities of poverty reduction and promoting sustainable livelihoods, it is suggested that environment and the science and technology cross cutting areas be included in the social charter of NEEDS.

2. It is also suggested that the environment and science and technology areas be included in the independent Monitoring Committee of NEEDs to help move both areas from the margins to the centre of development thinking in Nigeria.

3. With regard to the implementation of the environmental sector of NEEDs, it is suggested that the National Council of Environment   should   be

strengthened to improve environmental governances in the country. It should be re-organized as a formal and necessary institution for improving environmental governance in Nigeria.

To achieve this, the following steps are recommended

a. Order and cohesion in the flow of information from the government to the populace is highly very essential

b. Formulate comprehensively, information on The Terms of Reference of the National Council on Environment to include the adoption, coordination and monitoring of major environmental programmes in Nigeria as well as the nationwide dissemination of sectoral guidelines for understanding the environmental impact of development policies, programmes and projects on the environment

c. Strengthen its membership with the inclusion of the representatives of the information Sub-committees of the National Assembly, private sector especially The National Broadcasting Commission (NBC), Nigerian Television Authority (NTA), National Communication Commission (NCC), the Manufacturers Association of Nigeria (MAN), Small and Medium Industry Development Agencies Ministry of information Agency of Nigeria (NAN), Standard Organization of Nigeria (SON), Nigerian Investment Promotion Commission (NIPC) and the Bank of Industry, University Linkage Centres, Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) which are active partners of the Ministries of Information and culture and communication at the Federal and State Levels, academics and the donor

community since scientific research needs to be improved so that it is appropriate, timely and relevant as the NEEDS policy is being developed. In any case, the environment is crosscutting, not a single sector and therefore requires adequate representation of all relevant stakeholders.

d. Enlarge and streamline the mandate of the National Council to include in collaboration with the National Planning Commission, the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals in Nigeria.

e. Formulate and monitor the information component of NEEDS and SEEDs

What is now important is for the Federal Ministry of Information and culture and that of communication to set up a well-conceived agenda for information decision making for NEEDs that is billed as a new 'sustainability concept. The agenda should include:

(a) Developing the information programme and projects, which aim to redress the backlog of information problems in Nigeria

(b) Strengthening the administrative capacity of other ministries and agencies to manage their development process in ways that are efficient and do not degrade the environment. This may require creating information desks in all ministries at the federal and state levels

(c) Developing the format, guidelines and relevant indicators to assist in the formulation of SEEDs. The six geo-political zones, North West, North East, North Central, South West, South East and South South which are already recognized by

the present administration and which seem to have been defined on the principle of ethnic homogeneity and territorial optimality provide an ideal platform for organizing SEEDs. On this basis, it is suggested that steps be taken without delay to organize the sub-committees of the National Council along the six- geo political zones. It is further proposed that a Technical Committee be set up to provide substantive technical guidance for programmes development and to improve service delivery. Building the basic capacity to enable environment sector play a major and decisive role in the proposed Independent Monitoring Committee for NEEDs.

(d) The organizing principle is that the environment is central to the efforts to implement the Millennium Development Goals and therefore to NEEDs. Reducing poverty or promoting achievements in agriculture cannot be achieved without mainstreaming environment through effective information dissemination. Since a number of environmental factors affect the different dimensions of poverty, environmental improvements will be fundamental in strategy and actions to reduce poverty and sustain development.

Therefore, environment cannot be treated separately from other development concerns. Rather it must be integrated into the poverty reduction efforts in order to achieve significant and lasting results. DFID et al (2002) pointed out:

> *Improving environmental management in ways that benefits the poor requires policy and institutional changes that cut across sectors and that are mostly*

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outside the control of environmental institution. Often it includes changes in governance, domestic, economic and social as well as industrial policies

It is also recommended that the Federal Ministry of Information and culture including Ministry of Communication should review all its on-going programmes and projects which aim to redress the backlog of information gaps in governance in Nigeria. The object of the review will be to improve performance especially since the ability to gauge improvement in any endeavour is critically dependent on establishing valid performance metrics. Tracking progress towards an established goal serves to influence behavior by providing continual feedback and it requires reliable and consistent indicators against which performance can be compared. The targets of the Millennium Development Goals provide excellent indicators for measuring progress.

What is more, the notion of information management and monitoring has been changing along an information management curve since the early 1970s and it is important that the ministry's programmes are adapted to the changing circumstances. Related and critical to this is the establishment of national data bases for the compilation, storage, manipulation, analysis and update of environmental information, which has been shown to be fundamental in sustainable development programme implementation in the developed world. Such databases should not only address data need for ecological problem solving but also the social and health dimensions of development including such vital issues as social exclusion. The spatial data components must not

be overlooked.

In summary, it is also recommended that the opportunity provided by NEEDs for mainstreaming environment in economic decision-making be taken up fully. Other ministries and agencies must be strengthened to manage their development process in ways that are efficient and do not degrade the environment by the provision of information desks in all ministries at the federal and state levels.

In collaboration therefore with academic, research and training institutions, the ministry should identify a set of key indicators and alternative methods and models for the analysis of existing information gaps and how best to tackle them within the goals and targets set by NEEDs. This will require a careful and total review of the current institutions for good governance, their relevance, programmes and achievements.

Environmental education through information dissemination is to contribute to the maintenance of a healthy environment by teaching people how to use their knowledge for improving the natural and to a lesser extent the cultural environment, and by addressing the social, economic and cultural root causes of environmental degradation and deterioration. Environmental education directs education towards sustainability. In pursuant of this, chapter 36 of Agenda 21 of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development stresses that:

> *Education including formal education, public awareness and training should be recognized as a process in which human beings and societies can reach their fullest potential. Education is critical for achieving*

environmental and ethical awareness, values and attitudes, skills and behavior consisted with sustainable development and for effective public participation in decision making. Both formal and non-formal education are indispensable to changing people's attitudes, so that they have capacity to assess and address their sustainable development concerns.

This implies that effective Environmental Education through information dissemination for sustainable development needs to be school-based as well as community-based.

Achievement of the millennium Development goals is dependent on the ability of choosing a sustainable development path, which requires managing the broad range of assets in human capital, physical capital and natural capital- that underpin development. Adequate provision of infrastructure enhances development activities in any mineral bearing region. The greatest developmental programmes that can be carried out in such a mineral bearing community is to ensure its economic, social, political and technological development, in a manner that embraces the community development approach, where the felt needs of the inhabitants guide infrastructural development and all development activities are directed at them.

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