

Closing the Gap and Harnessing Opportunities in Life Long Learning: an Initiative for Curbing the Vulnerable Youth in Nigeria.

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SUMMARY

: Lifelong learning is no longer a luxury but a prerequisite for adaptation to the professional, social, economic and informational demands. Lifelong education has become a priority for education systems globally. Even if the role of basic education and of the formal education remains essential, lifelong learning has developed skills as closer as possible to market and society demands. Education for sustainable development should pay attention to other segments of the population. Farmers, for instance need basic literacy and numeracy to effectively adapt to new agricultural methods, gain entitlement to their land, apply for credit facilities from lending institutions to enhance their living. The strength of the restive and vulnerable youths in oil rich Niger-Delta region and the resurgence of the Boko-Haram sect in the Southern and Northern parts of Nigeria can be harnessed positively for national development through well-developed operational strategies and concrete policy initiatives on lifelong learning. Lifelong initiative should cover educational programs that contribute to adult literacy, basic education for those who have left the formal educational system (like the vulnerable youths), to improve life skills, workplace skills and also will improve the general knowledge of the youth (learner). This paper is an advocacy tool aimed at closing the learning gap and the inevitability of harnessing the gains of lifelong learning as a good and concrete initiative for curbing and stemming the tide of youth restiveness and religious insurgences in Nigeria.