

# Turkish Online Journal of Educational Technology

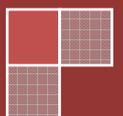
*Special Issue for INTE 2017  
October 2017*

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**ISSN: 2146 - 7242**

**Indexed by**

Education Resources Information Center – **ERIC**  
**SCOPUS - ELSEVIER**

# **Assessing the Role of Education in Promoting Sustainable Tools: A Case Study of Public-Private Partnership**

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## **ABSTRACT**

It is no more news that the 21<sup>st</sup> century world is been driven by sustainability goals. However, this goals has not been able to permeate every nooks and cranes of the world especially the developing world. The impermeability of the sustainability drive in the developing nations can be traced to lack of knowledge of the tools through which sustainability goals can be achieved. This have however warrants the study to build facts from literatures on how education can be used to enlighten and awake the conscious mind of the populace on how sustainable tools like Public-Private Partnership (PPP) works toward achieving the sustainable goals. The study adapts the theory of environmental determinism to establish the necessity of education to promoting the sustainability drive in Nigeria.

**Keywords:** Sustainability, Education, Public-Private Partnership, Developing countries, Environmental determinism.

## **INTRODUCTION**

It is no more news that the world is driving towards sustainability as the principles of sustainability is gradually permeating all field of human endeavors. The world quest for sustainability is evidenced in the United Nations sustainable development goals which aimed at making the world a better place. Plessis (2002) refer to sustainability as a state which is concerned about man preservation and continuity. Sustainable pursuit without considering man continuity is a goal which cannot be attained. It signifies that man is the center of sustainability drive because the latter (sustainability) is initiated by the former and for the former (man). The quest for sustainability has prompt Governments across the globe to prioritize sustainable practice in their decision making. Such is evidenced in the adoption of a sustainable tool like Public-Private Partnership (PPP) by governments across the globe due to its sustainable capacity in all field of human endeavors. Public-Private partnership as the name implies define the relationship between the Public (government) and the private body (investors) towards achieving a common goal. PPP has proved to be veritable platform through which the world sustainability goals in all fields of human endeavor which includes; health, education, commerce and infrastructure among others can be attained. Its massive impact in nation building has made it attractive to countries across the globe. However, the rate of adoption of PPP does not equal its acceptance in all countries across the globe especially in the developing countries of the world. Developing country like Nigeria has been advocating for the wide spread of PPP in all areas of her society, however, there has been a low patronage of this sustainable tool in the country and such can be traced to the insufficient or lack of knowledge on how the tool works. Such has however warrants the need to use education to enhance PPP knowledge and promote it

at the local level. United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (2002) affirmed that education is very crucial for achieving economic awareness and empowerment. Education has been found to be a potent means of reorienting the minds of the populace towards adapting the requisite knowledge to advance humanity. The need to use education means for achieving the reorientation of the society lies in its societal acceptance and attractiveness. The historical significant of education is visible in its use to break barriers of discrimination of HIV patients and to control the pandemic in developing countries across the globe. Education contribution in sanitizing the people to controlling the widespread of AIDS and discrimination of victims has been a laudable one. Considering the education role in boosting the awareness level and knowledge on how to control the AIDS pandemic, such have however warrants the study to assess the significant of education to educating the people on the relevance of Public-Private Partnership tool to achieving the sustainable development goals.

### **APPRAISAL OF PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP (PPP)**

The call for partnership is no more limited to business relationship between individuals as it has found its way into governance under the platform of Public-Private Partnership. Public-Private Partnership (PPP) simply refer to partnership between the public body (government) and private investors (people). PPP emanate from the government idea due to her inability or slow response to the peoples need. Public-Private Partnership (PPP) emergence has been a blessing to the inelastic social needs that are visible in our present world. It has been able to meet the demand in health, business, telecommunication and above all construction infrastructures. The wide coverage of PPP tool across all field of human endeavors has made it difficult to cap it into a single definition. However, the World Bank Institute (2012) define PPP as a long-term contractual relationship between private party and government agency towards public asset or service provision, in which the private party is charged with the management responsibility. In the same vein, Akhmetshina and Mustafin (2015) also define PPP as a formal agreement for a fixed or infinite period of time between the Governments and the private investors by collaborating in decision, financial and human resources towards achieving a specific goal in science, business and engineering and innovation among others. The bedrock of operation of PPP lies in the synergy between the government and the private sector to meeting the global needs. Partnerships is highly prioritize towards meeting the sustainable development agenda as it is affirmed by United Nations (2016) as a means through which sustainable development goals can be realized. The paradigm shift in procurement of infrastructures and services among others experienced globally can be attributed to world insatiable search of a sustainable route that can guarantee continuous delivery of services in the face of government's financial short fall. The innovative discovery of PPP as a sustainable tool lies in its technical-know-how and financial edge. PPP platform provides room for international collaborators and such avails the locals the benefits of adapting the technical skills and other vices. The transfer of technical-know-how via the platform of PPP no doubt guaranteed self-sustenance of the locals thereby meeting one of the vital goals of world governing body. The consistent finance and technical know-how accessible through this platform has changed the face of infrastructures, health and commerce among others that are pivotal to meeting the sustainable development agenda. Public-Private Partnership (PPP) sustainable capacity is vivid in developed nations of the world as its application contributed to the great transformation seen in their infrastructure, power generation, commerce, telecommunication and medicine among others

### **APPRAISAL OF EDUCATION AS A TOOL FOR SUSTAINABLE INFORMATION**

It is an undoubted fact that education acceptability and popularity among men is without compromise. Man and education are inseparable as the latter harness the former potentials as to positively impact its environment. Campbell (2006) opined that education provides the basic knowledge and experience crucial for human engagement in society reformation. Education has been found to be necessary for large scale transformation. This is evidenced in the inclusion of education among the key goals necessary to achieving the sustainable development agenda which aimed at transforming our world. Education necessity in meeting the sustainable development goals lies in her consistence relevance in informing the populace. Sound education is very crucial to achieving a knowledge base environment which is key to transforming our world. Knowledge acquisition has been the priority of world leaders and that has contributed to the need to advocate for quality education as pivotal tool to attaining the United Nations world sustainability drive. A quality education is the education that is dynamic in meeting the need of the environment. Education is very crucial in achieving the sustainable development goals and it is a fundamental tool which drives advancement of a society in all spheres of life. Its relevance in nation building is without limitation as it helps to awake consciousness for sustainable innovations. Bloom, Carring and Chan (2006) further affirmed that education training is second-to-none as an instrument used in promoting economic sustainability. Duncan (2011) opined that educational capacity of a society determines her prosperity, economic competitiveness and her sustainability. Education is very foundational to the transformation capacity of nations, it is a medium through which nations are informed for economic

reformation. Economic reformation reality lies in the appreciation of sustainable medium like Public-Private partnership (PPP) which is one of the deliverables of sustainable or quality education. Odia and Omofonmwan (2007) affirmed that education is the pinnacle of development in any society around the world. Education is the pride of nations across the globe due to the enormous benefits that are derived from it. Good education sharpen the mind towards sustainable thinking and appreciation of sustainable pathway. It is evidenced from the forgoing that appreciation of a sustainable tool like PPP can be achieved under a sound education system.

### **ESTABLISHING THE THEORY FOR ADAPTING EDUCATION FOR PROMOTING SUSTAINABLE TOOL (PPP)**

The scope for using education to promoting PPP in this study is rooted in the environmental determinism theory as cited by Fekadu (2014). The theory state that environment is the dominance force responsible for human attitude. Sign (2007) further buttresses the environmental determinism theory by retreating the fact that man and environment are inseparable. The connection between man and the environment is not debatable as man attitude or reaction is directly dependent on the force from the external context. Likewise, Hardin (2009) in his Doctoral study also refer to environmental determinism as the external force responsible for human behavioral shift. The theory of environmental determinism as defined by Fekadu (2014) and sustainability as defined by Plessis (2002) both have a common feature which is 'man and the external environment'. The former emphasis on man adjustment or shift as a result of external forces while the latter emphasis on man continuous existence which is attainable by maintain dynamic balance between societal conditions. It is evident from the forgoing that man cannot be separated from its environment or societal demand. It is further affirmed by Zbokova and Dvorakova (2011) that man co-existence with the society necessitate him to maintaining equilibrium with the external forces or demand which includes social, economic and environmental. The focus of the world or society is tending toward sustainability and every institutions initiated by man must recognize or prioritize environmental demand that can guarantee man sustainability. Among the various institutions initiated by man education institution has been found to be pivotal in diffusing sustainable tools to actualizing the global sustainable goals. Idunmange and Nwaeke (2008) however asserted that education should be driven by change in the external world for her to continuously impact the world and this is in consonance with the theory of environmental determinism which proved that institutions direction is as a result of external or environmental impact. Therefore, it is not normal for education institution to be indifferent to external change or forces as it form one of the fundamental reasons for its creation. As such, it is pertinent for education institutions to drive the sustainability demand (Public-Private Partnership) which is necessary in meeting the world transformation goals.

### **CONCLUSSION**

The attention and attraction of the world toward sustainability goals is visible in the drive and action of countries across the globe to attain the goals. Many countries have adopted and fully implement sustainable tools like Public-Private Partnership (PPP) in their bid to meet the proposed sustainability goals. However, the developed and developing countries perception differs on the sustainability goals pursuit as its full implementation is visible in the developed world while the developing countries are yet to imbibe the culture of sustainability in their ways of life. The need to incite the culture of sustainability in developing countries like Nigeria through the instrument of education has however been established from critical review of literatures. Education capacity to inciting the culture of sustainability in the developing countries is drawn from the theory of environmental determinism. It is however established from the theory that education institutions relevance lies its adaptation to changing society demand. Society call for imbibing culture of sustainability in all works of life cannot be promoted better without the use of education institution. Therefore, it is necessary to use education institution to promote sustainable tools like Public-Private Partnership (PPP) as to enlighten the populace on its capacity in other to encourage its adoption in developing nations across the globe.

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