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# Transforming Education for Ensuing Sustainability

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Over the next two decades, India— with its expanding population and robust economic growth is expected to be critical for the future. Although it is well placed to build on this momentum, the deployment of efforts for sustainable development largely remains uneven and untapped and need to be further expedited. Achieving sustainable development requires a change of mind-set and behaviours. Indeed, it has long been recognized that education and training is crucial for achieving sustainable development. The UN Conference on the Human Environment ('Stockholm Conference') in 1972 emphasized education as a way of addressing human-environmental problems. Agenda 21, the document adopted at the UN Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED, 'Rio Summit', Rio de Janeiro, 1992), emphasized the need to promote education, public awareness and training in order to assist bringing about sustainable development. In particular, Chapter 36 on promoting education, public awareness and training states that, "Education and Training are critical for promoting sustainable development and improving the capacity of the people to address environment and development issues.

Education and Training can contribute substantially to address key sustainable energy challenges. In this light, education is becoming the central agenda in various major development forums such as international conferences and negotiations like the G8, G20, Copenhagen Climate Change Conference (2009), EFA High-Level Group, UN Chief Executives Board and UNESCO World Conferences among many other ongoing events and activities. The learning process with an encouraging environment in turn can provide people with the chance to apply sustainable development principles and to better understand the multiple potential impacts of their actions and behaviours. Education can contribute substantially to address crucial key issues in the current setting in achieving a better direction for India.

## Understanding Sustainable Development and its Goals

There are many definitions of sustainable development, including this landmark one which first appeared in 1987 from the World Commission on Environment and Development's (*the Brundtland Commission*) report—Our Common Future (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1987). Development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs." It contains within it two key concepts:

- The concept of needs, in particular the essential needs of the world's poor, to which overriding priority should be given; and

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