Hearing the Education Silences that Emanate from the United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction

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Purpose

To create an **awareness** of how education, a nation’s catalyst for **development** and **progress**, has been ‘**left behind**’ in some international debates and selected **proposed solutions**.
Objectives

• To introduce International Day for Natural Disaster Reduction (IDNDR).

• To explain disaster reduction.

• To look at the nineteen (19) themes used for each year’s observance (2000 – 2018).

• To take a peek at community resilience in Nigeria and Montserrat.

• To suggest the purpose education should serve in the UN’s disaster reduction strategies.
The birth of United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (UNISDR) in 1989 led to the proclamation of the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction – 1990 – 2000. During that decade, the second Wednesday in every October was observed as an International Day for Natural Disaster Reduction (IDNDR). Activities planned for that decade were guided by the International Framework of Action for IDNDR.
By 2009, the focus was on all disaster reduction, hence the change to International Day for Disaster Reduction (IDDR), which is now observed annually on 13th October (UNISDR, 2018).
Disaster risk reduction is the concept and practice of reducing disaster risks through systematic efforts to analyse and reduce the causal factors of disasters.

Two Pertinent Questions

UNISDR’s lack of a direct focus on education does beg these pertinent questions:

(1) Does education still have a crucial part to play in individual, societal and national development?

(2) Is education still a process for lifelong empowerment?
The African continent experienced its own form of training and learning before it was colonized and even before the arrival of the missionaries. The training systems of Africans such as the traditional schools did exist, but most importantly, the family unit served as an important structure for knowledge provision and acquisition. It is important to mention that these training facilities got undermined as a result of importation and imposition of knowledge systems from colonial powers (Mosweunyane, 2013).
Education, Education, Education, and More Education!

Prior to emancipation in 1838, the notion of providing education for the African slaves met strong opposition from plantation owners... once freedom was granted to the slaves, the importance and need for a formal education was never lost among the ex-slaves for they were determined, as ‘new citizens’, to use schooling as the medium through which they could make positive advancement (Miller, 1984).
Guiding Educational Principle

Education involves all experiences that an individual acquires inside or outside the school. In this respect, education is a quite significant process generating the basic foundations of socio-economic development...
The most important contribution of education is not only to upgrade the living standards of citizens but also to enable them to become better citizens...
education today is a prerequisite for development and also an effective means for both taking knowledge-based decisions and improving democracy. Education improves and strengthens developmental capacities of individuals, communities, groups, institutions, and countries (Türkkahraman, 2012, p.40).
Should **community resilience** in this situation...
... or this situation...
...negate the Right of Every Child??

**EVERY CHILD HAS A RIGHT TO**

- nutrition
- shelter
- health
- education
- recreation
- a healthy environment
Four Useful Theories

1. **Social learning theory** - real life experience can help to shape behaviour.

2. **Social pedagogy** – children engagement in educational activities that can foster well-being and overall development.

3. **Attachment theory** – has to do with psychological connectedness and building healthy relationships.

4. **Resilience theory** – is closely connected to the attachment theory.
A Suggestion for UNISDR

2000: Disaster Prevention Education and Youth

2006: Disaster risk reduction begins at school

2007: Challenging the world’s education authorities

2019 & Beyond: More EDUCATION themes for survival, personal and national development.
Kids in The Know

What is a Hurricane?

How do they form?

Why do Hurricanes have names?

How strong are hurricanes?

How do they track hurricanes?

What can I do to get ready?
Something for UNISDR and MoEs to Think About

Education in emergencies is as crucial as natural and manmade disasters are inevitable.
Thanks for your kind attention.

Any questions?