**STUDENT NAME:**

**SIMIDU STEPHEN .A**

**STUDENT I.D. NUMBER:**

**(UD72670SOC81830)**

**SCHOOL:**

**SCIENCE & ENGINEERING**

**ASSIGNMENT TITLE:**

**UN’S SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOAL 12:**

**RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION & PRODUCTION**

**ATLANTIC INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY**

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**INTRODUCTION**

People tend to consume more than what they can produce. Even some consumes nonrenewable resources in excess not minding the effect that it would have on nature and on the future generation. Unsustainable production and consumption is driving climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution and it shows no sign of abating. UN Goal 12 talks about how sustainable consumption and production can be achieved; and the targets are as follows;

**12.1**Implement the 10-year framework of programmes on sustainable consumption and production, all countries taking action, with developed countries taking the lead, taking into account the development and capabilities of developing countries

**12.2**By 2030, achieve the sustainable management and efficient use of natural resources

**12.3** By 2030, halve per capita global food waste at the retail and consumer levels and reduce food losses along production and supply chains, including post-harvest losses

**12.4**By 2020, achieve the environmentally sound management of chemicals and all wastes throughout their life cycle, in accordance with agreed international frameworks, and significantly reduce their release to air, water and soil in order to minimize their adverse impacts on human health and the environment

**12.5**By 2030, substantially reduce waste generation through prevention, reduction, recycling and reuse

**12.6**Encourage companies, especially large and transnational companies, to adopt sustainable practices and to integrate sustainability information into their reporting cycle

**12.7**Promote public procurement practices that are sustainable, in accordance with national policies and priorities

**12.8**By 2030, ensure that people everywhere have the relevant information and awareness for sustainable development and lifestyles in harmony with nature

**12.A**Support developing countries to strengthen their scientific and technological capacity to move towards more sustainable patterns of consumption and production

**12.B**Develop and implement tools to monitor sustainable development impacts for sustainable tourism that creates jobs and promotes local culture and products

**12.C**Rationalize inefficient fossil-fuel subsidies that encourage wasteful consumption by removing market distortions, in accordance with national circumstances, including by restructuring taxation and phasing out those harmful subsidies, where they exist, to reflect their environmental impacts, taking fully into account the specific needs and conditions of developing countries and minimizing the possible adverse impacts on their development in a manner that protects the poor and the affected communities

**1. Why is the UN’s goal of Responsible Consumption & Production important, in your opinion?**

The rate of our past consumption is telling on this generation. Individual tend to buy more than what we can consume or needed. Corporate companies also exploit raw resources and nothing significant as been done to reduce the effect of human foot print most and this is very common to developing countries. Some fishermen extract sea foods as though the more they are fished and killed the more they increase. Even the hunters that hunts in the forest also do not think of the effect on the upcoming generation, likewise trees are being cut down without their replacement. These farming activities as brought extinction to some kind of animal species, fruits and even trees in some communities and/or countries.

For us not to leave nothing for the upcoming it is important that every countries and nations of the should embrace UN Goal 12 in order to put this generation into check on the way we consume available resources, as our foot print today would have either favourable or adverse effect on future generation. Looking at the way natural resources are been consumed presently, most especially in developing and underdeveloped countries, we will all agree to the fact that what we need most in order to curb excessive utilization of renewable and nonrenewable is sustainable development approach.

Another importance of UN Goal 12 is in consideration of the fast rising population of the world. According to Worldometer the current world population as of May 2022 is 7.9 billion with an increment of million from January 1, 2022 till date.

To respond to these challenges within the carrying capacity of the Earth system, the adoption of sustainable patterns of consumption and production is an imperative, as it conserves through resource efficiency the basis for future development.

**2. How is the state of Consumption & Production in the world?**

Consumption and production are at the core of the global economy. Yet current unsustainable production and consumption patterns lead to deforestation, water scarcity, food waste, and high carbon emissions, and cause the degradation of key ecosystems. The ratio of consumption to production in the world is still very low. Companies and homes most especially in the developing countries consumes more than what they produce.

Consumption and production activities are the basis of the global economy, but current patterns are fast depleting natural capital, degrading ecosystem services and undermining the capacity of countries to meet their needs in a sustained way. The shift to Sustainable Consumption and Production patterns implies increasing efficiency and productivity throughout the supply chain and the life cycle of the products, now and over the long-term.

Accomplishment of the sustainable consumption and production goal will create synergies and support attainment of other goals on food, water and energy, while also contributing to climate change mitigation.

**3. What changes need to happen to achieve Responsible Consumption & Production?**

To ensure sustainable consumption and production practices necessarily entails to respect the biophysical boundaries of the planet and to reduce current global consumption rates in order to fit with the biophysical capacity to produce ecosystem services and benefits.

Achieving economic growth and sustainable development requires that we urgently reduce our ecological footprint by changing the way we produce and consume goods and resources. Agriculture is the biggest user of water worldwide, and irrigation now claims close to 70 percent of all freshwater for human use.

The efficient management of our shared natural resources, and the way we dispose of toxic waste and pollutants, are important targets to achieve this goal. Encouraging industries, businesses and consumers to recycle and reduce waste is equally important, as is supporting developing countries to move towards more sustainable patterns of consumption by 2030.

A large share of the world population is still consuming far too little to meet even their basic needs.  Halving the per capita of global food waste at the retailer and consumer levels is also important for creating more efficient production and supply chains. This can help with food security, and shift us towards a more resource efficient economy.

**4. Do you think it is possible to achieve Responsible Consumption & Production around the world? Why or Why not?**

It is possible to achieve responsible consumption and production around the world. Government and individual should get more involved in conserving and reproduction of natural resources and should minimize the use of nonrenewable natural resources. We should be conservative maximize the usage of every little and great natural resources.

There should be more general awareness campaign that would make people to know that they the use of non renewable resources has limitation. The more we use them the more we are likely to become shortage of them in future time.

All UN sustainable goals are very important; I believe when these programs are embraced by every nations of the world, it would enlighten people to buy less of those things that are not of importance and would help us to be conscious of our macro environment.

**5. How can education lead to a world with Responsible Consumption & Production?**

Education shapen social cultural life style of an individual, the way an educated person will think and treat his/her neighbor most importantly the environment will be different from the way an uneducated person will. Education can help people understand the effect of whatsoever they are consuming on the environment, and thereby seek for ways to minimize their footprint.

Education brings to light the potential in individual that cannot be discovered by any other means. Education would lead to a world with Responsible Consumption and Production in the sense that; large percentage of the uneducated fellow which they could turn back the hands of time in order to get little education, because they believe that its able to transform their life better, so believe that the world could turn to a better when more people are educated and more so people would be enlightened further about recycling, conservation of natural resources and maintenance other resources including human being.

**6. How can education improve in your community so that the next generation has the tools and mindset to obtain Responsible Consumption & Production?**

My community needs as many educated people as possible, as the rate of our consumption presently is nothing to write home about. Government policy are not been complied with neither is there any major castigation being pronounced on defaulters of law that guides exploitation of natural resources. In this regard I believe if leaders of tomorrow are given the right education today’s error would not be committed by the upcoming generation.

Education can equip my community and improve the way we see and make use of natural resources especially crude oil and agricultural produce; it would even curtail our spending habit. Education will train the upcoming generation to be responsible as well. Educating young ones can help curb the rate of waste of natural resources. Education can also improve embracement of technology that would enhance recycling of wastes such as plastics, iron scraps and the likes, even though the out recycling exercise cannot be compared to our consumption, however it would still help conserve some resources and minimize wastages.

**CONCLUSION**

Everything we produce and consume has either a positive or negative impact on the economy, the environment and social development. Achieving sustainable consumption and production patterns secures efficiency and productivity gains, ensuring that human activities remain within the carrying capacity of the planet, while respecting the rights of future generations.

Sustainable Consumption and Production means doing more and better with less. It is about “the use of services and related products, which respond to basic needs and bring a better quality of life while minimizing the use of natural resources and toxic materials as well as the emissions of waste and pollutants over the life cycle of the service or product so as not to jeopardize the needs of future generations”.

Sustainable Consumption and Production encompasses the objective of a systematic decoupling of economic growth from escalating resource use and environmental degradation, in order to do “more with less”. Decoupling will be achieved through reduction of material/ energy intensity of current economic activities and reduction of emissions and waste from extraction, production, consumption and disposal. By using the life cycle approach as a tool to achieve Sustainable Consumption and Production, actions will be taken to influence both supply and demand of sustainable products, and avoid burden-shifting between different stages of product life cycles.

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