Group Project Area Literature Review Assignment

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**Literature Review**

**Restaurant and Food Service Life Cycle Assessment**

This article analyzes the results of research done on food service and restaurant operations by Green Seal in order to determine the environmental improvement priorities (Baldwin, Wilberforce, & Kapur 2011). The method used to conduct the study was a life cycle assessment tool, where the everyday activities were grouped into four categories: food storage, food procurement, cooking or food preparation, and finally support or service (Baldwin, Wilberforce, & Kapur 2011). There were also categories regarding environmental impacts that were analyzed including fossil fuels, carcinogens, land usage, respiratory inorganics, climate change, acidification, as well as ecotoxicity (Baldwin, Wilberforce, & Kapur 2011). The results of the research in this study were used to develop a certification program as well as sustainable standards for food service establishments to follow (Baldwin, Wilberforce, & Kapur 2011). This source could be used to determine where a majority of food waste in the Grand Rapids area is being generated.

**Carbon Footprint of Food Waste Management Options**

This article analyzed the waste streams in several different supermarkets located in Uppsala, Sweden (Eriksson, Strid, & Hansson 2015). During the study, the life cycle assessment tool was used in order to estimate greenhouse gas emissions (Eriksson, Strid, & Hansson 2015). The impacts of the greenhouse gases generated by varying food waste streams in different scenarios were compared during this study (Eriksson, Strid, & Hansson 2015). Bananas, grilled chicken, beef, bread, and lettuce were the five main foods used (Eriksson, Strid, & Hansson 2015). The bread waste stream proved to be the best option for minimizing greenhouse gas emissions, whereas lettuce proved to be the worst option in terms of greenhouse gas minimization (Eriksson, Strid, & Hansson 2015). This source could be used to determine the current impacts food waste in Grand Rapids has on the environment as well as what foods to donate in order to see the greatest minimization in terms of environmental impact.

**Somali Refugees in the United States and their Food Insecurity**

This particular study was done in order to determine how significant the issue of food insecurity is and how it ties into current dietary habits of Somali refugees that had resettled in the United States (Dharod, Croom, Sady, & Morrell 2011). Another primary objective of the study was estimate the relationship between dietary intake and accumulation habits (Dharod, Croom, Sady, & Morrell 2011). It was found that 72% of Somali refugee households were insecure and intake of vegetables and fruits were drastically lower in food insecure households (Dharod, Croom, Sady, & Morrell 2011). Future studies relating to this area should focus on effects poor diet can have on health such as body weight (Dharod, Croom, Sady, & Morrell 2011). This study can be used to determine if there are any negative consequences on the refugee population in the Grand Rapids area.

**Still there's no food! Food insecurity in a refugee population in Perth, Western Australia**

Australia is a developed nation that has flourished economically continuously under globalization. This study find that even under a developed economy and nation there’s still food insecurity among its population, specifically the refugees. Through a series of surveys the researchers found that there’s a need for reform regarding the access refugees have to food. This issue is going to become progressively important because as South Asia sea levels rise the number. Similarly, Australia's food insecurity issue is paralleling America’s because the rate of refugee acceptance will continue to increase with respect to the crisis in the middle east and other areas where people face religious or cultural prejudice. This source could be used to determine ways to help refugees find food in the community.

**An Analysis of a Community Food Waste Stream**

Food waste makes up a large percentage of the overall waste stream in more developed countries (Griffin, Sobal, & Lyson 2009). A single United States county was analyzed in this study over the course of a year (Griffin, Sobal, & Lyson 2009). Personal interviews, as well as publications, were used when quantifying waste generated from various food production, processing, preparation, and consumption activities (Griffin, Sobal, & Lyson 2009). Around roughly 10,205 pounds of food waste were created in community in this study (Griffin, Sobal, & Lyson 2009). It was found that approximately 20% of the food waste came from producing activities, 19% came from distribution, 1% came from processing activities, and around 60% came from consumers (Griffin, Sobal, & Lyson 2009). This source could be used in order to determine which food service locations to seek out in order to divert the largest amount of food waste to the refugees.

**The Evolution of Food Donation**

This particular paper specifically discusses the evolution of food donations (Schneider 2013). It touches bases on the similarities and differences between organizations that invest time and effort into bringing leftover food to individuals in need (Schneider 2013). The legal, logistical, social, and political incentives and obstructions pertaining to food donations are also discussed in this article (Schneider 2013). The impact on the economy, society, and ecology are also included in the discussion (Schneider 2013). The idea of a network involving food donation is also talked about (Schneider 2013).This source could be used to determine if a network involving food donations to refugees could be developed within the Grand Rapids community.

**Understanding Public Food Donations**

There is a growing number of individuals relying on sustenance from food pantries (Zhu, Early, & Hemmelheber 2014). There is a growing need for food pantries that offer healthier options (Zhu, Early, & Hemmelheber 2014). The primary focus of the study was to improve the overall nutritional profile of donations by the public (Zhu, Early, & Hemmelheber 2014). The findings and results from the study were used to develop suggestions for upcoming food drives and were also shared with stakeholders within the community (Zhu, Early, & Hemmelheber 2014). This source could be used to evaluate and establish healthier food donation options for refugees in the Grand Rapids community.

**The value of food waste: An exploratory study on retailing**

This article goes into detail about the entire life cycle of food, and where and when food waste is found. The authors attempt to value the food waste at an environmental level by measuring food waste in the amount of natural resources consumed. They value food waste socially by measuring food waste in the number of meals that could have been prepared. Also they value food waste by the revenues and costs regarding to the project. This source could be used in tapping into food waste early on in the food cycle before it reaches the end consumer.

**Food loss rates at the food retail, influencing factors and reasons as a basis for waste prevention measures**

The authors discuss data regarding food loss rates at the retail level. The authors do this by analyzing 612 retail outlets. They then analyze why is this food discarded? Where does this food go? Was this food actually incapable for human consumption, or just discarded for fear of expired food risks? This article could be used in order to determine where food waste goes in the Grand Rapids community and why.

**Advantages and Disadvantages of Refugee Status and Labeling**

This article discuss whether refugees are completely powerless victims or if they are beneficiaries of an exceptionally large welfare package (Ludwig, 2016). The authors discuss how refugee entering into the United States tend to have more advantages over immigrants arriving (Ludwig, 2016). However, refugees are entitled to a wide variety of governmental benefits, thus putting them in a better position that immigrants (Ludwig, 2016). In contrast, the depiction of refugees is often a negative one and this study analyzes how refugees and non-refugees from the same country, living in New York, feel about the term “refugee” (Ludwig, 2016). This study could be used in order to determine how refugees in the Grand Rapids area feel about being referred to as refugees.

**Food Insecurity and Budgeting Among Liberians in the US: How are They Related to Socio-demographic and Pre-resettlement Characteristics**

Although our project is not necessarily focused on immigrants to our country, this article has a lot of similar characteristics for our project. It goes to examine food security among 33 Liberian individuals who came to the United States. This article examines current socio-demographic characteristics and pre-settlement characteristics before these individuals came over to the United States. This article could possibly be used to determine pre-settlement characteristics of refugees in the Grand Rapids area.

**Retail waste of horticultural products in Sweden**

This article studied how large retail waste is for 16 different horticultural products. The results of this study found that the retail waste of these products was between 0.4% and 6.3% of store supplies. Also this article's results found that packaging did not have a noticeable effect on the waste of these products. This article could be used to evaluate the packaging of the food that is wasted in the Grand Rapids area.

**Retail Food Waste Management**

The loss of food and the large amount of food waste generated has reached a global scale (Lukic, Kljenak, & Jovancevic 2014). It is essential, in order to minimize the amount of waste generated, to uncover the root causes and their location of origin (Lukic, Kljenak, & Jovancevic 2014). Food is primarily lost during the food supply chain (Lukic, Kljenak, & Jovancevic 2014). Throughout the research, the root causes are addressed as well as the effects and possible treatments of the losses in retail sectors (Lukic, Kljenak, & Jovancevic 2014). Through the usage of modern technology, food waste can be minimized and the performance in the retail sector can be significantly improved (Lukic, Kljenak, & Jovancevic 2014). This study could be used to determine where in the food supply chain the most food is wasted and possibly intercept it during that stage.

**The progressive increase of food waste in America and its environmental impact**

Throughout the food cycle there’s an immense amount of energy that’s used to grow, extract, transport, maintain the foods we eat at restaurants and grocers. Food that’s thrown into the landfill is considered wasted energy, which would have meant possibly fewer fossil fuels would have been used in the food cycle. Collectively throughout this traditional cycle there’s been greenhouse gases emitted which has led to this process being one of the top contributors to climate change. We are now in a food renaissance, we begin to produce, eat and dispose of food more consciously and efficiently. This study could be used in order to determine the possible environmental impacts of food waste in the Grand Rapids community.

**Towards understanding the new food environment for refugees from the Horn of Africa in Australia**

This article takes a more qualitative role about analyzing how refugees in Australia conceptualize and interpret food in their new homes. This study found four major differences in food between the two countries 1) Abundance of cheap processed packaged food 2) Nutritional messages are hard to understand due to low literacy levels 3) promotion of slim body sizes, which contradicts beliefs at home and 4) Australian food is perceived as being full of harmful chemicals. Although this study is based in Australia, we can easily extrapolate this study to the United States. Additionally, this study could be used determine if there is a way to communicate nutritional information to refugees in the Grand Rapids area.

**Food acquisition habits in a group of African refugees recently settled in Australia**

The authors discuss recent refugees to Australia and asks them to fill out a food log for week. The researchers studied how many meats, vegetables and different types of food these individuals went out to seek. The study found that intake of all major food groups was actually inferior, even when outlets for these types of food were available. Further, this study could be used to determine what the typical diet of a refugee is like.

**A Qualitative Study of Nutrition-Based Initiatives at Selected Food Banks in the Feeding America Network**

Food banks are a primary source of food for many families that are living near or below the poverty line. Food banks encourage that donors bring in foods with nutritional value so families can live a healthy lifestyle by having essential nutrition. In the past, those who have relied on food banks have not only faced food insecurity but also obesity. It’s important to manage a balanced stock of nutritional food supplies but also not limit the freedom of shoppers. Within our project we really want to narrow our food resource to healthy and nutrition options so refugee families don’t become over exposed to high sugar and calorie foods. This study could be used to establish ties with stakeholders that would be willing to provide healthier options and not just sweets or junk food.

**Feeding America: Immigrants in the Restaurant Industry and Throughout the Food System Take Action for Change**

America’s economy has been transitioning from a manufacturing focus into a service focus, which means more restaurants. People’s taste for the luxury good of eating at restaurants increased during the 20th century which brought about a diversity in food. As more restaurants are being developed there’s also a labor market being developed to work at those restaurants. The restaurant labor market is also one of the lowest paying to employees, causing those laborers to fall into poverty. Restaurant employees should not be living off food subsidies if there’s an abundance of food waste from restaurants. Food insecurity can be combated by restaurants providing food surplus to low income employees. This study could be used to determine if food insecurity in the Grand Rapids area could be resolved through donations.

**Acculturation, economics and food insecurity among refugees resettled in the USA: a case study of West African refugees**

Refugees are one of the populations that face the greatest risk and vulnerability to food insecurity in America. There are countless existing barriers to refugees that prevent them from attaining adequate food sources to support healthy lifestyles for their families. This study found that during the first few years of resettlement refugees struggled with food insecurity mostly because of their local shopping environment, language barriers, employment and family size. This article could be used to determine why there is food security and if there is a specific cause such as family size or language barriers.

**How to Help Refugees in Michigan**

This article addresses different ways in which people living in Michigan could help refugees coming in. First, donations of any kind are welcomed and appreciated by refugees (Wells, 2015). Second, spending time with refugees is another way in which individuals can assist (Wells, 2015). If individuals do not have much time to spend with refugees, helping them learn how to do everyday things such as going grocery shopping can be helpful (Wells, 2015). Third and finally, a big thing that refugees in Michigan really need are understanding and advocacy (Wells, 2015). Many refugees, around roughly 75%, are self-sustaining after living in the country for at least 6 months (Wells, 2015). This article could help to determine if refugees in the Grand Rapids area are even in need of assistance.

**Food Stamp Program Participation of Refugees and Immigrants**

This article goes into detail about food stamp usage on refugees and immigrants after the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act (PRWORA). They try to find out if the declining participation of these two groups in food stamps was an intended outcome of this act, or it is due to some other phenomenon. This study did find that refugees are more likely to use food stamps than immigrants, although the number is declining. This source could be used in order to determine if refugees are more likely to use food stamps than accept donations from a food pantry.

**Global Hunger Crisis: Tackling Food Insecurity in Developing Countries**

A food crisis has already been making a major impact on the world’s population, specifically in third world countries. Certain regions are not designed to grow or evenly distribute food as efficiently as others which can cause food insecurity to those not reached. In order to reach sources of food people are forced to migrate or find refuge to different regions. If world hunger can be solved in the regions that are faced with harsh conditions for food availability then it can be solved in urban areas. This article can help us better understand the conditions some refugees may be coming from if they were previously facing food insecurity.

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