

Relationship Between Education and Sustainable Agriculture

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Introduction

With the increasing trade in goods between countries, it is now easy to buy imported goods at people's doorstep. For example, in the Save on Food supermarket next to the UBC campus, we can easily find some imported foods such as instant noodles from South Korea, fruits from other countries and so on. A large number of imported goods can make people experience the characteristics of foreign countries faster and more convenient. However, there is a phenomenon that it is difficult to find cheap local food in community supermarkets. For example, in China, in many communities' fruit supermarkets, even during the apple-rich harvest season, it is difficult to buy local apples. Thus, at the same time, we should also consider the market and development of local food. The longer the transportation distance, the higher the emission of fossil fuels, which pollutes the air.

Background Information

Sustainability potential of such life style. Thus, Local food systems are increasingly valued. Using the case of the University of Toronto (Friedmann, 2006), as early as in 2006, the University has been cooperating with a non-profit, non-governmental certifying organization called Local Flavour Plus (LFP), worked as a third party, that its corporate caterers can contact with local and sustainable food production to provide meals for its students. Similarly, University of British CA research conducted by Rebecca Duell (2013) express confirmative on the importance of the role of local food production played in promoting sustainability, that from various perspective, such as economically, socially and environmentally, it is a better replacement of the agri-industrial food systems and become the solution of problems. Such local food systems not only included traditional farmland, individually, growing local food in the home gardens is as important as local industrial agriculture that contribute to sustainability; Ghosh's study (2014) of nine cases of residential neighborhood revealed and highlighted the olumbia also have a preference of local produced food. UBC farm is project that operate within campus served a function of providing partial of the food, but more importantly, the farm provides an important link between food consumption and production for students and staff, used to foster a sense of community and to introduce sustainable food production to community members (Cook, 2002), to explore and demonstrate healthy and sustainable food systems, encourage sustainable food literacy, promote socially equitable food systems, and foster local food economies. With the explosion of social networking sites, social media is identified with great potential as a tool of advertising, including spread the awareness of environmental sustainability (Hamid, 2017). As people's online behavior related to sustainability is captured, summarized and synthesized, Bobb's group (2015) conducted a project of online dissemination of local food production. By corporate with farmers at UBC farm, the group post the portray during the food production on social media, digital media and posters with the tag #LocalFoodUBC, to achieve the purpose of raising students' awareness of local food production.

Study: Aims and Hypotheses

Aim: to determine the relationship between higher education and sustainable local food system.

Hypotheses: there are positive influence on the special relationship. And the more activities the campus hold, the stronger awareness students will have.

Methodology

Design: we will use qualitative method to collect and analyze the data. We will use thematic analysis in our research. We will use Zoom to interview the participants and to collect the data, we will have the transcribes and code that date, then we will generate the data and find common themes.

Participants: The main participants are the UBC Vantage Students because in the past year of study they have been exposed to sustainable development knowledge and will know something about sustainable development. Moreover, there have a farm in UBC campus, which is the best example for our topic. And we will select the suitable people based on their understanding of the sustainable development and record and analyze their data. More understanding of our topic means the participant should at least know the benefit and meaning for sustainable development and local food system instead of just know what they are, so that we can collect more useful information from the participants and it is good for our research. In the process, we plan to interview about 6 students. About the demographics questionnaire, we will ask about the gender and nationality about the participants like: "What is your gender? Where are you come from?"

Materials: To finish the project, both researchers and participants need an electronic device that can record your respond (laptop, PC, cell phone, pad etc.) The interview will start at June 22th and end at 25th. The participant will respond to the questions given through a voice call that will be audio recorded, all the data supposed to be collected before 25th.

Procedure: For what our participants will be doing:

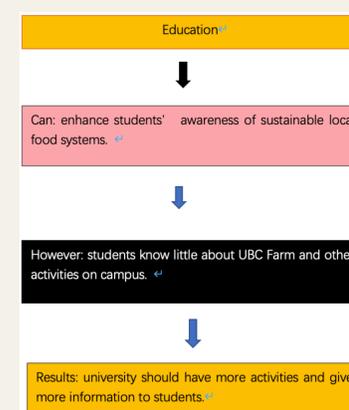
(a) The participants who are interested in take part in the study, will be given our inform, consent and asked to read through carefully, (b) After, the right of participants' during the study and the purpose of the study will be orally introduced by researchers and asked for participants' acknowledgement, (c) The participants will be asked if they meet all the conditions in the consent form and checked, (d) Once confirmed, the participants will be asked to give their signature and their own created unique ID to the researcher, as an agreement to participate in the study and acknowledgement of their rights, (e) Then, through video call, the participants will be asked a series of questions included in the appendix, which may vary depend on their response at the time, however, mainly about academic experiences, daily life habits and opinions. The interview will be audio recorded as data collected, (f) Afterwards, the participants will be once again, remind of their rights and how to contact researchers for further information and will be given our debrief form, (g) After the data has been analyzed and the study come to the end, the data will be completely erased, and participants will receive a letter of notice

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Result

In the research, we find that the knowledge from the education have positive impact on the students. Combine the knowledge and their experience in their daily life, most of the participants have their own understanding of the sustainable agriculture and know that sustainable agriculture is important to human's life and environment. Moreover, most of them also can understand the relationship between sustainable agriculture and local food systems and can also explain the benefit of buying local food. However, less participants know clearly about UBC Farm and other related activities on campus. What's more, almost all of them just know the benefits but rarely contribute to the sustainable agriculture and local food systems. (Figure 1)



Discussion

Most students can understand the benefits and can show their own personal definition about sustainable agriculture. Moreover, they can also notice the advantages of local food system. However, we find that most serious problem is less of them can take actions in their real life. Three themes emerged:

1. universities usually give students less information about sustainable agriculture.
2. there are less activities on the campus.
3. sustainable local food, like organic food, is a little expensive.

Conclusion and Future Research

Conclusion: each campus should have more activities, like the UBC Farm is a good example about it.



Future Research: according to our research we find that most participants said that they get more information about sustainable agriculture from social media. So, in the next stage, our group will find more about the relationship between social media and the awareness of sustainable agriculture.

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