

Session 6A: Toward Zero Hunger and No Poverty
Saturday 4:00PM Tropicana 1
Session Chair: Rejoice Addae, Arkansas State University

Exploring Access, Barriers and Connectedness of Charitable Food Networks in a Pennsylvania County

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In 2020, between 720-811 million people were facing hunger and food insecurity globally, which the United Nations (UN) reports is an increase of 161 million compared to 2019 (UN, 2021). Pennsylvania is ranked 29 of 50 US states for the Zero Hunger goal and Lancaster PA is rated as having a “poor to moderate” performance on improving issues of hunger (SDG US Cities, 2019; SDG Pennsylvania, 2021). In 2019 in Lancaster County, 48,940 people (9% of the county population) are food insecure, meaning these individuals reported routinely skipping meals because they lack consistent access to food (Coleman-Jensen et al., 2021; Feeding America, 2020).

Major challenges remain for the US to reach sustainable development goals toward eliminating hunger (SDG US, 2022). One challenge is the regular distribution of available food to those in need (Martin, 2021). In America, an entire charitable food system has been developed to manage the transportation, delivery, and control of food resources from private retail donations, USDA subsidies for farms, to community meal programs and food pantries (Fernald & Gosliner, 2019). However, the adequacy of the charitable food system is predicated on its accessibility to the people relying upon this support.

Addressing *SDG #2 Zero Hunger*, this presentation will share preliminary findings from our study regarding the positionality, policies, and perspectives of the charitable food programs in rural Lancaster County. This case study explored the nature of the charitable food landscape including resource access, connectedness with other systems/services, and other potential barriers that may limit their effectiveness.

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Prevalence of Childhood Adversity in Low Income Neighborhoods in Zambia

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Prevalence of Childhood Adversity in Low Income Neighborhoods in Zambia

Background:

Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) are shown to have lifelong implications on health and wellbeing. This study explores the types and prevalence of ACEs among disadvantaged children in Zambia. We examine childhood exposure to trauma in personal, familial and community contexts and their impact on emotional health.

Methods:

Data from 5th grade children ages 9 to 15 were analyzed (N = 140). Childhood Adversity was measured using the Adverse Childhood Experience scale ($\alpha = .71$) and the Childhood Exposure to Community Violence checklist ($\alpha = .70$). The ACEs scale comprised of 16 domains including personal trauma (e.g., sexual, physical, and emotional abuse) and family-related trauma (e.g., intimate partner violence, family member incarceration, substance use or mental illness). Frequencies for each domain were calculated and the sum of ACEs experienced was obtained to compare means. Group differences were assessed by one way ANOVA and t-tests.

Results:

Results showed that almost half (44.7%) of the children experienced 4 or more ACEs. The most frequently experienced ACEs included food insecurity (76.3%), parental relationship disruption (43.4%), verbal abuse (31.6%) and parental death (29.3%). Lack of appropriate care by a caregiver accounted for a higher likelihood of emotional problems ($\bar{x} = .78$, $p < .05$). Witnessing or being a victim of community violence, experiencing discrimination, and housing insecurity also accounted for a higher probability of having emotional issues.

Conclusions:

Findings indicate that levels of exposure to adversity is high with negative implications on a children's emotional health. There is need to increase protective factors for at-risk groups.

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THE ROLE of MOBILE MONEY ADOPTION for FINANCIAL INCLUSION on SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS: EVIDENCE from the GHANA PANEL CREATION DATA

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Financial inclusion has been recognized as a key factor that reduces socioeconomic deprivation. Financial inclusion of economically deprived households aids in accumulating human capital through education, healthcare services, consumption, insurance against various risks, and other human development needs. This research is conducted to investigate the impact of mobile money on financial inclusion and other control variables on household consumption, education, and working condition, the transmission mechanisms for realizing the sustainable development goals using the Ghana panel creation data. We will employ a principal component analysis to build financial inclusion index and trace how financial inclusion improves human capital development and aids in the attainment of sustainable development goals. Preliminary analysis and literature posit that mobile money adoption should positively impact financial inclusion through access to banking, savings, and investment, and education improve household consumption through the credit channel and leads closer to the attainment of sustainable development goals. (1-4 and 8).

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Equalizing Access: Food Insecurity, Human Rights, and the Charitable Food System

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The global sustainable development goal (SDG) of “Zero Hunger” centers access to sufficient and nutritious food as a human right (SDG, 2022). Food insecurity is the experience of lacking consistent access to nutritious food in amounts sufficient to promote health and well-being (Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations [FAO], 2022). According to the FAO, the Covid-19 pandemic increased the severity of food insecurity in 2021, affecting 2.3 billion people globally (FAO, 2022).

Food insecurity is measured with an 8-item Food Insecurity Experience Scale (FIES) globally, which assesses how individuals experience hunger in their communities by self-report (Ballard et al., 2013). This information identifies underserved people, as even a wealthy nation with abundant food may still have citizens who lack access (Grimaccia & Naccarato, 2019). Inviting people who experience food insecurity to participate and share their lived experience gives context and contrast to government reports of abundant food resources (Holt-Gimenez et al., 2012). This active participation is a rights-based approach used to return agency to people in vulnerable situations and is a social work value (Androff, 2015).

Disparities in food access are reinforced by a system that prioritizes the relationship of the giver to the receiver, instead of a human rights approach which seeks to equalize access by addressing root causes of food insecurity. This paper analyzes the nature of the charitable food system in both global and local contexts, with an emphasis on practices which transform a “right to food” from symbolic gesture to achievable reality.