

Name: Stolting Shawn

Username: shawnstolting

School: Polytechnic College Suriname

Is this an issue that you are aware of at your school?

The reality is that schools in the US and Suriname are quite different. In my current school, we don't have the luxury of getting food at school. Even if it were an option, it would mean an additional expense, which, to be honest, would be too costly for many of us. That's the main reason they don't offer this service. But not really sure if people that are going to PTC are actually interested in getting food at school.

Food insecurity is deeply intertwined with various aspects of identity, including race, gender, sexual orientation, and socioeconomic status. This intersectionality sheds light on the complex relationship between food and justice.

Race: As highlighted in the provided information, racial disparities are prevalent in food insecurity. Indigenous, Black, and American Indian or Alaska Native students experience higher rates of food insecurity compared to their White counterparts. Structural racism, historical inequalities, and limited access to resources play significant roles in this disparity. Addressing food justice means recognizing and rectifying these racial inequities.

Gender: Gender plays a role in food insecurity, with women, particularly single mothers, being more vulnerable. They often bear the primary responsibility for food provision in their households, making them more susceptible to food insecurity. Addressing food justice must involve gender-sensitive policies and support for women to ensure they can access nutritious food.

Socioeconomic Status: Socioeconomic status is a major determinant of food insecurity. Low-income individuals and families are more likely to experience food insecurity due to limited financial resources. The disparities in access to food and nutrition highlight the need for policies that address income inequality and create a safety net for those most affected.

Sexual Orientation: While there is limited research on the intersection of sexual orientation and food insecurity, LGBTQ+ individuals can face unique challenges. Discrimination and stigma can affect job opportunities, housing, and support networks, leading to financial instability and, in turn, food insecurity. Achieving food justice should involve recognizing these specific challenges and addressing them as part of a broader social justice agenda.

UN Entities in Suriname:

- **FAO:** The Food and Agriculture Organization is a specialized agency of the United Nations that leads international efforts to defeat hunger. Their goal is to achieve food security for all and make sure that people have regular access to enough high-quality food to lead active, healthy lives.

- ILO: The International Labour Organization (ILO) is devoted to promoting social justice and internationally recognized human and labour rights, pursuing its founding mission that social justice is essential to universal and lasting peace.
- IOM: Established in 1951, IOM is the leading inter-governmental organization in the field of migration and works closely with governmental, intergovernmental and non-governmental partners.

Info source: <https://suriname.un.org/en/about/un-entities-in-country>

As an individual, there are several ways I can support organizations working to address food justice and food insecurity:

1. Offer my time and skills to local food banks, soup kitchens, or non-profit organizations that distribute food to those in need. Volunteering can include tasks like sorting and packing food, serving meals, or participating in food drives.
2. Contribute non-perishable food items, personal hygiene products, or money to local food banks and charitable organizations. Many of these organizations rely on donations to provide assistance to individuals and families.
3. Raise awareness about food insecurity and advocate for policies that address this issue. Contact your local representatives, attend community meetings, and join advocacy groups focused on hunger and food justice.
4. Get involved in programs that collect and distribute surplus food from restaurants, supermarkets, and events to those in need. This helps reduce food waste while providing meals to the hungry.

The most crucial aspect is to raise awareness among the people of Suriname about the importance of providing food to students at school and the benefits it offers. It's our right!

What are some viable solutions that address the issue with success? How can you apply and implement these solutions at your school?

1. School Meal Programs: Establish school meal programs that provide students with nutritious, balanced meals. Collaborate with local governments, NGOs, and community partners to fund and operate these programs.
2. Community Gardens: Promote the creation of community gardens in or around schools. These gardens can provide fresh produce for school meals while educating students about agriculture.
3. Food Drives and Donations: Encourage food drives and donations from local businesses and individuals. This can help stock school food pantries and ensure students have access to non-perishable food items.
4. Cooking Workshops: Teach students, teachers, and parents how to prepare healthy, affordable meals with limited resources.

Instagram:

https://www.instagram.com/p/Cy0otq6Oz5A/?img_index=1



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sjonnie_sensei " 🍏🌍 Food insecurity on campus is a global issue, but together, we can make a difference! Check out these tips and action steps to help combat hunger and create a brighter future for students:

1. Establish Food Pantries 🛒: Set up on-campus food pantries stocked with essentials for students in need.
2. Raise Awareness 📣: Educate your community about food insecurity to reduce stigma and encourage support.
3. Meal Assistance Programs 🍽️: Offer subsidized or free meal programs for qualifying students.
4. Collaborate with Local Organizations 🤝: Partner with local food banks and charities to access resources.
5. Gardens & Workshops 🌱💡: Create school gardens for fresh produce and provide educational workshops on nutrition and budgeting.
6. Advocate for Change 📢: Work with authorities to implement policies that address this pressing issue.

Together, we can nourish minds and dreams. 💙
#EndCampusHunger #CampusChangeMakers
#pgc2023 @turninggreenorg @foodprintorg
@foodtank

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