Abstract

While 11.2 million tons of edible food reach landfills each year [1], 14.6% of our population continues to suffer from food insecurity [2]. The non-profit organisation Feed It Forward attempts to solve both through a variety of programs that utilises rescued food and redistributes it for free or at a significant discount.

Although a crucial part of any business, the unique structure of the organisation has made it difficult to implement an inventory system. This lack of proper infrastructure has made the CEO of Feed It Forward, Chef Jagger, the central point of contact for any information surrounding food inventory. With such a centralised system, Chef Jagger is required to spend a majority of his time on logistics. The lack of access to information also limits volunteers’ autonomy and their impact within the organisation. This combination has led to errors and restricts Feed It Forwards growth. Therefore, there is an opportunity to improve the lived experience of Feed It Forward workers by implementing a better inventory management system.

A potential solution to this opportunity will improve the efficiency of the system, increase the capability of volunteers, and facilitate the growth of Feed It Forward. This will directly benefit Chef Jagger and his team of volunteers. It will also benefit their donors, partner programs and warehouses they interact with along with giving Engineering Science students the chance to better understand the challenges of food insecurity.

Available solutions, including types of inventory systems and devices, fail to satisfy detailed objectives and do not provide a viable solution for this community.

If a solution is developed for this opportunity it will improve the lived experience of Feed It Forward workers but also allow their expansion and mission of reducing food wastage and food insecurity.

Reference List: