Effects of Localism

Name

Date
How far does your favorite meal travel before you get a chance to purchase and enjoy it? The concept of food localism entails minimizing the distance of that journey. The establishment of centralized and global food distribution systems had potentially improved the length between the point of origin of the food and where it is finally consumed. Food localism, in this case, initiates a local production of food for local use to lower transportation emission problems, to diversify and support local farming, improve the sovereignty and regional food security. Local food systems are considered the most effective transformational strategy to promote food sustainability. Thus, localism demonstrates vast political concepts that emphasize local production as well as a consumption of food and goods, local authority, local identity and culture, and local history. In this study, we will explore localism concerning agriculture and food, the benefits of local food, advantages, and shortcomings of localism and food system sustainability.

The idea of establishing local as well as regional systems regarding food supply continues to gain popularity following the increased demand for the amount of local food. Local food demonstrates a movement that involves collective efforts towards building a robust local-based food system. The objective of the encouragement of local food is to establish as self-reliant based food markets. It includes local economies that support sustainable food production, local processing, distribution, and consumption. They are usually directed toward benefiting a particular region where the supply of food takes place. Thus, it demonstrates to be part of the context of local economies and local purchasing; as a result, encouraging the reduced consumption of foods that corporatized institutions produce. Thus, localism manifests itself in food in modern systems with the encouragement of a short supply of food that is community-based. This involves initiatives that involve "community-supported agriculture" (CSA),
improving community garden, farmer market, "permeabilizing, regional or territorial food labeling, and guerrilla gardening” (Rebecca, 2013). Therefore, this process in place entails the coordination of both local food produce and the regional consumer as a way to reduce the usage of food from industrial products. As a result, the idea of local food is perceived as the primary solution to sustainability.

There is a wide range of benefits associated with the consumption of local food-related to farmers, individuals, and the community as a whole. For instance, an article by Shirvell argues that engagement in the utilization of local foods supports the positive development of individuals and society, even the world at large. For instance, the promotion of local purchase of consumption of food helps consumers have a better understanding of the products they are consuming. It is thus possible to meet the local producers of the food to discuss on the way to improve the production means or even suggest the introduction of more varieties in the local market (Feenstra, 2014). Therefore, local food introduces consumers to the seasonality of foods. It encourages choices and sustainable adaptation that promote seasonality in food and diversity as well. Hence, local consumers are assured of a broad range of nutrients and tastes that could help in better living and wellness.

Supporting the local market is yet another significant benefit of encouraging domestic food consumption. When the community team up to consumer local-based food, they are supporting the production means of farmers on the process. It then serves as the strengthening force for the local economy and as a result making the region more resilience. It involves the growth in trade ties and the development of the local markets to meet the standards and the needs of the people. Another benefit associated with the local food system includes the support of sustainability in the environment and the food system. This is because it helps in reducing the
distance traveled to supply food across different regions, hence lowering the number of greenhouse emissions that have a devastating impact on the environment. Local food, in this case, reduces unnecessary movements related to food in the community and within the country. It also supports sustainability in food security, especially for the current and future generations by supporting food safety, equal access to production means and food for all, healthy environment and animal welfare, and fair labor wages. However, the current systems cannot be effectively modified without prime modification of all aspects of food consumption. It involves the change of economic, political, and social structures (Rebecca, 2013).

Another benefit of localizing food systems is the increased number of employment opportunities. According to research on this subject, money that money kept in a circulation in a particular localized region supports its development in the trading of local products and services that might otherwise be accessible to external economies. Therefore, more localized goods will demand an increase in more workforce on the farm among individuals involved in the food production business. Hence, local food systems promote the creation of new job markets that further support the development of the economy and the local market (Shirvell, 2019). Localism in agriculture and food production also supports the growth and development of local foodsheds. Based on the definition given by Pretty (2010), Foodsheds demonstrate locally, self-reliant food systems that include diversified modes of agriculture that entail the utilization of stable practices. It involves fresh and more nutrition-based food that is supplied to small-scale consumers in demand. They thus reduce the time for production and consumption and transportation costs. Also, they favor safe production means that promote sustainability from the context of the community as a result of improving health and social externalities associated with the local production means.
Sustainability relates to a simple concept related to everything that we require for survival as well as wellbeing with the support from our environment. Thus, to initiate the efforts of sustainability implies the creation of conditions that promote a conducive setting for humans and nature. History demonstrates several accounts that involve human destruction of their natural habitat due to various activities. Therefore, sustainability looks into the approaches that might be applicable to engage in harmonious living with the rest of the natural world (Mason, 2019). Sustainability highly depend on economic, social, and environmental protection as the significant pillars of its growth. Sustainability's objective is to reduce poverty and hunger, improve the environment, and help in solving the issue of climatic change. The future of sustainability is not yet defined following the continuous evolution in technologies. Thus, what is the relationship between localism and sustainability?

Concerning sustainability efforts, local food systems seem to be the most preferred alternative against the unsustainable food industry today. Research on this subject suggests that agri-industrial based food systems are demonstrating significant concerns in regards to consumer health and environmental effects. As a result, such systems show to be dysfunctional, and the involved commentators continue to perceive the systems as those in crisis (Sustain, 2010). It is due to the evident side effects as a result of the food systems causing the depletion of natural resources such as water and fertile soil. The practice has contributed to air and water pollution, causing a loss of farmer livelihoods and diminishing biodiversity (Pretty, 2010). The system contributes to the increased price in food commodities and the rise of diet-related illness, malnutrition problems, and the vast spread in hunger. It is due to the reduced expertise in food production and practical measure that support food distribution and growth. What role does local food play in sustainability, considering the challenges in modern agriculture practices?
The emphasis on the introduction of local food systems is the top proposed solution to the current issues facing agriculture. It is since this system offers equal balance in all aspects of society while focusing on sustainable food production. It includes a sound environment, social justice, and economic viability that serve to promote the positive development of the community and individuals (Rebecca, 2013). It encourages the support of sustainability in food production, and the environment, not only for the benefit of the future generation but also the current and the wellbeing of the nonhuman nature. Therefore, the system demonstrates social justice regarding local food sustainability since all aspects of living are given an upper hand based on conservation. Engaging consumers closer based on the agricultural practice promotes awareness reading how food is grown and its impact on the environment. Thus, it benefits in improving farming practices and promotes the hospitality business that helps the wider community.

However, despite the benefits linked with food localism, the local food systems demonstrate limitations related to the factors of equity and social justice. The limited understanding of the gaps in these systems might result in what is called "white spaces." It involves local food systems that are in the hand of a selected group of consumers and producers. As a result, such systems exclude producers and other consumers that are marginalized based on age, wealth, ethnicity, and physical ability. It implies that communities with better production means will only trade based on their grounds, not only in terms of goods but also production knowledge (Rebecca, 2013). With local systems, societies without the right production means and expertise might be socially divided from the knowledgeable ones, due to the inability to interact at a global or national context to share and exchange food production ideas.

The local food systems lack the aspect of diversity since it encourages the practice of cultural-based production measures. From the context of diverse eaters, the culture dominates in
the definition of what is considered sustainable or ethical, hence improving the concepts of nutrition and health. However, this is not the case with local food systems since they are narrowed to the context of the local market and fail to recognize such dynamics compared to the cultural privileges of a diverse food culture. The growth of divergent individuals, each with their aspirations and needs, is yet another limitation that local food systems face. It is challenging to come up with sound sustainability measures in a local context compared to equitable sharing of different food needs and the collaborative efforts to support sustainability. It implies that local food systems are limited regarding the universal application sustainable means, production means, and other services the industry presents (Rebecca, 2013).

Food is an essential element for daily survival, and localism is considered an effective strategy for the economic growth of a specified area. While some products might be produced locally, diverse food is also a good experience in the context of the community. Producing and distributing foods at the local market means that resource allocation from such localities focuses on a specific region. Sustainability, on the other hand, involves the measure to ensure a balanced state of living, aiming humans and the nonhuman aspect of life. While engaging localism in terms of food production might support the development of communities, it is vital for people to also be aware of the shortcoming of localism, especially in diversity inclusion. This paper explores localism concerning agriculture and food, benefits of local food, advantages, and weaknesses of localism and food system sustainability.
Reference Page


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