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Sustainable Development and Eradicating Hunger: The Case of Ethiopia

Yuheng Liu

Introduction

Famine Early Warning Systems Network (2022) describes a country that still faces a severe food crisis in large parts of the country, Ethiopia. Ethiopia is located in eastern Africa. The country has a population of 122 million, but 10 to 15 million people face hunger, especially in the north of the country. Although the United Nations distributes food to the residents of northern Ethiopia, it still cannot eradicate the real cause of their hunger (Concern Worldwide U.S., 2022). So, the United Nations is trying to help end hunger in other ways.

The purpose of this paper is to consider how to eliminate or alleviate the problem of food shortage in Ethiopia. Here are two examples to help starving people in Ethiopia. The first example is some training for local residents (Concern Worldwide U.S., 2022). Including how to give local people access to clean water, tools, seeds and some funds to help with family farming and animal husbandry. The second example is to provide them with fertilizer suitable for growing crops (UN News, 2022). Both of these points aim at the problem of underdeveloped agriculture in the local poor areas. It provided them with the most basic agricultural knowledge and some basic agricultural tools.

The Sustainable Development Goals

In her video, Taylor (2021) defines and explains these Sustainable Development Goals. This video mainly describes Taylor's views on the global sustainable development strategy and why she likes the global sustainable development strategy. The first is that Taylor believes that a strategy for global sustainability is an easy-to-understand concept that most people can understand. The second thing is that this global sustainable development strategy allows stable

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development for future generations, with inter-generational equity. The third thing is that Taylor thinks these strategies balance people and the planet. At the same time, Taylor mentioned the difficulties encountered in implementing the strategy. For example, implementing the strategy of global sustainable development should reduce environmental pollution, but this conflicts with economic development. But Taylor believes people should fundamentally change the way our economy works. Taylor believes that we need to strike a balance between social, environmental and economic perspectives so that we can achieve environmental sustainability while also creating a fair future for many poor people.

SDG#2: Zero Hunger

As mentioned by Taylor (2021), we should create a better future for everyone. So, we need to help these hungry people. At the same time, a zero hunger world can have a positive impact on our economy, health, education, equality and social development, as well as social development (United Nations, n.d.). This contributes to the achievement of other sustainable development goals. The supply and production of food should be secure and nutritious, which will consume a lot of capital and social resources. Investment is needed in both rural and urban areas and in social protection so that the poor can access food and improve their livelihoods.

Findings and Discussion

The UN has helped people in poorer parts of Ethiopia with agricultural knowledge and funding. But there are many external factors impeding the development of local agriculture, not least local weather conditions and local wars and conflicts (Mercy Corps, 2019). On the environmental side, people in some areas are extremely dependent on the weather because they need rain to irrigate their crops and feed their livestock. Because of this extreme dependence on the environment, it is particularly easy for these families to suffer hunger for more than a decade.

Because of frequent droughts and floods, these families do not have a good way to cope with food shortages. At the same time, the upsurge in violence in Ethiopia has displaced 2.1 million people who have fled their farms, homes and communities for their safety. So, they don't have a good environment to develop their agriculture. Therefore, it is far from enough to give external resources to help local people fight hunger.

About China, how did they develop their agriculture in 70 years so that they could produce enough food to feed the entire population? Here are two examples (Yang, 2019). One is increasing the diversity of food supply through the development of aquaculture, and the other is the development of agricultural technology. These two examples can well increase food production.

So, what can be done to promote local agriculture in Ethiopia? According to Mercy (2019), when they were helping people in Ethiopia fight hunger, they realized that knowledge was transformative in the fight against hunger. So, they began to educate the local population and to educate local health institutions and families about balanced nutrition to ensure the health of the local population. At the same time, it is important to adapt to the weather so that local people can develop resilient crops and livestock to cope with extreme weather.

However, even if farmers can become self-reliant with various kinds of help, some irresistible factors will still have a great impact on their livelihood and security. The violence in Ethiopia, for example, and the very low purchasing power made it impossible to get food security when there was extreme weather. Therefore, it is very necessary to further realize the global sustainable development strategy, and mankind needs to promote these goals from various aspects.

Conclusion

These hungry people still face a lot of difficulties in Ethiopia, whether it's the environment or the weather or other external factors. Helping these hungry people can help achieve Sustainable Development Goal 2. A good example is the help of the United Nations, which is helping hungry people in Ethiopia by training them with more farming techniques and money. The UN's offer of help may reduce the number of hungry Ethiopians in the future, though it will not change their living conditions.

However, Ethiopia's internal conflict is a key factor in reducing the number of hungry people. Many are hungry because local violence has failed to develop their agriculture and economy. Of course, increasing food diversity can also reduce hunger. Local residents can grow more food with help from the United Nations. But the hungry should also work harder when they get help. If local people and governments simply accept the UN's help, it will not do much to reduce the number of hungry people.

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