

Making Better Choices

Using the Rational Decision-Making Model

Step 1: Define the situation or problem.

Summary of the problem:

Problem: **Hunger**

Over 2 million people (1 in 9 people) face hunger in the state of Florida, with over 600,000 of them being children (1 in 6 children). Hunger is a serious issue because food is one of the most critical components that sustains life. It increases one's risk of disease, loss of essential nutrients, as well as even death. The main cause of this issue is due to the way food is distributed, as food at the store can get expensive. Since not everyone makes the same amount of money, not everyone can afford those prices.

Step 2: Identify the criteria for evaluating potential solutions.

Question	Decision Criteria
Do local residents know how serious of a problem hunger is?	For this issue to become of an urgent matter, and for there to be a difference, people within the area need to know about this (allowing for a potential increase in assistance to others).
Are there organizations/programs within the area that can assist me with bringing light to this issue or allow others to make a change?	There are local food banks within the area that allow people to volunteer their time to help those that face hunger (preparing/distributing meals, warehouse sorting/packing, etc.). With a connection through them, the word could be better spread.
What do local officials say about the issue of hunger, and what is their stance?	In order to effectively bring light to this issue and make significant change, support of local officials is needed (through legislation, programs, etc.).

Step 3: Identify all potential solutions.

Solution
Go door-to-door distributing flyers and talking about the issue, to bring awareness among the local people (in partnership with surrounding entities).
Create an online campaign showcasing this issue and the available options to help.
Partner with the local foodbanks to create an initiative in the local area for people to directly volunteer time at their facilities helping others in need.
Push for local officials to create assistance programs for those who face hunger, as well as other policies that may further help the cause.

Step 4: Evaluate the potential solutions against your criteria.

(Choose your two favorite potential solutions to evaluate.)

Decision Criteria	Evaluation of a Potential Solution #1 (Mention at least one negative externality and how to minimize it.)	Evaluation of a Potential Solution #2 (Mention at least one negative externality and how to minimize it.)
<p>For this issue to become of an urgent matter, and for there to be a difference, people within the area need to know about this (allowing for a potential increase in assistance to others).</p> <p>There are local food banks within the area that allow people to volunteer their time to help those that face hunger (preparing/distributing meals, warehouse sorting/packing, etc.). Attention would need to be brought to that, however.</p> <p>In order to effectively bring light to this issue and make significant change, support of local officials is needed (through legislation, programs, etc.).</p>	<p>Distributing flyers in this manner would require quite an amount of people, as well as a lot of their time. On top of that, the entities have only so many hours allotted for volunteering to occur. I would need to consider the most effective way possible to get as many flyers out as possible in a timely manner, while protecting the safety of the volunteers. One benefit of these flyers is that they would promote volunteering at these entities, allowing for more participation.</p> <p>As with any effort like this, not everyone keeps the flyers that are handed out. This means that the printed flyers could become waste, which is a negative externality. Knowing that this could potentially happen, the materials used for them should be taken into consideration.</p> <p>If this project were to be successful, it would show positive to local officials; potentially earning their support to implement policy changes or other programs to help the issue.</p>	<p>Creating an online campaign would be much easier then recruiting people to go door to door handing out flyers, however there are other things to consider with this (both good and bad).</p> <p>Promoting online would allow for this message to not only reach my local area, but around the world. Therefore, this would allow for change at a much more mass level, with amazing results.</p> <p>However, two problems arise. One, not everyone has access to technology and the internet. The second problem is that promoting online is not always cheap (as compared to handing out flyers). To combat this, some sort of funding would need to be set up and considered, as well as cross comparing different platforms. But it'd be worth it in the end.</p> <p>If this initiative were to end up successful, it would bring lots of attention to our efforts, allowing not only local officials potentially helping, but even officials on higher levels.</p>

Step 5: Choose the best option.

Solution chosen: **Create an online campaign**

Paragraph explanation of chosen solution:

After considering all possible options, I believe the best option is to create an online campaign showcasing this issue and the available options to help. Utilizing the wide audience of the internet, we would be able to reach not only the local area, but around the world; therefore helping a significant amount of more people in need.

This solution would also make it easier on those helping with the campaign, as they would not have to spend hours on-end handing out physical flyers (for them to potentially be thrown away right after). As well, if this were to be successful as hoped, this could bring forth the attention of officials many different levels. Their help through potential policy changes or assistance programs would bring great change to those who really need it.

While it may cost a bit to get this online campaign going from the start, it would reach an enormous audience who could potentially bring immeasurable change; therefore being worth it in the end. I feel this is the best method to spread the word as far as possible, and bring the greatest amount of change in the end.

Sources Used

“Give Time - Opportunities.” *Treasure Coast Food Bank*, stophunger.org/give-time-opportunities. Accessed 29 Sept. 2022.

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Kondek, Brady. “1.04 Service Project Part A.” *Brady Kondek*, school.bradykondek.com/2021-2022/us-government/module-1/Service-Project-PartA.pdf. Accessed 29 Sept. 2022.

NOTE: I grabbed information from one of my past U.S. Government assignments, in which I also researched this topic.