

Undergraduate Geography Students' Conceptions of Hunger: A Qualitative Case Study in Progress

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Research Questions

1. What are undergraduate geography students' conceptions of the phenomenon of hunger?
2. What are undergraduate geography students' experiences with planning, hosting, and presenting at an Oxfam Hunger Banquet on the UTA campus?
3. Which concepts from human geography do undergraduate geography students apply to their understanding of the phenomenon of hunger?
4. In what ways did the Oxfam Hunger Banquet shape geography students' conceptions of hunger?

Qualitative Data Sources

Illustrations

At the beginning and at the end of the semester, students are given a blank sheet of paper and asked to "draw an illustration of hunger"

End-of Semester Interviews

- Can you talk about your two illustrations of hunger? What do you think changed about the way you understand this topic from the beginning of the semester to the end?
- In one of your reflection essays, you mentioned ____, could you say more about that?

Reflection Essays

- **What?** – What have you learned about hunger since your last reflection?
- **Gut?** - Describe how this assignment has influenced your emotions, attitudes, and/or values?
- **So What?** – How has your understanding of hunger changed since the beginning of the semester? How has this assignment influenced your knowledge, skills, values, and/or actions?
- **Now What?** – What are your next steps?

United Nations Sustainable Development Goals



END HUNGER, ACHIEVE FOOD SECURITY AND IMPROVED NUTRITION AND PROMOTE SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE

THE GLOBAL PANDEMIC IS EXACERBATING WORLD HUNGER

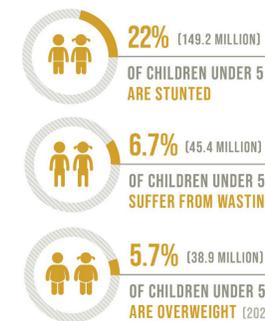
WORLDWIDE, AN ADDITIONAL **70-161 MILLION PEOPLE** ARE LIKELY TO HAVE EXPERIENCED HUNGER AS A RESULT OF THE PANDEMIC IN 2020



NUMBER OF UNDERNOURISHED PEOPLE IN THE WORLD



PANDEMIC WILL WORSEN CHILD MALNUTRITION



*THESE 2020 ESTIMATES DO NOT REFLECT IMPACT OF PANDEMIC

ALMOST ONE THIRD OF WOMEN OF REPRODUCTIVE AGE GLOBALLY SUFFER FROM ANAEMIA, IN PART DUE TO NUTRITION DEFICIENCIES



2.37 BILLION PEOPLE ARE WITHOUT FOOD OR UNABLE TO EAT A HEALTHY BALANCED DIET ON A REGULAR BASIS (2020)

THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS REPORT 2021: UNSTATS.UN.ORG/SDGS/REPORT/2021/

Class Assignment



Draw an illustration of Hunger

Read the Oxfam Hunger Banquet planning toolkit



Select one of the targets of the UN SDG– Zero Hunger.

Find recent news stories related to the UN SDG target.



Reflect on the following:

- What? – Identify the target and indicators that you reviewed and summarize the news you read.
- Gut? – What emotions did you feel as you read the news about this target and indicators? What memories from your life experience emerged as you read the news?
- So what? – What did you learn about this target and its indicators in your review of the news? Reflect on questions such as, why is this happening? What does it mean? What patterns are emerging? Why is it important?
- Now what? – What do you think you will do with the knowledge you have gained? How might you apply it to your life and learning? How might it influence your actions and values?



Create an informative and persuasive two-minute Powtoon video in which you present and illustrate key facts, data, and images that capture the key concerns associated with the target and indicators you selected to study.



Participate in the hunger banquet.

Reflect on the Hunger Banquet experience:

- What? – What was your experience at the Hunger Banquet? What did you observe?
- Gut? – What emotions did you feel as you participated in the Hunger Banquet? What memories from your life experience emerged?
- So What? – In what ways do you think the Hunger Banquet was effective? In what ways do you think the Hunger Banquet could be improved?
- Now What? – What do you think you will do with the knowledge you have gained? How might you apply it to your life and learning? How might it influence your actions and values?



Draw an illustration of Hunger

Discuss your experiences in a post-semester interview



Spring 2022 Status

An Oxfam Hunger Banquet was planned for April 14, 2022 as a collaboration between the UTA Office of Sustainability, the UN Mavericks student association, and my Human Geography students. The event was cancelled in late March due to low registration numbers. The organizers are not sure why the event did not draw more interest, but we are considering whether to attempt to organize another hunger banquet in a future semester and, if so, how to better promote it to ensure more significant participation. I decided to complete a smaller scale version of the hunger banquet in my class using the "placemats" below. I will analyze the results of the "in-class" banquet structure as an alternative to the large-scale Oxfam model.



Contact



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