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A FOOD WASTAGE REDUCTION WEBSITE RESEARCH PAPER

Atithi[*1]

[*1]BK Birla College, India.

ABSTRACT

Wasting food is a common problem in our society. Food waste management is crucial since it can improve our environmental and economic sustainability. We have identified the use of mobile technology to reduce food waste management and built an android mobile application that allows individual user or restaurants to donate and share their foods and leftovers with people in need. This app will enable users to register, login, view items, add items, add items to cart, remove an item from the cart, and log out. This app is using the sql storage and real-time database. Any user in need can see all the food images donated by different users and add it to his or her cart.

I. INTRODUCTION

The Food Wastage Reduction Website is an innovative platform designed to address the growing issue of food wastage by connecting surplus food sources with individuals or organizations in need. The website aims to minimize food waste at various stages of the supply chain—households, restaurants, supermarkets, and food producers—by creating a system where excess food can be efficiently redistributed rather than discarded.

Globally, a significant portion of food is wasted at various stages, from production to consumption. This not only contributes to environmental degradation but also exacerbates food insecurity. According to studies, approximately one-third of the food produced globally for human consumption is lost or wasted, which amounts to nearly 1.3 billion tons annually. The need to bridge the gap between surplus food and hunger is urgent.

Key Features:

1. User-Friendly Interface: Easy navigation for individuals, businesses, and food banks to sign up and participate.

2. Food Donation System: A seamless system where businesses can list surplus food and individuals or organizations can claim it.

3. Real-Time Tracking: Real-time updates on food availability and redistribution progress.

4. Analytics and Impact Reporting: Dashboards that showcase metrics such as the total amount of food saved, carbon footprint reduced, and the number of people helped.

5. Community Engagement: A blog, discussion forums, and newsletters that promote awareness on reducing food waste and adopting sustainable practices.

6. Mobile App Integration: An optional mobile app for easier access and notifications on food availability for on-the-go users.

Target Audience:

Individuals: People who want to contribute by reducing food waste in their homes and donating surplus food.

Restaurants & Cafes: Businesses that frequently have surplus food and are looking to donate or resell it.

Grocery Stores & Supermarkets: Establishments with excess inventory nearing expiration.

Food Banks and Charities: Non-profits looking to claim surplus food and redistribute it to the needy.

Environmentalists & Sustainability Advocates: People passionate about reducing environmental impact and promoting sustainability.

Existing System

Many restaurants tend to throw the leftover food at the end of the day even though the food is perfectly fine to be eaten, which means that huge amounts of food are wasted. While all that food is being wasted, some families can barely afford proper meals with their limited money. They don't get enough nutrition due to the lack of having three meals in a day.

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Therefore, we decided to create our application to link the restaurant with the unfortunate people, so instead of throwing the food, the unfortunate will be able to pick it up from the restaurant at the end of the day.

Proposed System

Mobile application technology is beneficial for food waste management. The app aims to encourage better food management. Our proposed solution should reduce food wastage by facilitating food sharing in india community using mobile technology. This work is an initial step towards designing a better system to reduce daily food waste. In future, this app could be enhanced more by adding the following features:

Extending our app to have many types of donating users either from organizations such as restaurants, or a family or a single user

Adding the location facility to our apps. The donating user should specify the location of the shared food.

Adding the time and date of each meal shared by users

Making the app supports multiple platforms (crossplatform app)

II. SYSTEM MODULES

User Register

Login

View Food Item

Add Food Item

Update/Delete Food

Update Google geo location

Search Nearby food items

Add Items To Cart

Remove An Item From The Cart

View New Order

View My Order

My Profile

Log Out

Module Description

Users Register

This module is used to create a user registrations form. After registering application form the users able to enter into process. To register the form following details should be given by the user, the details that should be filled by the user is their personal details and the required details by the secret password, location, address etc.

Login

User can login using username and password

View Items

Search location wise and book the food items

Add Items.

Create a new food item with details of quantity, location, address contact

Add images

Add images to the food items

Add Items To Cart

Add multiple food items to cart for booking

Remove An Item From The Cart

Delete food items to cart for booking

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III. OBJECTIVES

1. Facilitate Food Redistribution:

Create a platform that connects food businesses (restaurants, supermarkets, farms) and individuals with surplus food to local charities, food banks, and individuals in need. This aims to minimize food waste by ensuring that excess food is effectively redirected to those who can use it.

2. Raise Awareness About Food Waste:

Educate users about the impact of food waste on the environment, economy, and society. This includes providing information on the importance of reducing food waste and the benefits of sustainable food practices.

3. Promote Sustainable Practices:

Encourage individuals and businesses to adopt sustainable practices in food purchasing, storage, and consumption. Provide tips, resources, and tools to help users make informed decisions and reduce their food waste.

4. Enhance User Engagement:

Build a community of engaged users through gamification, challenges, and social sharing features. Encourage participation by recognizing contributions and creating a sense of belonging among users passionate about reducing food waste.

5. Provide Real-Time Tracking and Reporting:

Implement features that allow users to track food donations, view available surplus food in real time, and report the impact of their efforts. This transparency will help users see the tangible effects of their contributions.

6. Foster Partnerships with Local Organizations:

Establish collaborations with local food banks, charities, and community organizations to streamline food distribution processes and expand the reach of food waste reduction initiatives.

7. Integrate Technology for Efficiency:

Utilize technology such as geolocation services, mobile applications, and data analytics to optimize food redistribution logistics, improve user experience, and enhance operational efficiency.

8. Support Research and Development:

Gather data on food waste trends, user behaviors, and the effectiveness of various initiatives. This information can inform future strategies, policies, and innovations in food waste reduction.

9. Encourage Policy Advocacy:

Advocate for policies and regulations that support food waste reduction efforts, such as incentives for businesses to donate food and improved food safety regulations for food redistribution.

10. Expand Accessibility and Inclusivity:

Ensure that the platform is accessible to diverse populations, including low-income communities, and cater to users with varying levels of technological proficiency to maximize participation and impact.

By achieving these objectives, the food waste reduction website aims to create a sustainable ecosystem that effectively addresses the issue of food waste while promoting community engagement and social responsibility.

IV. METHODOLOGY

1. Needs Assessment and Research:

Conduct surveys and focus groups to identify community needs regarding food waste and hunger.

Analyze existing platforms to understand their strengths and weaknesses, informing design and feature selection.

2. Platform Development:

Design: Create a user-friendly interface that is intuitive and accessible on both desktop and mobile devices, focusing on seamless navigation.

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Technology Stack: Choose appropriate technologies for front-end (HTML, CSS, JavaScript, bookstrap) and back-end development (ASP, MySQL).

3. Feature Implementation:

Food Donation Listings: Develop a system for users to post surplus food available for donation, including details like type, quantity, and expiration date.

User Registration and Profiles: Implement user authentication and create profiles for donors and recipients to track donations and interactions.

Geolocation Services: Integrate mapping features to help users locate nearby food donations or food banks.

4. Awareness and Education:

Create educational content about food waste reduction, including tips, recipes for leftovers, and the environmental impact of food waste.

Launch social media campaigns to promote the platform and raise awareness.

5. Community Engagement:

Incorporate gamification elements, such as challenges and rewards for users who actively participate in donating or redistributing food.

Foster partnerships with local organizations, charities, and food banks to facilitate food redistribution and broaden community reach.

6. Monitoring and Evaluation:

Use analytics tools to track user engagement, food donations, and the overall impact of the platform on food waste reduction.

Conduct periodic surveys to gather feedback from users and stakeholders for continuous improvement.

7. Feedback and Iteration:

Based on user feedback and data analysis, iterate on platform features and functionality to enhance user experience and effectiveness.

Regularly update educational materials and resources to reflect new information and best practices in food waste reduction.

V. ANALYSIS

Strengths:

1. Effective Platform for Redistribution: The website successfully connects food donors (restaurants, grocery stores, individuals) with local charities and food banks, ensuring that excess food is redirected rather than wasted.

2. User Engagement: By employing features like gamification and social sharing, the platform encourages active participation, fostering a community focused on reducing food waste.

3. Educational Resources: The website provides valuable information and resources that educate users about the importance of food waste reduction and sustainable consumption practices.

4. Data-Driven Insights: The collection of data on food donations and user interactions enables real-time tracking of impact and helps identify trends for continuous improvement.

Challenges:

1. Logistical Coordination: Managing the logistics of food pickup and delivery can be complex, requiring efficient planning and execution to ensure timely redistribution.

2. User Trust and Safety Concerns: Some users may have concerns about food quality and safety, which could hinder participation unless adequately addressed.

3. Regulatory Barriers: Navigating food safety regulations and ensuring compliance can be challenging, particularly for businesses donating food.

Impact: The website has demonstrated a positive impact by reducing food waste in the community, enhancing food security, and contributing to environmental sustainability. It has raised awareness and educated users

about the importance of minimizing food waste, leading to behavioral changes in food consumption and management.

Future Directions: To enhance effectiveness, the website could explore:

Advanced Technology Integration: Incorporating machine learning and AI for predictive analytics to better manage food donations and logistics.

Broader Partnerships: Expanding collaborations with more organizations to increase food redistribution capabilities and community outreach.

Policy Advocacy: Leveraging data to influence local and national policies promoting food donation and waste reduction.

VI. CONCLUSION

The food waste reduction website serves as an essential tool in addressing the pressing issues of food waste and hunger within communities. By effectively connecting surplus food from businesses and individuals to those in need, it not only reduces waste but also promotes food security and sustainability. Through user engagement, educational resources, and community partnerships, the platform fosters a culture of responsibility and awareness regarding food consumption practices. Continuous improvement and adaptation to user feedback and technological advancements will enhance its effectiveness, ultimately contributing to a more sustainable and equitable food system.

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