



Positive and Negative Factors in the Success of Urban Food Security Projects

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Introduction

- In many areas of the United States food constituting a nutritionally adequate diet, particularly fresh produce, is inaccessible to residents due to a combination of socioeconomic factors (Jones et al., 2021).
- The nutritional deficiencies incurred as a result lead to disproportionately high rates of nutritional deficiencies and cardiometabolic disease in these communities. This is a contributing factor to the socioeconomic disparities that are seen in chronic disease morbidity and mortality (Leung et al., 2020).
- Urban food security (UFS) projects such as community gardens serve to supplement legislative programs aimed at addressing food insecurity in some communities (Hu et al., 2021).
- This study aims to identify factors that contribute to the success or lack thereof of such projects.

Methodologies

- A qualitative thematic analysis of historical documents regarding one UFS project that existed in East Palo Alto in the 1990s was conducted with the purpose of identifying success-determining factors.

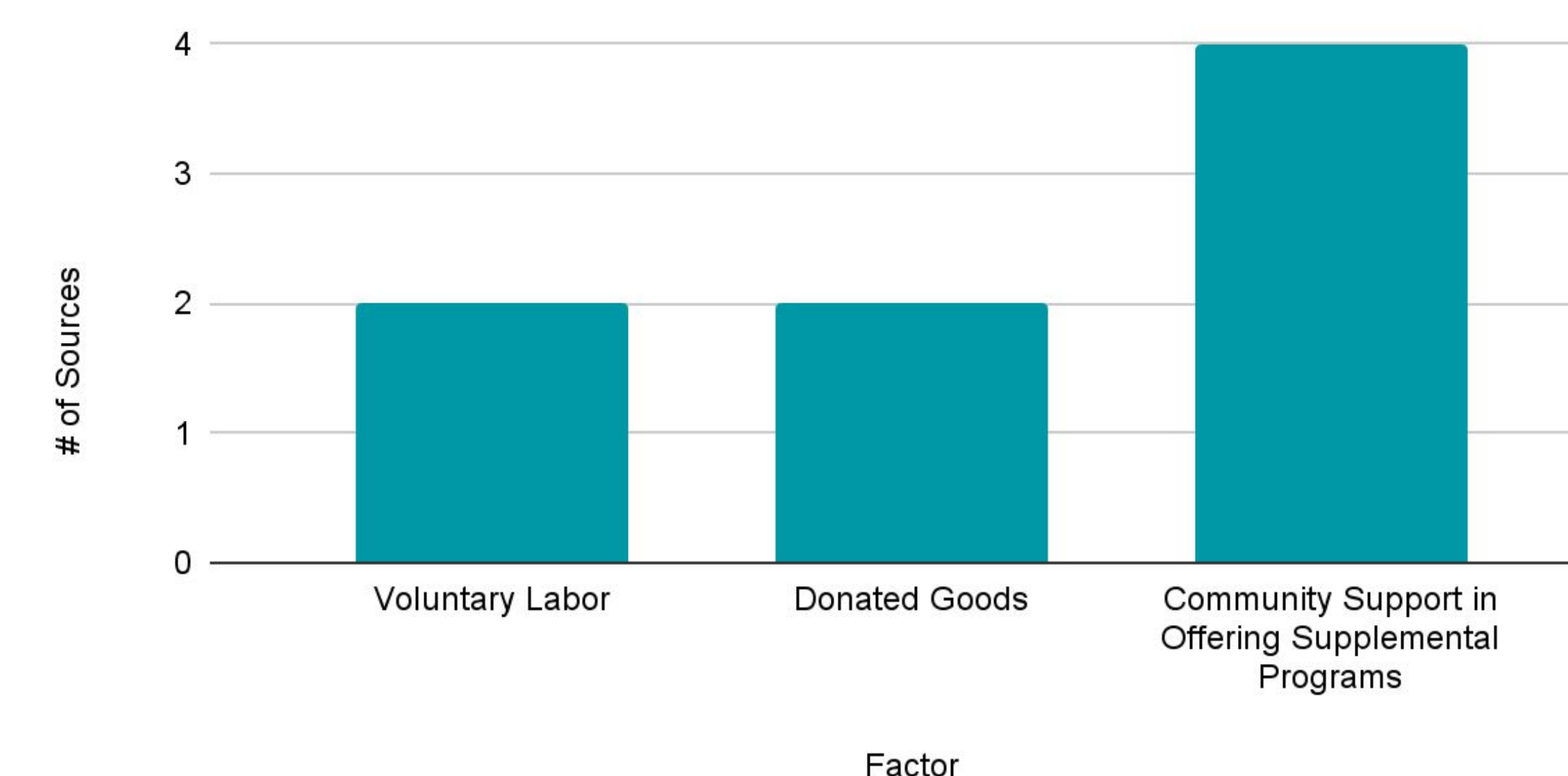
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Results

Of the six documents were evaluated, 4 described positive factors, including positive community perception and various forms of community engagement (described below). Two documents identified developmental pressures as a primary negative factor.

of Documents Mentioning Identified Aspects of Community Participation



Positive community perception, voluntary labor, Donation of Goods, and support in offering supplemental programs were identified as positive contributing facts. Identified in 4, 2, 2, and 4 documents respectively.

Conclusions

Positive Factors

- Findings indicate that cultivating a positive perspectives of the project within the community it serves contributes to increased community participation
 - This participation is often crucial to the projects implementation
 - An approach centred around families and participation from children may be particularly successful in cultivating desired perspectives within the community

Negative Factors

- In semi-rural setting pressure for development may pose a significant obstacle to community garden-based UFS projects

Analysis & Next - Steps

- UFS project organizers could consider these findings in the implementation of their initiatives in order to increase the success of such projects
- This study reveal the importance of prioritizing community engagement in the implementation of UFS projects, the results further indicate that emphasis placed on programs incentivising the participation of children can positively impact project outcomes
- Limitations of this study primarily include its limited scope, and sparse availability of electronic documents pertaining to this case
- Further research is needed to build a fuller picture of the positive and negative factors that affect UFS projects, particularly in contexts dissimilar to the project studied.