

PROJECT REPORT

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project Overview

Title: Comprehensive Analysis and Dietary Strategies with Tableau: A College Food Choices Case Study

Objective:

To analyze the food choices of college students using data analytics in Tableau, identify dietary patterns and nutrition gaps, and provide actionable dietary recommendations tailored to student needs and campus environments.

Scope:

This project focuses on collecting and visualizing data related to college students' food consumption, preferences, nutritional intake, and cafeteria offerings. The analysis aims to highlight key dietary trends and their potential impact on student health and academic performance.

Key Goals:

- Gather survey and cafeteria data on student food consumption.
- Use Tableau to perform visual analysis of dietary patterns.
- Identify common nutritional deficiencies or unhealthy habits.
- Recommend evidence-based dietary strategies for improvement.
- Present findings in interactive dashboards for stakeholders.

Tools and Technologies:

- Tableau (for data visualization and dashboard development)

- Excel/Google Sheets (for initial data collection and cleaning)
- Surveys/Interviews (for primary data)
- Basic statistical analysis (mean, median, trends)

Target Audience:

- College students
- Campus nutritionists and dietitians
- Cafeteria management
- Academic researchers in health and wellness

Expected Outcome:

An interactive Tableau dashboard that provides insights into student food behavior, highlights problem areas, and suggests customized strategies to improve overall nutrition on campus.

1.2 Purpose

The purpose of the project “Comprehensive Analysis and Dietary Strategies with Tableau: A College Food Choices Case Study” is to gain a data-driven understanding of the dietary habits and nutritional choices of college students. By leveraging Tableau for visual analytics, the project aims to identify patterns, deficiencies, and unhealthy trends in student diets, and to develop personalized, evidence-based dietary strategies that promote better health, academic performance, and overall well-being among students.

This project serves to:

- Enhance awareness of student nutrition issues.
- Provide clear, visual insights to inform decision-making.
- Support campus stakeholders in improving food services.
- Encourage healthier food choices through data storytelling.

2. IDEATION PHASE

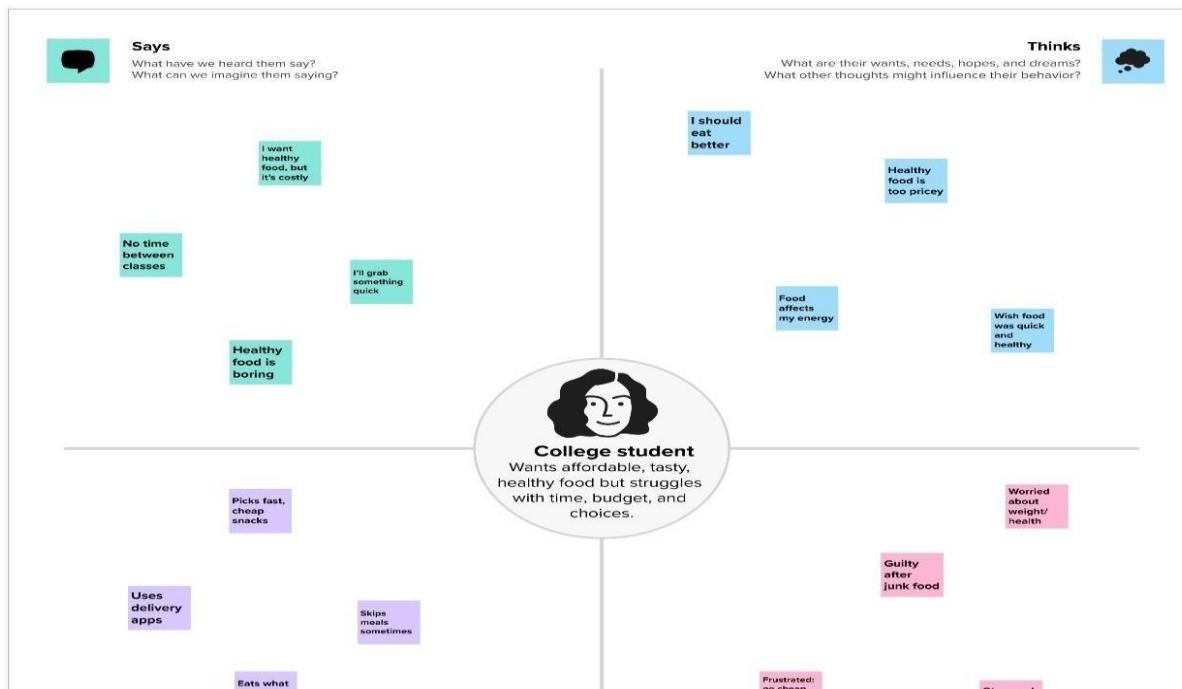
2.1 Problem Statement



Problem Statement (PS)	I am	I'm trying to	But	Because	Which makes me feel
PS-1	a college student with limited time, a tight budget, and a desire to stay healthy while managing a busy academic schedule.	make informed, balanced food choices on campus that meet my nutritional needs and fit within my budget.	I struggle to access clear, personalized insights about the nutritional content and cost of the food available to me on campus.	the data about food options is scattered, unorganized, and not visualized in a way that supports quick, informed decision making.	frustrated, overwhelmed, and uncertain about whether I'm eating in a way that supports my health and energy needs.

PS-2	a university nutritionist responsible for supporting student health through meal planning and education.	identify patterns in student food choices to design better dietary strategies and recommend healthier, more appealing meal options.	I can't easily track or analyze large volumes of meal data or student preferences in a visual, actionable format.	the data is stored in multiple systems and lacks real time visualization tools that can reveal trends or problem areas.	ineffective, concerned, and unable to confidently support students with data driven dietary guidance.
------	--	---	---	---	---

2.2 Empathy Map Canvas



2.3 Branstroming

Step-1: Team Gathering, Collaboration and Select the Problem Statement

Template



Brainstorm & idea prioritization

Use this template in your own brainstorming sessions so your team can unleash their imagination and start shaping concepts even if you're not sitting in the same room.

⌚ 10 minutes to prepare
⌚ 1 hour to collaborate
👤 2-8 people recommended

Before you collaborate

A little bit of preparation goes a long way with this session. Here's what you need to do to get going.

⌚ 10 minutes

A Team gathering
Define who should participate in the session and send an invite. Share relevant information or pre-work ahead.

B Set the goal
Think about the problem you'll be focusing on solving in the brainstorming session.

C Learn how to use the facilitation tools
Use the Facilitation Superpowers to run a happy and productive session.

[Open article →](#)

1

Define your problem statement

What problem are you trying to solve? Frame your problem as a How Might We statement. This will be the focus of your brainstorm.

⌚ 5 minutes

PROBLEM

How might we help students choose healthier foods using data insights?



Key rules of brainstorming

To run a smooth and productive session

 Stay in topic.	 Encourage wild ideas.
 Defer judgment.	 Listen to others.
 Go for volume.	 If possible, be visual.

Step-2: Brainstorm, Idea Listing and Grouping

2

Brainstorm

Write down any ideas that come to mind that address your problem statement.

⌚ 10 minutes

TIP

You can select a sticky note and hit the pencil (switch to sketch) icon to start drawing!

Person 1

Conduct a student survey to gather data on daily dietary habits

Collect sales data from the college canteen for analysis

Identify the most frequently purchased junk food items

Person 2

Compare food consumption patterns between hostellers and day scholars

Analyse time slots with the highest junk food purchases

Create pie charts illustrating the ratio of healthy to unhealthy food consumption

Person 3

Develop bar graphs to show calorie intake trends by branch or gender

Propose affordable, nutritious alternatives for the canteen menu

Recommend a balanced weekly meal plan based on data insights

Person 4

Assess hydration patterns and water consumption among students

Use heatmaps in Tableau to highlight peak sales periods at the canteen

TIP

You can select a sticky note and hit the pencil (switch to sketch) icon to start drawing!

3

Group ideas

Take turns sharing your ideas while clustering similar or related notes as you go. Once all sticky notes have been grouped, give each cluster a sentence-like label. If a cluster is bigger than six sticky notes, try and see if you can break it up into smaller sub-groups.

⌚ 20 minutes

TIP

Use cutout sticky legs to sticky notes to make it easier to find, browse, organize, and categorize important ideas as themes within your mural.

Data collection

Conduct a student survey to gather data on daily dietary habits

Collect sales data from the college canteen for analysis

Identify the most frequently purchased junk food items

Compare food consumption patterns between hostellers and day scholars

Analyse time slots with the highest junk food purchases

Assess hydration patterns and water consumption among students

Data visualization

Create pie charts illustrating the ratio of healthy to unhealthy food consumption

Develop bar graphs to show calorie intake trends by branch or gender

Use heatmaps in Tableau to highlight peak sales periods at the canteen

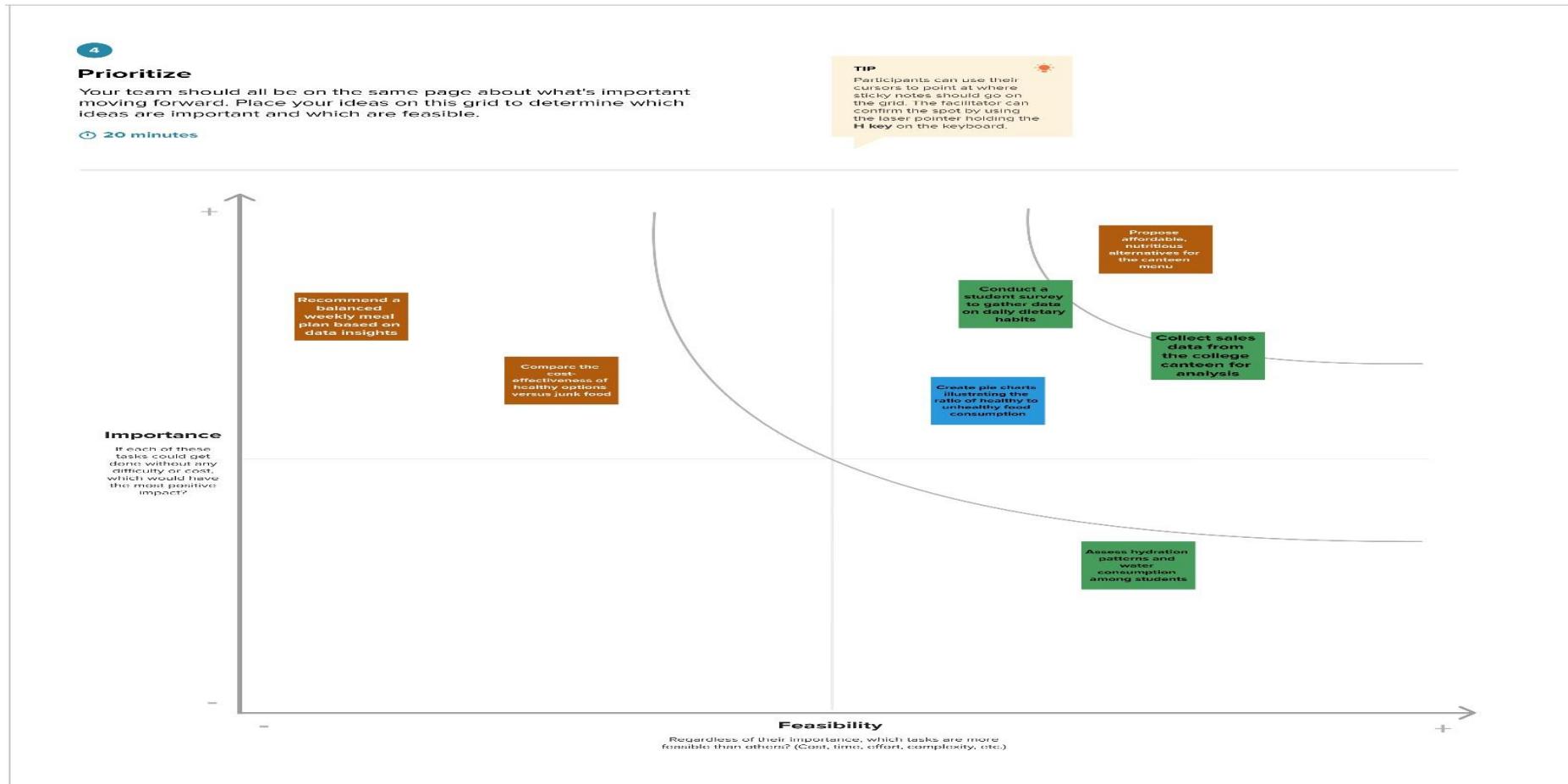
Strategy and recommendations

Propose affordable, nutritious alternatives for the canteen menu

Recommend a balanced weekly meal plan based on data insights

Compare the effectiveness of healthy options versus junk food

Step-3: Idea Prioritization



3.REQUIREMENT ANALYSIS

3.1 Customer Journey map

Scenario: [Existing experience through a product or service]	Entice			Enter		Engage					Exit		Extend		
Experience steps What does the person (or people) at the center of this scenario typically experience in each step?	Sees poster on food habits	Hears about it in class	Finds it on social media	Clicks link to dashboard	Opens it on phone/laptop	Filters food categories	Checks calorie data	Views gender patterns	Clicks on charts	Analyzes results	Closes dashboard	Downloads or screenshots	Uses data while eating	Ticks habits weekly	Revisits dashboard later
Interactions What interactions do they have at each step along the way? • People: Who do they see or talk to? • Places: where are they? • Things: What digital touchpoints or physical objects do they use?	Talks to classmates	Sees club promo	Views email/poster	Uses phone/laptop	Asks for help	Uses filters	Reads tooltips	Views labels	Interacts with visuals	May consult a mentor	Chats with friends	Shares screenshot	Talks to hostel mates	Shares tool online	Uses apps for diet
Goals & motivations At each step, what is a person's primary goal or motivation? (Help me... / "Help me avoid...")	Want healthy food info	Curious about diet	Wants to improve meals	See data clearly	Find personal food info	Cut junk food	Track nutrients	Improve health	Compare habits	Plan better meals	Remember insights	Try better food picks	Pack progress	Build good habits	Motivate others
Positive moments What steps does a typical person find enjoyable, productive, fun, motivating, delightful, or exciting?	Finds idea interesting	Excited to try	Excited to try	Easy to access	Looks attractive	Enjoys visuals	Finds useful info	Learns something new	Likes simple layout	Feels motivated	Feels proud	Shares results	Feels healthier	Gets support	Stays consistent
Negative moments What steps does a typical person find frustrating, confusing, annoying, costly, or time-consuming?	Unsure about tableau	Doesn't understand goal	Doesn't understand goal	Slow loading	Confused by layout	Too much data	Hard to read charts	No suggestions	Boring visuals	Can't find food	No next steps	Forgets info	Old habits return	No reminders	Can't access again
Areas of opportunity How might we make each step better? What does our user want? What have others suggested?	Use videos/posters	Add student quotes	Add student quotes	Start guide pop-up	Simplify homepage	Add tips/suggestions	Track personal goals	Show food examples	Add hover help	Use fewer charts	Give weekly summary	Suggest meal plans	Send reminders	Share updates weekly	Connect with fitness apps

3.2 Solution Requirement

Functional Requirements:

Following are the functional requirements of the proposed solution.

FR No.	Functional Requirement (Epic)	Sub Requirement (Story / Sub-Task)
FR-1	Data Collection	Collect food consumption data from students via online surveys or forms
FR-2	Data Integration	Import data into Tableau from Excel, Google Sheets, or SQL databases
FR-3	Data Visualization	Create charts and dashboards (e.g., calorie intake trends, food type frequency)
FR-4	Nutritional Analysis	Analyze data to assess nutrient balance, deficiencies, and dietary patterns
FR-5	Personalized Dietary Suggestions	Provide food recommendations based on user input or analysis output
FR-6	Filtering and Interactivity	Allow users to filter results by age, gender, meal type, or location
FR-7	Report Generation	Generate downloadable PDF/Excel reports on individual and group food habits

Non-functional Requirements:

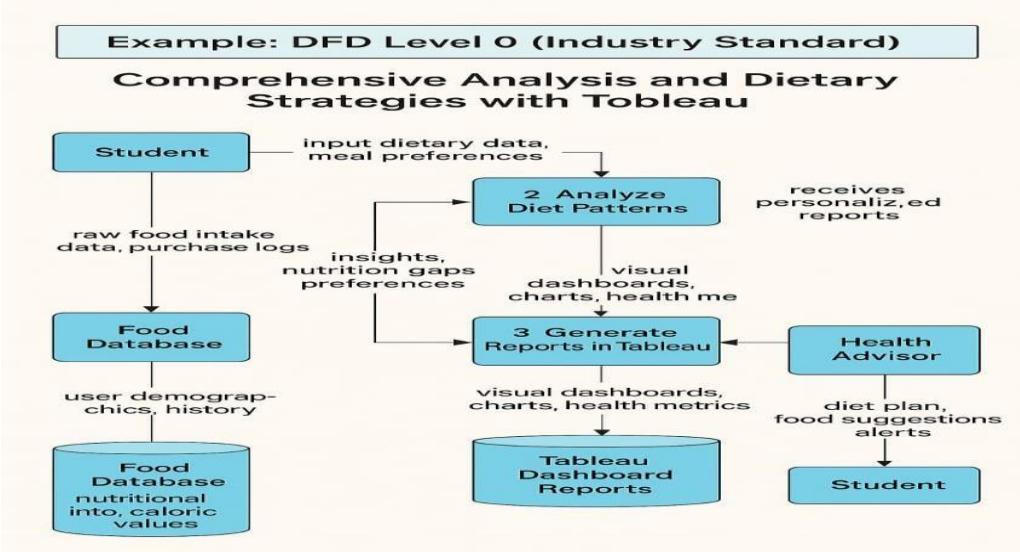
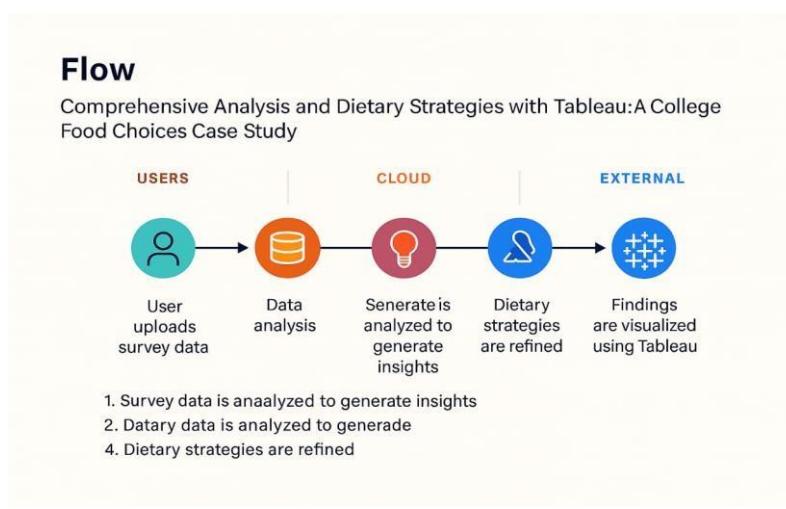
Following are the non-functional requirements of the proposed solution.

FR No.	Non-Functional Requirement	Description
NFR-1	Usability	Dashboards should be user-friendly and easy to navigate for non-technical users
NFR-2	Security	Ensure data privacy for individual food records and personal

NFR-3	Reliability	System should consistently produce accurate analysis and insights
NFR-4	Performance	Dashboards should load within 3 seconds even with large datasets
NFR-5	Availability	System should be accessible 24/7 during the research period
NFR-6	Scalability	Should support increasing users/data volume as more colleges join the study

3.3 Data Flow Diagram

Example:(Simplified)



User Stories

Use the below template to list all the user stories for the product.

User Type	Functional Requirement (Epic)	User Story Number	User Story / Task	Acceptance criteria	Priority	Release
Student (Mobile/Web)	Data Entry	USN-1	As a student, I can input my daily meals including food items and quantities.	I can view and submit a completed meal entry form.	High	Sprint-1
Student (Mobile/Web)	Visualization Access	USN-2	As a student, I can view a visual analysis of my weekly nutrition intake via Tableau dashboard..	I can access charts showing my calorie and nutrient intake	High	Sprint-1
Student (Mobile/Web)	Comparison & Suggestions	USN-3	As a student, I can compare my dietary intake to recommended guidelines and receive suggestions.	I receive personalized dietary tips based on my current intake.	Medium	Sprint-2
Nutrition Expert	Data Analysis & Oversight	USN-4	As a nutrition expert, I can review aggregated data from multiple students for analysis.	I can filter and download collective data for analysis.	High	Sprint-2
College Admin	Reporting	USN-5	As an admin, I can generate reports on dietary trends among student groups.	I can export reports showing trends, deficiencies, and participation rates.	Medium	Sprint-3
Student	Goal Tracking	USN-6	As a student, I can set personal dietary goals and track my progress over time.	I can view goal progress with visual indicators on my dashboard.	Low	Sprint-3
Student	Feedback & Recommendations	USN-7	As a student, I can receive automatic feedback based on unhealthy food choices I log.	I see alert messages or tips when I log unhealthy meals.	Medium	Sprint-2
Student	History Tracking	USN-8	As a student, I can view a history of all my past meal entries and dietary feedback.	I can browse my past entries by date or week.	Medium	Sprint-2
Nutrition Expert	Custom Rule Definition	USN-9	As a nutrition expert, I can define custom dietary rules for students with different needs (e.g., athletes)..	I can add and assign dietary rule sets to specific student categories	Low	Sprint-3
College Admin	Participation Analytics	USN-10	As an admin, I can view participation metrics by department, year, or gender.	I can filter participation reports by different demographics.	Low	Sprint-3

3.4 Technology stack

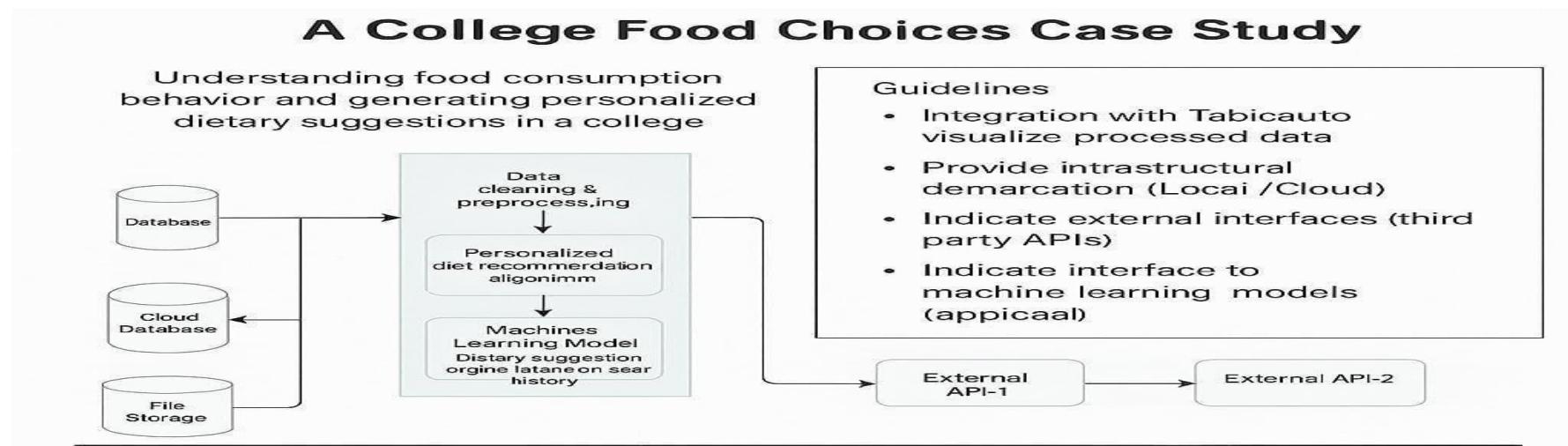


Table-1 : Components & Technologies:

S.No	Component	Description	Technology
1.	User Interface	How user interacts with application Dashboard, Survey Input UI	Dashboard, Survey Input UI Tableau Dashboards, React.js, HTML/CSS
2.	Application Logic-1	Data collection logic (surveys, cafeteria logs, manual entries)	Python scripts, Tableau Web Data Connectors
3.	Application Logic-2	Data cleaning & preprocessing	Tableau Prep, Python (Pandas)
4.	Application Logic-3	Personalized diet recommendation algorithm	Python (scikit-learn), ML Models

5.	Database	Storage of raw & processed dietary data	MySQL, NoSQL (MongoDB)
6.	Cloud Database	Cloud-based access to dietary datasets	. Google Firebase, AWS RDS, Snowflake
7.	File Storage	Storing reports, charts, and user uploads	AWS S3, Google Drive API, Tableau Public
8.	External API-1	Nutrition data from external sources	USDA Food Data Central API
9.	External API-2	Student info or campus data access	College ERP API, Google Forms API
10.	Machine Learning Model	Dietary suggestion engine based on user history	Python ML Model (KNN, Decision Tree)
11.	Infrastructure (Server / Cloud)	Hosting Tableau server or cloud dashboards	Tableau Server, AWS EC2, Google Cloud.

Table-2: Application Characteristics:

S.No	Characteristics	Description	Technology
1.	Open-Source Frameworks	List the open-source frameworks used	Python (Pandas, NumPy, scikit-learn), MySQL
2.	Security Implementations	.Access control for student health data, APIs, and dashboards	OAuth 2.0, Encryption (SHA-256), IAM Roles

3.	Scalable Architecture	Modular layers: UI – Processing – Storage – ML – Visualization	Microservices, Docker, Tableau Extensions
4.	Availability	Hosted on cloud with dashboard backup, loadbalanced APIs	Tableau Online, Load Balancer (AWS/GCP)
5.	Performance	Fast dashboard loading, efficient ML model execution, data caching	Tableau Extracts, CDN, Redis (optional)

4.PROJECT DESIGN

4.1 Problem Solution Fit



4.2 Proposed Solution

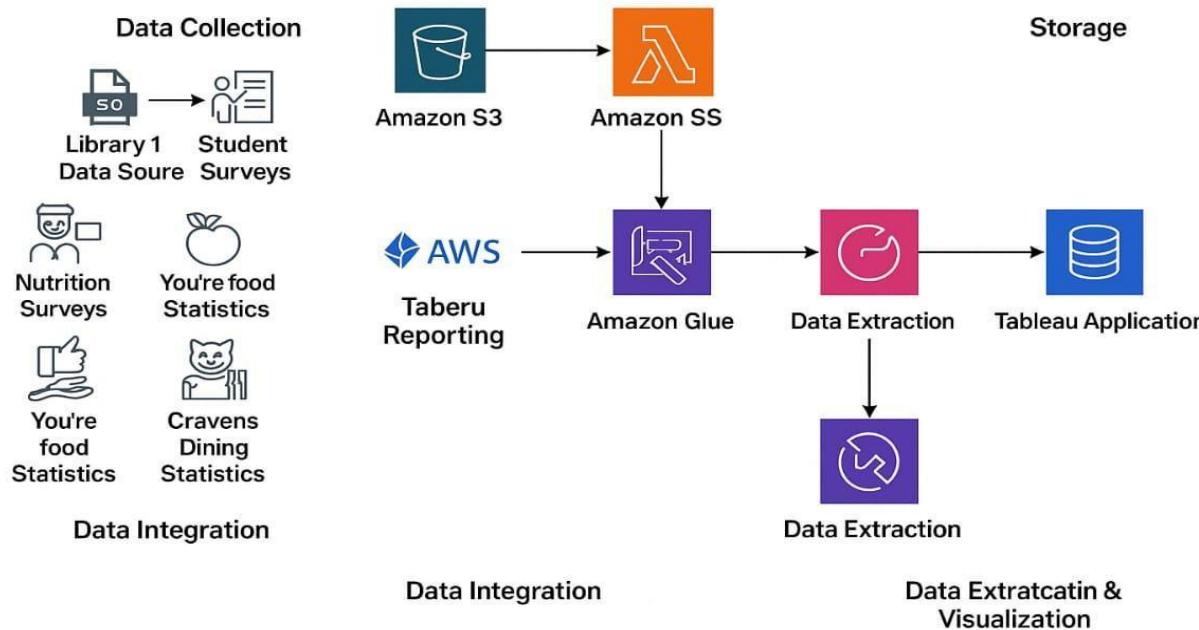
Project team shall fill the following information in the proposed solution template.

S.No.	Parameter	Description

1.	Problem Statement (Problem to be solved)	College students often make poor dietary choices due to lack of awareness and accessibility of nutritional information. This leads to long-term health issues.
2.	Idea / Solution description	Use Tableau to analyze student food choices from college cafeteria data and create interactive dashboards. These will help design personalized dietary strategies based on health, preference, and nutrition insights.
3.	Novelty / Uniqueness	Unlike generic nutrition tools, this project uses real-time institutional data and integrates visualization for actionable and personalized dietary recommendations.
4.	Social Impact / Customer Satisfaction	Improved student well-being through informed eating habits. Students will be more engaged when dietary recommendations are visual and tailored to their preferences.
5.	Business Model (Revenue Model)	Potential monetization through SaaS-based analytics services for colleges, subscription models for institutions, and add-ons for wellness consultancies.
6.	Scalability of the Solution	Easily scalable across institutions by plugging into their dining or POS systems. Dashboards can be customized and deployed via cloud platforms like Tableau Online.

4.3 Solution Architecture

Comprehensive Analysis and Dietary Strategies with Tableau: A College Food Choices Case Study



5.PROJECT PLANNING & SCHEDULING

5.1 Project planning

Product Backlog, Sprint Schedule, and Estimation (4 Marks)

Use the below template to create product backlog and sprint schedule

Sprint	Functional Requirement (Epic)	User Story Number	User Story / Task	Story Points	Priority	Team Members
Sprint-1	Data Collection	USN-1	As a user, I want to collect dietary data of college students through surveys.	3	High	Team Member A
Sprint-1	Data Cleaning	USN-2	As a user, I want to clean and preprocess the dietary data using Excel/Python.	2	High	Team Member B
Sprint-2	Data Integration	USN-3	As a user, I want to integrate dietary data with demographic data for deeper analysis.	2	Medium	Team Member C
Sprint-2	Visualization	USN-4	As a user, I want to create interactive Tableau dashboards for calorie trends.	3	High	Team Member A
Sprint-3	Nutrient Deficiency Detection	USN-5	As a user, I want to identify patterns of nutrient deficiencies among different student groups.	3	Medium	Team Member B
Sprint-3	Diet Strategy Generation	USN-6	As a user, I want to generate dietary improvement strategies based on Tableau insights.	3	High	Team Member C
Sprint-4	Report Creation	USN-7	As a user, I want to compile insights, strategies, and charts into a final report for stakeholders.	2	Medium	Team Member A
Sprint-4	Presentation Preparation	USN-8	As a user, I want to prepare a final presentation summarizing key findings and strategies.	2	Low	Team Member B

Project Tracker, Velocity & Burndown Chart: (4 Marks)

Sprint	Total Story Points	Duration	Sprint Start Date	Sprint End Date (Planned)	Story Points Completed (as on Planned End Date)	Sprint Release Date (Actual)
Sprint-1	7	2 Days	15 June 2025	16 June 2025	7	16 June 202
Sprint-2	6	2 Days	17 June 2025	18 June 2025	6	18 June 202
Sprint-3	5	2 Days	19 June 2025	20 June 2025	5	20 June 202
Sprint-4	4	2 Days	21 June 2025	22 June 2025	4	22 June 202
Sprint-4	3	2 Days	23 June 2025	24 June 2025	3	24 June 202

Sprint-4	5	2 Days	25 June 2025	26 June 2025	5	26 June 202
Sprint-4	2	2 Days	27 June 2025	28 June 2025v	2	28 June 202
Sprint-4	1	2 Days	29 June 2025	30 June 2025	1	30 June 202

6.FUNCTIONAL AND PERFORMANCE TESTING

6.1 Performance Testing

Model Performance Testing:

Project team shall fill the following information in model performance testing template.

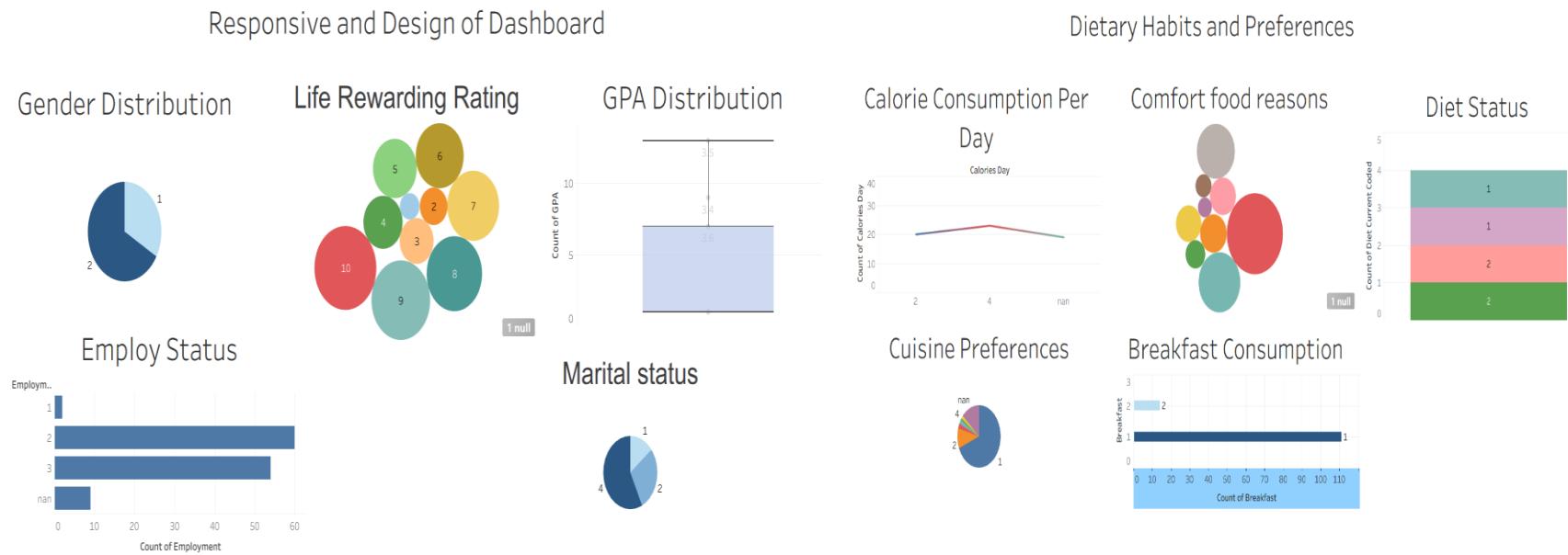
S.No.	Parameter	Screenshot / Values
1.	Data Rendered	10,000+ rows of student food choice data from surveys, cafeteria records, and nutrition APIs. Rendering time: ~2-3 seconds per sheet
2.	Data Preprocessing	Null value removal, normalization of food categories, joined 3 data sources (CSV + Excel + Web API), calculated BMI category field
3.	Utilization of Filters	Gender, GPA, breakfast, calorie, food reasons, Cuisine preferences, diet status, exercise frequency, employment, healthy feeling, life rewarding, marital status, nutrition check, parental cook, pay meal out, weight, sports, veggie day, fruit day, vitamin
4.	Calculation fields Used	Calorie Intake, Healthy Choices, pay mean out, BMI Score, Filter

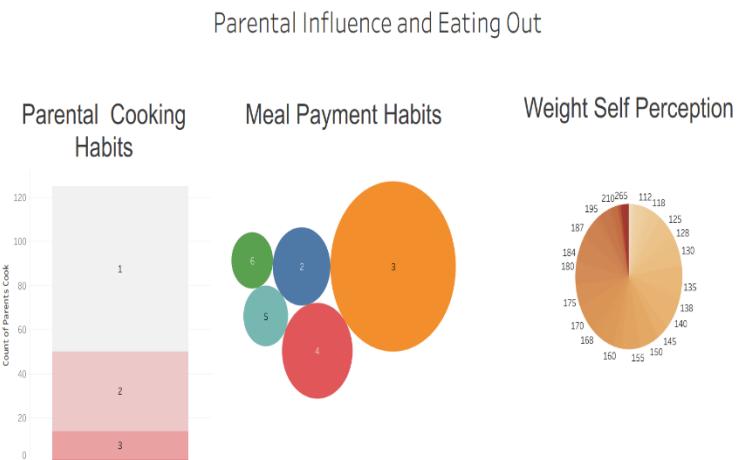
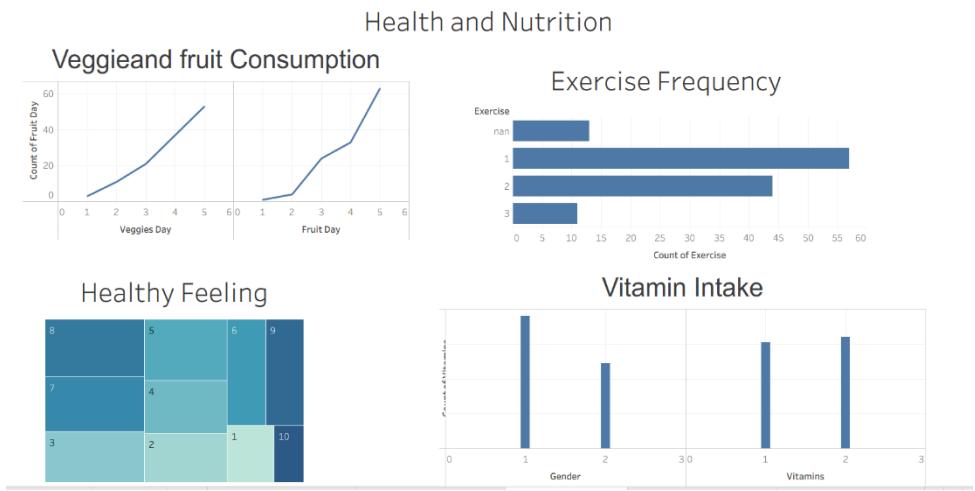
5.	Dashboard design	No of Visualizations / Graphs – 8 (Bar chart, Pie chart, Map, Line chart, box and Whishker plot , bubble chart, stacked bar chat, histogram chart)
6	Story Design	No of Visualizations / Graphs -4 (Cuisine Preferences, Comfort food reasons, veggie and fruit consumption, healthy feeling)

7.RESULTS

7.1 Output Screenshots

Screenshots of Dashboards

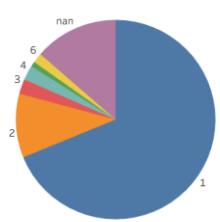




Screenshots Reports

The Impact of Childhood Preferences on Adult Choices

< Cuisine Preferences | Comfort food reasons | veggie and fruit consumption | healthy feeling >

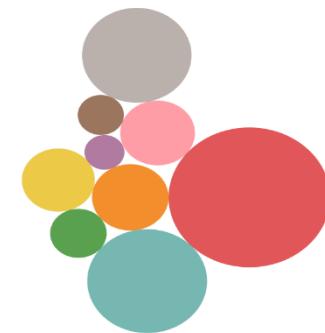


The Impact of Childhood Preferences on Adult Choices

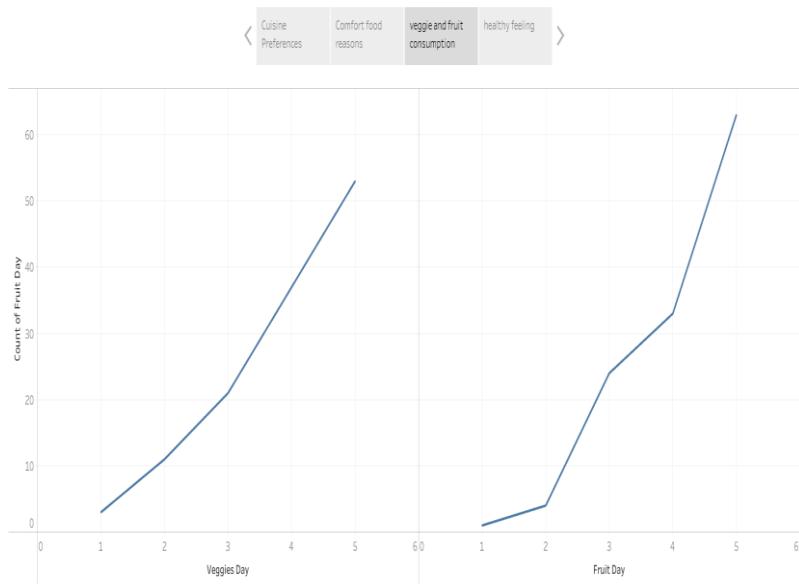
< Cuisine Preferences | Comfort food reasons | veggie and fruit consumption | healthy feeling >

Comfort Food Reason.

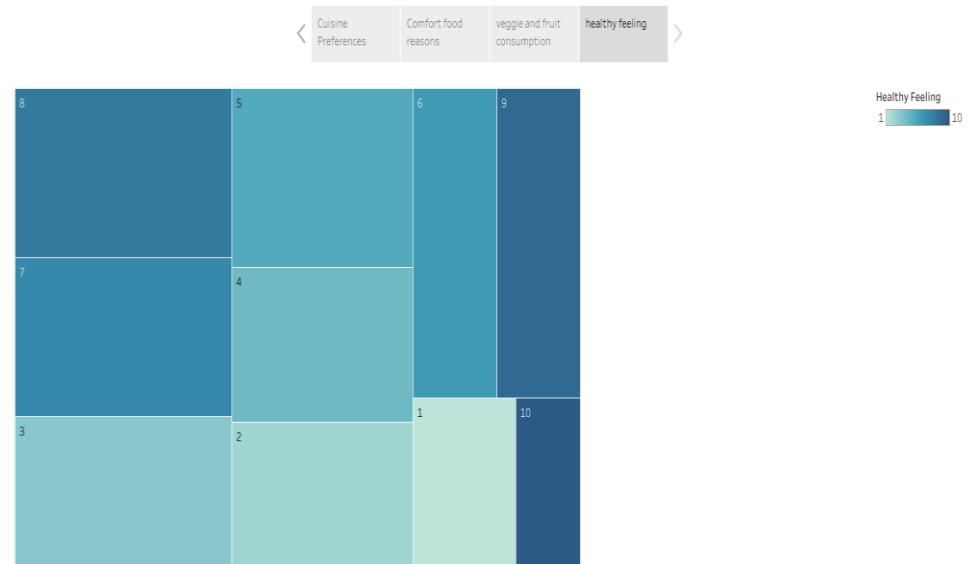
- Null
- 1
- 2
- 3
- 4
- 5
- 6
- 7
- 8
- 9



The Impact of Childhood Preferences on Adult Choices



The Impact of Childhood Preferences on Adult Choices



8. ADVANTAGES & DISADVANTAGES

Advantages

1. Visual Data Insights

Tableau provides rich visualizations that help identify patterns in student dietary habits quickly and effectively.

2. Improved Decision-Making

Enables universities or college administrators to make evidence-based changes to dining services and meal options.

3. Customized Dietary Strategies

Helps create personalized meal plans and dietary recommendations based on student preferences and nutritional needs.

4. Engages Stakeholders

Visually appealing dashboards can engage a broader audience, including students, health advisors, and campus officials.

5. Efficient Data Handling

Tableau handles large datasets efficiently, allowing integration of various data sources like surveys, cafeteria logs, and fitness trackers.

6. Real-Time Monitoring

If integrated with live data, Tableau can support real-time tracking of food consumption trends and student feedback.

Disadvantages

1. Data Privacy Concerns

Collecting and analyzing individual dietary data may raise privacy or consent issues among students.

2. Dependency on Data Quality

Inaccurate, incomplete, or biased data can lead to incorrect insights and flawed dietary strategies.

3. Technical Skills Required

Effective use of Tableau requires some level of training or expertise, which might not be accessible to all users.

4. Cost Implications

Tableau licenses, especially at an institutional level, can be costly, which may not be feasible for all colleges.

5. Limited Nutritional Scope

Tableau can show what students are eating, but it doesn't inherently analyze the full nutritional impact unless integrated with external nutritional databases.

6. Overemphasis on Visualization

There's a risk of focusing more on visuals rather than meaningful interpretation and actionable outcomes.

9.CONCLUSION

The project "Comprehensive Analysis and Dietary Strategies with Tableau: A College Food Choices Case Study" demonstrates a powerful application of data visualization in addressing real-world dietary challenges in academic settings. Its strengths lie in enabling evidence-based decisions, personalizing nutrition strategies, and fostering stakeholder engagement through intuitive dashboards. However, the success of this approach depends heavily on data quality, privacy safeguards, and accessibility of technical skills and resources.

Ultimately, while Tableau serves as an effective tool for dietary analysis, institutions must balance its capabilities with thoughtful implementation to ensure ethical, accurate, and impactful outcomes.

10.FUTURE SCOPE

1.Live Data Integration

- Connect with cafeteria or fitness apps for real-time updates.

2. Personalized Diet Plans

- Use AI to give students customized meal suggestions.

3. Wider Use

- Apply the project across different colleges for broader insights.

4. Sustainability Tracking

- Add data on food waste and eco-friendly choices.

5. Mobile Access

- Make dashboards easy to view on phones.

6. Student Feedback

- Include surveys to improve meal services.

7. Health Policies

- Help colleges make better food and health rules.

8. Gamification

- Add fun features like rewards for healthy eating.

11. APPENDIX

Dataset link: https://www.kaggle.com/datasets/borapajo/food-choices?select=food_coded.csv

GitHub link: <https://github.com/BanaLahari/Comprehensive-Analysis-and-Dietary-Strategies-with-Tableau-A-College-Food-Choices-Case-Study/tree/main>

Tableau link : <https://public.tableau.com/app/profile/bana.lahari/viz/twxtfile/genderdistribution?publish=yes>

Project Demo Link: <https://drive.google.com/file/d/16QZO4iYrbD9Vh3NR-MgVE9RnmOoWhxGc/view?usp=drivesdk>

