***Making Products from the Disposable Chopsticks.***

Having dishes at my favorite restaurants-Chinese, Korean, and Japanese- gave me room to notice that there are more chopsticks thrown away in the trash. Accordingly, several questions engrossed me such as “ How many trees are cut each year to produce wooden chopsticks?”, “Why chopsticks cannot be recycled?”, “Is it possible to make furniture(table, chair), office supplies(pencil, pencil case), kitchen items(spoon, fork, plates), and so on from recycled chopsticks?”. These questions brought me to get the business idea-“Making products from disposable chopsticks”. To be specific, the description of this business idea consists of designing and making small useful wooden products by collecting and recycling disposable chopsticks.

Referring to the article “ The Problem with Disposable Chopsticks”, more than 25 million mature and cut downed trees are recorded each year for making chopsticks which are used once and then thrown away. Additionally, the statistics in this article demonstrate that about 57 billion pairs of wooden disposable chopsticks are made in China each year while 77 percent of them are exported to Japan, and South Korea (Yen-Van Tran,2019). Moreover, the study illustrated that approximately 1.4 billion people throw away 80 billion pairs of disposable chopsticks, globally, each year (Yen-Van Tran,2019). The 2008 UN report which was mentioned in the article “The 8 Best Eco-Friendly Reusable Chopsticks” indicated that 10,800 square miles of Asian forests are disappearing each year and creating the problem of deforestation (Smith,2021). Deforestation is considered the main effect of greenhouse gas emissions, climate change, soil erosion, ecosystem destruction, life-endangering famine, and drought which jeopardize human and animal lives (Smith,2021). Therefore, individuals from different angles of the Earth, for instance, the U.S.A, China, South Korea, Japan, and so on, need to start taking an action in response to deforestation. I strongly believe, my business idea can be a better solution to this environmental problem as the article “The Problem with Disposable Chopsticks” demonstrates that disposable chopsticks can be the main contributor to the problem of deforestation. Additionally, I could confidently claim that I am the right person for implementing this business idea as it is my favorite hobby to collect disposable products such as bottles, cans, glasses, wooden furniture, clothes to save the environment and allow product producers to reuse them and create another new product.

Last but not least, my first step will be to reach out to managers or owners of Asian restaurants in the U.S.A and governments of Asian countries-China, South Korea, Japan to offer the idea-to put recycling bins for chopsticks. By this approach, the many disposable chopsticks will be accumulated and sent to recycling or sanitization. Then product managers will work on the projects-how to create products such as a table, chairs, pencils, and their cases, plates, baskets, and so on from these recycled/sanitized chopsticks. The marketing department will start working on pricing strategy and promotion and the place where we can sell these products. This is an illustration of one of the methods of solving deforestation. Overall, I come up with this idea from my life experience and personal hobby-collecting and recycling. Hence, I am certain that I am a suitable person for this startup pitch proposal idea-“Making products from disposable chopsticks.”

***References:***

Smith, G. (2021, March 18). *The 8 Best Eco-Friendly Reusable Chopsticks*. Better Goods. Retrieved January 22, 2022, from <https://bettergoods.org/best-chopsticks/>

Yen-Van Tran. (2019, May 23). *The Problem with Disposable Chopsticks*. Design Life Hacks. Retrieved January 22, 2022, from <https://designlifehacks.com/2016/11/17/the-problem-with-disposable-chopsticks/>