

People globally are progressively more attentive to health and nutritional issues nowadays and increasingly worried regarding the safety and quality of the food they eat. Moreover, food constitutes an immense sector economically, with Forbes reporting that as per World Bank data, the food industry accounted for around 10% of total global GDP in 2006, equivalent to roughly \$4.8 trillion, making it arguably the biggest worldwide industry. For food to qualify as organic, it must be cultivated or manufactured without applying synthetic pesticides or fertilizers, without utilizing genetically modified organisms (GMOs), without adding chemical food additives or artificial ripening agents, and without subjecting the food to irradiation procedures. Additionally, meats can only display the organic designation if the animals were reared without the administration of hormones or antibiotics. (Jimenez, 2016).

This chapter slightly decreases my motivation to consume organic food products. While it presents some reasonable benefits, such as lower pesticide residue and less antibiotic use, it also highlights studies showing no significant health advantages and potentially higher risks of E. coli contamination. The conflicting evidence makes the value proposition unclear.

In my opinion, the environmental and social impacts are a more compelling reason to choose organic. The chapter effectively argues the benefits of more sustainable farming practices and land use as well as improved conditions for farm workers. While health merits are debatable, the ecological advantages are quite persuasive.

The argument would be stronger for adopting organic food in a private K-12 school cafeteria compared to a hospital. School children are still developing physically and neurologically and may be more vulnerable to potential toxins and deficiencies. Also, forming good dietary habits early can pay lifelong dividends. The costs incurred would impact families directly rather than

driving up subsidized care. And modeling sustainability aligns well with an educational mission. The benefits seem greater, and downsides reduced in a school setting.

References:

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