**1. Introduction**

**a. Background Information**

Non-residential students, those residing away from their families while pursuing education, face significant challenges in securing affordable and nutritious meals. This is particularly true in Dhaka, Bangladesh, where a confluence of factors contributes to student hunger. Limited budgets, lack of cooking facilities, unfamiliarity with the city, and insufficient time for meal preparation all contribute to this issue. Additionally, students with dietary restrictions may find their options even more limited.

**b. Overview**

This report investigates the issue of food accessibility for non-residential students in Dhaka. We explore the challenges students face and propose potential solutions to ensure they have access to affordable and nutritious meals. Our goal is to contribute to a more equitable and food-secure environment for students, fostering their academic success and well-being.

**2. Methods**

**a. Description of the Solution**

This study proposes a multi-pronged approach to address food insecurity among non-residential students in Dhaka. The proposed solutions aim to:

* **Increase access to affordable and healthy meals:** Explore partnerships with universities to establish subsidized canteens or collaborate with local restaurants to offer student discounts.
* **Promote awareness and education:** Disseminate information about existing food banks, community kitchens, or student-run initiatives that provide meals or groceries.
* **Develop essential food preparation skills:** Organize workshops that equip students with basic cooking skills and budget-friendly recipes, empowering them to prepare healthy meals within their limited resources.
* **Facilitate convenient and affordable options:** Investigate the feasibility of mobile food vendors offering healthy and affordable meals near student accommodation.

**b. Methods Used**

To gain a deeper understanding of the issue, the following methods would be employed:

* **Student Surveys:** Conduct surveys or interviews with non-residential students to gather data on their experiences with food accessibility. This would include information on their budget constraints, dietary needs, and current food acquisition methods.
* **Food Vendor Analysis:** Analyze the availability, affordability, and nutritional value of food options around universities and colleges in Dhaka. This would involve identifying existing vendors, assessing their pricing structures, and evaluating the nutritional content of their offerings.
* **Review of Existing Initiatives:** Research existing programs or interventions that address student hunger, such as subsidized canteens or meal voucher programs implemented by universities or NGOs.

**3. Results and Discussion**

The anticipated results of this study would be:

* **A comprehensive understanding of the challenges faced by non-residential students regarding food accessibility.** This would include data on affordability, availability, and nutritional value of current options.
* **Identification of effective solutions:** By analyzing existing initiatives and student needs, the study would propose the most suitable solutions for the Dhaka context.
* **Increased awareness of the issue:** The research would bring attention to student hunger in Dhaka, encouraging stakeholders to prioritize solutions.

The discussion section would analyze the findings, assess the feasibility and effectiveness of the proposed solutions, and address potential limitations. It would also explore the long-term sustainability of these solutions and suggest methods for promoting a culture of student support that reduces the stigma associated with seeking food assistance.

By employing a combination of student surveys, food vendor analysis, and existing initiative reviews, this study aims to provide valuable insights and practical solutions to ensure food security for non-residential students in Dhaka. This will contribute to a more equitable and supportive learning environment, allowing students to focus on their academic pursuits without the burden of food insecurity.

**4. Conclusion**

**a. Limitations**

This study acknowledges several limitations. Firstly, the data collection methods may not capture the experiences of all non-residential students, particularly those from marginalized communities. Secondly, the feasibility and long-term sustainability of the proposed solutions require further investigation, considering factors like funding and community partnerships.

**b. Suggestions for Future Research**

Future research could explore the following avenues:

* Conduct a larger-scale study with a more diverse sample of students to ensure generalizability of the findings.
* Analyze the nutritional quality of meals offered by existing food vendors and student initiatives.
* Conduct a cost-benefit analysis of the proposed solutions to assess their financial viability.

**5. References**