

Exploring Food Banks in the UK and Germany: Insights and Implications for Taiwan

Kate Yeong-Tsyr Wang

Professor, Graduate Institute of Social Work, National Taiwan Normal
University

Yen Yi Huang

Retired Professor

Abstract

This article explores the development and operations of food banks in the UK and Germany. It synthesizes literature to discuss the connection between welfare austerity and food insecurity, operational constraints of food banks, and paradoxes in redistributing surplus food. The paper also offers reflections on the implementation of food banks in Taiwan.

The expansion of food banks in the UK and Germany symbolizes the impact of welfare austerity. Constrained by the quality and quantity of available surplus food, these banks address food poverty but fall short of adequately responding to the broader issues of food insecurity. Scholars advocate for a structural intervention in addressing the root causes of food poverty and insecurity. The article suggests that Taiwan not only fosters a variety of creative private food bank initiatives but also reforms its social assistance and welfare services by broadening eligibility criteria to encompass a wider spectrum of families in need.

Keywords: Food Bank, Food Insecurity, Food Poverty, Surplus Food