



EMPIRICAL ANALYSIS OF FOOD WASTE MANAGEMENT APPROACHES IN PUNJAB

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Abstract: This paper discusses research on the food waste management approaches taken into consideration for implementation in the hotel industry. While reviewing this study, this paper discussed different aspects and areas of the study along with their respective importance. Concerning different research methodologies, this study has evaluated the effectiveness of the one that has been followed in the research. Overall, this study has found that the respective research discussed in this study has been properly presented along with its findings. Proper analysis has been done which further helped to address the research objectives.

Keywords: Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO), GOP, Food Waste Management, Global food industry, demographic differences, age, education, sex, income, statistical analysis, statistical significance, SPSS, UNSDG, Frequency analysis, descriptive analysis, correlation, hypothesis test, ANOVA, coefficient.

1. Introduction

The introduction of this study represented the overview of this research with a proper evaluation of the research aim, objectives and rationale. Introduction chapter of the research can provide a clear understanding of the direction that the specific research has taken into consideration (Turabian, 2018). With respect to this, this study can be evaluated to have properly addressed the significance of this study alongside other research aspects. Food waste and associated management approaches have been identified to be a crucial area in India to look after. Improper food waste management can result in a negative impact on the environment, sustainability and global food security (Cakar *et al.* 2020). This study has well addressed the food waste management context in India and while doing so, this has further included comments from the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO). The inclusion of these comments has presented a proper rationale behind this research which in turn helped to derive the research aim and objectives. The aim of this research as well as the objectives have addressed approaches to increase the GOP of hotels in Punjab. The research objectives can be evaluated to be specific and contribute to the outcome of this research. The identified research objectives of this study include,

“To evaluate and assess the existing management practices for food waste in Punjab hotels”

“To evaluate and identify adoption and usefulness of management practices addressing food waste”

Considering the research aim, objectives and rationale of this research, this research can be identified to be significant to the hotel industry in Punjab.

2. Literature Review

The literature review chapter of this research has gathered and analysed several aspects related to the research topic. While doing so, this research has further included analysis of standardised data irrelevant to demographic and other differences. With the increase in global environmental issues, food waste has become one of the crucial ones to address (Aktas *et al.* 2018). This research has properly introduced statistics and concepts related to approaches that have been taken into consideration across the whole world to manage food waste. Discussion in this context depicted that there are differences in food waste amounts among countries based on income levels. Another difference between different sources of food waste has been identified in this discussion.

Along with the increase in carbon footprint, organisations are trying to adopt sustainable approaches. Organisations in the global food industry can be identified as having taken food waste management approaches to sustain their respective environmental impacts (Filimonau and Delysia, 2019). This research has shown an in-depth review of different approaches that have been implemented in the global food industry. While doing so, approaches like smart inventory, menu planning and portion control have been discussed in detail. This research in this context has further addressed the UNSDG (United Nations Sustainable Development Goal) goal 12.3 which is focused on reducing food waste (United Nations, 2023). The inclusion of this SDG has helped this research to increase its value to organisational goals in the global food industry context. This research has further covered impacts on operational practices due to the adoption of management practices to manage food waste. This study has properly presented the effect of proper food waste management approaches and their ability to provide growth and profitability opportunities to organisations.

Hotels all over the world have been assessed in this chapter which provided an in-depth understanding of the impact of food waste management approaches. This chapter has further identified sustainability gains, financial savings, improved reputation and increase in operational efficiency in the global hotel industry as a result of the implementation of food waste management approaches. Food waste management should be applicable to non-edible foods only (Trabold and Nair, 2018). Based on this concept, this research can be evaluated to have failed to differentiate between edible and non-edible food waste management approaches. This research has also described the associated theories properly which provided a clear understanding of the influence and importance of food waste management approaches.

3. Methods

This study in its methods chapter has presented approaches and strategies that have been considered and implied to get the best possible results. This research has been identified to focus on the collection of primary data and analysis of this gathered data in a quantitative manner. Quantitative research methodology helps to identify, gather and assess quantifiable metrics related to research (Goertzen, 2017). With respect to this, this study has implemented the positivism research philosophy. Positivism research philosophy addresses and engages in specific research settings

where identified variables can be manipulated and controlled (Tamminen and Poucher, 2020). This research philosophy with its objective approach has helped this research to identify and assess measurable and monitorable aspects. This has further supported the quantitative research strategy which has been used in this research. From the effects of this research strategy and research philosophy, it can be derived that this study has been successful in taking proper data collection and analysis methods to reach the research outcome. The SPSS as a data analysis tool has been used in this research which further helped in including a range of statistical analysis techniques (McCormick and Salcedo, 2017). With respect to this, this study has further addressed data cleaning, preprocessing and data integration checking. Gathered data in research needs to be assessed first prior to analysis in order to achieve a proper outcome (Minnaar, 2018). Concerning this concept, this study can be evaluated to have properly assessed gathered data which helped to further increase the accuracy of results. This research in this chapter has also included ethical considerations and limitations of this research, and both of these aspects have been beneficial to conclude the findings of this research.

4. Findings and Analysis

This research has gathered data from a questionnaire where a total of 609 respondents have been included. While analysing the gathered data, this study addressed frequency analysis, descriptive analysis, correlation, hypothesis test, ANOVA and coefficient.

- **Frequency Analysis**

Frequency analysis in this research has helped to evaluate and identify the frequencies among different attributes.

Table 1 Frequency Analysis based on Gender Factor

	Frequency	Percent	Cumulative Percent
Male	371	60.9	60.9
Female	226	37.1	98.0
Others	12	2.0	100.0
Total	609	100.0	

Table 2 Frequency Analysis based on Age Factor

	Frequency	Percent	Cumulative Percent
Under 30 years	144	23.6	23.6
30 to 45 years	344	56.5	80.1
45 to 60 years	114	18.7	98.9
More than 60	7	1.1	100.0
Total	609	100.0	

Table 3 Frequency Analysis based on Education Factor

	Frequency	Percent	Cumulative Percent
Below Matriculation	304	49.9	49.9
Graduate	77	12.6	62.6
Post Graduate	149	24.5	87.0
Above Post Graduate	79	13.0	100.0

Total	609	100.0	
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Table 4 Frequency Analysis based on Occupation Factor

	Frequency	Percent	Cumulative Percent
Manager	95	15.6	15.6
Executive Chef	123	20.2	35.8
Kitchen Employee	201	33.0	68.8
Serving Employee	190	31.2	100.0
Total	609	100.0	

Table 5 Frequency Analysis based on Annual Income

	Frequency	Percent	Cumulative Percent
> 02 lac	195	32.0	32.0
02 lac – 05 lac	188	30.9	62.9

05 lac to 10 lac	129	21.2	84.1
<10 lac	97	15.9	100.0
Total	609	100.0	

Table 6 Frequency Analysis based on Visit in hotel Factor

	Frequency	Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid every day	76	12.5	12.5
Once a week	83	13.6	26.1
Once a 15 days	125	20.5	46.6
Once a month	325	53.4	100.0
Total	609	100.0	

Frequency Analysis can help to identify the demographic attributes and associated differences among respondents (Stehlik-Barry and Babinec, 2017). This study has identified the majority of respondents being male and belonging to the age group of 30-45 years. In terms of educational backgrounds, this research has identified major respondents having post-secondary education with most of the respondents working in the kitchen. This analysis further

represented most participants having \$25, 000 as annual income with the frequency of visiting hotels highest in months.

- Descriptive Analysis

Descriptive analysis in any research helps to address different dependent and independent variables (George and Mallery, 2021). For this research, it has helped to address customer opinions regarding food waste in hotels. This research by addressing this aspect, has further represented the most common reason behind food waste being leftover food by customers. This study has further depicted taking extra food to be having the least possible chance of being a reason behind food waste. Some other opinions by customers and individuals working in the kitchen have been included and discussed in this research which provided overall findings related to the major issues of food waste.

Table 7 Descriptive Statistics

	N	Minimum	Maximum	Mean	Std. Deviation	Skewness		Kurtosis	
	Statistic	Statistic	Statistic	Statistic	Statistic	Statistic	Std. Error	Statistic	Std. Error
Perception regarding Food wastages during Operation by Guest									
Mostly People left the food in their plates	609	1	4	1.00	.122	24.678	.099	609.000	.198
Sometimes people through the food in dustbins	609	1	4	2.65	.985	-.217	.099	-.962	.198

People take extra food in plates	609	1	5	3.58	1.441	-.611	.099	-1.047	.198
People through the food because less tasty	609	1	5	2.99	1.618	-.098	.099	-1.648	.198
People don't know their capacity	609	1	5	1.01	.162	24.678	.099	609.000	.198
People take extra in plates to showoff	609	1	5	2.72	1.428	.240	.099	-1.413	.198
Food waste is a result of our societal values and attitudes towards food	609	1	5	2.25	1.349	.670	.099	-1.014	.198

Customers must be charged based on the amount of food they leave on their plate	609	1	5	2.99	1.546	.062	.099	-1.569	.198
local government play crucial role in reducing food waste	609	1	5	3.38	1.348	-.193	.099	-1.437	.198

Perception regarding Food wastages hotel's during Operation by kitchen staff & Chefs

Working equipment's can control the food wastage	609	1	5	2.77	1.227	.033	.099	-1.271	.198
Chef cooked food over to show off to the guest	609	1	5	2.54	1.483	.569	.099	-1.171	.198

Chef served over food to guest for pampering	609	1	5	3.37	1.167	-.565	.099	-.779	.198
Sometimes untrained chef cooked a food	609	1	5	3.28	1.502	-.495	.099	-1.297	.198
Need quality chef to control the wastage	609	1	2	1.70	.457	-.890	.099	-1.213	.198
Need innovative techniques or technologies to reduce food waste in the kitchen during operations	609	1	5	3.16	1.346	-.384	.099	-1.080	.198
Educate guests about food waste and encourage	609	1	5	3.26	1.630	-.411	.099	-1.507	.198

them to reduce it									
Kitchen staff and chefs trained to reduce food waste during operations	609	1	5	3.60	1.076	-.615	.099	-.176	.198
Perception regarding Food wastages hotel's during Operation less trained staff & service boy									
Steward served to the guest extra on the plates	609	1	5	3.29	1.676	-.327	.099	-1.618	.198
Sometime Stewards served cold food to the guest	609	1	5	2.82	1.320	-.020	.099	-1.237	.198

Sometimes stewards take wrong order from the guest	609	1	5	2.85	1.602	.009	.099	-1.677	.198
Sometimes untrained chef make a food	609	1	5	3.38	1.405	-.353	.099	-1.279	.198
Chef don know the capacity of guest they cooked over in dishes	609	1	5	3.21	1.541	-.296	.099	-1.466	.198
Experience d a situation where food was wasted due to less trained staff or service personnel in a hotel	609	1	5	3.48	1.499	-.394	.099	-1.377	.198

Hotels could involve their guests in reducing food waste during their stay	609	1	5	3.02	1.482	-.268	.099	-1.489	.198
Perception regarding Food wastages during Operation temperature & Ambiance									
Working area & temperature should be according food	609	1	5	2.87	1.668	.159	.099	-1.651	.198
Working area should be species	609	1	5	3.41	1.480	-.375	.099	-1.375	.198
Temperature affects food waste in hotel operations	609	1	5	2.98	1.493	-.002	.099	-1.435	.198

Food spoilage or waste due to poor temperature or ambiance in a hotel setting	609	1	5	3.43	1.586	-.448	.099	-1.413	.198
Must prioritize sustainability and reducing food waste over maintaining a certain ambiance or atmosphere	609	1	5	3.45	1.359	-.647	.099	-.870	.198
Need for an enjoyable ambiance with the need to reduce food waste	609	1	5	3.89	1.292	-.904	.099	-.471	.198
Perception regarding Food wastages during Operation on purchase & Material									

Vegetable quality should be purchase good	609	1	5	2.98	1.519	-.074	.099	-1.537	.198
Chicken & meat quality should be good and store in right temperature	609	1	5	2.81	1.415	-.017	.099	-1.383	.198
All groceries should be branded with good quality	609	1	5	2.41	1.297	.381	.099	-1.120	.198
Hotels order more ingredients than they need, resulting in excess food wastage	609	1	5	3.31	1.625	-.358	.099	-1.503	.198

Hotels can reduce food wastage by sourcing locally and seasonally	609	1	5	2.82	1.602	.135	.099	-1.619	.198
Use food that is about to expire or has some imperfections to create new dishes and reduce waste	609	1	5	2.50	1.337	.447	.099	-1.077	.198
Manage inventory to reduce food wastage during the operation	609	1	5	3.10	1.278	.049	.099	-1.005	.198
Buffet-style meals do not result in excess food wastage	609	1	5	3.24	1.500	-.320	.099	-1.369	.198

Food surplus to contribute to social welfare and reduce wastage	609	1	5	3.91	1.287	-.924	.099	-.446	.198
Customizable meals help reduce food wastage in hotels	609	1	5	2.50	1.570	.504	.099	-1.356	.198
Valid N (listwise)	609								

- Correlation Analysis

Table 8: Correlation Analysis

	Gender	Age	Educational	Occupation	Annual Income	Visit in hotel
Sig. (2-tailed)	.000	.000	.000	.000	.000	
N	609	609	609	609	609	609

People through the food because less tasty	Pearson	.783**	.807*	.921**	.906**	.914**	.877**
	Correlation		*				
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.000	.000	.000	.000	.000	.000
	N	609	609	609	609	609	609
Food waste is a result of our societal values and attitudes towards food	Pearson	.871**	.797*	.909**	.858**	.918**	.702**
	Correlation		*				
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.000	.000	.000	.000	.000	.000
	N	609	609	609	609	609	609
Customers must be charged based on the amount of food they leave on their plate	Pearson	.840**	.836*	.946**	.902**	.911**	.859**
	Correlation		*				
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.000	.000	.000	.000	.000	.000
	N	609	609	609	609	609	609
Working equipment's	Pearson	.870**	.814*	.935**	.909**	.910**	.867**
	Correlation		*				

can control the food wastage	Sig. (2-tailed)	.000	.000	.000	.000	.000	.000
	N	609	609	609	609	609	609
Chef served over food to guest for pampering	Pearson Correlation	.652**	.839*	.784**	.906**	.862**	.914**
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.000	.000	.000	.000	.000	.000
	N	609	609	609	609	609	609
Kitchen staff and chefs trained to reduce food waste during operations	Pearson Correlation	.681**	.871*	.789**	.929**	.853**	.893**
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.000	.000	.000	.000	.000	.000
	N	609	609	609	609	609	609
Sometimes stewards take wrong order from the guest	Pearson Correlation	.800**	.802*	.948**	.888**	.913**	.852**
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.000	.000	.000	.000	.000	.000

	N		609	609	609	609	609	609
Working area should be species	Pearson Correlation		.757**	.799* *	.858**	.971**	.890**	.920**
	Sig. (2-tailed)		.000	.000	.000	.000	.000	.000
	N		609	609	609	609	609	609
Food spoilage or waste due to poor temperature or ambiance in a hotel setting	Pearson Correlation		.764**	.802* *	.851**	.943**	.888**	.926**
	Sig. (2-tailed)		.000	.000	.000	.000	.000	.000
	N		609	609	609	609	609	609
Experienced a situation where food was wasted due to less trained staff or service personnel in a hotel	Pearson Correlation		.785**	.784* *	.871**	.944**	.890**	.935**
	Sig. (2-tailed)		.000	.000	.000	.000	.000	.000
	N		609	609	609	609	609	609

Manage inventory to reduce food wastage during the operation	Pearson	.815**	.888*	.875**	.942**	.952**	.848**
	Correlation		*				
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.000	.000	.000	.000	.000	.000
	N	609	609	609	609	609	609
Buffet-style meals do not result in excess food wastage	Pearson	.747**	.852*	.868**	.951**	.902**	.923**
	Correlation		*				
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.000	.000	.000	.000	.000	.000
	N	609	609	609	609	609	609
Customizable meals help reduce food wastage in hotels	Pearson	.909**	.804*	.942**	.865**	.947**	.728**
	Correlation		*				
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.000	.000	.000	.000	.000	.000
	N	609	609	609	609	609	609
Food surplus to contribute to social welfare	Pearson	.657**	.807*	.764**	.903**	.806**	.951**
	Correlation		*				

and reduce wastage	Sig. (2- tailed)	.000	.000	.000	.000	.000	.000
	N	609	609	609	609	609	609
Vegetable quality should be purchase good	Pearson Correlat ion	.790**	.859* *	.926**	.904**	.914**	.897**
	Sig. (2- tailed)	.000	.000	.000	.000	.000	.000
	N	609	609	609	609	609	609
Temperature affects food waste in hotel operations	Pearson Correlat ion	.833**	.874* *	.916**	.921**	.933**	.874**
	Sig. (2- tailed)	.000	.000	.000	.000	.000	.000
	N	609	609	609	609	609	609
Sometimes untrained chef make a food	Pearson Correlat ion	.743**	.821* *	.854**	.960**	.894**	.923**
	Sig. (2- tailed)	.000	.000	.000	.000	.000	.000

N	609	609	609	609	609	609
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**. Correlation is significant at the 0.01 level (2-tailed).

Gathered data from the questionnaire has further been represented in this correlation table in the study which defined the relationships between food waste quantity in hotels and demographic attributes of individuals. Correlation analysis in a quantitative analysis helps in evaluating differences between included variables and associated attributes (Kafle, 2019). This analysis helped to identify major links between food waste management approaches and hotel operations. This further evaluated several operational costing of hotels and their effect on food waste management.

Table 9 Correlation Analysis (Impact of Food waste management approaches on hotels)

	Mostly People left the food in their plates	People through the food because less tasty	Customer s must be charged based on the amount of food they leave on their plate	Sometime Stewards served cold food to the guest	Need for an enjoyable ambiance with the need to reduce food waste	Hotels order more ingredient s than they need, resulting in excess food wastage
Sig. (2-tailed)	.299	.000	.000	.000	.000	
N	609	609	609	609	609	609
Manage inventory to reduce food n	Pearson Correlatio .061	.911**	.916**	.931**	.864**	.916**

wastage during the operation	Sig. (2-tailed)	.136	.000	.000	.000	.000	.000
	N	609	609	609	609	609	609
Customizable meals help reduce food wastage in hotels	Pearson Correlation	.065	.908**	.926**	.921**	.754**	.875**
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.111	.000	.000	.000	.000	.000
	N	609	609	609	609	609	609
Must prioritize sustainability and reducing food waste over maintaining a certain ambiance or atmosphere	Pearson Correlation	.046	.902**	.880**	.906**	.931**	.931**
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.255	.000	.000	.000	.000	.000
	N	609	609	609	609	609	609
Hotels could involve their guests in reducing food waste	Pearson Correlation	.054	.960**	.914**	.944**	.891**	.961**
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.181	.000	.000	.000	.000	.000

during their stay	N		609	609	609	609	609	609
Working equipment's can control the food wastage	Pearson Correlation		.074	.925**	.952**	.952**	.878**	.925**
	Sig. (2-tailed)		.069	.000	.000	.000	.000	.000
	N		609	609	609	609	609	609
Need innovative techniques or technologies to reduce food waste in the kitchen during operations	Pearson Correlation		.055	.936**	.927**	.937**	.938**	.940**
	Sig. (2-tailed)		.172	.000	.000	.000	.000	.000
	N		609	609	609	609	609	609

This analysis being included in this research has helped to identify customised meals as a major way to reduce food waste.

Table 10 Paired Samples Test

	Paired Differences				t	df	Sig. (2-tailed)
	Mean	Std. Deviation	Std. Error Mean	95% Confidence Interval of the Difference			

						Lower	Upper			
Pair 1	Gender - Mostly People left the food in their plates		.406	.530	.021	.363	.448	18.883	608	.000
Pair 2	Age - Customers must be charged based on the amount of food they leave on their plate		-1.013	1.043	.042	-1.096	-.930	-23.963	608	.000
Pair 3	Educational - Need quality chef to control the wastage		.803	1.354	.055	.695	.911	14.637	608	.000
Pair 4	Annual Income - Sometime Stewards served cold food to the guest		-.612	.491	.020	-.652	-.573	-30.787	608	.000

Analysis of paired sample tests in this study helped to identify that annual income and supply of cold food have the most impact on food waste and hotel operations. Paired Sample Test helps in identification of different pairs considering their interrelatedness and associated attributes (Rietveld and van Hout, 2017). With respect to this, the study rejected the null hypothesis.

Table 11: ANOVA Analysis

		Sum of Squares	df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
Kitchen staff and chefs trained to reduce food waste during operations	Between Groups	599.824	4	149.956	865.795	.000
	Within Groups	104.613	604	.173		
	Total	704.437	608			
Sometimes untrained chef make a food	Between Groups	1063.353	4	265.838	1167.437	.000
	Within Groups	137.537	604	.228		
	Total	1200.890	608			
Working area & temperature should be according food	Between Groups	1534.424	4	383.606	1470.299	.000
	Within Groups	157.586	604	.261		

Total		1692.010	608			
local government play crucial role in reducing food waste	Between Groups	950.341	4	237.585	927.040	.000
	Within Groups	154.795	604	.256		
Total		1105.136	608			
Working equipment's can control the food wastage	Between Groups	831.816	4	207.954	1495.281	.000
	Within Groups	84.000	604	.139		
Total		915.816	608			

The inclusion of the ANOVA test in this research has helped to identify the statistical significance of each included pair. ANOVA test in SPSS helps to define the statistical significance of each included pair and their associated attributes (Yockey, 2017). This study has identified no significant differences between pairs when compared with their respective statistical significance to food waste management approaches.

Table 12: ANOVA^a

Model	Sum of Squares	df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
1 Regression	1045.342	4	261.335	2840.783	.000 ^b
Residual	55.564	604	.092		

Total	1100.906	608			
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a. Dependent Variable: Need innovative techniques or technologies to reduce food waste in the kitchen during operations

b. Predictors: (Constant), Need quality chefs to control the wastage, Food waste is a result of our societal values and attitudes towards food, Food surplus to contribute to social welfare and reduce wastage, Hotels could involve their guests in reducing food waste during their stay

Model	Unstandardized Coefficients		Standardized Coefficients
	B	Std. Error	Beta
1 (Constant)	-.307	.058	
Food waste is a result of our societal values and attitudes towards food	.141	.019	.142
Hotels could involve their guests in reducing food waste during their stay	.380	.027	.418

Food surplus to contribute to social welfare and reduce wastage	.401	.025	.383
Need quality chef to control the wastage	.259	.067	.088

This ANOVA analysis has helped this research to evaluate different pairs and their influence on food waste management approaches. This research has included this testing which helped to establish the rejection of the null hypothesis. Along with the rejection of the null hypothesis, this research depicted a good amount of interrelatedness between dependent variables and predictors.

5. Conclusion

From the review of this study, it can be concluded that this study has represented research aspects properly in different chapters. While doing so, this study has further presented a detailed process through which this research has been conducted. With respect to this detailed process, it can be concluded that this study has been successful in representing the statistical significance of different attributes. Considering the aim and objectives of this study and the associated findings and analysis, it can be concluded that this study has successfully achieved the expected research outcome. This study can also be concluded to successfully establish the relationship between predictors and dependent variables.

6. Recommendations

Depending on this study, it can be recommended to future researchers to take advantage of this study as it has addressed the research topic with a proper in-depth presentation. However, this study can be recommended to follow a streamlined process for further research. Due to the inclusion of only primary data, the inclusion of secondary data for future aspects can also be recommended. Secondary data can help research to further broaden its correlation database with the identification of different factors responsible for or affected by food waste management approaches. Overall, this study can be recommended to include secondary data and make subtle changes which may help to produce better results related to this topic.

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