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English 202-50

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Urbanization and Global Food Crisis

A study carried out in the late twentieth century suggested that there were 6.7 rural dwellers to each urban dweller, and it is predicted that the number will fall in the next four years. It is projected that the numbers will be three urban dwellers to two rural dwellers. This mass migration of people seeking city life and its prosperity, amenities, and financial security has created physical growth of the city's footprint and numerical growth of the city's population. This process is termed as Urbanization. This growth is literally consuming rural farm land and metaphorically consuming the people available to farm. The end result is less food produced to feed the people around the globe and more non-farming people that fewer farmers are asked to feed. This is a double-negative that has major contributions to the global food crisis.

I have chosen this topic for several reasons. I have seen my hometown grow as a municipality and encroach on the rural farm land that surrounds it, my readings and research have all acknowledged the issue with debate primarily arising about the resolve to the problem, and it has peaked my curiosity on why people are turning away from farming to name a few.

Through further research of peer reviewed journals, official census statistics, food production analysis, and the financial benefits of professional farming versus metropolitan career paths I plan to answer some pertinent questions. These questions will consist of why urbanization is occurring at such a drastic rate, when are we seeing peaks and declines in the migration, how industry is able to lure people to its way of life, and what areas of the world are seeing the highest

rate of urbanization happening. I want to know who is participating in the migration and why. I plan to find out if there is a voice of opposition on the contributions of urbanization to the food crisis. "Urbanization and its impact on agriculture." (Manager, Vijay Kumar Hemappa) is one such article that I have found particularly interesting on the topic. It offers debate that supports positive effects of urbanization on rural farming in the form of demand for product and by providing essential supplies for farming.

There has been a global systemic neglect of how the things we, as individuals and world citizens, do today affect the people that are not in our immediate visual path, those who are already suffering from hunger today, and those who are going to feel the wrath of our choices for generations to come. The issue of food production is one that must be addressed while we are still able to make personal changes, policy changes, and process changes on how we view and correct the food crisis before it is too late. There is not one person or policy that I can find which denies that food is a basic core need to the continuation of life and human kind. I believe that the issue of urbanization and its connection to the global food crisis is an issue that affects everyone. If we, the well fed and able, do not try to mitigate the damages today, we will be the hungry ones tomorrow.

Word Count: 530