

Food Bank - A Tool for Food Safety Promoting

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In Brasil there are raising incentives to open up new Food Banks. The companies involved, in general, become associated with the universities for extension projects which help in logistics and physical organization of the same. The term "food safety" implies the adequacy of the quantity and quality of food used by individuals. Currently, the various ways of ensuring food security to the population has been widely discussed. Although the task of eradicating hunger is a duty of the State, this challenge is put to all of Brazilian society and requires the commitment of all. In this context, the Food Banks present themselves as an important strategy to enhancing food security. Another important aspect is the packaging of food donated by Food Banks as institutions. This must be done correctly to ensure the quality of these foods. The project "Food Bank-A Comprehensive Proposal," currently serves 12 institutions located in the city of Rio de Janeiro. Part of the project includes an appraisal of the institutions related to the hygienic and sanitary aspects. Thus, the purpose of this study was evaluate the hygienic aspects of the institutions served by the project. For such techniques were visited by a nutritionist linked to the project were applied questionnaires with questions on food hygiene for food handlers. Where also was made observations on the hygiene of food handlers and the physical structure. After the visits, it was observed that 91.6% (11 institutions) had mismatches hygienic and sanitary. These observations pointed to the need for training managers and handlers of institutions. In possession of those comments, was prepared technical training and spreadsheet training priority, and these started in May 2011 with estimated completion in June 2011. Two trainings were conducted, and can observe improvement one week after it. Thus, we conclude that the Food Banks need to go beyond the simple task of donating food, and the need to increase their responsibility for storing and handling them, thus, contributing to improving food security of individuals assisted. This experience, in addition to be important to the food bank, assembles great knowledge to the students involved with theses extension projects.