

# Strengths and weaknesses of the public and private sectors: taking education and food industries as examples

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## Abstract:

With society's continuous development, people have more in-depth discussions on the areas that government departments should be responsible for. In order to establish an effective market mechanism, different sectors need to operate in different ways to promote the efficient use of resources. Taking the current situation of the education and food production industry as an example, this paper analyzes the education system operated by the government and the food production industry dominated by private enterprises. This paper holds that the public and private sectors have advantages and limitations, and adjusting the balance between the government and enterprises can prevent the disintegration of society. Only by strengthening the cooperation between the public and the private sector can the quality of human resources be improved, economic growth be stimulated, and resources be effectively utilized.

**Keywords:** governments; private enterprises; education; food industries.

## 1. Introduction

With society's continuous development, people have more in-depth discussions on the areas that government departments should be responsible for. Scholars have found that traditional market mechanisms could be more effective in some areas. In some areas, direct government involvement can lead to market inefficiencies. To establish an effective market mechanism, different sectors need to adopt different modes of operation to promote the efficient use of resources.

Consider the education and food production industries. Education is the foundation of social progress and development. Education empowers the workforce with higher skills and knowledge, improves average job performance, and provides high-quality human resources for different fields. More accessible education enables more people to access intelligent resources, improving social development. Competition among food companies is beneficial to consumer groups. Competition among food suppliers stimulates innovation and improvement, increases revenue, and creates a healthy competitive environment for long-term growth. The demands of consumers have prompted companies to improve their products and services. This competition enables the government to implement precise adjustments and policies to regulate food prices and monitor food quality.

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the education system operated by the government and the food production industry dominated by private enterprises. This paper holds that the public and private sectors have advantages and limitations, and adjusting the balance between the government and enterprises can prevent the disintegration of society. Only by strengthening the cooperation between the public and the private sector can the quality of human resources be improved, economic growth be stimulated, and resources be effectively utilized.

## 2. Development history of education and food production industries

Progress in society has depended heavily on government participation and the improvement of public education. Education used to be a privilege only available to the wealthy and powerful. However, with the support of intellectuals like John Locke and Jean-Jacques Rousseau championing education as a fundamental right, the Enlightenment era saw a turn towards democracy (Schouls, 2018). Public education systems were established as a result of this change. Children from all socioeconomic levels were guaranteed access to education by the 19th century thanks to the implementation of compulsory education laws in many nations. Most industrialized nations had well-established public education systems by the 20th century, and efforts were still being made to increase equity, quality, and accessibility.

Simultaneously, developing private food enterprises has

been crucial to contemporary society. Food production was once a means of livelihood for communities and families. However, established farming and excess production brought about by the agricultural revolution allowed cities to expand and specialize in labor (Gardner, 2017). Food technology made great strides throughout the Industrial Revolution, which paved the way for the growth of private businesses. Transportation was made better by mechanization, and mass production and food delivery were made possible by innovations such as refrigeration, which increased food accessibility for larger populations. Government regulation of these sectors was essential to ensuring the quality and safety of food.

### **3. Reasons why the government runs the education industry**

The different functions played by the public and private sectors in food production and education are explained by economic theory. According to the public goods theory, the government best provides non-excludable and non-rivalrous education (Jaunzeme, 2020) to advance social cohesion and justice. Supported by the human capital hypothesis, which emphasizes long-term economic growth, government intervention in education is justified by the positive externalities it produces, such as a more educated and productive citizenry. Standardization, accessibility, and the need to achieve greater social goals are important factors driving the current government takeover of the education sector.

One of the primary forces behind government intervention in this field is the standardization of education (Sleeter & Carmona, 2017). Without a centralized system, there may be significant disparities in curriculum and educational quality, which may lead to discrepancies in the knowledge and skills of the populace. Governments ensure that all children, regardless of socioeconomic background, receive a consistent, high-quality education by establishing uniform curricula and teaching methods. This homogeneity creates an equitable society with similar educational backgrounds, which is necessary for social cohesion and national development.

The demand for accessibility is another primary driver behind government involvement in education (Mngo & Mngo, 2018). In a privatized system, education can become a privilege mostly available to the wealthy, increasing social inequality. Governments strive to make education widely available through public education systems to guarantee that every child has the opportunity to learn and prosper. Inclusion is critical to having a skilled and knowledgeable labor force supporting the country's economic growth and stability.

Additionally, government-run education supports larger societal objectives, including fostering civic ideals and producing talent that is vital to national economic development. To guarantee an informed and involved public, the state has a stake in educating its people. Private educational businesses, on the other hand, are primarily motivated by financial gain, which occasionally conflicts with learning goals. Government education puts the country's progress as a top priority, whereas private education could be more concerned with making money and drawing in wealthy students (Madani, 2019). Public education aims to further the common good by promoting equity and inclusivity for all learners.

Compared to private education, the social impact of government-run education has several advantages. According to Ottman (2021), public education systems tend to be more egalitarian and inclusive, offering students from various backgrounds a level playing field. By providing equal educational opportunities to everyone, regardless of socioeconomic level, they aid in the reduction of societal stratification. Government-run schools must also follow rules and guidelines that guarantee high-quality instruction and are answerable to the general public. According to Verger and Parcerisa (2018), accountability guarantees that public schools continuously strive to enhance educational achievements and cater to the requirements of every student. On the other hand, profit-driven private schools might put the needs of a small number of students above those of the entire community, thus undermining the need for everyone to have access to a high-quality education.

### **4. Private Sector and Food Production**

Market theories emphasizing competition-driven efficiency and innovation account for the private sector's hegemony in the food production industry (Ibidapo-Obe, 2022). According to the comparative advantage theory, businesses can specialize and provide higher-quality, more affordable products, and competition encourages ongoing development. Historically, food production was a family-centered, regional endeavor that developed into a specialized and mechanized business with the advent of the Agricultural and Industrial Revolutions (Losch, 2014). Private businesses produced and catered on a massive scale by leveraging infrastructure, technology, and distribution network developments. Private businesses are inherently motivated by profit, which spurs creativity and efficiency and enables them to react quickly to customer and market demands (Shapiro & Willig, 2019). The prevalence of the private sector can be attributed to its flexibility and adaptability in accommodating a wide range of dietary needs and preferences.

In the food sector, competition has several advantages, particularly in innovation, quality, and cost. Private food producers compete with one another to differentiate their products and gain market share, which encourages innovation (Callon, 2021). This endeavor results from new food items, enhanced production techniques, and cutting-edge technology like genetic modification and precision farming. Consumers prefer a more comprehensive range of food options that are safer, more nutrient-dense, and environmentally sustainable. To attract and maintain customers, businesses must uphold high standards, which improves quality. In addition, competition drives businesses to streamline processes and save expenses, which lowers food prices for customers (Kimura, 2011). Effective distribution and supply chain management reduce waste and guarantee constant food quality.

## 5. examples from around the world

The examples of Finland and China in education and Australia, Japan, and Germany in food production demonstrate the wide variations in the efficacy and results of public and private sector involvement in these areas between nations. Every kid in Finland receives a top-notch education because of the country's balanced educational philosophy (Andere, 2020). This method creates a helpful learning atmosphere where pupils are driven more by self-improvement than rivalry. Finland emphasizes holistic and extracurricular learning strategies, like group projects and leadership development, over test-based student ranking. Finnish instructors, who must have a master's degree or above, are essential to this system since they can be creative and independent in their teaching. By guaranteeing universal access to education, establishing and upholding standards, and footing all expenses, the government ensures equity and allays parents' concerns regarding the caliber of education their children get. On the other hand, China's educational system places a lot of emphasis on rankings and academic success, which can put kids under a lot of stress and harm their mental health (Fannin, 2021). The idea that education is the main path to employment and university admissions fuels this competitive environment.

Germany, Japan, and Australia all have diverse approaches in the food sector, which are impacted by their particular circumstances. The government of Australia supports export-oriented agriculture and environmental practices, but the food business is primarily private (Hosono, 2022). The government's participation includes promoting organic and ecologically friendly farming practices, trade agreements, and marketing support. The private sector, characterized by small-scale, precise production processes

and a firm reliance on imports due to limited domestic resources, is also the driving force behind Japan's food production industry (Kimura, 2011). To guarantee food safety and quality and to promote both domestic production and foreign commerce, Germany's food sector combines private enterprise with strict government restrictions (Agriculture & Food, 2021). These illustrations show how several nations, each responding to its requirements and circumstances, balance private industry and government participation in food production.

## 6. Current Challenges and Future Directions

The food production and education sectors in today's world face significant challenges. Non-excludability is a problem in public education systems, leading to overcrowding and a lack of funding. Ensuring consistent quality throughout all schools is challenging due to variances in the caliber of educators and facilities. In the food industry, balancing high production levels with sustainable practices is a challenging regulatory issue in a decentralized, competitive market to guarantee the safety and quality of food. Governments should prioritize funding inclusive curricula, teacher preparation programs, and infrastructure to ensure that everyone has access to high-quality education. Online learning environments and adaptive learning systems are two instances of how incorporating technology might enhance learning. Future advancements in food production will most likely concentrate more on sustainable strategies, in which the public and private sectors collaborate to support environmentally friendly methods like organic farming and precision agriculture. Encouraging innovation while maintaining strict safety requirements will be crucial. Public-private collaborations will support the creation of cutting-edge technologies that improve efficiency and sustainability.

## 7. Conclusion

The public and private sectors have their own advantages and limitations. Government policies support the public education system to provide equitable access and consistent quality despite frequent inequalities and budgetary constraints. The private food industry faces legal and sustainability challenges but survives on competition, promoting efficiency and innovation. Commercial food businesses can adapt to consumer preferences by harnessing market forces, while government involvement in education ensures more social benefits and the possibility of equity. By working together, the public and private sectors can harness both market and government mechanisms to ensure that the benefits of sustainability and equity are

balanced with those of efficiency and creativity.

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