



USE OF GEOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION SYSTEMS IN STUDY OF DISEASE PATTERNS.

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KEYWORDS :

EDITORIAL:

A geographic information system (GIS) is a system to analyze and present geographical data. Geographical information system (GIS) maps can be used to study infectious diseases (1). One study I would like to mention is the study by Kangath et al using GIS data to study West Nile Disease. This study was conducted in state of Texas, USA which is a developed country. Developing countries should do more GIS based disease surveillance to prevent and monitor epidemics in similar fashion.

Medical geographic information systems (GIS) increases our increasing ability to monitor infectious diseases and analyze the causes. Trained medical geographers can assess the spatial distribution and accessibility of health services, improving prevention and treatment (1,2). This also helps to change policies and divert more attention to the affected areas. Medical GIS system helps to study global disease prevalence and improve prevention strategies between countries to prevent epidemic.

Government should focus to improve GIS studies in India to better study epidemics and to improve public health.

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