EPIDEMIC AND DISEASES ECOLOGY IN SRI LANKA: A CASE STUDY OF MEDICAL GEOGRAPHY IN COLOMBO DISTRICT

Miss S.R.L.S Rathnasekara

Department of Geography, University of Kelaniya, Sri Lanka, India

Abstract: Medical Geography is an area which is rapidly developing amongst the main themes of human Geography. It discover diseases ecology, diseases diffusion patterns, impact of diseases spread, medical services health care delivery est. Health is an important component of human welfare and an asset of a nation. The World Health Organization (WHO) has defined that Health as “a state of complete physical, mental, and social well-being and not merely the absence of disease or infirmity”. Diseases vulnerability is a main cause for bad health. Human environment whether natural or manmade provides basis for generating or subduing diseases prone factors. Medical Geographers examine the connection between environment and disease vulnerability through the analysis of diseases ecology. The purpose of this paper is to identify what the disease ecological factors include socio economic factors through Human Traditional Method and environmental factors through Physical Traditional Method, which lead to high incidence of epidemic in Colombo District in Sri Lanka, the most urbanized part of the country. The case studies covered, Dengue epidemic recorded in 2012 data. Three Medical Officer of Health (MOH) Areas were selected from Colombo District according to the distribution of the number of patients as recorded 2012 data. The methods adapted in the study consists of primary data which were collected from 100 patient by field observations, interviews with patients and participatory mapping techniques that were used for analysis of the factors which influenced in the high effect of the Dengue in Colombo District in Sri Lanka. The study concludes, that in rainy season when Dengue incident has improved. Describe as positive correlations. But human traditional factors are affected for epidemic than physical factors. Health disasters have been generated by changes of human ecological conditions a part form changes of physical conditions.

Key Words – Medical Geography, Diseases Ecology, Human Tradition, Physical Tradition