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A Review of Spatial Analysis Application in Childhood Malnutrition Studies



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Abstract Approximately 230 million children under 5 years old of age

suffer from malnutrition and over half of the children below 5 years old deaths are due to malnutrition nowadays. To gain a better understanding of this problem, the application of spatial analysis has risen exponentially in recent years. In this review, the present state of information on the use of spatial analysis in

childhood malnutrition studies was evaluated using four databases of digital scientific journals: ScienceDirect, Scopus.

PubMed and CINAHL. We chose 2,278 articles from the searc results and a total of 27 articles met our criteria for review. The

following information was extracted from each article: objective of study, study area, types of malnutrition, subject, data sources, computer software packages, spatial analysis and factors associated with childhood malnutrition. A total of 10 spatial analysis methods were reported in the reviewed articles and the Bayesian geoadditive regression model was the most common method applied in childhood malnutrition studies. This review highlights the importance of the application of spatial analysis in determining the geographic distribution of malnutrition cases, hotspot areas and risk factors correlated with childhood malnutrition. It also provides implications for strategic initiatives to eradicate all forms of malnutrition.

Keywords

Author Keywords: spatial analysis; Geographic Information System (GIS);

mapping; childhood malnutrition

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