

SPATIAL DISTRIBUTION OF THE SCHOOLS IN COLOMBO DISTRICT

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Understanding spatial patterns and related Interactions of different factors are common in spatial sciences. When it comes to schooling spatial concepts such as school density, school distribution, accessibility are commonly used. But most of these schools are limited to core areas of the cities based on accessibility and population density. This study is mainly focus on identifying the proximity and the clustering of schools which are managed by National and Provincial level, within Colombo District. To clearly understand the spatial distribution of Schools, it is again segmented as National and Provincial level separately.

The study was mainly depending on secondary data, spatial data from Department of Survey and non spatial data from Ministry of Education, Department of Census and Statistics and the Central Bank of Sri Lanka. As main analytical methods of proximity analysis, like Buffering, Thiessen Polygons, Point Distance were being use to the locations and their relationships. According to Thiessen Polygon analysis, and Buffer Distance Analysis it indicates the tolerant boundary of each school in order to depict the coverage. As a result of Spatial Autocorrelation, Average Nearest Neighbour Distance as well as the Multi-Distance Spatial Cluster Analysis - Ripley's K Function shows the schools are spatially distributed as clusters.

It is clear in the study that there is a cluster distribution of National and Provincial level schools in Colombo District.