

## **Empowering Children: Using GIS framework to locate and allocate schools in Indian cities to increase active school transportation**

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This study uses GIS framework to bridge the gap between urbanization and the compromises made by children due to it. There is a common trend in Indian cities that children spend a lot of time in travelling to and from school. Also, there is a tremendous decline in the active school transportation of children. This has severe implications on their physical and mental health. Literature study and a primary survey conducted in a city in India suggests that the unplanned urbanization and the lack of knowledge about the emerging issues is a reason behind this. This study attempts to provide a framework for locating and allocating schools according to the specialized spatial, geographical and demographic profile of the city. Factors important for a good location of schools have been identified from literature study. GIS framework have been used to study the spatial, geographical as well as demographic profile of the city. A proposal is given in terms of an optimum number of schools with their locations that will best suit the most sensitive section of the society, children.