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A Historic Review of Health Geography: From Medical Cartography to A Holistic Discipline

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Abstract:

Health Geography is the study of the spatial distribution of Health, disease, and Healthcare. Its history reflects a growth in the overall approach, more than focusing on environmental factors, including social and cultural effects. This research paper provides a historical review of Health Geography, which traces its development from early Medical comments to its modern form. It discovers the major intellectual change, decisive figures, and functional progress that have shaped the discipline. Starting with the underdeveloped spatial comments of Hippocrates, the paper examines the rise of Medical cartography during the 19th-century cholera epidemic, highlighting the basic function of John Snow. This was followed by the formalities of the region and its infection after the "Medical Geography" paradigm in the mid-20th century, which included social, cultural, and environmental determinants of Health. The paper ends by examining the current status of the field, which focuses on an interdisciplinary approach to the use of advanced geographical information systems (GIS) and equity and access issues.

Introduction:

Health Geography is an interdisciplinary field that examines the relationship between Health, disease, and environment. It has a rich history that extends for many centuries, which contributes to various subjects including Geography, medicine, and public Health. Health and disease in relation to the environment date back to ancient civilizations, such as Greece and Rome. Physicians and philosophers, including Hippocrates, recognized the importance of environmental factors, such as climate, water, and hygiene, in shaping Health results (Mede and Earricson, 2000). Many articles were written on human diseases and environmental conditions in the 15th and 16th centuries. The 17th and 18th centuries saw the development of Geography. Geographers who traveled to new regions wrote complete works. Fink L. L. (1972-95) wrote the book "Medical Geography". Denny Draker (1850-59) wrote the book "Geography of the Mississippi Gulf Coast". Hendewuch (1860-64) wrote a book on Geography called "Geographical Pathology" (Singhai GC. 2008)

Early Origins and Proto-Geography: (Ancient to 18th Century)

Health Geography has an ancient history. The development of this subject was by Greek thinkers. In the fifth century BC, the Greek physician Hippocrates (c. 460 to 370 BC) was considered the father of modern medicine. His characteristics included describing the patient in detail, recording the description, studying it, maintaining good Health, behaving in a socially responsible manner, and adhering to professional ethics. He believes that the natural nature of man is the main factor in preventing disease. No person can take these examples as basic principles, but natural activities take these examples. What is the purpose of human beings to find out the rules behind these changes? (Shroti, 196) Although the Medical causes of this disease were not understood in earlier times, Geography was born as a result of the study of the epidemiology of this disease. The foundation of Health Geography can be traced back to ancient Greece. The Greek physician Hippocrates argued that factors such as climate, water quality, and topography affected Health and disease patterns. This initial work established a major principle of Health Geography: where people mean their Health. Their principle that local environmental factor affects disease patterns, creating a philosophical basis for the region.

In 1800, a cholera epidemic broke out in London. Many people were sick. A doctor named John Snow in London studied it and advised people who had cholera to stay in contact with humans. He used this disease to help. Because the environment for human contact was conducive to cholera. Later, he studied the person he sent with him. He realized that the most popular source of cholera was the hand pump of the London Broad Street children. He advised the people to turn off the hand pump. The people drank water by turning off the hand pump. The number of officers who contracted cholera themselves decreased. John found out the number

of all the members of the London Guruya cholera. John Snow studied the source of the disease and used it to make a scientific map.

Howe GM, a geographer, read the open-ended research paper of a Geography student in the full Geography group. He studied this research paper and said that disease is necessary for regional differentiation. The birth and soul of man are related to the physical, biological, social, economic, and cultural environment.

The Birth of Medical Cartography: (19th Century)

The 19th century was a decisive period, marked by an increase in the Industrial Revolution and the urban population. Poor hygiene and congestion caused an outbreak of widespread disease, especially cholera. The emergence of Medical cartography was observed during this period, which was the precursor to modern Health Geography. Physicians and researchers began to use maps to track and understand the spread. The most famous example is the 1854 investigation of John Snow of the Cholera outbreak in the Soho neighborhood of London. At that time, the prevailing perception was that cholera was spread by Miyama, or "bad wind". However, Snow mapped the deaths and found that they revolved around a single public water pump on Broad Street. By removing the pump's handle, he demonstrated that the disease was burning, effectively leading to the use of geographical analysis in epidemiology. In 195 AD, Geography attracted the attention of various experts. The study of various diseases showed that local factors were responsible for the development of viruses and bacteria in the symptoms of diseases. Many separate works on Medical Geography were published in the United States, Germany, and the Soviet Union. In 1952-56, three volumes of World Epidemics were published in Germany. This work was edited by E. Rodin Walt.

Formalizing the Field: From Medical to Health Geography: (20th Century)

In the middle of the 20th century, Health Geography began to emerge as a more formal academic discipline. Jacques May: In the 1950s, the geographers and physicians Jacques are credited with helping to establish modern Medical Geography. Their work focused on the ecology of the disease, analyzing how pathogens, vectors (such as mosquitoes), and human behavior interact within the specific geographical environment. Changes in "Health" Geography to "medical": The region, starting in the 1970s and 1980s, began to expand its scope. Researchers moved beyond the bioMedical focus on the disease and instead included social and practical factors. This led to the term "Health Geography", which reflects a more holistic approach. This "new" Health Geography not only examines the disease, but also the Geography of Health and well-being: how the location affects positive Health results. A significant change in Health Geography was observed in the middle of the 20th century in the middle of the 20th century, with the development of new principles and methods. Researchers' work, such as Jacques, emphasized the importance of environmental factors in shaping Health results (May 1950). This period was also seen as the spatial analysis and emergence of the geographical information system (GIS) as a tool for Health research. The late 20th century saw a significant expansion of Health Geography with the development of Health Geography, such as Healthcare research and Health policy analysis. Researchers such as Gary Shannon and Stephen Matthew discovered the relationship between Health results and social and environmental factors (Shannon and Mathews, 1993).

Contemporary Health Geography: (21st Century)

Today, Health Geography is a dynamic and interdisciplinary field. It takes advantage of powerful equipment such as the geographical information system (GIS) to analyze complex spatial data. Modern Health geographers deal with many issues, including: Social determinants of Health: how to find out how factors such as income, education, and social status are distributed geographically and how they affect Health outcomes. Environmental Health: Analysis of environmental hazards (eg, air and water pollution, toxic waste sites) and analysis of human Health. Disease mapping and monitoring: Using GIS and predicting the spread of infectious diseases, as seen in response to an epidemic such as COVID-19. Access to care: how the location of hospitals, clinics, and pharmacies affects the ability of a community to reach Healthcare, especially in rural or lower-income areas, is studied in Health Geography.

Conclusion:

Health Geography has a rich history that extends for many centuries. From its early beginning to the present day, the field has developed to include a wide range of regions and approaches. Today, Health Geography is an essential field to understand complex relations between Health, disease, and environment.

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