



**SREE CHITRA TIRUNAL INSTITUTE FOR MEDICAL SCIENCES & TECHNOLOGY, TRIVANDRUM**

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*Invitation to attend the Achutha Menon Centre seminar*

*on 5<sup>h</sup> September 2018,*

*14.30 to 16.00,*

*at the Seminar hall, third floor,*

*Achutha Menon Centre for Health Science Studies*

*of Sree Chitra Tirunal Institute of Medical Sciences and Technology, Trivandrum*

We are pleased to invite you to attend the AMC seminar by Dr Biju Soman, Professor, Achutha Menon Centre for Health Science Studies, Sree Chitra Tirunal Institute of Medical Sciences and Technology, Trivandrum on the topic “Geospatial mapping of health facilities in Noolpuzha Grama Panchayat in Wayanad district” on 5th September 2018 Wednesday. The venue is seminar hall, third floor of the Achutha Menon Centre for Health Science Studies (AMCHSS), Sree Chitra Tirunal Institute for Medical Sciences and Technology Trivandrum, Medical college campus, and the time is 14.30 to 16.00. More details about the speaker and the talk are attached.

We look forward to your participation in this seminar.

Yours sincerely

*Sundari TK*

Dr TK Sundari Ravindran

Professor

AMCHSS, SCTIMST

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*Geospatial mapping of health facilities in Noolpuzha Grama Panchayat in Wayanad district.*

The purpose of this participatory mapping exercise was to explore whether health inequity in terms of physical access to facilities exists for the tribal people in the Panchayat. The researcher opted for participatory mapping, hoping that this process would help the community to find and recognize the potential inequities amongst themselves. The active participants in the exploration, apart from the paid community volunteers, were the elected members of the Grama Panchayat body and the field level health staff of the Primary Health Centre (PHC Noolpuzha). The crowdsourcing potential of the public health informatics that helps participants to use their mobile handsets to report and to review the map features, in their local vernacular was used in this endeavor. The Free and Open Source Software (FOSS) were used wherever possible, considering the need for scale up of the activities.

Rather than a one-time, hit and run, sort of research, this work is done in the community with the help of local health machinery, with a promise of continued engagement with them. Community empowerment, by way of capacity building of field health workers and sensitization of the local policy makers were done with judicious use of technology. The underlying principle of the project is that the modern technology has the potential to address many of the issues in the community; but usually the benefits of the technology is confined to the privileged. And often the poor, the old, the rural dwellers, the illiterate and those of the disadvantaged sections are left with only the unwanted effects of technology. The aim was to see if by fair, judicious and participatory way of introducing technology will help in inclusive development.

During the work, the researcher could help the stakeholders to find the shortfalls of their paper maps, which were widely used till then, and could help to correct those. In the process the researcher could identify the critical gaps in taking technology to similar remote areas.

### **Bio-sketch (Dr Biju Soman)**



Dr Soman currently serves as a Professor at Achutha Menon Centre for Health Science Studies(AMCHSS). Dr Soman had completed his MBBS, MD (Community Medicine) and DPH from Trivandrum Medical College (University of Kerala) and his MSc (Control of Infectious Diseases) from University of London and DLSHTM from London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine (UK). He has undergone advanced training in health informatics from Oslo University (Norway), Teaching Methodology from Boston School of Public Health (USA), Multilevel Modelling from Bielefeld University (Germany) and Advances in Geographic Information Systems (GIS) from National Remote Sensing Centre (Hyderabad). Dr Soman guides PhD and MPH scholars, teaches Public Health Technologies, Infectious Disease Epidemiology and Database Management in Epidemiology modules at AMCHSS. He is the coordinator of the field practice area (Athiyannur Sree Chitra Action -ASA initiative) of AMCHSS and is involved in many field-based studies. He has contributed chapters to a couple of books and has many peer reviewed publications. Some of his professional involvements include, Editorial Board Member, Journal of Indian Medical Informatics; Council Member, International Academy of Cardiovascular Sciences-India (IACS-India); Executive Member of the NGOs, Health Action by People (HAP) and Centre for Advancement in Global Health (CAGH), and Member, Board of Studies for Health Sciences, SCTIMST.