



## **Village Information System (VIS) – A Web-GIS Based Application for Development Planning**

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### **Abstract:**

Development is a process of improving the lives of people in equitable, just and sustainable manner. It involves efficient planning, effective monitoring and knowledge based decision making. Socioeconomic conditions and their changes can be evaluated using regular assessments based on the systematic collection and generation of data and information. This forms the basis for evaluating the current situation, monitoring progress, and directing future courses of action.

Information is the key to sustainable decision-making. But ability to interpret information is more critical. Data available in tabular forms are not easy to analyze and interpret. But, if the same information is presented in visual format (maps and graphs) it would aid in identifying areas of problems and concerns. The combination of the two i.e. the spatial data and the attribute data helps in rapid and visual grasp of implications in terms of geographic distribution and differences. People's Science Institute (PSI) has developed a web-GIS based Village Information System (VIS) which provides geo-referenced maps with detailed information on every Indian village, district and state. It displays data (175 parameters) from the 1991 and 2001 census in form of maps, tables and figures. It is presently designed for states of Uttarakhand, Haryana and Himachal Pradesh. VIS is available on the web at [www.villageinformationsystem.org](http://www.villageinformationsystem.org)

VIS provides spatial data of village, block, district and state level. It also provides drainage and road network along with attribute data for each feature. It provides online GIS tools like location (longitude and latitude) direction, distance and area measurement, and query analysis. Users can create thematic maps or compare census data for each of 175 parameters. They can pose queries to generate desired databases. The system allows analysis of different layers of spatial data like village boundary, drainage, roads etc. with the attribute data like population, literacy, sex ratio, etc. in visual format.

VIS has wide range of applications like infrastructure development planning, watershed planning, disaster response system, health and education management systems, water quality information system, etc. VIS is a potent tool for development planning. The technology has been tested and its utility proved. It now needs to be developed for the entire country.