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An information supply chain system view for managing rare infectious diseases

This research view rare infectious disease reporting system as an information supply chain system, just as any product supply chain system, with different layers in reporting. There is a constant interaction between the stakeholders involved (hospitals, laboratories and public health system). The research no longer treat the rare infectious disease information supply chain system as point-to-point, but layer-to-layer relationships and examine in detail the factors influencing the delay in these layers. Simulation based modeling is used to represent natural way of ineteraction between the individual interactive entities in the information supply chain system and to investigate the lead times at various stages during the transfer of information between these entities. Through the trace-driven simulation study using data collected for two years, this research replicated the results in real life setting in a decentralized system of reporting and compared it with centralized actively monitored reporting system. The research points out the need for an efficient public health information supply chain management system with all stakeholders' full participation for collaborative advantage and long term economic benefits. The research concluded that rare infectious disease reporting through ELR avoids the delay at the hospital level and at local health jurisdictions. Increase in lead time affects responsiveness and can result in economic losses from spreading of diseases and hence reduction of lead time in reporting is extremely important.

Biography

Venugopal Gopalakrishna-Remani's primary research interests lie in the areas of healthcare operations, the negative effects of outsourcing, green supply chains and the effect of sustainable supply chain operations on firm performance. He is an Assistant Professor of Management at The University of Texas at Tyler. He received his PhD from the Kent State University. He has published articles in *Information and Management, International Journal of Production Economics, International Journal of Sustainable Society, Journal of Managerial Issues, International Journalof Risk and Contingency Management, International Journal of Services and Operations Management,* etc.

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