

## BOOK REVIEW

# Epidemiology and Management for Health Care

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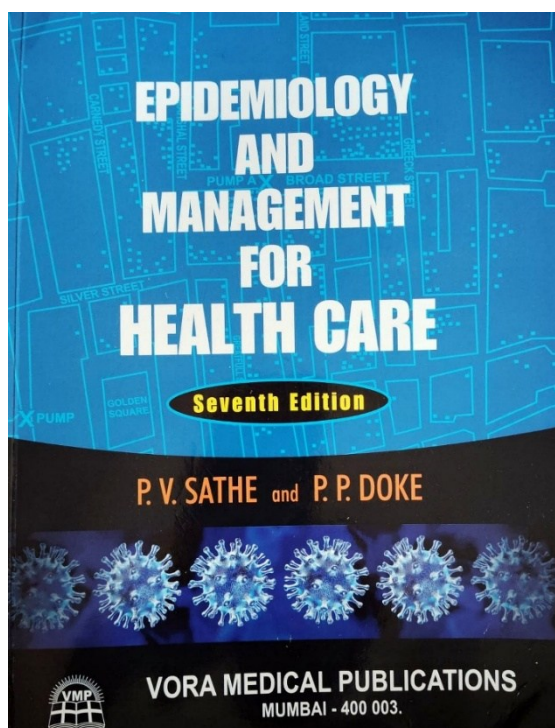
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***Epidemiology and Management for Health Care*** by Sathe P. V. and Doke P. P. is an essential textbook that bridges the fields of epidemiology and healthcare management. The book aims to provide students, public health professionals, and healthcare administrators with a deep understanding of epidemiological principles and their applications in healthcare planning, decision-making, and policy implementation. Written in a clear and structured manner, it serves as a valuable resource for both academic and practical applications in the healthcare field.

The 7<sup>th</sup> Edition of this textbook is published this year (2025) by Vora Medical Publication, Mumbai.

When the first edition arrived in 1991, the distinctiveness of this book was immediately noticed and the book became popular as Dr. Sathe's book among the post graduate students of Preventive & Social Medicine and medical officers in Public Health as it has correctly filled up the gap. Attention was paid up to the requirements of non-medical health and hospital administrators by the author who is former Director of Medical Education & Research, Maharashtra. There was no such guidance about the management principles and techniques in the health sector through lucid discussions easily available then. The fourth edition released in 2014 has seen much needed transition with joining of second author Dr Doke, former Director of Health Services, Maharashtra, which continued in successive editions. This seventh edition is successful in maintaining its uniqueness of giving anecdotes and real-life examples to illustrate the point under description making the book reading more interesting. The objective of this book is to briefly state the basics of epidemiology and management sciences and illustrate their application in the health field making the health care services more effective and efficient and health service provider more competent and assertive.

The book is divided in three parts. The initial section provides an extensive overview of epidemiology as a discipline. It covers the basic definitions, history, and applications of epidemiology in modern healthcare. The authors effectively introduce key concepts such as the distribution and determinants of diseases, infection dynamics, principles of communicable and non-communicable disease control, and different study designs including practical aspects of data capture. One of the

strengths of this section is the clarity with which it explains simple epidemiological measures like incidence, prevalence, mortality rates, and risk factors. The book employs real-world examples to illustrate how these concepts are used in tracking and controlling diseases. The discussion on infectious disease epidemiology is particularly well-detailed, covering outbreak investigations, modes of transmission, and public health interventions. This section introduces the reader to epidemiological research methods and their practical applications discussing study designs along with their advantages and limitations. A significant highlight of this section is the authors' emphasis on evidence-based practice. The book explains how epidemiological research informs policy decisions and healthcare interventions. Moving beyond epidemiology, the book transitions into the principles of healthcare management and its application in second and third section. It covers organizational structures and concepts and behaviour, time and material management, communication and modern management techniques, and the role of management in ensuring efficient healthcare services. Topics such as health legislation, public health leadership, resource allocation, and quality assurance are discussed in detail. These sections are particularly useful for healthcare administrators and policymakers. It introduces essential management tools, including strategic planning, performance evaluation, and health economics. The book also discusses the challenges faced by health systems in both developed and developing countries, offering insights into sustainable health and development solutions.

While the book is comprehensive, there are a few areas where it could be improved. First, the text is heavily information-dense, which may be overwhelming for some readers. The Anecdotes do help and also there are lot of tables and figures, but

more visually engaging presentation with colourful infographics and diagrams could enhance comprehension and retention. Obviously, that would increase the printing cost as the book is currently available at very modest price, however the book of this class should not remain behind on this front and hope that it will be taken care in further editions. Additionally, while this edition touches the topic of Artificial Intelligence, some areas, such as digital health innovations, artificial intelligence based various software tools in healthcare, and telemedicine could be explored in greater detail as their use has already started in public health. Given the growing role of technology in public health, these topics would be valuable additions to future editions.

Overall, *Epidemiology and Management for Health Care* by Sathe P. V. and Doke P. P. is an outstanding resource for students, healthcare professionals, and policymakers. Its detailed discussion of epidemiology, research methodologies, and healthcare management makes it a valuable tool for understanding and addressing public health challenges. The National Medical Council of India has recommended it for MD (Community Medicine) postgraduate course. The book's comprehensive coverage, clear explanations, and practical applications make this seventh edition a must-read for anyone involved in the field of public health as it is a significant contribution to epidemiological and healthcare management literature.

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