**Abstract**

Increasing attention is being paid to the value of GIS use in social studies curricula. Many studies have indicated that GIS helps students increase their spatial awareness and reasoning skills through the use of multi-layered maps. Despite the demonstrated value of GIS in social studies classrooms, very few schools have adopted it. One of the major reasons for this is the lack of awareness of the power of GIS in the classroom. This work sought to shed light on the power of GIS to influence students’ learning and to increase awareness among educational stakeholders. To achieve this goal, a systematic literature review was conducted to identify the benefits of GIS on students’ learning. The author analyzed 11 empirical studies that focused on GIS and learning in social studies classrooms. The findings indicated that there are five major benefits to using GIS in social studies classrooms: using GIS leads to enhance students’ (1) critical thinking and problem-solving skills; (2) motivation, (3) performance, and achievement; (4) positive attitudes and (5) cultural awareness and empathy.