

# Economic Development Disparity in Uttarakhand: A Geographical Perspective

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## Abstract

Uttarakhand was designated as the youngest and special category state of union of India. It recorded always lower urbanisation than India during 1991-2011. It was found that the hill state was economically less developed than India. However, India and Uttarakhand experienced persistent improvement in EDI. Across the districts of Uttarakhand, Dehradun was the most developed during 1991-2011. Contrary to it, Rudrapur was the least developed in 1991 & 2001 and replaced by Bageshwar in 2011. Even, two districts recorded decline in EDI during 1991-2001. These were Udham Singh Nagar, and Haridwar. On the other hand, two districts recorded negative change during first decade of 21st century. These were Champawat and Uttarkashi. The research revealed that the gap between the highest and the lowest EDI across districts of hill state increased during 1991-2011. It was a matter of concern and eye opener for the architects of development. Hence, it is recommended that policy interventions should be space specific and gap oriented.

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## I. Introduction

India lives in rural areas. About thirty one per cent population of the country inhabits in urban settlements in 2011. As far as, Uttarakhand was concerned, nearly thirty per cent population live in urban areas. In this study, urbanisation was taken as indicator to work out the economic development. Urbanisation reflects the transformation of economy from primary sector to secondary and service sector. The degree of urbanisation is a fair index of economic development. That was why degree of urbanisation had taken as indicator of economic development. In this study, a spatial pattern and trend of economic development disparity in hill state was presented. Development disparity is an omnipresent phenomenon at global, continental, country, regional, and state level.

### Objective

The major objective of this research paper was to:

Examine the trends and patterns of economic development disparity in Uttarakhand.

### Research Question

The following major research question was forwarded for investigation:

What were the trends and patterns of economic development disparity in Uttarakhand?

### Significance of the Study

The study of the trends and patterns of economic development disparity in Uttarakhand will provide an insight and unfold the real nature and intensity of disparity. The present study on disparity may be useful for policy makers and planners for the formulation of policy and programs.

### Period and Unit of Study

The economic development disparity in Uttarakhand was studied covering three points of time i.e. 1991, 2001, and 2011. India has adopted policy of liberalization, privatization, and globalization since 1990s. The free play of market accentuates spatial disparity in development. It attracts the considerable research interest to know economic development disparity during post reform period. The district level data were used for tracing intra-state economic development disparity.

### The Study Area

This study was focused on Uttarakhand. The north-western hilly region of the erstwhile Uttar Pradesh was carved out as Uttarakhand on 9<sup>th</sup> November, 2000. It is the youngest hill state and became 27<sup>th</sup> states on the political map of India. It is the youngest landlocked Indian hill state. The study area lies between 28°44'N to

31°28'N latitudes and 77°35'E to 81°01'E longitudes covering an area of 53483 Km<sup>2</sup>. It shares 1.63 per cent of total geographical area of India and contains 0.84 per cent of total population of the country in 2011.

## II. Database and Methodology

The secondary data of Census of India had been used to measure the economic development disparity for three points of time i.e. 1991, 2001, and 2011. An attempt was made to adjust the district level data of 1991 in consonance with the administrative divisions of 2011 in order to make them comparable with 2011. It was herculean task but challenge was accepted.

Economic development was inferred with urbanisation. Economic development Index (EDI) was used to assess the level of economic development. In the present study, economic development disparity discussed at two spatial contexts: (i) Uttarakhand and (ii) intra-state.

The economic development index worked out in relation to the highest and the lowest urbanized district across the districts of India. The highest urbanized district was Yanam from Puducherry across the districts of India during 1991-2011. It was completely urbanized district. On contrary to it, Kinnaur from Himachal Pradesh was completely rural.

EDI was calculated as under:

$$\text{Deprivation Score} = \frac{\text{Maximum Value} - \text{Actual Value}}{\text{Maximum Value} - \text{Minimum Value}}$$

Development Index = 1 - Deprivation Score.

It was separately done for three points of time viz. 1991, 2001, and 2011 to work out economic development index. This method measure the relative development level. It measures the extent to which a region is lagging behind as compared to one at the top.

## Limitations

Since measurement of economic development defies unanimity, the consensus on selection of indicator was subjective and open to criticism. The present study was vulnerable on this account. But the selected indicator was found to be most appropriate.

## Economic Development

### Uttarakhand

Urbanisation of the Uttarakhand was recorded 23.14 per cent in 1991. It was marginally lower than national average (25.73 per cent). The gap of urbanisation between the state and India was 2.59 percentage point (Table 1). It reflected that Uttarakhand experienced lower economic development than nation.

Uttarakhand recorded urbanisation 25.67 per cent in 2001. It was lower than national average (27.82 per cent). The gap of urbanisation between the state and India was 2.15 percentage points (Table 1). The gap of urbanisation between the state and India decreased from 2.59 percentage point in 1991 to 2.15 percentage points in 2001. It reflected that the hill state recorded higher pace of urbanisation than nation.

**Table 1**  
Urbanization in Districts of Uttarakhand, 1991-2011

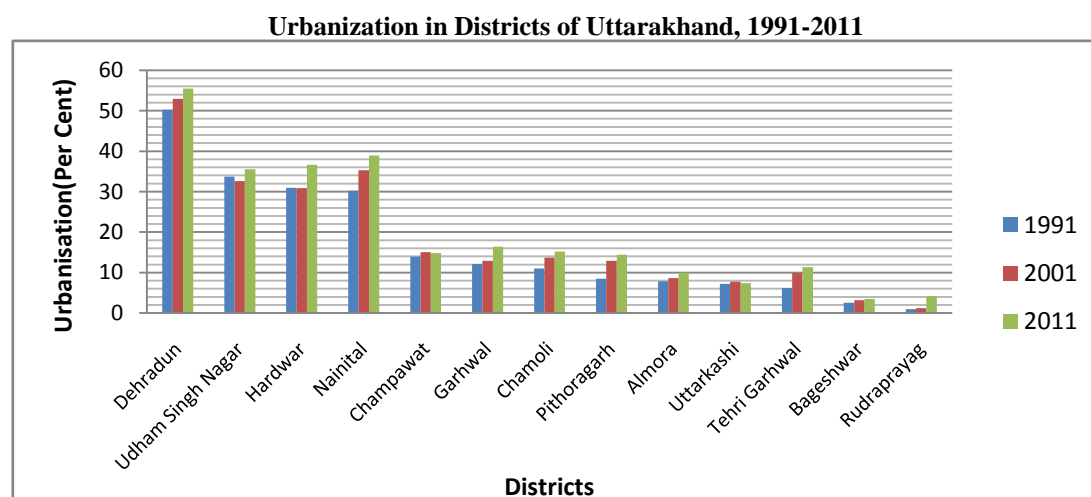
Sr.	District	Urbanization (in per cent)			
		1991	2001	2011	Change 1991-2011
1	Dehradun	50.26	52.94	55.52	5.26
2	Udham Singh Nagar	33.72	32.62	35.58	1.86
3	Hardwar	30.96	30.84	36.66	5.70
4	Nainital	30.21	35.27	38.94	8.73
5	Champawat	13.90	15.04	14.77	0.87
6	Garhwal	12.09	12.89	16.40	4.31
7	Chamoli	10.98	13.69	15.17	4.19
8	Pithoragarh	8.50	12.94	14.40	5.90
9	Almora	7.83	8.64	10.01	2.18
10	Uttarkashi	7.20	7.77	7.36	0.16
11	Tehri Garhwal	6.20	9.90	11.33	5.13
12	Bageshwar	2.54	3.13	3.49	0.95
13	Rudraprayag	0.97	1.20	4.10	3.13
<b>Uttarakhand</b>		<b>23.14</b>	<b>25.67</b>	<b>30.23</b>	<b>7.09</b>
<b>India</b>		<b>25.73</b>	<b>27.82</b>	<b>31.14</b>	<b>5.41</b>

Source: Primary Census Abstract, Census of India, 1991-2011.

After 20 years of reforms and about 10 years of formation of the state, urbanisation of the Uttarakhand was recorded 30.23 per cent in 2011. Again, it was marginally lower than national average (31.14 per cent). The gap of urbanisation between the state and India was 0.91 percentage point. The gap of urbanisation between the state and India decreased from 2.15 percentage point in 2001 to 0.91 percentage points in 2011. It reflected that the hill state recorded higher pace of urbanisation than nation during the first decade of 21<sup>st</sup> century.

Uttarakhand recorded always lower urbanisation than national average during 1991-2011. It was found that Uttarakhand was economically lower developed than India. However, both India and Uttarakhand persistently improved urbanisation during corresponding period of time. The hill state recorded higher pace of urbanisation than nation during 1991-2011 (Table 1).

**Diagram 1**



### **Intra-state Trends and Patterns**

Four out of 13 districts in Uttarakhand recorded higher urbanisation than national average (25.73 per cent) and Uttarakhand (23.14 per cent) in 1991. These were Dehradun, Udham Singh Nagar, Hardwar, and Nainital. Contrary to it, Champawat Garhwal, Chamoli, Pithoragarh, Almora, Uttarkashi, Tehri Garhwal, Bageshwar, and Rudrapur recorded lower urbanisation. Across the districts of the state, Dehradun (50.26 per cent) recorded highest urbanisation and the lowest in Rudrapur (0.97 per cent). The gap between the highest and the lowest urbanisation among districts was 49.29 percentage points (Table 1). It was observed that there was wide variation in urbanisation across districts in Uttarakhand at the time of adoption of reforms policy.

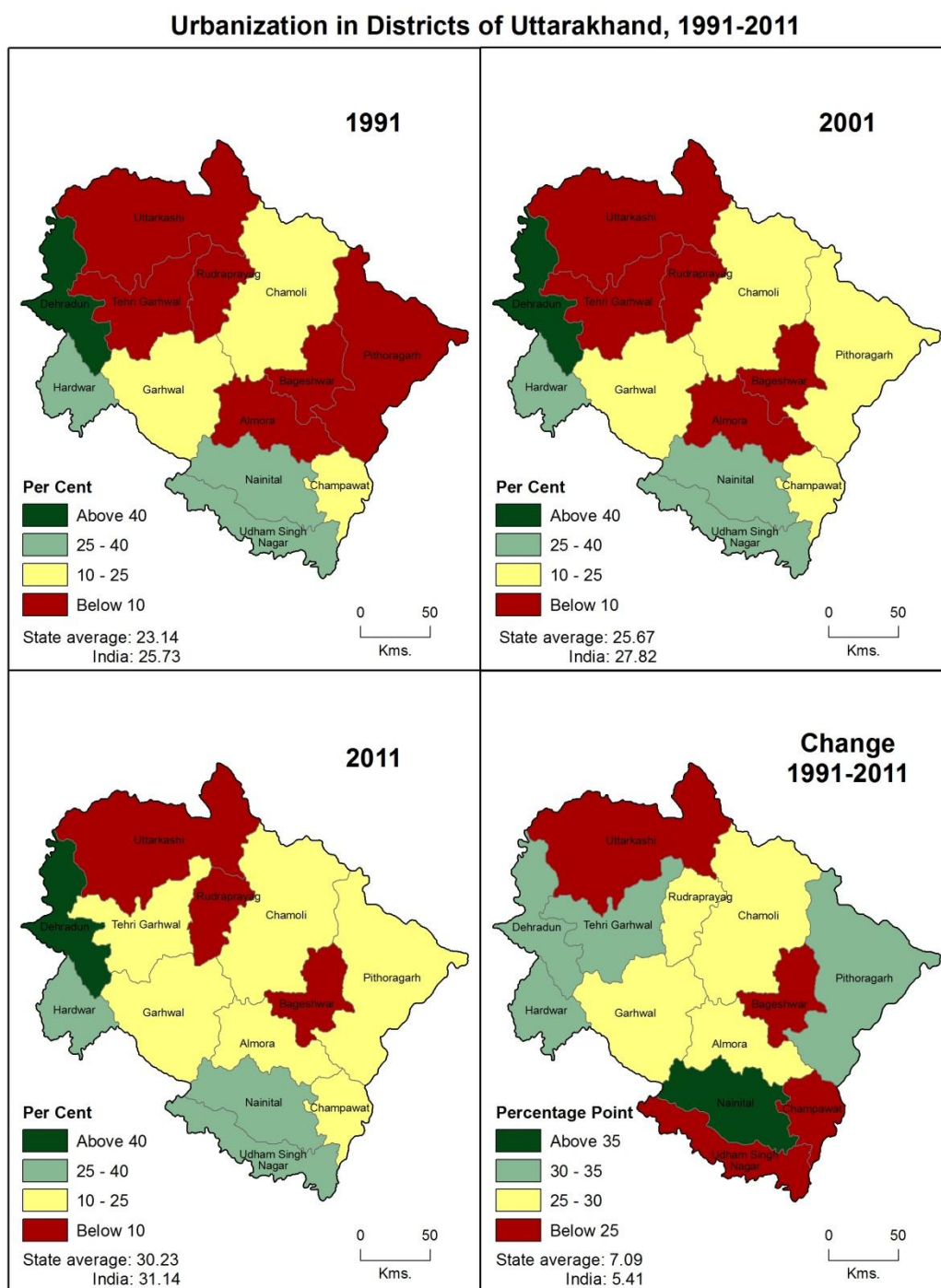
Across the districts in Uttarakhand, four out of 13 districts recorded higher urbanisation than national average (27.82 per cent) and Uttarakhand (25.67 per cent) in 2001. These were Dehradun, Nainital, Udham Singh Nagar, and Hardwar. Contrary to it, Champawat, Chamoli, Pithoragarh, Garhwal, Tehri Garhwal, Almora, Uttarkashi, Bageshwar, and Rudrapur recorded lower urbanisation. Across the districts of the state, Dehradun (52.94 per cent) recorded highest urbanisation and the lowest in Rudrapur (1.20 per cent). The gap between the highest and the lowest urbanisation among districts was 51.74 percentage points. The gap between the highest and the lowest urbanised district increased from 49.29 percentage points to 51.74 percentage points (Table 1). It was observed that the variation of urbanisation among districts of Uttarakhand increased during 1991-2001.

Across the districts in Uttarakhand, four out of 13 districts recorded higher urbanisation than national average (31.14 per cent) and Uttarakhand (30.23 per cent) in 2011. These were Dehradun, Nainital, Hardwar, and Udham Singh Nagar. Contrary to it, Garhwal, Chamoli, Champawat, Pithoragarh, Tehri Garhwal, Almora, Uttarkashi, Rudrapur, and Bageshwar recorded lower urbanisation. Across the districts of the state, Dehradun (55.52 per cent) recorded highest urbanisation and the lowest in Bageshwar (3.49 per cent). The gap between the highest and the lowest urbanisation among districts was 52.03 percentage points. The gap between the highest and the lowest urbanised district increased from 51.74 percentage points in 2001 to 52.03 percentage points in 2011 (Table 1). It was observed that the variation of urbanisation widened among districts of Uttarakhand increased during 2001-2011.

Uttarakhand (7.09 percentage points) recorded higher change in urbanisation than national average (5.41 percentage points) during 1991-2011. It reflected that the hill state experienced higher pace of urbanisation than nation during corresponding period of time. Comparing with the national average, three out of 13 districts in Uttarakhand recorded higher change in urbanisation. These were Nainital, Pithoragarh, and Hardwar. On the

other hand, Dehradun, Tehri Garhwal, Garhwal, Chamoli, Rudraprayag, Almora, Udham Singh Nagar, Bageshwar, Champawat, and Uttarkashi recorded lower change (Table 1). Across the districts in Uttarakhand, Nainital (8.73 percentage points) recorded the highest change and the lowest in Uttarkashi (0.16 percentage point).

It was observed that Uttarakhand recorded always lower urbanisation than India during 1991-2011. During last 20 years, India and Uttarakhand experienced persistent improvement in urbanisation. However, across the districts of the state, two districts recorded negative change in urbanisation during 1991-2001 (Table 1). These were Udham Singh Nagar, and Hardwar. On the other hand, two districts recorded negative change during first decade of 21<sup>st</sup> century. These were Champawat and Uttarkashi. It was a matter of concern and eye opener for policy makers. Hence, it is recommended that policy interventions should be space specific and gap oriented.



Source: Primary Census Abstracts, Census of India 1991-2011.

**Fig. 1**

## Level of Economic Development Uttarakhand

Economic development index of the Uttarakhand was recorded 0.232 in 1991. It was marginally lower than national average (0.257). The gap of EDI between the state and India was 0.025 (Table 2). It reflected that Uttarakhand experienced lower economic development than nation.

Uttarakhand recorded 0.257 EDI in 2001. It was lower than national average (0.278). The gap of EDI between the state and India was 0.021 (Table 2). The gap of EDI between the state and India decreased from 0.025 in 1991 to 0.021 in 2001. It reflected that the hill state recorded higher pace of economic development than nation.

After 20 years of reforms and about 10 years of formation of the state, EDI of the Uttarakhand was recorded 0.303 in 2011. Again, it was marginally lower than national average (0.311). The gap of EDI between the state and India was 0.008. The gap of EDI between the state and India decreased from 0.021 in 2001 to 0.008 in 2011 (Table 2). It reflected that the hill state recorded higher pace of economic development than nation during the first decade of 21<sup>st</sup> century.

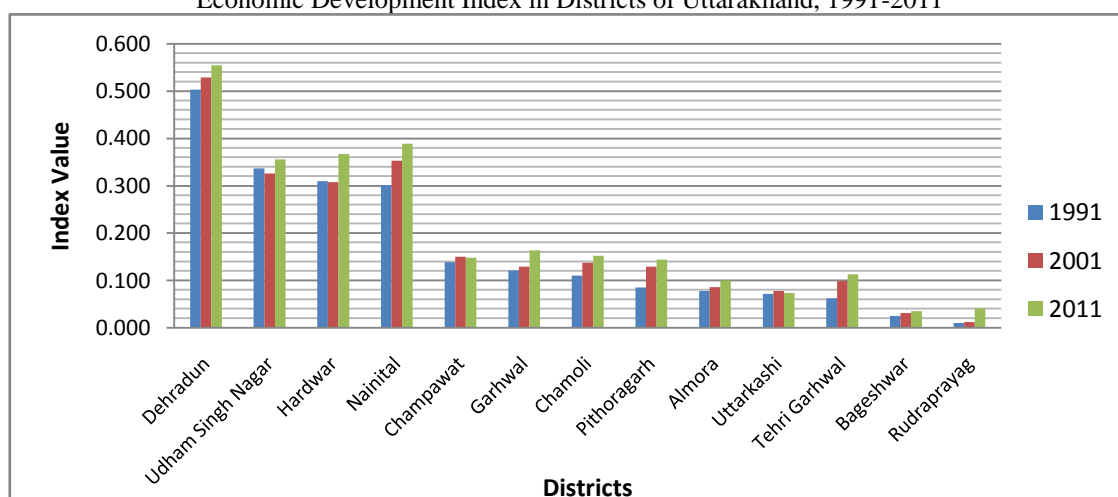
**Table 2**  
Economic Development Index in Districts of Uttarakhand, 1991-2011

Sr.	District	Index Value			
		1991	2001	2011	Change 1991-2011
1	Dehradun	0.503	0.529	0.555	0.052
2	Udham Singh Nagar	0.337	0.326	0.356	0.019
3	Hardwar	0.310	0.308	0.367	0.057
4	Nainital	0.302	0.353	0.389	0.087
5	Champawat	0.139	0.150	0.148	0.009
6	Garhwal	0.121	0.129	0.164	0.043
7	Chamoli	0.110	0.137	0.152	0.042
8	Pithoragarh	0.085	0.129	0.144	0.059
9	Almora	0.078	0.086	0.100	0.022
10	Uttarkashi	0.072	0.078	0.074	0.002
11	Tehri Garhwal	0.062	0.099	0.113	0.051
12	Bageshwar	0.025	0.031	0.035	0.010
13	Rudraprayag	0.010	0.012	0.041	0.031
<b>Uttarakhand</b>		<b>0.232</b>	<b>0.257</b>	<b>0.303</b>	<b>0.071</b>
<b>India</b>		<b>0.257</b>	<b>0.278</b>	<b>0.311</b>	<b>0.054</b>

Source: Primary Census Abstract, Census of India, 1991-2011.

Uttarakhand recorded always lower economic development than national average during 1991-2011. It was found that Uttarakhand was economically lower developed than India. However, India and Uttarakhand persistently improved their EDI during corresponding period of time. The hill state recorded higher pace of economic development than nation during 1991-2011.

**Diagram 2**  
Economic Development Index in Districts of Uttarakhand, 1991-2011

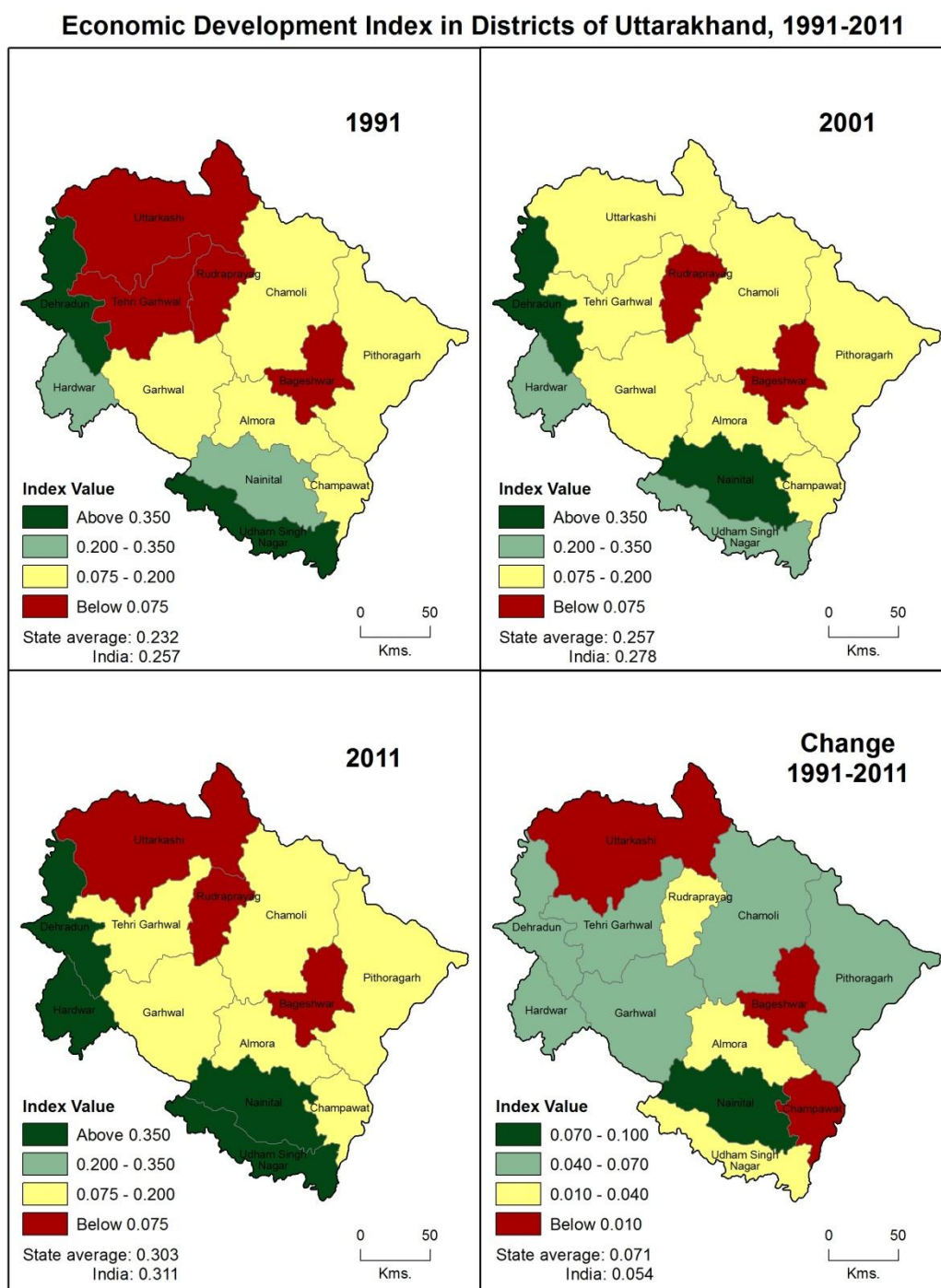


### **Intra-state Trends and Patterns**

Four out of 13 districts in Uttarakhand recorded higher EDI than national average (0.257) and Uttarakhand (0.232) in 1991. These were Dehradun, Udham Singh Nagar, Hardwar, and Nainital. Contrary to it, Champawat Garhwal, Chamoli, Pithoragarh, Almora, Uttarkashi, Tehri Garhwal, Bageshwar, and Rudraprayag recorded lower EDI. Across the districts of the state, Dehradun (0.503) recorded highest EDI and the lowest in Rudraprayag (0.010). The gap between the highest and the lowest EDI among districts was 0.493 (Table 2). It was observed that there was wide variation in EDI across districts in Uttarakhand at the time of adoption of reforms policy.

Across the districts in Uttarakhand, four out of 13 districts recorded higher EDI than national average (0.278) and Uttarakhand (0.257) in 2001. These were Dehradun, Nainital, Udham Singh Nagar, and Hardwar. Contrary to it, Champawat, Chamoli, Pithoragarh, Garhwal, Tehri Garhwal, Almora, Uttarkashi, Bageshwar, and Rudraprayag recorded lower EDI. Across the districts of the state, Dehradun (0.529) recorded highest EDI and the lowest in Rudraprayag (0.012). The gap between the highest and the lowest EDI among districts was 0.517. The gap between the highest and the lowest EDI across districts increased from 0.493 in 1991 to 0.517 in 2001 (Table 2). It was observed that the variation of EDI among districts of Uttarakhand increased during 1991-2001.





Source: Primary Census Abstracts, Census of India 1991-2011.

**Fig. 2**



Across the districts in Uttarakhand, four out of 13 districts recorded higher EDI than national average (0.311) and Uttarakhand (0.303) in 2011. These were Dehradun, Nainital, Hardwar, and Udham Singh Nagar. Contrary to it, Garhwal, Chamoli, Champawat, Pithoragarh, Tehri Garhwal, Almora, Uttarkashi, Rudraprayag, and Bageshwar recorded lower EDI. Across the districts of the state, Dehradun (0.555) recorded highest EDI and the lowest in Bageshwar (0.035). The gap between the highest and the lowest EDI among districts was 0.520. The gap between the highest and the lowest EDI across districts increased from 0.517 in 2001 to 0.520 in 2011 (Table 2). It was observed that the variation of EDI widened among districts of Uttarakhand during 2001-2011.

Uttarakhand (0.071) recorded higher change in EDI than national average (0.054) during 1991-2011. It reflected that the hill state experienced higher pace of economic development than nation during corresponding period of time. Comparing with the national average, three out of 13 districts in Uttarakhand recorded higher change in EDI. These were Nainital, Pithoragarh, and Hardwar. On the other hand, Dehradun, Tehri Garhwal, Garhwal, Chamoli, Rudraprayag, Almora, Udham Singh Nagar, Bageshwar, Champawat, and Uttarkashi recorded lower change (Table 2). Across the districts in Uttarakhand, Nainital (0.087) recorded the highest positive change and the lowest in Uttarkashi (0.002).

It was observed that Uttarakhand recorded always lower EDI than India during 1991-2011. During last 20 years, India and Uttarakhand experienced persistent improvement in EDI. However, across the districts of the state, two districts recorded negative change in EDI during 1991-2001. These were Udham Singh Nagar and Hardwar. On the other hand, two districts recorded negative change during first decade of 21<sup>st</sup> century. These were Champawat and Uttarkashi. It was a matter of concern and eye opener for policy makers.

### **III. Conclusions**

Uttarakhand recorded always lower urbanisation than India during 1991-2011. During last 20 years, India and Uttarakhand experienced persistent improvement in urbanisation. It was found that the hill state was economically less developed than India. However, India and Uttarakhand experienced persistent improvement in EDI. Across the districts of Uttarakhand, Dehradun was the most developed during 1991-2011. Against it, Rudraprayag was the least developed in 1991 & 2001 and replaced by Bageshwar in 2011. Two districts recorded negative change in EDI during 1991-2001. These were Udham Singh Nagar, and Hardwar. On the other hand, two districts recorded negative change during first decade of 21<sup>st</sup> century. These were Champawat and Uttarkashi. The research revealed that the gap between the highest and the lowest EDI across districts of hill state increased from 0.493 in 1991, 0.517 in 2001, and 0.520 in 2011. It was a matter of concern and eye opener for policy makers. Hence, it is recommended that policy interventions should be space specific and gap oriented.

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