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Research Paper

Composite Development Disparity in Uttarakhand: A Geographical Perspective

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Abstract
This study had a fresh look on the composite development disparity on two spatial contexts i.e. Uttarakhand and intra-state during 1991-2011. Uttarakhand recorded always higher composite development than India. During last 20 years, India, Uttarakhand, and all districts of Uttarakhand recorded increase in relative composite development index. Across the districts of the state, Dehradun recorded highest composite development and the lowest in Uttarkashi. The most developed three districts across the districts of hill state were Dehradun, Nainital, and Hardwar. Contrary to it, the least developed three districts were Uttarkashi, Bageshwar, and Tehri Garhwal. It was a matter of concern and eye opener for the architects of development. Hence, it was recommended that policy interventions should be objective specific, space specific and gap oriented.

I. Introduction

Development has always been flexible and open ended with respect to specific definition. Literature on development is vast, but the term defies a precise definition. Development means different things to different people. It is a difficult concept with different interpretations varying by time, space, discipline, and people.

The problem of regional disparity is highly critical for almost all the countries of the world. There has always existed a variety of inter regional and inter state variations in terms of all macro index linked with the economic and social issue. The problem is highly alarming in the developing countries. In this study, a spatial pattern and trend of composite development disparity in Uttarakhand was presented.

Objective
The major objective of this research paper was to:
Examine the trends and patterns of composite development disparity in Uttarakhand.

Research Question
The following major research question was forwarded for investigation:
What were the trends and patterns of composite development disparity in Uttarakhand?

Significance of the Study

The study of the trends and patterns of composite 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 composite 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 composite development disparity during post reform period. The district level data were used for tracing intra-state composite 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 9th November, 2000. It is the youngest hill state and became 27th 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^2. 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 composite 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.

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

In this research, economic development was inferred with urbanisation, social development with female literacy, and rural development with non-agriculture work force. The economic development index worked out in relation to the highest and the lowest urbanized district across the districts of India.
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.

The same method was used to work out social development index and rural development index. It was separately done for three points of time viz. 1991, 2001, and 2011 to work out economic development index, social development index, and rural development index. The composite development index was average of three indices i.e. economic development index, social development index, and rural development index.

Limitations

Since measurement of composite 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.

Level of Composite Development

Uttarakhand

Composite development index of the Uttarakhand was recorded 0.270 in 1991. It was marginally higher than national average (0.262). The gap of CDI between the state and India was 0.008 (Table 1). It reflected that Uttarakhand experienced higher composite development than nation.

Uttarakhand recorded 0.323 CDI in 2001. It was higher than national average (0.302). The gap of CDI between the state and India was 0.021. The gap of CDI between the state and India increased from 0.008 in 1991 to 0.021 in 2001. The CDI of Uttarakhand (0.053) recorded higher increase than nation (0.040) during 1991-2001. It reflected that the hill state recorded higher pace of composite development than nation during the last decade of 20^{th} century (Table 1).

After 20 years of reforms and about 10 years of formation of the state, CDI of the Uttarakhand was recorded 0.377 in 2011. Again, it was higher than national average (0.335). The gap of CDI between the state and India decreased from 0.021 in 2001 to 0.042 in 2011. The CDI of Uttarakhand (0.054) recorded higher increase than nation (0.033) during 2001-2011. It reflected that the hill state recorded higher pace of composite development than nation during the first decade of 21^{st} century.

Uttarakhand (0.107) recorded higher change than India (0.073) during 1991-2011. It reflected that hill state recorded higher pace of composite development than nation during post reform period.

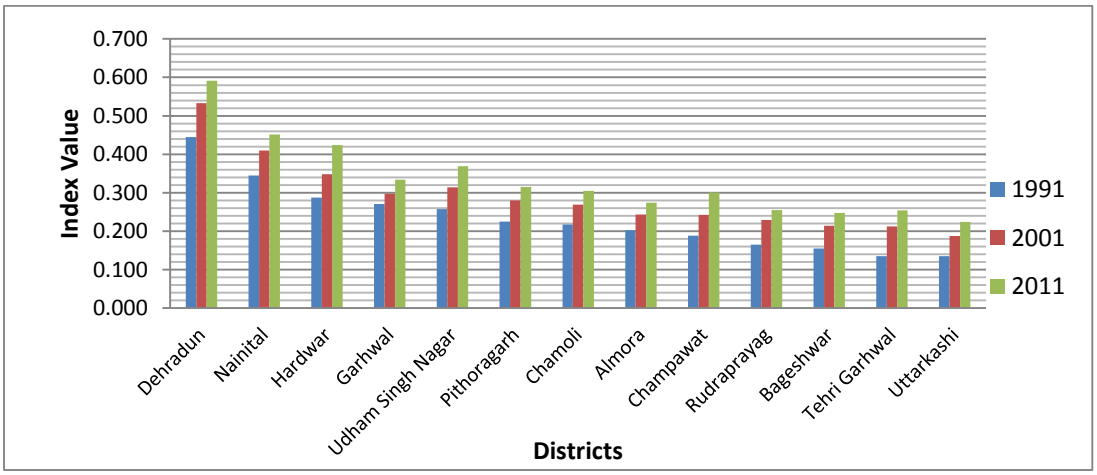
It was concluded that Uttarakhand recorded always higher composite development than India during 1991-2011. However, India and Uttarakhand persistently improved their CDI during corresponding period of time. But the hill state recorded higher pace of composite development than nation.

Table 1
Composite Development Index in Districts of Uttarakhand, 1991-2011

Sn.	District	Index Value			
		1991	2001	2011	Change 1991-2011
1	Dehradun	0.445	0.533	0.591	0.146
2	Nainital	0.345	0.410	0.451	0.106
3	Hardwar	0.287	0.348	0.424	0.137
4	Garhwal	0.271	0.297	0.334	0.063
5	Udham Singh Nagar	0.257	0.314	0.369	0.112
6	Pithoragarh	0.225	0.280	0.315	0.090
7	Chamoli	0.217	0.269	0.305	0.088
8	Almora	0.202	0.243	0.274	0.072
9	Champawat	0.188	0.242	0.301	0.113
10	Rudraprayag	0.165	0.229	0.255	0.090
11	Bageshwar	0.155	0.214	0.247	0.092
12	Tehri Garhwal	0.135	0.212	0.254	0.119
13	Uttarkashi	0.135	0.187	0.224	0.089
Uttarakhand		**0.270**	**0.323**	**0.377**	**0.107**
India		**0.262**	**0.302**	**0.335**	**0.073**

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

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



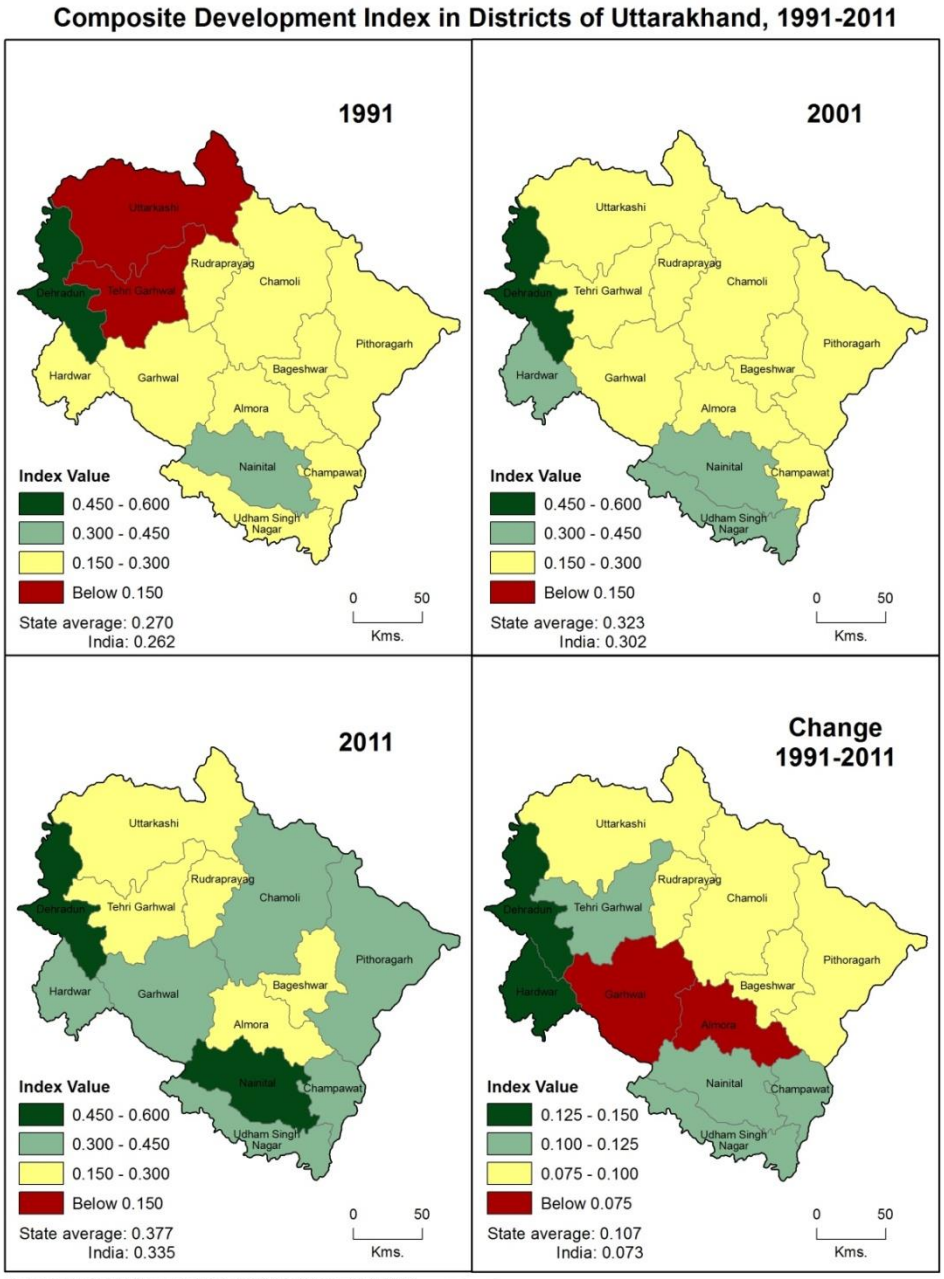
Intra-state Trends and Patterns

Among districts in Uttarakhand, Dehradun, Nainital, Hardwar, and Garhwal recorded higher composite development index than national average (0.262) and Uttarakhand (0.270) in 1991. Contrary to it, Udham Singh Nagar, Pithoragarh, Chamoli, Almora, Champawat, Rudraprayag, Bageshwar, Tehri Garhwal, and Uttarkashi recorded lower CDI. The most developed three districts across the districts of hill state were Dehradun, Nainital, and Hardwar. Contrary to it, the least developed three districts were Uttarkashi, Tehri Garhwal, and Bageshwar. Across the districts of the state, Dehradun (0.445) recorded highest CDI and the lowest in Uttarkashi (0.135). The gap between the highest and the lowest CDI across districts was 0.310 (Table 1). It reflected that there was wide variation of CDI across districts of Uttarakhand at the time of inception of new economic policy.

Across districts in Uttarakhand, four out of 13 districts recorded higher composite development index than national average (0.302) in 2001. These were Dehradun, Nainital, Hardwar, and Udham Singh Nagar. Contrary to it, Garhwal, Pithoragarh, Chamoli, Almora, Champawat, Rudraprayag, Bageshwar, Tehri Garhwal, and Uttarkashi recorded lower CDI. Comparing with state average (0.323), one-fourth districts in Uttarakhand recorded higher composite development index. These were Dehradun, Nainital, and Hardwar. Against it, Udham Singh Nagar, Garhwal, Pithoragarh, Chamoli, Almora, Champawat, Rudraprayag, Bageshwar, Tehri Garhwal, and Uttarkashi recorded lower CDI. The most developed three districts across the districts of hill state were Dehradun, Nainital, and Hardwar Contrary to it, the least developed three districts were Uttarkashi, Tehri Garhwal, and Bageshwar. Across the districts of the state, Dehradun (0.533) recorded the highest CDI and the lowest in Uttarkashi (0.187). The gap between the highest and the lowest CDI across districts was 0.346. The gap between the most developed district and the least developed district across the districts in Uttarakhand

increased from 0.310 in 1991 to 0.346 in 2001 (Table 1). It reflected that there was widening in variation of CDI across districts of Uttarakhand during the last decade of 20th century.

Four out of 13 districts in Uttarakhand recorded higher composite development index than national average (0.335) in 2011. These were Dehradun, Nainital, Hardwar, and Udham Singh Nagar. Contrary to it, Garhwal, Pithoragarh, Chamoli, Champawat, Almora, Rudraprayag, Tehri Garhwal, Bageshwar, and Uttarkashi recorded lower CDI. Comparing with state average (0.377), three out of 13 districts in Uttarakhand recorded higher composite development index. These were Dehradun, Nainital, and Hardwar. Against it, Udham Singh Nagar, Garhwal, Pithoragarh, Chamoli, Champawat, Almora, Rudraprayag, Tehri Garhwal, Bageshwar, and Uttarkashi recorded lower CDI. The most developed three districts across the districts of hill state were Dehradun, Nainital, and Hardwar. Contrary to it, the least developed three districts were Uttarkashi, Bageshwar, and Tehri Garhwal. Across the districts of the state, Dehradun (0.591) recorded the highest CDI and the lowest in Uttarkashi (0.224). The gap between the highest and the lowest CDI across districts was 0.367. The gap between the most developed district and the least developed district across the districts in Uttarakhand increased from 0.346 in 2001 to 0.367 in 2011 (Table 1). It was found that there



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

Fig. 1

was widening in variation of CDI across districts of Uttarakhand during the first decade of 21st century. It reflected the divergence in composite development.

Uttarakhand (0.107) recorded higher change in CDI than national average (0.073) during 1991-2011. Comparing with the national average, eleven out of 13 districts in Uttarakhand recorded higher change in CDI. These were Dehradun, Hardwar, Tehri Garhwal, Champawat, Udham Singh Nagar, Nainital, Bageshwar, Pithoragarh, Rudraprayag, Uttarkashi, and Chamoli. On the other hand, two districts recorded lower change (Table 1). These were Almora and Garhwal. Across the districts in Uttarakhand, Dehradun (0.146) recorded the highest change and the lowest in Garhwal (0.063).

It was observed that Uttarakhand recorded always higher composite development than India during 1991-2011. During last 20 years, India, Uttarakhand, and all districts of Uttarakhand recorded increase in relative composite development index. Across the districts of the state, Dehradun recorded highest composite development and the lowest in Uttarkashi. Across the districts in Uttarakhand, Dehradun recorded the highest change in composite development and the lowest in Garhwal.

III. Conclusions

Uttarakhand recorded always higher composite development than India during 1991-2011. During last 20 years, India, Uttarakhand, and all districts of Uttarakhand recorded increase in relative composite development index. Across the districts of the state, Dehradun recorded highest composite development and the lowest in Uttarkashi. The most developed three districts across the districts of hill state were Dehradun, Nainital, and Hardwar. Contrary to it, the least developed three districts were Uttarkashi, Bageshwar, and Tehri Garhwal. Across the districts in Uttarakhand, Dehradun recorded the highest change in composite development and the lowest in Garhwal.

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