



Research Paper

Economic Development Disparity in Western Himalayan Region

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Abstract

This research has a fresh look on the economic development disparity among states/union territories of Western Himalayan Region during 2001-2011. Western Himalayan Region was economically less developed than India during 2001-2011. The pace of urbanisation was lower in the region than India. It is a matter of serious concern for the policy maker and planners of centre government states/ union territory governments. The gap between the most and the least urbanised districts recorded 0.951 in 2011. Across districts of Western Himalayan Region, the highest five districts in development index were Srinagar, Jammu from Jammu & Kashmir; and Dehradun, Nainital, Haridwar from Uttarakhand. Against it, the least five districts were Shupiyan, Ramban from Jammu & Kashmir; Kangra from Himachal Pradesh; and Rudraprayag, Bageshwar from Uttarakhand. Further, two districts of Himachal Pradesh had no urban population. These were Kinnaur and Lahul & Spiti. These districts require special attention to bridge the gap.

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I. Introduction

In many respects, move to cities is entirely rational. Cities are the hub of prosperity. More than 80 per cent of global economic activity is concentrated in cities (Mc Kinsey Global Institute 2011). Citizen in urban areas had an advantage over their rural brethren. The urban poverty rates are significantly lower than rural poverty rates and urban population had far better access to the basic public services defined by the Millennium Development Goals (Global Monitoring Report 2013).

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.

Development disparity is an omnipresent phenomenon at global, continental, country, and province level. At global level, countries have been categorized into developed, developing, and underdeveloped realms.

Objective

The major objective of this research paper was to:

- Examine the trends and patterns of economic development disparity in Western Himalayan Region

Research Question

Based on review of literature, the following major research question was forwarded for investigation:

- What are the trends and patterns of economic development disparity in Western Himalayan Region?

Significance of the Study

The study of the trends and patterns of economic development disparity in Western Himalayan Region 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 Western Himalayan Region studied covering two points of time i.e. 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 the level of economic development disparity in Western Himalayan States and union territories during 2001-2011. The state/union territory and district level data were used for tracing the inter and intra-state/union territory economic development disparity.

The Study Area

This study was focused on western Himalayan states and union territories. These states are erstwhile Jammu & Kashmir (now bifurcated into two union territories i.e. Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh), Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand. These states were designated as hill states as well as special category states by National Development Council of India for preferential treatment to accelerate the development of disadvantaged region. The study area lies between 28°44'N to 37°5'N latitudes and 72°40'E to 81°01'E longitudes covering an area of 331 thousand Km². It shares one-tenth (10.08 per cent) of total geographical area of India and contains 2.44 per cent of total population of the country in 2011.

Database and Methodology

The secondary data of Census of India have been used to measure the economic development disparity for two points of time i.e. 2001 and 2011. The data of Jammu & Kashmir have been recasted in consonance with the administrative divisions of two union territories i.e. Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh in order to know the development disparity. In this research, economic development was inferred using urbanisation. Economic Development Index (EDI) was used to assess the level of economic development.

In the present study, economic development disparity discussed at three spatial contexts (Western Himalayan Region, inter state/union territory, intra-state) in Western Himalayan Region during 2001-2011. EDI has calculated by using the highest and the lowest value of indicator. For example, across states and union territories of India, the highest urbanization recorded in Delhi in 2001. It was 93.18 per cent. Contrary to it, Himachal Pradesh recorded the lowest urbanisation in 2001. It was 9.80 per cent. The EDI of Himachal Pradesh was calculated as under:

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

$$\text{Deprivation Score} = \frac{93.18 - 9.80}{93.18 - 9.80} = 1.00$$

$$\text{Development Index} = 1 - 1.000 = 0.000$$

It was separately done for two points of time viz. 2001 and 2011 to work out economic development index.

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

Western Himalayan Region

Urbanisation of the Western Himalayan Region was recorded 21.41 per cent in 2001. It was substantially lower than national average (27.82 per cent). The urbanization of the region was lower than India. It was 6.41 percentage points. It reflects that higher population of the region lives in rural areas (Table 1).

The Western Himalayan Region recorded 24.32 per cent urbanisation in 2011. It was again substantially lower than national average (31.14 per cent). The gap of urbanisation between the region and India was 6.82 percentage points. The gap of urbanization between the region and India increased during 2001-2011. It reflected the pace of urbanisation was lower in the region than India. It is a matter of serious concern for the policy makers and planners of government.

The Western Himalayan Region recorded 2.91 percentage points increase in urbanisation during 2001-2011. However, India recorded 3.32 percentage points in urbanisation during corresponding period of time.

It was concluded from above observations that the Western Himalayan Region was economically less developed than India during 2001-2011.

Inter State/union territory Trends and Patterns

Urbanisation among states/union territories in the Western Himalayan Region was quite different in 2001. Majority population of all states and union territories in the Western Himalayan Region live in rural areas. All states and union territories in the Western Himalayan Region recorded lower urbanisation than India (27.82

per cent). These are Jammu & Kashmir, Ladakh, Himachal Pradesh, and Uttarakhand. Across states/union territories in the Western Himalayan Region, Uttarakhand (25.67 per cent) recorded the highest urbanisation and Himachal Pradesh (9.80 per cent) the lowest. The gap between the highest and the lowest urbanisation was 15.87 percentage points (Table 1).

Among states/union territories in the Western Himalayan Region, Jammu & Kashmir and Uttarakhand recorded higher urbanisation than Western Himalayan Region (21.41 per cent). Contrary to it, Ladakh and Himachal Pradesh recorded lower urbanisation than the region.

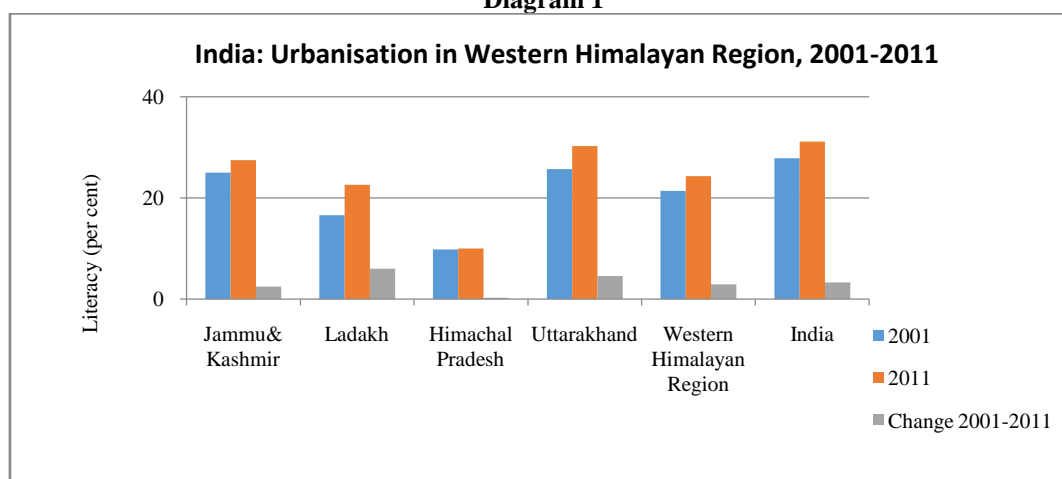
Table 1
India: Urbanisation in Western Himalayan Region, 2001-2011

Sr.	State/Union Territory	Urbanisation(per cent)		
		2001	2011	Change 2001-2011
1	Jammu & Kashmir	25.01	27.48	2.47
2	Ladakh	16.61	22.61	6.00
3	Himachal Pradesh	9.80	10.03	0.23
4	Uttarakhand	25.67	30.23	4.56
Western Himalayan Region		21.41	24.32	2.91
India		27.82	31.14	3.32

Source: Primary Census Abstracts, Census of India, 2001-2011.

Note: States/Union Territories were arranged in geographical contiguity.

Diagram 1



Source: Primary Census Abstracts, Census of India, 2001-2011.

Once again, all the states and union territories in the Western Himalayan Region recorded lower urbanisation than India (31.14 per cent) in 2011. These are Jammu & Kashmir, Ladakh, Himachal Pradesh, and Uttarakhand. Across states/union territories in the Western Himalayan Region, Uttarakhand (30.23 per cent) recorded the highest urbanisation and Himachal Pradesh (10.03 per cent) the lowest. The gap between the highest and the lowest urbanisation was 20.20 percentage points (Table 1).

Among states/union territories in the Western Himalayan Region, Jammu & Kashmir and Uttarakhand recorded higher urbanisation than Western Himalayan Region (24.32 per cent) in 2011. Contrary to it, Ladakh and Himachal Pradesh recorded lower urbanisation than the region (Table 1).

Across states/union territories in the Western Himalayan Region, Ladakh (6.00 percentage points) recorded the highest change in urbanisation during 2001-2011 and the lowest in Himachal Pradesh (0.23 percentage point). Comparing with Western Himalayan Region (2.91 percentage points), and national average (3.32 percentage points), it was found that Ladakh and Uttarakhand recorded higher change in urbanisation. Contrary to it, Jammu & Kashmir and Himachal Pradesh recorded lower change in urbanisation than Western Himalayan Region and India (Table 1).

Intra-state Trends and Patterns

All the districts of Himachal Pradesh and Ladakh recorded lower urbanisation in 2001 than national average (27.82 per cent). On the other hand majority districts of Jammu & Kashmir and Uttarakhand recorded

lower urbanisation than national average (Table 2). It reflects that Himachal Pradesh and Ladakh were far behind at the beginning of 21st century.

Table 2
India: Urbanisation in Western Himalayan Region, 2001-2011

Sr.	Name of State/Union Territory	Districts above National Average/ <i>Below National Average</i> (27.82 per cent)	Districts above National Average/ <i>Below National Average</i> (31.14 per cent)
1	Jammu & Kashmir	Sri Nagar, Jammu(02) <i>Samba, Udhampur, Kulgam, Baramula, Kathua, Bandipore, Pulwama, Badgam, Anantnag, Reasi, Kishtwar, Rajauri, Doda, Punch, Ganderbal, Shupiyan, Ramban, Kupwara (18)</i>	Srinagar, Jammu(02) <i>Anantnag, Udhampur, Kulgam, Baramula, Samba, Bandipore, Ganderbal, Kathua, Pulwama, Badgam, Kupwara, Reasi, Rajouri, Punch, Doda, Kishtwar, Shupiyan, Ramban(18)</i>
2	Ladakh	<i>Leh, Kargil (02)</i>	Leh(01) <i>Kargil (01)</i>
3	Himachal Pradesh	<i>Shimla, Solan, Sirmaur, Una Kullu, Chamba, Hamirpur, Mandi, Bilaspur, Kangra, Kinnaur, Lahul & Spiti (12)</i>	<i>Shimla, Solan, Sirmaur, Kullu, Una, Chamba, Hamirpur, Bilaspur, Mandi, Kangra, Kinnaur, Lahul & Spiti (12)</i>
4	Uttarakhand	Dehradun, Nainital, Udham Singh Nagar, Hardwar (04) <i>Champawat, Chamoli, Pithoragarh, Garhwal, Tehri Garhwal, Almora, Uttarkashi, Bageshwar, Rudraprayag (09)</i>	Dehradun, Nainital, Hardwar, Udham Singh Nagar(04) <i>Garhwal, Chamoli, Champawat, Pithoragarh, Tehri Garhwal, Almora, Uttarkashi, Rudraprayag, Bageshwar(09)</i>
Western Himalayan Region		(6)/(41)	(7)/(40)

Source: Primary Census Abstracts, Census of India, 2001-2011.

Note: (i) Districts are arranged in descending order in terms of urbanisation. (ii) Figure in parentheses show the number of district/ districts above national average. (iii) The name of district/ districts and figure in parentheses written in bold italic font have urbanisation below national average.

Six out of 47 districts in Western Himalayan Region recorded higher urbanisation than national average in 2001. The highest urbanisation recorded in Sri Nagar (94.48 per cent) from Jammu & Kashmir across districts of Western Himalayan Region. Against it, Rudraprayag (1.20 per cent) from Uttarakhand recorded the lowest. The gap between the most and the least urbanised districts recorded 93.28 percentage points in 2001. Two districts of Himachal Pradesh had no urban population. These were Kinnaur and Lahul & Spiti (Table 2). Across districts of Western Himalayan Region, the highest five districts in urbanisation were Srinagar, Jammu from Jammu & Kashmir; and Dehradun, Nainital, Udham Singh Nagar from Uttarakhand in 2001. Against it, the least five districts were Kangra from Himachal Pradesh; Ramban, Kupwara from Jammu & Kashmir; and Bageshwar, Rudraprayag from Uttarakhand.

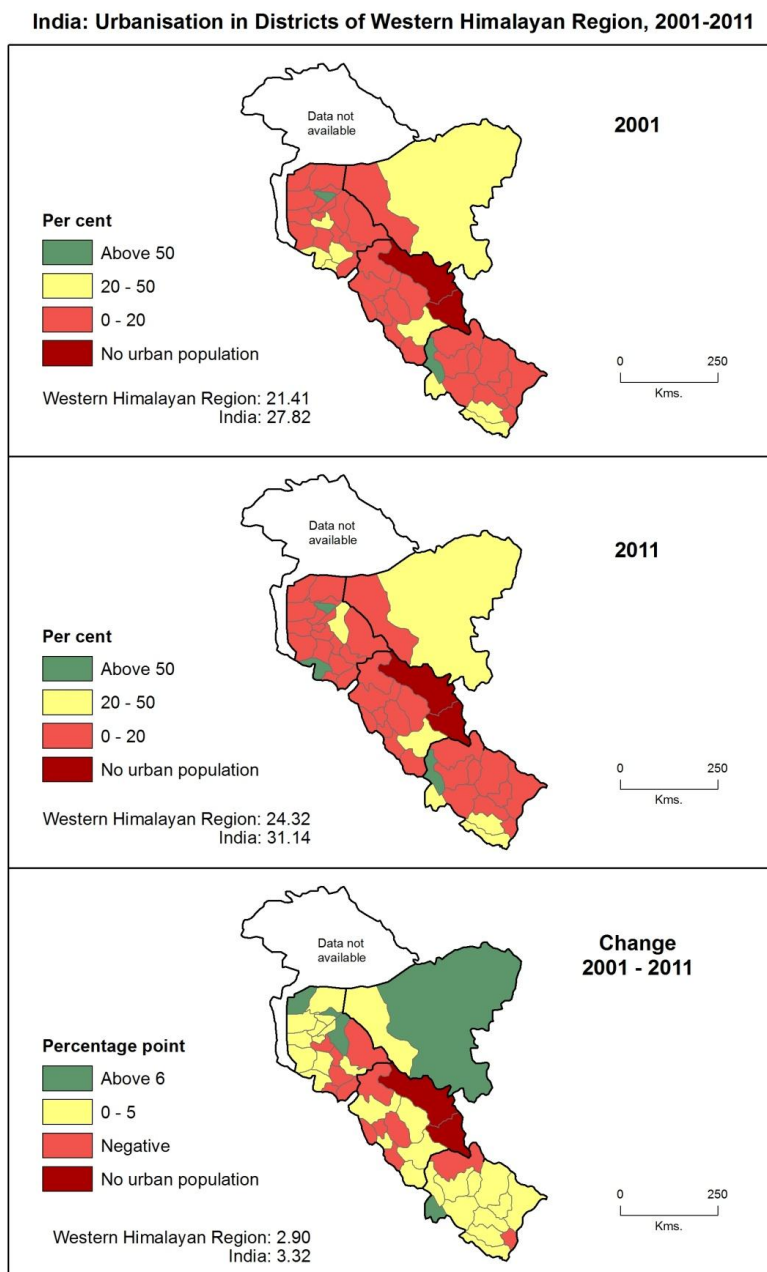


Fig.1

All the districts of Himachal Pradesh recorded lower urbanisation in 2011 than national average (31.14 per cent). On the other hand majority districts of Jammu & Kashmir and Uttarakhand recorded lower urbanisation than national average. One out of two district in Ladakh recorded lower urbanisation than national average. It was found that Himachal Pradesh was lagging behind in economic development during the first decade of 21st century.

Seven out of 47 districts in Western Himalayan Region recorded higher urbanisation than national average in 2011. The highest urbanisation recorded in Sri Nagar (98.60 per cent) from Jammu & Kashmir across districts of Western Himalayan Region. Against it, Bageshwar (3.49 per cent) from Uttarakhand recorded the lowest. The gap between the most and the least urbanised districts recorded 95.11 percentage points in 2011. Two districts of Himachal Pradesh had no urban population. These were Kinnaur and Lahul & Spiti (Table 2).

Across districts of Western Himalayan Region, the highest five districts in urbanisation were Srinagar, Jammu from Jammu & Kashmir; and Dehradun, Nainital, Hardwar from Uttarakhand. Against it, the least five districts were Shupiyan, Ramban from Jammu & Kashmir; Kangra from Himachal Pradesh; and Rudraprayag, Bageshwar from Uttarakhand. These districts require special attention. It was recommended that catalytic programmes may be initiated to bridge the gap.

Eight out of 47 districts in Western Himalayan Region recorded higher change in urbanisation above the national average (3.32 percentage points) during 2001-2011. It accounts for 17.02 percent districts of Western Himalayan Region. Across districts of the region, 13 districts of Western Himalayan Region recorded negative change in urbanisation. These were Una, Hamirpur, Mandi, Chamba, Solan from Himachal Pradesh; Champawat, Uttarkashi from Uttarakhand; and Kathua, Ramban, Udhampur, Kishtwar, Kulgam, Samba from Jammu & Kashmir. Contrary to it, five districts of highest change were Anantnag, Ganderbal, Kupwara from Jammu & Kashmir; Leh from Ladakh; and Hardwar from Uttarakhand (Fig. 1).

Level of Economic Development Western Himalayan Region

Economic development index of India, Western Himalayan Region, and all states/union territories in the Western Himalayan Region worked out in relation to the highest and the lowest urbanisation of state/union territory of India. The highest urbanisation was recorded in Delhi during 2001-2011. It was 93.18 per cent in 2001 and 97.25 in 2011. Contrary to it, Himachal Pradesh recorded the lowest urbanisation during 2001-2011. It was 9.80 per cent in 2001 and 10.03 per cent in 2011.

Economic development index of Western Himalayan Region recorded 0.139 in 2001. It was substantially lower than India (0.216). The gap of economic development index between the region and India was 0.077 (Table 3). It reflects that economic development in the region was lower than India.

Economic development index of the Western Himalayan Region increased from 0.139 in 2001 to 0.164 in 2011. The region recorded increase of 0.025 whereas India (0.242) recorded increase of 0.026 during the corresponding period of time. Both, India and the region recorded increase in relative level of economic development during 2001-2011. However, economic development of the region was still lower than India. It is matter of concern for the governments of the region (Table 3).

Inter State/union territory Trends and Patterns

There was wide variation of economic development index among states and union territories of Western Himalayan Region in 2001. Across states and union territories of the region, Himachal Pradesh (0.000) recorded the lowest economic development index and the highest in Uttarakhand (0.190). The gap between the highest and the lowest economic development index was 0.190 (Table 3).

Himachal Pradesh and Ladakh recorded lower economic development index than the Western Himalayan Region (0.139) in 2001. On the other hand, Jammu & Kashmir and Uttarakhand recorded higher economic development index than the region. Comparing with the national average (0.216), all states and union territories of the region recorded lower economic development index. These were Jammu & Kashmir, Ladakh, Himachal Pradesh, and Uttarakhand.

After a decade (2011) the variation of economic development index among states and union territories of region has increased. Across states/ union territories of the region, Himachal Pradesh (0.000) recorded the lowest economic development index and the highest in Uttarakhand (0.232). The gap between the highest and the lowest economic development index increased from 0.190 in 2001 to 0.232 in 2011 (Table 3). It is a matter of concern for policy maker and planners.

Again, Himachal Pradesh and Ladakh recorded lower economic development index than the Western Himalayan Region (0.164) in 2011. On the other hand, Jammu & Kashmir and Uttarakhand recorded higher economic development index than the region. Comparing with the national average (0.242), all states and union territories of the region recorded lower economic development index. These were Jammu & Kashmir, Ladakh, Himachal Pradesh, and Uttarakhand.

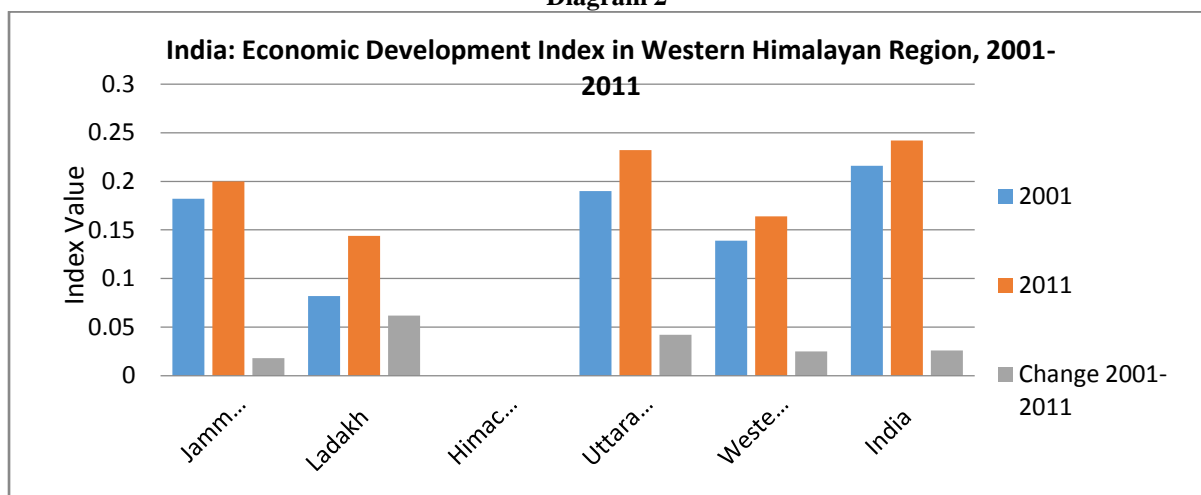
Table 3
India: Economic Development in Western Himalaya Region, 2001-2011

Sr.	State/Union Territory	Index Value		
		2001	2011	Change 2001-2011
1	Jammu & Kashmir	0.182	0.200	0.018
2	Ladakh	0.082	0.144	0.062
3	Himachal Pradesh	0.000	0.000	0.000
4	Uttarakhand	0.190	0.232	0.042
Western Himalayan Region		0.139	0.164	0.025
India		0.216	0.242	0.026

Source: Primary Census Abstracts, Census of India, 2001-2011.

Note: States/Union Territories were arranged in geographical contiguity.

Diagram 2



Source: Primary Census Abstracts, Census of India, 2001-2011.

Except Himachal Pradesh, all the states/union territories of the Western Himalayan Region increased their relative economic development index during 2001-2011. It reflects that every state/union territory of the Western Himalayan Region raised its economic development level during the corresponding period of time. Across states and union territories of the region, Ladakh (0.062) recorded the highest change in economic development index during 2001-2011 and the lowest in Himachal Pradesh (0.000).

It was concluded from above observations that the Himachal Pradesh was economically the most backward in Western Himalayan Region. Contrary to it, Uttarakhand was the economically most developed in the region.

Intra-state Trends and Patterns

Economic development index of India, Western Himalayan Region, and all districts of states/union territories in the Western Himalayan Region worked out in relation to the highest and the lowest urbanisation of districts of India. Across the districts of India, the highest urbanisation was recorded in Yanam from Puducherry during 2001-2011. It was completely urbanized districts during 2001-2011. Contrary to it, Kinnaur from Himachal Pradesh was completely rural district.

All the districts of Himachal Pradesh and Ladakh of the Western Himalayan Region recorded lower economic development than national average (0.278) in 2001. On the other hand, majority districts of Jammu & Kashmir and Uttarakhand recorded lower economic development (Table 4).

Table 4

India: Economic Development in Western Himalaya Region, 2001-2011

Sr.	Name of State/Union Territory	Districts above National Average/Below National Average 0.278 (2001)	Districts above National Average/Below National Average 0.311 (2011)
1	Jammu & Kashmir	Sri Nagar, Jammu(2) <i>Samba, Udhampur, Kulgam Baramula, Kathua, Bandipore, Pulwama, Badgam, Anantnag, Reasi, Kishtwar, Rajauri, Doda, Punch, Ganderbal, Shupiyan, Ramban, Kupwara (18)</i>	Srinagar, Jammu(02) <i>Anantnag, Udhampur, Kulgam, Baramula, Samba, Bandipore, Ganderbal, Kathua, Pulwama, Badgam, Kupwara, Reasi, Rajouri Punch, Doda, Kishtwar, Shupiyan Ramban (18)</i>
2	Ladakh	<i>Leh, Kargil (02)</i>	Leh(01) <i>Kargil (01)</i>
3	Himachal Pradesh	<i>Shimla, Solan, Sirmaur, Una, Kullu, Chamba, Hamirpur, Mandi, Bilaspur, Kangra, Kinnaur Lahul & Spiti (12)</i>	<i>Shimla, Solan, Sirmaur, Kullu, Una, Chamba, Hamirpur, Bilaspur, Mandi, Kangra, Kinnaur, Lahul & Spiti (12)</i>

Economic Development Disparity in Western Himalayan Region

4	Uttarakhand	Dehradun, Nainital, Udham Singh Nagar, Hardwar (04) <i>Champawat, Chamoli, Pithoragarh, Garhwal, Tehri Garhwal, Almora, Uttarkashi, Bageshwar, Rudraprayag (09)</i>	Dehradun, Nainital, Hardwar, Udham Singh Nagar(04) <i>Garhwal, Chamoli, Champawat, Pithoragarh, Tehri Garhwal, Almora, Uttarkashi, Rudraprayag, Bageshwar (9)</i>
Western Himalayan Region		(6)/(41)	(7)/(40)

Source: Primary Census Abstracts, Census of India, 2001-2011.

Note: (i) Districts are arranged in descending order in terms of urbanisation. (ii) Figure in parentheses show the number of district/ districts above national average. (iii) The name of district/ districts and figure in parentheses written in bold italic font have economic development index below national average.

Six out of 47 districts in Western Himalayan Region recorded higher economic development index than national average in 2001. The highest development index recorded in Sri Nagar (0.945) from Jammu & Kashmir across districts of Western Himalayan Region. Against it, Rudraprayag (0.012) from Uttarakhand recorded the lowest. The gap between the most and the least developed district recorded 0.933 in 2001. Two districts of Himachal Pradesh had no urban population. These were Kinnaur and Lahul & Spiti (Table 4). Across districts of Western Himalayan Region, the highest five districts in economic development index were Srinagar, Jammu from Jammu & Kashmir; and Dehradun, Nainital, Udham Singh Nagar from Uttarakhand in 2001. Against it, the least economically developed five districts were Kangra from Himachal Pradesh; Ramban, Kupwara from Jammu & Kashmir; and Bageshwar, Rudraprayag from Uttarakhand.

After a decade (2011), all district in Himachal Pradesh recorded lower economic development index than national average (0.311). On the other hand, majority of Jammu & Kashmir and Uttarakhand recorded lower economic development index. However, one out of two districts in Ladakh recorded lower economic development index than national average (Table 4).

Seven out of 47 districts in Western Himalayan Region recorded higher economic development index than national average (0.311) in 2011. The highest development index recorded in Sri Nagar (0.986) from Jammu & Kashmir across districts of Western Himalayan Region. Against it, Bageshwar (0.035) from Uttarakhand recorded the lowest. The gap between the most and the least urbanised districts recorded 0.951. Two districts of Himachal Pradesh had no urban population. These were Kinnaur and Lahul & Spiti (Table 4). Across districts of Western Himalayan Region, the highest five districts in development index were Srinagar, Jammu from Jammu & Kashmir; and Dehradun, Nainital, Hardwar from Uttarakhand. Against it, the least five districts were Shupiyan, Ramban from Jammu & Kashmir; Kangra from Himachal Pradesh; and Rudraprayag, Bageshwar from Uttarakhand. These districts require special attention to bridge the gap.

Eight out of 47 districts in Western Himalayan Region recorded higher change in economic development index above the national average (0.033) during 2001-2011. It accounts for 17.02 percent districts of Western Himalayan Region. Across districts of the region, 13 districts of Western Himalayan Region recorded negative change in economic development index. These were Una, Hamirpur, Mandi, Chamba, Solan from Himachal Pradesh; Champawat, Uttarkashi from Uttarakhand; and Kathua, Ramban, Udhampur, Kishtwar, Kulgam, Samba from Jammu &

India: Economic Development Index in Western Himalayan Region, 2001-2011

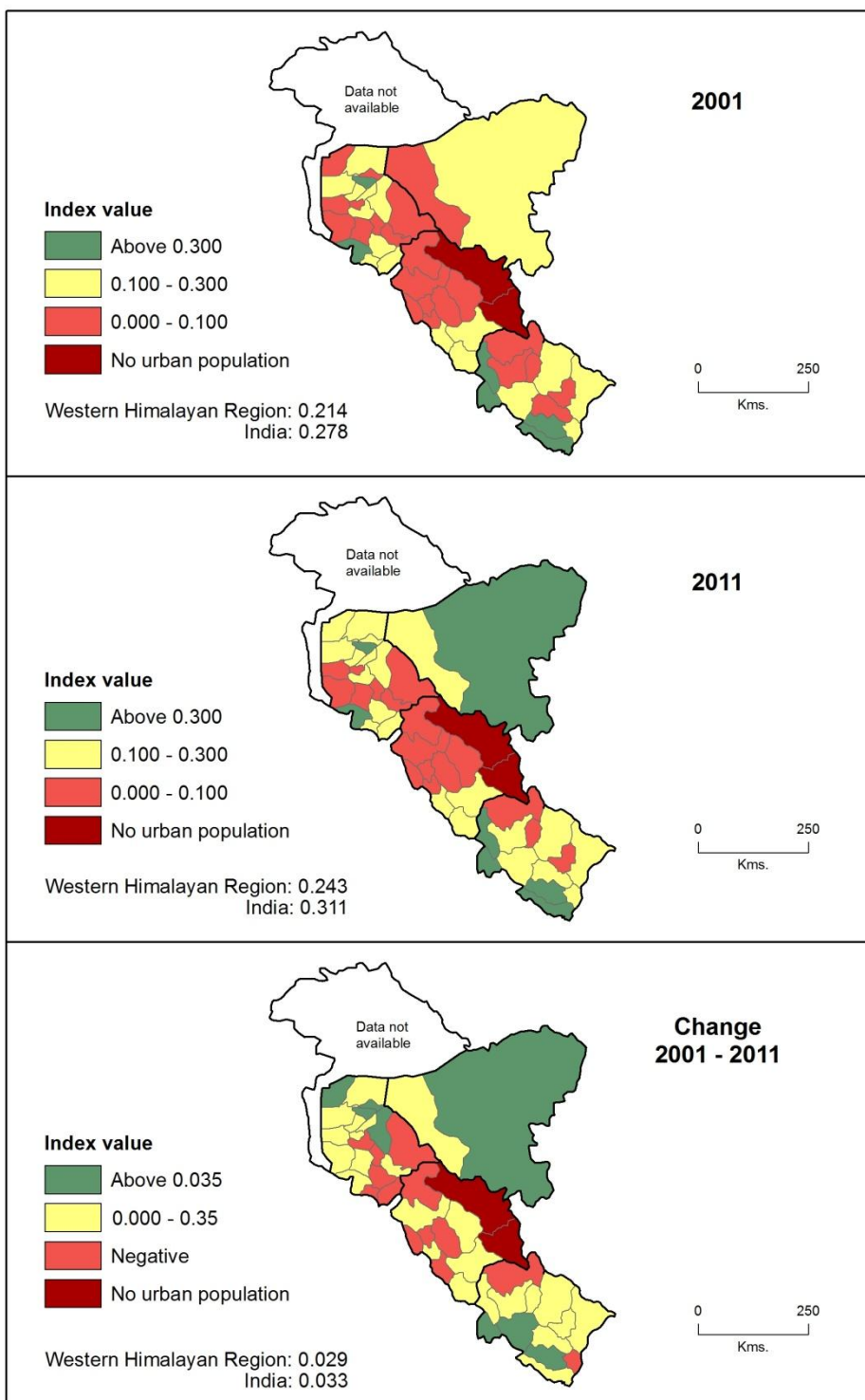


Fig.2

Kashmir. Contrary to it, five district of highest change were Anantnag, Ganderbal, Kupwara from Jammu & Kashmir; Leh from Ladakh; and Hardwar from Uttarakhand (Fig. 2).

II. Conclusions:

Western Himalayan Region was economically less developed than India during 2001-2011. It reflects the pace of urbanisation was lower in the region than India. It is a matter of serious concern for the policy maker and planners of centre government states/ union territory governments. It was concluded from above observations that Himachal Pradesh was economically the most backward in Western Himalayan Region. Contrary to it, Uttarakhand was the economically most developed in the region.

The gap between the most and the least economically developed districts recorded 0.951 in 2011. Two districts of Himachal Pradesh had no urban population. These were Kinnaur and Lahul & Spiti. Across districts of Western Himalayan Region, the highest five districts in development index were Srinagar, Jammu form Jammu & Kashmir; and Dehradun, Nainital, Hardwar from Uttarakhand. Against it, the least five districts were Shupiyan, Ramban from Jammu & Kashmir; Kangra from Himachal Pradesh; and Rudraprayag, Bageshwar from Uttarakhand. These districts require special attention to bridge the gap.

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