



Research Paper

Gender Disparity in Rural Development of Indian Hill States: A Geographical Perspective

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Abstract

Across hill states of India, rural development disparity among males and females had been converging during 1991-2011. Across the hill states, three highest states of GPI in rural development were Meghalaya, Manipur, and Mizoram. Against it, the least three were Jammu & Kashmir, Uttarakhand, and Himachal Pradesh. The research revealed that the gender inequality in rural development was more pronounced in western hill states than north-east hill states. Across districts of hill states, 64 districts (excluding the districts of Jammu & Kashmir) recorded convergence of gender equality in the rural development. Contrary to it, 17.86 per cent districts of hill states recorded the rise in gender inequality during 1991-2001 and subsequently decline in gender inequality during the first decade of 21st century. Gender inequality in rural development was more pronounced in districts of western hill states than districts of north-east hill states.

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I. Introduction

Gender disparity has been drawing attention of the world community over the past few decades. Woman is still discriminated in many domains of human life. For this reason, many international world conferences on women organized by the United Nations. The main thrust of these conferences was to achieve gender equality in different walks of life. Gender disparity means discrimination between individuals on the basis of sex. Development disparity is an omnipresent phenomenon at global, continental, country, regional, and province level. Nearly fifty per cent of the total world population is of women. Development cannot be achieved, if fifty per cent population is debarred from the opportunities. Most of the societies of the world, men possess larger share of property, wealth, status, and power than women. In this study, the gender inequality was understood in rural development among and within hill states.

Objective

- Examine the trends and spatial patterns of gender disparity in rural development in hill states

Research Question

The following major research question was forwarded for investigation:

- What were the trends and patterns of gender disparity in rural development in hill states?

Significance of the Study

The study of the trends and patterns of gender disparity in rural development in hill states will provide an insight and unfold the real nature and intensity of disparity. This study on disparity may be useful for policy makers and planners for the formulation of policy and programs to bridge the gap.

Period and Unit of Study

The gender disparity in rural development in hill states was studied covering three points of time i.e. 1991, 2001, and 2011. The new economic policy was adopted in 1991. The impact of policy was measured on gender disparity in rural development during successive decades. The state and district level data were used for tracing inter states and intra-state gender disparity in rural development.

The state level data was used for inter states comparison. The data for new state was adjusted in order to make them comparable for all the three points of time. Further, district was taken as the unit for intra-state analysis.

An attempt was made to adjust district level data of 1991 and 2001 in order to make them comparable with 2011. It was herculean task but challenge was accepted.

The Study Area

This study was focused on Jammu & Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Sikkim, Arunachal Pradesh, Nagaland, Manipur, Mizoram, Tripura, and Meghalaya. They were designated as Indian Hill States. This region located between 21°57'N to 37°5'N latitudes and 72°40'E to 97°25'E longitudes covering an area of 515 thousand Km². Administratively, there were 106 districts that shared one-seventh (15.67 per cent) of total geographical area of India and contained 3.63 per cent of total population of the country.

Source of Data and Methodology

The secondary data of Census of India was collected to measure the gender disparity in rural development for three points of time i.e. 1991, 2001, and 2011. In this study, rural development was inferred using rural non-agricultural workforce. Gender Parity Index (GPI) was used to assess gender differences. Gender Parity Index was calculated to know the trends and patterns of gender disparity in rural development. Rural development was measured through non-agricultural workforce. In this study, GPI discussed at two spatial contexts: (i) inter states and (ii) intra-state.

$$\text{Gender Parity Index (GPI)} = \frac{\text{value of indicator for females}}{\text{value of indicator for males}}$$

The value of the GPI as obtained by above formula reveals that a value less than one indicates difference in favour of males, whereas a value near one indicates the parity in them. The value above one indicates difference in favour of females. The gender disparity increases as difference of value of GPI increases from one.

Gender Disparity in Rural Development in Indian Hill States

Inter states

India recorded (0.41) higher GPI in rural development than Indian Hill States (0.21) in 1991. It reflected that gender disparity in rural development was more pronounced in Indian Hill States (Hill States) than India. Four out of 9 hill states recorded higher GPI than India. These were Meghalaya, Manipur, Tripura, and Sikkim. The remaining five hill states recorded the lower GPI. These were Mizoram, Arunachal Pradesh, Nagaland, Himachal Pradesh, and Uttarakhand. Comparing with Indian Hill states' average, five out of 9 hill states recorded higher GPI. These were Meghalaya, Manipur, Tripura, Sikkim, and Mizoram. Against it, Arunachal Pradesh, Nagaland, Himachal Pradesh, and Uttarakhand recorded lower GPI. Across the hill states, three highest GPI in rural development were Meghalaya, Manipur, and Tripura. Against it, the least three were Nagaland, Himachal Pradesh, and Uttarakhand. Across the hill states, Meghalaya (0.55) recorded the highest GPI of rural development and the lowest in Uttarakhand (0.09). The gap between the highest and the lowest GPI was 0.46 (Table 1).

Table 1
Gender Disparity in Rural Development in Indian Hill States, 1991-2011

Sr.	Hill States	Index Value		
		1991	2001	2011
1	Meghalaya	0.55 ←	0.53 →	0.63
2	Manipur	0.53 ←	0.49 →	0.58
3	Tripura	0.52 ←	0.44 →	0.46
4	Sikkim	0.46 ←	0.42 →	0.46
5	Mizoram	0.22 →	0.30 →	0.52
6	Arunachal Pradesh	0.20 →	0.29 →	0.44
7	Nagaland	0.19 →	0.34 →	0.41
8	Himachal Pradesh	0.11 →	0.17 →	0.27
9	Uttarakhand*	0.09 →	0.19 →	0.32
10	Jammu & Kashmir	DNA	0.41 ←	0.36
Indian Hill States		0.21 →	0.30 →	0.37
India		0.41 →	0.46 →	0.54

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

→ Decadal Increase in GPI ← Decadal Decrease in GPI

.DNA means Data no available

*Data of Uttarakhand (1991) were calculated from the erstwhile Uttar Pradesh Census Document.

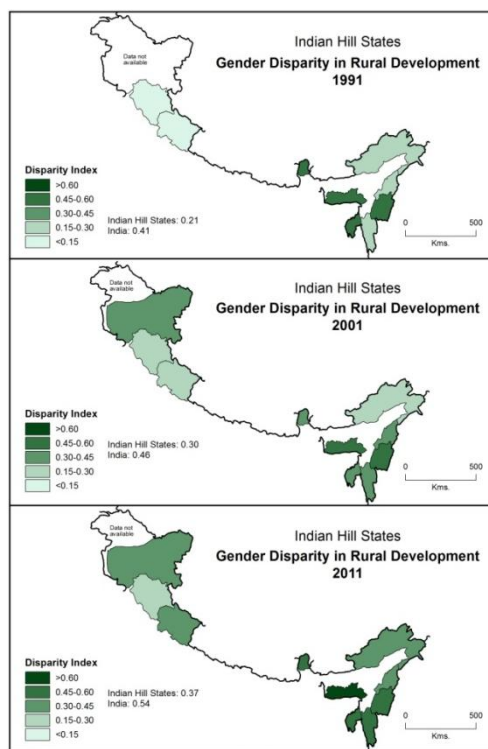


Fig. 1

After twenty years of new economic policy, India recorded (0.54) higher GPI in rural development than Indian Hill States (0.37) in 2011. It reflected that gender disparity in rural development was more pronounced in Indian Hill States (Hill States) than India. Two out of 10 hill states recorded higher GPI than India. These were Meghalaya, Manipur. The remaining eight hill states recorded the lowest GPI. These were Mizoram, Tripura, Sikkim, Arunachal Pradesh, Nagaland, Jammu & Kashmir, Uttarakhand, and Himachal Pradesh. Comparing with Indian Hill states' average, seventy per cent hill states recorded higher GPI than hill state. These were Meghalaya, Manipur, Mizoram, Tripura, Sikkim Arunachal Pradesh, and Nagaland. On the other hand Jammu & Kashmir, Uttarakhand, and Himachal Pradesh recorded the lowest. Across the hill states, three highest GPI in rural development were Meghalaya, Manipur, and Mizoram. Against it, the least three were Jammu & Kashmir, Uttarakhand, and Himachal Pradesh. Across the hill states, Meghalaya (0.63) recorded the highest GPI of rural development and the lowest in Himachal Pradesh (0.27). The gap between the highest and the lowest GPI was 0.31. It decreased from 0.46 in 1991 to 0.31 in 2011 (Table 1). It reflected that the convergence in rural development took place among males and females.

Intra-State

I. Jammu & Kashmir

India (0.46) recorded higher GPI in rural development than Jammu & Kashmir (0.41) in 2001. It reflected that gender disparity in rural development was more pronounced in Jammu & Kashmir than India. Fifty per cent districts of Jammu & Kashmir recorded higher GPI than India. These were Srinagar, Baramula, Reasi, Shupiyan, Ramban, Bandipore, Ganderbal, Kulgam, Badgam, Punch, and Kathua. The remaining districts recorded the lowest GPI. Comparing with parent state, twelve out of 22 districts recorded higher GPI in rural development. . These were Srinagar, Baramula, Reasi, Shupiyan, Ramban, Bandipore, Ganderbal, Kulgam, Badgam, Punch, Kathua, and Pulwama. Contrary to it, Kargil, Leh, Samba, Anantnag, Doda, Kupwara, Kishtwar, Jammu, Rajauri, and Udhampur recorded lower GPI. Across the districts of state, the highest three districts in GPI were Srinagar, Baramula, Reasi and the least three were Jammu, Rajauri, and Udhampur. Among the districts of state, Srinagar (0.86) recorded the highest GPI of rural development and the lowest in Udhampur (0.26). The gap between the highest and the lowest GPI was 0.60 (Table 2).

After a decade, India recorded (0.54) higher GPI in rural development than Jammu & Kashmir (0.36) in 2011. It reflected that gender disparity in rural development was more pronounced in Jammu & Kashmir than India. Four out of 22 districts recorded higher GPI than India. These were Samba, Jammu, Kathua, and Baramula. Comparing with Jammu & Kashmir average, twelve out of 22 districts recorded higher GPI in rural development. These were Samba, Jammu, Kathua, Baramula, Ramban, Badgam, Kupwara, Shupiyan, Punch, Reasi, Leh, and Bandipore. On contrary to it, Kargil, Kishtwar, Udhampur, Pulwama, Doda, Ramban, Ganderbal, Srinagar, Kulgam, and Anantnag recorded lower GPI. Across the districts of state, the highest three

districts in GPI were Samba, Jammu, Kathua and the least three were Srinagar, Kulgam, and Anantnag. Across the districts of state, Samba (0.73) recorded the highest GPI of rural development and the lowest in Anantnag (0.17). The gap between the highest and the lowest GPI was 0.56 (Table 2). It decreased from 0.60 in 2001 to 0.56 in 2011. It reflected that convergence in rural development among males and females had been taking place during the first decade of 21st century.

Table 2
Gender Disparity in Rural Development in Jammu & Kashmir, 1991-2011

Sr.	Districts	Index Value		
		1991	2001	2011
1	Srinagar	DNA	0.86 ←	0.23
2	Baramula	DNA	0.84 ←	0.54
3	Reasi	DNA	0.81 ←	0.40
4	Shupiyan	DNA	0.75 ←	0.42
5	Ramban	DNA	0.75 ←	0.53
6	Bandipore	DNA	0.64 ←	0.36
7	Ganderbal	DNA	0.56 ←	0.28
8	Kathua	DNA	0.51 →	0.56
9	Badgam	DNA	0.49 →	0.52
10	Punch	DNA	0.49 ←	0.42
11	Kulgam	DNA	0.48 ←	0.23
12	Pulwama	DNA	0.41 ←	0.31
13	Kargil	DNA	0.38 ←	0.35
14	Leh	DNA	0.34 →	0.39
15	Samba	DNA	0.34 →	0.73
16	Anantnag	DNA	0.32 ←	0.17
17	Doda	DNA	0.32 ←	0.29
18	Kupwara	DNA	0.32 →	0.46
19	Kishtwar	DNA	0.30 →	0.35
20	Jammu	DNA	0.29 →	0.66
21	Rajauri	DNA	0.26 →	0.29
22	Udhampur	DNA	0.26 →	0.32
Jammu & Kashmir		DNA	0.41 ←	0.36
Indian Hill States		0.21	0.30 →	0.37
India		0.41	0.46 →	0.54

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

→ Decadal Increase in GPI ← Decadal Decrease in GPI
1.DNA means Data no available

It was concluded that thirteen out of 22 districts recorded negative growth in GPI during 2001-2011. These were Srinagar, Baramula, Reasi, Shupiyan, Ramban, Bandipore, Ganderbal, Punch, Kulgam, Pulwama, Kargil, Anantnag, and Doda. It was a matter of concern for the architects of development. In 2001, the spatial pattern of gender disparity in transformation of rural economy depicts that the gender inequality widened from west to east with the exception of capital district of the state. Subsequently in 2011, some western parts of the state recorded widening of gender disparity in favour of men in 2011 (Fig. 2).

II. Himachal Pradesh

Himachal Pradesh (0.11) recorded substantially lower GPI in rural development than India (0.41) in 1991. It reflected that gender disparity in rural development was more pronounced in Himachal Pradesh than India. Every district of the state recorded the lower GPI than India. Comparing with parent state, nine out of 12 districts recorded higher GPI in rural development. These were Lahul & Spiti, Kinnaur, Una, Kullu, Kangra, Shimla, Solan, Sirmaur, and Chamba. Contrary to it, Mandi, Bilaspur, and Hamirpur recorded lower GPI. Across the districts of state, the highest three districts in GPI were Lahul & Spiti, Kinnaur, Una and the least three were Mandi, Bilaspur, and Hamirpur. Across the districts of state, Lahul & Spiti (0.21) recorded the highest GPI of rural development and the lowest in Hamirpur (0.05). The gap between the highest and the lowest GPI was 0.16 (Table 3).

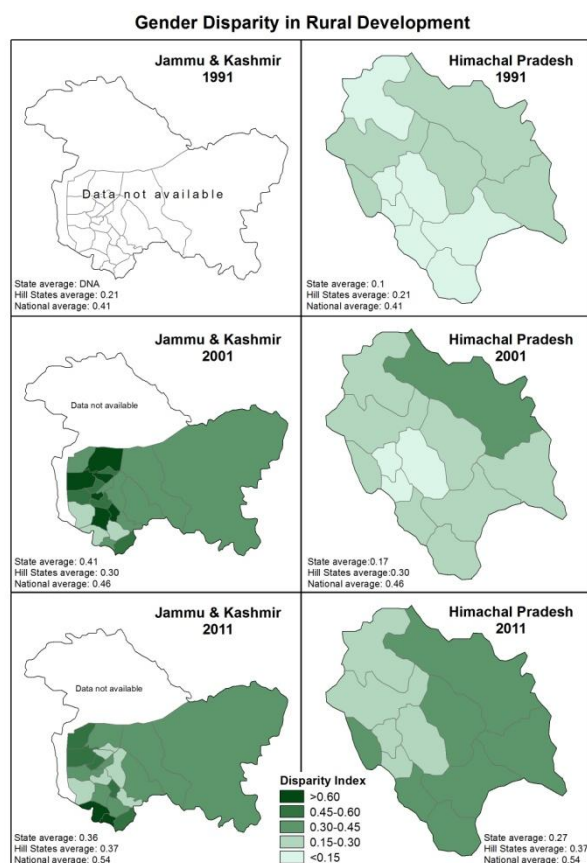


Fig. 2

After two decades, India recorded (0.54) higher GPI in rural development than Himachal Pradesh (0.27) in 2011. Again, gender disparity in rural development was more pronounced in Himachal Pradesh than India. However, Himachal Pradesh recorded higher pace of rural development than India during 1991-2011. No district of the state recorded the higher GPI than India. Comparing with parent state, eight out of 12 districts recorded higher GPI in rural development. These were Lahul & Spiti, Shimla, Una, Kullu, Kinnaur, Solan, Sirmaur, and Kangra. Against it, Chamba, Mandi, Hamirpur, and Bilaspur recorded lower GPI. Across the districts of state, the highest three districts in GPI were Lahul & Spiti, Shimla, Una and the least three were Mandi, Hamirpur, and Bilaspur. Across the districts of state, Lahul & Spiti (0.42) recorded the highest GPI of rural development and the lowest in Bilaspur (0.18). The gap between the highest and the lowest GPI was 0.24. It increased from 0.16 in 1991 to 0.24 in 2011 (Table 3).

All parts of the state recorded a tendency of convergence during 1991-2011. Southern and eastern and north-east parts of the state recorded lower gender inequality than western, central and north-west parts. This study revealed the convergence behavior of gender parity during corresponding period of time (Fig. 2).

Table 3
Gender Disparity in Rural Development in Himachal Pradesh, 1991-2011

Sr.	Districts	Index Value		
		1991	2001	2011
1	Lahul & Spiti	0.21	0.33	0.42
2	Kinnaur	0.18	0.24	0.31
3	Una	0.17	0.19	0.37
4	Kullu	0.16	0.22	0.35
5	Kangra	0.16	0.19	0.28
6	Shimla	0.13	0.20	0.36
7	Solan	0.12	0.17	0.31
8	Sirmaur	0.11	0.16	0.30
9	Chamba	0.11	0.16	0.26
10	Mandi	0.09	0.13	0.24
11	Bilaspur	0.06	0.12	0.18

12	Hamirpur	0.05	→	0.10	→	0.20
Himachal Pradesh		0.11	→	0.17	→	0.27
Indian Hill States		0.21	→	0.30	→	0.37
India		0.41	→	0.46	→	0.54

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

→ Decadal Increase in GPI

III. Uttarakhand

The GPI value of Uttarakhand (0.09) were significantly lower than India (0.41) in 1991. It reflected that the gender inequality in favour of men was more prominent in the state than nation. Hardwar recorded GPI above one. It reflected the disparity in favour of females. All remaining districts of the state recorded lower GPI in rural development. Comparing with the state average, Hardwar, Dehradun, Udham Singh Nagar, and Nainital recorded higher GPI in rural development. Contrary to it, Chamoli, Pithoragarh, Uttarkashi, Bageshwar, Garhwal, Tehri Garhwal, Almora, Rudraprayag, and Champawat recorded lower GPI. Across the districts of state, the highest three districts in GPI were Hardwar, Dehradun, Udham Singh Nagar and the least three were Almora, Rudraprayag, and Champawat. Across the districts of state, Hardwar (1.02) recorded the highest GPI of rural development and the lowest in Champawat (0.03).

After 20 years, Uttarakhand (0.32) recorded significantly lower GPI than India (0.54) in 1991. It reflected that the females of the state were rurally less developed than nation. Hardwar, Dehradun, and Udham Singh Nagar recorded higher GPI than national average. All remaining districts of the state recorded lower GPI in rural development. Comparing with the state average, six out of 13 districts recorded higher GPI in rural development. These were Hardwar, Udham Singh Nagar, Dehradun, Nainital, Uttarkashi, and Champawat. Contrary to it, Pithoragarh, Garhwal, Chamoli, Bageshwar, Almora, Tehri Garhwal, and Rudraprayag recorded lower GPI. Across the districts of state, the highest three districts in GPI were Hardwar, Udham Singh Nagar, Dehradun and the least three were Almora, Tehri Garhwal, and Rudraprayag. Across the districts of states, Hardwar (0.92) recorded the highest GPI in rural development and the lowest in Rudraprayag (0.19).

The research revealed that except Hardwar, every district of the state increased its GPI during 1991-2011. It observed that there was converging trend in gender equality across the districts of the state. Hardwar was consistently frontrunner in GPI since 1991. All the adjoining parts of state with plains of Uttar Pradesh had relatively lower gender disparity than other parts of the state (Fig. 3).

Table 4
Gender Disparity in Rural Development in Uttarakhand, 1991-2011

Sr.	Districts	Index Value				
		1991	2001	2011		
1	Hardwar	1.02	←	0.83	→	0.92
2	Dehradun	0.24	→	0.39	→	0.58
3	Udham Singh Nagar	0.16	→	0.42	→	0.62
4	Nainital	0.12	→	0.28	→	0.40
5	Chamoli	0.08	→	0.13	→	0.22
6	Pithoragarh	0.08	→	0.15	→	0.24
7	Uttarkashi	0.07	→	0.17	→	0.32
8	Bageshwar	0.05	→	0.10	→	0.21
9	Garhwal	0.05	→	0.10	→	0.24
10	Tehri Garhwal	0.04	→	0.10	→	0.19
11	Almora	0.03	→	0.10	→	0.20
12	Rudraprayag	0.03	→	0.08	→	0.19
13	Champawat	0.03	→	0.14	→	0.32
Uttaranchal		0.09	→	0.19	→	0.32
Indian Hill States		0.21	→	0.30	→	0.37
India		0.41	→	0.46	→	0.54

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

→ Decadal Increase in GPI ← Decadal decrease in GPI

IV. Sikkim

Sikkim (0.46) recorded higher GPI in rural development than India (0.41) in 1991. It reflected that the gender equality in rural development was more in the state than nation. But state recorded lower GPI than India in 2001 & 2011. After twenty years, Sikkim recorded no change in GPI. It was 0.46. It was matter of concern

for policy makers and planners of development. North District, East District, and South District recorded the tendency of divergence in gender equality of rural development was recorded during nineties of previous century and convergence in the first decade of twenty first century in the state. West district was the lone district of the state which registered an increase in GPI consistently since 1991. It reflected the trend of convergence of gender equality in terms of rural development during 1991-2011.

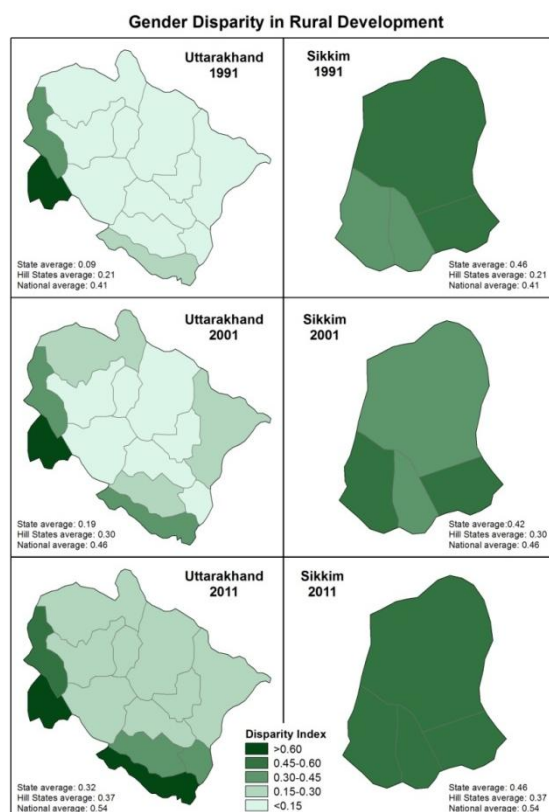


Fig. 3

Table 5
Gender Disparity in Rural Development in Sikkim, 1991-2011)

Sr.	Districts	Index Value		
		1991	2001	2011
1	North District	0.58 ←	0.35 →	0.49
2	East District	0.53 ←	0.46 →	0.46
3	South District	0.43 ←	0.40 →	0.46
4	West District	0.38 →	0.45 →	0.45
Sikkim		0.46 ←	0.42 →	0.46
Indian Hill States		0.21 →	0.30 →	0.37
India		0.41 →	0.46 →	0.54

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

→ Decadal Increase in GPI ← decadal decrease in GPI

Northern and eastern parts of the state recorded lower gender inequality than western and southern parts in 1991. All parts of state experienced almost equal gender inequality in terms of rural development in 2011 (Fig. 3).

V. Arunachal Pradesh

The GPI of Arunachal Pradesh (0.20) was significantly lower than India (0.41) in 1991. It reflected that the gender equality was lower in the state than nation. Every district of Arunachal Pradesh recorded lower GPI in rural development than national average. Comparing with the parent state, seven out of 16 districts recorded higher GPI in rural development. These were Tawang, West Kameng, Lohit, East Siang, Changlang, Dibang Valley, and Papum Pare. Against it, Lower Dibang, Upper Subansiri, West Sian, East Kameng, Upper Siang,

Anjaw, Tirap, Lower Subansiri, and Kurung Kumey recorded the lower GPI. Across the districts of state, the highest three districts in GPI were Tawang, West Kameng, Lohit and the least three were Tirap, Lower Subansiri, and Kurung Kumey. Across the districts of state, Tawang (0.38) recorded the highest GPI of rural development and the lowest in Kurung Kumey (0.09). The gap between the highest and the lowest GPI was 0.29 (Table 6).

Table 6
Gender Disparity in Rural Development in Arunachal Pradesh, 1991- 2011

Sr.	Districts	Index Value		
		1991	2001	2011
1	Tawang	0.38 →	0.41 →	0.46
2	West Kameng	0.35 ←	0.34 →	0.38
3	Lohit	0.28 →	0.41 →	0.55
4	East Siang	0.24 →	0.45 →	0.64
5	Changlang	0.24 →	0.35 →	0.50
6	Dibang Valley	0.23 →	0.41 →	0.67
7	Papum Pare	0.20 →	0.39 →	0.52
8	Lower Dibang	0.19 →	0.32 →	0.58
9	Upper Subansiri	0.17 →	0.23 →	0.50
10	West Siang	0.17 →	0.31 →	0.39
11	East Kameng	0.16 →	0.18 →	0.33
12	Upper Siang	0.16 →	0.25 →	0.39
13	Anjaw	0.12 →	0.16 →	0.36
14	Tirap	0.11 →	0.18 →	0.39
15	Lower Subansiri	0.10 →	0.24 →	0.46
16	Kurung Kumey	0.09 →	0.27 →	0.56
Arunachal Pradesh		0.20 →	0.29 →	0.44
Indian Hill States		0.21 →	0.30 →	0.37
India		0.41 →	0.46 →	0.54

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

→ Decadal Increase in GPI ← Decadal decrease in GPI

After twenty years, the GPI of Arunachal Pradesh (0.44) recorded lower than India (0.54) in 2011. It reflected that the gender inequality was higher in the state than nation. Five out of 16 districts of state recorded higher GPI in rural development. These were Dibang Valley, East Siang, Lower Dibang, Kurung Kumey, and Lohit. Contrary to it, Papum Pare, Changlang, Upper Subansiri, Tawang, Lower Subansiri, West Siang, Upper Siang, Tirap, West Kameng, Anjaw, and East Kameng recorded lower GPI. Comparing with the parent state, ten out of 16 districts recorded higher GPI in rural development. These were Dibang Valley, East Siang, Lower Dibang, Kurung Kumey, Lohit, Papum Pare, Changlang, Upper Subansiri, Tawang, and Lower Subansiri. Against it, West Siang, Upper Siang, Tirap, West Kameng, Anjaw, and East Kameng recorded the lower GPI. Across the districts of state, the highest three districts in GPI were Dibang Valley, East Siang, Lower Dibang, and Kurung Kumey and the least three were West Kameng, Anjaw, and East Kameng. Across the districts of state, Dibang Valley (0.67) recorded the highest GPI of rural development and the lowest in East Kameng (0.33). The gap between the highest and the lowest GPI was 0.34. The gap increased from 0.29 in 1991 to 0.34 in 2011 (Table 6).

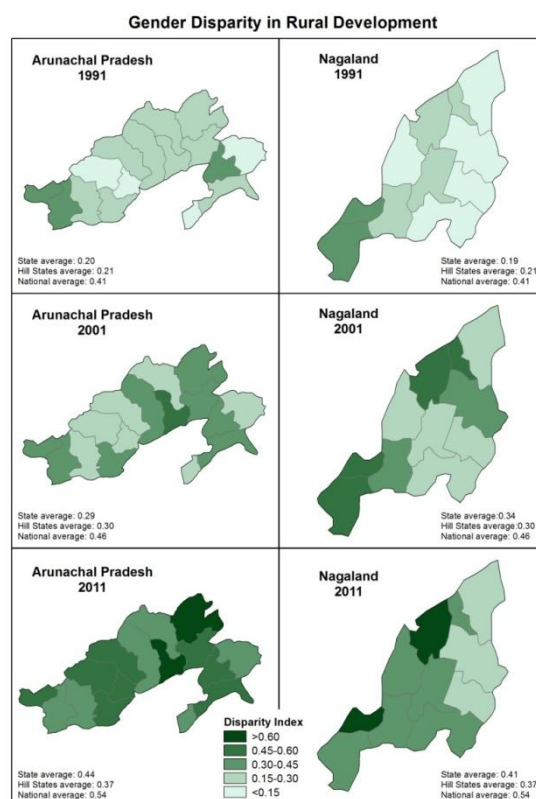


Fig. 4

It was concluded that western and southern parts of the state had relatively lower gender inequality than other parts of the state. Every part of the state has improved its position for narrowing down the gender inequality in terms of rural development during 1991-2011. The convergence of gender equality was recorded in every part of state during the corresponding period of time (Fig. 4)

VI. Nagaland

The GPI of Nagaland (0.19) was significantly lower than India (0.41) in 1991. It reflected that the gender inequality in favour of men was more prominent in the state than nation. Every district of the state recorded lower GPI than India. Comparing with the state average, five out of eleven districts recorded higher GPI in rural development. These were Dimapur, Peren, Kohima, Mokokchung, and Zunheboto. Contrary to it, Longleng, Phek, Wokha, Tuensang, Kiphire, and Mon recorded lower GPI. Across the districts of state, the highest three districts in GPI were Dimapur, Peren, Kohima and the least three were Tuensang, Kiphire, and Mon. Across the districts of state, Dimapur (0.34) recorded the highest GPI of rural development and the lowest in Mon (0.08). The gap between the highest and the lowest GPI was 0.26 (Table 7).

After two decades, Nagaland (0.41) recorded significantly lower GPI than India (0.54) in 2011. It reflected that the females of the state were rurally less developed than nation. Dimapur and Mokokchung recorded higher GPI than national average. Against it, remaining districts of the state recorded lower GPI in rural development. These were Zunheboto, Peren, Wokha, Kohima, Phek, Longleng, Mon, Kiphire, and Tuensang. Comparing with the state average, three out of 11 districts recorded higher GPI in rural development. These were Dimapur, Mokokchung, and Zunheboto. Contrary to it, Peren, Wokha, Kohima, Phek, Longleng, Mon, Kiphire, and Tuensang recorded lower GPI. Across the districts of state, the highest three districts in GPI were Dimapur, Mokokchung, Zunheboto and the least three were Mon, Kiphire, and Tuensang. Across the districts of state, Dimapur (0.60) recorded the highest GPI in rural development and the lowest in Tuensang (0.25). The gap between the highest and the lowest GPI was 0.35. The gap increased from 0.26 in 1991 to 0.35 in 2011 (Table 7).

Table 7
Gender Disparity in Rural Development in Nagaland, 1991-2011

Sr.	Districts	Index Value		
		1991	2001	2011
1	Dimapur	0.34 →	0.45 →	0.60
2	Peren	0.31 →	0.50 ←	0.39
3	Kohima	0.23 →	0.34 →	0.36

4	Mokokchung	0.23	→	0.45	→	0.60
5	Zunheboto	0.20	→	0.29	→	0.43
6	Longleng	0.18	→	0.50	←	0.31
7	Phek	0.14	→	0.28	→	0.36
8	Wokha	0.14	→	0.28	→	0.37
9	Tuensang	0.10	→	0.30	←	0.25
10	Kiphire	0.09	→	0.29	←	0.27
11	Mon	0.08	→	0.28	→	0.29
Nagaland		0.19	→	0.34	→	0.41
Indian Hill State		0.21	→	0.30	→	0.37
India		0.41	→	0.46	→	0.54

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

→ *Decadal Increase in GPI* ← *Decadal decrease in GPI*

It was concluded that eastern half of the state had relatively higher gender inequality in terms of rural development than the western half of the state in 1991. The pace of convergence of gender equality was relatively higher in southern and northern parts of the state in 2001. Broadly, the gender inequality decreased from east to west and south to north parts of the state. However, there was no clear cut pattern of gender inequality in the state during 1991-2011 (Fig. 4).

VII. Manipur

Manipur (0.53) recorded substantially higher GPI in rural development than India (0.41) in 1991. It reflected that gender equality in rural development was more pronounced in Manipur than India. Four out of nine districts of the state recorded higher GPI in rural development than national and state averages. These were Bishnupur, Imphal East, Imphal West, and Thoubal. Contrary to it, Senapati, Chandel, Churachandpur, Ukhrul, and Tamenglong recorded the lower GPI. Across the districts of state, the highest three districts in GPI were Bishnupur, Imphal East, Imphal West and the least three were Churachandpur, Ukhrul, and Tamenglong. Across the districts of state, Bishnupur (0.88) recorded the highest GPI of rural development and the lowest in Tamenglong (0.15). The gap between the highest and the lowest GPI was 0.73 (Table 8).

Table 8
Gender Disparity in Rural Development in Manipur, 1991- 2011

Sr.	Districts	Index Value				
		1991	2001	2011		
1	Bishnupur	0.88	←	0.52	→	0.73
2	Imphal East	0.79	←	0.59	→	0.74
3	Imphal West	0.79	←	0.59	→	0.79
4	Thoubal	0.56	←	0.52	→	0.55
5	Senapati	0.25	→	0.41	→	0.43
6	Chandel	0.21	→	0.47	←	0.35
7	Churachandpur	0.18	→	0.45	→	0.56
8	Ukhrul	0.17	→	0.33	→	0.44
9	Tamenglong	0.15	→	0.30	→	0.46
Manipur		0.53	←	0.49	→	0.59
Indian Hill States		0.21	→	0.30	→	0.37
India		0.41	→	0.46	→	0.54

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

→ *Decadal Increase in GPI* ← *Decadal decrease in GPI*

After twenty years, Manipur (0.59) recorded higher GPI in rural development than India (0.54) in 2011. It reflected that gender equality in rural development was higher in Manipur than India. Five out of nine districts of the state recorded higher GPI in rural development than national average. These were Imphal West, Imphal East, Bishnupur, Churachandpur, and Thoubal. Contrary to it, Tamenglong, Ukhrul, Senapati, and Chandel recorded the lower GPI. Across the districts of state, the highest three districts in GPI were Imphal West, Imphal East, Bishnupur and the least three were Ukhrul, Senapati, and Chandel. Across the districts of state, Imphal West (0.79) recorded the highest GPI of rural development and the lowest in Chandel (0.35). The gap between the highest and the lowest GPI was 0.44. The gap decreased from 0.73 in 1991 to 0.44 in 2011 (Table 8).

The central part of the state (Imphal East, Imphal West, and Bishnupur) registered lower gender disparity in 1991. This central part recorded decline in 2001. Despite it, central part and southern parts of state recorded relatively lower gender inequality than other parts of the state. In brief, western half of state has lower gender inequality than the eastern half in 2011 (Fig. 5).

VIII. Mizoram

Mizoram (0.22) recorded substantially higher GPI in rural development than India (0.41) in 1991. It reflected that gender equality in rural development was more pronounced in Mizoram than India. Every district of Mizoram recorded lower GPI in rural development than national average. Comparing with the state average, three out of 8 districts recorded higher GPI in rural development. These were Kolasib, Aizawl, and Mamit. Contrary to it, Lunglei, Serchhip, Champhai, Saiha, and Lawngtlai recorded the lower GPI. Across the districts of state, the highest three districts in GPI were Kolasib, Aizawl, Mamit and the least three were Champhai, Saiha, and Lawngtlai. Across the districts of state, Kolasib (0.36) recorded the highest GPI of rural development and the lowest in Lawngtlai (0.15). The gap between the highest and the lowest GPI was 0.21 (Table 9).

Table 9
Gender Disparity in Rural Development in Mizoram, 1991-2011

Sr.	Districts	Index Value		
		1991	2001	2011
1	Kolasib	0.36 ←	0.30 →	0.62
2	Aizawl	0.27 →	0.35 →	0.61
3	Mamit	0.23 →	0.31 →	0.54
4	Lunglei	0.22 →	0.29 →	0.45
5	Serchhip	0.22 →	0.29 →	0.54
6	Champhai	0.20 →	0.36 →	0.56
7	Saiha	0.18 →	0.21 →	0.50
8	Lawngtlai	0.15 →	0.30 →	0.40
Mizoram		0.22 →	0.30 →	0.52
Indian Hill States		0.21 →	0.30 →	0.37
India		0.41 →	0.46 →	0.54

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

→ Decadal Increase in GPI ← Decadal decrease in GPI

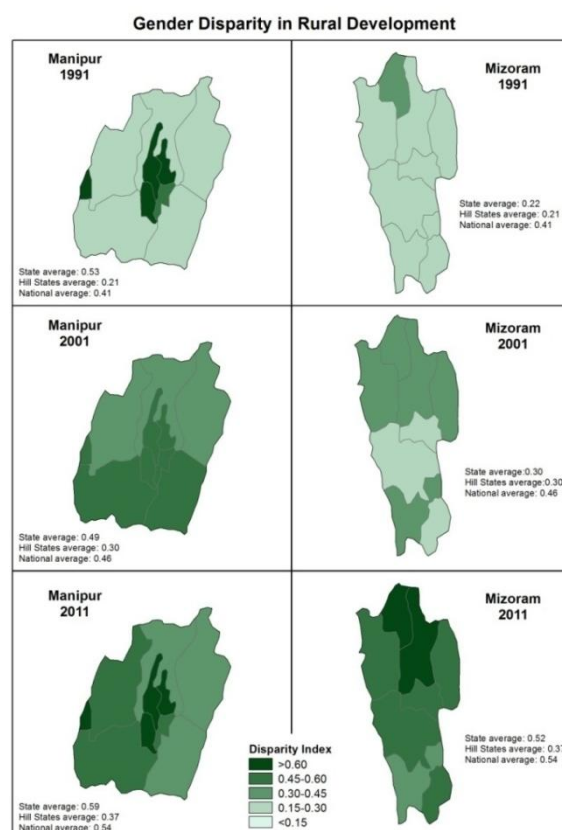


Fig. 5

After two decades Mizoram (0.52) recorded marginally lower GPI in rural development than India (0.54) in 2011. It reflected that gender disparity in rural development was more or less similar to national average. Five out of 8 districts recorded higher GPI in rural development than national and state averages. These were Kolasib, Aizawl, Champhai, Mamit, and Serchhip. Contrary to it, Saiha, Lunglei, Lawngtlai recorded the lower GPI. Across the districts of state, the highest three districts in GPI were Kolasib, Aizawl, Champhai and the least three were Saiha, Lunglei, and Lawngtlai. Across the districts of state, Kolasib (0.62) recorded the highest GPI of rural development and the lowest in Lawngtlai (0.40). The gap between the highest and the lowest GPI was 0.22 (Table 9). The gap increased from 0.21 in 1991 to 0.22 in 2011.

In spatial reference, the north part of the state recorded lower gender inequality than other parts of state in 1991. More or less, gender inequality increased from north to south. Northern half of the state recorded lower gender inequality than the southern half of the state in 2001. Further, the same trend was recorded in 2011. Despite the improvement in lowering the gender inequality in every part of the state, the northern parts of state still experienced lower gender inequality than the southern parts (Fig. 5).

IX. Tripura

The GPI in rural development of the state remained higher than Indian Hill States at three points of time i.e. 1991, 2001, and 2011. It reflected that state had lower gender inequality than Indian Hill States since 1991. However, the gender inequality increased during the last decade of twentieth century and slightly improved its position in lowering the gender inequality in the subsequent decade (2001-2011). On the other hand, comparing with national average, the state recorded higher GPI in 1991 and lower in 2001 and 2011. It reflected that the gender inequality was lower than India in 1991, higher in 2001, and 2011. At the district level, the three-fourth districts of the state had similar trend of gender inequality. These were Dhalai, West Tripura, and South Tripura. North Tripura was a lone district of the state which registered a declining trend in GPI since 1991. It reflected the increasing trend of gender inequality during the corresponding period of time.

Table 10
Gender Disparity in Rural Development in Tripura, 1991-2011

Sr.	Districts	Index Value		
		1991	2001	2011
1	North Tripura	0.82 ←	0.66 ←	0.62
2	West Tripura	0.53 ←	0.44 →	0.47

3	Dhalai	0.44	←	0.40	→	0.41
4	South Tripura	0.39	←	0.34	→	0.40
Tripura		0.52	←	0.44	→	0.46
Indian Hill States		0.21	→	0.30	→	0.37
India		0.41	→	0.46	→	0.54

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

→ *Decadal Increase in GPI* ← *Decadal decrease in GPI*

In terms of the spatial pattern of gender inequality, the Fig. 6 showed the wide variation across the various parts of the state. Northern and western parts of the state had lower gender inequality than the other parts of the state in 1991. Every part of state recorded an increase in gender inequality in 2001. Except northern part of the state, all parts registered a decline in gender inequality in subsequent decade. In general, the gender inequality increased from north to south and west to east within state.

X. Meghalaya

Meghalaya (0.55) recorded substantially higher GPI in rural development than India (0.41) in 1991. It reflected that gender equality in rural development was more pronounced in Meghalaya

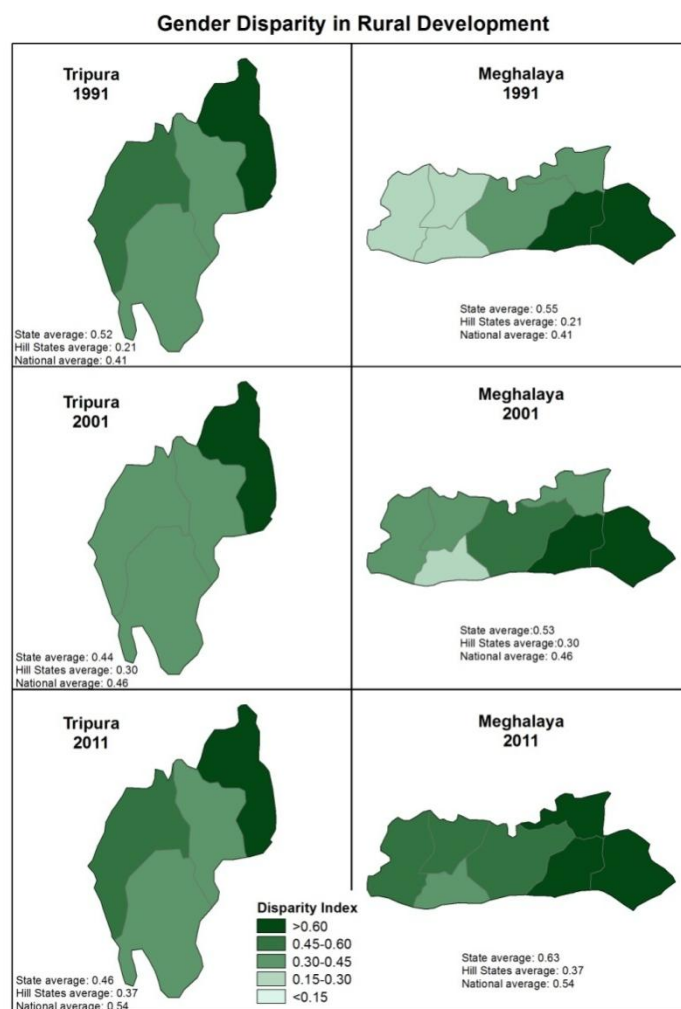


Fig. 6

than India. Three out of seven districts of the state recorded higher GPI in rural development than India. These were East Khasi Hills, Jaintia Hills, and Ri Bhoi. Contrary to it, West Khasi Hills, West Garo Hills, East Garo Hills, and South Garo Hills recorded lower GPI. Comparing with the parent state, two out of seven districts recorded higher GPI in rural development. These were East Khasi Hills and Jaintia Hills. Against it, Ri Bhoi, West Khasi Hills, West Garo Hills, East Garo Hills, and South Garo Hills recorded the lower GPI. Across the districts of state, the highest three districts in GPI were East Khasi Hills, Jaintia Hills, Ri Bhoi and three least were West Garo Hills, East Garo Hills, and South Garo Hills. Across the districts of state, East Khasi Hills

(0.84) recorded the highest GPI of rural development and the lowest in South Garo Hills (0.17). The gap between the highest and the lowest GPI was 0.67 (Table 11).

Table 11
Gender Disparity in Rural Development in Meghalaya, 1991- 2011

Sr.	Districts	Index Value		
		1991	2001	2011
1	East Khasi Hills	0.84 ←	0.68 →	0.75
2	Jaintia Hills	0.64 →	0.79 →	0.88
3	Ri Bhoi	0.42 →	0.43 →	0.69
4	West Khasi Hills	0.34 →	0.47 →	0.58
5	West Garo Hills	0.21 →	0.44 →	0.45
6	East Garo Hills	0.21 →	0.42 →	0.49
7	South Garo Hills	0.17 →	0.25 →	0.42
Meghalaya		0.55 ←	0.53 →	0.63
Indian Hill States		0.21 →	0.30 →	0.37
India		0.41 →	0.46 →	0.54

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

→ *Decadal Increase in GPI* ← *Decadal decrease in GPI*

After two decades, Meghalaya (0.63) recorded substantially higher GPI in rural development than India (0.54) in 2011. It reflected that gender equality in rural development was more pronounced in Meghalaya than India. Four out of seven districts of the state recorded higher GPI in rural development than India. These were Jaintia Hills, East Khasi Hills, Ri Bhoi, and West Khasi Hills. Against it, East Garo Hills, West Garo Hills, and South Garo Hills recorded the lower GPI. Comparing with the parent state average, Jaintia Hills, East Khasi Hills, and Ri Bhoi recorded higher GPI. Contrary to it, West Khasi Hills, East Garo Hills, West Garo Hills, and South Garo Hills recorded the lower GPI. Across the districts of state, the highest three districts in GPI were Jaintia Hills, East Khasi Hills, Ri Bhoi, and three least were East Garo Hills, West Garo Hills, and South Garo Hills. Across the districts of state, Jaintia Hills (0.88) recorded the highest GPI of rural development and the lowest in South Garo Hills (0.42). The gap between the highest and the lowest GPI was 0.46 (Table 11). The gap decreased from 0.67 in 1991 to 0.46 in 2011.

Eastern part of the state recorded lower gender disparity than western parts of the state in 1991. The gender inequality increased from east to west in 1991. This pattern remained same during 2001-2011. Almost every parts of the state experienced a decline in gender inequality over time. It reflected that the gender disparity had a convergence trend in state.

Conclusions

The research revealed that the gender inequality in rural development was more pronounced in western hill states than north-east hill states of India during 1991-2011. Across the hill states, three highest states of GPI in rural development were Meghalaya, Manipur, and Mizoram. Against it, the least three were Jammu & Kashmir, Uttarakhand, and Himachal Pradesh. The gender inequality increased from east to west. Across hill states, rural development disparity among male and female had been converging during the post reform period. The result showed from above analysis that little more than three-fourth districts (excluding the districts of Jammu & Kashmir) across the districts of hill states had experienced the convergence of gender equality in the rural development. On the other hand, 17.86 per cent districts of hill states registered the rise in gender inequality during 1991-2001 and subsequently recorded decline in inequality during the first decade of present century. Gender inequality in rural development was more pronounced in districts of western hill states than districts of north-east hill states.

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