

## **Trends and Patterns of Development Disparity among Indian Hill States**

**Prem Singh Kutwal**

*Associate Professor,  
Department of Geography, Govt. Post Graduate College,  
Bilaspur, Himachal Pradesh, Pin. 174001*

---

**ABSTRACT:** *Development has always been flexible and open ended with reference to specific definition. It is difficult concept with different interpretations varying by time, space, discipline and people. Different regions have different resource base and endowments caused dissimilar growth. Development disparity is a ubiquitous phenomenon. This research paper gives a fresh look on development disparity among hill states. In this analysis, the social development has been inferred using female literacy, rural development from the non-agricultural rural workforce and economic development from degree of urbanization in post reform period. The study concluded that Mizoram has been socially and economically the most developed while Sikkim is the most developed across hill states in terms of rural development. On contrary to it, Jammu & Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh and Mizoram are the least developed in social, economic and rural development respectively across Indian hill states in post reform period. It reflects the gap of development and direction of development in Indian hill states.*

---

### **INTRODUCTION**

It is established fact that in a large economy, different regions have different resource base and endowments caused dissimilar growth. Development disparity is a ubiquitous phenomenon at global, continent, country and province levels. At global level countries have been categorized into developed, developing and underdeveloped realm. Even highly developed nations have pockets of less developed sub-region and vice versa. "The poor countries are characterized by large and growing regional disparities and rich countries are generally characterized by small and diminishing gap" (Williamson, 1965).

The United Nations observed sixties as first development decade which stimulated the thought process of development among scholars, researchers etc. The geographic interest emerged with the growing realization that vast country like India has geographical diversities of a high order. It requires sectoral and regional development approaches in order to optimize economic efficiency and minimize existing development disparities.

In context of India, the British oriented governance came to end on the eve of Independence of India, 1947. The planned era started with the commencement of First Five Year Plan. Indian economy experienced sluggish growth (3.5% per annum) in first three decades. The public sector was major player and engine of growth. The government used to regulate the private sector and its activities with licensing requirements. Through licensing the government determined the scale, technology, location of investment etc. The partial liberalization started in the second half of eighties but following a foreign exchange crisis in 1991, a complete paradigm shift took place by the announcement of new policy by Union Government in July, 1991. The neo-liberal policy encompassed substantial changes in industrial licensing and regulatory policy, tax, trade, investment and fiscal policies. The crux of policy was a greater thrust on privatization and globalization of Indian economy.

During eighties and last decade of 20<sup>th</sup> century attained an impressive growth rate of nearly 6 per cent. The regions which are better in infrastructure (both material infrastructure and human resources) can perform better as compared to that of backward or lagging regions. Developed regions do better due to the externalities. Consequently, development disparities increase in consonance with economic growth in developing countries.

### **LITERATURE**

Schwartzberg (1962) examined the spatial pattern of economic development during fifties. He observed a peculiar feature of the Indian development and identified six types of areas: (a) isolated tribal economy (b) subsistence peasant economy (c) incipient commercialization (d) advanced commercialization (e) economic diversification and (f) large scale organization. The important manufacturing, commercial or administrative centers i.e. Kanpur, Hyderabad and Jaipur, whose level of growth did not reflect the development of their surrounding areas.

The different schools of thought perceive the development disparity in different ways. These schools of thought are categorized into convergence and divergence. Williamson (1965) concluded that regional inequalities in India increased during 1950s. This observation was refuted by Dhar and Sastry (1969) and Mahajan (1982). Lahiri (1969), Rao (1972), Nair (1977), Sampath (1977) Majumdar (1970), Ganguly and Gupta (1976), Mathur (1983, 1987) confirm the narrowing down trend in disparity overtime. Several reasons were traced for the above conclusions.

The second school of thought belongs to divergence in terms of spatial development in first three decades from inception of First Five Year Plan. Venkataramiah (1969), Rao (1973), Nair (1973), Chaudhary (1974), Sampath (1977) and Mahapatra (1978) claimed that regional imbalances have increased over the period of time. In post reform period especially during 1990s a number of studies have concluded that regional disparity in India has widened. These study (Ahluwalia 2000 and 2002; Shand and Bhide 2000; Shand and Kalirajan 1999; Nagraj, Varoudakis and Veganzous 1998) do not cover adequately the post reform period.

Sarker (1994) highlighted the link between regional imbalance and plan outlays. He emphasized about the strong link between development and per capita plan outlays for 15 Indian states. Dholakia (1994) claimed the tendencies of convergence of long term economic growth rates (1960-61-1989-90) for 20 Indian states. He identified 1980-81 to be the year of break in the trend of real incomes of Indian states. Several of the lagging states started growing after this date while the leaders to stagnate. Cashin and Sahay (1996) concluded the absolute convergence in 20 states during 1961-91 whereas dispersion increased in per capita income. Raman (1996), Marjit and Mitra (1996) and Ghosh et al. (1998) reported significant divergence across Indian states.

Sengupta et al. (2008) concluded that Indian economy witnessed a higher growth in the gross domestic product associated with rising concentration of money and wealth. The recent growth has been benefited a few and led to increasing disparities and inequalities (Gustafsson et al. 2008; Dev and Ravi 2007; Sengupta et al. 2008; Bhaduri 2008). Sarkar et al. (2010) concluded that India witnessed a widening of income inequality during the phase of acceleration in economic growth in post reform period (1994-95 to 2004-05). Most of studies of development disparity were conducted on major states of India, all states of India, state level and intra state level.

Based on the literature, it is found the research work covering all the Indian hill States on development disparity is scanty. The interstate development disparity emerging among hill states needs detailed investigation to trace the evolving patterns and trends.

### **Objective**

The major objective of this research paper is to:

- Study trends and patterns of development disparity among Indian hill states.

### **Research Question**

Based on review of literature discussed above, the following major research question is forwarded for investigation:

- What are the patterns and trends of development disparity among Indian hill states?

### **Significance of the Study**

Development disparity breeds regional tensions because the backward regions carry a feeling of neglect and discrimination. To redress development disparity is essential for maintaining an integrated social and economic fabric of the country without which the country may be faced with a situation of discontent, anarchy and breakdown of law and order. The study of development disparity in Indian Hill states will provide an insight into the processes of development and unfold the real nature and intensity of problems at state level. The present study on development disparity may be useful for policy makers and planners.

### **Period and Unit of Study**

The development disparities in the hill states will be 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 disparities of development. It attracts the considerable research interest to know the level of development disparity in Indian hill states in post reform period. The state level data shall be used for interstate comparison. The data for new state (Uttarakhand) shall be adjusted in order to make them comparable for all the three points of time.

### **The Study Area**

The present study is focused on the Indian hill states. These are: Arunachal Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Sikkim, Tripura and Uttarakhand. It is spread between 21° 57' N to 37° 5' N latitudes and 72° 40' E to 97° 25' E longitudes covering an area of 515 thousand Km<sup>2</sup>. It shares one-seventh (15.67 per cent) of total geographical area of India and contains 3.63 per cent of total population of the country in 2011.

### **Data and Methodology**

Methodology is an important tool to achieve various objectives formulated for the study. This research is based on secondary data. The secondary data have been collected to measure social, rural and economic development published by Census of India. In view of lack of comparable data over time on various indicators, the social development has been inferred using female literacy, rural development from the non- agricultural rural workforce, and economic development from degree of urbanization as used in 'Trends in Regional Disparities in India' (Krishan, 1989). The development Index used by the United Nations Institute for Social Research (UNISR: 1991) has used for measuring the different dimensions of development. The formula is as under:

$$DeprivationScore = \frac{Maximum\ Value - Actual\ Value}{Maximum\ Value - Minimum\ Value}$$

$$Development\ Index = 1 - Deprivation\ Score$$

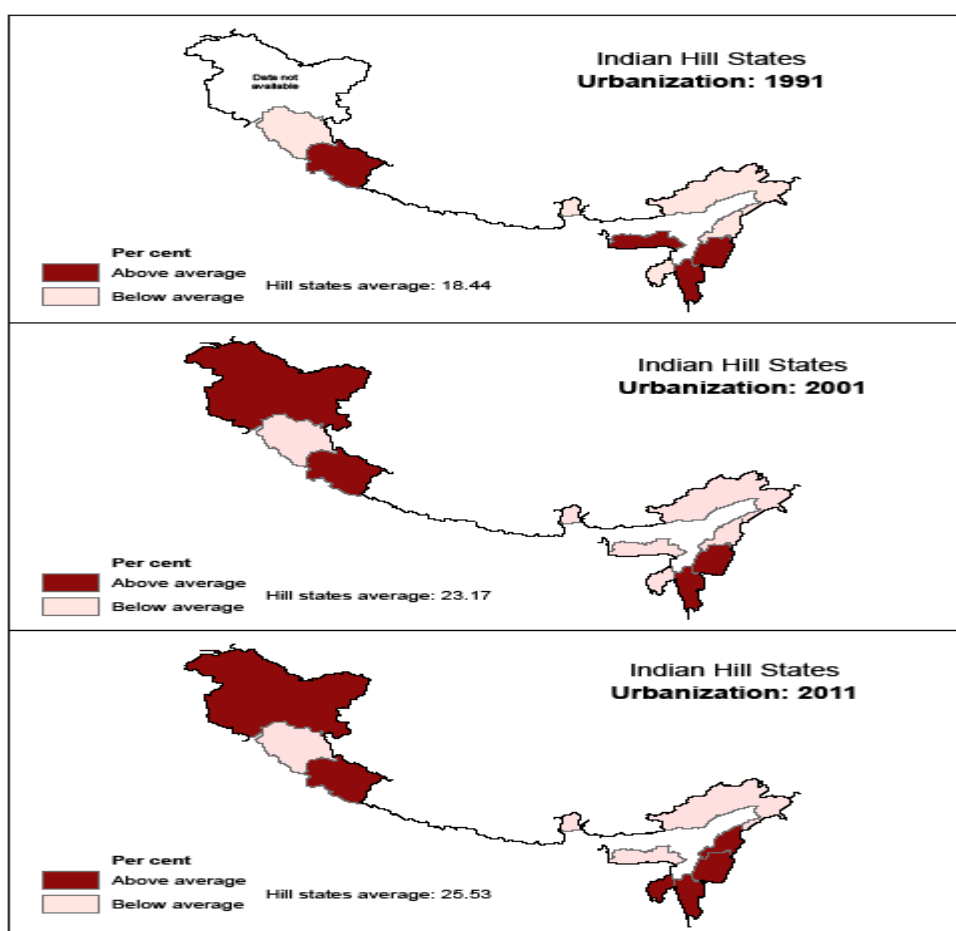
The disparity ratio has been calculated through standard deviation of development indices of states divided by the mean of indices.

### **Limitations**

Since measurement of development defies unanimity, the consensus on selection of indicators and criteria shall always be subjective and open to criticism. The present study is vulnerable on this account. But the selected criteria and indicators were found to be most appropriate because the comparable and adjustable data for three points of time on these indicators for all hill states is possible.

### **Indicators of Development**

This study gives a fresh look on development disparity among hill states. This paper examines the trends and patterns of disparities in post reform period at state level among hill states. After going through the immense literature on regional disparity, it has been decided that development will be looked through the criteria of social development, economic development and rural development. To examine the various dimensions of development, the selection of appropriate and judicious indicators is imperative. In the present study, three indicators i.e. female literacy rate, degree of urbanization and proportion of non-agricultural rural main workers to total workers have been selected to identify the spatial patterns and trends of development disparities in hill states.



Map 1

**(a) Urbanization**

The settlement which qualifies the criteria determined by Census of India is known as urban settlement. It includes (a) all statutory places like municipality, corporation, cantonment board, notified town area committee etc. (b) a minimum population of 5000; at least 75 per cent of male working population engaged in non- agricultural activities and population density of at least 400 persons/km<sup>2</sup>.

**Table 1: Select Socio- economic Indicators of Indian Hill States (1991, 2001 & 2011)**

Hill states	Urbanization (per cent)			Female literacy Rate (per cent)			Non-agricultural main workers to the total workers (per cent)		
	1991	2001	2011	1991	2001	2011	1991	2001	2011
2011	1991	2001	2011	1991	2001	2011	1991	2001	2011
J & K	DNA	24.80	27.38	DNA	43.00	56.43	DNA	28.82	31.71
H. P.	8.69	9.80	10.03	52.13	67.42	75.93	22.13	23.05	25.59
Uttarakhand*	23.14	25.67	30.23	41.69	59.63	70.01	20.01	22.30	25.78
Sikkim	9.10	11.07	25.15	46.69	60.40	75.61	27.56	33.67	32.99
Arunachal	12.80	20.75	22.94	29.69	43.53	57.70	27.13	24.46	24.23
Nagaland	17.21	17.23	28.86	54.75	61.46	76.11	16.11	19.06	18.30
Manipur	27.52	26.58	32.45	47.60	60.53	72.37	22.03	27.06	28.58
Mizoram	46.10	49.63	52.11	78.60	86.75	89.27	14.98	12.85	13.91
Tripura	15.30	17.06	26.17	49.65	64.91	82.73	27.20	33.76	31.07
Meghalaya	18.60	19.58	20.07	44.85	59.61	72.89	20.41	19.30	22.12
Hill States	18.44	23.17	25.53	47.56	57.34	69.18	21.63	24.90	26.84

Source: Compiled from various documents of Census of India.

\* In 1991 the recasted data of Uttarakhand has been worked out in accordance with the administrative divisions of 2011.

Urbanization reflects the transformation of economy from primary sector to secondary and service sector. The degree of urbanization is a fair index of the level of its economic development.

It is evident from the Table 1 that in terms of urbanization Mizoram consistently maintained the top position and Himachal Pradesh at the bottom over last two decades among hill states. There is a wide variation of urbanization across hill states. Uttarakhand, Mizoram and Manipur recorded all time higher urbanization than average of hill states in 1991, 2001 and 2011 censuses whereas Tripura and Nagaland gained its position over time. It is worth mentioning that despite the highest percentage increase in urbanization in Sikkim since liberalization, it has lower urbanization than the average of Indian hill states (Map 1).

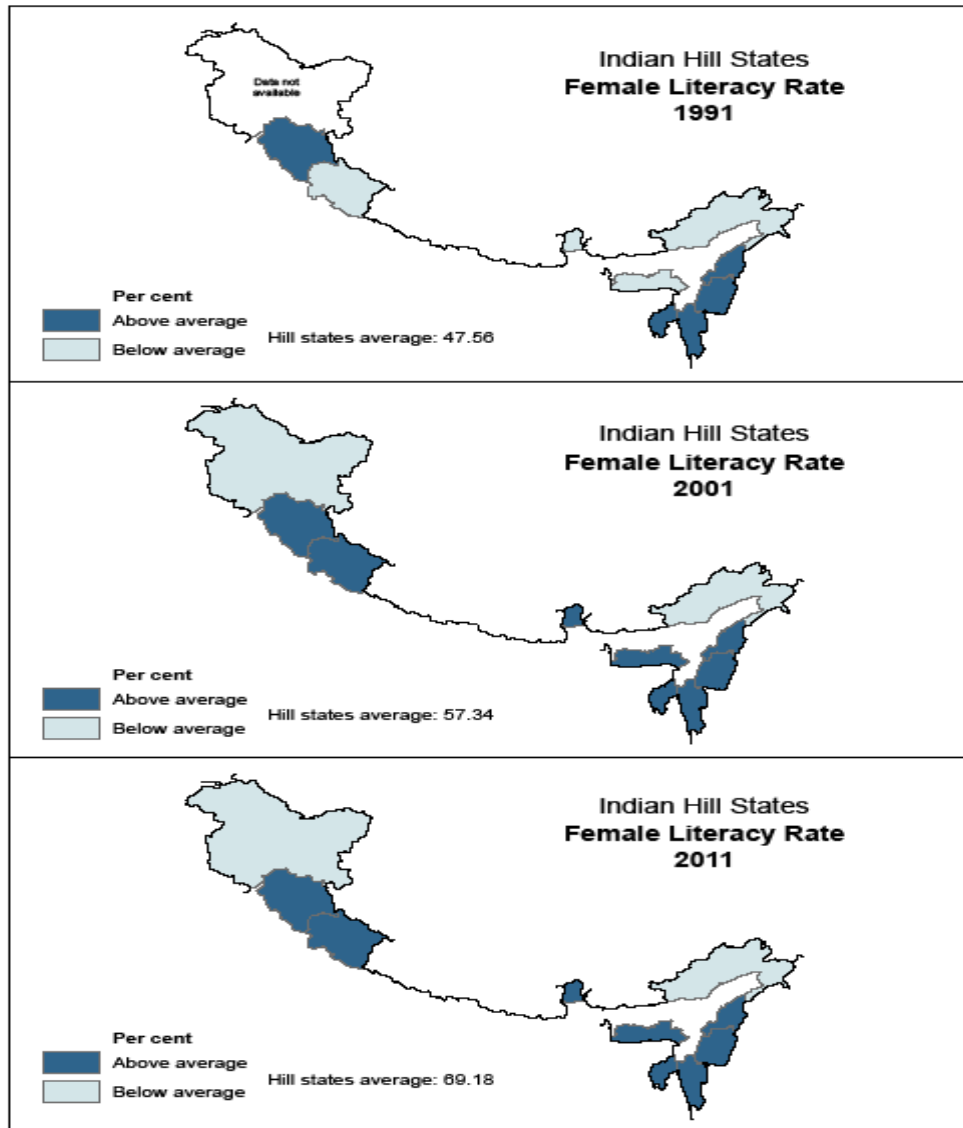
#### **(b) Female Literacy Rate**

For the first time, in 1991 census the population seven years and above was taken into account to work out the literacy rate. In earlier censuses the total population was taken into account to calculate the literacy rate.

Among various indicators of socio-economic development, literacy level and educational attainment are vital to any engineering of social change. They are key indicators which affect other demographic indicators like fertility, mortality, life expectancy, migration etc. The empirical observations about the space-time diffusion of literacy transition reveal a direct correlation between the literacy transition and economic transformation. Davis (1955) concluded that if the rate of literacy transition was low, the economic development slowed down while the economic development was rapid if the literacy transition was fast. Scholars like Schultz (1988), Becker (1993), Drez and Sen (1995) etc. confirmed the association of education and development.

Human Development Report (2013) reveals that a mother's education level is more important to child than the household income. In the present study the female literacy rate is taken as tool to measure the level of social development. It greatly contributes in improving quality of life, infant mortality, child care, nutritional level of children etc. That is why Mahatma Gandhi rightly said, "educate one man, you educate one person, but educate a woman and you educate a whole civilization". It reflects the significance of female literacy in totality.

At state level, except Jammu & Kashmir and Arunachal Pradesh, all hill states recorded higher female literacy rate than the average of hill states in 2001 and 2011 censuses. Low female literacy was observed in Muslim majority state of Jammu & Kashmir while higher female literacy was recorded in the Christian majority states of Mizoram, Nagaland and Meghalaya among seven sister states. As far as the Arunachal Pradesh is concerned the development processes accelerated after Indo-China war. Uttarakhand, the youngest special category state made a significant progress in literacy after getting the statehood.

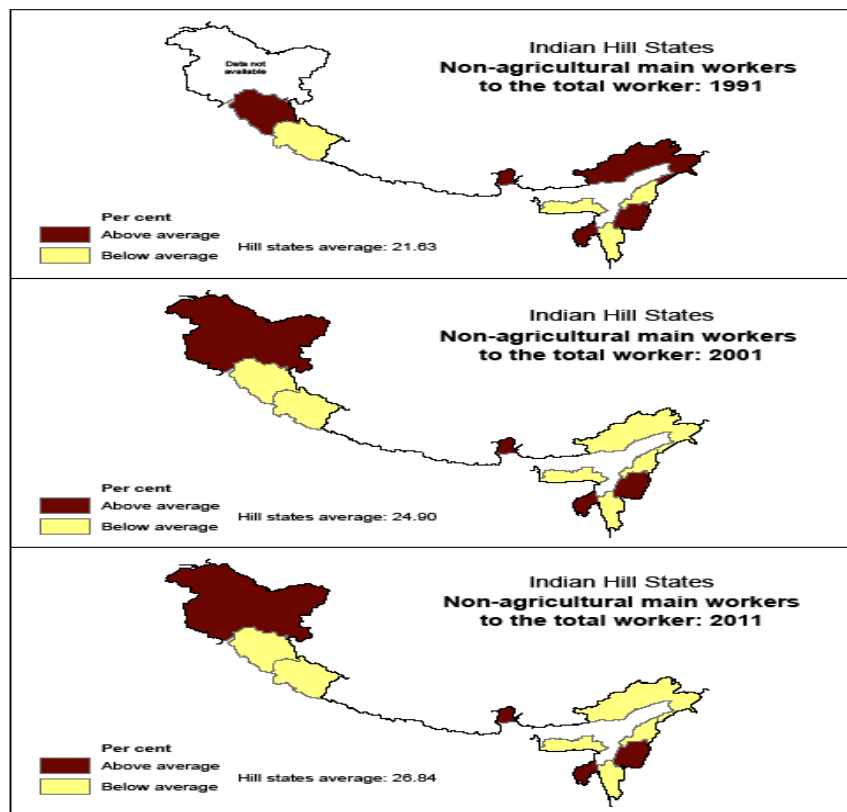


Map 2

**(c) Rural Non-Agricultural Main Workers**

The worker who works for six months or more in non-agricultural activity in rural settlement is known as rural non-agriculture main workers. The proportion of rural non-agriculture main workers to the total workers reflects the level of the transformation of rural agrarian economy to manufacturing and service economy. The transformation of rural economy leads to an overall rural development, economically and socially. It is for this reason only the proportion of rural non-agriculture main workers has been taken as an indicator of rural development in the present study.

It has been observed that a marginal increase has been recorded in rural non-agriculture main workers to total workforce in hill states in the post-reform period. It increased from 21.63 per cent in 1991 to 26.84 per cent in 2011 over the period of 20 years of economic reforms. It reflects a small increase in rural development in the corresponding period of time. It is heart-rending to the policy makers and planners. However, there is wide variation across the hill states. It is pertinent to mention that Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, and Manipur are the only hill states which recorded a gradual rise in rural non-agriculture workforce in the post-reform period. On the contrary, Arunachal Pradesh is the lone hill state where rural non-agriculture workforce decreased after neo-liberalization.



Map 3

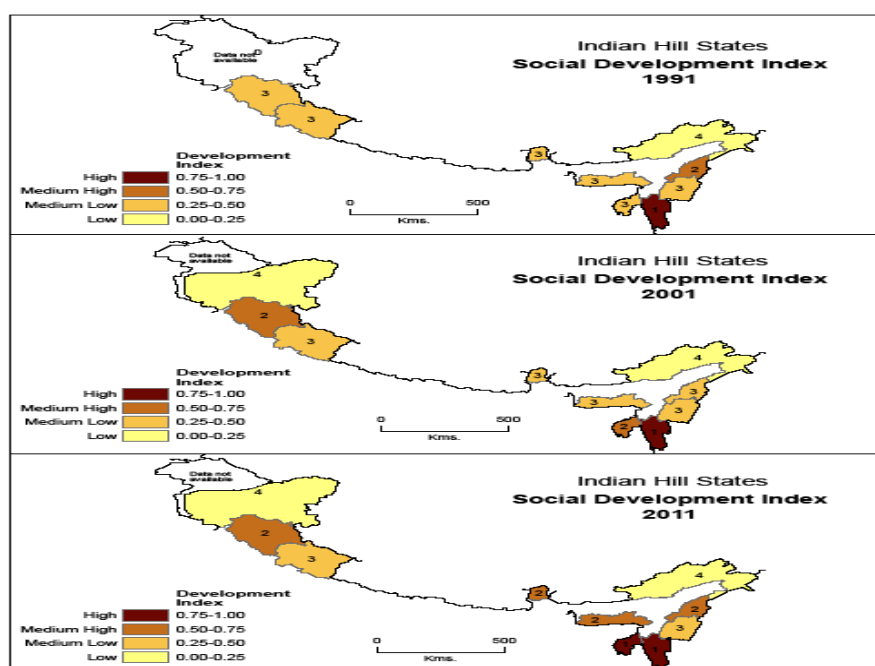
### **Trends and Patterns of Development**

Let us look at the trends and patterns of spatial development in post reform period with different dimensions. In the present analysis development has been viewed as social, economic and rural development with the help of select indicator in the post reforms period.

#### **(a) Social Development**

The interstate disparities of social development have been identified on the basis of development index. This was done for all the hill states of India for three points of time i.e. 1991, 2001 and 2011. The results obtained are presented in Table 2.

The finding shows that the hill states as a whole recorded its relative development index of social development among all hill states of India at three points of time i.e. 1991, 2001 and 2011. It decreased from 0.37 in 1991 to 0.33 in 2001. It reflects that the development disparity increases during the last decade of previous century. Further, it reported an increase from 0.33 in 2001 to 0.39 in 2011. It indicates that the development disparity decreases during the first decade of twenty first century in the region.



Map 4

Table 2: Levels of Social Development (1991-2011)

Hill States	1991		2001		2011	
	Development Index	Rank	Development Index	Rank	Development Index	Rank
Jammu&Kashmir	DNA	DNA	0.00	10	0.00	10
Mizoram	1.00	1	1.00	1	1.00	1
Nagaland	0.51	2	0.42	4	0.60	3
Himachal Pradesh	0.46	3	0.56	2	0.59	4
Tripura	0.41	4	0.50	3	0.80	2
Manipur	0.37	5	0.40	5	0.49	7
Sikkim	0.35	6	0.40	6	0.58	5
Meghalaya	0.31	7	0.38	8	0.50	6
Uttarakhand	0.25	8	0.38	7	0.41	8
Arunachal Pradesh	0.00	9	0.01	9	0.04	9
Hill states	0.37		0.33		0.39	
Disparity Ratio	0.61	-	0.64	-	0.57	-

Source: Compiled from Various document of Census of India

Note: DNA means data not available.

The analysis reveals the relative social development among hill states over last 20 years. Mizoram recorded the highest social development across hill states. On contrary to it, Jammu & Kashmir and Arunachal consistently maintained their lowest position of relative social development among hill states since 1991. There is wide variation of social development across hill states. The development index of Manipur (0.37) was similar to the development index of all hill states in 1991. The states of Mizoram, Nagaland, Himachal Pradesh and Tripura recorded higher relative development index than that of all hill states in 1991. On the other hand, Sikkim, Meghalaya, Uttarakhand and Arunachal Pradesh have lower development index than that of all hill states. Arunachal Pradesh and Jammu & Kashmir were only states which registered lower development index than that of all hill states of India in 2001 and 2011.



Among hill states, Himachal Pradesh, Tripura, Manipur, Sikkim, Meghalaya, Uttarakhand and Arunachal Pradesh have consistently improved their relative development index during last two decades (1991-2011). It reflects that these states have made progress in relative social development among hill states in corresponding period of time. While Nagaland recorded decline in development index from 0.51 to 0.42 during nineties of previous century and further increased to 0.60 during the first decade of twenty first century.

Hill states have been ranked according to the values of relative development indices at three points of time i. e. 1991, 2001 and 2011. Mizoram consistently clinched the first rank while Jammu & Kashmir is at the last rank across hill states since 1991. Tripura has been the lone hill state of India which reported a regular increase in its rank from 4<sup>th</sup> in 1991, 3<sup>rd</sup> in 2001 and 2<sup>nd</sup> in 2011 among hill states of India. The states of Nagaland and Meghalaya registered a decline in their ranks in the last decade of previous century and recorded increases in the first decade of this century. On contrary to it, Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand recorded an increase in their ranks in nineties of the last century and decline in the first decade of current century (Fig 1).

The interstate social development disparity becomes sharper in first decade of post reform period. The disparity ratio rose from 0.61 in 1991 to 0.64 in 2001. The growing regional disparity is in post-reform period was a matter of serious concern. This result supports the notion of divergence as a result of liberalization of economy. On contrary to it, disparity ratio of social development decreased from 0.64 in 2001 to 0.57 in 2011. It reflects the backwash effect in the first decade of 21<sup>st</sup> century. This result indicates the convergence of social development across the hill states during 2001 to 2011 (Table 2).

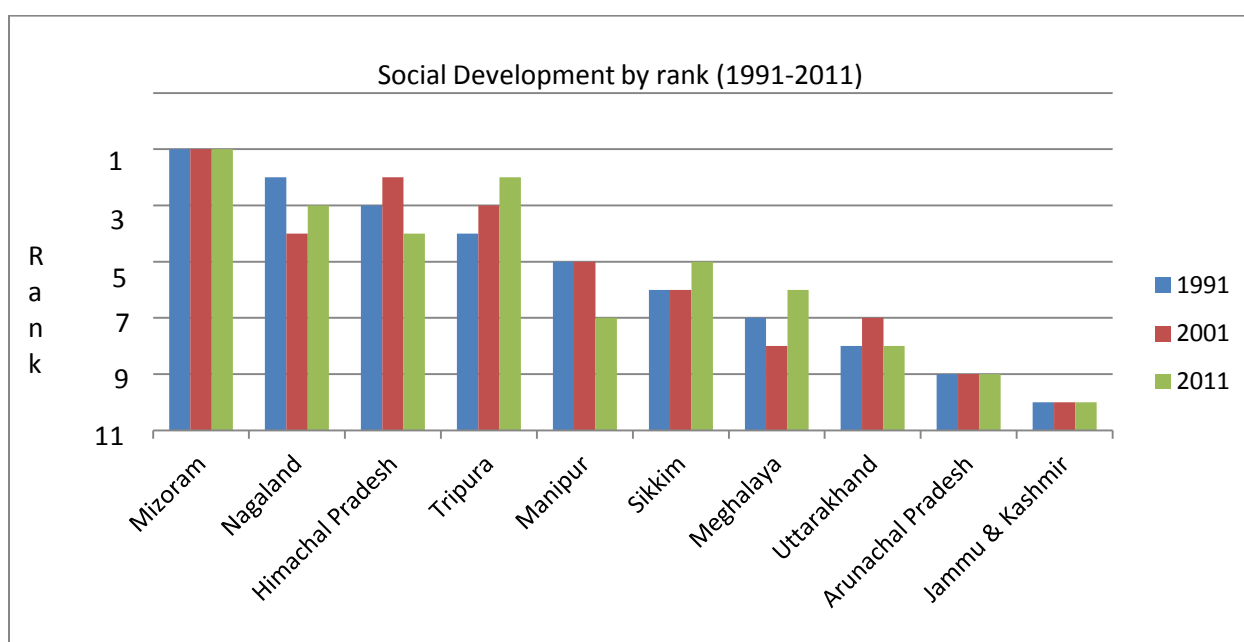


Figure 1

**(b) Economic Development**

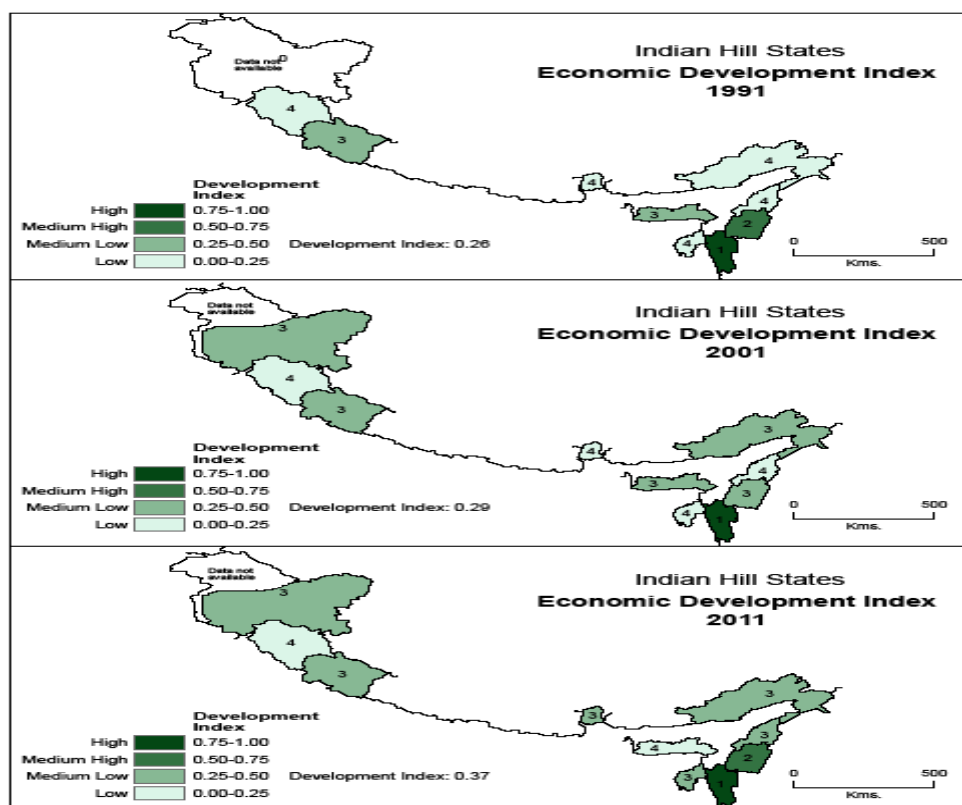
The relative economic development of hill states has been viewed through urbanization in post reform period. Development index of economic development was worked out for three points of time i.e. 1991, 2001, and 2011 across hill states.

The finding shows that the hill states as a whole recorded its relative development index of economic development at three points of time i.e. 1991, 2001 and 2011. It recorded an increase from 0.26 in 1991, 0.29 in 2001 to 0.37 in 2011. It reflects that the economic development disparity decreases during the last two decades (1991-2011).

There is wide variation of economic development across hill states. Mizoram recorded the highest relative economic development across hill states. On contrary to it, Himachal Pradesh consistently maintained their lowest position of relative economic development among hill states since 1991. The development index of Meghalaya (0.26) was similar to the development index of all hill states in 1991. The states of Nagaland, Tripura, Arunachal Pradesh, Sikkim and Himachal Pradesh recorded lower relative development index than that of all hill states in 1991. On the other hand, Mizoram, Manipur and Uttarakhand have higher development index

than that of all hill states. Forty per cent of the hill states have recorded higher development index than all hill states as a whole in 2001. These were Mizoram, Manipur, Uttarakhand and Jammu & Kashmir. It increased to 60 percent with inclusion of Nagaland and Tripura in 2011.

Among hill states, Sikkim, Uttarakhand and Arunachal Pradesh have consistently improved their relative development index during last two decades (1991-2011). It reflects that these states have made progress in relative economic development among hill states in corresponding period of time. On contrary to it, Meghalaya is a lone state across all hill states, which registered a persistent decline from 0.26 in 1991, 0.25 in 2001 and 0.24 in 2011. It reflects that the relative economic development of the state has been lower than the other hill states. While Nagaland and Manipur recorded decline in development index from 0.23 to 0.19 and 0.50 to 0.42 during last decade of previous century and further increased to 0.45 and 0.53 respectively in 2011 (Table 3).



Map 5

Table 3: Economic Development

Hill States	1991		2001		2011	
	Development Index	Rank	Development Index	Rank	Development Index	Rank
Mizoram	1.00	1	1.00	1	1.00	1
Manipur	0.50	2	0.42	2	0.53	2
Uttarakhand	0.39	3	0.40	3	0.48	3
Meghalaya	0.26	4	0.25	6	0.24	9
Nagaland	0.23	5	0.19	7	0.45	4
Tripura	0.18	6	0.18	8	0.38	6
Arunachal Pradesh	0.11	7	0.27	5	0.31	8
Sikkim	0.01	8	0.03	9	0.36	7
Himachal Pradesh	0.00	9	0.00	10	0.00	10
Jammu & Kashmir	DNA	-	0.38	4	0.41	5
Hill States	0.26		0.29		0.37	
Disparity Ratio	0.97	-	0.86	-	0.57	-

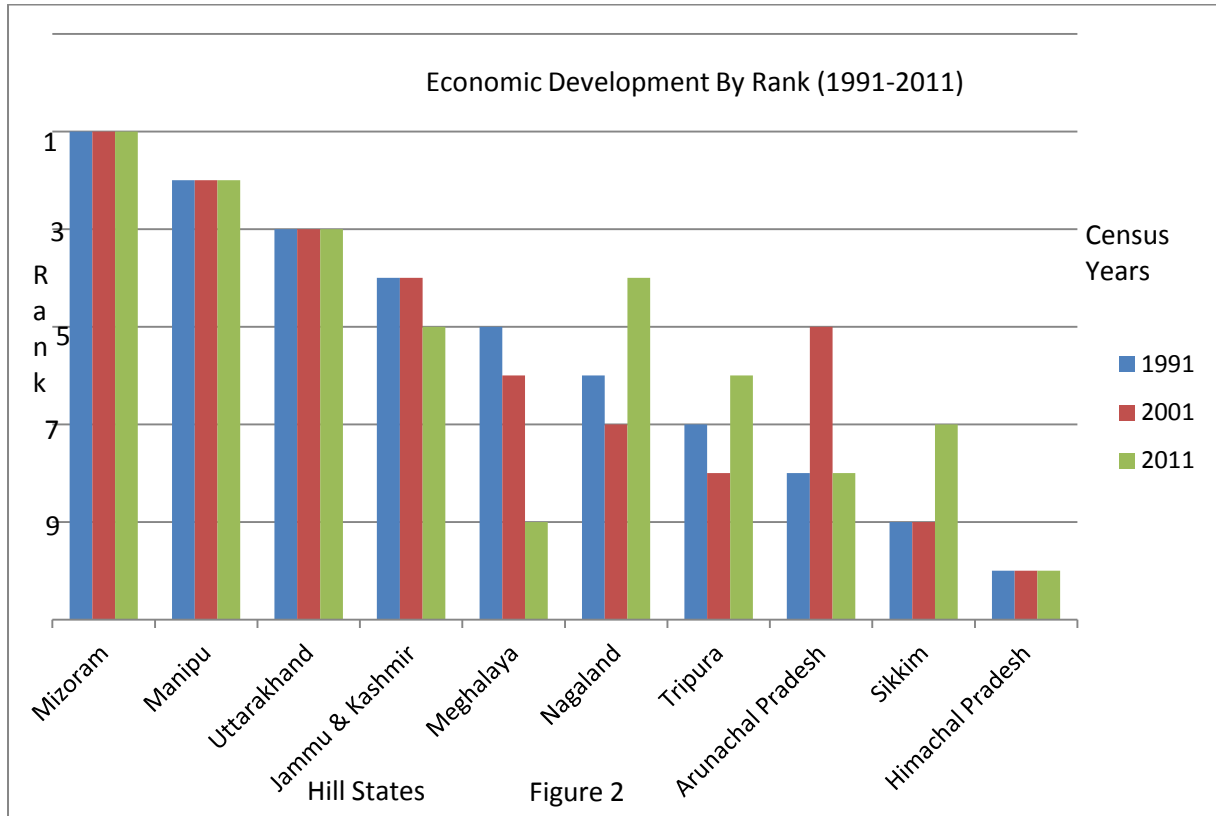


Figure 2 depicts the rank position of relative economic development among hill states over last 20 years. Mizoram, Manipur and Uttarakhand consistently maintained their top positions of relative economic development among hill states since 1991. On contrary to this, Himachal Pradesh recorded the lowest rank in economic development across hill states in the corresponding period. There is wide variation of economic development across hill states. Meghalaya and Jammu & Kashmir lowered its relative position regularly during 1991-2011.

An analysis of development index in last two decades reveals that the development process has been uneven across hill states. It recorded substantial decrease in disparity ratio from 0.97 in 1991, 0.86 in 2001 to 0.57 in 2011. It reflected that the convergence took place in terms of economic development in hill states as a whole (Table 3).

**(C) Rural Development**

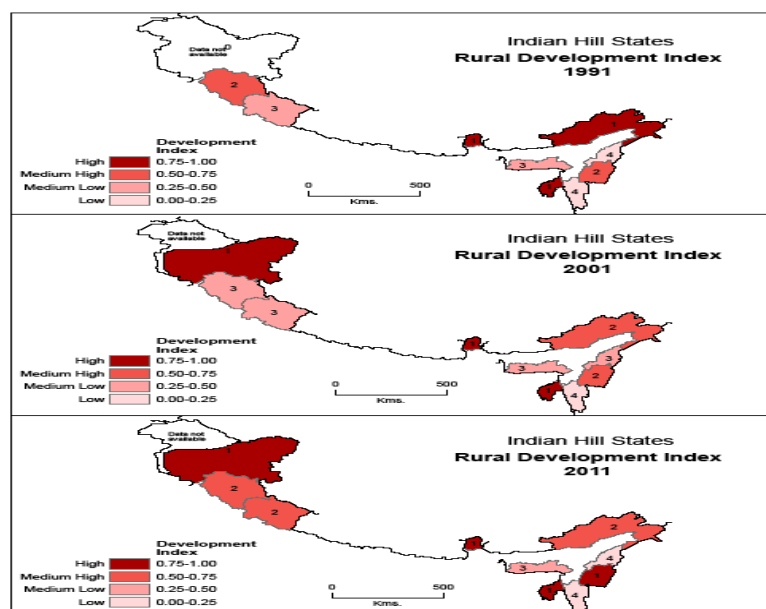
India lives in rural areas. Almost two-third population of the country inhabits in rural settlements. As far as hill states are concerned nearly three-fourth population are the residents of rural areas. Hence, it is imperative for union as well as state governments to initiate such programmes and policies which maximize the development of rural people. In this study the proportion of rural non-agriculture main workers to total workers has been taken as indicator to work out the relative development level across hill states.

The finding reveals that all hill states of India as a whole has recorded a persistent increase in development index since 1991. It increased from 0.53 in 1991, 0.58 in 2001 to 0.68 in 2011. It reflects that development disparity in rural development has a decline across the various hill states of India in the post reform period.

At the hill state level, Sikkim and Tripura have registered the highest development indices (either 1.00 or near to it) in last two decades (1991-2011). Whereas, Mizoram consistently recorded the lowest development index in the corresponding period. Two out of ten states (Uttarakhand and Manipur) have been improving their relative development indices since 1991. Uttarakhand and Manipur have registered development indices 0.40 and 0.56 in 1991, 0.45 and 0.68 in 2001 and 0.62 and 0.77 in 2011 respectively. It reflects that the relative pace of development in both states has been increasing over time. On contrary to it, Arunachal Pradesh has been registered a decline in relative development index from 0.97 in 1991, 0.56 in 2001 to 0.54 in 2011. It reflects that the state has recorded a continuous decline in terms of relative pace of rural development in past two decades (1991-2011). The states of Himachal Pradesh and Meghalaya reported a decline in relative development index in last decade of the previous century and an increase in the subsequent decade while Nagaland has a reverse trend in corresponding period of time.

At the time of inception of new economic policy, five out of nine hill states have higher development index than that of the all hill states (0.53) as a whole. These hill states were Sikkim, Tripura, Arunachal Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh and Manipur. On the contrary of this, Meghalaya, Uttarakhand, Nagaland and Mizoram have recorded lower development index than all hill states. Arunachal Pradesh and Himachal Pradesh slipped to lower relative development index than all hill states in 2001. The same pattern was observed in 2011.

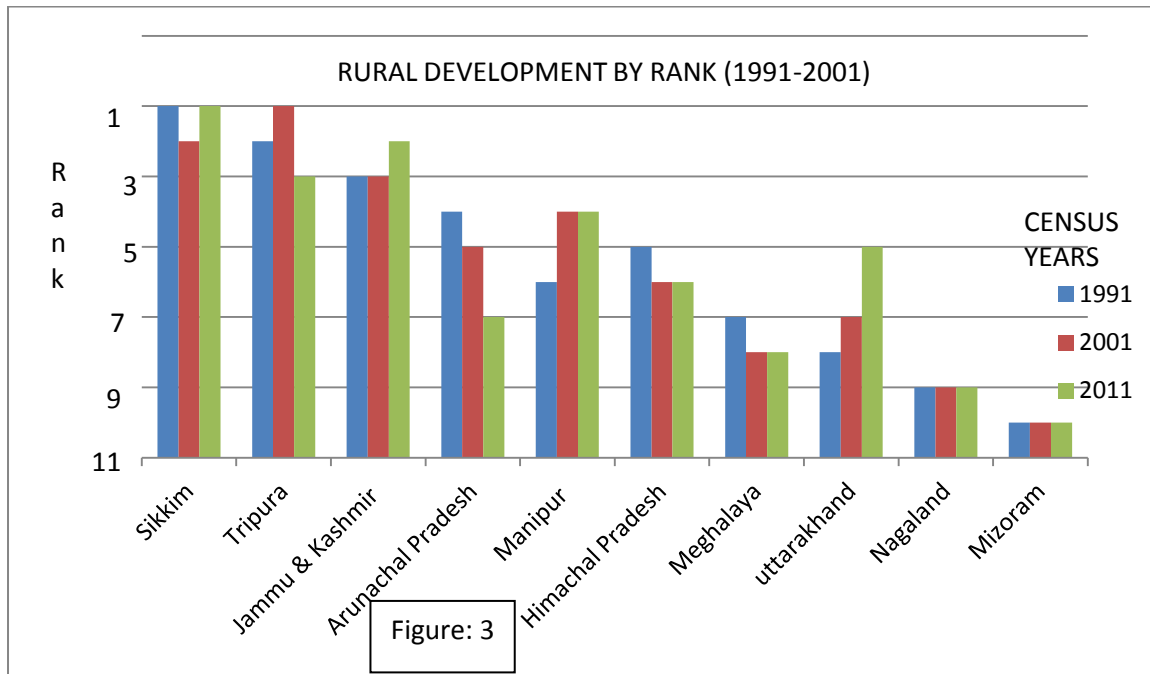
Table 4 depicts that Sikkim, Tripura and Jammu & Kashmir interchanged their top three development index rank positions in post reform period. On contrary to it, Mizoram and Nagaland maintained their positions at the bottom of development index in corresponding period among hill states. Arunachal Pradesh experienced a regular fall in its relative development index from 3<sup>rd</sup> in 1991, 5<sup>th</sup> in 2001 and 7<sup>th</sup> in 2011 (Figure 3).



Map 6

Table 4: Rural development

Hill States	1991		2001		2011	
	Development Index	Rank	Development Index	Rank	Development Index	Rank
Sikkim	1.00	1	1.00	2	1.00	1
Tripura	0.97	2	1.00	1	0.90	3
Arunachal Pradesh	0.97	3	0.56	5	0.54	7
Himachal Pradesh	0.57	4	0.49	6	0.61	6
Manipur	0.56	5	0.68	4	0.77	4
Meghalaya	0.43	6	0.31	8	0.43	8
Uttarakhand	0.40	7	0.45	7	0.62	5
Nagaland	0.09	8	0.30	9	0.23	9
Mizoram	0.00	9	0.00	10	0.00	10
Jammu & Kashmir	DNA	-	0.76	3	0.93	2
Hill States	0.53		0.58		0.68	
Disparity Ratio	0.64	-	0.55	-	0.50	-



An analysis of development index in last two decades reveals that the development process has been uneven across hill states. The disparity ratio has been worked out from the development indices at three points of time i.e.1991, 2001, and 2011. It recorded substantial decrease in disparity ratio from 0.64 in 1991, 0.55 in 2001 to 0.50 in 2011. It reflected that the convergence took place in terms of rural development in hill states as a whole (Table 4).

### CONCLUSIONS

After above analysis it is concluded that the Indian hill states experienced different relative positions in different dimensions of development i.e. social, economic and rural development in post reform period.It is observed that Mizoram has been socially and economically the most developed while Jammu &Kashmir and Himachal Pradesh are the least developed in social and economic development respectively among Indian hill states. On contrary to it, Mizoram is the least developed and Sikkim the most developed among hill states in terms of rural development.It reflects the gap of development and direction of development in Indian hill states in post reform period.

The social development index of all hill states as a whole was 0.37 in 1991, 0.33 in 2001 and 0.39in 2011.The finding reflects that the social development disparity increases during the last decade of previous century. Further, it decreases during the first decade of twenty first century in the region.

The research reveals that the hill states as a whole recorded its relative development index of economic development at three points of time i.e. 1991, 2001 and 2011. It recorded an increase consistently from 0.26 in 1991, 0.29 in 2001 to 0.37 in 2011. It reflects that the economic development disparity decreases during the last two decades (1991-2011).

The result shows that all hill states of India as a whole has recorded a persistent increase in rural development index since 1991. It increased from 0.53 in 1991, 0.58 in 2001 to 0.68 in 2011. It reflects that development disparity in rural development has a decline in the post reform period. It is concluded from this research thatthe convergence took place in terms of economic, social and rural development in hill states as a whole in the first decade of this century.

### BIBLIOGRAPHY/REFERENCES

- [1]. Ahluwalia, Montek S (2000): 'Economic Performance of States in Post-Reforms Period', *Economic and Political weekly*, Vol. XXXV, pp.1637-48.
- [2]. Ahluwalia, Montek S (2002): 'State Level Performance Under Economic Reforms in India' in Anne O Krueger (ed),*Economic Political Reforms and the Indian Economy*, oxford University Press,NewDelhi,pp. 91-125.
- [3]. Bhaduri, A (2008): "Predatory Growth", *Economic & Political Weekly*,VOL.XLIII, pp.10-14.
- [4]. Cashin, P and R Sahay (1996): 'Internal Migration, Centre-State Grants, and Economic Growth in the States of India', *IMF Staff Papers*, Vol. 43, No. 1, pp 23-71.

- [5]. Choudhary, M.D. (1970) 'Regional Income Accounting Economic distance among regions', *Economic Development and Cultural Change*, Vol. 4, pp. 527-544.
- [6]. Dhar, P.N. and D.U. Sastry (1969), Inter-State Variation in Industry, 1951-61, *Economic and Political Weekly*, Vol. No. 12.
- [7]. Davis, K. (1955): 'Social and Demographic Aspects of economic development in India, in Simoson Kuznets, et al. (eds) *Economic Growth: Brazil, India, Japan*, Duke University Press, Durham, pp.263-315.
- [8]. Dev, Mahendra S and G Ravi (2007): "Poverty and Inequality: All India and States, 1983-2005", *Economic & Political Weekly*, Vol. XLII 42, pp.509-21.
- [9]. Dholakia, R (1994): 'Spatial Dimension of Acceleration of Economic Growth in India', *Economic and Political Weekly*, Vol. XXXIX, pp. 2303-09.
- [10]. Dreze, J. and Sen (1995): 'Economic Development and Social Opportunity', New Delhi, Oxford University Press.
- [11]. Ghosh, B, S Marjit and C Neogi (1998): 'Economic Growth and Regional Divergence in India, 1960 to 1995', *Economic and Political Weekly*, Vol. XXXIII, pp. 1623-30.
- [12]. Gustafsson, B, A L Shi and T Sicular (2008): *Inequality and Public Policy in China* (New York: Cambridge University Press).
- [13]. HDR (2013): "The Rise of the South: Human Progress in a Diverse World" United Nations Development Programme, pp.4-5.
- [14]. Lahiri, R.K. (1969), some aspects of Inter-State Disparity in Industrialization in India, *Sankhya* Series B, December.
- [15]. Marjit, S and S Mitra (1996): 'Convergence in Regional Growth Rates: Indian Research Agenda', *Economic and Political Weekly*, Vol. XXXI, pp. 2239-42.
- [16]. Nair, K.G.R. (1971) 'A note of Interstate Income Differentials in India', *The Journal of Development Studies*, Vol. 7, PP. 441-47.
- [17]. Nagaraj, R. Aristomene Varoudakis and Marie-Ange Veganzones (1998): 'Long-Run growth trends and convergence across Indian States', OECD Technical Papers No.131, January. pp 1-58.
- [18]. Raman, J (1996): 'Convergence or Uneven Development: A Note on Regional Development in India', Valparaiso University, US, mimeographed.
- [19]. Rao, Hemlata (1972), Identification of Backward Regions and the Study of Trends in Regional Disparities in India, Paper presented at the Seminar on Regional Imbalances: Problems and Policies at Indian Institute of Public Administration, New Delhi.
- [20]. Rao, M Govinda, R T Shand and K P Kalirajan (1999): 'Convergence of Income Across Indian States- A Divergent View', *Economic and Political Weekly*, Vol. XXXIV. pp.769-778
- [21]. Rao, S.K. (1973) "A Note on Measuring Economic Distances between Regions in India", *Economic and Political Weekly*, Vol. VIII, pp. 793-800.
- [22]. Sampath, R.K. (1977), Inter-state Inequalities in Income 1951-1971, *Indian Journal of Regional Science*, Vol. 9, No. 1.
- [23]. Sampath, R.K. (1977) 'Interstate Inequalities in Income in India', *Indian Journal of Regional Science*, Vol. 9.
- [24]. Sarker, P C (1994): 'Regional Imbalances in Indian Economy over Plan Periods', *Economic and Political Weekly*, Vol. XXIX, pp. 621-33.
- [25]. Sengupta, A, K P Kannan and G Raveendran (2008): "India's Common People: Who Are They, How Many Are They and How Do They Live?" *Economic & Political Weekly*, XLIII. pp. 49-63.
- [26]. Shand, Ric and S Bhide (2000): 'Source of Economic Growth- Regional Dimension of Reforms', *Economic and Political Weekly*, October 14, pp.3747-57.
- [27]. Venkataramiah, P. (1969), Interstate Variation in Industry, 1951-61: A Comment, *Economic and Political Weekly*, Vol. 4, August, 1969.
- [28]. Williamson, J.G. (1965), Regional Inequality and the Process of National Development: A Description of the Patterns, *Economic Development and Cultural Change*, Vol. 13, No. 4, part II, July.
- [29]. (1968), Rural Urban and Regional Imbalances in Economic Development, *Economic Development and Cultural Change*, Vol. 17, October.