

Rural Development Disparity in Western Himalayan Region

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Abstract

This research has a fresh look on the rural development disparity among states/union territories of Western Himalayan Region during 2001-2011. Western Himalayan Region was rurally more developed than India during 2001-2011. Across the states/union territories in Western Himalayan Region, both territories (Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh) are rurally developed than Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand. North and north western part of Western Himalayan Region was rurally developed than southern part. Six districts in Western Himalayan Region recorded negative change in rural development index during 2001-2011. They were Lahul & Spiti from Himachal Pradesh; Srinagar, Bandipore, Anantnag from Jammu & Kashmir; and Rudraprayag from Uttarakhand. It is matter of serious concern for the policy makers and planners of union/state governments. It was recommended that the Union and State Governments should start more rural development programmes keeping in view the target group and area.

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I. Introduction

India lives in rural areas. About two- third population of the country inhabits in rural settlements in 2011. As far as, Hill States as a Region was concerned, nearly three-fourth population liveed in rural areas. In this study, the non-agriculture workforce was taken as indicator to work out the rural development. The non-agriculture workforce reflects the transformation of rural agrarian economy to manufacturing and service economy. The transformation of rural economy leads to an overall rural, economic, and social 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 rural development disparity in Western Himalayan Region.

Research Question

The following major research question was forwarded for investigation:

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

Significance of the Study

The study of the trends and patterns of rural 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 rural development disparity in Western Himalayan Region was 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 development disparity during post reform period. The state/union territory and district level data were used for tracing the inter and intra-state/union territory rural development disparity.

The Study Area

This study was focused on Western Himalayan states and union territories. These states were erstwhile Jammu & Kashmir (now bifurcated into two union territories i.e. Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh), Himachal Pradesh, and Uttarakhand. Administratively, there are 47 districts in 2011. 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.

II. Database and Methodology

The secondary data of Census of India have been used to measure the rural development disparity for two points of time i.e. 2001 and 2011. The data of Jammu & Kashmir have been adjusted 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, rural development was inferred using non-agriculture workforce in rural areas. Rural Development Index (RDI) was used to assess the level of rural development.

In the present study, rural development disparity discussed at three spatial contexts: (i) Western Himalayan Region, (ii) inter state/union territory, and (iii) intra-state.

RDI has calculated by using the highest and the lowest value of indicator. For example, across states/union territories of India, the highest non-agriculture workforce was recorded in Chandigarh in 2001. It was 91.40 per cent. Contrary to it, Chhatisgarh recorded the lowest. It was 11.03 per cent. Himachal Pradesh recorded 23.05 per cent non-agriculture workforce in 2001. The RDI of Himachal Pradesh was calculated as under:

$$\text{Deprivation Score} = \frac{\text{Maximum Value} - \text{Actual Value}}{\text{Maximum Value} - \text{Minimum Value}}$$
$$\text{Deprivation Score} = \frac{91.40 - 23.05}{91.40 - 11.03} = 0.850$$

Development Index = 1 - 0.850 = 0.150

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

Limitations

Since measurement of rural 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.

Rural Development

Western Himalayan Region

Non-agriculture workforce of the Western Himalayan Region was recorded 24.88 per cent in 2001. It was higher than national average (21.72 per cent). The gap of non-agriculture workforce between the region and India was 3.16 percentage points (Table 1). It reflects that the region was rurally more developed than India. However, majority workforce was engaged in agriculture activities in both regions.

The Western Himalayan Region recorded 27.70 per cent non-agriculture workforce in 2011. It was higher than national average (20.67 per cent). The gap of non-agriculture workforce between the region and India was 7.03 percentage points (Table 1). It increased from 3.16 percentage points in 2001 to 7.03 percentage points in 2011. It reflected that the transformation of rural economy of the region was more than India.

The Western Himalayan Region recorded 2.82 percentage points increase in non-agriculture workforce during 2001-2011. Contrary to it, India recorded -1.05 percentage points decrease in non-agriculture workforce during corresponding period of time.

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

Inter State/Union Territory Trends and Patterns

Non-agriculture workforce among states/union territories in the Western Himalayan Region was quite different in 2001. It was observed that all states/union territories in the Western Himalayan Region recorded higher non-agriculture workforce than national average (21.72 per cent). It reflected that this region was performing better than India. Across states/ union territories in the Western Himalayan Region, Ladakh (37.86 per cent) recorded the highest non-agriculture workforce and the lowest in Uttarakhand (22.30 per cent). The gap between the highest and the lowest non-agriculture workforce was 15.56 percentage points (Table 1).

Comparing with the Western Himalayan Region (24.88 per cent), it was observed that both union territories in the Western Himalayan Region recorded higher non-agriculture workforce. These were Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh. On the other hand, Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand recorded lower non-agriculture workforce in the Western Himalayan Region.

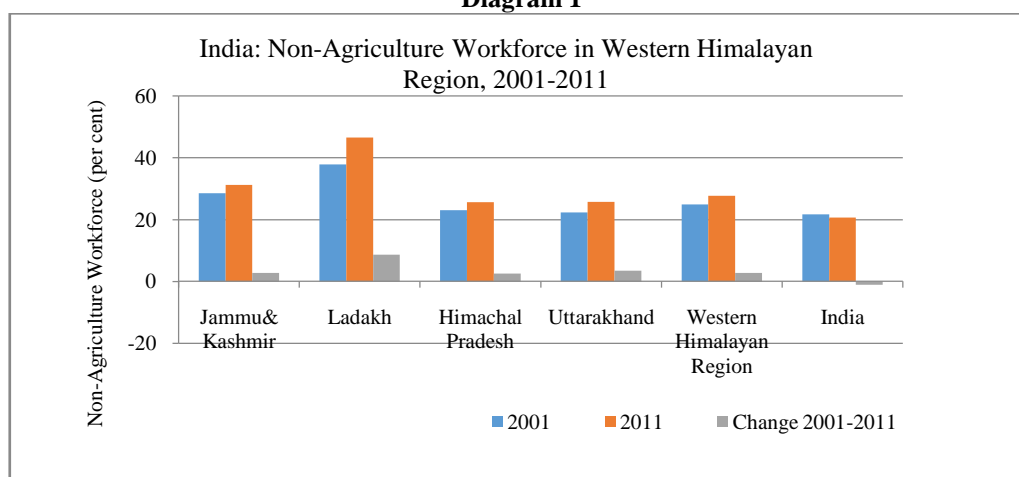
Table 1

India: Non-Agriculture Workforce in Western Himalayan Region, 2001-2011				
Sr.	State/Union Territory	Non-Agriculture Workforce (per cent)		
		2001	2011	Change 2001-2011
1	Jammu & Kashmir	28.52	31.25	2.73
2	Ladakh	37.86	46.56	8.70
3	Himachal Pradesh	23.05	25.59	2.54
4	Uttarakhand	22.30	25.78	3.48
Western Himalayan Region		24.88	27.70	2.82
India		21.72	20.67	-1.05

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, it was observed that all states/union territories in the Western Himalayan Region recorded higher non-agriculture workforce than national average (20.67 per cent) in 2011. It reflected that this region was continuously performing better than India. But, it is matter of concern for policy makers that India had recorded decline in non-agriculture workforce during 2001-2011. Across states/ union territories in the Western Himalayan Region, Ladakh (46.56 per cent) recorded the highest non-agriculture workforce and the lowest in Himachal Pradesh (25.59 per cent). The gap between the highest and the lowest non-agriculture workforce was 20.97 percentage points (Table 1).

Comparing with the Western Himalayan Region (27.70 per cent) in 2011, it was observed that both union territories in the Western Himalayan Region recorded higher non-agriculture workforce. These were Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh. On the other hand, Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand recorded lower non-agriculture workforce.

Across states/union territories in the Western Himalayan Region, Ladakh (8.70 percentage points) recorded the highest change in non-agriculture workforce during 2001-2011 and the lowest in Himachal Pradesh (2.54 percentage points). Comparing with Western Himalayan Region (2.82 percentage points), it was found that Ladakh and Uttarakhand recorded higher change in non-agriculture workforce. Contrary to it, Jammu & Kashmir and Himachal Pradesh recorded lower change during the corresponding period of time. It was observed that India (-1.05 percentage points) recorded negative change. It reflected that the transformation of rural economy was better in Western Himalayan Region than India.

Intra-state Trends and Patterns

All districts in Ladakh recorded higher non-agriculture workforce in 2001 than national average (21.72 per cent). However, majority districts in Jammu & Kashmir recorded higher non-agriculture workforce. Contrary to it, majority of districts in Uttarakhand recorded lower non-agriculture workforce. Himachal Pradesh was lone state in the Western Himalayan Region where fifty per cent districts recorded higher non-agriculture workforce (Table 2). It reflects that Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh were rurally more developed in region at the beginning of 21st century.

Table 2

India: Non-Agriculture Workforce in Western Himalayan Region, 2001-2011

Sr.	Name of State/Union Territory	Districts above/ <i>Below</i> National Average (21.72 per cent) in 2001	Districts above/ <i>Below</i> National Average (20.67 per cent) in 2011
1	Jammu & Kashmir	Srinagar, Samba, Jammu, Ganderbal, Bandipore, Baramula, Badgam, Pulwama, Kathua, Anantnag, Kupwara, Kulgam, Ramban, Doda (14) <i>Reasi, Udhampur, Rajauri, Shupiyan, Kishtwar, Punch(6)</i>	Samba, Jammu, Srinagar Ganderbal, Kupwara, Kathua, Baramula, Badgam, Pulwama, Bandipore, Doda, Ramban, Punch, Udhampur, Kulgam, Anantnag, Reasi, Kishtwar, Rajauri (19) <i>Shupiyan (1)</i>
2	Ladakh	Kargil, Leh (2)	Leh, Kargil (2)
3	Himachal Pradesh	Lahul & Spiti, Kinnaur, Solan, Una, Kangra, Bilaspur (6) <i>Hamirpur, Chamba, Mandi, Sirmaur, Shimla, Kullu (6)</i>	Una, Solan, Kinnaur, Kangra, Lahul & Spiti, Bilaspur, Hamirpur, Sirmaur (8) <i>Mandi, Chamba, Shimla, Kullu (4)</i>
4	Uttarakhand	Dehradun, Hardwar, Nainital (3) <i>Udhm Singh Nagar, Garhwal, Rudraprayag, Pithoragarh, Tehri Garhwal, Uttarkashi, Bageshwar, Champawat, Chamoli, Almora (10)</i>	Dehradun, Hardwar, Nainital, Udhm Singh Nagar, Garhwal, Champawat (6) <i>Pithoragarh, Tehri Garhwal, Chamoli, Almora, Bageshwar, Rudraprayag, Uttarkashi (7)</i>
Western Himalayan Region		(25)/(22)	(35)/(12)

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

Note: (i) Districts are arranged in descending order in terms of Non-Agriculture Workforce. (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 Non-Agriculture Workforce below national average.

Twenty five out of 47 districts in Western Himalayan Region recorded higher non-agriculture workforce than national average in 2001. The highest non-agriculture workforce recorded in Srinagar (51.76 per cent) from Jammu & Kashmir across districts of Western Himalayan Region. Against it, Almora (14.86 per cent) from Uttarakhand recorded the lowest. The gap between the most and the least non-agriculture workforce districts recorded 36.90 percentage points in 2001. Across districts of Western Himalayan Region, the highest five districts in non-agriculture workforce were Srinagar, Samba, Jammu from Jammu & Kashmir; Lahul & Spiti from Himachal Pradesh; and Dehradun from Uttarakhand. Against it, the least five districts were Almora, Chamoli, Champawat from Uttarakhand; Kullu from Himachal Pradesh; and Punch from Jammu & Kashmir.

Majority of districts in Jammu & Kashmir and Himachal Pradesh recorded higher non-agriculture workforce than national average (20.67 per cent) in 2011. Contrary to it, majority of districts in Uttarakhand recorded lower non-agriculture workforce. However, all districts in Ladakh recorded higher non-agriculture workforce during the corresponding period of time (Table 2). It reflects that Jammu & Kashmir, Ladakh, and Himachal Pradesh in Western Himalayan Region were rurally developed and Uttarakhand lagged behind.

Thirty five out of 47 districts in Western Himalayan Region recorded higher non-agriculture workforce than national average in 2011. It accounts for 74.47 per cent districts of the region. It reflects that majority districts recorded non-agriculture workforce than national average. The highest non-agriculture workforce was recorded in Samba (57.75 per cent) from Jammu & Kashmir across districts of Western Himalayan Region. Against it, Uttarkashi (15.15 per cent) from Uttarakhand recorded the lowest. Across districts of Western Himalayan Region, the gap between the most and the least non-agriculture workforce districts increased from 36.90 percentage points in 2001 to 42.60 percentage points in 2011. It reflected that the rural development disparity increased among districts of Western Himalayan Region during the first decade of 21st century. Across districts of Western Himalayan Region, the highest five districts in non-agriculture workforce were Samba, Jammu, Leh, Kargil from Jammu & Kashmir; and Dehradun from Uttarakhand. Contrary to it, the least five districts were Uttarkashi, Rudraprayag, Bageshwar, Almora from Uttarakhand; and Kullu from Himachal Pradesh. These districts require special attention. It is recommended that catalytic programmes may be initiated in less rurally developed districts to bridge the gap.

Thirty six out of 47 districts in Western Himalayan Region recorded positive change in non-agriculture workforce during 2001-2011. It accounts for 76.60 percent districts of Western Himalayan Region. It reflects that majority of districts in the region recorded positive change. Contrary to it, 11 out of 47 districts recorded negative change in non-agriculture workforce during the corresponding period of time. It accounts for 23.40 percent districts of region. Across districts of the region, five districts of the highest positive change in non-agriculture workforce were Kupwara, Leh, Samba, Punch from Jammu & Kashmir; and Una from Himachal Pradesh. On contrary to it, five districts of the highest negative change in non-agriculture workforce were Lahul & Spiti from Himachal Pradesh; Srinagar, Bandipore, Anantnag from Jammu & Kashmir; and Rudraprayag from Uttarakhand. Comparing with the national average (-1.05 percentage points), the Western Himalayan

Region recorded 2.82 percentage points change in non-agriculture workforce during 2001-2011. It reflected that the Western Himalayan Region

India: Non-Agriculture Workforce in Western Himalayan Region, 2001-2011

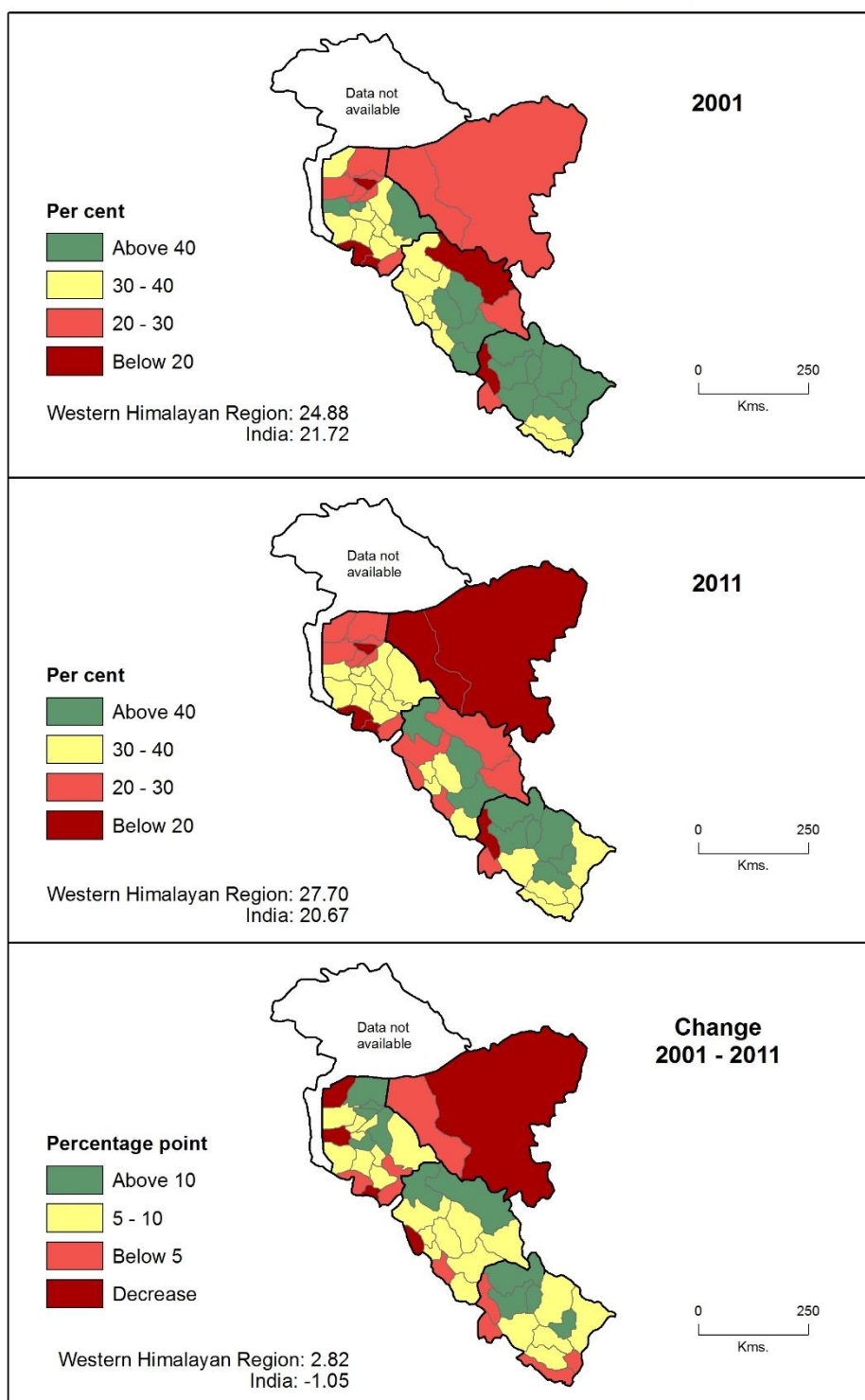


Fig. 1

experienced marginal transformation of rural economy during first decade of 21st century but India as a whole increased the proportion of workforce in agriculture sector. It is matter of concern for the policy and program makers.

Level of Rural Development Western Himalayan Region

Rural 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 non-agriculture workforce of state/union territory of India. The highest non-agriculture workforce was recorded in Chandigarh during 2001-2011. It was 91.40 per cent in 2001 and 90.93 in 2011. Contrary to it, Chhattisgarh recorded the lowest. It was 11.03 per cent in 2001 and 10.09 per cent in 2011.

Rural development index of Western Himalayan Region recorded 0.172 in 2001. It was substantially higher than India (0.133). The gap of rural development index between the region and India was 0.039 (Table 3). It reflects that rural development in the region was higher than India.

Rural development index of the Western Himalayan Region increased from 0.172 in 2001 to 0.218 in 2011. The region recorded an increase of 0.046 whereas India (0.131) recorded decrease of -0.002 during the corresponding period of time. The gap of rural development index between the region and India increased from 0.039 in 2001 to 0.087 in 2011 (Table 3). It reflected that the region relatively improved the level of rural development during 2001-2011. Contrary to it, India slipped down in terms of level of rural development. It is matter of concern for the governments of India.

Inter State/Union Territory Trends and Patterns

There was wide variation of rural development index among states/union territories of Western Himalayan Region in 2001. Across states/union territories of the region, Ladakh (0.334) recorded the highest rural development index and the lowest in Uttarakhand (0.140). The gap between the highest and the lowest rural development index was 0.194.

Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand recorded lower development index than the Western Himalayan Region (0.172) in 2001. On the other hand, Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh recorded higher development index than the region. Comparing with the national average (0.133), all states/union territories of Western Himalayan Region recorded higher rural development index (Table 3).

After a decade (2011), the variation of rural development index among states/union territories of Western Himalayan Region had increased. Across states/union territories of the region, Ladakh (0.451) recorded the highest rural development index and the lowest in Himachal Pradesh (0.192). The gap between the highest and the lowest rural development index was 0.259 (Table 3).

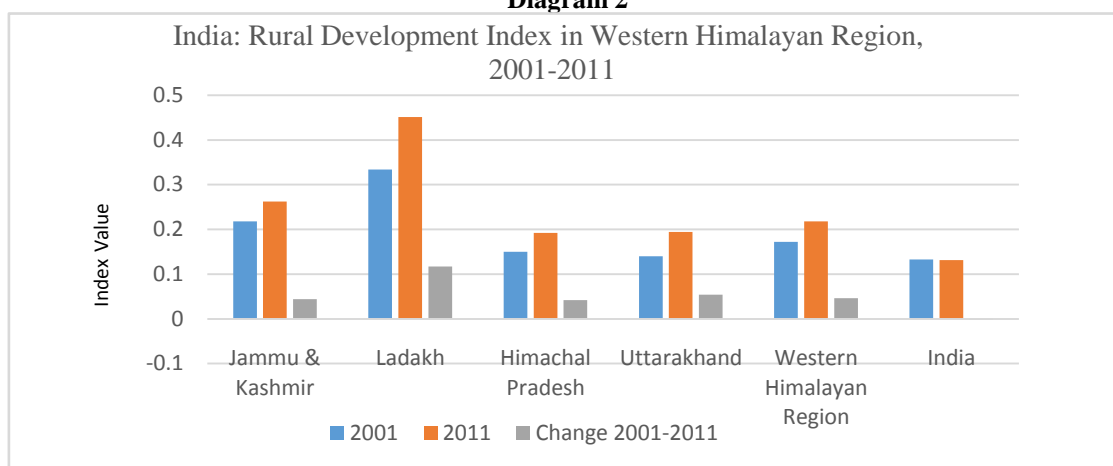
Table 3
India: Rural Development Index in Western Himalaya Region, 2001-2011

Sr.	State/Union Territory	Index value		
		2001	2011	Change 2001-2011
1	Jammu & Kashmir	0.218	0.262	0.044
2	Ladakh	0.334	0.451	0.117
3	Himachal Pradesh	0.150	0.192	0.042
4	Uttarakhand	0.140	0.194	0.054
Western Himalayan Region		0.172	0.218	0.046
India		0.133	0.131	-0.002

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.

Again, Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand recorded lower development index than the Western Himalayan Region (0.218) in 2011. On the other hand, Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh recorded higher development index than the region. Comparing with the national average (0.131), all states/union territories of Western Himalayan Region recorded higher rural development index (Table 3). It reflected that the Western Himalayan Region was rurally more developed than India.

All the states/union territories of the Western Himalayan Region recorded increase in their rural development index during 2001-2011. It reflects that every state/union territory of the Western Himalayan Region improved its relative rural development level during the corresponding period of time. Across states/union territories of the region, Ladakh (0.117) recorded the highest change in rural development index during 2001-2011 and the lowest in Himachal Pradesh (0.042). Jammu & Kashmir, Ladakh and Uttarakhand recorded higher change in rural development index than Western Himalayan Region (0.046). Contrary to it, Himachal Pradesh recorded lower change. Comparing with national average (-0.002), all states/union territories of the region recorded the higher change in rural development index during 2001-2011 (Table 3). It reflected that Western Himalayan Region experienced higher transformation of rural economy than India during the first decade of 21st century.

Intra-state Trends and Patterns

Rural 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 non-agriculture workforce of districts in India. Across the districts of India, the highest non-agriculture workforce was recorded in East Delhi from Delhi. It was 95.94 per cent in 2001 and 94.44 per cent in 2011. Contrary to it, Jhabua (5.76 per cent) from Madhya Pradesh recorded the lowest in 2001 and Alirajpur (4.18 per cent) from Madhya Pradesh in 2011.

All districts in Ladakh recorded higher rural development index in 2001 than national average (0.177). However, majority of districts in Jammu & Kashmir recorded higher rural development index. Contrary to it, majority of districts in Uttarakhand recorded lower rural development index. Himachal Pradesh was lone state in the Western Himalayan Region where fifty per cent districts recorded higher rural development index (Table 4). It reflects that Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh were rurally more developed in region at the beginning of 21st century.

Twenty five out of 47 districts of states/union territories in Western Himalayan Region recorded higher rural development index than national average in 2001. It accounts for 53.19 per cent districts of the region. It reflects that majority districts were rurally more developed than national average. Across districts of states/union territories in Western Himalayan Region, Srinagar (0.510) from Jammu & Kashmir recorded the highest rural development index and the lowest in Almora (0.101) from Uttarakhand. The highest rurally developed five districts were Srinagar, Samba, Jammu from Jammu & Kashmir; Lahul & Spiti from Himachal Pradesh; and Dehradun from Uttarakhand. Against it, the least five districts were Almora, Chamoli, Champawat from Uttarakhand; Kullu from Himachal Pradesh; and Punch from Jammu & Kashmir.

Table 4
India: Rural Development Index in Western Himalayan Region, 2001-2011

Sr.	Name of State/Union Territory	Districts above/ <i>Below</i> National Average (0.177) in 2001	Districts above/ <i>Below</i> National Average (0.183) in 2011
1	Jammu & Kashmir	Srinagar, Samba, Jammu, Ganderbal, Bandipore, Baramula, Badgam, Pulwama, Kathua, Anantnag, Kupwara, Kulgam, Ramban, Doda (14) Reasi, Udhampur, Rajauri, Shupiyon, Kishtwar, Punch (6)	Samba, Jammu, Srinagar Ganderbal, Kupwara, Kathua, Baramula, Badgam, Pulwama, Bandipore, Doda, Ramban, Punch, Udhampur, Kulgam, Anantnag, Reasi, Kishtwar, Rajauri (19) Shupiyon (1)
2	Ladakh	Kargil, Leh (2)	Leh, Kargil(2)
3	Himachal Pradesh	Lahul & Spiti, Kinnaur, Solan, Una, Kangra, Bilaspur (6) Hamirpur, Chamba, Mandi, Sirmaur, Shimla, Kullu (6)	Una, Solan, Kinnaur, Kangra, Lahul & Spiti, Bilaspur, Hamirpur, Sirmaur (8) Mandi, Chamba, Shimla, Kullu (4)
4	Uttarakhand	Dehradun, Hardwar, Nainital (3) Udham Singh Nagar, Garhwal, Rudraprayag, Pithoragarh, Tehri Garhwal, Uttarkashi, Bageshwar, Champawat, Chamoli, Almora (10)	Dehradun, Hardwar, Nainital, Udham Singh Nagar, Garhwal, Champawat (6) Pithoragarh, Tehri Garhwal, Chamoli Almora, Bageshwar, Rudraprayag, Uttarkashi (7)
Western Himalayan Region		(25)/(22)	(35)/(12)

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

Note: (i) Districts are arranged in descending order in terms of RDI. (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 RDI below national average.

After a decade (2011), majority of districts in Jammu & Kashmir and Himachal Pradesh recorded higher rural development index than national average (0.183). Contrary to it, majority of districts in Uttarakhand recorded lower rural development index. However, all districts in Ladakh recorded higher rural development index during the corresponding period of time (Table 4). It reflects that Jammu & Kashmir, Ladakh, and Himachal Pradesh in Western Himalayan Region were rurally developed and Uttarakhand lagged behind.

Thirty five out of 47 districts of states/ union territories in Western Himalayan Region recorded higher rural development index than national average in 2011. It accounts for 74.47 per cent districts of the region. It reflects that three-fourth districts of the region were rurally more developed than national average. Across districts of states/ union territories in Western Himalayan Region, Samba (0.591) from Jammu & Kashmir recorded the highest rural development index and the lowest in Uttarkashi (0.122) from Uttarakhand. The highest rurally developed five districts were Samba, Jammu, Kargil from Jammu & Kashmir; Dehradun from Uttarakhand; and Leh from Ladakh. Against it, the least five districts were Uttarkashi,

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

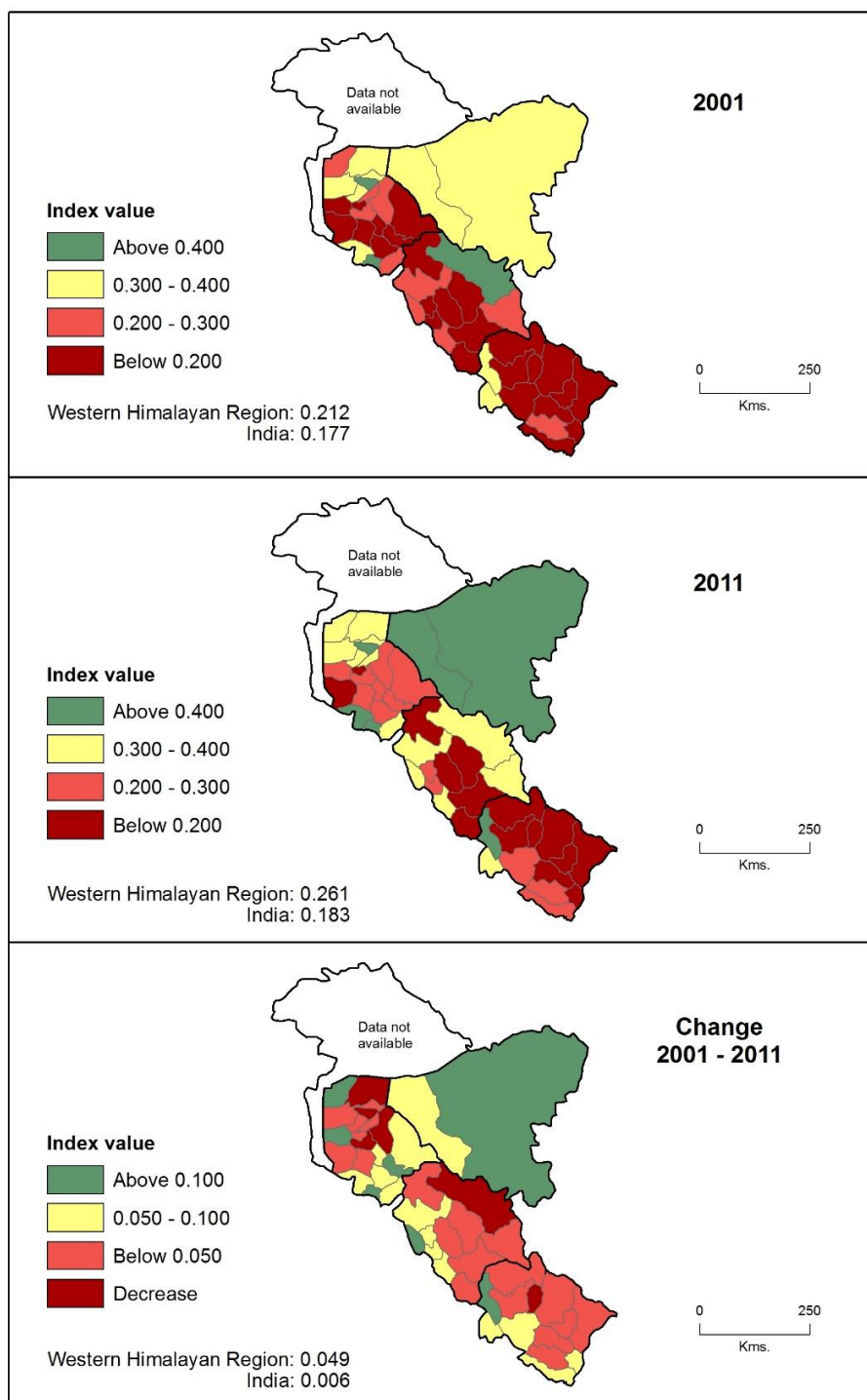


Fig. 2

Rudraprayag, Bageshwar, Almora from Uttarakhand; and Kullu from Himachal Pradesh. It was found that north and north western part of Western Himalayan Region was rurally developed than southern part (Fig. 2).

Thirty eight out of 47 districts of states/union territories in Western Himalayan Region recorded higher positive change in rural development index during 2001-2011 than national average (0.006). It accounts for 80.85 per cent districts of region. It was found that 41 districts of Western Himalayan Region improved rural development index during the corresponding period of time. The highest positive change recorded in Kupwara (0.145) from Jammu & Kashmir and the lowest in Uttarkashi (0.001) from Uttarakhand. Across districts of Western Himalayan Region, five districts of the highest positive change were Kupwara, Leh, Samba, Punch from Jammu & Kashmir; and Una from Himachal Pradesh. Contrary to it, five districts of the least positive change were Uttarkashi, Tehri Garhwal, Bageshwar from Uttarakhand; Chamba from Himachal Pradesh; and Ganderbal from Jammu & Kashmir (Fig. 2).

Six out of 47 districts of states/union territories in Western Himalayan Region recorded negative change in rural development index during 2001-2011. It accounts for 12.77 per cent districts of region. These were Lahul & Spiti from Himachal Pradesh; Srinagar, Bandipore, Anantnag from Jammu & Kashmir; and Rudraprayag from Uttarakhand.

III. Conclusion

Western Himalayan Region was rurally more developed than India during 2001-2011. Across the states/union territories in Western Himalayan Region, both territories (Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh) are rurally developed than Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand. North and north western part of Western Himalayan Region was rurally developed than southern part.

All states/union territories of the region recorded the higher change in rural development index than India during 2001-2011. It reflected that Western Himalayan Region experienced higher transformation of rural economy than India during the first decade of 21st century. It was found that Western Himalayan Region experienced higher transformation of rural economy than India during the first decade of 21st century.

At district level, majority districts in Western Himalayan Region recorded higher positive change in rural development index during 2001-2011 than national average. Contrary to it, five districts of the least positive change were Uttarkashi, Tehri Garhwal, Bageshwar from Uttarakhand; Chamba from Himachal Pradesh; and Ganderbal from Jammu & Kashmir. Whereas, Six districts in Western Himalayan Region recorded negative change in rural development index during 2001-2011. These were Lahul & Spiti from Himachal Pradesh; Srinagar, Bandipore, Anantnag from Jammu & Kashmir; and Rudraprayag from Uttarakhand. It was matter of serious concern for the policy makers and planners of union/state governments. It was recommended that the Union and State Governments should start more development programmes keeping in view the target group and area.

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