

Social Development Disparity between Non-Scheduled and Scheduled Caste Population in Indian Hill States

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Abstract

The gap in social development between non-scheduled and scheduled castes population had always been lower in Hill States as a Region than Non-Hill States as a Region and India during the post-reform period. It decreased to the extent that it was almost negligible in 2011. It reflects the convergence of social development between social groups has taken place in the region. Among CSC hill states, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, and Tripura recorded decline of gap in social development consistently between social groups during 1991-2011. However, Jammu & Kashmir had been lone hill state which recorded marginal decline of gap in favour of scheduled castes population during 2001-2011. Across districts of CSC hill states, above 85 per cent districts recorded lower gap in social development between social groups than national average during 1991-2011. It reflects that social development of scheduled castes population was higher in CSC hill states.

Key words: social development, social group, hill states, scheduled castes.

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I. Introduction

The problem of development disparity is highly critical for almost all the countries of the world. There has always existed a variety of inter-regional and interstate variations in terms of all macro indices linked with the economic and social issue. The problem is more prevailed in the developing countries. This study will unfold the nature of disparity between social groups (scheduled castes and non-scheduled population) in Indian hill states.

The scheduled population refers scheduled castes and scheduled tribes who have been notified as such by the President of India in pursuance of Articles 341 and 342 of the constitution. These (Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes) were notified for the first time under the Orders, 1950. These lists have been modified, amended or supplemented from time to time.

Objective

The major objective of the study is to:

- Understand the inter and intra-state spatial variations in social development disparity among social groups (non-scheduled and scheduled castes population in Indian hill states).

Research Questions

Based on the statement of the problem and review of literature, the following major research questions are forwarded for investigation:

- What are the patterns and trends of social development between social groups among and within hill states?
- Is social development disparity among social groups recorded reduction during the post-reform period across hill states?

Significance of the Study

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 aimed to provide an insight into the processes of development and unfold the real nature and intensity of problems among and within hill states. The present study on development disparity among social groups may be useful for policy makers and planners.

Period and Unit of Study

The social development disparities in the hill states was studied covering three points of time i.e. 1991, 2001, and 2011. The state level data was used for inter-state 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.

The Study Area

The present study was focused on the Indian hill states. These are Jammu & Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Sikkim, Arunachal Pradesh, Nagaland, Manipur, Mizoram, Tripura, and Meghalaya. In this study, study area was called as Hill States as a Region and rest part of India was termed as Non-Hill States as a Region. 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 Km². Administratively, there are 106 districts in 2011 that share one-seventh (15.67 per cent) of total geographical area of India and contains 3.64 per cent of total population of the country. The Jammu & Kashmir Reorganized Act 2019 passed on 5th August, 2019 bifurcated the Jammu & Kashmir into two union territories i.e. Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh. However, the present study is based on erstwhile Jammu & Kashmir State.

II. Data and Methodology

The research is based on secondary data. The secondary data was collected from Census of India to measure social development. In the present study, development disparity was presented in three spatial contexts: (i) Hill States as a Region, (ii) Inter- state, and (iii) Intra-state. Development disparity was also analyzed by comparing with the national average and Non-Hill States as a Region.

The Non- Scheduled population is obtained by subtracting the scheduled population (scheduled castes+scheduled tribes) from total population. The total population is classified into three social groups. These are Non-Scheduled, Scheduled Castes, and Scheduled Tribes population. But, in this study the development disparity among social groups across space in hill states particularly focusing on non-scheduled population and scheduled castes. The development disparity between social groups has been viewed through the gap in values of indicator.

In the present study, the female literacy was taken as tool to measure social development. The gap in social development between social groups was calculated by using the value of indicators. For example, Himachal Pradesh recorded female literacy of non-scheduled and scheduled castes population 57.21 per cent, 41.02 per cent respectively in 1991. Gap between social groups was calculated as under:

Gap between non-scheduled and scheduled castes population= value of indicator for non-scheduled population–value of indicator for scheduled castes population
= 57.21-41.02 =16.19 percentage points.

It was separately done for three points of time viz. 1991, 2001, and 2011 to work out gap in value of indicator between social groups. Zero gap indicates parity between social groups. The disparity increases as difference of value of gap increases from zero. The positive value of gap indicates the disparity in favour of non-scheduled population while the negative value indicates the disparity in favour of scheduled castes population.

Hill state where the concentration of scheduled castes population is 5 per cent or above in 1991 census is called CSC hill state in this study. These hill states have been taken for meaningful discussion of the gap in development between social groups. Whereas the hill state where the concentration of scheduled castes population is less than 5 per is called Non-CSC hill state.

Social Development

Hill States as a Region

The gap in female literacy between social groups was recorded in India (21.06 percentage points), Non-Hill States as a Region (21.19 percentage points), and Hill States as a Region (16.33 percentage points) in 1991. The region recorded lower gap than Non-Hill States as a Region and India (Table 1). It reflects that the social development of scheduled castes population in the region was better than other parts of India at the inception of new economic policy.

The region (3.54 percentage points) recorded lower gap in female literacy between social groups than Non-Hill States as a Region (16.63 percentage points) and India (16.27 percentage points) in 2001. It was found that all the regions recorded decline in gap during the last decade of previous century (Table 1). The declining pace of gap in female literacy between social groups was higher in the region than Non-Hill States as a Region and India. It reflects that convergence of social development between social groups in the region was more than Non-Hill States as a Region and India.

Once again, the region (0.51 percentage point) recorded lower gap in female literacy between social groups than Non-Hill States as a Region (12.03 percentage points) and India (11.72 percentage points) in 2011. It was found that all the regions recorded decline in gap during first decade of this century. It was observed that there was negligible gap in female literacy between social groups in the region (Table 1).

During last twenty years, the region recorded decline of 15.82 percentage points gap in female literacy between social groups while Non-Hill States as a Region and India recorded a decline of 9.16 and 9.34 percentage points respectively. It reflects that the region performed better than other regions to bridge the gap in

female literacy between social groups during the corresponding period of time.

All the regions recorded decline of gap in female literacy in favour of non-scheduled population consistently during 1991-2011. After twenty years of reforms, the region recorded almost parity in social development between social groups.

Inter State Trends and Patterns

Among CSC hill states, the highest gap in female literacy between social groups recorded in Uttarakhand(21.24 percentage points) and the lowest in Sikkim (3.07 percentage points) in 1991. Tripura and Himachal Pradesh recorded 18.21 and 16.19 percentage points gap in female literacy respectively. Comparing with the national average (21.06 percentage points), except Uttarakhand, all CSC hill states recorded lower gap than national average. These were Tripura, Himachal Pradesh, and Sikkim(Table 1).

Table: 1
India: Gap in Female Literacy between Non-Scheduled and Scheduled Castes
Population in Hill States, 1991-2011

Sr.	Hill State	Gap (percentage points)		
		1991	2001	2011
CSC Hill States				
1	Himachal Pradesh	16.19	10.26	7.04
2	Uttarakhand	21.24	13.60	7.56
3	Tripura	18.21	8.77	2.46
4	Jammu & Kashmir	DNA	-2.65	-2.26
5	Sikkim	3.07	5.11	4.65
Non-CSC Hill States				
6	Manipur	1.90	-1.39	3.49
7	Meghalaya	22.62	17.65	7.52
8	Arunachal Pradesh	-0.87	-5.12	NSC
9	Mizoram	-7.28	-12.00	-6.78
10	Nagaland	NSC	NSC	NSC
Hill States as a Region		16.33	3.54	0.51
Non-Hill States as a Region		21.19	16.63	12.03
India		21.06	16.27	11.72

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

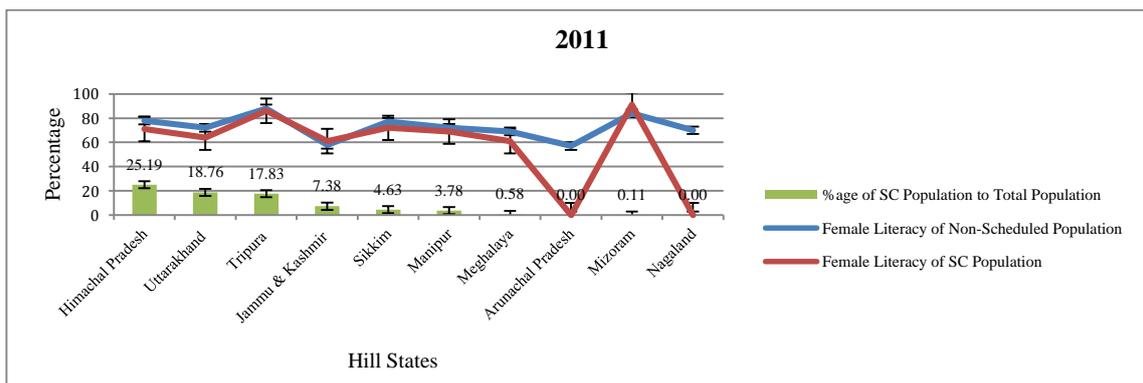
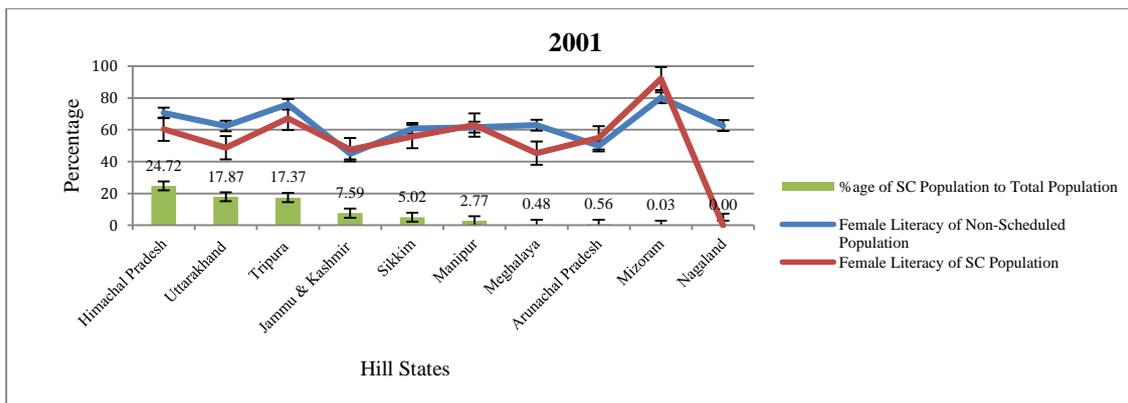
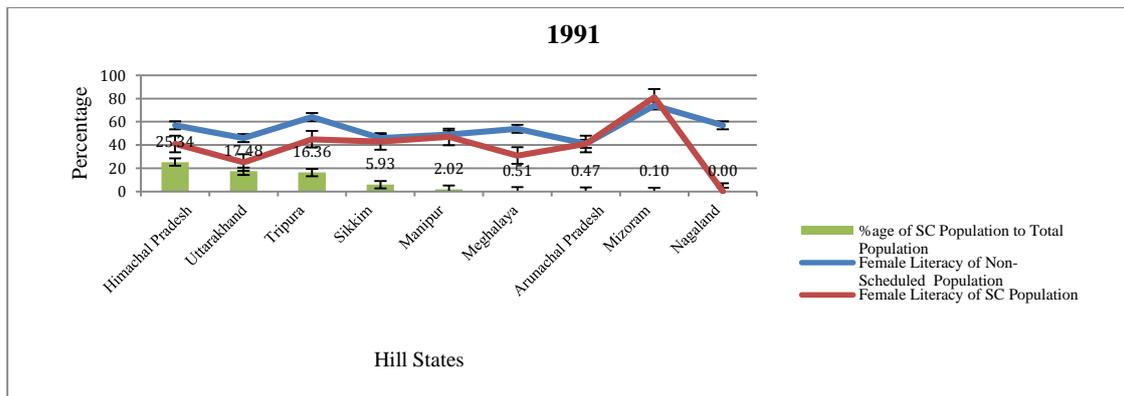
Note: (I) In this study, hill states were arranged (in table and diagram) in descending order in terms of proportion of SC to the total population according to 1991 Census. (II) NSC means no scheduled caste population.

It is evident from the analysis that the gap in female literacy between social groups narrowed down in three CSC hill states in 2001. These were Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, and Tripura. Against it, Sikkim experienced the widening of gap in female literacy in favour of non-scheduled population. Among CSC hill states, Jammu & Kashmir (-2.65 percentage points) was lone hill state that recorded gap in favour of scheduled castes population. The highest gap in female literacy between social groups recorded in Uttarakhand (13.60 percentage points) and the lowest in Jammu & Kashmir (-2.65 percentage points). Comparing with the national average (16.27 percentage points), Uttarakhand, Himachal Pradesh, Tripura, and Sikkim recorded lower gap in female literacy in favour of non-scheduled population (Table.1).

In 2011, all CSC hill states recorded decline of gap in female literacy between social groups. It was found that except Jammu & Kashmir (-2.26 percentage points), all CSC hill states recorded gap in favour of non-scheduled population. These were Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Sikkim, and Tripura. It reflects that the females of scheduled castes population were more literate than non-scheduled population in Jammu & Kashmir. Uttarakhand (7.56 percentage points) recorded the highest gap in female literacy between social groups and the lowest in Jammu & Kashmir (-2.26 percentage points). Comparing with the national average (11.72 percentage points), once again, Uttarakhand, Himachal Pradesh, Sikkim, and Tripura recorded lower gap in female literacy in favour of non-scheduled population (Table 1).

Diagram 1

India: Scheduled Castes Population and Gap in Female Literacy between Non-Scheduled and Scheduled Castes Population in Hill States, 1991-2011



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

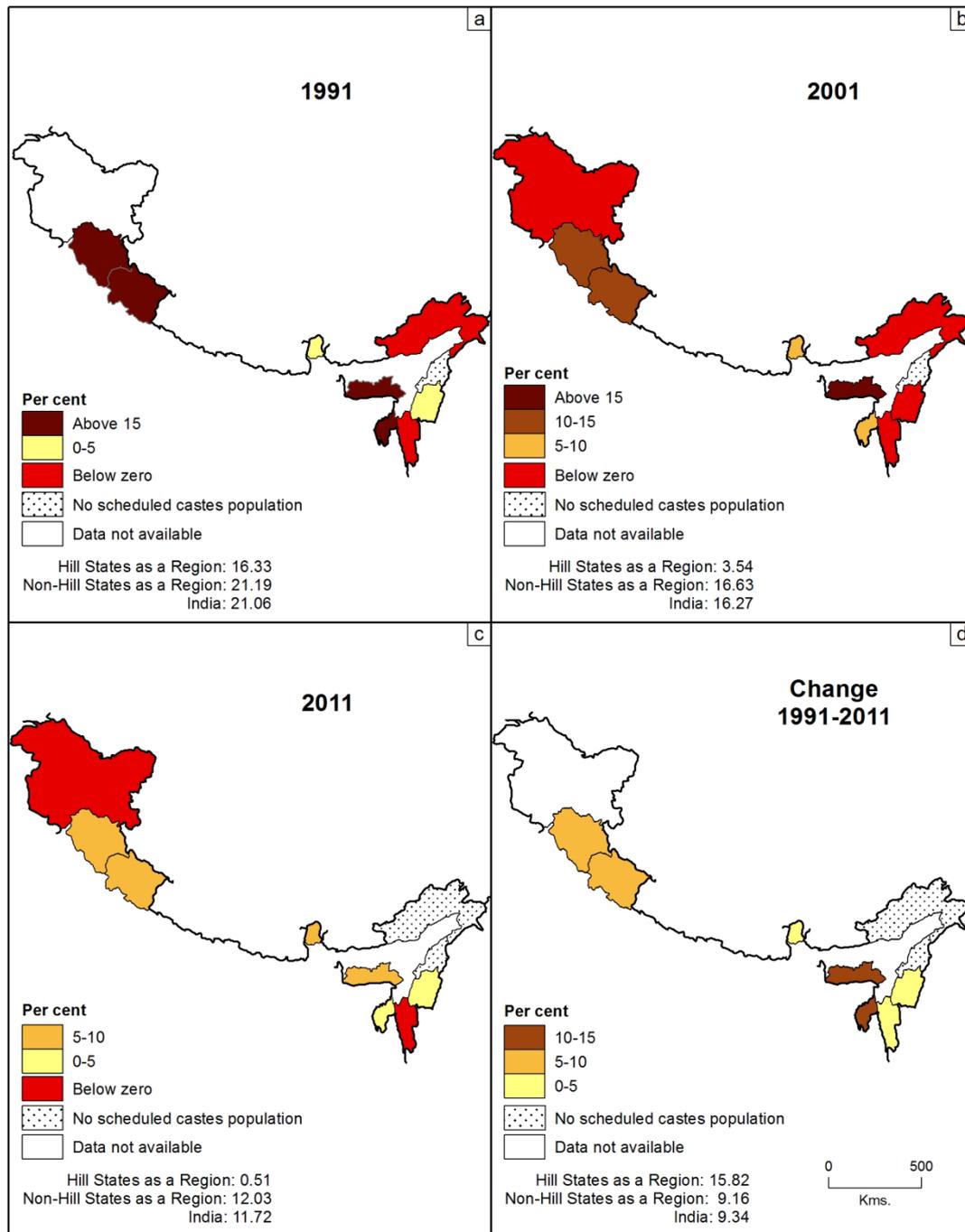
Among CSC hill states, Tripura (15.75 percentage points) recorded the highest change of gap in female literacy between social groups during 1991-2011 and the lowest in Sikkim (1.58 percentage points). Two CSC hill states recorded higher change than national average (9.34 percentage points). These were Uttarakhand and Tripura. Contrary to it, Himachal Pradesh and Sikkim recorded lower change during the corresponding period of time.

Four CSC hill states recorded gap in female literacy in favour of non-scheduled population in 1991. These were Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Sikkim, and Tripura. Among them, except Sikkim, all the hill states recorded decline consistently during 1991-2011. Contrary to it, Sikkim recorded a marginal increase of gap in female literacy in favour of non-scheduled population during 1991-2001 and decrease in subsequent decade (2001-2011). However, Jammu & Kashmir was lone hill state that recorded gap in favour of scheduled castes population in 2001. It recorded marginal decline in gap between social groups during 2001-2011 (Diagram 1). It reflects that the females of scheduled castes population in Jammu & Kashmir were socially more developed than females of non-scheduled population.

Intra-state Trends and Patterns

All the districts of two CSC hill states recorded lower gap in female literacy between social groups than national average (21.06 percentage points) in 1991. These were Sikkim and Tripura. On the other hand, majority districts in two CSC hill states recorded lower gap in female literacy between social groups than national average. These were Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand. It reflects that social development of scheduled castes in CSC hill states was better than India at the time of inception of new economic policy (Table 2).

India: Gap in Female Literacy between Non-Scheduled and Scheduled Castes Population in Hill States, 1991-2011



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

Table 2

India: Gap in Female Literacy between Non-Scheduled and Scheduled Castes Population in Districts of Hill States, 1991-2011

Sr.	Hill State	Districts Above National Average (21.06 percentage points) 1991	Districts Above National Average (16.27 percentage points) 2001	Districts Above National Average (11.72 percentage points) 2011
CSC Hill States				
1	Himachal Pradesh	Shimla, Kinnaur (2/12)	(0/12)	(0/12)
2	Uttarakhand	Hardwar, Dehradun (2/9)	Udham Singh Nagar, Dehradun (2/13)	Dehradun (1/13)
3	Tripura	(0/3)	(0/4)	(0/4)
4	Jammu & Kashmir	DNA	Kathua, Jammu, <i>Kupwara</i> (3/14)	Kathua, Jammu, Udhampur, <i>Ganderbal, Kupwara</i> (5/22)
5	Sikkim	(0/4)	(0/4)	(0/4)
Total CSC Hill States		(4/28)	(5/47)	(6/55)
Non-CSC Hill States				
6	Manipur	(0/8)	(0/9)	<i>Senapati, Chandel, Ukhrul, Tamenglong*</i> (4/9)
7	Meghalaya	<i>East Garo Hills*, East Khasi Hills</i> (2/5)	<i>Jaintia Hills*, East Khasi Hills</i> (2/7)	<i>East Khasi Hills</i> (1/7)
8	Arunachal Pradesh	(0/11)	<i>Upper Subansiri, Upper Siang</i> (2/13)	(0/16)
9	Mizoram	(0/3)	(0/8)	<i>Lunglei*</i> (1/8)
10	Nagaland	(0/7)	(0/8)	(0/11)
Total Non-CSC Hill States		(2/34)	(4/45)	(6/51)
Total Hill States=Total CSC+ Total Non-CSC Hill States		(6/62)	(9/92)	(12/106)

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

Note: (I) Districts are arranged in ascending order in terms of gap in female literacy between non-scheduled and scheduled castes population. (II) Figure in parentheses, the numerator shows the number of district/districts above national average and denominator shows the total number of districts in the concerned state. (III) District having below five per cent SC population has written in bold italic font in the study. (IV) District having below five per cent non-scheduled population has written in bold italic font with superscript star (*) in the study.

Across CSC hill states, 24 out of 28 districts recorded lower gap in female literacy between social groups than national average in 1991. It accounts for 85.71 per cent districts of CSC hill states. Out of these districts, all from Sikkim, Tripura; ten from Himachal Pradesh; and seven from Uttarakhand. The remaining 4 districts recorded higher gap in female literacy between social groups than national average. It accounts for 14.29 per cent districts of CSC hill states. These were Shimla, Kinnaur from Himachal Pradesh; and Hardwar, Dehradun from Uttarakhand (Table 2).

All the districts of three CSC hill states recorded lower gap in female literacy between social groups than national average (16.27 percentage points) in 2001. These were Himachal Pradesh, Sikkim, and Tripura. On the other hand, majority of districts in two CSC hill states recorded lower gap than national average. These were Jammu & Kashmir and Uttarakhand (Table 2). It reflects that social development of scheduled castes in CSC hill states was better than India at the beginning of this century.

Across CSC hill states, 42 out of 47 districts recorded lower gap in female literacy between social groups than national average in 2001. It accounts for 89.36 per cent districts of CSC hill states. Out of these districts, eleven districts each from Jammu & Kashmir and Uttarakhand; and all from Himachal Pradesh, Sikkim, Tripura. The remaining 5 districts recorded higher gap in female literacy between social groups than national average. It accounts for 10.64 per cent districts of CSC hill states. These districts were Kathua, Jammu, ***Kupwara*** from Jammu & Kashmir; and Udham Singh Nagar, Dehradun from Uttarakhand (Table 2).

Once again, there were three CSC hill states where all the districts recorded lower gap in female literacy between social groups than national average (11.72 percentage points) in 2011. These were Himachal Pradesh, Sikkim, and Tripura. On the other hand, majority of districts in two CSC hill states recorded lower gap than national average. These were Jammu & Kashmir and Uttarakhand (Table 2). It reflects that social

development of scheduled castes population in CSC hill states was better than India.

Across CSC hill states, 49 out of 55 districts recorded lower gap in female literacy between social groups than national average in 2011. It

Table 3

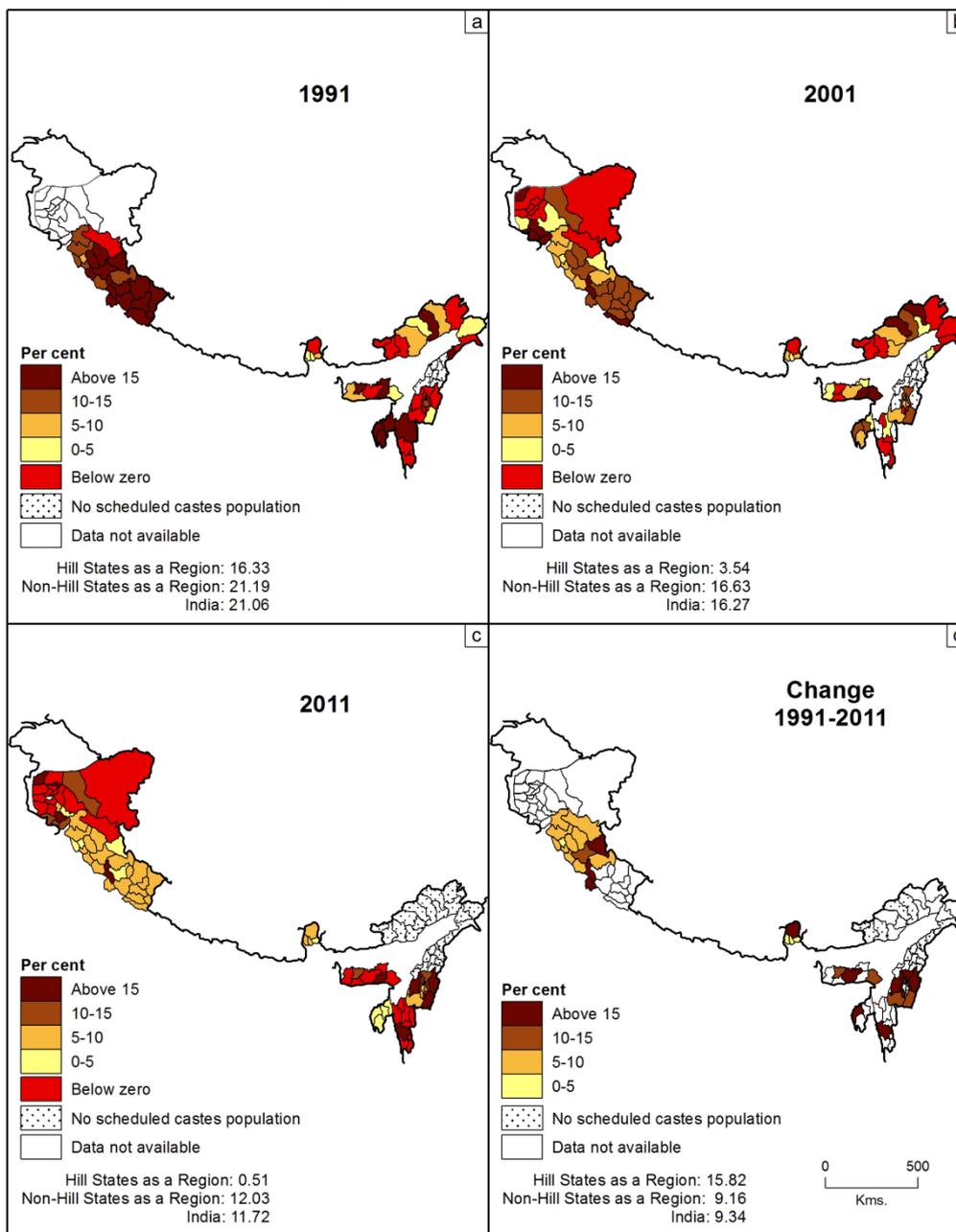
India: Trend of Gap in Female Literacy between Non-Scheduled and Scheduled Castes Population in Districts of Hill States, 1991-2011

Sr.	Hill State	Gap in Favour of Non-Scheduled Population			Gap in Favour of Scheduled Castes Population			Districts without SC Population as per 1991 Census
		Gap Increased	Gap Declined	Gap Shifted to in Favour of Scheduled Castes	Gap Increased	Gap Declined	Gap Shifted to in Favour of Non-Scheduled	
CSC Hill States								
1	Himachal Pradesh (12)	Nil	Hamirpur, Kangra, Bilaspur, Una, Sirmaur, Solan, Chamba, Kullu, Mandi, Shimla, Kinnaur (11)	Nil	Lahul&Spiti (1)	Nil	Nil	Nil
2	Uttarakhand (3)	Nil	Uttarkashi, Dehradun, Hardwar (3)	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
3	Tripura (1)	Nil	West Tripura (1)	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
4	Jammu & Kashmir (6)	DNA	DNA	DNA	DNA	DNA	DNA	DNA
5	Sikkim (4)	South District, West District (2)	East District (1)	Nil	Nil	Nil	North District (1)	Nil
Total CSC Hill States (26)		(2)	(16)	Nil	(1)	Nil	(1)	Nil
Non-CSC Hill States								
6	Manipur (7)	Chandel (1)	Nil	Nil	Nil	Thoubal (1)	Churachandpur, Bishnupur, Senapati, Ukhrul, Tamenglong (5)	Nil
7	Meghalaya (3)	Nil	East Garo Hills (1)	Jaintia Hills (1)	Nil	West Khasi Hills (1)	Nil	Nil
8	Arunachal Pradesh (7)	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Changlang, East Kameng, Tawang, Tirap, Upper Subansiri, West Kameng, West Siang (7)
9	Mizoram (1)	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Lunglei (1)	Nil
10	Nagaland (5)	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Mokokchung, Mon, Phek, Wokha, Zunheboto (5)
Total Non-CSC Hill States (23)		(1)	(1)	(1)	Nil	(2)	(6)	(12)
Total Hill States= Total CSC+ Total Non-CSC Hill States (49)		(3)	(17)	(1)	(1)	(2)	(7)	(12)

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

Note: (I) Forty nine districts across hill states had not changed their administrative boundaries during 1991-2011. Out of them six districts belong to Jammu & Kashmir. These were Badgam, Kargil, Kupwara, Leh, Punch, and Rajouri. But, the data of them was not available in 1991 Census. The trend of gap between social groups was worked out in remaining 43 districts during 1991-2011. Out of them, 20 districts belong to CSC hill states.(II) Districts were arranged in ascending order. (II) Figure in parentheses shows the number of district/ districts.

India: Gap in Female Literacy between Non-Scheduled and Scheduled Castes Population in Districts of Hill States, 1991-2011



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

accounts for 89.09 per cent districts of CSC hill states. Out of these districts, all districts from Himachal Pradesh, Sikkim, Tripura; seventeen from Jammu & Kashmir; and twelve from Uttarakhand. The remaining 6 districts recorded higher gap in female literacy between social groups than national average. It accounts for 10.91 per cent districts of CSC hill states. These districts were Kathua, Jammu, Udham Singh Nagar, Ganderbal, Kupwara from Jammu & Kashmir; and Dehradun from Uttarakhand (Table 2).

Sixteen out of 20 districts of CSC hill states recorded higher female literacy of non-scheduled population than scheduled castes population in 1991. These recorded decline in gap during 1991-2011 in favour of non-scheduled population. Out of these districts, eleven from Himachal Pradesh; three from Uttarakhand; and one each from Sikkim, Tripura. These districts were Hamirpur, Kangra, Bilaspur, Una, Sirmour, Solan, Chamba, Kullu, Mandi, Shimla, and Kinnaur from Himachal Pradesh; Uttarkashi, Dehradun, and Hardwar from Uttarakhand; East District from Sikkim; and West Tripura from Tripura whereas two districts from Sikkim recorded an increase of gap in favour of non-scheduled population. These were South District and West District (Table 3).

Lahul&Spiti from Himachal Pradesh recorded higher female literacy of scheduled castes population than non-scheduled population in 1991. This gap widened during 1991-2011. On the other hand, North District from Sikkim was lone district across districts of CSC hill states recorded gap in female literacy in favour of scheduled castes population in 1991 and in favour of non-scheduled population in 2011 (Table 3).

III. Conclusions

The gap in social development between non-scheduled and scheduled castes population had always been lower in Hill States as a Region than Non-Hill States as a Region and India during the post-reform period. The region experienced gap in social development between non-scheduled and scheduled castes population was almost negligible in 2011. It reflects the convergence of social development between social groups has taken place.

Among CSC hill states, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, and Tripura recorded decline of gap in social development consistently between social groups during 1991-2011 while Sikkim recorded a marginal increase during 1991-2001 and decrease in the subsequent decade. However, Jammu & Kashmir had been lone hill state which recorded marginal decline of gap in favour of scheduled castes population during 2001-2011.

All the districts of three CSC hill states recorded lower gap in social development between social groups in 2011 than national average. These were Himachal Pradesh, Sikkim, and Tripura. Whereas, majority of districts in Jammu & Kashmir and Uttarakhand recorded lower gap.

Among districts of CSC hill states, above 85 per cent districts recorded lower gap in social development between social groups than national average during 1991-2011. It reflects that social development of scheduled castes population was higher in CSC hill states.

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