

Composite Development Disparity in Western Himalayan Region

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Abstract

This research has a fresh look on the composite development disparity among states/union territories of Western Himalayan Region during 2001-2011. The analysis reveals that composite development of Western Himalayan Region recorded lower than India in 2001 but experienced higher in 2011. Across states and union territories of the region, Uttarakhand recorded the highest composite development index and the lowest in Jammu & Kashmir. The disparity in composite development across the states and union territories of Western Himalayan Region increased during the first decade of 21st century. Across the districts of Western Himalayan Region, the highest developed five districts were Srinagar, Jammu, Samba from Jammu & Kashmir; and Dehradun, Nainital from Uttarakhand. Against it, the least five districts were Ramban, Kishtwar, Reasi, Shupiyani and Doda. All these districts belonged to Jammu & Kashmir. It was recommended that the Union and State Governments should give special attention keeping in view the target group and area.

Keywords: Composite Development, Western Himalayan Region, Development Index.

Introduction

Development has always been flexible and open ended with respect to specific definition. Literature on development was vast, but the term defies a precise definition. Development means different things to different people. It is a difficult concept with different interpretations varying by time, space, discipline, and people.

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 is to:

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

Research Question

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

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

Significance of the Study

The study of the trends and patterns of composite 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 composite development disparity in Western Himalayan Region studied covering two points of time i.e. 2001 and 2011. India has adopted policy of liberalization, privatization, and globalization since 1990s. The free play of market accentuates spatial disparity in development. It attracts the considerable research interest to know the level of composite development disparity in Western Himalayan States and union territories during 2001-2011. The state/union territory and district level data were used for tracing the inter and intra-state/union territory composite development disparity.

The Study Area

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

Database and Methodology

The secondary data of Census of India have been used to measure the composite development disparity for two points of time i.e. 2001 and 2011. The data of Jammu & Kashmir have been recasted in consonance with the administrative divisions of two union territories i.e. Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh in order to know the development disparity.

In the present study, composite development disparity discussed at three spatial contexts (Western Himalayan Region, inter state/union territory, intra-state) in Western Himalayan Region during 2001-2011. The composite development index is an average of three development indices (Social development index, rural development index, and economic development index).

Social development index has calculated by using the highest and the lowest value of indicator. For example, across states and union territories of India, the highest female literacy was recorded in Kerala in 2001. It was 87.73 per cent. Contrary to it, Bihar recorded the lowest female literacy in 2001. It was 33.12 per cent. Himachal Pradesh recorded 67.42 per cent female literacy in 2001. The social development index of Himachal Pradesh was calculated as under:

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

$$\text{Deprivation Score} = \frac{87.73 - 67.42}{87.73 - 33.12} = 0.372$$

$$\text{Development Index} = 1 - 0.372 = 0.628$$

It was separately done for two points of time viz. 2001, and 2011 to work out social development index. This method measure the relative development level. It measures the extent to which a region was lagging behind as compared to one at the top. Rural development index has calculated by using the highest and the lowest value of non-agriculture workforce. Economic development index has calculated by using the highest and the lowest value of urbanisation.

Suitable cartographic techniques were used for representation of data. Mapping work to represent the development disparity was done with the help of GIS software Arc Map 9.3.

Limitations

Since measurement of composite development defies unanimity, the consensus on selection of indicators is subjective and open to criticism. The present study is vulnerable on this account. But the selected indicators were found to be most appropriate.

Level of Composite Development

Western Himalayan Region

Composite development index of Western Himalayan Region recorded 0.237 in 2001. It was marginally lower than India (0.242). The gap of economic development index between the region and India was 0.005 (Table 1). It reflects that composite development in the region was lower than India.

Economic development index of the Western Himalayan Region increased from 0.237 in 2001 to 0.246 in 2011. The region recorded increase of 0.009 whereas India (0.232) recorded a decrease of 0.010 during the corresponding period of time. India recorded decline in relative composite development index during 2001-2011. It was matter of concern for the government of the India. However, composite development of the region was higher than India. It reflected that the region was overall more developed than India. The gap of composite development index between the region and India increased from 0.005 in 2001 to 0.014 in 2011 in favour of region (Table 1).

Inter State/union territory Trends and Patterns

There was wide variation of economic development index among states and union territories of Western Himalayan Region in 2001. Across states and union territories of the region, Uttarakhand (0.272) recorded the highest composite development index and the lowest in Jammu & Kashmir (0.193). The gap between the highest and the lowest composite development index was 0.079 (Table 1).

Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh recorded lower development index than the Western Himalayan Region (0.237) in 2001. On the other hand, Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand recorded higher development index than the region. Comparing with the national average (0.242), Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand recorded higher social development index. Contrary to it, Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh recorded lower development index (Table 1). It reflected that Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand were more developed than Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh in 2001.

Table 1

India: Composite Development in Western Himalayan Region, 2001-2011

Sr.	State/Union Territory	Index Value		
		2001	2011	Change 2001-2011
1	Jammu & Kashmir	0.193	0.194	0.001
2	Ladakh	0.227	0.266	0.039
3	Himachal Pradesh	0.259	0.265	0.005
4	Uttarakhand	0.272	0.294	0.022

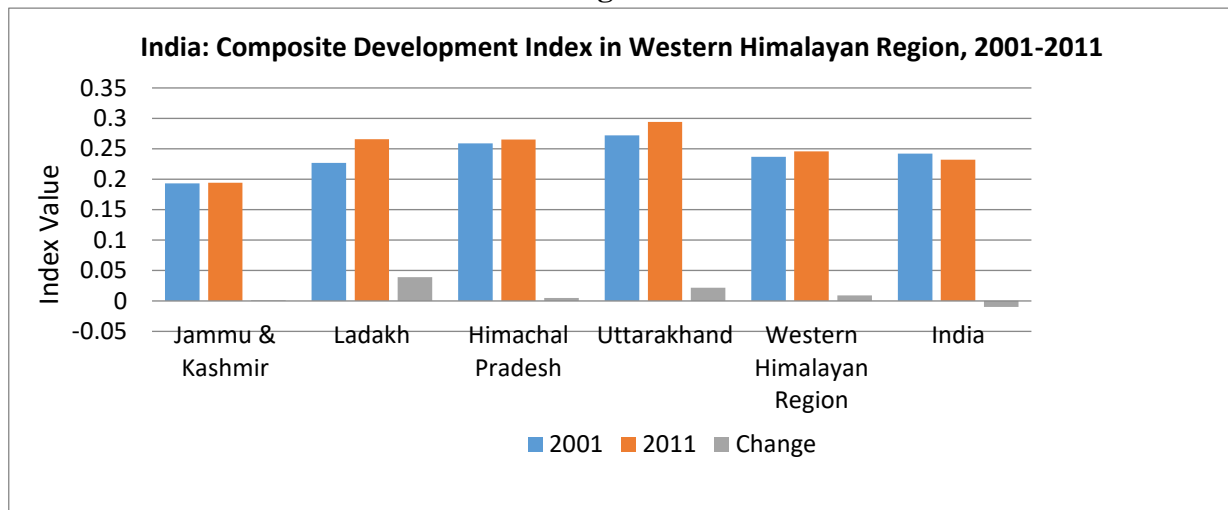
Western Himalayan Region	0.237	0.246	0.009
India	0.242	0.232	-0.010

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

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

After a decade (2011), the variation of economic development index among states and union territories of western Himalayan has increased. Across states and union territories of the region, Uttarakhand (0.294) recorded the highest composite development index and the lowest in Jammu & Kashmir (0.194). The gap between the highest and the lowest economic development index increased from 0.079 in 2001 to 0.100 in 2011 (Table 1). It reflected that the disparity in composite development across the states and union territories of Western Himalayan Region increased during the first decade of 21st century.

Diagram 1



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

Jammu & Kashmir recorded lower development index than the Western Himalayan Region (0.246) in 2011. On the other hand, Ladakh, Himachal Pradesh, and Uttarakhand recorded higher development index than the region. Comparing with the national average (0.232), Ladakh, Himachal Pradesh, and Uttarakhand recorded higher composite development index. Contrary to it, Jammu & Kashmir recorded lower development index. It was found that Jammu & Kashmir was lagging behind in overall development than Western Himalayan Region and India.

All the states and union territories of the Western Himalayan Region increased their relative development index during 2001-2011. It reflects that every state/union territory of the Western Himalayan Region raised its relative development level during the corresponding period of time. Across states and union territories of the region, Ladakh recorded the highest change in composite development index during 2001-2011 and the lowest in Jammu & Kashmir. Ladakh and Uttarakhand recorded higher change in development index than Western Himalayan Region. Contrary to it, Himachal Pradesh and Jammu & Kashmir recorded lower change in development index than region during the corresponding period of time. Comparing with national average, all the states/union territories of the Western Himalayan Region recorded higher change in development index. It was observed that the Western Himalayan Region recorded more pace of development than India during 2001-2011.

It was concluded from above observations that the Muslim majority union territory was the most backward in the Western Himalayan Region. Contrary to it, Uttarakhand was the most developed of the region during 2001-2011.

Intra-state Trends and Patterns

Majority districts in Himachal Pradesh, recorded higher composite development index than national average (0.307) in 2001. Contrary to it, majority of districts in Jammu & Kashmir and Uttarakhand recorded lower development index. However, one out of two districts in Ladakh recorded lower development index than national average (Table 2).

Table 2
India: Composite Development in Western Himalaya Region, 2001-2011

Sr.	Name of State/Union Territory	Districts above National Average/ Below National Average 0.307 (2001)	Districts above National Average/ Below National Average 0.334 (2011)
1	Jammu & Kashmir	Sri Nagar, Jammu, Samba (03) Kathua, Udhampur, Baramula, Pulwama, Kulgam, Bandipore, Badgam, Rajouri, Ganderbal, Anantnag, Reasi, Doda, Shupiyan, Kupwara, Punch, Kishtwar, Ramban (17)	Srinagar, Jammu, Samba (03) Kathua, Baramula, Udhampur, Kupwara, Anantnag, Pulwama, Ganderbal, Bandipore, Badgam, Kulgam, Rajouri, Punch, Doda, Shupiyan, Reasi, Kishtwar, Ramban (17)
2	Ladakh	Leh (1) Kargil (01)	Leh (01) Kargil (01)
3	Himachal Pradesh	Solan, Una, Shimla, Kangra, Hamirpur, Lahul & Spiti, Bilaspur (07) Kinnaur, Mandi, Sirmaur, Kullu, Chamba (05)	Una, Solan, Kangra, Shimla, Hamirpur, Bilaspur (06) Kinnaur, Sirmaur, Mandi, Lahul & Spiti, Kullu, Chamba (06)
4	Uttarakhand	Dehradun, Nainital, Hardwar, Udham Singh Nagar (04) Garhwal, Pithoragarh, Chamoli, Almora, Champawat, Rudraprayag, Bageshwar, Tehri Garhwal, Uttarkashi (09)	Dehradun, Nainital, Hardwar, Udham Singh Nagar (04) Garhwal, Pithoragarh, Chamoli, Champawat, Almora, Rudraprayag, Tehri Garhwal, Bageshwar, Uttarkashi (09)
Western Himalayan Region		(15)/(32)	(14)/(33)

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

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

Fifteen out of 47 districts of states and union territories in Western Himalayan Region recorded higher composite development index than national average in 2001. It accounts for 31.91 per cent districts of the region. It reflects that majority districts were developed than national. Across districts of states and union territories in Western Himalayan Region, Srinagar (0.635) from Jammu & Kashmir recorded the highest composite development index and the lowest in Ramban (0.108) from Jammu & Kashmir. Across the districts of Western Himalayan Region, the highest developed five districts were Srinagar, Jammu, Samba from Jammu & Kashmir, and Dehradun, Nainital from Uttarakhand. Against it, the least five districts were Ramban, Kishtwar, Punch, Kupwara and Shupiyani. All these districts were from Jammu & Kashmir. After a decade (2011), majority districts in Jammu & Kashmir and Uttarakhand of Western Himalayan Region recorded lower composite development index than national average (0.334). On the other hand, fifty per cent districts in Himachal Pradesh and Ladakh recorded higher composite development index (Table 2).

Fourteen out of 47 districts of states and union territories in Western Himalayan Region recorded higher composite development index than national average in 2011. It accounts for 29.78 per cent districts of the region. It reflects that majority districts of the region were less developed than national average. Across districts of states and union territories in Western Himalayan Region, Srinagar (0.626) from Jammu & Kashmir recorded the highest composite development index and the lowest in Ramban (0.139) from Jammu & Kashmir. Across the districts of Western Himalayan Region, the highest developed five districts were Srinagar, Jammu, Samba from Jammu & Kashmir; and Dehradun, Nainital from Uttarakhand. Against it, the least five districts were Ramban, Kishtwar, Reasi, Shupiyani, and Doda. All these districts belonged to Jammu & Kashmir (Fig. 1).

Thirty two out of 47 districts of states and union territories in Western Himalayan Region recorded higher change in composite development index during 2001-2011 than national average (0.028). It accounts for 68.08 per cent districts of region. It reflects that majority districts recorded higher change in composite development index. It was found that except two districts, every district of Western Himalayan Region improved composite development index during the corresponding period of time. They were Lahul & Spiti from Himachal Pradesh; and Srinagar from Jammu & Kashmir. They recorded negative change during the corresponding period of time. It was matter of concern for policy makers and planners. Across districts of Western Himalayan Region, the highest change recorded in Kupwara (0.133) from Jammu & Kashmir and the lowest in Kulgam (0.001). Both district having the highest and the lowest change belong to Jammu & Kashmir. It reflected the disparity in development was very high in Jammu & Kashmir. It was eye opener for policy maker and planners. Five districts of the highest positive change were Kupwara, Leh, Punch, Anantnag and Ganderbal. All these districts belong to Jammu & Kashmir. Contrary to it, five districts of the least positive change were Kulgam, Reasi from Jammu & Kashmir; and Kinnaur, Mandi, Shimla from Himachal Pradesh.

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

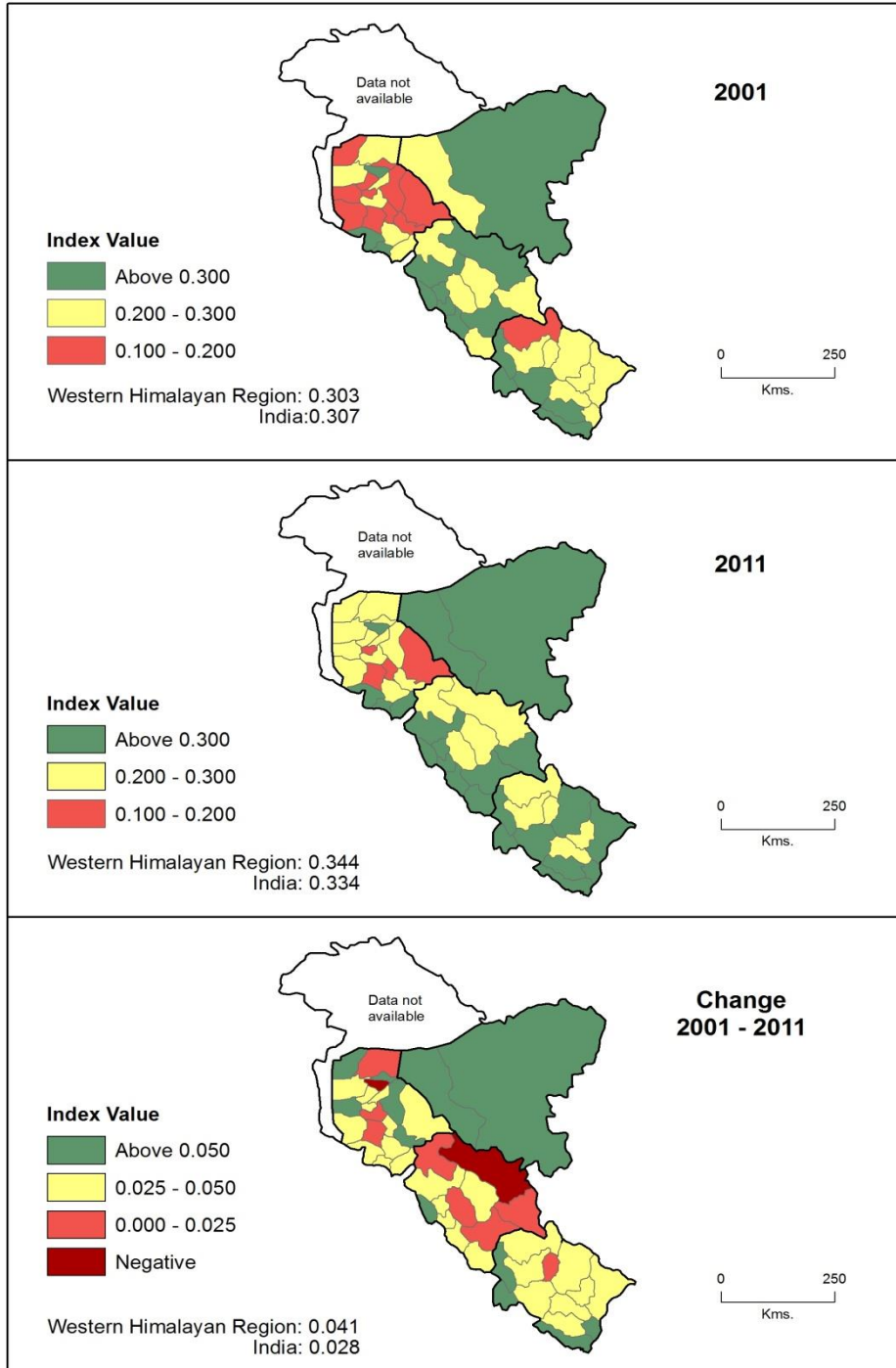


Fig. 1

Conclusions

Composite development of Western Himalayan Region recorded lower than India in 2001 but experienced higher in 2011. Across the states and union territories of Western Himalayan Region, the gap between the

highest and the lowest economic development index increased from 0.079 in 2001 to 0.100 in 2011. It reflected that the disparity in composite development increased during the first decade of 21st century. It was found that Jammu & Kashmir was lagging behind in overall development than Western Himalayan Region and India during 2001-2011. Contrary to it, Uttarakhand was the most developed of the region. All the states/union territories of the Western Himalayan Region increased their relative development index during 2001-2011. It reflects that every state/union territory of the Western Himalayan Region raised its relative development level during the corresponding period of time. Comparing with national average, all the states/union territories of the Western Himalayan Region recorded higher change in development index. It was observed that the Western Himalayan Region recorded more pace of development than India during 2001-2011.

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