

Social Development Disparity in Uttarakhand: A Geographical Perspective

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Abstract

This study has a fresh look on the social development disparity in Uttarakhand during post reform period (1991-2011). Uttarakhand recorded always higher female literacy than India during 1991-2011. It was found that Uttarakhand recorded always higher social development than India during corresponding period of time. India, Uttarakhand, and all districts of Uttarakhand recorded increase in relative social development index. Across the districts of the state, Dehradun recorded highest social development and the lowest in Uttarkashi. It was found that districts with higher social development in 1991 recorded lower change and vice-versa during 1991-2011. The convergence of social development had been recorded. Uttarkashi, Tehri Garhwal, Udham Singh Nagar, and Hardwar were lagging behind in social development. It was recommended that the policy makers and planners to give special attention for these districts to bridge the gap.

Keywords: social development, social development index, district.

Introduction

The hilly and mountainous areas within the jurisdiction Union of India have been categorized into two categories: hill states/union territories; and hilly and mountainous areas that form a part of the state. The hill areas which are self-contained politico-administrative units are defined as Special Category States. National Development Council (NDC) is the sole competent body to accord special category status to states. It was benchmark decision in the history of policy formulation in India relating the geographically disadvantaged states of Union of India during Fourth Five Year Plan. The preferential treatment is given as to Special Category States in terms of central assistance.

There were ten hill states in Union of India. These were Jammu & Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Sikkim, Arunachal Pradesh, Nagaland, Manipur, Mizoram, Tripura, and Meghalaya. Uttarakhand is the youngest hill states.

Education is one of the most important tools for expanding opportunities, building capabilities and safeguarding freedom. It enables person for making choices, participating in various walks of life, protecting oneself from discrimination and exploitation. The female literacy, in particular, improves the knowledge of a household to manage the basic care of the child, nutrition level and ensure health care. The well known proverb is “if you educate a man, you educate an individual, but if you educate a woman, you educate a nation.” It reflects the importance of female literacy. That was why, in this paper, the social development was captured through female literacy.

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 social development disparity in Uttarakhand.

Research Question

The following major research question was forwarded for investigation:

What were the trends and patterns of social development disparity in Uttarakhand?

Significance of the Study

The study of the trends and patterns of social development disparity in Uttarakhand 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 social development disparity in Uttarakhand was 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 disparity in development. It attracts the considerable research interest to know social development disparity during post reform period. The district level data were used for tracing intra-state social development disparity.

The Study Area

This study was focused on Uttarakhand. The north- western hilly region of the erstwhile Uttar Pradesh was carved out as Uttarakhand on 9th November, 2000. It is the youngest hill state and became 27th states on the political map of India. It is the youngest landlocked Indian hill state. The study area lies between 28°44'N to 31°28'N latitudes and 77°35'E to 81°01'E longitudes covering an area of 53483 Km². It shares 1.63 per cent of total geographical area of India and contains 0.84 per cent of total population of the country in 2011.

Database and Methodology

The secondary data of Census of India had been used to measure the social development disparity for three points of time i.e. 1991, 2001, and 2011. An attempt was made to adjust the district level data of 1991 in consonance with the administrative divisions of 2011 in order to make them comparable with 2011. It was herculean task but challenge was accepted.

Social development was measured through female literacy. Social development Index (SDI) is used to assess the level of social development. In the present study, social development disparity discussed at two spatial contexts: (i) Uttarakhand and (ii) intra-state.

The social development index worked out in relation to the highest and the lowest female literacy of districts in India. Across the districts in India, the highest female literacy was recorded in Kottayam (94.00 per cent) from Kerala in 1991 and Aizawl from Mizoram in 2001 and 2011. It was 96.26 and 97.67 per cent in 2001 and 2011 respectively. On contrary to it, Barmer (7.69 per cent) from Rajasthan recorded the lowest female literacy in 1991, Shrawasti (18.58 per cent) from Uttar Pradesh in 2001, and Alirajpur (30.29 per cent) from Madhya Pradesh in 2011.

SDI was calculated as under:

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

Development Index = 1- Deprivation Score.

It was separately done for three points of time viz. 1991, 2001, and 2011 to work out social development index. This method measure the relative development level. It measures the extent to which a region is lagging behind as compared to one at the top.

Limitations

Since measurement of social 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.

Social Development

Uttarakhand

Female literacy of the Uttarakhand was recorded 41.69 per cent in 1991. It was marginally higher than national average (39.29 per cent). The gap of female literacy between the state and India was 2.40 percentage points (Table 1). It reflected that females of the state were more literate than India. However, majority females were illiterate in the state as well as nation.

Female literacy of the Uttarakhand was recorded 59.63 per cent in 2001. It was higher than national average (53.67 per cent). The gap of female literacy between the state and India was 5.96 percentage points (Table 1). The gap of female literacy between the state and India had increased from 2.40 percentage points in 1991 to 5.96 percentage points in 2001. It reflected that the female literacy increased at higher pace in the state than nation. First time, majority females were literate in the state as well as nation.

After 20 years of reforms and about 10 years of formation of the state, female literacy of Uttarakhand was recorded 70.01 per cent in 2011(Table 1). Again, it was higher than national average (64.63 per cent). Seven out of ten females were literate in the state.

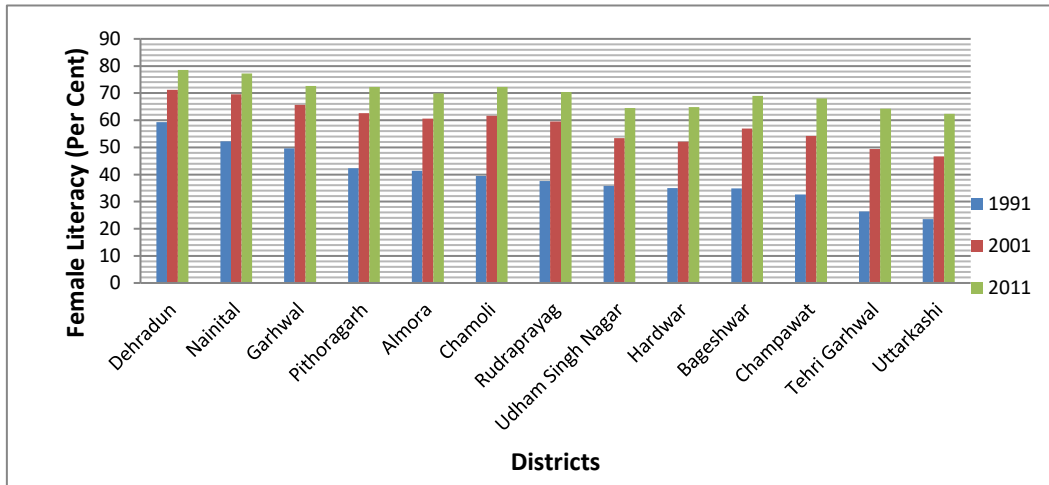
Table 1
India: Female Literacy in Districts of Uttarakhand, 1991-2011

Sr.	District	Literacy (per cent)			
		1991	2001	2011	Change 1991-2011
1	Dehradun	59.26	71.20	78.54	19.28
2	Nainital	52.17	69.55	77.29	25.12
3	Garhwal	49.64	65.70	72.60	22.96
4	Pithoragarh	42.33	62.59	72.29	29.96
5	Almora	41.30	60.56	69.93	28.63
6	Chamoli	39.44	61.63	72.32	32.88
7	Rudraprayag	37.58	59.57	70.35	32.77
8	Udham Singh Nagar	35.84	53.35	64.45	28.61
9	Hardwar	34.93	52.1	64.79	29.86
10	Bageshwar	34.91	56.98	69.03	34.12
11	Champawat	32.67	54.18	68.05	35.38
12	Tehri Garhwal	26.41	49.42	64.28	37.87
13	Uttarkashi	23.57	46.69	62.35	38.78
Uttarakhand		41.69	59.63	70.01	28.32
India		39.29	53.67	64.63	25.34

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

Diagram 1

India: Female Literacy in Districts of Uttarakhand, 1991-2011



In last 20 years (1991-2011), Uttarakhand recorded 28.32 percentage points change in female literacy. It was marginally higher than national average (25.34 per cent). It reflected that the hill state made more progress than nation during corresponding period of time. It was concluded from above observations that the hill state was socially more developed than India during corresponding period of time.

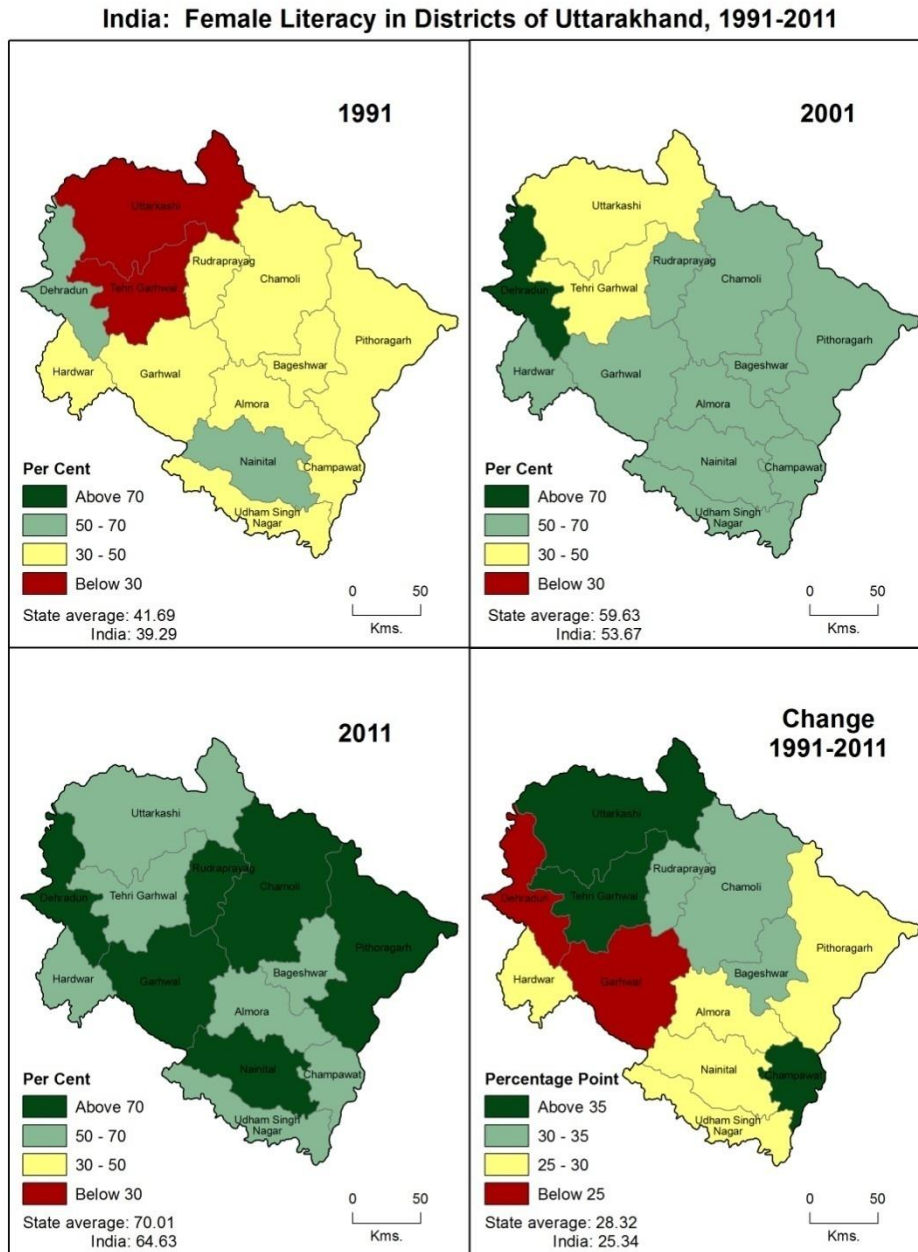
Intra-state Trends and Patterns

Among districts in Uttarakhand, Dehradun, Nainital, Garhwal, Pithoragarh, Almora, and Chamoli recorded higher female literacy than national average (39.29 per cent) in 1991 (Table 1). Contrary to it, Rudraprayag, Udham Singh Nagar, Hardwar, Bageshwar, Champawat, Tehri Garhwal, and Uttarkashi recorded lower female literacy. Comparing with the state average (41.69 per cent), four districts recorded higher female literacy. These were Dehradun, Nainital, Garhwal, and Pithoragarh. Across the districts of the state, Dehradun (59.26 per cent) recorded highest female literacy and the lowest in Uttarkashi (23.27 per cent). The gap between the highest and the lowest female literacy among districts was 35.99 percentage points. It was observed that there was wide variation of female literacy among districts of Uttarakhand at the time of adoption of reforms policy.

Across districts in Uttarakhand, nine out of 13 districts recorded higher female literacy than national average (53.67 per cent) in 2001. These were Dehradun, Nainital, Garhwal, Pithoragarh, Chamoli, Almora, Rudraprayag, Bageshwar, and Champawat. On the other hand, Udham Singh Nagar, Hardwar, Tehri Garhwal, and Uttarkashi recorded lower female literacy. Comparing with the state average (59.63 per cent), six out of 13 districts recorded higher female literacy. These were Dehradun, Nainital, Garhwal, Pithoragarh, Chamoli, and Almora. Contrary to it, Rudraprayag, Bageshwar, Champawat, Udham Singh Nagar, Hardwar, Tehri Garhwal, and Uttarkashi recorded lower female literacy. Across the districts of the state, Dehradun (71.20 per cent) recorded highest female literacy and the lowest in Uttarkashi (46.69 per cent). The gap between the highest and the lowest female literacy among districts was 24.51 percentage points. It decreased from 35.99 percentage points in 1991 to 24.51 percentage points in 2001 (Table 1). It was observed that the variation of female literacy among districts of Uttarakhand decreased during 1991-2001.

Across districts in Uttarakhand, ten out of 13 districts recorded higher female literacy than national average (64.63 per cent) in 2011. These were Dehradun, Nainital, Garhwal, Chamoli, Pithoragarh, Rudraprayag,

Almora, Bageshwar, Champawat, and Hardwar. On the other hand, Udham Singh Nagar, Tehri Garhwal, and Uttarkashi recorded lower female literacy.



Source: Primary Census Abstracts, Census of India 1991-2011. **Fig. 1**

Comparing with the state average (70.01 per cent), six out of 13 districts recorded higher female literacy. These were Dehradun, Nainital, Garhwal, Chamoli, Pithoragarh, and Rudraprayag. Contrary to it, Almora, Bageshwar, Champawat, Hardwar, Udham Singh Nagar, Tehri Garhwal, and Uttarkashi recorded lower female literacy. Across the districts of the state, Dehradun (78.54 per cent) recorded highest female literacy and the lowest in Uttarkashi (62.35 per cent). The gap between the highest and the lowest female literacy among districts was 16.19 percentage points. It decreased from 24.51 percentage points in 2001 to 16.19 percentage points in 2011 (Table 1). It was observed that the variation of female literacy among districts of Uttarakhand decreased during 2001-2011.

Uttarakhand (28.32 percentage points) recorded higher change in female literacy than national average (25.34 percentage points) during 1991-2011. Comparing with the national average and Uttarakhand, only three districts in Uttarakhand recorded lower change in female literacy. These were Nainital, Garhwal, and Dehradun. All remaining districts of the state recorded higher change in female literacy. Across the districts in Uttarakhand, Uttarkashi (38.78 percentage points) recorded the highest change and the lowest in Dehradun (19.28 percentage points).

It was observed that Uttarakhand recorded always higher female literacy than India during 1991-2011. During last 20 years, India, Uttarakhand, and all districts of Uttarakhand experienced improvement in female literacy. Across the districts of the state, Dehradun recorded highest female literacy and the lowest in Uttarkashi. Across the districts in Uttarakhand, Uttarkashi recorded the highest change and the lowest in Dehradun. It was found that districts with higher female literacy in 1991 recorded lower change and vice-versa during 1991-2011 (Table 1).

Level of Social Development

Uttarakhand

Social development index of Uttarakhand was recorded 0.394 in 1991. It was marginally higher than national average (0.366). The gap of SDI between the state and India was 0.028 (Table 2). It reflected that Uttarakhand was socially more developed than India.

Social development index of Uttarakhand was recorded 0.529 in 2001. It was higher than national average (0.452). The gap of SDI between the state and India was 0.077 (Table 2). The gap of SDI between the state and India had increased from 0.028 in 1991 to 0.077 in 2001. It reflected that SDI increased at higher pace in the state than nation.

After 20 years of reforms and about 10 years of formation of the state, SDI of Uttarakhand was recorded 0.590 in 2011. Again, it was higher than national average (0.510). It was observed that Uttarakhand was socially more developed than India.

Table 2

India: Social Development Index in Districts of Uttarakhand, 1991-2011

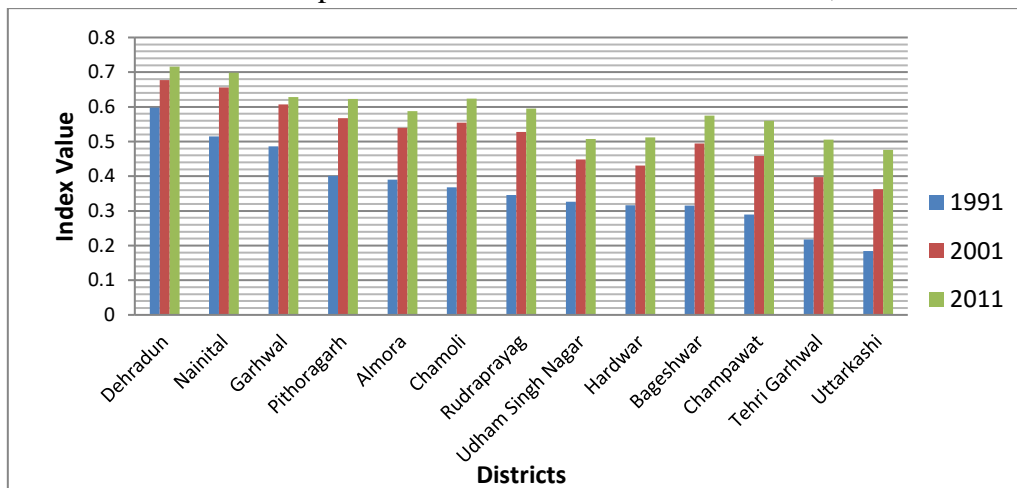
Sn.	District	Index Value			
		1991	2001	2011	Change 1991-2011
1	Dehradun	0.598	0.677	0.716	0.118
2	Nainital	0.515	0.656	0.698	0.183
3	Garhwal	0.486	0.607	0.628	0.142
4	Pithoragarh	0.401	0.567	0.623	0.222
5	Almora	0.390	0.540	0.588	0.198

6	Chamoli	0.368	0.554	0.624	0.256
7	Rudraprayag	0.346	0.528	0.595	0.249
8	Udham Singh Nagar	0.326	0.448	0.507	0.181
9	Hardwar	0.316	0.431	0.512	0.196
10	Bageshwar	0.315	0.494	0.575	0.260
11	Champawat	0.289	0.458	0.560	0.271
12	Tehri Garhwal	0.217	0.397	0.505	0.288
13	Uttarkashi	0.184	0.362	0.476	0.292
Uttarakhand		0.394	0.529	0.590	0.196
India		0.366	0.452	0.510	0.144

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

Diagram 2

India: Social Development Index in Districts of Uttarakhand, 1991-2011



In last 20 years (1991-2011), Uttarakhand recorded 0.196 change in SDI. It was marginally higher than national average (0.144). It reflected that the hill state made more progress than nation during corresponding period of time (Table 2). It was concluded from above observations that the hill was socially more developed than India during the corresponding period of time.

Intra-state Trends and Patterns

Among districts in Uttarakhand, Dehradun, Nainital, Garhwal, Pithoragarh, Almora, and Chamoli recorded higher Social Development Index than national average (0.366) in 1991. Contrary to it, Rudraprayag, Udham Singh Nagar, Hardwar, Bageshwar, Champawat, Tehri Garhwal, and Uttarkashi recorded lower SDI. Comparing with the state average (0.394), four districts recorded higher SDI. These were Dehradun, Nainital, Garhwal, and Pithoragarh. Across the districts of the state, Dehradun (0.598) recorded highest SDI and the lowest in Uttarkashi (0.184). The gap between the highest and the lowest SDI among districts was 0.414. It reflected that there was wide variation of SDI among districts of Uttarakhand at the time of adoption of reforms policy (Table 2).

Across districts in Uttarakhand, nine out of 13 districts recorded higher SDI than national average (0.452) in 2001. These were Dehradun, Nainital, Garhwal, Pithoragarh, Chamoli, Almora, Rudraprayag, Bageshwar, and Champawat. On the other hand, Udham Singh Nagar, Hardwar, Tehri Garhwal, and Uttarkashi recorded lower SDI. Comparing with the state average (0.529), six out of 13 districts recorded higher SDI. These were Dehradun, Nainital, Garhwal, Pithoragarh, Chamoli, and Almora. Contrary to it, Rudraprayag, Bageshwar, Champawat, Udham Singh Nagar, Hardwar, Tehri Garhwal, and Uttarkashi recorded lower SDI. Across the districts of the state, Dehradun (0.677) recorded highest SDI and the lowest in Uttarkashi (0.362) (Table 2). The gap between the highest and the lowest SDI among districts was 0.315. It decreased from 0.414 in 1991 to 0.315 in 2001. It was observed that the convergence of social development among districts of Uttarakhand recorded during 1991-2001.

Across districts in Uttarakhand, ten out of 13 districts recorded higher SDI than national average (0.510) in 2011. These were Dehradun, Nainital, Garhwal, Chamoli, Pithoragarh, Rudraprayag, Almora, Bageshwar, Champawat, and Hardwar. On the other hand, Udham Singh Nagar, Tehri Garhwal, and Uttarkashi recorded lower SDI. Comparing with the state average (0.590), six out of 13 districts recorded higher SDI. These were Dehradun, Nainital, Garhwal, Chamoli, Pithoragarh, and Rudraprayag. Contrary to it, Almora, Bageshwar, Champawat, Hardwar, Udham Singh Nagar, Tehri Garhwal, and Uttarkashi recorded lower SDI. Across the districts of the state, Dehradun (0.716) recorded highest SDI and the lowest in Uttarkashi (0.476) (Table 2). The gap between the highest and the lowest SDI among districts was 0.240. It increased from 0.315 in 2001 to 0.240 in 2011. Uttarkashi, Tehri Garhwal, Udham Singh Nagar, and Hardwar were lagging behind in social development. It was found that the variation of SDI among districts of Uttarakhand decreased during 2001-2011. It reflected that convergence of social development occurred during the corresponding period of time.

Uttarakhand (0.196) recorded higher change in SDI than national average (0.144) during 1991-2011. Comparing with the national average, eleven out of 13 districts in Uttarakhand recorded higher change in SDI. These were Uttarkashi, Tehri Garhwal, Champawat, Bageshwar, Chamoli, Rudraprayag, Pithoragarh, Almora, Hardwar, Nainital, and Udham Singh Nagar. On the other hand, two districts recorded lower change (Table 2). These were Garhwal, and Dehradun. Across the districts in Uttarakhand, Uttarkashi (0.292) recorded the highest change and the lowest in Dehradun (0.118).

It was observed that Uttarakhand recorded always higher social development than India during 1991-2011. During last 20 years, India, Uttarakhand, and all districts of Uttarakhand recorded increase in relative social development index. Across the districts of the state, Dehradun recorded highest social development and the lowest in Uttarkashi. Across the districts in Uttarakhand, Uttarkashi recorded the highest change in social development and the lowest in Dehradun. It was found that districts with higher social development in 1991 recorded lower change and vice-versa during 1991-2011.

Conclusions

Uttarakhand recorded always higher female literacy than India during 1991-2011. India, Uttarakhand, and all districts of Uttarakhand experienced improvement in female literacy. Across the districts of the state, Dehradun recorded highest female literacy and the lowest in Uttarkashi. Uttarakhand recorded always higher social development than India during corresponding period of time. India, Uttarakhand, and all districts of Uttarakhand recorded increase in relative social development index. Across the districts of the state, Dehradun recorded highest social development and the lowest in Uttarkashi. Uttarkashi, Tehri Garhwal, Udham Singh Nagar, and Hardwar were lagging behind in social development. Across the

districts in Uttarakhand, Uttarkashi recorded the highest change in social development and the lowest in Dehradun. It was found that districts with higher social development in 1991 recorded lower change and vice-versa during 1991-2011.

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