



Research Paper

Topic: Rural Development Disparity In Uttarakhand: A Geographical Perspective

P. S. KUTWAL

Associate Professor,
Govt. College Bilaspur,
District Bilaspur (H.P.) 174001

Abstracts

This research has a fresh look on the rural development disparity in Uttarakhand during 2001-2011. The hill state was rurally more developed than India during 2001-2011. It was observed that Uttarakhand recorded always higher non-agriculture workforce than India during 1991-2011. During last 20 years, Uttarakhand experienced persistent improvement in non-agriculture workforce but at snail speed. However, across the districts of the state, five districts recorded negative change in rural development index. These were Almora, Pithoragarh, Rudraprayag, Uttarkashi, and Chamoli. It is a matter of concern and eye opener for policy makers. Hence, it is recommended that policy interventions should be space specific and gap oriented.

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I. Introduction

India lives in rural areas. About sixty nine per cent population of the country inhabits in rural settlements in 2011. As far as, Uttarakhand was concerned, nearly seventy per cent population live 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. In this study, a spatial pattern and trend of rural development disparity in hill state was presented. Development disparity is an omnipresent phenomenon at global, continental, country, and regional level.

Objective

The major objective of this research paper was to:
Examine the trends and patterns of rural development disparity in Uttarakhand.

Research Question

The following major research question was forwarded for investigation:
What were the trends and patterns of rural development disparity in Uttarakhand?

Significance of the Study

The study of the trends and patterns of rural 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 rural 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 rural development disparity during post reform period. The district level data were used for tracing intra-state rural 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.

II. Database and Methodology

The secondary data of Census of India had been used to measure the rural 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.

Rural development was inferred with non-agricultural workforce. Rural development Index (RDI) was used to assess the level of rural development. In the present study, rural development disparity discussed at two spatial contexts: (i) Uttarakhand and (ii) intra-state.

Rural development index worked out in relation to the highest and the lowest non-agricultural workforce of districts of India. Across the districts of India, the highest non-agricultural workforce recorded in Nilgiri (91.73per cent) from Tamilnadu in 1991, East Delhi from Delhi in 2001 and 2011. It was 95.94 per cent and 94.44 per cent in 2001 and 2011 respectively. On contrary to it, Jhabua from Madhya Pradesh recorded the lowest non-agricultural workforce in 1991 and 2001. It was 3.80 per cent and 5.76 per cent respectively. Alirajpur (4.18 per cent) from Madhya Pradesh recorded the lowest in India in 2011

RDI 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 rural 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 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 Uttarakhand

Non-agriculture workforce of the Uttarakhand was recorded 20.01 per cent in 1991. It was marginally higher than national average (17.82 per cent). The gap of non-agriculture workforce between the state and India was 2.19 percentage points (Table 1). It reflected that Uttarakhand experienced more transformation rural economy than nation.

Uttarakhand recorded non-agriculture workforce 22.30 per cent in 2001. It was higher than national average (21.72 per cent). The gap of non-agriculture workforce between the state and India was 0.58 percentage points (Table 1). The gap of non-agriculture workforce between the state and India decreased from 2.19 percentage points in 1991 to 0.58 percentage point in 2001. It reflected that the transformation of rural economy was at higher pace in the state than nation.

Table 1
Non-Agricultural Workforce in Districts of Uttarakhand, 1991-2011.

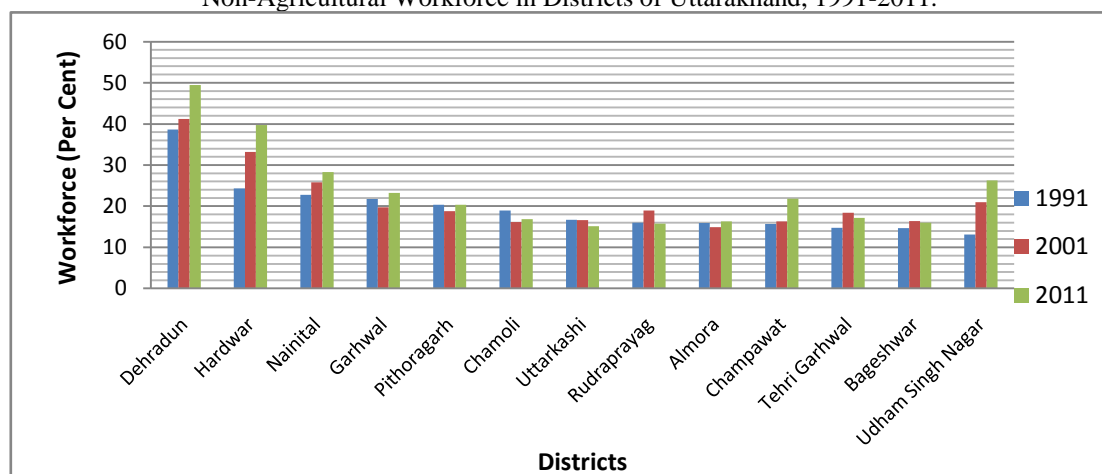
Sr.	District	Workforce (in per cent)			
		1991	2001	2011	Change 1991-2011
1	Dehradun	38.63	41.22	49.50	10.87
2	Hardwar	24.28	33.19	39.74	15.46
3	Nainital	22.75	25.77	28.31	5.56
4	Garhwal	21.72	19.75	23.21	1.49
5	Pithoragarh	20.34	18.81	20.33	-0.01

6	Chamoli	18.97	16.14	16.84	-2.13
7	Uttarkashi	16.68	16.61	15.15	-1.53
8	Rudraprayag	15.96	18.95	15.76	-0.20
9	Almora	15.92	14.86	16.29	0.37
10	Champawat	15.69	16.27	21.81	6.12
11	Tehri Garhwal	14.70	18.36	17.15	2.45
12	Bageshwar	14.62	16.38	15.94	1.32
13	Udham Singh Nagar	13.11	20.98	26.26	13.15
Uttarakhand		20.01	22.30	25.78	5.77
India		17.82	21.72	20.67	2.85

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

Diagram 1

Non-Agricultural Workforce in Districts of Uttarakhand, 1991-2011.



After 20 years of reforms and about 10 years of formation of the state, non-agriculture workforce of the Uttarakhand was recorded 25.78 per cent in 2011. Again, it was higher than national average (20.67 per cent). The gap of non-agriculture workforce between the state and India increased from 0.58 percentage point in 2001 to 5.11 percentage points in 2011. It was observed that the transformation of rural economy was at higher pace in the state. However, India experienced negative growth during the corresponding period of time. Uttarakhand recorded always higher non-agriculture workforce than national average during 1991-2011. It was found that Uttarakhand was rurally more developed than India.

Intra-state Trends and Patterns

Across districts in Uttarakhand, Dehradun, Hardwar, Nainital, Garhwal, Pithoragarh, and Chamoli recorded higher non-agriculture workforce than national average (17.82 per cent) in 1991. Contrary to it, Uttarkashi, Rudraprayag, Almora, Champawat, Tehri Garhwal, Bageshwar, and Udham Singh recorded lower non-agriculture workforce. Comparing with the state average (20.01 per cent), five out of 13 districts recorded higher non-agriculture workforce. These were Dehradun, Hardwar, Nainital, Garhwal, and Pithoragarh. Across the districts of the state, Dehradun (38.63 per cent) recorded highest non-agriculture workforce and the lowest in Udham Singh Nagar (13.11 per cent). The gap between the highest and the lowest non-agriculture workforce among districts was 25.52 percentage points (Table 1). It was observed that there was wide variation in non-agriculture workforce among districts of Uttarakhand at the time of adoption of reforms policy.

Across districts in Uttarakhand, three out of 13 districts recorded higher non-agriculture workforce than national average (21.72 per cent) and state average (22.30 per cent) in 2001. These were Dehradun, Hardwar, and Nainital. On the other hand, Udham Singh Nagar, Garhwal, Rudraprayag, Pithoragarh, Tehri Garhwal, Uttarkashi, Bageshwar, Champawat, Chamoli, and Almora recorded lower non-agriculture workforce. Across the districts of the state, Dehradun (41.22 per cent) recorded highest non-agriculture workforce and the lowest in Almora (14.86 per cent). The gap between the highest and the lowest non-agriculture workforce among districts was 26.36 percentage points. It increased from 25.52 percentage points in 1991 to 26.36 percentage points in 2001 (Table 1). It was observed that the variation of non-agriculture workforce among districts of Uttarakhand increased during 1991-2001.

Six out of 13 districts in Uttarakhand recorded higher non-agriculture workforce than national average (20.67 per cent) in 2011. These were Dehradun, Hardwar, Nainital, Udham Singh Nagar, Garhwal, and Champawat. On the other hand, Pithoragarh, Tehri Garhwal, Chamoli, Almora, Bageshwar, Rudraprayag, and

Uttarkashi recorded lower non-agriculture workforce. Comparing with the state average (25.78 per cent), four out of 13 districts recorded higher non-agriculture workforce. These were Dehradun, Hardwar, Nainital, and Udham Singh Nagar. Against it, Garhwal, Champawat, Pithoragarh, Tehri Garhwal, Chamoli, Almora, Bageshwar, Rudraprayag, and Uttarkashi recorded lower non-agriculture workforce. Across the districts of the state, Dehradun (49.50 per cent) recorded highest non-agriculture workforce and the lowest in Uttarkashi (15.15 per cent). The gap between the highest and the lowest non-agriculture workforce among districts was 34.35 percentage points. It increased from 26.36 percentage points in 2001 to 34.35 percentage points in 2011 (Table 1). It was observed that the variation of non-agriculture workforce among districts of Uttarakhand increased during 2001-2011.

Uttarakhand (5.77 percentage points) recorded higher change in non-agriculture workforce than national average (2.85 percentage points) during 1991-2011. Comparing with the national average five out of 13 districts in Uttarakhand recorded higher change in non-agriculture workforce. These were Hardwar, Udham Singh Nagar, Dehradun, Champawat, and Nainital. On the other hand, Tehri Garhwal, Garhwal, Bageshwar, Almora, Pithoragarh, Rudraprayag, Uttarkashi, and Chamoli recorded lower change. Across the districts in Uttarakhand, Hardwar (15.46 percentage points) recorded the highest positive change and the lowest in Almora (0.37 percentage point). Four districts recorded negative change (Table 1).

It was observed that Uttarakhand recorded always higher non-agriculture workforce than India during 1991-2011. During last 20 years, Uttarakhand experienced persistent

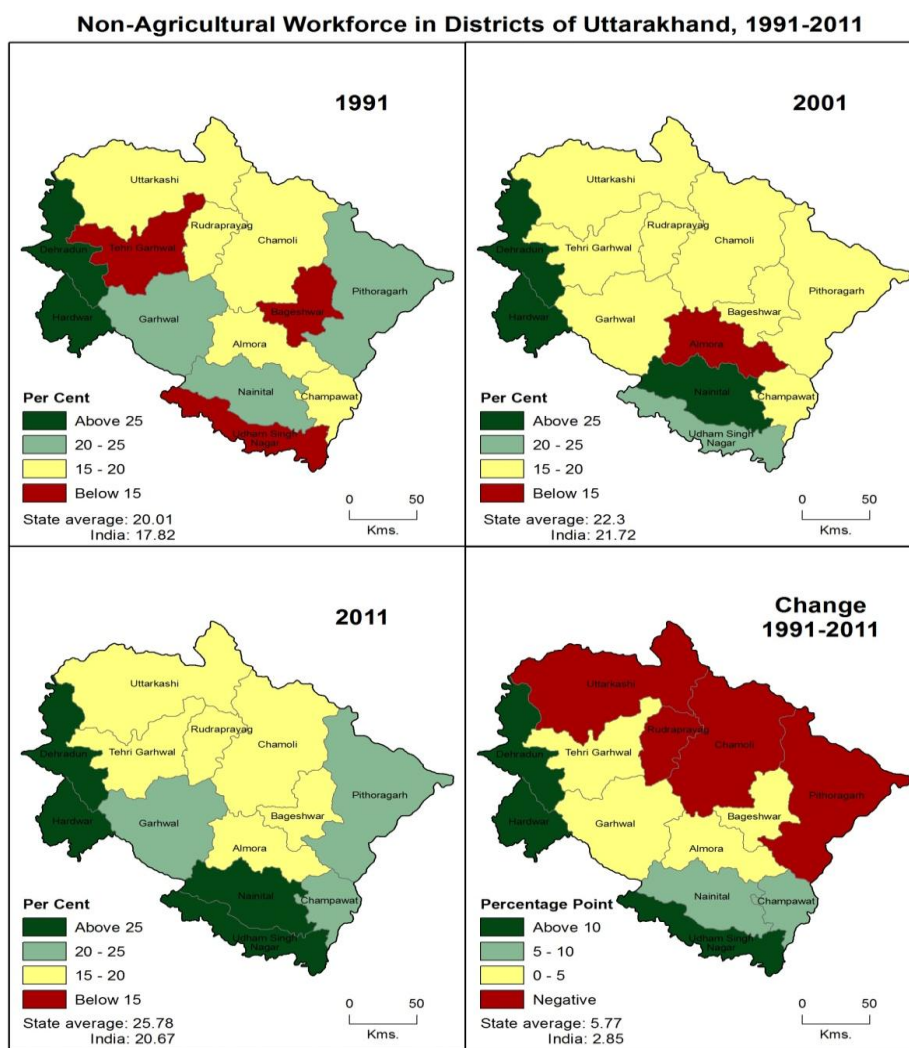


Fig. 1

improvement in non-agriculture workforce. However, across the districts of the state, four districts recorded negative change. These were Pithoragarh, Rudraprayag, Uttarkashi, and Chamoli. It was a matter of concern and eye opener for policy makers. Hence, it was recommended that policy interventions should be space specific and gap oriented.

Level of Rural Development

Uttarakhand

Rural development index of Uttarakhand was recorded 0.184 in 1991. It was marginally higher than national average (0.161). The gap of RDI between the state and India was 0.023 (Table 2). It reflected that Uttarakhand was rurally more developed than India.

Rural development index of Uttarakhand was recorded 0.183 in 2001. It was higher than national average (0.177). The gap of RDI between the state and India was 0.006 (Table 2). The gap of RDI between the state and India had decreased from 0.023 in 1991 to 0.006 in 2001. It reflected that RDI increased at higher pace in nation. However, Uttarakhand recorded negative change during the corresponding period of time.

Table 2
Rural Development Index in Districts of Uttarakhand, 1991-2011

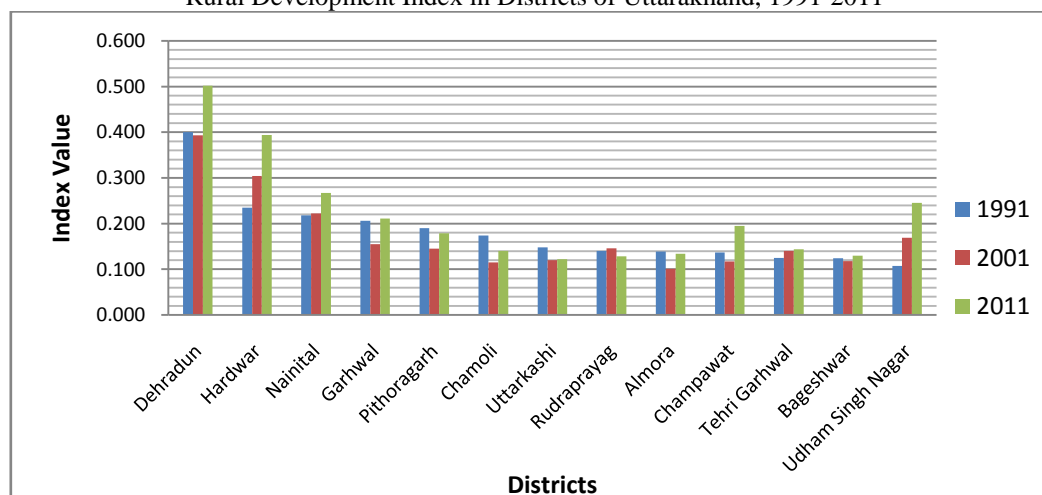
Sn.	District	Index Value			
		1991	2001	2011	Change 1991-2011
1	Dehradun	0.400	0.393	0.502	0.102
2	Hardwar	0.235	0.304	0.394	0.159
3	Nainital	0.218	0.222	0.267	0.049
4	Garhwal	0.206	0.155	0.211	0.005
5	Pithoragarh	0.190	0.145	0.179	-0.011
6	Chamoli	0.174	0.115	0.140	-0.034
7	Uttarkashi	0.148	0.120	0.122	-0.026
8	Rudraprayag	0.140	0.146	0.128	-0.012
9	Almora	0.139	0.101	0.134	-0.005
10	Champawat	0.137	0.117	0.195	0.058
11	Tehri Garhwal	0.125	0.140	0.144	0.019
12	Bageshwar	0.124	0.118	0.130	0.006
13	Udham Singh Nagar	0.107	0.169	0.245	0.138
Uttarakhand		0.184	0.183	0.239	0.055
India		0.161	0.177	0.183	0.022

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

After 20 years of reforms and about 10 years of formation of the state, RDI of Uttarakhand was recorded 0.239 in 2011. Again, it was higher than national average (0.183). It was observed that Uttarakhand was rurally more developed than India. The gap of RDI between the state and India was 0.056. The gap of RDI between the state and India had increased from 0.006 in 2001 to 0.056 in 2011 (Table 2). It reflected that the hill state experienced higher pace of rural development during first decade of 21st century.

Diagram 2

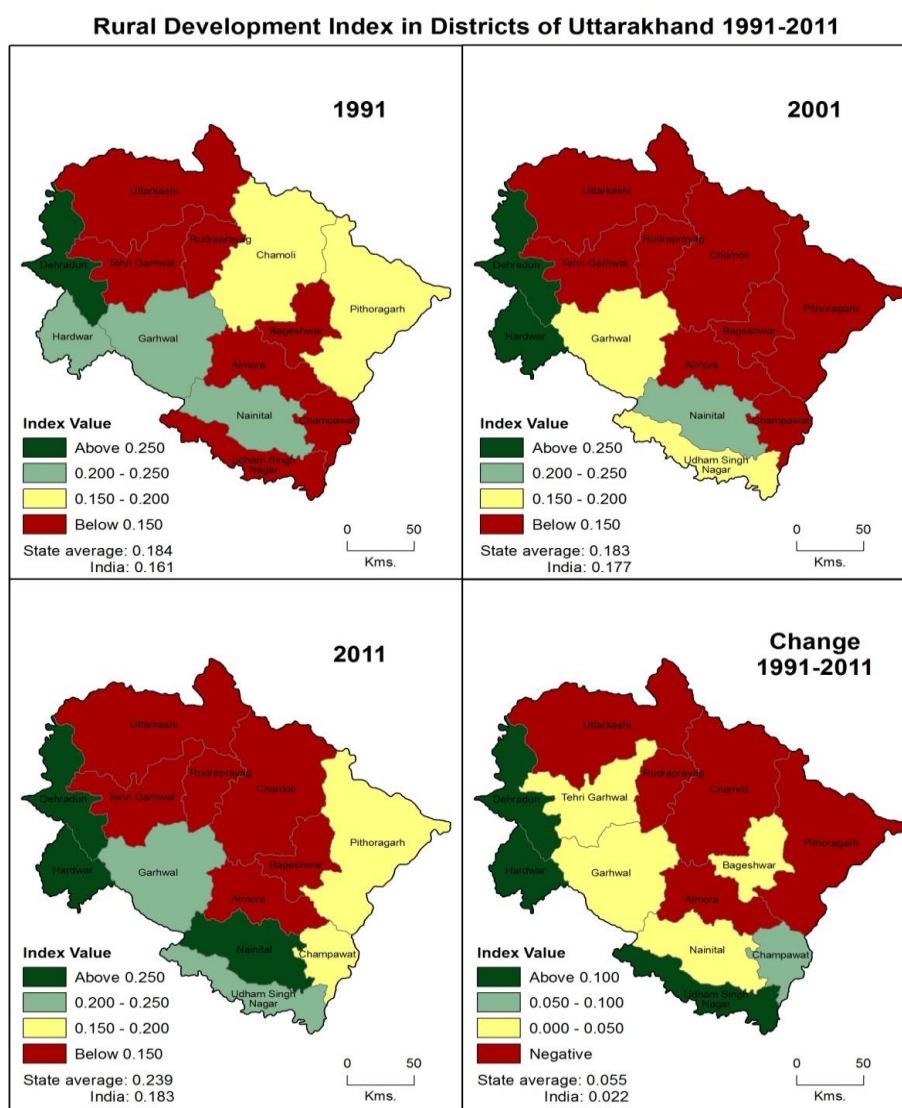
Rural Development Index in Districts of Uttarakhand, 1991-2011



Intra-state Trends and Patterns

Among districts in Uttarakhand, Dehradun, Hardwar, Nainital, Garhwal, Pithoragarh, and Chamoli recorded higher RDI than national average (0.161) in 1991. Contrary to it, Uttarkashi, Rudraprayag, Almora, Champawat, Tehri Garhwal, Bageshwar, and Udham Singh recorded lower rural development index. Comparing with the state average (0.184), five out of 13 districts recorded higher RDI. These were Dehradun, Hardwar, Nainital, Garhwal, and Pithoragarh. Across the districts of the state, Dehradun (0.400) recorded the highest RDI and the lowest in Udham Singh Nagar (0.107). The gap between the highest and the lowest RDI among districts was 0.293 (Table 2). It was observed that there was wide variation in RDI among districts of Uttarakhand at the time of adoption of reforms policy.

Across districts in Uttarakhand, three out of 13 districts recorded higher RDI than national average (0.177) and state average (0.183) in 2001. These were Dehradun, Hardwar, and Nainital. On the other hand, Udham Singh Nagar, Garhwal, Rudraprayag, Pithoragarh, Tehri Garhwal, Uttarkashi, Bageshwar, Champawat, Chamoli, and Almora recorded lower RDI. Across the districts of the state, Dehradun (0.393) recorded highest RDI and the lowest in Almora (0.101). The gap between the highest and the lowest in RDI was 0.292. It decreased from 0.293 in 1991 to 0.292 in 2001 (Table 2). It was observed that the variation of RDI among districts of Uttarakhand marginally decreased during 1991-2001.



Source: Primary Census Abstracts, Census of India 1991-2011. Fig. 2

Six out of 13 districts in Uttarakhand recorded higher RDI than national average (0.183) in 2011. These were Dehradun, Hardwar, Nainital, Udham Singh Nagar, Garhwal, and Champawat. On the other hand, Pithoragarh, Tehri Garhwal, Chamoli, Almora, Bageshwar, Rudraprayag, and Uttarkashi recorded lower RDI. Comparing with the state average (0.239), four out of 13 districts recorded higher RDI. These were Dehradun, Hardwar, Nainital, and Udham Singh Nagar. Against it, Garhwal, Champawat, Pithoragarh, Tehri Garhwal, Chamoli, Almora, Bageshwar, Rudraprayag, and Uttarkashi recorded lower RDI. Across the districts of the state, Dehradun (0.502) recorded highest non-agriculture workforce and the lowest in Uttarkashi (0.122). The gap between the highest and the lowest non-agriculture workforce among districts was 0.380. It increased from 0.292 in 2001 to 0.380 in 2011. It was observed that the variation of RDI among districts of Uttarakhand increased during 2001-2011 (Table 2). It reflected divergence in rural development across the districts of the hill state. It was matter of concern for policy makers.

Uttarakhand (0.055) recorded higher change in RDI than national average (0.022) during 1991-2011. Comparing with the national average five out of 13 districts in Uttarakhand recorded higher change in RDI. These were Hardwar, Udham Singh Nagar, Dehradun, Champawat, and Nainital. On the other hand, Tehri Garhwal, Garhwal, Bageshwar, Almora, Pithoragarh, Rudraprayag, Uttarkashi, and Chamoli recorded lower change. Across the districts in Uttarakhand, Hardwar (0.159) recorded the highest positive change and the lowest in Garhwal (0.005). It was observed that Uttarakhand recorded always higher RDI than India during 1991-2011 (Table 2). During last 20 years, Uttarakhand experienced improvement in RDI. However, across the districts of the state, five districts recorded negative change. These were Almora, Pithoragarh, Rudraprayag, Uttarkashi, and Chamoli. It is a matter of concern and eye opener for policy makers. Hence, it is recommended that policy interventions should be space specific and gap oriented.

III. Conclusion

It was observed that Uttarakhand recorded always higher non-agriculture workforce than India during 1991-2011. During last 20 years, Uttarakhand experienced persistent improvement in non-agriculture workforce but at snail speed. However, across the districts of the state, five districts recorded negative change in RDI. These were Almora, Pithoragarh, Rudraprayag, Uttarkashi, and Chamoli. The gap between the highest and the lowest RDI across districts increased from 0.293 in 1991 to 0.380 in 2011. It was observed that the variation of RDI among districts of Uttarakhand increased during corresponding period of time. It reflected divergence in rural development across the districts of the hill state.

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