

## **Demographic Characteristics of Urban Uttarakhand**

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### **ABSTRACT**

The paper attempts to evaluate the impacts of urbanisation on the composition and features of urban demography. Besides, it measures how the process of urbanisation makes urban sphere utterly different from its surrounding. The author used the district wise data from census 2001-11, and report of the department of urban development of Uttarakhand government. The paper evaluates districts wise pattern of some important demographic characteristics like Sex ratio, work participation rate, dependency ratio, and the literacy rate of urban Uttarakhand. The data on the selected indicators makes it open that urban Uttarakhand has a different set of demographic characteristics than the rest of the state. Uttarakhand is a Himalayan state which has almost more than eighty per cent of the area is mountainous, which makes to live a hard life for the people. The state has registered very high rural-urban stream of migration, especially male dominant migrants, and the primary reason for this stream is the high rate of unemployment, lack of education and medical facilities. The urban areas, on the other hand, which provide much better facilities are overcrowded and its demographic characteristics have changed completely. This changing demography has both positive and negative impacts on the social, economic, cultural, and political urban environment.

**Key Words :** Demographic characteristics, Dependency ratio, Sex ratio, Work participation, Literacy rate

### **INTRODUCTION**

Demography is the study of the population; it is the statistics of the human population that is subjected to spatiotemporal change associated with birth, death, and migration (Narayana, 2001). Demographic characteristics of a country provide an overview of its population, its composition in terms of the age-sex group, work participation, literacy, dependency rate, and so on. Valuating the demographic characteristics of any region, we could frame various social and economic schemes and future source of the human capital of the areas (Patil *et al.*, 2011).

Demographic characteristics of a region are determined by, physical, socio-economic, and environmental factors (Kundu, 2004). India, in terms of area, is the seventh largest country in the world, has an area of 2.4 per cent total area of the world but supports over 17.64 per cent population of the world. Indian

population has its distinctive features, which have presented briefly here. The demographic profile of India has been changed relatively slow but steady. Important features of the Indian population are following. (a) Rapidly increasing population density, this increased from 117 persons per sq. km. in 1951 to 382 persons in 2011, (b) The sex ratio in India is unfavourable to female according to 2011 census total sex ratio total number of female per thousands of male was 940 in 2011, which was slightly good from 934 in 2011. Nevertheless, child sex ratio number of female to per thousands of male in the age group 0-6 decrease from 927 to 914 from 2001 to 2011, (c) The age composition of the Indian population is bottom massive; it implies that persons in the age group 0-14 are relatively high, (d) The predominance of the rural population, in India still 68.84 percentage of the population is rural and (e) With comparison to developed countries, India has a low level of literacy 74.04 %, low life expectancy 69.89 years, and low work participation rate

of 39.79 % in 2011.

Uttarakhand was formed just one and a half decade ago has diverse demographic, geographical, socio-economic, and cultural setup. The state has a total geographical area 53483 Sq. Km. and out of which 86 per cent is mountainous and 14 per cent is the plain area. Uttarakhand is a predominantly rural state that is rapidly urbanizing and therefore, the demographic features also changing accordingly (Sati, 2013). According to the 2011 Census are population 1,01,16,752 persons recording 19.17 per cent of growth during 2001-2011, which is higher than national average 17.64, the sex ratio of the state is 963 female per thousands of male. The percentage of the urban population in 2011 has reached 31.5 from 26 per cent in 2001. The total work participation rate (the number of total workers/total population in working age) has slightly decreased by 66 per cent to 64 per cent from 2001 to 2011. Total literacy rate in the state has increased from 71.62 to 78.82 per cent, this is higher than the national average, however, and there are wide gender and the rural-urban gap in the literacy (Census of India, 2011).

Urban areas provide various opportunities like educational facilities, employment, transportation facilities etc. to the people, which attract the immigrants. Therefore, urban areas have a very high density of population and have different demographic features like sex ratio, dependency ratio, work participation rate, literacy rate, and other social and economic characteristics.

#### **Selection of demographic features:**

In the present study, five major demographic characteristics *viz.*, Literacy rate, Sex ratio, Work participation rate, Dependency ratio, and Religious composition of the population have selected to analyse. The comparative analysis has done with the total and rural scenario of the selected indicators.

All indicators are secondary sourced and are selected based on data availability and the indicators which can also cover the socioeconomic framework of the society. Sex ratio indicates the attitude of society towards the girl's child; literacy rate denotes the socio-economic development of people, work participation rate implies the participation of people in the state economy, and dependency ratio implies to age structure and proportion of the economically productive population. Thus, these five above-mentioned demographic indicators have chosen to analyse for urban Uttarakhand, and their

comparative study is also done with the total and rural level.

### **DATA SOURCE**

The data on the selected indicators are taken from the census of India, reports of NFHS, department of urban development government of Uttarakhand. Census of India, 2001 to 2011, B-1 series, main and marginal workers tables Uttarakhand. Census of India 2001 to 2011, A- series general population tables of Uttarakhand, Water and sanitation state series 2012, Uttarakhand, 2001, and 2011 Primary Census Abstracts, of Uttarakhand.

### **DATA ANALYSIS AND DISCUSSION**

The sex ratio of in any country reflects its attitude of society towards girl child; the low sex ratio is one of significant concern not only in demographic study but also in all social and economic disciplines. The urban demographic composition of an area is always different from others, and this trend is more dominant in developing countries. Because developing countries like India where rural-urban male migration pattern dominant compare to other developed countries, however, with the development of social and economic conditions, this pattern is changing. But it still plays a major role in urban India demography. The overall sex ratio of state has a marginal improvement, but there is a vast gap between the total and urban sex ratio across the state (Mangain and Mehta, 2006). Sex ratio is good almost in all hilly districts but indicating a clear sign of declining sex ratio, which may further decline in coming future. On the other hand, terai districts have a marginal improvement in the total sex ratio, which is a good demographic sign for the state.

The urban sex ratio of Uttarakhand is low compared to the total sex ratio in almost all districts. However, there is a significant improvement in urban sex ratio in all districts. This improvement in urban sex ratio is due to several push factors like unemployment, lack of health, education, and infrastructural facilities, and so on. Moreover, female migration from rural to urban for education is one of the dominant factors for improvement in urban sex ratio (Kala and Kumar, 2013).

Urban sex ratio is lowest in the hilly districts, where urban population primarily comprises male because these urban areas are mainly cantonment towns, Municipal Bodies, and district headquarters where the male working population with their family resided.

**Table 1 : District wise total and urban sex ratio of Uttarakhand 2001-11**

State/Districts	Total Sex Ratio		Total Urban Sex Ratio	
	2001	2011	2001	2011
Uttarakhand	962	963	845	884
Uttarakashi	941	958	726	838
Chamoli	1016	1019	716	767
Rudraprayag	1115	1114	444	697
Tehri Garhwal	1049	1077	628	817
Dehradun	887	902	863	886
Garhwal	1106	1103	821	917
Pithoragarh	1031	1020	824	913
Bageshware	1105	1090	810	927
Almora	1146	1139	774	848
Champawat	1021	980	849	890
Nainital	906	934	878	912
Udham Singh Nagar	902	920	876	903
Hardwar	865	880	844	866

Source: Census of India 2001-11

Literacy is defined as a person aged seven and above who can read and write with understanding in any language, is treated as literate. Literacy plays a significant role in the socio-economic and human development of the region. Hence, literacy not only empowers individuals and communities, but it also improves quality of life, reduces poverty, helps to attain gender equality, and ensures peace, democracy, and sustainable development.

Female literacy plays a vital role in society. According to the UN report, education for women is the single way to improve health, and lives of a family and a community. An educated woman is an influential person;

she has the power to educate the family, contribute economically, and offer valuable inputs for improvement on the social front. Uttarakhand has a high total, and female literacy rate compares to the national average, but there is a wide gap with the female literacy in Uttarakhand. There is a wide gap between rural and urban female literacy.

The districts wise urban and total literacy given in table number two makes it clear that there is a very wide gap between total and urban literacy. Urban literacy is highest in the hilly districts like Almora, Chamoli, Pithoragarh, and Tehri Garhwal, while Terai districts have

**Table 2 : District wise total and Urban Literacy Rate Uttarakhand 2001-11**

State/Districts	Total literacy		Urban literacy	
	2001	2011	2001	2011
Uttarakhand	71.62	78.82	81.44	84.45
Uttarkashi	65.71	75.81	86.61	88.72
Chamoli	75.43	82.65	87.58	91.99
Rudraprayag	73.65	81.30	82.38	90.03
Tehri Garhwal	66.73	76.36	86.07	88.77
Dehradun	78.98	84.25	86.19	88.27
Garhwal	77.49	82.02	87.79	90.36
Pithoragarh	75.95	82.25	90.19	91.97
Bageshwar	71.29	80.01	86.68	90.74
Almora	73.64	80.47	91.67	94.35
Champawat	70.39	79.83	80.05	82.65
Nainital	78.36	83.88	82.10	85.26
Udham Singh Nagar	64.86	73.10	71.00	75.89
Hardwar	63.75	73.43	77.38	81.91

Source: Census of India 2001-2011

high per cent of urban population and hence less per cent of literacy rate (Sati, 2013). The pattern of urban literacy has an inverse relationship with the level of urbanisation in Uttarakhand as most urbanizing terai districts have low urban literacy while hilly districts where the urban population is low have a high rate of urban literacy. The high urban literacy in hilly districts is due to a low base of urban population as the literacy rate is calculated as the percentage of literate to total urban population above six years (Aijaj, 2006).

The work participation rate is defined as the percentage of total workers to the total working population. Work participation rate measures the active portion of an economy's labour force. The participation rate refers to the number of people who either are employed or are actively looking for work. Uttarakhand has more than sixty per cent of the working population with active participation in the economy. Table 3 makes it clear that the total work participation rate is highest in hilly or rural population dominant districts. The hilly districts like Almora, Bageshware, Uttarkashi, and Rudraprayag have highest total work participation rate. In opposite of hilly districts terai districts where most of the population is urban have low work participation rate. The lowest work participation rates have recorded in the Dehradun capital of state followed by Hardwar, Udham Singh Nagar, and Nainital.

The level of socio-economic development, skilled labour, job opportunities, monthly pay, and the working environment determines the work participation rate in

any society. Work participation in urban Uttarakhand declined due to the increasing level of household income, high level of skilled labour in the cities, preference for high paying jobs, and low-level participation in primary sectors (Sati, 2013).

Female work participation is dominant in the rural and mountainous region of the state, and hence, it raises the total work participation rate of all districts. The female workforce primarily participates in all primary activities in the rural areas where the unskilled labour force is dominant while in urban areas, this does not happen. Thus the dominance of primary activities, skilled labour, increasing level of education, incomes etc. are some of the dominant factors for wide difference in the total and urban work participation rate (Chopra, 2014).

Dependency ratio measures the number of dependents (aged 0-14 and over the age of 60) to the total population (aged 15-59). It evaluates the proportion of the workable population to non-workable population. However, there are many exceptions to this ratio, as it does not consider the work done by people below fifteen years and above sixty years. The total dependency ratio in Uttarakhand has come down from 60 to 51 per cent, from 2001 to 2011, which is low than national average 53.67. District wise dependency ratio in table 4, shows that it is high in the hilly districts or one can say the districts dominated by the rural population, while Terai districts have low dependency ratio in comparison with hilly districts.

Consideration of dependency ratio is very

**Table 3 : District wise total and urban work participation rate Uttarakhand 2001-2011**

State/Districts	Total Work Participation Rate		Urban Work Participation Rate	
	2001	2011	2001	2011
Uttarakhand	66.26	64.11	47.28	50.02
Uttarakashi	82.96	81.96	53.58	51.52
Chamoli	80.56	77.82	57.17	58.27
Rudraprayag	82.20	81.28	72.61	66.97
Tehri Garhwal	80.67	79.52	56.26	49.40
Dehradun	51.63	53.94	46.35	51.19
Garhwal	69.97	68.71	43.76	45.57
Pithoragarh	77.43	75.90	47.47	44.90
Bageshwar	88.31	83.05	51.57	46.55
Almora	86.68	83.57	48.56	49.14
Champawat	75.20	66.67	50.05	47.06
Nainital	62.61	63.45	45.35	48.76
Udham Singh Nagar	58.50	59.48	48.72	50.45
Hardwar	54.23	51.76	45.96	49.28

Source: Census of India 2001-11

**Table 4 : District wise Total and Urban Dependency rate Uttarakhand 2001-2011**

State/Districts	Total Dependency Ratio		Urban Dependency Ratio	
	2001	2011	2001	2011
Uttarakhand	60	51	48	42
Uttarakashi	60	56	46	42
Chamoli	60	53	42	38
Rudraprayag	63	58	28	37
Tehri Garhwal	64	59	37	40
Dehradun	50	44	45	40
Garhwal	63	58	43	42
Pithoragarh	61	54	46	44
Bageshware	64	58	49	42
Almora	67	59	40	35
Champawat	64	57	52	44
Nainital	54	46	49	41
Udham Singh Nagar	62	50	57	45
Hardwar	62	52	47	42

Source: Census of India 2001-11

economists, governments, bankers, traders, academicians and all other segments. The change in the age wise composition of the population has direct effects on the policy and strategy of government, trade, business, planning and structure of government. The Terai districts have low dependency due to the migration of workable labour force from rural and hilly region to the urban areas. These migrant populations are calculated as the working force of the urban region, consequently reducing the proportion of the dependent population.

The total dependency rate has declined almost in all districts this is a good sign of for economy of the state because it directly shows the more population in the working group. The declined ratio of dependency is associated with the health of the aged population, low fertility level, and other social, economic factors. Urban areas have more population in working cohort that helps in the growth of its economy. There is a very wide gap in dependency ratio of total and urban Uttarakhand primary reason for this gap is very high rural dependency ratio. Rural areas of the state due to out-migration have a high dependency ratio, which further increased the total dependency ratio. Although there is a difference in total and urban dependency ratio state has registered declined in both urban and total dependency ratio.

#### **Finding and Conclusion:**

The urban areas are considered as the growth engine, as they have different social, economic, political, and demographic setups they provide a completely new

milieu for the human being. Urban areas are if well planned and developed; they can bring a new revolution in the social and economic life of the people. In the present era of modernization, globalization, and technology, the urban areas provide access to new opportunities to its residents. Urban Uttarakhand has a completely different set of demographic features; it recorded high literacy, low sex ratio, low dependency ratio, and low participation rate. Several economic, social, political, and cultural factors play an important role in determining population composition of urban demography of Uttarakhand. Uttarakhand has four districts in the Terai region and nine districts in hilly areas. Every district of the state has a different reason for its urban demographic composition. Terai districts have a high concentration of urban population; Dehradun is the interim state capital, and it is known as the city of retired persons, it is well known for its schooling. Therefore it is the destination of both working, non-working, and all age group population from all over the state and country. Haridwar is the pilgrimage heart of the state, and it has some basic industries, which makes a good destination for working migrants. Nainital is foothill district, headquarter of Kumaon division, High Court of state, with boundary with Uttar Pradesh, attracts the tourist and locals from all over the country. The demographic composition of the urban population in hilly districts male dominate, because urban areas in these districts cover municipal corporations, cantonment areas, Nagar Palika Parishad etc. where most of the residents are government servants who are working with these

statutory bodies. Therefore the demographic characteristics of these are different from other parts of districts. The declining work participation rate and sex ratio are major concerns for the state. The government needs a long term special planning, schemes, and a well-structured strategy to implement them so that its benefits can trickle down to masses. It needs specific planning and development programs for rural-urban and hilly and Terai regions to make a balance growth and development across the state.

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