

# Spatial Patterns of Urbanization in Uttarakhand, 2011



## GEOGRAPHY

**KEYWORDS :** Spatial Pattern, Urbanization, Size of Town

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### ABSTRACT

*Uttarakhand is one of the hilly state of India comprising 0.8 per cent of total urban population of the country. According to Census, 2011 Uttarakhand has 30.23 per cent total urban population. The urbanization in hill areas can easily be identified with moderate growth rate and highly uneven distribution of population. In this paper an effort has been made to examine spatial pattern of urbanization in hill state of Uttarakhand. The data of different aspects of urbanization have been picked from Town Directory and Primary Census Abstract, 2011 published by Directorate of Census Operations, Uttarakhand. The study shows the uneven distribution of urban population. Three districts of Uttarakhand viz. Dehradun, Haridwar and Udham Singh Nagar have more than half of the state's urban population. Whereas, lowest urban population is found in Bageshwar and Rudrapur district.*

### Introduction

The level of urbanization is an index of change from traditional to modern society beside it is also a symbol of economic growth and development. Urbanization and primary sector jobs have inverse relationship, that is more urbanization in a particular region leads to the reduction in primary sector occupants and it results in reducing the burden on primary sector which is more uneconomical in nature as compare to secondary and tertiary sectors. Urbanization is an integral part of economic development of a nation. Rapid Urbanization has been a worldwide phenomenon in the 20th Century. It has been rightly said that the level of urbanization reflects the development of the nation. It varies from region to region and from place to place in a country. According to Kasarda and Crenshaw (1991) rapid urbanization holds long term advantages in terms of improved quality of life, accelerated human capital formation, the creation of the entrepreneurial spirit and integration into the world's social and economic order.

### Objective

To study the pattern of urbanization in Uttarakhand.

### Data Sources and Methodology

For the present study urbanization data of Census of India 2011 of Uttarakhand has been used. In this context, the census data for the year 2011 has been analyzed to underline the spatial patterns of urbanization in Uttarakhand. The data has been processed, tabulated and represented in the form of tables and maps to identify and describe characteristics of urbanization in the state. For data analysis GIS and MS Excel software has been used.

### Study Area:

The State Uttarakhand lies in northern part of India, also called Devbhumi because of many Hindu pilgrimage centers found here. Uttarakhand got the status of state on 9 November 2000 and become a 27th state of the Republic of India. The state shares its border with Tibet on the north, Nepal on the east; and the Indian states of Uttar Pradesh to the south and Himachal Pradesh to the northwest. The state is divided into two divisions, Garhwal and Kumaon, with a total of 13 districts. The capital of Uttarakhand is Dehradun. The total geographical area of state is 53,484 km<sup>2</sup>, the state have uneven topography near about 93% area is mountainous the state have good percentage of area under forest cover that is 65% is covered by forest. The northern portion of the state is covered with high peaks, Georges and snow led glaciers. The climate and vegetation varies from place to place due to different elevation zone.

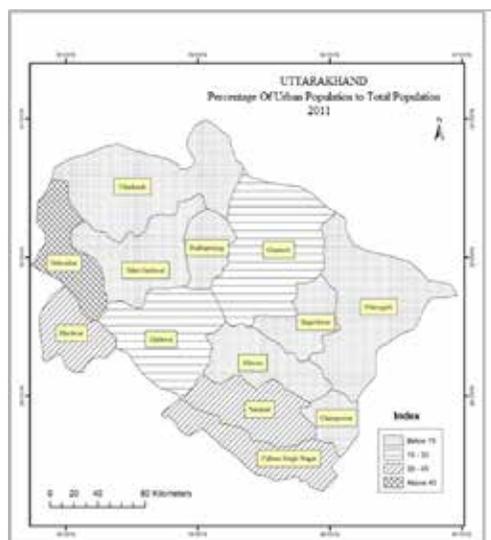
### Urbanization in Uttarakhand

There are 13 districts in Uttarakhand which are grouped into two divisions, Kumaon and Garhwal.

- According to the 2011 census, Haridwar, Dehradun, and Udham Singh Nagar are the most populous districts, each of them having a population of over one million.



Urbanization in Uttarakhand, 2011



Source: Computed from Census of India (2011): Primary Census Abstract of Uttarakhand.

**Percentage of urban Population to Total Population of Uttarakhand 2011**

District	Urban Centres	Population		Per cent
		Total	Urban	
Dehradun	22	1696694	936679	55.21
Hardwar	24	1890422	690588	36.53
Udham Singh Nagar	19	1648902	573063	34.75
Nainital	11	954605	326351	34.19
Garhwal	9	687271	108527	15.79
Chamoli	6	391605	59396	15.17
Champawat	4	259648	38343	14.77
Pithoragarh	3	483439	69605	14.40
Tehri Garhwal	7	618931	70139	11.33
Almora	5	622506	62314	10.01
Uttarkashi	3	330086	24305	7.36
Rudraprayag	2	242285	9925	4.10
Bageshwar	1	259898	9079	3.49
UTTARAKHAND	116	10086292	2978314	29.53

District wise pattern of urbanization indicates that Dehradun district is most urbanized where more than half (55.2 per cent) of total population is concentrated in urban areas. It is followed by Hardwar (36.53 per cent), Udham Singh Nagar (34.75 per cent) and Nainital (34.19 per cent) districts. Whereas among the least urbanized Bageshwar have only 3.49 per cent of its total population as urban. The factors that are responsible for its low urban population are remoteness and unconnectivity, sparsely settled population, harsh climate condition and its poor connectivity along with low level of industrial development are the main reasons for its lower levels of urbanization.

**Uttarakhand: Urban Population By size and class of town, 2011**

	Population	Cities/Towns	Per cent
Class I	1335168	6	44.83
Class II	337540	6	11.33
Class III	535713	19	17.99
Class IV	453903	33	15.24
Class V	281203	37	9.44
Class VI	34787	15	1.17
Total	2978314	116	100.00

Source: Census of India: Primary Census Abstract of Uttarakhand 2011

There are six towns fall under the category of class I cities that collectively contributes nearly 45 per cent of the total urban population of the state, whereas, II Class cities are also six in number but they contribute only 11 per cent of total urban population of the state. Nineteen towns are fall under the category of class III and contribute about 18 per cent of urban population. Thirty three towns are fall under the category of class IV towns share 15 per cent urban population. Whereas there are thirty seven town in class V and accounted for 9 per cent of the total urban population in the state and Class VI towns have the lowest proportion (1.17 per cent) of urban population. Thus the urban scenario in the state is in consonance with the country.

**Conclusions**

Those areas which have uneven topography and extreme climate showing lower levels of Urbanisation due to multiple and interdependent factors like accessibility, development, government policies, terrain, climate, market etc. sometime even a single factor governed urbanization of a region for example Hardwar town as a result of only single factor that is religious factor. While, sometime multiple factors response the growth of urbanization in a region for example Dehradun which is result of good climate, good accessibility through road and railway and government policies to declare it as a capital city of the state, so same factors governed in other districts of the Uttarakhand in different manner that produce different level of urbanization in the state. Urban development in Uttarakhand has taken place mainly along the two districts Dehradun and Hardwar which are sharing their borders with Himachal Pradesh and Haryana in the west. Two districts namely Nainital and Udham Singh Nagar are showing moderate levels of urbanisation. These two districts received bulk of Punjabi migrants which led to the agricultural development of these two districts and urbanisation in these districts is largely related to the Punjabi migrants. Contribute to the low level of urbanization in these particular districts. So from the Urbanisation in Uttarakhand is largely related with the physiographic of the state. As one moves away from plains the levels of urbanisation are declining.

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