

# Gender Disparity in Social Development of Indian Hill States: A Geographical Perspective

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## Abstract

This study had a fresh look on the gender disparity in social development of Indian hill states on two spatial contexts i.e. inter states and intra-state during 1991-2011. The social development disparity among male and female had been converging during the post reform period across the hill states. Across hill states, Mizoram recorded the highest GPI and the lowest in Jammu & Kashmir. Research revealed that the gender inequality was more pronounced in western hill states than that of north-east hill states of India. Every hill state improved GPI during 1991-2001. Similarly, almost every district of hill state had experienced the convergence in social development among males and females. Across the districts of hill states, Jaintia Hills from Meghalaya recorded the highest GPI and the lowest in Ramban from Jammu & Kashmir.

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## I. Introduction

Gender disparity means discrimination between individuals on the basis of sex. Development disparity is an omnipresent phenomenon at global, continental, country, regional, and province level. At global level countries have been categorized into developed, developing, and underdeveloped realms. Nearly fifty per cent of the total world population is of women. Human development and economic development cannot be achieved if fifty per cent population is debarred from the opportunities. In most of the societies of the world, men possess larger share of property, wealth, status, and power than women. Generally, the female component of population has been discriminated, exploited, and oppressed all over the world since time immemorial. In context of India, the roots of gender discrimination go so deep that social, economic, and rural disparities are deeply intertwined. The unfortunate phenomenon of gender disparity has been quite widespread, though its magnitude varies from one region to other. In this study, the gender inequality was understood in social development among and within hill states.

### Objective

- Examine the trends and spatial patterns of gender disparity in social development in hill states

### Research Question

The following major research question was forwarded for investigation:

- What were the trends and patterns of gender disparity in social development in hill states?

### Significance of the Study

The study of the trends and patterns of gender disparity in social development in hill states will provide an insight and unfold the real nature and intensity of disparity. This study on disparity may be useful for policy makers and planners for the formulation of policy and programs to bridge the gap.

### Period and Unit of Study

The gender disparity in social development in hill states was studied covering three points of time i.e. 1991, 2001, and 2011. India adopted policy of liberalization, privatization, and globalization since 1990s. The impact of policy was viewed on gender disparity in social development during successive decades. The state and district level data were used for tracing inter states and intra-state gender disparity in social development. The state level data was used for inter state comparison. The data for new state was adjusted in order to make them comparable for all the three points of time. Further, district was taken as the unit for intra-state analysis. An attempt was made to adjust district level data of 1991 and 2001 in order to make them comparable with 2011. It was herculean task but challenge was accepted.

**The Study Area**

This study was focused on the Indian Hill States. These were Jammu & Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Sikkim, Arunachal Pradesh, Nagaland, Manipur, Mizoram, Tripura, and Meghalaya. It was spread between 21°57'N to 37°5'N latitudes and 72°40'E to 97°25'E longitudes covering an area of 515 thousand Km<sup>2</sup>. Administratively, there were 106 districts that shared one-seventh (15.67 per cent) of total geographical area of India and contained 3.63 per cent of total population of the country.

**Source of Data and Methodology**

The secondary data of Census of India was collected to measure the gender disparity in social, development for three points of time i.e. 1991, 2001, and 2011. In this study, social development was inferred using literacy rate. Gender Parity Index (GPI) was used to assess gender differences. Gender Parity Index was calculated to know the trends and patterns of gender disparity in terms of social development. Social development was measured through literacy. In this study, GPI discussed at two spatial contexts: (i) inter state and (ii) intra-state.

$$\text{Gender Parity Index (GPI)} = \frac{\text{value of indicator for females}}{\text{value of indicator for males}}$$

The value of the GPI as obtained by above formula reveals that a value less than one indicates difference in favour of males, whereas a value near one indicates the parity in them. The value above one indicates difference in favour of females. The gender disparity increases as difference of value of GPI increases from one.

**Gender Disparity in Social Development in Indian Hill States**

**Inter states**

The hill states recorded higher GPI than India during 1991-2011 (Table 1). Hill states and India recorded gender disparity in social development in favour of males. However, the females of hill states were socially more developed than India.

Seven out of 10 hill states recorded higher GPI in social development than national average during 1991-2011. These were Mizoram, Meghalaya, Nagaland, Sikkim, Tripura, and Himachal Pradesh. Contrary to it, Arunachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand recorded lower GPI in 1991, and Jammu & Kashmir in 2011 (Table 1). Across the hill states, Mizoram recorded the highest GPI and the lowest in Jammu & Kashmir. Except Mizoram, every hill state recorded an increase in GPI during corresponding period of time.

**Table 1**  
Gender Disparity in Social Development in Indian Hill States, 1991- 2011

Sr.	Hill States	Index Value		
		1991	2001	2011
1	Mizoram	0.92 →	0.96 ↔	0.96
2	Meghalaya	0.84 →	0.91 →	0.96
3	Nagaland	0.81 →	0.86 →	0.92
4	Sikkim	0.71 →	0.79 →	0.87
5	Tripura	0.70 →	0.80 →	0.90
6	Himachal Pradesh	0.69 →	0.79 →	0.85
7	Manipur	0.66 →	0.75 →	0.84
8	Arunachal Pradesh	0.58 →	0.68 →	0.80
9	Uttarakhand*	0.57 →	0.72 →	0.80
10	Jammu & Kashmir	DNA	0.65 →	0.74
<b>Indian Hill States</b>		<b>0.67 →</b>	<b>0.75 →</b>	<b>0.83</b>
<b>India</b>		<b>0.61 ↔</b>	<b>0.61 →</b>	<b>0.80</b>

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

→ Decadal Increase in GPI   ← Decadal Decrease in GPI   ↔ Decadal No Change in GPI

*Note: 1. DNA means Data not available 2. \*Data of Uttarakhand (1991) were calculated from the erstwhile Uttar Pradesh Census Document.*

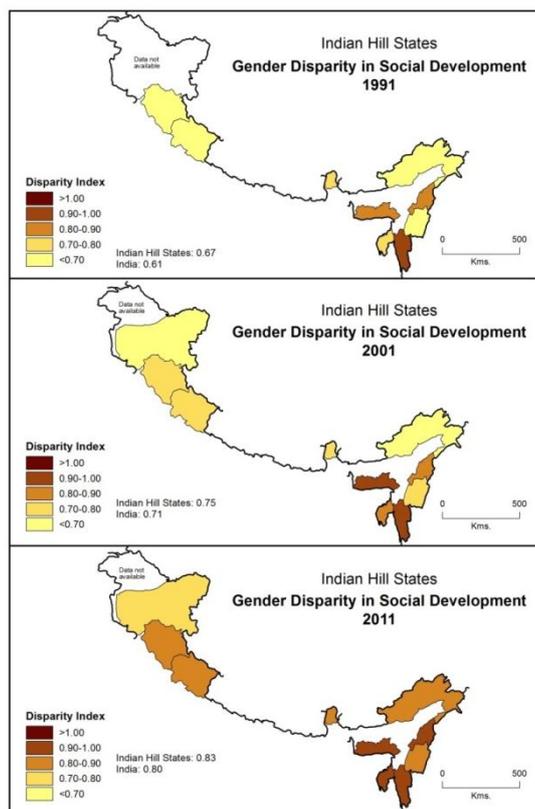


Fig. 1

Comparing with hill states average, six out of 10 hill states recorded higher GPI in social development during 1991-2011. These were Mizoram, Meghalaya, Nagaland, Sikkim, Tripura, Himachal Pradesh, and Manipur. Contrary to it, Arunachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, and Jammu & Kashmir recorded lower GPI (Table 1). The females of Arunachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, and Jammu & Kashmir recorded higher gender disparity in favour of males. It was a matter of concern and eye opener for the architects of development. Hence, it was recommended that policy interventions should be objective specific, space specific, and gap oriented.

The research revealed that gender disparity was more pronounced in western hill states than north-eastern hill states. Broadly, one can experience the rising trend of gender disparity, as we move from east to west in hill states. It was worth mentioning that convergence of gender disparity in social development recorded across the Indian hill states since 1991.

### **Intra-state**

#### **(i) Jammu & Kashmir**

Three out of 22 districts of Jammu & Kashmir recorded higher GPI in social development than national average during 1991-2011. These were Jammu, Samba, and Srinagar. Contrary to it, Leh, Rajouri, Udhampur, Shupiyan, Kulgam, Pulwama, Reasi, Anantnag, Baramula, Badgam, Kargil, Punch, Ganderbal, Bandipore, Kupwara, Doda, Kishtwar, and Ramban recorded lower GPI (Table 2).

Comparing with hill states average, twenty out of 22 districts of Jammu & Kashmir recorded lower GPI in social development during 1991-2011. These were Srinagar, Kathua, Leh, Rajouri, Udhampur, Shupiyan, Kulgam, Pulwama, Reasi, Anantnag, Baramula, Badgam, Kargil, Punch, Ganderbal, Bandipore, Kupwara, Doda, Kishtwar, and Ramban. It was worth mentioning that only two district of the state recorded higher GPI in social development than hill states average. It reflected that gender disparity in social development was more pronounced in the state (Table 2).

Five out of 22 districts of Jammu & Kashmir recorded higher GPI in social development than state average during 1991-2011. These were Jammu, Samba, Srinagar, Kathua, and Leh. Contrary to it, all the remaining districts recorded lower GPI. Across the districts of Jammu & Kashmir, the highest three GPI districts were Jammu, Samba, and Srinagar. Contrary to it, the least were Ramban, Kishtwar, and Doda. Every districts of the state recorded an increase in GPI which reflected the convergence of gender disparity in social development (Table 2).

It was concluded that the plain adjoining districts (Kathua, Samba, and Jammu), capital district (Srinagar) and Bodh dominated district (Leh) of the state had recorded higher GPI than the rest parts of the

states. On contrary to it, Muslim dominated, hilly and sensitive border districts of the state had relatively more gender gap in social development.

**Table 2**  
Gender Disparity in Social Development in Jammu & Kashmir, 1991- 2011

Sr.	Districts	Index Value		
		1991	2001	2011
1	Jammu	DNA	0.82 →	0.87
2	Samba	DNA	0.78 →	0.83
3	Srinagar	DNA	0.72 →	0.81
4	Kathua	DNA	0.71 →	0.78
5	Leh	DNA	0.70 →	0.74
6	Rajouri	DNA	0.64 →	0.72
7	Udhampur	DNA	0.63 →	0.73
8	Shupiyan	DNA	0.63 →	0.72
9	Kulgam	DNA	0.62 →	0.70
10	Pulwama	DNA	0.62 →	0.70
11	Reasi	DNA	0.59 →	0.68
12	Anantnag	DNA	0.58 →	0.72
13	Baramula	DNA	0.58 →	0.69
14	Badgam	DNA	0.57 →	0.68
15	Kargil	DNA	0.56 →	0.68
16	Punch	DNA	0.55 →	0.67
17	Ganderbal	DNA	0.52 →	0.66
18	Bandipore	DNA	0.52 →	0.66
19	Kupwara	DNA	0.51 →	0.67
20	Doda	DNA	0.49 →	0.63
21	Kishtwar	DNA	0.49 →	0.61
22	Ramban	DNA	0.41 →	0.55
<b>Jammu &amp; Kashmir</b>		<b>DNA</b>	<b>0.65 →</b>	<b>0.74</b>
<b>Indian Hill States</b>		<b>0.67</b>	<b>0.75 →</b>	<b>0.83</b>
<b>India</b>		<b>0.61</b>	<b>0.71 →</b>	<b>0.80</b>

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

→ Decadal Increase in GPI

Note: 1. DNA means Data not available 2. GPI refers gender parity index

**(ii) Himachal Pradesh**

Across the districts of Himachal Pradesh, eight of 12 districts recorded higher GPI in social development than national average during 1991-2011. These were Hamirpur, Kangra, Una, Bilaspur, Shimla, Solan, Mandi, and Sirmaur. On the other hand, Chamba recorded the lowest GPI during the corresponding period of time (Table 3). Fifty per cent districts of Himachal Pradesh recorded higher GPI in social development than hill states average during 1991-2011. These were Hamirpur, Kangra, Una, Bilaspur, Shimla, and Solan. Contrary to it, three out of 12 districts recorded lower GPI during the corresponding period of time. These were Chamba, Lahul & Spiti, and Kullu (Table 3).

**Table 3**  
Gender Disparity in Social Development in Himachal Pradesh, 1991- 2011

Sr.	Districts	Index Value		
		1991	2001	2011
1	Hamirpur	0.77 →	0.84 →	0.88
2	Kangra	0.77 →	0.83 →	0.87
3	Una	0.75 →	0.83 →	0.88
4	Bilaspur	0.73 →	0.81 →	0.86
5	Shimla	0.68 →	0.80 →	0.86
6	Solan	0.68 →	0.79 →	0.86
7	Mandi	0.64 →	0.75 →	0.82
8	Sirmaur	0.61 →	0.76 →	0.83
9	Kinnaur	0.58 →	0.76 →	0.81

10	Kullu	0.55	→	0.72	→	0.81
11	Lahul & Spiti	0.53	→	0.73	→	0.78
12	Chamba	0.48	→	0.64	→	0.75
<b>Himachal Pradesh</b>		<b>0.69</b>	→	<b>0.79</b>	→	<b>0.85</b>
<b>Indian Hill States</b>		<b>0.67</b>	→	<b>0.75</b>	→	<b>0.83</b>
<b>India</b>		<b>0.61</b>	→	<b>0.71</b>	→	<b>0.80</b>

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

→ Decadal increase in GPI

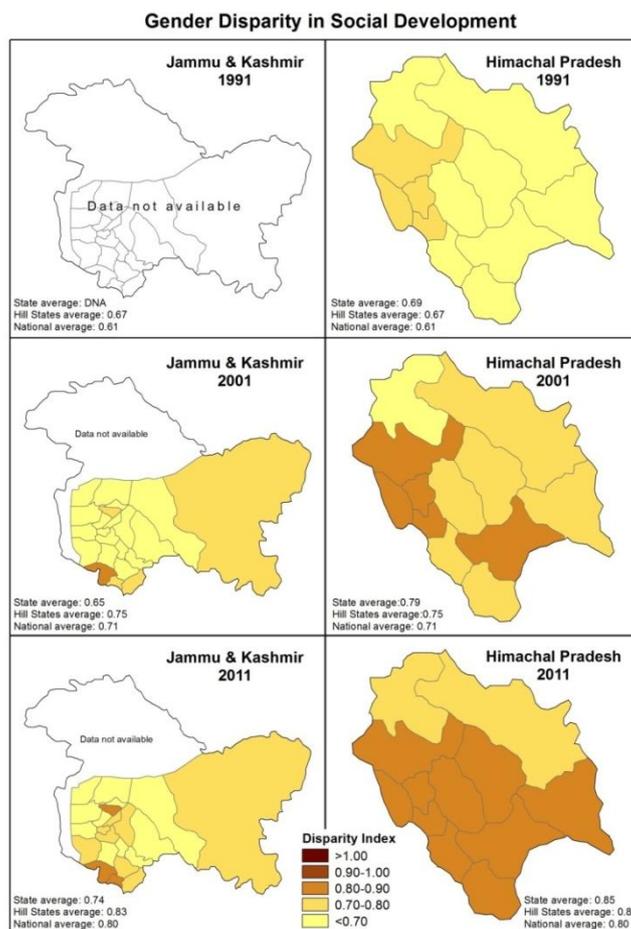


Fig. 2

Four out of 12 districts of Himachal Pradesh recorded higher GPI in social development than state average during 1991-2011. These were Hamirpur, Kangra, Una, and Bilaspur. Contrary to it, Mandi, Sirmaur, Kinnaur, Kullu, Lahul & Spiti, and Chamba recorded lower GPI. Across the districts of Himachal Pradesh, the highest three GPI districts were Hamirpur, Kangra, and Una. Contrary to it, the least were Kullu, Lahul & Spiti, and Chamba. Every districts of the state recorded an increase in GPI which reflect the convergence of gender disparity in social development (Table 3).

The finding revealed that all districts of the state experienced the rising trend in GPI since inception of new economic policy. But, Chamba, Lahul & Spiti, Kullu, and Kinnaur had made a remarkable progress in GPI values during last twenty years. Half of the districts of the state registered higher GPI values than state average in 2011. These districts were Hamirpur, Kangra, Una, Bilaspur, Shimla, and Solan. These districts have low relief features and adjoining to the plain. On the other hand, hilly and mountainous districts like Mandi, Sirmaur, Kinnaur, Kullu, Lahul & Spiti, and Chamba had relatively lower values of GPI than state average.

**(iii) Uttarakhand**

Two out of 13 districts of Uttarakhand recorded higher GPI in social development than national average during 1991-2011. These were Dehradun and Nainital. Contrary to it, Pithoragarh, Almora, Chamoli, Rudraprayag, Bageshwar, Champawat, Tehri Garhwal, and Uttarkashi recorded lower GPI (Table 4).

**Table 4**  
Gender Disparity in Social Development in Uttarakhand, 1991- 2011

Sr.	Districts	Index Value		
		1991	2001	2011
1	Dehradun	0.76 →	0.83 →	0.88
2	Nainital	0.68 →	0.81 →	0.86
3	Garhwal	0.60 →	0.72 →	0.78
4	Udham Singh Nagar	0.59 →	0.71 →	0.79
5	Hardwar	0.59 →	0.71 →	0.80
6	Pithoragarh	0.53 →	0.69 →	0.78
7	Almora	0.51 →	0.68 →	0.75
8	Chamoli	0.49 →	0.69 →	0.77
9	Rudraprayag	0.46 →	0.66 →	0.75
10	Bageshwar	0.45 →	0.65 →	0.75
11	Champawat	0.42 →	0.62 →	0.74
12	Tehri Garhwal	0.37 →	0.58 →	0.72
13	Uttarkashi	0.34 →	0.56 →	0.70
<b>Uttarakhand*</b>		<b>0.57 →</b>	<b>0.72 →</b>	<b>0.80</b>
<b>Indian Hill States</b>		<b>0.67 →</b>	<b>0.75 →</b>	<b>0.83</b>
<b>India</b>		<b>0.61 →</b>	<b>0.71 →</b>	<b>0.80</b>

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

→ Decadal Increase in GPI

Note: 1. \*Data of Uttarakhand (1991) were calculated from the erstwhile Uttar Pradesh Census Document.

Two out of 13 districts of Uttarakhand recorded higher GPI in social development than hill state average during 1991-2011. These were Dehradun and Nainital. Contrary to it, remaining eleven districts recorded lower GPI during the corresponding period of time. These were Garhwal, Udham Singh Nagar, Hardwar, Pithoragarh, Almora, Chamoli, Rudraprayag, Bageshwar, Champawat, Tehri Garhwal, and Uttarkashi (Table 4).

Across the districts of Uttarakhand, two districts recorded higher GPI in social development than state average during 1991-2011. These were Dehradun and Nainital. Contrary to it, Pithoragarh, Almora, Chamoli, Rudraprayag, Bageshwar, Champawat, Tehri, Garhwal, and Uttarkashi recorded lower GPI. Across the districts of Uttarakhand, the highest two GPI districts were Dehradun and Nainital. On the other hand, the least three districts were Uttarkashi, Champawat, and Tehri Garhwal. Every district of the state recorded an increase in GPI which reflected the convergence of gender disparity in social development (Table 4).

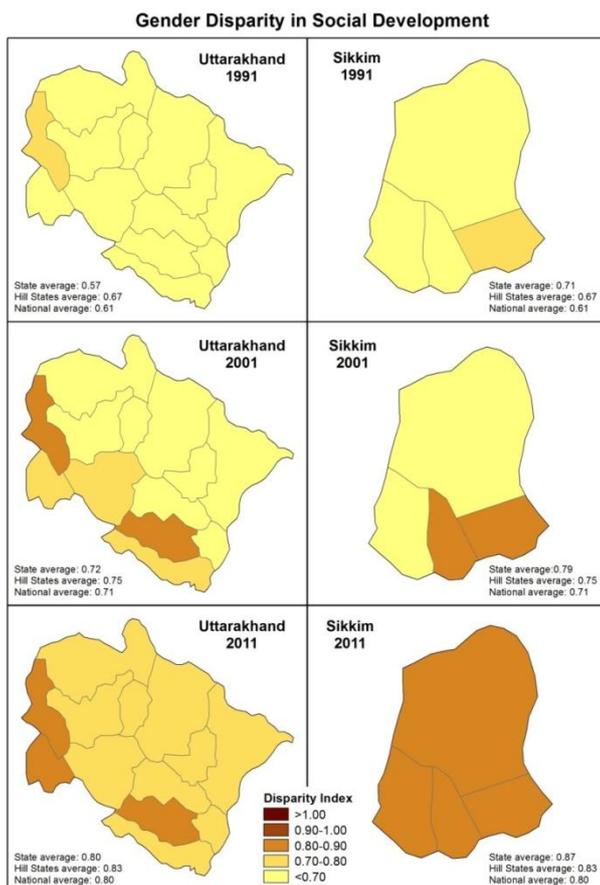


Fig. 3

It was concluded that the gender gap in social development was quite high in some districts of the state viz. Chamoli, Rudraprayag, Bageshwar, Champawat, Tehri Garhwal, and Uttarkashi in 1991. But, these districts had made remarkable progress in correcting gender gap in social development and reducing imbalance across the districts of state during 1991-2011.

**(iv) Sikkim**

The GPI of social development in Sikkim had much better than India and hill states averages during last two decades (1991-2011). The state had achieved spectacular improvement in GPI during corresponding period of time. The value of GPI at district level varies from the highest 0.76 in East District to the lowest 0.64 in North District in 1991. It was worth mentioning that all districts of the states registered higher GPI than national average in 1991. It reflected that gender gap in social development was lower in the state. All districts of the state made a notable progress in last two decades. All districts recorded higher GPI than India and hill states averages in 2011 (Table 5).

**Table 5**  
Gender Disparity in Social Development in Sikkim, 1991-2011

Sr.	Districts	Index Value		
		1991	2001	2011
1	East District	0.76 →	0.82 →	0.89
2	South District	0.69 →	0.80 →	0.88
3	West District	0.64 →	0.75 →	0.85
4	North District	0.64 →	0.73 →	0.85
<b>Sikkim</b>		<b>0.71</b> →	<b>0.79</b> →	<b>0.87</b>
<b>Indian Hill states</b>		<b>0.67</b> →	<b>0.75</b> →	<b>0.83</b>
<b>India</b>		<b>0.61</b> →	<b>0.71</b> →	<b>0.80</b>

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

→ Decadal Increase in GPI

It was observed that all the districts of the state had made remarkable progress in GPI in social development during the first decade of 21<sup>st</sup> century and all districts registered GPI above 0.85. It reflects that gender disparity across the districts of the state came down over the period of time.

**(v) Arunachal Pradesh**

Across the districts of Arunachal Pradesh, six out of 16 districts recorded higher GPI in social development than national average during 1991-2011. These were East Siang, West Siang, Papum Pare, Lower Subansiri, Lohit, and West Kameng. On the other hand, Changlang, Upper Siang, Tirap, Tawang, Kurung Kumey, East Kameng, and Anjaw recorded the lowest GPI during the corresponding period of time (Table 6).

Four out of 16 districts of Arunachal Pradesh recorded higher GPI in social development than hill states average in 2011. These were East Siang, Papum Pare, Lower Subansiri, and Dibang Valley. Contrary to it, remaining 12 districts recorded lower GPI in the corresponding period of time (Table 6).

Seven out of 16 districts of Arunachal Pradesh recorded higher GPI in social development than state average during 1991-2011. These were East Siang, West Siang, Papum Pare, Lower Subansiri, Lohit, West Kameng, and Lower Dibang. Against it, remaining nine districts recorded lower GPI in the corresponding period of time. Across the districts of Arunachal Pradesh, Anjaw recorded the lowest GPI in social development during 1991- 2011(Table 6).

**Table 6**  
Gender Disparity in Social Development in Arunachal Pradesh, 1991- 2011

Sr.	Districts	Index Value		
		1991	2001	2011
1	East Siang	0.70 →	0.77 →	0.85
2	West Siang	0.67 →	0.77 →	0.82
3	Papum Pare	0.65 →	0.78 →	0.86
4	Lower Subansiri	0.65 →	0.75 →	0.85
5	Lohit	0.65 →	0.70 →	0.80
6	West Kameng	0.64 →	0.68 →	0.80
7	Lower Dibang	0.60 →	0.72 →	0.82
8	Upper Subansiri	0.57 →	0.68 →	0.85
9	Changlang	0.54 →	0.60 →	0.72
10	Upper Siang	0.51 →	0.66 →	0.79
11	Dibang Valley	0.48 →	0.73 →	0.87
12	Tirap	0.43 →	0.54 →	0.68
13	Tawang	0.42 →	0.50 →	0.69
14	Kurung Kumey	0.39 →	0.51 →	0.77
15	East Kameng	0.37 →	0.55 →	0.75
16	Anjaw	0.30 →	0.42 →	0.65
<b>Arunachal Pradesh</b>		<b>0.58 →</b>	<b>0.68 →</b>	<b>0.80</b>
<b>Indian Hill States</b>		<b>0.67 →</b>	<b>0.75 →</b>	<b>0.83</b>
<b>India</b>		<b>0.61 →</b>	<b>0.71 →</b>	<b>0.80</b>

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

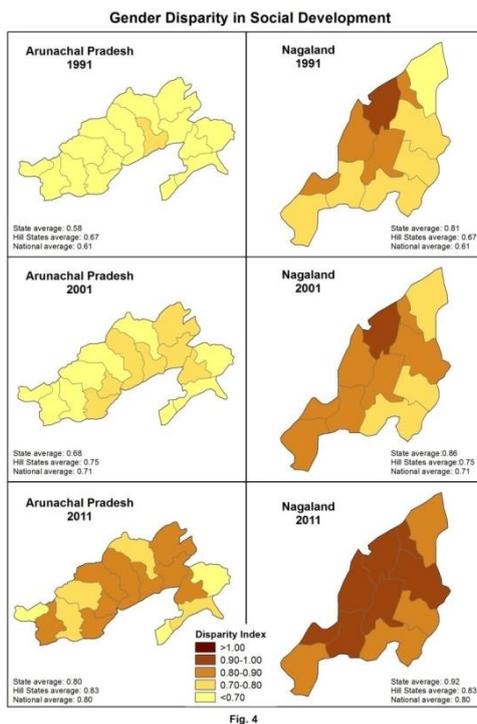
→ Decadal Increase in GPI

The newly formed state recorded a considerable progress during last two decades (1991-2011). The GPI value increased from 0.58 in 1991 to 0.80 in 2011. Every district of the state recorded upwards trend in terms of GPI values. At the beginning of the twenty first century (2001), almost one-third districts of the state registered GPI above 0.70. These districts were Papum Pare, West Siang, East Siang, Lower Subansiri, Lohit, and Lower Dibang. In spatial context, these districts located to the northern fringes of the Brahmaputra valley. It reflected that the lowering of the gender gap in terms of social develop started first in the southern parts of the state. The northern mountainous international border areas of the state had relatively lower GPI value.

**(vi) Nagaland**

All districts of Nagaland recorded higher GPI in social development than national and hill states averages in 1991. The same trend of GPI was recorded in successive decades i.e. 2001 and 2011. It was observed that every district of the state recorded the improvement in its GPI during 1991-2011(Table 7). The social development of woman in the state was better than the other hill states and India.

Five out of 11 districts of Nagaland recorded higher GPI in social development than state average during 1991-2011. These were Mokokchung, Longleng, Dimapur, Zunheboto, and Wokha. Against it, five districts recorded lower GPI in social development. These were Tuensang, Peren, Phek Kiphire, and Mon. Across the districts of Nagaland, Mokokchung recorded the highest GPI in social development during 1991-2011. Contrary to it, Mon, Kiphire, and Phek were at the bottom during corresponding period of time (Table 7).



**Table 7**

Gender Disparity in Social Development in Nagaland, 1991-2011

Sr.	Districts	Index Value		
		1991	2001	2011
1	Mokokchung	0.93 →	0.95 →	0.99
2	Longleng	0.85 →	0.86 →	0.93
3	Dimapur	0.85 →	0.89 →	0.93
4	Zunheboto	0.81 →	0.88 →	0.94
5	Wokha	0.81 →	0.88 →	0.93
6	Kohima	0.79 →	0.86 →	0.92
7	Tuensang	0.77 →	0.83 →	0.91
8	Peren	0.76 →	0.82 →	0.88
9	Phek	0.71 →	0.79 →	0.86
10	Kiphire	0.70 →	0.79 →	0.85
11	Mon	0.69 →	0.78 →	0.86
<b>Nagaland</b>		<b>0.81</b> →	<b>0.86</b> →	<b>0.92</b>
<b>Indian Hill States</b>		<b>0.67</b> →	<b>0.75</b> →	<b>0.83</b>
<b>India</b>		<b>0.61</b> →	<b>0.71</b> →	<b>0.80</b>

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

→ Decadal Increase in GPI

The western parts of the state recorded higher value (above 0.80) of GPI. These were Mokokchung, Longleng, Dimapur, Zunheboto, and Wokha. These districts have lower relief and neighbouring districts of Assam plains. On the other hand, eastern parts of the state had lower value of GPI. These districts had the international border, insurgency and hilly parts of the state. Every district of the state improved its GPI value during 1991-2011.

**(vii) Manipur**

The state has nine hills encircled the beautiful oval shaped valley at the center. India, hill states, and state had consistently improved their GPI during 1991-2011. The same trend has been observed at the district level during

past two decades. The value of GPI of the state (0.66) was marginally lower than all hill states' average (0.67) in 1991. But, it exceeded marginally in 2011. It was worth mentioning that the GPI value of the state was higher than national average during 1991-2011 (Table 8).

The north-east, south-west, and central parts of the state recoded higher GPI than the other parts of the state during 1991-2011. The districts of Churachandpur, Imphal West and Ukhrul possessed first three ranks in GPI in 1991. Contrary to it, Thoubal and Bishnupur were the least

**Table 8**  
Gender Disparity in Social Development in Manipur, 1991- 2011

Sr.	Districts	Index Value		
		1991	2001	2011
1	Churachandpur	0.74 →	0.81 →	0.90
2	Imphal West	0.72 →	0.80 →	0.87
3	Ukhrul	0.72 →	0.82 →	0.90
4	Imphal East	0.68 →	0.76 →	0.85
5	Tamenglong	0.66 →	0.71 →	0.84
6	Senapati	0.65 →	0.75 →	0.85
7	Chandel	0.61 →	0.75 →	0.82
8	Bishnupur	0.60 →	0.70 →	0.78
9	Thoubal	0.53 →	0.65 →	0.75
<b>Manipur</b>		<b>0.66 →</b>	<b>0.75 →</b>	<b>0.84</b>
<b>Indian Hill States</b>		<b>0.67 →</b>	<b>0.75 →</b>	<b>0.83</b>
<b>India</b>		<b>0.61 →</b>	<b>0.71 →</b>	<b>0.80</b>

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

→ Decadal Increase in GPI

developed across the districts of the state in 1991. The pattern did not change during two decades (1991-2011). Every district of the state improved its GPI value during 1991-2011.

**(viii) Mizoram**

Mizoram among all hill states of India was considered as the most developed state in gender equality in terms of social development. The GPI of the state (0.92) was quite higher than India (0.61) and hill states average (0.67) in 1991. Further, the state improved its GPI in past two decades and it rose to 0.96 in 2011. The GPI of the state remained higher than the national and hill states averages at three point of time i.e. 1991, 2001, and 2011. It reflected the status of woman was relatively better than that of rest parts of the country as well as hill states of India.

**Table 9**  
Gender Disparity in Social Development in Mizoram, 1991-2011

Sr.	Districts	Index Value		
		1991	2001	2011
1	Aizawl	0.98 →	0.99 →	1.00
2	Serchhip	0.94 →	0.98 →	0.99
3	Kolasib	0.94 →	0.98 ↔	0.98
4	Champhai	0.92 →	0.96 →	0.97
5	Lunglei	0.88 →	0.92 →	0.93
6	Saiha	0.86 →	0.91 →	0.94
7	Mamit	0.84 →	0.90 →	0.90
8	Lawngtlai	0.64 →	0.82 ←	0.77
<b>Mizoram</b>		<b>0.92 →</b>	<b>0.96 ↔</b>	<b>0.96</b>
<b>Indian Hill States</b>		<b>0.67 →</b>	<b>0.75 →</b>	<b>0.83</b>
<b>India</b>		<b>0.61 →</b>	<b>0.71 →</b>	<b>0.80</b>

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

→ Decadal Increase in GPI    ↔ Decadal No Change in GPI    ← Decadal decrease in GPI

Across the districts of Mizoram, the highest three GPI districts were Aizawl, Serchhip, and Kolasib. On the other hand, the least two districts were Lawngtlai, and Mamit. Across the districts of the state, Aizawl recorded the highest GPI while Lawngtlai registered the least during 1991-2011 (Table 9).

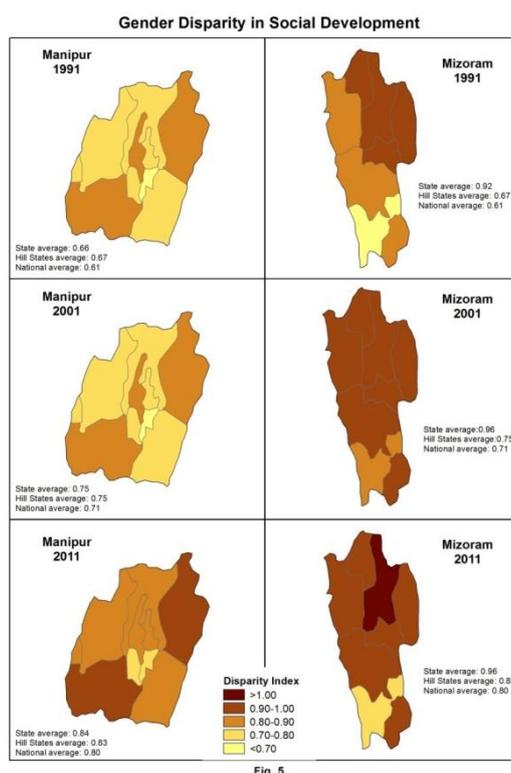
Northern part of state experienced more gender equality in social development in 1991. On the other hand, southern part (district Lawngtlai) lagged behind in gender equality. Except Lawngtlai, all districts recorded high gender equality (GPI above 0.90) in 2001. Aizawl was the lone district of the state which achieved the desired goal (GPI 1.00) in 2011. Except Lawngtlai, every district of the state inched towards the gender equality in terms of social development. Lawngtlai recorded decrease in GPI in 2011. It was matter of concern for policy makers and planners of development.

**(ix) Tripura**

Tripura recorded higher GPI than India and hill states averages during 1991-2011. Every district recorded higher GPI than national average during corresponding period of time (Table 10).

Comparing with Indian Hill States average, two out of 4 districts recorded higher GPI during 1991-2011. These were North Tripura and West Tripura. On the other hand, South Tripura and Dhalai recorded lower GPI in 1991 and Dhalai in 2001 (Table 10).

Across the districts of Tripura, two out of 4 districts recorded higher GPI than state average() during 1991-2011. These were North Tripura and West Tripura. Contrary to it, South Tripura and Dhalai recorded lower GPI. It observed that every district of the state improved its GPI during 1991-2011 (Table 10).



North and western parts of the state recorded relatively more gender equality than the other parts of the state. Every part of the state made progress persistently in gender equality.

**Table 10**  
Gender Disparity in Social Development in Tripura, 1991-2011

Sr.	Districts	Index Value		
		1991	2001	2011
1	North Tripura	0.74 →	0.82 →	0.92
2	West Tripura	0.73 →	0.82 →	0.92
3	South Tripura	0.65 →	0.76 →	0.88
4	Dhalai	0.64 →	0.73 →	0.87
<b>Tripura</b>		<b>0.70</b> →	<b>0.80</b> →	<b>0.90</b>
<b>Indian Hill States</b>		<b>0.67</b> →	<b>0.75</b> →	<b>0.83</b>
<b>India</b>		<b>0.61</b> →	<b>0.71</b> →	<b>0.80</b>

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

→ Decadal Increase in GPI

**(x) Meghalaya**

Meghalaya recorded higher gender equality than national and hill states averages in terms of social development 1991-2011. Jaintia Hills registered the highest GPI (above 1.00) during 1991-2011. It reflected that the women were socially more developed than men in the district. Every district recorded higher GPI than national average (Table 11).

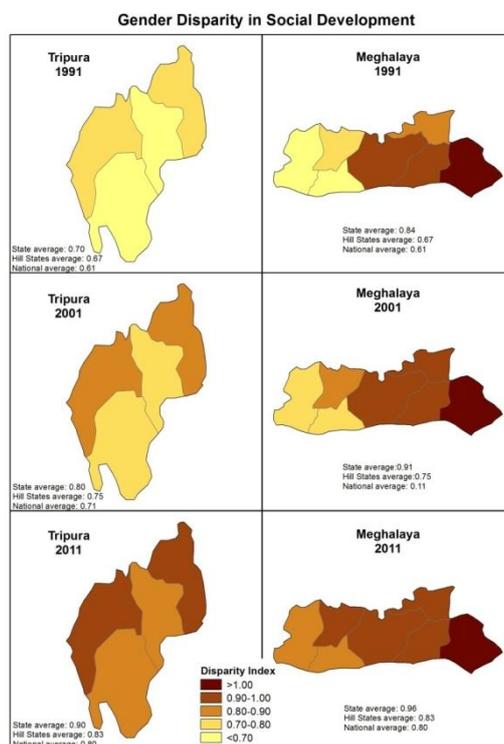


Fig. 6

Across the districts of Meghalaya, six out of 7 districts recorded higher GPI than hill states average during 1991-2011. These were Jaintia Hills, East Khasi Hills, West Khasi Hills, Ri Bhoi, East Garo Hills, and West Garo Hills. On the other hand, South Garo Hills recorded lower GPI in 1991 and 2001 (Table 11).

**Table 11**  
Gender Disparity in Social Development in Meghalaya, 1991-2011

Sr.	Districts	Index Value		
		1991	2001	2011
1	Jaintia Hills	1.06 →	1.07 →	1.12
2	East Khasi Hills	0.92 →	0.97 →	0.99
3	West Khasi Hills	0.90 →	0.96 →	0.98
4	Ri Bhoi	0.81 →	0.91 →	0.97
5	East Garo Hills	0.76 →	0.83 →	0.90
6	West Garo Hills	0.67 →	0.77 →	0.87
7	South Garo Hills	0.66 →	0.78 →	0.88
<b>Meghalaya</b>		<b>0.84</b> →	<b>0.91</b> →	<b>0.96</b>
<b>Indian Hill States</b>		<b>0.67</b> →	<b>0.75</b> →	<b>0.83</b>
<b>India</b>		<b>0.61</b> →	<b>0.71</b> →	<b>0.80</b>

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

→ Decadal Increase in GPI

Comparing with state average, three out of 7 districts recorded higher GPI during 1991-2011. These were Jaintia Hills, East Khasi Hills, and West Khasi Hills. Contrary to it, South Garo Hills, West Garo Hills, and East Garo Hills recorded lower (Table 11). It observed that every district of the state improved its GPI during 1991-2011.

It was concluded that eastern parts of the state experienced more gender equality than that of western parts of the state. As we moved from east to west the gender inequality increases.

## **II. Conclusions**

The social development disparity among males and females had been converging during the post reform period across the hill states. The result showed from above analysis that almost every district of hill states had experienced the convergence in social development among males and females during 1991-2011. The present research revealed that the gender inequality was more pronounced in western hill states than north-east hill states of India. This research confirms the notion that the gender disparities in social development across the hill states at state level and intra-state level was traced out.

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