

# Economic Development and Migration of Uttarakhand: With Special Reference to Kumaun Region

<sup>1</sup>Kailash Bharti Goswami, <sup>2</sup>Dr. Jitendra K. Lohani & <sup>3</sup>Padam S. Bisht

<sup>1</sup>Research Scholar, Department of Economics, D.S.B. Campus, Kumaun University, Nainital, Uttarakhand (India)

<sup>2</sup>Assistant Professor, Department of Economics, D.S.B. Campus, Kumaun University, Nainital, Uttarakhand (India)

<sup>3</sup>Professor, Department of Economics, D.S.B. Campus, Kumaun University, Nainital, Uttarakhand (India)

## ARTICLE DETAILS

### Article History

Published Online: 10 October 2018

### Keywords

Economy, Development, Migration, Growth Rate

### Corresponding Author

Email: kailashgoswami750[at]gmail.com

## ABSTRACT

Uttarakhand a hilly state came in existence on 9th November 2000. It is a state in the northern part of India. The state consist a typical topography, so it is, divided into two mandals i.e. Garhwal and Kumaun mandal. The first mandal consist seven districts, while the later consist six districts. The study area is Kumaun mandal, which has only one districts, which is partially plane area i.e. Nainital. The other districts of Kumaun mandal are hilly. If we see the historic prospective of economic development of Uttarakhand, it was a backward part of Uttar Pradesh, which was its mother-state. After the formation of the state, it grows faster than other states. Uttarakhand is the second fastest growing state in India. The state successfully developed industrial estate in various parts of the state. Agriculture is one of the most significant sectors of the economy of Uttarakhand. Nevertheless, if we see 16 years to journey of the state with respects of migration it remains unchanged. Migration is posing a major threat to the state. According to a study, 1053 villages have no inhabitants in state of Uttarakhand. The present study is conducted with the help of secondary data, which is adopted from various sources.

## 1. Introduction

Uttarakhand is a state in the northern part of India. It is a culturally colorful society, which is divided into two major regions of Garhwal and Kumaun. It is often referred to as the Devbhumi due to many Hindu temples. Uttarakhand is known for its natural beauty of Himalayas the Bhabar and the Terai. Uttarakhand has total area of 53484 km<sup>2</sup> of which 86% is mountains and 65% is covered by forest. The high Himalayas, peaks and glaciers cover most of the part of the state. It lies on the Southern sale of Himalayas range. According to census 2011, Uttarakhand has a population of 10,116,752, with 69.45% of the population living in rural areas. The Uttarakhand is 20th most populist state of the country having 0.84% of the population on 1.69% of the land. Uttarakhand has a multiethnic population spread across the State. The population density of Uttarakhand in 2011 was 189 persons per km<sup>2</sup>. Dehradun is the interim capital and largest city in the state. The natives of the state generally called Uttarakhandi or more specially either Garhwali or Kumauni depending on their place of region. About 83% of population follows Hinduism, followed by Islam, Sikhism, Jainism, Buddhism and Christianity. The state is the only state in Uttarakhand with Sanskrit as one of its official language. The famous "Valley of Flowers", a UNESCO world Heritage site is also located in the state at upper expanses of Bhyundar Ganga near Joshimath. Uttarakhand has a great diversity of flora and fauna. It is also home to rare species of plants and animals, which helps the state to attract more tourists from other parts of country and the rest of the world. The state has 28,508 kilometer of roads network, of which 1,328 kilometer are national highways, 1,543 kilometer are state highways and remaining are rural roads. The high mountains and rivers of the state attract many tourists and adventures seekers interested in sports as mountaineering,

rock climbing, skating sailing, hiking etc. It is also a favorite destination for adventure sports.

### 1.1 Objectives of the study

1. To study the pattern of economic growth and development of Uttarakhand with special reference to Kumaun division
2. To study the causes and impact of migration in Kumaun division

The present paper is based on the study of economic development and migration of Kumaun region. It is bounded as the north by Tibet, on the east by Nepal, on the South by the state of Uttar Pradesh and on the west by Garhwal region. The Kumaun region consists of a large Himalayan tract, together with two sub mountain strips called the Terai and the Bhabar. The present study is based on the secondary data, which has been taken from various secondary sources.

## 2. Economy of Uttarakhand

Uttarakhand is the 2<sup>nd</sup> fastest growing economy among the states in India. It has almost all agro-geo climatic zones, which provide commercial opportunities for floriculture and horticulture. The state is home to more than 175 species of rare medicinal, aromatic and herbal plants. Uttarakhand depends primarily on agriculture and related businesses to drive its economic growth. Agriculture is one of the most significant sectors of the economy of state. As 86% of the state consists of hills, the yield per hectare is not very high. Sugarcane, wheat, rice and potato are the key agriculture products of Uttarakhand. The other important revenue earner for state is tourism. Per capita income in state is higher than the national average. According to the RBI, the total foreign

direct investment in the state increased to US dollar 96 million in 2014 from US dollar 46.2 million. The state offers a wide range of benefits in terms of interest incentives, financial assistance, subsidies and concessions. Uttarakhand has a robust social and industrial infrastructure; virtual connectivity etc. state developed so many industries in a short time. But these industries are developed mainly in three plain districts of state, which cause migration from rural to urban. State's gross

domestic product for 2015-16 is estimated at \$26.67 billion. Agricultural export zones have been setup in the state for leechi, horticulture, herbs, medicinal plants and basmati, but these zones are also restricted to plains of Uttarakhand. The state economy mainly relies on tourism industry, mineral resources, agricultural sectors and small-scale industries. Real estate's have become happening sectors in Uttarakhand.

**Table 1: GSDP, NSDP and Growth rate of Uttarakhand**

Year	GSDP(US\$) Billion	NSDP(US\$) Billion	Growth rate (%)
2004-2005	05.53	04.97	12.9
2005-2006	06.59	06.11	14.0
2006-2007	08.15	07.24	14.1
2007-2008	11.39	10.00	17.8
2008-2009	12.14	10.54	12.6
2009-2010	14.92	12.89	11.1
2010-2011	18.41	16.00	7.3
2011-2012	20.90	18.30	8.3
2012-2013	19.86	17.26	9.9
2013-2014	20.31	17.67	8.43
2014-2015	23.01	20.03	9.34

**2.1 Study Area**

Kumaun region faces the significant challenges of the combining its rapid economic growth with special equity and environmental sustainability. Kumaun region has an agricultural substance economic on its mountain region and dynamic industrial development in the plains. Agricultural has to be among the top contributors of revenue in Kumaun region. 60% of the village population of Kumaun region depends on agriculture. The occupational distribution of workers is the most important determinant of social, economic, as well as environmental development of Kumaun region. The larger part of the Kumaun region is characterized by a difficult terrains' undoubting topography, remote and inaccessible villages, spare population, tiny landholders, and agriculture based economy and weak infrastructure in hill areas. However, the region is rich in beauty and natural resources, improper use of these resources, rapidly growing population has thwarted its development, and consequently the Kumaun region is technically backwards and economically poor. The economic development of any area is best reflects in infrastructure facilities. A good infrastructure can achieve by investment in basics amenities like roads, power, water health and communications. The infrastructural development of Kumaun region has been of the important component of development planning but so far, it has been poor. A serious effort is needs to ensure their facilities to promote economic development. Agricultural development is the most important challenges in Kumaun region, because it provides livelihood security to the major proportion of population in rural areas. Only 14% of the total areas of Kumaun region are under cultivation.

The region has a vast investment potential area like tourism, agriculture, forestry, pharmaceutical sector industries. Industries of any state form the basics of economic stand of the state. An industry of one state helps the government to compete with other state. Industries are playing a significant role in the state of Uttarakhand, especially in Kumaun region.

**2.2 Important factor in the development of industries in Kumaun region is:**

- Availability of raw materials
- Availability of cheap labour
- Transport facility

However, the industrial set up restricted only to plains of Kumaun region and hills don't get any special industries. Industries play an important role in the development of Kumaun region. The state industrial development corporation of Uttarakhand limited has developed many industrial estate and thus helping industries for further development. SIDCUL is a multi-purpose industrial promotion that helps the infrastructural development in Kumaun region.

Major industries of Kumaun region are:

- Tourism industry
- Food processing industry
- Handloom, Handicrafts, Wool based industry
- Horticulture industry etc

Some of the major projects of SIDCUL in Kumaun region includes the integrated industrial estate at Panthnagar, the integrated estate at Sitarganj etc. as the Kumaun region is land of speculator land forms, lakes, temples etc. therefore tourism, the most successful industry of Kumaun region. However, the tourism industry lagging behind because of;

- Lack of facilities provided.
- Lack of infrastructure
- Negligence of state government

The government of Uttarakhand has not given the proper boost for the development of the tourism in Kumaun region. In Kumaun region, the main source of livelihood is agriculture, tourism and small scale and heavy industries. Due to lack of development, it is unfortunate that large number of people from hill areas is struggling for the basic needs. The main cause of deep-rooted poverty and unemployment in Kumaun region is

lack of availability of adequate easy and timely finance. The maximum number of workers depends on MGNREGA for

employment in rural Kumaun region.

**Table 2: Commercial Distribution in Kumaun Region (2014-2015)**

District	Primary Sector (%)	Secondary Sector (%)	Tertiary Sector (%)
Almora	62	22.04	11.96
Bageshwar	47	29.7	23.3
Champawat	47.32	31	21.68
Nainital	32.06	40	27.94
Pithoragarh	54.2	24.63	21.17
U.S. Nagar	22	57.3	20.7

*Source: Statistical Diary of Uttarakhand Division State Planning, 2014-2015*

**Table 3: Economic indicators of Kumaun region**

Item	Value (%)
BPL Persons	40
Rural	52
Urban	36
Workers	62.1
Cultivators	50.3
Agricultural Laborers	11
Other Workers	38.6

*Source: Statistical Diary of Uttarakhand Division State Planning, 2014-2015*

**Table 4: Demographic Profile of Kumaun Region**

District	Area (km <sup>2</sup> )	2001	2011	Increase/Decrease(%)
Almora	3,082	6,30,567	6,21,927	-1.37
Bageshwar	2,302	2,49,462	2,59,840	+4.16
Champawat	1,781	2,24,542	2,59,315	+15.48
Nainital	3,860	7,62,909	9,55,128	+25.19
Pithoragarh	7,110	4,62,289	4,85,993	+5.12
Udham Singh Nagar	2,908	1,2,35,614	1,648,367	+33.40

*Source: India census 2001 & 2011, office of the registrar & census commissioner, India*

This table shows the distribution of population in Kumaun region in different districts. All the districts have positive increase in decadal growth rate in population except Almora, which shows decline in population. It is clear from table that

Nainital & U.S. Nagar district shows a huge decadal growth rate in population. This is mainly due to the huge migration from other districts of Kumaun region, because the main reason behind this, the lack of economic opportunities.

**Table 5: The district wise male female ratio of Kumaun region:**

Districts	Female Male ratio	
	2001	2011
Almora	1147	1142
Bageshwar	1110	1093
Champawat	1024	981
Nainital	906	933
Pithoragarh	1031	1021
U.S Nagar	902	919

*Source: India census 2001 & 2011, office of the registrar & census commissioner, India*

It is clear from above table that the sex ratio decreases in all hill districts and increases in plains of Kumaun region. Champawat district shows higher decline in the sex ratio as compared to other districts. The main reason behind this, the social factors.

### 3. Migration

Migration is the movement by people from one place to another with the intentions of setting permanently in the new location. Migration may be individuals, family units or in large groups. Migration in India is both a historical and present phenomenon. A silent migration from rural Kumaun is on. As migration has its impact on various aspects of rural areas of

Kumaun region, this paper attempts to draw attention on migration from rural areas of Kumaun region. The reasons of the migration from hill areas to cities is closely related to regional backwardness small landholding size, unemployment, under-employment and high natural growth of rural population. People have always moved in search of work, in response to environmental shocks etc. In Uttarakhand, rural to rural migration was highest in 2001, accounting for 54.7% of total domestic migration. However, the share declines over last decade, while rural to urban migration has gradually increased from 21.1% to 32% in 2011. As per census 2011 of Uttarakhand, 1053 villages have no in habitants and another 405 villages have a population less than 10. Out of this, 60% villages are from Kumaun region. The number of such villages

risen particularly after earthquake and flash floods due to heavy rainfall in last 4 years. Migration is not new to Kumaun region, but the data of census 2011 and some other recent reports show that the rate of migration from hilly areas of Kumaun region has increased after, it was formed in 2000. Kumaun region has witnessed a spurt in migration from hills to plains over last 5 years. Due to heavy migration the population of plains of Kumaun region increased by 30%. The fact is that, migration leads negative growth rate of population in Almora district. Almora district has been worst hit by the migration as educated persons are migrating from these districts in search of better jobs and education for their children. Migration leads to abandonment of villages, which cause degradation of land, and makes villages unlivable. The problem of ever-increasing migration from the hill rural areas has always posed a serious concern for the economy of these districts. The major cause of migration is lack of government initiatives to provide self-employment opportunities, failure to promote tourism and agriculture in hills area of Kumaun region. Migration to cities has recorded to highest in Kumaun region to benefit from greater economic opportunities. The main factors that influence migration are categorized into two broad categories; Push factors and Pull factors. Push factors are those forces, which compel an individual to migrate, while pull factors are those foreign forces, which compel an individual to migrate. Typically, push factors induce migration in Kumaun region due to lack of livelihood opportunities locally, whereas pull factors induce migration due to greater availability of livelihood opportunities elsewhere.

### 3.1 Why people migrate to urban areas from rural areas

There are five factors, which determines the push and pull conditions operating in the decisions of people to migrate from hills to plains in Kumaun region:

#### I). *Economic factors:*

The poor economic conditions and lack of employment opportunities in villages of Kumaun region are the main push factors that drift the rural population to the plains of Kumaun. The hill areas of Kumaun region are less developed, have poor agriculture conditions and greater population pressure on land, push the population to plains. Income in agriculture is lower than other sectors. Migration in Kumaun region is largely due to poverty and lack of economic opportunities in villages is more significant than others. The migration to plains towards is not due to economic opportunities but also because of many other factors i.e. educational and health services, higher wages and better standard of living available in cities pull the rural population from Kumaun region to plains.

#### II). *Demographic factors:*

It is also a major factor of migration from rural Kumaun to plains. Generally, there is higher fertility rate and natural population growth in rural areas as compare to plains of Kumaun.

#### III). *Social and cultural factors:*

Social and cultural factors also play a great role in migration. In rural areas of Kumaun region, traditional values are much stronger than plains. On the contrary, in plains the

people enjoy much greater freedom and have liberty. The modern and western values are highly attractive to the youth. Therefore, this class of population is more motivated to plains.

#### IV). *Geographical and physical factors:*

Physical conditions, distances, climate and natural environment and natural calamities like floods, earthquakes, droughts and tempests have also been major factors which push the rural population of Kumaun region to plains.

#### V). *Political and institutional factors:*

The state policy of Uttarakhand regarding to migration have played a crucial role in the transfer of population from rural to urban.

## 4. Major causes of migration in Kumaun region

Migration are caused by a variety of factors in Kumaun region. Some of the factors are briefly described below:

### 4.1 *Barren Landholdings:*

Landholdings in Kumaun region are typically small and segmented. According to the Watershed Management Directorate of the Kumaun division, the average landholding in the division is about 0.68 ha, which is divided into several patches. This is much smaller than the national average of 1.16 ha per farmer. This means villages that have witnessed migration in the recent past now have to deal with several plots of untended land interspersed with active farm land.

### 4.2 *Depleting Water Table:*

Depletion in the water table of the Kumaun region is also linked to migration. It is interesting to note that the three districts that have registered the highest migration rates are also the districts that have witnessed maximum depletion in water sources. "Earlier, there was no shortage of water but of late there has been a seasonal shortage even in drinking water, let alone water for irrigation.

### 4.3 *Employment:*

People migrate in large number from rural to plains in search of employment. The agricultural base of rural economy in Kumaun region does not provide employment to all the people living there. Even the small-scale and cottage industries of the villages fail to provide to the entire rural folk of Kumaun region.

### 4.4 *Education:*

Rural areas of Kumaun region, by large, lack educational facilities those of higher education and rural people have to migrate to plain centers for this purpose.

Apart from these causes there are so many other causes which force the people to migrate, like lack of security, health services, infrastructure etc.

## 5. Conclusion and suggestions

From the above analysis, it is clear that the state of Uttarakhand is one of the fastest growing economies among

Indian states. Long awaited development in the hill districts of Kumaun region has pushed backward the development of these districts relatively to the other plain districts of Kumaun region. This has resulted in the persistent migrations of the major workforce from these districts, which largely constitutes the male youths of these regions. This has put pressure on the economy of these districts. The hilly districts of Kumaun region is primarily depends upon agriculture, the industrial setup is mainly functioning in two plains districts of region, which is the major cause of migration in this region. The major cause of migration is lack of government initiative to provide self-employment opportunities, failure to promote tourism and agriculture in hills areas of Kumaun region. Migration to cities has recorded to highest in Kumaun regions to benefit from greater economic opportunities.

**It is suggested that:**

- The state govt. must focus for the development of agriculture and there should be a provision for the establishment of industries in the hill districts of Kumaun region, which creates employment opportunities in hill areas.
- The govt. should develop the higher education institutions, health care facilities etc. in the hill districts of Kumaun division.
- The geographical and physical factor is also a major factor of migration. The state government should raise the funds for these areas to develop better infrastructure.

**Note:** This paper was presented in International Seminar held at Government P.G. College, Chamoli Uttarakhand in Collaboration with Indian Economic Association by Kailash Bharti Goswami on 22th October 2016.

**References**

1. Deshigkar, P (2009), Human Development Research Paper, Uttarakhand. 22-23
2. Mehta, M (2008), gender assessment of Kumaun region livelihoods. Pp. 71-78
3. Shobhan singh, (2009), industrial development of backward areas of Kumaun region, Himalayan Publishing House, pp.131-132
4. Data, S.K, (2014) Uttarakhand, vision and action Programme, concept publishing company, New Delhi, pp. 82-87.
5. A new era of economic development – Uttarakhand : the next destination (2013).
6. Bisht, Sonali, (2015), concerns & challenges in Kumaun Region, Trishual Publication Dehradun, pp. -17-21.
7. <http://www.sidcul.com/sidculwel/home.aspx>.
8. <http://gov.uk.nic.in/annual=districts=plan/mainpage>.
9. Centre for development studies (2001-2002), (2012-2013) internal and regional disparities in India; Delhi Centre for development studies.
10. Survey of rural non-farm sector in Nainital (2013) Bankers institute of Rural Development Dehradun
11. Statistical diary of Uttarakhand division state planning (2014-15)
12. India census 2001 & 2011, office of the registrar and census commissioner, India
13. Nawami, Lokesh (2015) Uttarakhand year book.
14. <http://www.ceslam.org/index.php?pagename=newsutarkhand>.
15. The Hindu, June 14 2014, bhoomika joshi, pp. 67.
16. <http://www.googleco.in/m?q=uttarakhand+=+census+2001=ku maun>.