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## **Distribution, Growth, Sex Ratio And Literacy Pattern Among Scheduled Tribe Population In The Indian Himalayan Region**

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### **Abstract**

India has the largest tribal population of the world. The tribal community and their habitats constitute very significance parts of backward people and regions of the country respectively. They comprises about the 18 per cent of country's land and 8.6 per cent of its population. The tribal population of India is mostly concentrated in inhospitable region like rugged topography, extreme climatic zones and dense forest areas. As per 2011 Census the tribal population of the Indian Himalayan Region is 11795981 persons constituting 11.31 % of the country's tribal population (104281034 persons) and residing in about 16.23% of its geographical area. The Scheduled Tribes, like the Scheduled Castes, is the most socially, economically and educationally disadvantaged, marginalized and excluded groups in our country. According to Census of India 2011, there are more than 500 main and sub-tribes. Some tribes are common in the Indian Himalayan States/ Regions. As per Census 2011, largest number of tribal is found in Meghalaya (2.45% of country's population) with about 66 main and sub tribes. The second largest number of tribal are enumerated in Nagaland (1.64%) immediately followed by Jammu and Kashmir (1.43%). But their largest proportion to total state population not only among the Himalayan Region but country also found in Mizoram (94.4%), followed by Nagaland (86.5%), Meghalaya (86.1%), Arunachal Pradesh (68.8%), Assam Hills (37.4%), Manipur (35.1%) Sikkim (33.8%), Tripura (31.8%) etc. In reference to IHR, maximum 21.67% tribal population is found in Meghalaya followed by Nagaland (14.5%) and J & K. (12.66%). Remaining states /regions have less than 10 % tribal population.

The study shows that the W. B. Hills registered maximum (94.64%) growth rate during the decade of 2001 to 2011 and Nagaland has recorded negative (-) 3.55 % growth rate during the same decade. Average growth rate of the Indian Himalayan Region is registered 23.52% less than the country's (23.66%) average during 2001 to 2011. The average sex ratio among the tribal population of IHR is 988 females / 1000 males in 2011 which is less than the national average (990) sex ratio. About 73.6% tribal population of the IHR is registered as literates which is about 14.6 % higher than the national average (59.0%). Out of total tribal male and female population 78.6% and 68.5 % are recorded as a literate who is also higher than the country's literacy rates among same group. Gap in male and female literacy rate is only 10.0% which is less than the country's average. Only 42.8% tribal population is registered as worker i.e. 57.2% are considered as non workers. More than two third (70.6%) workers are recorded as main workers. About 17% tribal population is considered as urban population as 4.27 % of all castes population is residing in the cities.

An attempt has been made here to study the tribal demography- distribution, decadal growth, sex ratio and literacy status of the Indian Himalayan Region.

### **Introduction**

The tribal community and their habitats constitute very significant parts of backward people and regions of the country respectively. They comprise about the 18 per cent of country's land and 8.6 per cent of its population. In the Indian context, a tribe is defined as a group with traditional territory, specific name, common language, strong kin relations, association with clan structure, tribal authority and rigid inclination to religion and belief. Functional independence, homogeneity, primitive means of exploiting resources, economic backwardness, rich culture and tradition and least desire to change are some of the other characteristics dominant among the tribes (Majumdar and Madan, 1972).

About half of the total tribal population of the world lives in India. The aborigines in Indian language are known as "Adibasi"-Adi and basi standing for "original" and "inhabitants" respectively. Constitutionally these human groups are referred as Scheduled Tribes (S.T.), "Anusuchit Jati", "Vanjati", "Vanbasi", "Pahari", and "Adimjati" etc. According to article 342 of the constitution the Scheduled Tribes are the tribes or tribal communities, which may be notified by the President of India. The Census enumerates only such tribal population as are scheduled under the relevant constitutional order in force at the time of the Census.



The discussion in this paper is based on 2001 and 2011 Censuses. As per Census 2011, the tribal population of the IHR is 11795981 persons account 11.31% of the country's tribal population (as 104281034 persons constitute 8.6 % of its total population). It is worth to mention here that there is a great variation between the varieties /type of the Scheduled Tribe in one state /UT to another. It is multi cultural and multi racial. It is estimated that the total number of tribal communities in IHR are more than 500\* each with their distinct cultures, social practices, religions, dialects and occupations and are scattered in all States and Regions in Indian Himalayan Region. In reference to country only five states and UTs-- Haryana, Punjab, Delhi, Chandigarh and Pondicherry have no tribal population. It is very difficult to understand that why the tribal residents of these so called non tribal States/UT are not enumerated during the census operation. If enumerated so in which category these tribes are included. In each financial year lot of money is utilized for the development of tribal communities in these non tribal States /UT.

The main characteristic features of Indian tribes are variation in size of the population, inhabit all climatic zones, belong to all in four races- Negrito, Proto-Austroloid, Mongoloid and Caucasoid and use Indo-Aryan, Dravidian and Tibeto- Burman language. The main objective of the paper is to analyses inter-district diversities in selected attributes of tribal population of IHR.

The distribution pattern of the population structure differs from one place to another. These aspects are particularly determined by the environmental conditions which have both restrictive and permissive conditions to human activities. The tribal population of India is mostly concentrated in inhospitable regions like rugged mountains, ravarine land, extreme climatic zones and dense forest areas. India, A second most populous country in the world, has also the second largest concentration of tribal population, probably next only to Africa.

### **Objectives**

The main objective of the present study is:

- 1- To study the spatial pattern in distribution of tribal population, decadal growth, sex ratio and literacy status among the scheduled tribe population of the twelve states / region with 109 districts of Indian Himalayan Region.

### **Data Base**

The secondary data released by the Census of India 2001 and 2011 form the basis of present discussion. Demographic data such as distribution, sex ratio, growth during 2001 to

2011, and literacy status of all the Himalayan states/ regions and districts have been computed and tabulated for the analysis.

### **Indian Himalayan Region**

As per Census 2011 the Indian Himalayan Region consists of 4, 69, 61,740 persons accounting of 4.01% of total population of the country. The Indian Himalayan Region , consists of ten whole states- Jammu and Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Sikkim, Arunachal Pradesh, Nagaland, Tripura, Manipur, Mizoram, Meghalaya and two partial part of the West Bengal (Darjiling district) and Assam (Karbi Anglong and Dima Hasao districts) (Fig.1). There are 109 districts in the Indian Himalayan Region accounts 17% of the total 640 districts in the country in 2011 Census. Geologically and Geographically Meghalaya and few portion of NE Region are similar with the Deccan Plateau but due to physiographic similarities and adjacent location, these parts and states are included in the Indian Himalayan Region for development planning point of view. It makes the northern boundary of India extending from Nanga Parvat (8126 m) in west to Namcha Barwa (7755 m) in the east, having a length of 2500 km and width about 160 to 400 km encompasses an area of about 533606 km<sup>2</sup>. As per Census 2011, the tribal population of the Indian Himalayan Region is 11795981 persons account 11.31% of the country's tribal population (as 104281034 persons constitute 8.6 % of its total population).

The Indian Himalayan Region like other mountains throughout the world is experiencing environmental degradation due to various biophysical and socio- economic factors. Mountains are known for their specialties such as inaccessibility, fragility, marginality, diversity, niche and adaptability (Jodha, 2005 Cited by GBPIHED, 2010). The level of socio- economic development of the Indian Himalayan Region cannot be compared with the other parts of the country. Therefore, it is necessary to analyze the present demographic scenario and underlying factors for comparatively low and slow development. The data and trends of various attributes of population will be helpful in the planning and policy making of the Indian Himalayan Region.

### **List of Indian Himalayan Districts Name (For Figure 1)**

**Jammu and Kashmir**( 22 Dstricts) 1-Bandipure 2- Kupwara 3-Gandarbal 4-Srinagar 5-Baramula 6- Badgam 7- Pulwama 8- Shuphian 9- Punch 10- Kulgam 11- Rajauri 12- Reasi 13- Anantnag 14- Ramban 15- Doda 16- Udhampur 17- Jammu 18- Samba 19- Kathuwa 20- Kistwar 21- Kargil 22-Leh.



**Himachal Pradesh** (12 Districts) 23- Chamba 24- Lahul and Spiti 25- Kangra 26- Kullu 27- Mandi 28- Hamirpur 29- Una 30- Bilaspur 31- Solan 32- Sirmaur 33- Shimla 34- Kinnaur.

**Uttarakhand** (13 Districts) 35- Uttarakashi 36. Dehradun 37- Tehri Garhwal (Tehri) 38- Rudraprayag 39- Hardwar 40- Garhwal (Pauri) 41- Chamoli 42- Bageshwar 43- Almora 44- Nainital 45- U.S.Nagar 46- Champawat 47- Pithoragarh

**Sikkim** (4 Districts) 48- North District (Sikkim) 49- West District (Sikkim) 50- South District (Sikkim) 51- East District (Sikkim)

**Arunachal Pradesh** (16 Districts) 52-Tawang 53- West Kemeng 54- East Kemeng 55- Kurug Kumey 56- Papumpare 57- Lower Subansiri 58- Upper Subansiri 59- West Siang 60- East Siang 61- Upper Siang 62- Dibang Valley 63- Lower Dibang valley 64- Anjaw 65- Lohit 66- Changlang 67- Tirap

**Nagaland** (11 Districts) 68-Mon 69- Longlang 70- Mokokchung 71- Tuensang 72-Zunheboto 73- Wokha 74- Kiphire 75- Phek 76- Kohima 77- Dimapur 78- Paren

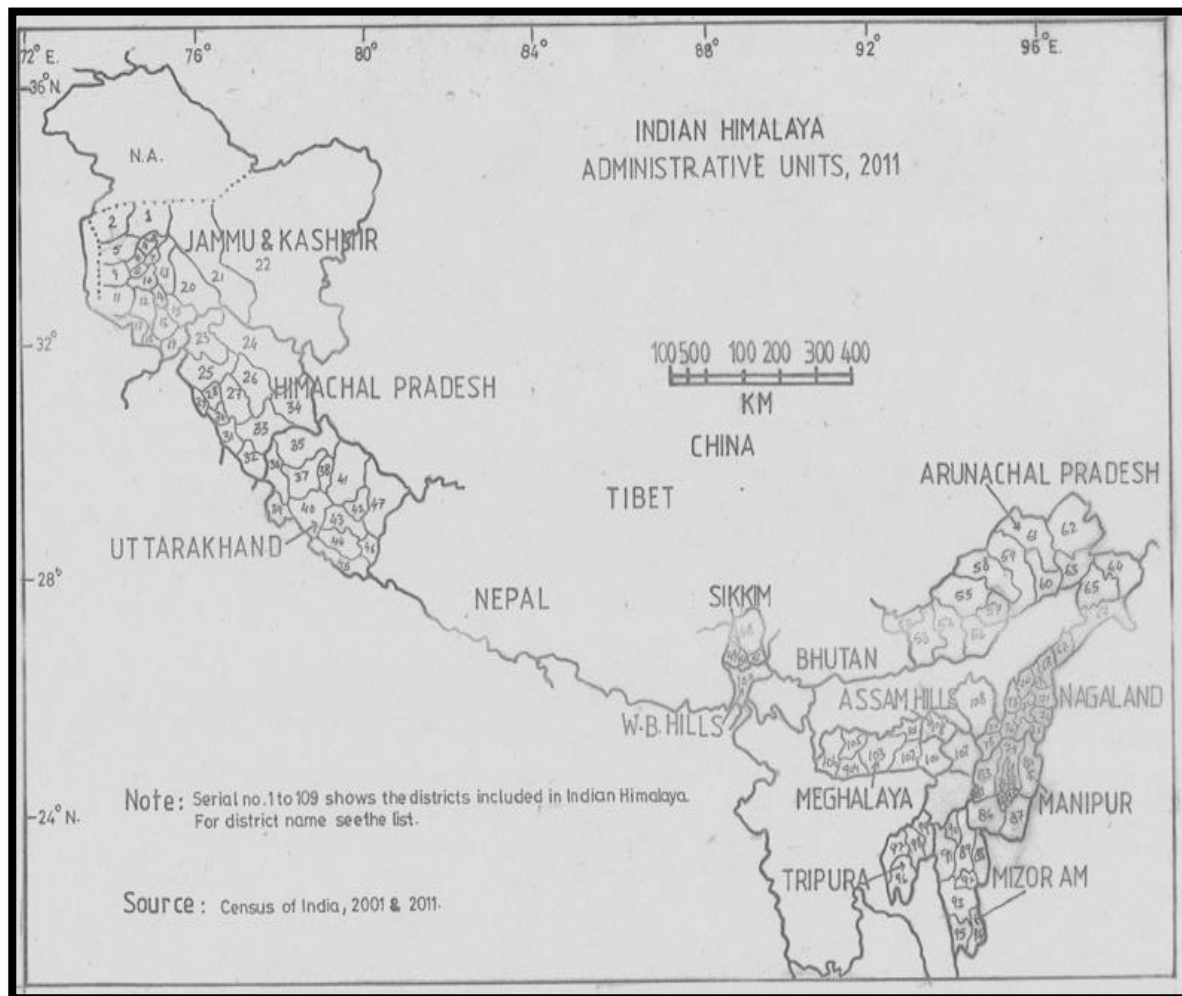
**Manipur** ( 9 Districts) 79- Senapati 80- Ukhrul 81- Imphal East 82- Imphal West 83- Tamenglong 84- Bishnupur 85- Thoubal 86- Churachandpur 87- Chandel.

**Mizoram** (8 Districts) 88- Champhai 89- Aizawal 90- Kolasib 91- Mamit 92- Serchhip 93- Lunglei 94- Saiha 95- Lunglei

**Tripura** (4 Districts) 96-South Tripura 97- West Tripura 98-Dhalai 99- North Tripura

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**Figure 1: Administrative Divisions of the Indian Himalayan Region**

**Meghalaya** (7 Districts) 100- Jaintia Hills 101- Re Bhoi 102- East Khasi hills 103- West Khasi hills 104- South Garo Hills 105- East Garo Hills 106- West Garo Hills.

**Assam Hills** (2 Districts) 107 Dima Hasao 108 Karbi Aonglong

**W.B. Hills** (01 District) 109- Darjiling.

### **Review of Literature**

In spite of the crucial importance of the regional dimensions in the proper evaluation of the social phenomena for the better appreciation of the diverse character of the Indian polity, geographical research in the country has tended to ignore it either almost entirely or treated it area of peripheral interest. Despite various incentives available to the researchers in the field, tribes continue to receive scant attention from the social as well as the population geographers. Evidently the social sciences including geography were already seized of the problem of Indian tribes and studies such as those of Singh (1972), Raza (1984), Aggarwal and Mathur (1973), Ali (1972), Vidyarthi (1974), Despande (1973), Mookerjee (1986), Gupta and Baghel (1995), Joshi (1996), Bhole and Bhangale (1999), Chib (1995), Pathak (2001), Trail (1832), Atkinson (1886) and Pant (1935). Authors like Bose (1990), Srivastava (1958), Berreman (1972 and 1983), Chand (2004), Bisht *et al.* (1995), Satyal *et al.* (1999), Samal (1993), Pant (1995, 1996, 2007, 2010 a, 2010 b, 2012 and 2013), Pant and Chand (2013), Gangwar and Pant (2011 and 2012) etc. have focused on the multifarious problems faced by the tribes in the different parts of the country and abroad.

### **Distribution of Scheduled Tribe Population**

The distribution of tribal population in any geographical region differs from one place to another. It is mainly governed by the geo-environmental factors which have both restrictive and permissive condition to human activities. The tribal population of the IHR mostly concentrated relatively in more inhospitable areas like rugged mountains, ravarine land, extreme climatic zone, dense forest and marshy areas. According to Census of India 2011 the tribal population of the IHR is enumerated 1,17,95,981 persons constitute about 25.2 % of the total IHR population and 10,42,81,034 person are recorded as tribal people in the whole country which is 8.6 % of the all castes population. The IHR contains 11.31% of the total country's tribal population. The concentration of Himalaya's tribal population varies 1.75% in Sikkim to 21.67% in Meghalaya. As per Census 2011, maximum tribal population of the IHR is found in Meghalaya (21.67%) with 17 tribes (main and sub tribes). The second largest number of tribal people are registered in Nagaland (14.51%) immediately followed by Jammu and Kashmir (12.66%) (Table 1). The states/ regions which have 5 to 10 % tribal population of the IHR are Tripura (9.89%), Mizoram (8.78%), Arunachal Pradesh (8.07%), Manipur (7.65%) and Assam



Hills (5.85%). Remaining states/ regions have less than 5 % IHRs tribal population. It is worth to mention that the states/ regions which have more remote and inhospitable geographical areas registered more tribal population such as Meghalaya, Nagaland and Jammu and Kashmir. Contrary this the states having more level fertile land, irrigational and other infrastructural facilities have less tribal population such as Uttarakhand and Sikkim.

District wise distribution of Himalayan tribal population varies from minimum 386 persons (negligible proportion) in the Rudraprayag district of Uttarakhand to maximum 661158 persons (5.6 %) in the East Khasi Hills district of Meghalaya state. Table 2 gives the spatial distribution of districts by different ranges and groups of population concentration of the Indian Himalaya Region. The concentration of the Himalayan tribal population has been grouped into four groups i.e. below 1.00 %, 1.01 to 2.0 %, 2.01 to 3.00 % and more than 3.01 % respectively classified as very low concentrated zone, , low, medium, and high concentrated zone. Out of total 109 districts of the Himalaya 67.0 % districts have less than 1.0 % of Himalaya's tribal population. About 22.0 % districts have 1.01 to 2.00 % tribal population of the Himalaya. Only 7.3 % districts have more than 3.01 % tribal population of the Indian Himalaya. These are Aizawl, West Khasi Hills, Jaintia Hills, Darjiling, West Tripura, West Garo Hills, Karbi Aonglong and East Khasi Hills.

But their largest proportion to total states / regions population in the IHR is found in Mizoram (94.4%) followed by Nagaland (86.5%), Meghalaya (86.1%), Arunachal Pradesh (68.8%), Assam Hills (59.0%), Manipur (35.1%), Sikkim (33.8%), Tripura (31.8%), W.B. Hills (21.5%) and Jammu and Kashmir (11.9%). Himachal Pradesh (5.7%) and Uttarakhand (2.9%) have less than 10 % tribal population of the total population.

Pant B.R and R. Chand. 2013. 2011 Mai Bhartiya Himalaya, PAHAR-18:22-54.

**Table -1: Population Growth and Distribution of Scheduled Tribe Population in the Indian Himalayan Region, 2011**

Sr.No.	State/Region	Scheduled Tribe Population			% of Total Population	% of IHR Population	% of Country Population	0-6 age Population (% of total)	HH Size (Persons/HH)	Growth Rate 2001-2011 (%)
		Person	Male	Female						
1	Jammu & Kashmir	1493299	776257	717042	11.9	12.66	1.43	20.3	6	35.02
2	Himachal Pradesh	392126	196118	196008	5.7	3.32	0.38	12.2	5	60.32
3	Uttarakhand	291903	148669	143234	2.9	2.47	0.28	11.8	6	13.97
4	Sikkim	206360	105261	101099	33.8	1.75	0.20	10.6	5	85.23
5	Arunachal Pradesh	951821	468390	483431	68.8	8.07	0.91	15.9	5	34.98
6	Nagaland	1710973	866027	844946	86.5	14.50	1.64	14.9	5	-3.55
7	Manipur	902740	450887	451853	35.1	7.65	0.87	13.3	5	21.8
8	Mizoram	1036115	516294	519821	94.4	8.78	0.99	15.5	5	23.45
9	Tripura	1166813	588327	578486	31.8	9.89	1.12	15.0	5	17.45
10	Meghalaya	2555861	1269728	1286133	86.1	21.67	2.45	19.9	6	28.25
11	Assam Hills	690581	348980	341601	37.4	5.85	0.66	16.8	5	18.78
12	W. B. Hills	397389	197251	200138	34.0	3.37	0.38	10.4	5	94.64
Indian Himalayan Region		11795981	5932189	5863792	25.2	100.0	11.31	16.4	5	23.52
India		104281034	52409823	51871211	8.6	-----	100.00	16.0	5	23.66

**Source:** Census of India, 2011 pca\_state\_distt\_st 2011 (<http://www.censusindia.gov.in>).

(i) ST communities returned with zero population in 2011 Census are not shown.

(ii) All Scheduled Tribes includes figures for Generic Tribes, i.e. those who returned as Anusuchit jan-jati, Girijan, Adivasi, etc.

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**Table 2: Distribution of districts by ranges of proportion of total Scheduled Tribe population in the Indian Himalayan Region (IHR), 2011**

Concentration Zone	Ranges (%)	Districts		Districts Detail
		(No.)	(%)	
Very Low	Below 1.0	73	67.0	Papum Pare, Anantnag, Lawngtlai, Dehradun, Tirap, Leh(Ladakh), West Siang, Kurung Kumey, Reasi, Kangra, Peren, Mamit, East Sikkim, Upper Subansiri, Bandipore, Kolasib, Lower Subansiri, East Kameng, Kiphire, Kupwara, East Siang, Jammu, Serchhip, Ganderbal, West Sikkim, Udampur, Saiha, Changlang, Kathua, Kinnaur, Longleng, Lohit, West Kameng, South Sikkim, Ramban, Doda, Kishtwar, Baramula, Tawang, North Sikkim, Upper Siang, Imphal East, Kulgam, Lower Dibang Valley, Lahul & Spiti, Solan, Imphal West, Badgam, Pulwama, Shupiyan, Pithoragarh, Samba, Kullu, Anjaw, Mandi, Chamoli, Sirmaur, Bilaspur, Srinagar, Shimla, Una, Nainital, Hardwar, Dibang Valley, Uttarkashi, Bishnupur, Hamirpur, Garhwal, Bageshwar, Thoubal, Champawat, Almora, Tehri Garhwal, and Rudraprayag.
Low	1.01---2.0	24	22.0	Rajouri , Ribhoi, Kohima, Dimapur , Dhalai, Tuensang, North Tripura, Mokokchung, Punch, Ukhrul, Phek, Wokha, Senapati, Lunglei, Dima Hasao, Zunheboto, Chamba, Tamenglong , South Garo Hills, Chandel, Champhai, Udham Singh Nagar and Kargil.
Medium	2.01-3.0	4	3.7	South Tripura , East Garo Hills, Churachandpur, and Mon.
High	Above 3.01	8	7.3	East Khasi Hills, Karbi Anglong, West Garo Hills, West Tripura , Darjiling , Jaintia Hills, West Khasi Hills, and Aizawl.
	Total	109	100.0	-----

**Source:** Census of India, 2011. Computed by Author.

District wise distribution of tribal population to total population varies from minimum 0.1% Tehri district of Uttarakhand to maximum 98 % in the Kurung Kumey district of Arunachal Pradesh. Table 3 gives the spatial distribution of districts by different ranges and groups of population concentration in the districts. The concentration of the tribal population to total population has been grouped into six groups i.e. below 10.00 %, 10.01 to 30.0 %, 30.01 to 50.00 % 50.01 to 70.0 %, 70.01 to 90.0% and more than 90.01 % respectively classified as extremely low concentrated zone, very low, low, moderate, high and very high concentrated zones. Out of total 109 districts of the Indian Himalayan Region 33.94 % districts have less than 10.0 % tribal to total population. About 11.93 % districts have 10.01 to 30.00 % tribal



population. More than 1/5 (22.94%) districts have more than 90.01 % tribal population. These are Kurung Kumey, Champhai, West Khasi Hills, Tuensang, Zunheboto, Serchhip, Saiha, Kiphire, Longleng, Phek, East Garo Hills, Tamenglong, Lawngtlai, Mon, Jaintia Hills, Lunglei, Mamit, Ukhrul, South Garo Hills, Wokha, Upper Subansiri, Aizawl, Churachandpur, East Kameng, and Mokokchung. More than 40.0 % districts have more than 70.0% tribal population. Except Lahul & Spiti and Leh (Ladakh) all these districts are situated in eastern states of the Indian Himalaya.

**Table 3: Distribution of districts by ranges of proportion of Scheduled Tribe population to total Population in the Indian Himalayan Region, 2011**

Concentration Zone	Ranges (%)	Districts		Districts Detail
		(No.)	(%)	
Extremely Low	Below 10.0	37	33.94	Doda, Kathua, Shupiyan, Kupwara, Udhampur, Dehradun, Kulgam, Imphal East, Kangra, Samba, Imphal West, Jammu, Solan, Pithoragarh, Pulwama, Kullu, Baramulla, Badgam, Chamoli, Bilaspur, Sirmour, Una, Bishnupur, Mandi, Shimla, Uttarkashi, Nainital, Bageshwar, Srinagar, Hamirpur, Champawat, Thoubal, Hardwar, Garhwal, Almora, Rudrapur and Tehri Garhwal.
Very Low	10.01-30.0	13	11.93	South Sikkim, Reasi, East Sikkim, Chamba, North Tripura, West Tripura, Darjiling, Ganderbal, Bandipore, Kishtwar, Ramban, Anantnag and Udhampur.
Low	30.01-50.0	7	6.42	Lower Dibang Valley, West Sikkim, South Tripura, Punc, Changlang, Rajouri and Lohit
Moderate	50.01-70.0	8	7.34	Tawang, Papum Pare, North Sikkim, Dimapur, Kinnaur, Karbi Anglong, Dhalai, and West Kameng.
High	70.01-90.0	19	17.43	Chandel, Ribhoi, Peren, Tirap, Lower Subansiri, Kolasib, Kargil, Kohima, West Siang, Lahul & Spiti, Upper Siang, East Khasi Hills, Senapati, Anjaw, West Garo Hills, Leh(Ladakh), Dibang Valley, Dima Hasao and East Siang.
Very High	Above 90.01	25	22.94	Kurung Kumey, Champhai, West Khasi Hills, Tuensang, Zunheboto, Serchhip, Saiha, Kiphire, Longleng, Phek, East Garo Hills, Tamenglong, Lawngtlai, Mon, Jaintia Hills, Lunglei, Mamit, Ukhrul, South Garo Hills, Wokha, Upper Subansiri, Aizawl, Churachandpur, East Kameng, and Mokokchung.
	Total	109	100.0	-----

**Source:** Census of India, 2011. Computed by Author.

About 16.4 % population in the IHR is 0-6 year's age group which is more than the country average (16.0%). Maximum 20.3% child population is in Jammu and Kashmir in 2011 while

minimum 10.4% childrens are in West Bengal Hills (Darjiling district). Child population varies minimum 8.5% in Kullu District in Himachal Pradesh to maximum 27.0% in Pulwama district in Jammu and Kashmir.

### **Growth of Population**

The total growth of the tribal population of the IHR 2011 is recorded 23.52 % during the decade of 2001 to 2011 which is lower than the country's (23.66%) growth rate of same segment. The growth rate varies from minimum even minus (-) 3.55% in Nagaland to maximum 94.64 % in W. B. Hills (Table-1). Out of total states/regions of the IHR three states /regions are registered the growth rate more than 50 %. These are Himachal Pradesh (60.32%), Sikkim (85.23%) and W. B. Hills (94.64%). The high growth rate is because of the large inflow of rural population for getting job in the tourism and tea industries. Five states/ regions of the total 12 units of the IHR have less than the regional and country's average growth rates. These are Mizoram (23.45%), Tripura (17.45%), Manipur (21.8%), Uttarakhand (13.97%) and Nagaland (-3.55%). It is worth to mention here that Nagaland has registered IHR's and country's lowest growth rate even negative growth. It has registered highest growth rate during 1991 -2001 and government has rejected the state's 2001 census figures because most of the villages recorded exaggerated population figures believing that they would get more financial allocation from the government for various rural development schemes. This prevailing perception the Chief Minister and state Census Director have made repeated appeals to the people particularly to village authorities to give correct data to the enumerators during census operations 2011. Due to the impact of appeals done by census authorities, the Nagaland has recorded a negative decadal growth not only in tribes but in total population also during 2001 -2011. About 75% states/ regions of the IHR have recorded more growth rate than the growth of total population of the IHR and national averages. District wise growth of tribal population could not computed due to reorganization of districts in IHR as there were about 95 districts in 2001 and 109 districts in 2011.

### **Gender Composition**

Gender composition reveals the numerical relationship between female and male population. A ratio of one thousand indicates equal balance of males and females in the population, less than one thousand females indicates numerical deficit of women (low sex ratio)



and above one thousand females indicate numerical surplus of women (high sex ratio) in the population. Average sex ratio of the IHR tribes is 988 females / 1000 males in 2011 and it was 968 in 2001 which is lower than the sex ratio of the national average during 2001 (976) and 2011 (990) respectively.

In 2011 census the sex ratio varies minimum 924 in Jammu and Kashmir to maximum 1032 females / 1000 males in Arunachal Pradesh. There are five states / regions in the IHR where number of females is more than males. These are W.B. Hills (1015), Meghalaya (1013), Mizoram (1007), Manipur (1002) and Arunachal Pradesh (1032) while in 2001 census only Meghalaya and Arunachal Pradesh had more females than males (Table-4). The sex ratio of 50 % states/ regions of the IHR are lower than the average sex ratio of the region and country as a whole. It is worth to mention that the main cause of high sex ratio in rural based hilly states / regions is out migration of male population in search of employment and better educational facilities.

**Table -4: Indian Himalaya Region : Sex Ratio of Scheduled Tribe Population, 2001 and 2011**

Sl. No.	State/Region	Sex Ratio (F/1000M)		
		Total (2001)	Total (2011)	Child (0-6 age ) (2011)
1	Jammu & Kashmir	910	924	912
2	Himachal Pradesh	996	999	930
3	Uttarakhand	950	963	929
4	Sikkim	957	960	961
5	Arunachal Pradesh	1003	1032	977
6	Nagaland	943	976	942
7	Manipur	980	1002	934
8	Mizoram	984	1007	971
9	Tripura	970	983	957
10	Meghalaya	1000	1013	973
11	Assam Hills	958	979	959
12	W. B. Hills	996	1015	962
<b>Indian Himalayan Region</b>		<b>968</b>	<b>988</b>	<b>952</b>
<b>India</b>		<b>978</b>	<b>990</b>	<b>957</b>

**Source:** Census of India, 2011. Computed by Author.

(i) ST communities returned with zero population in 2011 Census are not shown.

(ii) All Scheduled Tribes includes figures for Generic Tribes, i.e. those who returned as Anusuchit jan-jati, Girijan, Adivasi, etc.



The sex ratio of Himalayan districts varies from minimum 723 females / 1000 males in Champawat to maximum 1127 in the Uttarkashi district of Uttarakhand. Table 5 gives the distribution of districts of Himalaya by ranges of sex ratio in 2011. Out of total 109 district 2.75 % have below 850 females / 1000 males. These are Champawat, Rudraprayag and Srinagar while 4.59 % districts are in between the range of 851 to 900 females / 1000 males. These are Baramula, Hardwar, Ganderbal, Pauri Garhwal and Ramban. About one fourth (26.61%) districts of the Himalaya have recorded the sex ratio between the ranges of 901 - 950. Approximately one third (34.86 %) districts of the Himalaya have more females than males (Table 5). These are Uttarkashi, Imphal West, Tawang, Papum Pare, East Khasi Hills, Kinnaur, Lower Dibang Valley, East Kameng, Imphal East, Aizawl, Pithoragarh, Kurung Kumey, Bageshwar, West Kameng, Lower Subansiri, Chamoli, Kohima, Upper Subansiri, West Siang, East Siang, Kangra, Almora, Jaintia Hills, Bishnupur, Lohit, Dimapur, Churachandpur, Lahul & Spiti, Chandel, Leh(Ladakh), Mandi, Darjiling, Saiha, Zunheboto, Anjaw, Serchhip, Senapati and West Garo Hills. It is evident from the tables 5 that out of total 109 districts of the IHR 65.14 % have fewer females than males. It is worth to mention that the main cause of high sex ratio in rural based hilly district is out migration of either all castes or tribal male population in search of employment and better education. Uttarakhand is only state where seven districts out of total thirteen districts are in the range of high sex ratio because of the overwhelming out migration of male population from the hill region.

**Table 5: Distribution of districts by ranges of total sex ratio in the Indian Himalayan Region (IHR), 2011**

**(Females /1000 Males)**

Sex Ratio Zone	Ranges (F/1000M)	Districts		Districts Detail
		(No.)	(%)	
Extremely Low	Below 850	3	2.75	Srinagar, Rudraprayag and Champawat.
Very Low	851-900	5	4.59	Ramban, Garhwal, Ganderbal, Hardwar and Baramula.
Low	901-950	29	26.61	Bilaspur, North Sikkim, Thoubal, Tuensang, Peren, Una, Udampur, Badgam, Shupiyan, Kathua, Doda, Longleng, Shimla, Solan, South Sikkim Rajouri, Kishtwar, Dehradun, Mon, Bandipore, Samba, Kulgam, Pulwama, Reasi, Tehri Garhwal, Kupwara, Sirmaur, Jammu and Anantnag.
Moderate	951-1000	34	31.19	Dibang Valley, Chamba, Kolasib, Champhai, Tirap, Udham Singh Nagar, South Tripura, Changlang, Lunglei, Hamirpur, West Tripura, Wokha, East Sikkim, Ribhoi, Dima Hasao, East Garo Hills, West Khasi Hills, Kullu, Karbi Anglong, Phek, Upper Siang, Ukhrul, Tamenglong, Dhalai, Kiphire, Nainital, Mokochung, South Garo Hills, Lawngtlai, North Tripura, West Sikkim, Kargil, Mamit and

				Punch.
High	Above 1001	38	34.86	Uttarkashi, Imphal West, Tawang, Papum Pare, East Khasi Hills, Kinnaur, Lower Dibang Valley, East Kameng, Imphal East, Aizawl, Pithoragarh, Kurung Kumey, Bageshwar, West Kameng, Lower Subansiri, Chamoli, Kohima, Upper Subansiri, West Siang, East Siang, Kangra, Almora, Jaintia Hills, Bishnupur, Lohit, Dimapur , Churachandpur, Lahul & Spiti, Chandel, Leh(Ladakh), Mandi, Darjiling , Saiha, Zunheboto, Anjaw, Serchhip, Senapati and West Garo Hills.
	Total	109	100.0	-----

**Source:** Census of India, 2011 Computed by Author.

There is an alarming situation prevailing in the Indian Himalayan Region regarding the sex ratio among tribal children (0-6 age population) where it is 952 females / 1000 males in 2011 which is lower than the country average (957). The child sex ratio varies from 912 in Jammu and Kashmir to 977 in Arunachal Pradesh. The number of females in all states / regions of the Indian Himalayan Region are less than the male population in 2011 (Table 4).

**Table 6 Distribution of districts by ranges of 0-6 years age population sex ratio in the Indian Himalayan Region (IHR), 2011 (Females /1000 Males)**

Sex Ratio Zone	Ranges (F/1000M)	Districts		Districts Detail
		(No.)	(%)	
Extremely Low	Below 850	5	4.59	Tehri Garhwal, Almora, Una, Chamoli and Hardwar.
Very Low	851-900	15	13.76	Mandi, Punch, Jammu, Udhampur, Srinagar, Longleng, Rajouri, Bishnupur, Pithoragarh, Samba, Anantnag, Ganderbal, Solan, Kullu and Hamirpur.
Low	901-950	37	33.95	Churachandpur, Kiphire, Leh(Ladakh), Zunheboto, West Tripura , Lohit, Dibang Valley, Shupiyan, Udham Singh Nagar, South Sikkim, Reasi, Doda, Dehradun, Chamba, Tuensang, Peren, West Siang, Senapati, Bageshwar, Saiha, Ukhrul, Kulgam, Kupwara, Baramula, North Sikkim, Ramban, Tamenglong , Chandel, Imphal East, Kangra, Kathua, Sirmaur, Bilaspur, Bandipore, Mon, Phek and Pulwama.
Moderate	951-1000	46	42.20	Tawang, Lower Dibang Valley, Anjaw, Imphal West, Shimla, Changlang, East Siang, East Sikkim, Uttarkashi, Kinnaur, Badgam, Kohima, Aizawl, Kurung Kumey, Kolasib, Papum Pare, Mamit, East Garo Hills, West Garo Hills, Nainital, Kargil, South Garo Hills, Jaintia Hills, Dimapur , East Khasi Hills, Dhalai, Champhai, Lower Subansiri, West Khasi Hills, Upper Subansiri, Kishtwar,



				Tirap, Lawngtlai, Lunglei, Dima Hasao, Darjiling, West Sikkim, North Tripura, Champawat, Upper Siang, Karbi Anglong, Wokha, Ribhoi, South Tripura, Mokokchung and Serchhip.
High	Above 1001	6	5.50	Garhwal, Rudraprayag, Lahul & Spiti, Thoubal, West Kameng and East Kameng.
	Total	109	100.0	-----

*Source:* Census of India, 2011 Computed by Author.

The child sex ratio in the Himalayan districts varies from 806 in Hardwar to 1082 in Garhwal district of Uttarakhand. Table 6 gives the distribution of districts of Himalayan Region by ranges of child sex ratio in 2011. Out of total 109 districts, only 4.59 % have a sex ratio below 850 females / 1000 males. These are Tehri Garhwal, Almora, Una, Chamoli and Hardwar. About 13.76 % districts of the Himalayan Region are fall in the range of 851 to 900 while 33.95 % districts are in the range of 901 to 950 and 42.20 % districts have 951 to 1000 females / 1000 males. Only 5.5 % districts have more girls than boys. These are Garhwal, Rudraprayag, Lahul & Spiti, Thoubal, West and East Kameng. The low child sex ratio is the reflection of the narrow and inherited mentality of the present society. The prominent reasons for low sex ratio in the both rural and urban tribal society are—son preference, unequal treatment given to boys and girls, female infanticide, neglect of female infants, early marriage, death during pregnancy, and hard work performed by the tribal women. Some of the Himalayan districts have shown high sex ratio because of out migration of male population from villages to more developed places in search of better educational facilities. Thus one can say for the Himalayan Region- missing men and lonely women.

### **Literacy Pattern**

The status of literacy among the tribes of the IHR as a whole lying in Indian sub continent is not satisfactory. It denotes the most basic and essential criterion of human development. It is a qualitative aspect of population is one of the most important indicator of social awakening and cultural advancement of the inhabitants in a geographical unit, whereas a change in literacy reflects the socio-economic and cultural transformation of the society. Like India, the whole IHR has an expected progress in the literacy aspect among the total and tribal population during the decade of 1991 to 2001 and 2001 to 2011(Pant, 2012)



*Keeping in view the significance of literacy, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) has included in the criteria to determine the Human Development Index (HDI). Lack of literacy can certainly be an impediment in the development progress. A certain level of literacy is therefore, a basic requirement for the people to get out from ignorance and backwardness (Gosal, 1979). Table 7 shows the states / region wise literacy rates by sex for the year 2001 and 2011. As per census 2011 IHR tribal population has registered 73.6 % literacy which is about 15 % higher than that country's average (59.0%) It was respectively 61.3 and 47.1 % in 2001 .The tribal literacy of the IHR in 2011 varies minimum 50.6 % in Jammu and Kashmir to maximum 91.5 % in Mizoram. The total literacy of Mizoram ranks first not only in the Indian Himalaya but also in the country as a whole.*

**Table- 7: Indian Himalaya Region: Literacy Pattern in Scheduled Tribe Population, 2011**

Sl. No	States/Regions	Literacy Pattern (%) 2011			Literacy Pattern (%) 2001			Gap in M –F Literacy Rates	
		Total	Males	Females	Total	Males	Females	2011	2001
1	Jammu & Kashmir	50.6	60.6	39.7	37.5	48.2	25.5	20.9	22.7
2	Himachal Pradesh	73.6	83.2	64.2	65.5	77.7	53.3	19.0	24.4
3	Uttarakhand	73.9	83.6	63.9	63.2	76.4	49.4	19.7	27
4	Sikkim	79.7	85.0	74.3	67.1	73.8	60.2	10.7	13.6
5	Arunachal Pradesh	64.6	71.5	58.0	49.6	58.8	40.6	13.5	18.2
6	Nagaland	80.0	83.1	76.9	65.9	70.3	61.3	6.2	9.0
7	Manipur	77.4	82.1	72.7	65.9	73.2	58.4	9.4	14.8
8	Mizoram	91.5	93.6	89.5	89.3	91.7	86.9	4.1	4.8
9	Tripura	79.1	86.4	71.6	56.5	68.0	44.6	14.8	23.4
10	Meghalaya	74.5	75.5	73.5	61.3	63.5	59.2	2.0	4.3
11	Assam Hills	69.1	75.7	62.4	58.6	67.8	49.1	13.3	18.7
12	W.B. Hills	74.3	81.5	67.2	55.5	65.1	45.8	14.3	19.3
	<b>Indian Himalayan Region</b>	<b>73.6</b>	<b>78.6</b>	<b>68.5</b>	<b>61.3</b>	<b>69.5</b>	<b>52.9</b>	<b>10.0</b>	<b>16.6</b>
	<b>India</b>	<b>59.0</b>	<b>68.5</b>	<b>49.4</b>	<b>47.1</b>	<b>59.2</b>	<b>34.8</b>	<b>19.2</b>	<b>24.4</b>

**Source:** Census of India, 2011 Computed by Author.

(i) ST communities returned with zero population in 2011 Census are not shown.

(ii) All Scheduled Tribes includes figures for Generic Tribes, i.e. those who returned as Anusuchit jan-jati, Girijan, Adivasi, etc.

The tribal literacy of the Jammu & Kashmir is about 9.4 % less than the national (59.0 %) and 23 % of IHR (73.6%) averages. Only three states have 60-70 % literacy rates. These are Jammu & Kashmir (50.6 %), Arunachal Pradesh (64.6%), and Assam Hills (69.1%). Two third states / regions are between the literacy ranges of 70-80 %. These are Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Sikkim, Manipur, Tripura, Meghalaya, and West Bengal Hills.

The total literacy rates in the Himalaya region varies from minimum 27.9 % in Kulgam district of Jammu and Kashmir to maximum Aizawl (98.1 %) in Mizoram. It is worth to mention here the total tribal literacy of Aizawl district ranks first not only in the Himalaya but also in the country as a whole. About 16 % of the Himalayan districts where the literacy rates are still below 50 % may be recognized as a region with low level of literacy. These are Kishtwar, Kulgam, Kurung Kumey, Tirap, Doda, Srinagar, Kathua, Udhampur, Kupwara, Baramula, Ganderbal, Badgam, Reasi, Shupiyan, Ramban, Anantnag and Pulwama. There are 54.13 % districts of the Himalaya with total literacy rates 70.01 % to 90.0 % may be termed as moderate level of literacy zone. Out of total 109 districts only 7.34% districts of the Himalaya have high level of literacy rate of 90.01 % and above. These are Aizawl, Serchhip, Champhai, Kolasib, Mokokchung, Almora, Dimapur and Saiha (Table 8).

**Table 8: Distribution of districts by ranges of total literacy (persons) in the Indian Himalayan Region (IHR), 2011**

Literacy Zone	Ranges (%)	Districts		Districts Detail
		(No.)	(%)	
Extremely Low	Below 30.0	2	1.83	Kishtwar and Kulgam
Very Low	30.01-50.0	15	13.76	Kurung Kumey, Tirap, Doda, Srinagar, Kathua, Udhampur, Kupwara, Baramula, Ganderbal, Badgam, Reasi, Shupiyan, Ramban, Anantnag and Pulwama.
Low	50.01-70.0	25	22.94	Chandel, Tamenglong, Kiphire, Chamba, Changlang, Kargil, Karbi Anglong, Dibang Valley, Lawngtlai, West Siang, Upper Subansiri, Hardwar, Jaintia Hills, West Kameng, Punch, Sirmaur, East Kameng, Upper Siang, Samba, Jammu, Mon, Rajouri, Bandipore, Tawang and Anjaw.
Moderate	70.01-90.0	59	54.13	Imphal West, Wokha, Lunglei, Imphal East, Rudraprayag, Kohima, Chamoli, Mamit, Hamirpur, Zunheboto, Pithoragarh, East Khasi Hills, Thoubal, Kullu, West Tripura, Bageshwar, Churachandpur, East Sikkim, Ukhrul, South Sikkim, Kinnaur, Una, Papum Pare, Garhwal, Dhalai, Peren, Tehri Garhwal, West Khasi Hills, Phek, Champawat, West Sikkim, Lahul & Spiti, Uttarkashi, North



				Sikkim, East Siang, Nainital, Lower Dibang Valley, South Tripura , Mandi, Lohit, Ribhoi, Bishnupur, Bilaspur, Shimla, Dima Hasao, North Tripura, Darjiling , Kangra, Lower Subansiri, East Garo Hills, Udham Singh Nagar, Senapati, Solan, Tuensang, Longleng, Leh(Ladakh), South Garo Hills, Dehradun and West Garo Hills.
High	Above 90.01	8	7.34	Aizawl, Serchhip, Champhai, Kolasib, Mokokchung, Almora, Dimapur and Saiha.
	Total	109	100.0	-----

**Source:** Census of India, 2011 Computed by Author.

Average male literacy of the IHR is 78.6 % which is about 10% more than the national average (68.5 %). Considering total tribal literacy in the IHR, the highest proportion of male literates is registered in Mizoram (93.6 %) followed by Tripura (86.4%) while the male tribes of Jammu and Kashmir (60.6 %) are at the bottom in literacy level. The male literacy rate of Jammu and Kashmir is below from the national average (68.5%).

Distribution of districts by different ranges of tribal male literacy is presented in table 10. Among the males the highest literacy rate 98.4 % is recorded in the Aizawl district of Mizoram state and the males of Kulgam district of Jammu & Kashmir are the lowest (33.6 %) in literacy rate. Out of total 109 districts of the Himalaya, 7.34 % districts are reported below 50% male literacy. These are Badgam, Reasi, Ramban, Shupiyan, Anantnag, Pulwama, Kishtwar and Kulgam may be called as a very low literacy region. There are 20.18 % districts in the Himalaya fall in the zone of low literacy with male literacy rate 50.01 % to 70 % while 55.05 % districts fall in the region of moderate literacy level (70.01-90.0 %). About 17.43 % districts of the Himalaya fall in the zone of high literacy level (Above 90.01 %).

**Table 9: Distribution of districts by ranges of male literacy in the Indian Himalayan Region (IHR), 2011**

Literacy Zone	Ranges (%)	District		District Detail
		(No.)	(%)	
Very Low	Below 50.0	8	7.34	Badgam, Reasi, Ramban, Shupiyan, Anantnag, Pulwama, Kishtwar and Kulgam.
Low	50.01-70.0	22	20.18	Sirmaur, Upper Subansiri, Samba, East Kameng, Jammu, West Kameng, Upper Siang, Rajouri, Bandipore, Anjaw, Mon, Tawang, Doda, Tirap, Jaintia Hills, Kathua, Udhampur, Baramula, Kurung Kumey, Srinagar, Kupwara and Ganderbal.



Moderate	70.01-90.0	60	55.05	Mamit, West Tripura , Kohima, Rudraprayag, Kinnaur, Garhwal, Una, Zunheboto, Dhalai, East Sikkim, Lahul & Spiti, Churachandpur, Champawat, Papum Pare, South Sikkim, Ukhul, Bilaspur, Udham Singh Nagar, Tehri Garhwal, Nainital, South Tripura , Lohit, Bishnupur, Mandi, Phek, Peren, Lower Dibang Valley, West Sikkim, Kangra, East Khasi Hills, Solan, East Siang, North Tripura, North Sikkim, Darjiling , Dima Hasao, Lower Subansiri, Leh(Ladakh), Chamba, Kargil, Shimla, Dehradun, Senapati, West Khasi Hills, East Garo Hills, Changlang, Ribhoi, Tuensang, South Garo Hills, Chandel, Tamenglong , West Garo Hills, Longleng, Kiphire, Karbi Anglong, Lawngtlai, Dibang Valley, Punch, Hardwar and West Siang.
High	Above 90.01	19	17.43	Aizawl, Serchhip, Almora, Champhai, Kolasib, Chamoli, Imphal West, Mokokchung, Pithoragarh, Dimapur , Bageshwar, Saiha, Hamirpur, Wokha, Lunglei, Imphal East, Uttarkashi, Thoubal and Kullu.
	Total	109	100.0	----

**Source:** Census of India, 2011 Computed by Author.

In the Himalaya these are Aizawl, Serchhip, Almora, Champhai, Kolasib, Chamoli, Imphal West, Mokokchung, Pithoragarh, Dimapur , Bageshwar, Saiha, Hamirpur, Wokha, Lunglei, Imphal East, Uttarkashi, Thoubal and Kullu (Table 9)

Maximum female literacy was recorded by Mizoram (89.5%) among all the units of IHR followed by Nagaland (76.9 %) and Sikkim (74.3%). Jammu and Kashmir (39.7 %) and Arunachal Pradesh (58.0%) have the lowest female literacy rates among all the states/ regions that are below from the regional average. Average female tribal literacy of the IHR is 68.5% which is about 19 % more than the national (49.4 %) average. About 50% states/ regions have the female literacy below from the regional average. These are Jammu and Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Arunachal Pradesh, Assam Hills and W. B. Hills. The female literacy rate varies from minimum 19.8 % in Kistwar district of Jammu and Kashmir to maximum 97.8 % in Aizawl district of Mizoram state. Table 10 gives the distribution of districts by the different ranges and groups of female literacy for the Himalaya.

**Table 10: Distribution of districts by ranges of female literacy in the Indian Himalayan Region (IHR), 2011**

Literacy Zone	Ranges (%)	District		District Detail
		(No.)	(%)	
Very Low	Below 30.0	8	7.34	Reasi, Baramula, Shupiyan, Anantnag, Ramban, Pulwama, Kulgam and Kishtwar.
Low	30.01-50.0	17	15.60	Sirmaur, Samba, Punch, Jammu, Tawang, Kurung Kumey, Rajouri, Anjaw, Bandipore, Tirap, Srinagar, Badgam, Kathua, Kupwara, Ganderbal, Doda and Udhampur.
Moderate	50.01-70.0	42	38.53	Longleng, Tuensang, Dima Hasao, Lower Dibang Valley, Senapati, Garhwal, Nainital, Mandi, South Tripura, Lohit, Lower Subansiri, Bishnupur, Darjiling, Lahul & Spiti, North Tripura, South Garo Hills, Bilaspur, Kangra, West Garo Hills, Jaintia Hills, Champawat, Uttarkashi, Chandel, Kiphire, Tamenglong, Leh(Ladakh), Solan, Udhampur, Singh Nagar, Changlang, Dehradun, Karbi Anglong, Dibang Valley, West Siang, Chamba, Upper Subansiri, Lawngtlai, West Kameng, Kargil, Mon, Upper Siang, Hardwar and East Kameng.
High	70.01-90.0	37	33.94	Dimapur, Almora, Saiha, Wokha, Lunglei, Imphal West, East Khasi Hills, Zunheboto, Imphal East, Kohima, Rudraprayag, Mamit, Churachandpur, Hamirpur, East Sikkim, West Khasi Hills, Ukhrul, Chamoli, West Tripura, Kullu, Pithoragarh, Thoubal, Ribhoi, South Sikkim, Papum Pare, Peren, Bageshwar, Tehri Garhwal, Phek, Una, Kinnaur, North Sikkim, East Siang, Shimla, Dhalai, West Sikkim and East Garo Hills.
Very High	Above 90.01	5	4.59	Aizawl, Serchhip, Champhai, Kolasib and Mokokchung.
	Total	109	100.0	-----

**Source:** Census of India, 2011 Computed by Author.

Out of total 109 districts of the Himalaya 7.34 % districts where the female literacy rates are below 30 % may be known as a region with very low level of female literacy. These districts are mainly located Jammu and Kashmir (Reasi, Baramula, Shupiyan, Anantnag, Ramban, Pulwama, Kulgam and Kishtwar). There are 15.6 % districts of the Himalaya with female literacy rates 30.01 to 50.0 % may be termed as a region of low literacy level. These are Sirmaur, Samba, Punch, Jammu, Tawang, Kurung Kumey, Rajouri, Anjaw, Bandipore, Tirap, Srinagar, Badgam, Kathua, Kupwara, Ganderbal, Doda and Udhampur. About 38.53 % districts fall in moderate zone of female literacy (50.01-70.0%). Similarly 33.94% fall in zone of high level of female literacy (70.01-90.0%) Five districts (4.59%) are recorded more than 90.01 % female



literacy can be recognized as a region of very high female literacy level. These are Aizawl, Serchhip, Champhai, Kolasib and Mokokchung districts in the Indian Himalayan Region. The low level of female literacy in the districts was associated with the traditions in which little emphasis was placed on education in one hand and less number of educational institutions on the other. It is observed that there are contiguous patches of districts with low literacy rates in the Himalayan states. The districts in the relatively more rugged topography and adverse climate conditions are registered low literacy rates. The districts having high literacy level associated with relatively high level of urbanization and proportionally more population is engaged in secondary and tertiary jobs. Despite having with more than 90 % tribal population Mizoram state has registered highest level of male, female as well as total literacy. It is only because the educational institutions were established by the Missionaries since the colonial period.

### **Gap in Male –Female Literacy Rate**

On an average 10.0% points gap between male and female literacy of the total tribal population in the IHR is recorded in 2011 census which is lower than the national average (19.2%) while it was 16.6% points in the IHR and 24.4% in the country averages during 2001 Census respectively (Table 7). The male female literacy gap varies minimum from 2.0 % in Meghalaya to maximum 20.9 % in Jammu and Kashmir. The gap between male and female rate of 10 states/ regions of the IHR are below from the national average while only four states are below from the IHR average. It is clear from the table that the states / regions where the literacy rates are high there the gap between male and female literacy rate is relatively low. In Meghalaya the gap between male and female literacy rate is very low because there are no differences in girls and boys educational system. In north eastern states of the Indian Himalaya is prevailing maternal sovereign system in the society, therefore they are more conscious or particular for girl education.

The gap in male and female literacy rate varies from minimum – 7.4 % in Jaintia Hills district of Meghalaya to maximum 27.8 % in Baramula district of Jammu and Kashmir state. Table 11 gives the distribution of districts by the different ranges and groups of gap in male and female literacy rates for the Indian Himalayan Region. Out of total 109 districts of the Himalaya 9.17 % districts where the gap rates are below 10 % may be known as a region with extremely low gap zone. These districts are mainly located Mizoram and Meghalaya states (Dimapur,



Champhai, Kolasib, Mokokchung, West Khasi Hills, Serchhip, Ribhoi, Aizawl, East Khasi Hills and Jaintia Hills).

**Table 11: Distribution of districts by ranges of gap in male - female literacy rates in the Indian Himalayan Region (IHR), 2011**

Literacy Zone	Ranges (%)	Districts		Districts Detail
		(No.)	(%)	
Extremely Low	Below 5.0	10	9.17	Dimapur, Champhai, Kolasib, Mokokchung, West Khasi Hills, Serchhip, Ribhoi, Aizawl, East Khasi Hills and Jaintia Hills.
Very Low	5.01-10.0	22	20.18	Senapati, West Garo Hills, Almora, Peren, Imphal West, Shimla, South Garo Hills, East Sikkim, Imphal East, Mamit, Ukhrul, Mon, Churachandpur, East Garo Hills, Kohima, Rudraprayag, Lunglei, Tuensang, Wokha, Saiha, Longleng and Zunheboto.
Low	10.01-15.0	26	23.85	Tawang, Hamirpur, Darjiling, Kullu, Lower Dibang Valley, Karbi Anglong, Dibang Valley, West Tripura, West Sikkim, Lower Subansiri, Kurung Kumey, Kulgam, Dima Hasao, Papum Pare, Upper Subansiri, Tehri Garhwal, Upper Siang, Tamenglong, East Siang, Phek, South Sikkim, Chandel, West Siang, Kiphire, North Sikkim and West Kameng.
Moderate	15.01-20.0	34	31.19	Hardwar, Ramban, Bageshwar, Srinagar, Jammu, Lahul & Spiti, Samba, Solan, Tirap, Dehradun, Reasi, Bilaspur, Chamoli, Kinnaur, Pithoragarh, Pulwama, Kishtwar, Kangra, Leh (Ladakh), Dhalai, East Kameng, Lawngtlai, Anantnag, Bishnupur, Lohit, Una, Shupiyan, South Tripura, Nainital, Mandi, Thoubal, Changlang, North Tripura and Badgam.
High	20.01-25.0	13	11.93	Punch, Kathua, Kargil, Chamba, Bandipore, Rajouri, Champawat, Udham Singh Nagar, Sirmour, Ganderbal, Anjaw, Kupwara and Garhwal.
Very High	Above 25.01	4	3.67	Baramula, Doda, Uttarkashi and Udhampur.
	Total	109	100.0	-----

**Source:** Census of India, 2011. Computed by Author

There are 20.18 % districts of the Himalaya where the gap rates ranges between 5.01 to 10.0 % may be termed as a region of very low gap zone. These are Senapati, West Garo Hills, Almora, Peren, Imphal West, Shimla, South Garo Hills, East District, Imphal East, Mamit, Ukhrul, Mon, Churachandpur, East Garo Hills, Kohima, Rudraprayag, Lunglei, Tuensang, Wokha, Saiha, Longleng and Zunheboto. About 23.85 % districts fall in low zone (10.01-15.00%).

Approximately one third (31.19%) districts of the IHR fall in zone of moderate level of gap (15.01-20.0%). Seventeen districts (15.6%) are recorded more than 20.01 % gap between male and female literacy. These are Punch, Kathua, Kargil, Chamba, Bandipore, Rajouri, Champawat, Udham Singh Nagar, Sirmaur, Ganderbal, Anjaw, Kupwara, Garhwal, Baramula, Doda, Uttarkashi and Udhampur districts in the Indian Himalayan Region. These districts are very backward in educational and infrastructural development point of view.

### **Conclusion**

The tribal community and their habitats constitute very significant parts of backward people and regions of the country respectively. They comprise about the 18 per cent of country's land and 8.6 per cent of its population.

The tribal population of the IHR mostly concentrated relatively in more inhospitable areas like rugged mountains, extreme climatic zone, dense forest and marshy areas. The tribal population of the IHR is enumerated 1,17,95,981 persons in 2011 constitute about 25.2 % of the total IHR population and 10,42,81,034 person are recorded as tribal people in the whole country which is 8.6 % of the total population. The IHR contains 11.31% of the total country's tribal population. The concentration of Himalaya's tribal population varies 1.75% in Sikkim to 21.67% in Meghalaya. But their largest proportion to total states / regions population in the IHR is found in Mizoram (94.4%) followed by Nagaland (86.5%), Meghalaya (86.1%), Arunachal Pradesh (68.8%), Assam Hills (59.0%), Manipur (35.1%), Sikkim (33.8%), Tripura (31.8%), W.B. Hills (21.5%) and Jammu and Kashmir (11.9%). Himachal Pradesh (5.7%) and Uttarakhand (2.9%) have less than 10 % tribal population of the total population. The states/ regions which have more inhospitable geographical areas registered more tribal population such as Meghalaya, Nagaland and Jammu and Kashmir. Contrary to this the states having more level fertile land, irrigational and other infrastructural facilities have less tribal population.

The total growth of the tribal population of the IHR 2011 is recorded 23.52% during the decade of 2001 to 2011 which is lower than the country's (23.66%) growth rate of same segment. The growth rate varies from minimum even minus (-) 3.55% in Nagaland to maximum 94.64 % in W. B. Hills. The high growth rate in Himachal Pradesh (60.32%), Sikkim (85.23%) and W. B. Hills (94.64%) is because of the large inflow of rural population for getting job in the horticulture, tourism and tea industries.



Average sex ratio of the IHR tribes is 988 females / 1000 males in 2011 and 968 in 2001 which is lower than the sex ratio of the national average during 2001 (976) and 2011 (990) respectively. The main cause of balance or high sex ratio in rural based hilly states / regions is out migration of male population in search of employment and better educational and medical facilities.

IHR tribal population has registered only 61.3 % literacy which is higher than that country's average (47.1%). The total literacy of Mizoram ranks first not only in the Indian Himalaya but also in the country as a whole. Average male literacy of the IHR was 69.5% which was about 10% more than the national average (59.2%). Maximum female literacy was also recorded by Mizoram (86.9%) among all the units of IHR followed by Nagaland (61.3%) and Sikkim (60.2%). Average female tribal literacy of the IHR (52.9%) was about 20 % more than the national (34.8%) average. On an average 16.6% points gap between male and female literacy of the total tribal population in the IHR has been recorded in 2001 which is lower than the national average (24.4%).

On the basis of the present study one can recommend that in the tribal region there is an urgent need of basic infrastructural development such as transport, communication, education, medical and irrigation. As tribal regions are very much rich for resource availability, participation of inhabitant tribal people should mandatory during the period of policy framing.

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### **\*Notes**

- (i) ST communities returned with zero population in 2011 Census are not shown.
- (ii) All Scheduled Tribes includes figures for Generic Tribes, i.e. those who returned as Anusuchit jan-jati, Girijan, Adivasi, etc.
- (iii) There is confusion on exact number about the varieties/ types of tribes in the country, the reason being there is no single list at the central level and each state/ UT has its own list. Just adding the numbers of tribes that have been scheduled in each state/UT does not serve the purpose and the total number thus arrived should not be taken as total number of tribes in the country. For example any Kuki, Naga and Mizo tribes have been notified in Manipur, Meghalya, Assam Hills, Mizoram, same case with the Garo which has been notified in Nagaland, Mizoram, Meghalya, Assam Hills, W. B. Hills etc. Likewise Gujar, Bhotia, Buksa, Tharu and many other tribes have been notified in more than one state. Therefore, there is lot of multiple counting. However, there are about 250-300 major tribal groups in the country.

**\*Common Tribes in Various States /Regions**

<b>Tribes / sub-tribes</b>	<b>States / Regions</b>
Angami	Nagaland and Manipur
Any Kuki tribes	Manipur, Meghalya, Assam Hills, Mizoram
Any Mizo tribes	Manipur, Meghalya, Assam Hills, Mizoram
Any Naga tribes	Arunachal Pradesh, Meghalya, Assam Hills, Mizoram
Beda	Himachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir
Bhutia	Tripura, Sikkim, W. B. Hills
Chakma	Mizoram, Meghalya, Assam Hills, W. B. Hills
Dimasa (Kachari)	Mizoram, Meghalya, Assam Hills
Gaddi	Himachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir
Garos	Nagaland, Mizoram, Meghalya, Assam Hills, W. B. Hills
Gujjar	Himachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir
Hajong	Mizoram, Meghalya, Assam Hills,
Hmar	Manipur, Mizoram, Meghalya, Assam Hills
Khasi and Jaintia	Mizoram, Meghalya, Assam Hills
Kuki	Nagaland, Tripura.
Lakher	Mizoram, Meghalya, Assam Hills
Lepcha	Tripura, Sikkim, W.B. Hills
Man (Tai speaking)	Mizoram, Meghalya, Assam Hills
Mikir	Arunachal Pradesh, Mizoram, Meghalaya, Nagaland
Munda	Tripura & W. B. Hills
Paite	Manipur, Mizoram
Pawi	Mizoram, Meghalya, Assam Hills
Santal	Tripura & W. B. Hills
Sema	Nagaland, Manipur
Synteng	Manipur, Mizoram, Assam Hills
Tamang	Sikkim, W. B. Hills

**Source** --- ST- Himalayan States / Region – PCA - A11 - APPENDIX.  
(<http://www.censusindia.gov.in>)

<sup>1</sup> - Those who returned as 'Naga'.

<sup>2</sup> - Those which could not be classified under any of the 17 Naga sub-groups.

<sup>3</sup> - any kuki tribes including Biata, Bieta, Changsan, Chongloi, Doulgel, Gamalhou, Gangte, Guite, Hanneng, Haokip, Haupt, Haolai, Hengna, Hongsungh, Hrangkhwal, Rangkhoh, Jongbe, Khawchung, Khawathlang, Khothalong, Khelma, Kholhou, Kipgen, Kuki, Lengthang, Lhangum, Lhoujem, Lhouvun, Lupheng, Mangjel, Misao, Rieng, Sairhem, Selnam, Singson, Sitlhou, Sukte, Thado, Thangngeu, Uibuh, Vaiphei.

<sup>4</sup> - (i) Balte, (ii) Belalhut, (iii) Chhalya, (iv) Fun, (v) Hajango, (vi) Jangtei, (vii) Khareng,, (viii) Khephong, (ix) Kuntei, (x) Laifang, (xi) Lentei, (xii) Mizel, (xiii) Namte, (xiv) Paitu, Paite, (xv) Rangchan, (xvi) Rangkhoh, (xvii) Thangluya.