

GROWTH OF URBAN POPULATION IN HIMACHAL PRADESH: A SPATIO-TEMPORAL ANALYSIS

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Abstract:

Growth of urban population is the characteristic of 21st century; urban towns are evolving at much faster rate than the earlier decades. Himachal Pradesh, a small state of India covering 1.69 percent of area has least urbanisation of all states. In this paper, trends of urbanisations and spatial patterns of growth in urban population in Himachal Pradesh have been analysed from 1951 to 2011, with the help of secondary data and GIS software. With the analysed trends and spatial patterns it has been found that after 1961 there is a constant increase in urban population. Shimla with 24.74 percent has highest portion of urban population, followed by Solan with 17.6 percent. Lahaul Spiti and Kinnaur have no urban population due to remote locations. Other districts have moderate to low portion of urban population.

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Introduction:

Urbanization is a multifaceted set of economic, demographic, social, cultural, technological, and environmental processes that result in a higher proportion of a territory's population living in towns and cities, higher population concentration in the territory's larger settlements, and higher population density within urban settlements (Knox, 2009). Urbanization influences the built environment, transforming previously rural areas into urban settlements and moving the spatial distribution of a population from rural to urban areas. It encompasses changes in dominating occupations, lifestyle, culture, and behaviour, altering the demographic and social structure of both urban and rural places (Montgomery, 2004; Uttara et al., 2012).

Demographical "urbanization" refers to the increasing number of people living in urban areas as well as the relative concentration of population in urban environments (Kobayashi, 2019). It is progressive concentration of population in urban unit (Davis, 1965). The future of the world's population is urban, with more than 50% of the world's population residing in urban centers (UN, 2019). According to Census of India (2011), Himachal Pradesh is least urbanized state of India and has 10.03 per cent of her population living in urban areas in comparison of 31.16 per cent in India as a whole.

Significance:

It is evident from the review of literature that the research on different aspect of urbanization in Himachal Pradesh is sparse as compared to the research at India as well as Global level. Thus, the present study is an attempt to assess the growth of urban population in Himachal Pradesh. This study will highlight the spatio-temporal aspect of urban growth between the time frameworks from 1951 to 2011

Study area:

Himachal Pradesh is a state located in northern India. It is one of the thirteen mountain states in the Western Himalayas. Himachal Pradesh is India's northernmost state, sharing borders with Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh to the north, Punjab to the west, Haryana to the southwest, Uttarakhand to the southeast, and a very small border with Uttar Pradesh to the south. The state also shares an international boundary with China's Tibet Autonomous Region to the east. Himachal is located in the western Himalayas between latitudes 30°22'N and 33°12'N and longitudes 75°47'E and 79°4'E.^[1] It has a land size of 55,673 km², about 1.69 percent of total area of country.^[2] Himachal's weather conditions vary greatly because to the vast range in elevation. The climate changes from hot and humid subtropical in the southern plains to cold, alpine, and glacial in the northern and eastern mountain ranges as elevation increases. Administratively Himachal Pradesh is divided into twelve districts. The districts are further divided into 73 subdivisions, 78 blocks and 172 Tehsils.^[2] Himachal Pradesh's slow urbanization is partly owing to its agricultural economy, inaccessibility, and huge number of small villages, sparse population distribution, difficult terrain, lack of industrialization, and other factors. The undulating topography of Himachal Pradesh limits the growth of large towns and favours the development of smaller towns^[1].

Demographic profile of Himachal Pradesh, 2011	
Total Population	6,864,602
Male	3,481,873
Female	3,382,729
Population Growth Rate	12.94 %
Sex Ratio	972
Literacy	82.80 %
Area km ²	55,673
Density/km ²	123
Rural Population	89.97%
Urban Population	10.03%
Towns	59
Source: Statistical Abstract Of Himachal Pradesh 2018-19	

Map of Study Area:

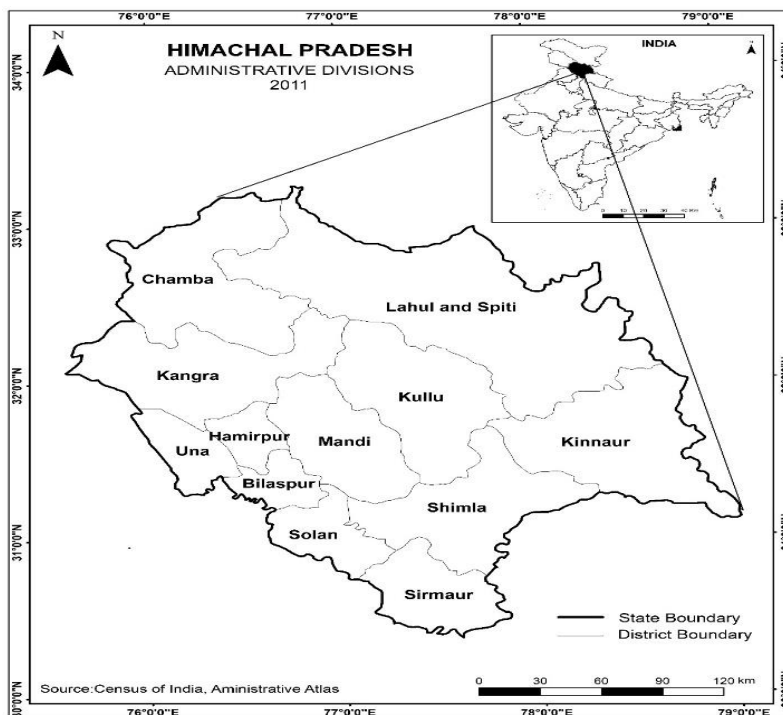


Figure.1. Location of Himachal Pradesh and its districts.

Objectives:

The current study has two objectives:

1. To analyse the trends of urban population in the state of Himachal Pradesh.
2. To analyse the spatial patterns of urbanization in the state.

Data Base and Methodology:

The data on urban population typically originate from secondary sources, such as Census Publications (Town Directory, General population tables, Census Atlas, District Census handbooks, Administrative Atlas, Census Report), Statistical Abstract published by Directorate of Census Operations, Himachal Pradesh and Office of the Registrar General and Census Commissioner, New Delhi. The current study covers 60 years (1951–2011). During this timeframe, credible and continuous data on numerous demographic variables and features of urbanization in Himachal Pradesh were collected. To comprehend this assignment, methodological methods such as ratio and percentage were used to arrive at meaningful findings.

Growth of Urban Population during Pre-Independence Period

Himachal Pradesh has a long history of human settlement dating back to the Palaeolithic period. Several tribes established themselves in various parts of the province. The record history begins in the 4th century B.C. during the Maurya period. Several freedom-loving demographic groups/castes, mainly Rajputs and Brahmins, have sought haven in the region. Half of the current area of Himachal Pradesh was partitioned into 30 princely kingdoms on the eve of India's independence, while the other half was part of the British Empire's Punjab region. After independence, Himachal Pradesh gradually developed into its current state. [2]

Himachal Pradesh, one of India's 28 states, has a proportion of its urban population (10.03%) that is much lower than the national average (31.16%), as per 2011 census. [3] Himachal Pradesh is now ranked 28th among states with the lowest share of urban population. The rate of urbanisation has been slow, particularly prior to independence, but the proportion of the people living in urban areas has increased rapidly, notably in the post-independence period.

Table 1. Growth of urban population in Himachal Pradesh during pre-independence period (1901-1941)

Himachal Pradesh: Growth of Urban Population during Pre-Independence period (1901-1941)					
Year	Total Population	Urban Population	Decadal Urban Growth	Decadal Urban growth (%)	Proportion of urban population
1901	1920294	77332			4.027092
1911	1896944	59193	-18139	-23.456	3.12044
1921	1928206	66518	7325	12.37477	3.449735
1931	2029113	73652	7134	10.72492	3.629763
1941	2263245	86099	12447	16.89974	3.804228

Source: Census of India, Himachal Pradesh, General Population Tables, 1991.

Census of India 1971, Himachal Pradesh, Census Atlas

As shown in the Table 1, during the pre-independence era, urbanization was quite sluggish. In 1901, Himachal Pradesh's urban population was just 77332 people, accounting for about 4.02 percent of the state's overall population. During the decade 1901-11, the state's urban population decreased by 18139 people in absolute terms (-23.45 per cent). The proportion of the people living in urban areas has similarly decreased, falling to 3.12% in 1911. The urban population increased slightly throughout the next three decades (1911-21, 19231-31, 1931-41) from 3.121 percent in 1911 to 3.44 percent in 1921, 3.62 percent in 1931, and 3.8 percent in 1941.

Growth of Urban Population during Post-Independence Period

Himachal Pradesh experienced different stages of administrative transformation, it came into existence as a Chief Commissioners Province in 1948 than it became a part C state on 26th January, 1950 with the implementation of the Constitution of India. At that time it consisted of four districts - Chamba, Mahasu, Mandi and Sirmour. The merger of the princely state Bilaspur on 1st July, 1954, increased the number of its district to five. It became Union Territory on 1st November, 1956. In 1960 a new district of Kinnaur was carved out of Mahasu. The state

reorganisation of 1966 transferred the parts of Punjab to Himachal Pradesh, added three more districts – Kangra, Kullu and Lahaul and Spiti. On 25th January, 1971, Himachal Pradesh emerged as the eighteenth state of Indian Union. On 1 September, 1972, Una and Hamirpur District were carved out of Kangra and Mahasu district was divided into Shimla and Solan this increased the number of its district to twelve.^[1]

Table 2. Growth of urban population in Himachal Pradesh during post-independence period

Himachal Pradesh: Growth of Urban Population during Post-Independence period (1951-2011)					
Year	Total Population	Urban Population	Decadal Urban Growth	Decadal Urban growth (%)	Proportion of urban population
1951	2385981	153827	67728	78.66293	6.447118
1961	2812463	178275	24448	15.89318	6.33875
1971	3460434	241890	63615	35.68363	6.990164
1981	4280818	325971	84081	34.76001	7.61469
1991	5170877	449196	123225	37.80244	8.687037
2001	6077900	595581	146385	32.58822	9.799125
2011	6864602	688552	92971	15.61014	10.03047

Source: Census of India, Himachal Pradesh, General Population Tables, 1991.

Census of India, Himachal Pradesh, General Population Tables, 2001.

Statistical Abstract of Himachal Pradesh 2018-19

The growth of population with time has increased all over the India, Himachal Pradesh is no exception. Urban population has shown increase in the period of post-independence as tabulated in Table 2.

From 1901 to 2011, the state's total urban population increased by 6.11 lakh. 6.02 lakh i.e. 98.56 percent added during 1951 to 2011. Only the last three decades (1981-1991, 1991-2001 and 2001-2011) saw more than half of this (3.62 lakh) added.

In 1951, urban population registered a sharp growth during this decade and the proportion of urban population rose to 6.45 percent from 3.80 percent in 1941, recorded an expansion of 78.66 percent in urban population during 1941-51. During the decade, 1951-61, though the urban population registered absolute increase of 24448 persons, but the proportion of urban population decreased marginally to 6.33 per cent in 1961 from 6.44 percent in 1951. The decade of 1961-71 was full of activities in Himachal Pradesh. The state got full statehood on 25 January 1971. Urban growth continued, during 1961-71, it experienced decadal growth of 35.68 percent in its urban population. In absolute terms, the increase of 63.6 thousand persons in urban population and the share of urban population increased marginally to 6.99 per cent in 1971 from 6.33 per cent in 1961.

Throughout the decade of 1971-81, the urban population registered absolute increase of 84 thousand persons, with 34.76 percent of growth but the proportion of urban population increased to 7.61 per cent in 1981 from 6.66 per cent in 1971. The decade (1981-91) took urban population in the state to 4.5 lakh, registering an increase of 37.80 percent. The proportion of urban population also increased to 8.68 per cent from 7.61 percent in 1981. In the last decade (1991-2001) of 20th century, there was an increase about 1.46 lakh persons in the urban population of Himachal Pradesh recording lower growth rate than the last decade of 32.58 per cent. The proportion of urban population increased to 9.79 per cent from 8.68 percent in 1991. Throughout the first decade (2001-2011) of 21st century, there was an increase about 9.29 lakh persons in the urban population with growth rate of 15.61. The proportion of urban population increased to 10.03 per cent from 9.79 per cent in 2001.

Urban proportion and Decadal growth rate of Urban population of Himachal Pradesh.

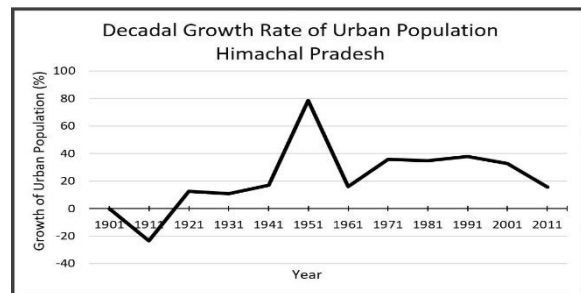
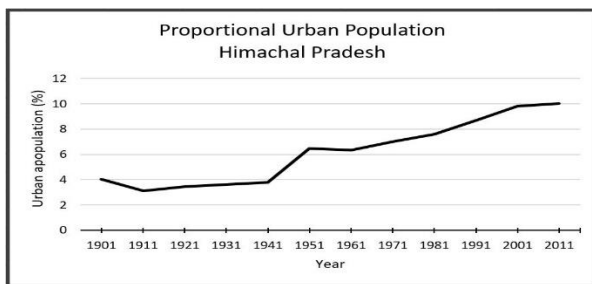


Figure 2. Total proportion of urban population in H.P

Figure 3. Decadal growth rate of urban population in H.P

As shown in figure 2, through the years 1901 to 1911, there was a decrease in the proportional urban population of Himachal Pradesh. But in the next 4 decades, there was a rise in urban population. The sharp rise in proportional urban population, in the decade 1941-1951, was observed and followed by a decrease in successive decade. After 1961, there was a rise in proportional urban population up to 2011 constantly.

As shown in figure 3, in the decadal growth rate of Urban Population of Himachal Pradesh, no specific trend was observed as shown in figure 3. Between the decade of 1901-1911, there was a decrease in growth rate (-23.45) followed by an increase in the next decade. After 1921, the growth rate fell again. In the next two decades, the growth rate showed an increase. However, a similar sharp rise in the growth rate of urban population in the decade 1941-1951 as observed in proportional urban population. A sudden decrease to 15.89% is observed in the next 10 years. Urban Population growth rate again rose to 35.68% in the decade 1961-1971. The following decade showed a small decrease to 34.76%. In the decade 1981-1991, a rise in urban growth rate was observed and after 1991, the growth rate decreases up to 2011

Trend of decadal Growth rate of urban population in Himachal Pradesh

Table 3. Growth of Urban Population in Himachal Pradesh per District (1951-2011)

District	Urban Population as per cent to Total Population						
	1951	1961	1971	1981	1991	2001	2011
Bilaspur	2.97	4.88	4.88	4.68	5.67	6.44	6.58
Chamba	4.56	7.96	7.50	6.84	7.60	7.49	6.96
Hamirpur	0.00	0.00	1.39	4.98	6.15	7.32	6.91
Kangra	6.79	5.85	4.33	4.94	5.05	5.40	5.71
Kinnaur	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Kullu	2.54	3.20	5.59	7.09	6.95	7.89	9.45
Lahaul & Spiti	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Mandi	5.20	5.60	9.36	7.33	7.18	6.77	6.27
Shimla	16.95	14.07	14.59	15.69	20.43	23.15	24.74
Sirmaur	6.25	7.23	8.46	8.74	10.03	10.39	10.79
Solan	11.43	10.89	10.08	10.75	12.37	18.22	17.60
Una	2.75	2.28	3.96	7.72	8.53	8.79	8.62
Himachal	6.45	6.34	6.99	7.61	8.69	9.80	10.03

Census of India, Himachal Pradesh, General Population Tables, 1991.

Census of India, Himachal Pradesh, General Population Tables, 2001.

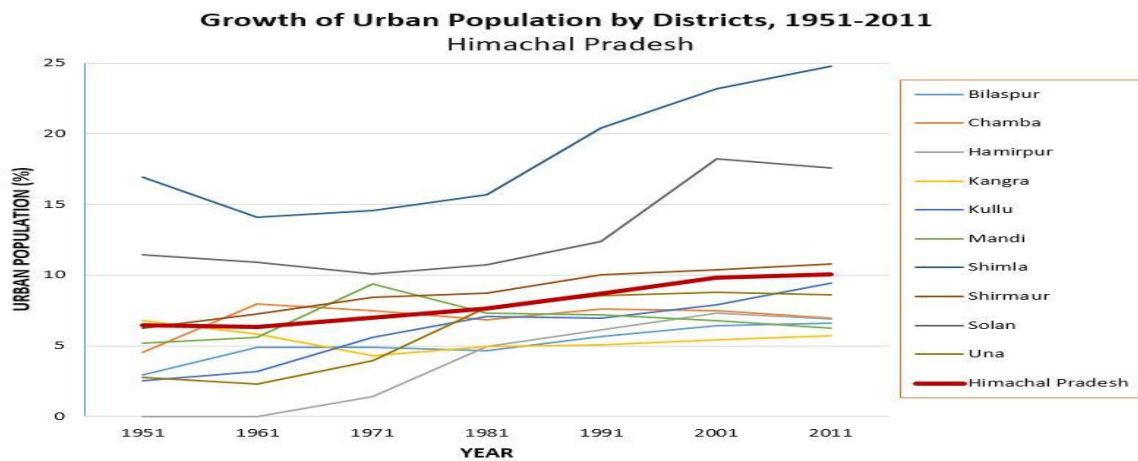


Figure 4. Growth of Urban Population in Himachal Pradesh per District (1951-2011)

In the decade 1951-1961, there were 5 districts (Bilaspur, Chamba, Kullu, Mandi, Sirmaur) with increasing urban population growth and 4 districts (Kangra, Solan, Shimla, Una) with decreasing growth. In the following decade 1961-1971, there were 6 districts (Hamirpur, Kullu, Mandi, Sirmaur, Shimla, Una) with increasing urban population growth and 4 districts (Kangra, Solan, Chamba) with decreasing growth. There was no change in urban population of Bilaspur in this decade.

Within the decade 1971-1981, there were 7 districts (Hamirpur, Kullu, Kangra, Solan, Shimla, Una, Sirmaur) with increasing urban population growth and 3 districts (Bilaspur, Chamba, Mandi) with decreasing growth. In the decade 1981-1991, the urban population growth of Kullu and Mandi had decreased and it increased for rest of the districts. In the next decade 1991-2001, the urban population growth of Chamba and Mandi had decreased and it increased for the rest of districts. Throughout the decade 1951-1961, there were 5 districts (Bilaspur, Kangra, Kullu, Shimla, Sirmaur) with increasing urban population growth and 5 districts (Chamba, Hamirpur, Mandi, Solan, Una) with decreasing growth.

The urban population growth of the Sirmaur district was found to increase continuously from 1951 to 2011 and for Shimla district, the urban population growth had showed continuous increase after 1961. The rest of the districts showed discontinuous trend in urban population growth and there was an overall increase in urban population growth from 1951 to 2011.

Comparison Between district wise urban population of year 1951 and 2011

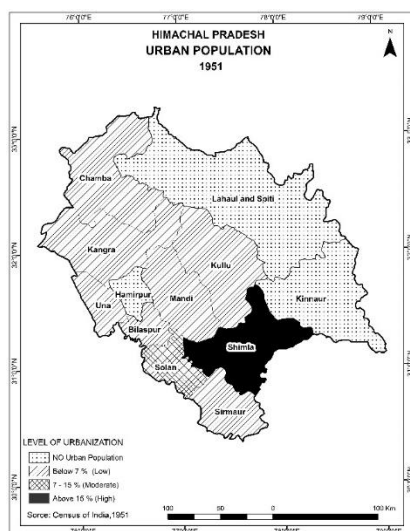


Figure 5. Level of urbanisation in H.P (1951)

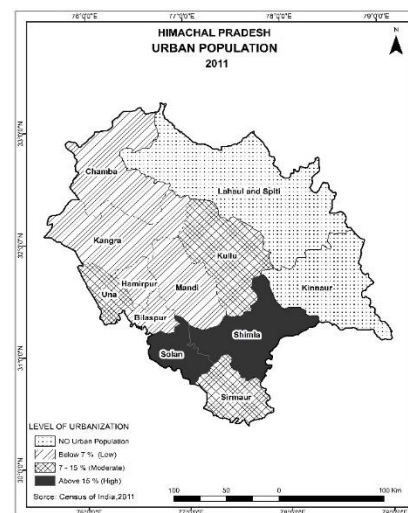


Figure 6. Level of urbanisation in H.P (2011)

In the year 1951, there were 3 districts with no urban population. Those were Lahaul and Spiti, Kinnaur and Hamirpur. But in the year 2011, there were only 2 districts with no urban population. Hamirpur had an urban population of 6.91% in 2011. There were 7 districts in 1951 with urban population below 7% which reduced to 5 districts in 2011. In 1951, Solan was the only district with moderate (7-15%) and Shimla district had high (above 15%) urban population. In 2011, there were 3 districts with moderate urban population and 2 districts with high urban population. The districts with high urban population in 2011 were Solan and Shimla.

Growth of Urban Population: A Spatial View (2011)

The District of Himachal Pradesh have been categorized in four groups on the base of average proportion of urban population (10.03%) in 2011:

1. Districts with High Proportion of Urban Population (Above 15 per cent)
2. Districts with Moderate Proportion of Urban Population (7-15 per cent)
3. Districts with Low Proportion of Urban Population (Below 7 per cent)
4. Districts with no Urban Population

Districts with High Proportion of Urban Population (Above 15 per cent)

In Himachal Pradesh, two districts, total out of 12, are marked by a significant share of urbanization. The Shimla district has the highest proportion of people living in cities (24.74 per cent). Shimla, the state capital, is the headquarters of the Shimla district. Shimla is referred to as the "Queen of Hills." The government and tourist industries account for the majority of job creation. It is known as the state's tourist hotspot, with a thriving hotel business. Shimla is at the top of the list of Indian cities with the best hotels. Shimla is the state's only class I city. Shimla is the state capital, and in-migration from the surrounding areas, as well as the creation of a significant number of tourist attractions and hotels, are all plausible causes for the state's highest level of urbanisation among all district. Solan district is Himachal Pradesh's second most urbanized district, with 17.6% of the population living in urban areas. Solan is Himachal Pradesh's industrial center. It is also well-known in the pharmaceutical industry. Because of industrialization, Solan is the state's fastest growing city. Small and medium-sized industrial enterprises contribute to the local economy. These industrial units primarily provide services in the following industries: hosiery, food, wood, paper, leather, glass, chemical, mechanical, pharmaceuticals, food processing, electrical, and electronics.

Districts with Moderate Proportion of Urban Population (7-15per cent)

Out of the total of 12 districts, 3 districts are characterised by moderate proportion of urban population in Himachal Pradesh. There are Sirmaur (10.79 per cent), Kullu (9.45 percent) and Una (8.62 percent). Out of these only Sirmaur attributed with proportion of urban population more than the state average (10.03 per cent).

Districts with Low Proportion of Urban Population (Below 7 per cent)

Out of the total of 12 districts, 5 districts are characterised by low proportion of urban population in Himachal Pradesh. These are Chamba (6.96 percent), Hamirpur (6.91 percent), Bilaspur (6.58 percent), Mandi (6.27) and Kangra (5.71 percent)

Districts with no Urban Population

The remote district of Kinnaur and Lahaul and Spiti devoid of any urban population.

District wise Contribution of total population and urban population of Himachal Pradesh - 2011

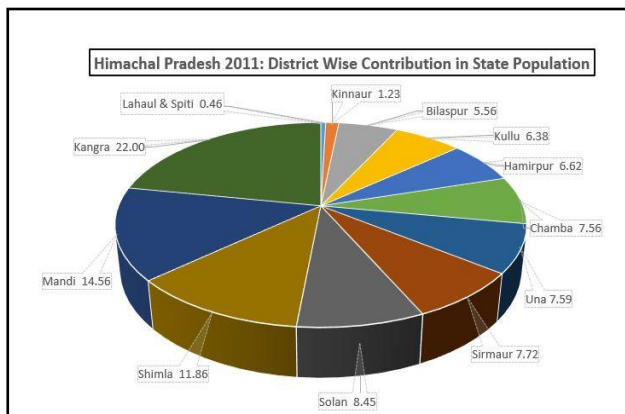


Figure 7

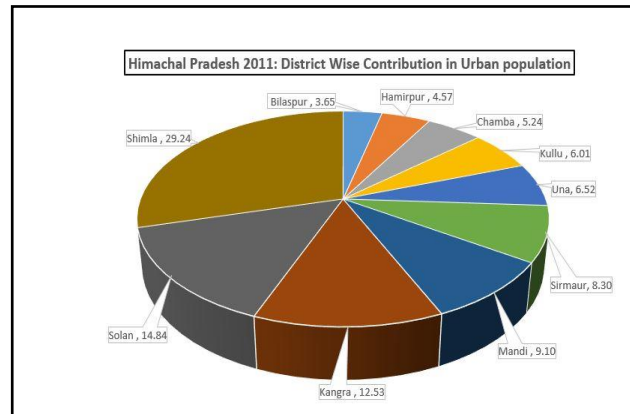


Figure 8

Figure 6 shows contribution of each district of Himachal Pradesh to the total Population of the state and figure 7 shows contribution of districts to urban population of Himachal Pradesh.

According to 2011 census, Kangra is the district with highest population in the state of Himachal Pradesh but its contribution to urban population is less than Shimla and Solan which occupied most of the urban population. Lahaul and Spiti had least population in 2011 and zero urban population. Bilaspur district has the lowest urban population (3.65%) and its contribution to total population is 5.56%.

Conclusions:

Amongst a total of 28 states of India, Himachal Pradesh is a state where the proportion of its urban population (10.03 per cent) is very less than the national average (31.16 per cent) as per 2011 census. At present, Himachal Pradesh has 28 place among states. Though, the rate of urbanisation has been very slow especially during the pre-Independence period, but the proportion of urban population has been increasing fast particularly in the post-Independence period. The post-Independence period witnessed a reversal in growth of urban population in the state; from earlier sluggish growth to fast growth of urban population.

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Rahul, (2022). Growth of Urban Population in Himachal Pradesh: A Spatio-Temporal Analysis, *ERJ-Vol IX, Special Issue- I, March - April - 2022, 154-162.

Of Research in Engineering and Applied Sciences, 2(2), 1637-1645.

Cite This Article:

Rahul, (2022). Growth of Urban Population in Himachal Pradesh: A Spatio-Temporal Analysis, *Educreator Research Journal IX (Special Issues - I), March –April, 154-162.