

**Scholar's Name** : **Sandeep Mani**  
**Supervisor's Name** : **Prof. Mary Tahir**  
**Department** : **Geography**  
**Title** : **Emerging Trend of Urbanisation in Uttarakhand and Its Impact on Development in Garhwal Himalaya**

### **ABSTRACT**

The present research study focuses on the trend of urbanization in the State of Uttarakhand and analyzes its impact on development in Garhwal Himalayas. Though, the rate of urbanization is slightly below the national average but still, the scenario of urbanization in the State of Uttarakhand is far better than the other states located in hilly region. Demography of the State shows that urban population have increased during the period 1901-2011 except the year 1931 which experienced the decline in percentage of urban population. Urbanization have led to the increase in the number of towns from 75 (1991) to 116 (2011) with considerable growth in the number of small towns. Further, the places with higher order economic functions and facilitated by maximum interaction and accessibility have experienced large growth of urban population. Physical barriers in the State of Uttarakhand have played a restrictive role in the growth of towns (both in number and size) and consequently, development of towns is more in south-eastern districts and the south-western districts of the State. Further, most of the urbanization and the development is limited to plain areas as compared to hilly areas. Districts like Dehradun, Haridwar, Nainital are more urbanized and have well developed infrastructure than the districts like Garhwal and Teri Garhwal. Educational institutions, medical facilities, banking facilities, tele-communication facilities are more concentrated in the plain areas as compared to hilly areas. But this does not mean that districts in the hilly areas are lagging far behind but the physical barrier imposed by the nature have limited the scope of urbanization and infrastructural development. The comparison of Garhwal Himalayas and the Kumau Himalayas shows that latter is more urbanized than the former. On the one hand, urbanization has facilitated the life of people through modern facilities and infrastructural development while on the other hand, urbanization gave rise to problems like slum areas, deforestation, landslides & loss of ecosystem.

River valley projects like Alaknanda Project in Srinagar, Ganga Project in Haridwar, Bhagirathi and Bhilangana river projects in Tehri have disturbed the ecological balance in the region and resulted in natural calamities like flood. The conditions are worsened by the unplanned construction of hydroelectric projects which have destroyed the local environment.