

A Review of Demography and Educational status of Scheduled tribes of Uttarakhand

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Abstract

Uttarakhand is the 27th state of India which has been carved out of northern Uttar Pradesh on 9th November 2000. This state is the 20th most populous state of India with a population of 10,086,292. The Scheduled tribes constitute 291903 which are only 2.89 % of the total population of the state. After twenty years of the inception of the state, the educational status of the scheduled tribes has shown upward mobility. This paper highlights the educational status of Scheduled tribes in Uttarakhand as well as various programmes and schemes to support their education. The present study is based on Census Report of 2011, Statistical Profiles of Scheduled Tribes in India, 2013, Ministry of Tribal Affairs, Statistical Division Government of India, Educational Statistics, 2018, Department of School Education and Literacy, Ministry of Human Resource Development Government of India.

Keywords

Uttarakhand, Scheduled Tribes, Demography, Education.

Introduction

Education has the potential for shaping the personality of human beings and developing a nation at large. Today's society is marked by the explosion of knowledge. "Education is a powerful instrument for preparing our citizens in the knowledge society. It will mix globalization with localization, making our children and young ones become world citizens while their roots are deeply embedded in Indian culture and tradition (Ministry of Human Resource Development, 2016)". Globally there is a clamor for creating a more inclusive world and India is a frontrunner. To achieve its commitments towards inclusive growth, special attention has been made for backward sections of the population especially in the field of employment and education. Amongst these backward communities Scheduled tribes are those people who are geographically secluded, socio-economically isolated, and most vulnerable. The tribes usually reside in hill areas, forests, near the seas, and on islands. Their lifestyle is quite different from nontribals (Preet, 1994). The tribal population of the country, as per the 2011 census, is 104.3 million, constituting 8.6% of the total population. The tribal population has registered an increasing trend in Education from 2001 (47.10% literacy rates) to 2011 (59.0% literacy rates) but it still lags behind the national average. The ST male literacy has risen from 59.17% to 68.53% over the decade 2001-2011. The female literacy

rates went up to 49.35% by 2011 from a low of 34.76% in 2001. Though the male-female disparity in literacy rates is gradually declining from 28 % to 22% over the decades, still it is a matter of grave concern. In 1960 Dhebar Commission has identified some problems behind the educational backwardness of tribal population. These problems are- Vague generalization, inappropriate pedagogy utilized by the teacher, poor economic conditions, and subsistence economy (Brahmandam and Babu, 2016). According to the Census report, 2011 there is a wide variation in the educational status of the ST population across the country. Among states, Lakshadweep (91.8%) and Mizoram (91.3%) have the highest literacy rates for STs, while the lowest LR was observed in Andhra Pradesh (49.2%) and Madhya Pradesh (50.6%). Besides, some states such as Bihar (51.1%), Orissa (52.2%), Jharkhand (57.1%), West Bengal (57.9%), Rajasthan (52.8%) have ST literacy rates lesser than country's average for STs. Against this backdrop the objectives of the study are:

- To examine the demographic distribution of Scheduled tribe across Uttarakhand.
- To examine the educational statistics of the Schedules Tribes in terms of their literacy rates as well as enrolments, gender parity index, dropout rate of Scheduled tribe children at various levels of education.
- To discuss various schemes and programmes to ameliorate the educational status of ST children in Uttarakhand.

Methodology

The reports of Ministry of Tribal Affairs, Statistics Division, Government of India, Educational Statistics, 2018, Department of School Education and Literacy, Ministry of Human Resource Development Government of India, Reports of Social welfare department, Uttarakhand have been analyzed by the researcher to make a critical viewpoint on the Educational status of Scheduled Tribes of Uttarakhand.

Tribal Setting of Uttarakhand

Uttarakhand, the 27th state of the Indian union has been the homeland of ethnic communities since the time immemorial. Amongst them, five namely Tharu, Jaunsari, Bhoksa, and Raji have been specified as Scheduled tribes in 1967. These tribal communities represent a significant degree of cultural and ethnic diversity. The Tharus, the Jaunsaris, and the Buxas are agriculturalists while the Bhotiyas are pastoralists and the Rajis are mostly hunters and gatherers (Pandey, 2008). These tribes are concentrated in the remote / forest areas of Tarai and Bawar and the highest reaches of Pithoragarh, Chamoli, Uttarkashi, districts, and Jaunsar-Bawar areas of Dehradun district. The Ethnological notes of eminent scholars depict that Mongoloid racial characteristics are very common among Bhotiyas, Buxas, Tharus, and Rajis while Jaunsaris belong to Mediterranean racial stocks (Bisht, 1994). These tribes had been following the traditional mode of life until two or three decades before. But owing to their contacts with nontribal people unprecedented changes have occurred in their lives. According to the census report of 2011 out of 10086292 population of Uttarakhand, the scheduled tribes constitute only 291903 which represents approximately 3.0 percent of the population of the state. The tribal population of the state is primarily rural (264819 persons out of 10086292). This state represents 0.16 % of the tribal population of our country.

Table –I (Distribution of Different Tribes in Uttrakhand)

	Population	Total	Rural	Urban	Districts
BHOTIYA	39,106	13.40%	72.20%	27.80%	Almora, Chamoli, Pithoragarh, Bageswar, Uttarkashi
BUKSA	54,037	18.50%	97.90%	02.10%	Dehradun, Nainital, Pauri, Udham Singh Nagar, Haridwar
JAUNSARI	88,664	30.40%	93.20%	06.80%	Dehradun, Uttarkashi, Tehri
RAJI	690	00.20%	87.80%	12.20%	Pithoragarh and Champawat.
THARU	91342	31.30%	95.20%	04.80%	Udham Singh Nagar, Nainital, Pauri and Dehradun.

Source: Census 2011, Registrar General of India.

Table I demonstrates that the Tharu tribe with 91342 population representing 31.30% of the ST population is the largest tribal community in the state. Tharus are scattered in districts namely Udham Singh Nagar, Nainital, Pauri, and Dehradun. The Jaunsari (88664) is the second-largest tribal community (88884) representing 30.40% of the ST population. They are scattered in Dehradun, Uttarkashi, and Tehri. The Buksa tribe holds the third position in terms of their numerical strength (54037) with 18.50% of the ST population. The main concentration of this tribe is Dehradun, Nainital, Pauri, Udham Singh Nagar, and Haridwar. The Bhotiya tribe with a population of 39,106 represents 13.40% of the ST population in the state. This tribe is scattered

in districts namely, Almora, Chamoli, Pithoragarh, Bageswar, and Uttarkashi. Raji tribe, the smallest tribe in Uttrakhand is scattered in two districts namely, Pithoragarh and Champawat.

Educational status of scheduled tribes in Uttarakhand

The relationship between education and human being is very close. It is through education human beings not only enrich their knowledge, skills, competencies, potentials, values but also develop their beliefs and thoughts. “Education imparts knowledge. The Knowledge of self-identity and the human environment will infuse a sense of confidence, courage, vision, and ability among the weaker sections of the society to know and overcome their problems associated with exploitation and deprivation, and avail socio-economic and political opportunities extended to them (Pradhan, 2011). After independence, our country has made serious efforts to educate this marginalized community. In tune with that education of Scheduled tribes in Uttarakhand has grabbed the attention of the policymakers in the state.

Literacy and educational attainment are powerful indicators of social and economic development among the backward groups in India (Sahu, 2014). It depicts the quality of life and the level of cultural advancement of that community.

Table - II (Literacy rates of Scheduled Tribes in Uttarakhand)

Scheduled tribes	Total	Male	Female	Gap
BHOTIYA	86.50	94.40	78.60	15.80
BUKSA	64.20	75.90	51.80	24.10
JAUNSARI	71.20	80.50	61.20	19.30
RAJI	65.60	79.60	41.60	38.0
THARU	76.20	86.20	66.20	20.0

Source: Statistical Profiles of Scheduled Tribes in India, 2013, Ministry of Tribal Affairs, Statistical Division Government of India.

It is evident from the above table that the Bhotiya tribe with 86.50 % literacy rate is well ahead of other STs in the state while Raji tribe has recorded the lowest literacy rate (65.60%). The Tharu, the Jaunsari, the Buxa – All three hold 2nd, 3rd, and 4th position respectively. The male-female disparity in literacy is highest among the Raji tribe (38.0%) and lowest among the Bhotia tribe in the state (15.80%).

In India, many state governments recognize the fact that education and development have close linkages and Kerala is its best example. Uttarakhand is no exception in realizing this fact. Within twenty years of its inception, the state has made considerable progress in the field of school education. In terms of access, the state has approached saturation in elementary education and improving secondary education. Table III reports that Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER) has been 98.87 among boys and 99.76 among girls at the primary level in 2015-16. The GER has been 85.84 for boys and 88.07 for girls in the same year at the upper primary level. This improvement has a direct bearing upon the educational standard of Scheduled tribe children in the state. Educational statistics released by MHRD, Government of India, 2018 reports that GER for Scheduled tribe children at primary level is 102 for boys and 103.07 for girls. This figure is satisfactory but the ST Children are far below the national GER which is 107.78 for boys and 105.65 for girls. The ST boys have registered GER of 84.34 at the upper primary level and girls have registered GER of 89.07. The GER of ST females in the state is more than that of ST males in the state at the upper primary level, but these figures are less than that of All India ST.

Table – III (Gross Enrolment Rates Uttarakhand ST Vs All India ST, 2016-17)

Source: Educational Statistics, 2018 released by MHRD, New Delhi

Uttarakhand ST			All India ST			
	Primary	Upper Primary	Secondary	Primary	Upper Primary	Secondary
Boys	102.00	84.34	85.30	107.78	95.36	74.74
Girls	103.07	89.07	91.88	105.65	98.18	75.38
Total	102.52	86.62	88.5	106.74	96.71	74.53

"The Gender Parity Index (GPI) is the ratio of the number of female students enrolled at the primary, secondary and tertiary levels of education to the corresponding number of male students at each level. Thus, GPI (based on GER) which is free from the effects of the population structure of the appropriate age group provides a picture of gender equality in education" (MHRD, 2016a, p. A2). Table IV reveals that the GPI of the ST population in Uttarakhand for the period of 2016-17 is on the higher side specifically in primary, upper primary, secondary and senior secondary in comparison to All India ST's GPI.

Table – IV (Gender Parity Index, Uttarakhand ST Vs All India ST, 2016-17)

Level	Uttarakhand ST	All India ST
Primary	1.01	0.98
Upper Primary	1.04	1.03
Secondary	1.03	1.02
Senior Secondary	1.13	1.00

Source: U-DISE: Flash Statistics 2016-17, National Institute of Educational Planning and Administration, New Delhi.

The dropout rate which is measured as "proportion of pupils who leave school during the year as well as who complete the grade level but fail to enroll in the next/year the following school year to the total number of pupils enrolled during the previous year" (Ministry of Tribal Affairs, 2013). Table V clarifies that the dropout rates of Scheduled tribes of Uttarakhand are far behind dropout for Scheduled tribes at the National level. The Drop out is highest at the secondary level for boys (11.27 %). Except for the upper primary level, the dropout rate among girls is less than that of boys.

Table – V (Average Annual Dropout rates of Uttarakhand ST Vs All India ST, 2016-17)

State (ST Population)		Uttarakhand ST	All India – ST
Primary	Boys	7.50	8.57
	Girls	6.52	8.51
Upper Primary	Boys	3.26	9.46
	Girls	5.74	9.70
Secondary	Boys	11.27	27.41
	Girls	8.38	26.51
Higher Secondary	Boys	3.26	8.94
	Girls	-	7.87

Source: U-DISE: Flash Statistics 2016-17, National Institute of Educational Planning and Administration, New Delhi.

Note: Negative drop out have not been reported.

It is clear from Table VI that the transition rate among Scheduled tribes of Uttarakhand at various levels of education is more than the transition rate of Scheduled tribes at the National level. Moreover, the Scheduled tribe girls have registered more transition rates than Scheduled tribe boys from primary to upper primary level as well as from secondary to higher secondary level.

Table - VI (Transition rate at Elementary, Secondary and Higher Secondary level, 2016-17)

	All India ST			Uttarakhand ST		
	Boys	Girls	Total	Boys	Girls	Total
Primary to Upper Primary	86.49	86.82	86.65	92.48	95.26	93.83
Elementary to Secondary	83.96	82.58	83.29	99.28	89.47	94.28
Secondary to Higher Secondary	57.78	57.15	57.47	74.09	77.48	75.83

Source: U-DISE: Flash Statistics 2016-17, National Institute of Educational Planning and Administration, New Delhi

Programmes and Interventions

The state is progressing towards the provision of Education for All. To achieve 100% literacy target -100% enrolment, 100% retention, and 100 % achievement a continuous education programme has been adopted by the government. Education is recognized as a key factor in accelerating the pace of development in any society. The benefits of education to individuals and to society are widely known (Sen and Dreze, 1995). Here are the details of programmes and interventions in Uttarakhand for ameliorating the educational standard of the scheduled tribes and bringing them into the mainstream of society.

Scholarships

Pre-matric – scholarship: This scholarship scheme has been started by ST welfare department Uttarakhand for promoting education among ST students starting from class I to X. Under this scheme economic assistance is provided at the following rates.

Post- matric scholarships: This scholarship is provided to those ST students whose parent’s income is less than 2.5 lakhs through all means. This scholarship is also provided to those

S.No	Classes	Amount of scholarship per annum
1	1 to V	Rs 600
2	VI to VII	Rs 960
3	IX to X	Rs 1440

students who are receiving higher education outside the state. The details of it are:

S.No	Courses	For Hostellers	For Day Scholars
1	Group I-Medicine, Engineering, Technology, Agriculture & Allied Sciences, Management, Business Administration, Computer Science, Commercial Pilot licenses	Rs 1200	Rs 550
2	Group II - Graduate or Post Graduate degree, Diploma in Pharmacy, Nursing, Law, Other paramedical branches such as Rehabilitation, Diagnostics, Mass communication, Hotel management and catering, Travel/Tourism/Hospitality Management, Interior decoration, Nutrition and Diets	Rs 820	Rs 530

3	Group III-All the graduate courses and programmes which don't fall in either group I OR II.	Rs 570	Rs 300
4	Group IV-All courses of post matriculation level such as intermediate or ITI.	Rs 380	Rs 230

Ashram Type Schools

S.No	Name of Schools	Student's Intake	Classes
1	Ashram Type School, Joshi math, Chamoli. (For Boys)	175	VI to X
2	Ashram Type School, Langhapokhri (For Girls)	300	I to X
3	Ashram Type School, Haripur, Kalsi Block, Dehradun (For Boys)	175	VI to X
4	Ashram Type School Tueni, Dehradun (For Boys)	175	VI to X
5	Ashram Type School, Lakhamandal, Dehradun	185	VI to X
6	Ashram Type School, Bison, Chakrata, Dehradun (For Boys)	175	I to V
7	Ashram Type School, Laldang, Haridwar,(For Boys)	105	I to V
8	Ashram Type School, Laldang, Haridwar (For Girls)	150	I to V
9	Ashram Type School, Gothihal, Baluwakot, Pithoragarh (For Girls)	310	I to X
10	Ashram Type School, Munshiyari, Pithoragarh, (For Boys)	175	VI to X
11	Ashram Type School, Baluwakot, Pithoragarh (For Boys)	245	I to X
12	Ashram Type School, Khatima, Uhamsingh Nagar (For Boys)	245	I to X
13	Ashram Type School, Khatima, Uhamsingh Nagar (For Girls)	105	VI to VIII
14	Ashram Type School, Gadarpur Udhansingh Nagar (For	175	VI to X

	Girls)		
15	Ashram Type School, Gularbhoj, Udham Singh Nagar(For Girls)	185	VI to X
16	Ashram Type School, Bidora, Udham Singh Nagar	175	VI to X

Sixteen Ashram type schools are run by the Social welfare department of Uttarakhand for uplifting educational standards of ST children in the state. The students of these schools are being provided free boarding and food, clothes, stationeries, medicine, etc. Below is the list of such schools –

Industrial Training Institutes

For imparting vocational training to the educated unemployed SC and ST Youths, three ITI's have been established in the state. In these institutions, training is provided in typing, computer literacy, sewing, cutting and fitting, etc to the youths. The following are the ITI's in the state. Here are the details of these it is.

S.No	Name of Institution	Students' Intake
1	Government Industrial Training Institute, Chakrata, Dehradun	60
2	Government Industrial Training Institute, Gularbhoj, Dehradun	126
3	Government Industrial Training Institute, Khatima, Udham Singhnagar	194

Ekalavya Awasiya Adarsh Vidyalaya

For providing quality education to the meritorious students of ST category AAV has been running in the Kalsi BLOCK OF Dehradun district since 2010. There is a provision of admission of meritorious ST students from class VI to X.

Coaching centers for ST students

The state government felt it necessary to provide coaching to the ST youths for qualifying various competitive examinations and enhance their employability. Since 2009 various coaching centres have been started in Dehradun as well as in Almora districts. Some private coaching centres are also selected for providing coaching to the ST students. There is a provision of providing the scholarship to these ST students at the rate of Rs 750 per month to each local student and Rs 1500 to each outsider.

Government ST Hostel facilities

To provide residential facilities to the tribal students, four hostel facilities have been established in the places namely Dharchula (Pithoragarh district), Gopeshwar (Chamoli Districts), Kashipur (Udhamsingh Nagar), and Khatima (Udham Singh Nagar district). The student's intake in each hotel is 50 only.

Gaura Devi Kanya Dhan Yojna

Under this scheme, a national saving certificate of Rs 50000 is provided to each ST girl student (Below the poverty line) who completes intermediate level education either through Uttarakhand Board or any equivalent board.

Role of Non – Governmental organization

The state government has made provisions for providing grants to the NGOs who are working in the ST concentrated areas for raising the educational standard of St Students. These are Servants of society, Bajpur (Udham Singh Nagar) Bhotiya Jan Jati Sewa, Gularbhoj (Udham Singh Nagar), Bhotiya Jan Jati Kalyan Samiti, Baluwakot (Pithoragarh), Indira Rashtriya Chetna Evam Samajotthan Sanstha, Raiwala (Dehradun).

Conclusion

Uttarakhand has been a homeland of five tribes namely, Botiya, Buxa, Jaunsari, Raji, and Tharu. Tharu and Raji are the largest and smallest tribal group tribal respectively. The Bhotiya tribe has registered the highest literacy rates in the state followed by Tharu and Jaunsari. At primary and secondary levels the enrolment rates of Scheduled Tribes are more than that of ST's at the national level. In terms of the Gender Parity Index, dropout rates, transition rates the performance of the scheduled tribes of Uttarakhand is more encouraging than ST's at the national level. For improving the educational standards of the scheduled tribes the Governments have launched various interventions such as Pre-matric and Post-matric scholarship, Establishments of Ashram Schools & ITI's Ekalavya Awasiya Adarsh Vidyalaya, coaching centers, hostels, Gaura Devi Kanya Dhan Yojna, etc. Undoubtedly lack of Education is one of the major factors that jeopardize all the efforts made for the progress of the tribal community. The programmes and schemes mentioned above can bear effort only when these are successfully implemented by Government. Moreover creating awareness among the tribal people about these programmes through different media is a significant task in this context.

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