

# School Libraries and Schools Education of Uttarakhand: A study

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## ABSTRACT

The study is focusing on the need and recruitment of school libraries in the schools of Uttarakhand. The study covers the ideas how and why do we need to have school libraries specially in the state like Uttarakhand as the state has its own reputation in the world map of the best school. Study also provides the brief information on the Uttarakhand, it is schools and other educational factors related to it. Studies summarize the government school profile in the state as well.

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## 1. Introduction

We all aware of the word Education. This is the only word we heard every single day since are childhood. Our parents want us to be educated, they work day and night so that we can get best education and most of us also try to fulfil the dreams of our parents. But do we know what education means? Dose education means to get 99% marks in our exams or be a toper makes us educated?

Swami Vivekananda has once said Education is not the amount of information that is put into your brain and runs riot there, undigested all your life. We must have life-building, man-making, character making, assimilation of ideas. If you have assimilated five ideas and made them your life and character, you have more education than any man who has got by heart a whole library. If education were identical with information, the libraries would be the greatest sages in the world and encyclopaedias the Rishis.” (NCTE, 2015)

So through this study I am trying to find out where we are we going or taking are children’s as well as why Uttarakhand is the best for school education.

## 2. Objective of the study:

To identify why libraries are so important to get best education? To identify how our forefathers know the importance of having libraries specially the school of Uttarakhand? What Uttarakhand get after providing a long schooling history in the state.

**Uttarakhand:** Uttarakhand is well known, not only for its religious places, Mountains and the natural beauty but also for the schools it has. There are not many places in the country as Uttarakhand. Uttarakhand was a part of Uttar Pradesh but on 9 November 2000 separated from it and emerges as new state of the Country. Uttarakhand is a big state with it 13 districts in 2 different divisions as Kumaun Division and Garhwal Division.

**Schools of Uttarakhand:** In India we have more 1.4 million registered schools that make our country, world’s most

complex school education system. Out of those 1.4 million schools Uttarakhand has some of the most preferred or one can say recommended schools. In India basically we follow the British system of schooling most of the school in India still follow the same pattern of schooling, teaching and evaluation Britisher left. In 2104 a survey says that we have Government school almost 109369, Recognized Private School (Unaided) 319990, Aided Schools 67933, Unrecognized Schools (covered under DISE) 21351, Recognized Madreasaas 8971 and Unrecognized Madarssas 4431. In Uttarakhand we have almost 19113 Government schools in Total 95 blocks and on the other hand there is no official data available for the total number of Private schools, unofficial sources says we have but almost twice the number of private schools as of government schools.

Some of the very popular schools of Uttarakhand are situated in Mussoorie, Dehradun, Nainital, Haridwar, Rishikesh and Roorkee. Most of these schools are very old and established by the British Government and after the independence they continue serving by maintain the same standards. School of Uttarakhand has produced so many great personalities of the country in so many different fields like Politics, sports, Film and business etc.

## 3. Education challenges:

Economic and educational inequality continues in many countries (the top 1% or 10% can afford to give their children private education with top quality school libraries). To improve everyone’s lives, the benefit of a quality school library needs to be extended to all.

Education is changing through changes in curricula and through enhanced technology (e.g., cloud computing, gaming, smart phones). The number of high school graduates is increasing worldwide but the number of tertiary graduates is still lagging in many countries. Economic and social changes are increasing the number of foreign students and second language learners in schools and universities. The ubiquity of

technology has changed the way that learners access information and interact with others.

Libraries are being affected by the digital agenda and by trends such as “open” access data, learning initiatives, and convergence. Many governments have developed planning documents similar to the European Union’s the Digital Agenda. (IFLA, 1999)

**School Libraries:** In Uttarakhand we have almost 50000 schools” but in those schools not many have a properly maintained library, and the most surprising thing is that the government schools do not provide proper libraries. Uttarakhand government doesn’t found the libraries important for the schools education. Till now we have not recruit a single professional librarian not even that the post is developed by the government. On the other hand privet schools have to maintain the library they have to have a librarian to keep the affiliation. Having a proper library is mandatory for them so that the private schools have the Libraries; but some these schools have Library just to get or keep the affiliation. But on other hand there are some great Private schools especially in Dehradun, Mussoorie and Ninital districts having well mentioned School Libraries and as they take care of libraries it looks like they consider the importance of libraries. Some these schools are 150 years old and keep maintaining their

reputation in the world of schools students. They have produced really good politicians, Economists, Actors, Writers, Poets and sport personals not only for India but other parts of world too.

And at the time of visiting these schools it was found that they believe school library is plays an important role in an overall personality development, of every individual student of the school. They believe that the school library provides information and ideas that are fundamental to functioning successfully in today’s information and knowledge-based society. The school library equips students with life-long learning skills and develops the imagination, enabling them to live as responsible citizens.” IFLA/UNESCO School Library Manifesto (IFLA, 1999)

#### 4. Data analysis and Finding:

Uttarakhand state is known for the schools specially boarding schools, but study found that these boarding schools are not established of maintained by the state government, Uttarakhand government has just the 42 schools. And of course they are not one, although these schools are providing basic education for so many students belong to the poor families.

S. No.	District	Primary	Junior	Secondary	Office	Institute	Boarding School
1	Almora	1470	322	264	153	3	3
2	Bageshwar	609	165	94	58	1	1
3	Chamoli	1049	336	206	133	2	3
4	Champawat	516	163	105	57	1	2
5	Dehradun	979	337	169	121	4	3
6	Haridwar	699	226	102	76	1	8
7	Nainital	1011	347	197	110	3	2
8	Pauri	1708	448	309	197	1	2
9	Pithoragarh	1188	359	216	126	1	3
10	Rudraprayag	574	183	109	64	1	1
11	Tehri	1489	453	308	142	8	7
12	Udham S Nagar	798	278	125	80	2	2
13	Uttarkashi	772	303	127	80	2	5
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>12862</b>	<b>3920</b>	<b>2331</b>	<b>1397</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>42</b>

(Uttarakhand, 2019)

The major findings of the study are as:-

- The School Libraries are not in the priority list of the Uttarakhand Government.
- But on the other hand the Government want every private school must have a well maintained school library, this is quite good.
- The School of pre- independence are still keep maintaining the reputation in the world as they consider the libraries as an important part of the education system. And with the positive use of libraries these schools are steel able to provide world class education too.
- But we must say somehow Uttarakhand has a reputation on the best schools map of the world. And still so many parents from all-overs the world want

their kids to get their schooling done from Uttarakhand.

#### 5. Conclusion:

People of Uttarakhand and the government must start thinking and planning to provide well maintained libraries to the government schools. Some individual efforts by the teachers and the school principals are there which need to appreciated. So that the next generation of the state can get the equally qualitative education for the government schools as the students of private schools get. If teacher students and the parents know the importance of library then the government must also consider the requirement.

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