

## CHAPTER - 1

# GENERAL-BIRD'S EYE VIEW OF UTTARANCHAL

Uttaranchal, made internationally famous by the chipko movement led by the women of the area in April 1973, became a state on 9 November, 2000. The birth of Uttaranchal was the culmination of a regional movement for statehood in which women participated in great numbers and even paid a price in the shape of the Muzaffarnagar episode on 1<sup>st</sup> October 1994.

**Geography and Location :** Carved out of Uttar Pradesh of which it was a part, though with its own geographical and cultural identity, Uttaranchal is the 18<sup>th</sup> largest state of India and occupies 1.69 percent the total area of India. Located at a height of 7816 metres at its maximum above sea, level and a minimum of 10 metres Uttaranchal is one of the 11 Himalayan states.

The new state lies between 28° 43' and 31° 28' north to 31° 27' 50" N. latitudes and between 77° 32' and 81° 02' 22" east longitudes. It is surrounded by Himachal Pradesh in the west, Uttar Pradesh in the south, Nepal in the east and China in the north. It has a total area of 53,483 square kms, of which the forest area is 35,01,285 hectares. The forest area covers 194 forest villages.

As one of the smaller states of India, Uttaranchal has 13 districts, 49 tehsils and 95 blocs, with about 15651 inhabited villages and 955 villages not inhabited.

While Dehradun is the state Capital, Nainital houses the High Court. The region is mainly has a subsistence agricultural economy. Except for some tourism industry in Rishikesh, Hardwar, Chamoli, Uttarkashi, Nainital and other districts, the population is dependent on the "money order" economy.

Uttaranchal, as of now, cannot claim to any major industry, except the BHEL factory at Hardwar and IDPL at Rishikesh. With the Tehri Dam construction having been resumed, one can hope for much electricity and power. This may augur well for industrialisation of the region.

In the mean while Uttaranchal is located in earthquake zone-IV. It has been subjected to frequent earthquakes, landslides and floods. Often in these natural disasters houses and even whole villages have been washed away. Not merely houses and cattle, men and women have disappeared, but even land and villages have vanished, causing enormous misery to surviving families and persons, who have been forced to start new lives in other places.

The displacement of women and children due to the Tehri Dam construction has become a major issue. Many women from being cultivators and dairy producers have been reduced to house wives, in far away urban settlements near Dehradun and Hardwar, losing their living, their profession and economic rights.

## 1.1 UTTARANCHAL

### I. Geography

Date of Birth / Inauguration	:	9 November 2000
Total area	:	53,483 sq. km.
Plain	:	
Hilly	:	92.57% of total area
Water	:	
Forest area	:	35,01,285 Hectare (63 % of total area)
No of Districts & their names	:	13

S.No.	District Name	Area sq. km.	Tehsil	Blocks	Villages (Inhabited)	Towns
1.	Uttarkhasi	7951	4	6	677	3
2.	Tehri Garhwal	4085	5	10	1791	6
3.	Pauri Garhwal	5438	6	15	3137	7
4.	Chamoli	7692	6	8	1144	6
5.	Rudraprayag	1896	2	3	660	2
6.	Dehradun dt.	3088	4	6	746	17
7.	Bageshwar		2	3	865	1
8.	Pithoragarh	7110	8	8	1568	3
9.	Champavat	1781	1	4	651	4
10.	Nainital dt.	3853	4	8	1095	8
11.	Udham Sigh Nagar	2916	4	7	671	15
12.	Almora	3090		11	2159	4
13.	Hardwar	2360	6	6	503	8
14.	Total	53,483	49	95	15652	84

**Other Details :** Divison -2; Nyay Panchayats - 670

**Source :** Uttaranchal Year book 2003

## 1.2 STATE AT A GLANCE

		<b>1991</b>	<b>2001</b>
1.	Total geographical area	-	53,484 sq km
2.	Total population	70,50,634	84,79,562
3.	Density of population	133 per sq km	159
4.	Total male population	36,40,904	43,16,401
5.	Total female population	34,09,739	41,63,161
6.	Sex ratio	936 per 1,000 male	964:1000
7.	Total rural population	54,16,550	63,09,317
8.	Total urban population	16,34,084	
9.	Rural male population	27,38,148	31,43,380
10.	Rural female population	26,78,402	31,65,937
11.	Urban male population	9,02,756	
12.	Urban female population	7,31,337	
13.	Total scheduled caste population	12,32,316	
14.	Percentage to total population	17.48%	
15.	Total scheduled tribe population	2,11,864	
16.	Percentage to total population	3.10%	
17. (a)	Literacy Rate		
	Total	48.4%	72.3%
	Male	60.9%	84%
	Female	35.7%	60.3%
17. (b)	Literacy Rate of 0-6 age group		
	Total		64.60
	Male		52.60
	Female		
18.	No of districts	8	13
19.	No. of tehsils	43(1998)	49 (2001)
20. (a)	No of urban centres	68	84 (2001)
20. (b)	No of villages (inhabited)		15651 (2001)
20. (c)	Not inhabited villages		955 (2001)
20. (d)	Total villages		16606 (2001)

		<b>1991</b>	<b>2001</b>
21.	No of Universities		5 (2000)
22.	No of Colleges		52 (2000)
23.	Higher Secondary Schools		1461 (2000)
24.	Senior Basic School		2970 (2000)
25.	Junior Basic School		12791 (2000)
26.	Per capita Income	8121 (93-94)	
		12507 (97-98)	
		12791 (98-99)	
27.	India (per capita Income)	7698 (93-94)	14808 (99-00)
		12729 (97-98)	
		14682 (98-99)	
28.	Gram Panchayats	6804	7224 (2003)
29.	Nyay Panchayats	671	-
30.	Development blocs	-	95
31.	Mandal (Region)	2	2
32.	Death Rate	6.5/1000 (1999)	
33.	Birth Rate	19.6/1000 (1999)	
34.	PHC Centre		553 (99-2000)

### 1.3 DATA ON WOMEN - AT A GLANCE 2001

S. No.	Districts	Female literacy rate 2001	Sex ratio 2001	Sex ratio (0-6 years) 2001	MMR 1998	Vital Statistics, SRS (1999)			TFR 1995 to 1997	Life Expectancy at birth 1992-96	
						CBR	CDR	IMR		F	M
1	Uttarkhashi	47.48	941	908/1000							
2	Nainital	70.98	906	910/1000							
3	Dehradun	71.22	893	888/1000							
4	Chamoli	63.00	1017	900/1000							
5	Pauri	66.14	1104	930/1000							
6	R. Prayag	59.98	1117	957/1000							
7	Tehri	49.36	1051	932/1000							
8	Almora	61.43	1147	931/1000							
9	Bageshwar	57.45	1110	930/1000							
10	Pithoragarh	63.14	1031	902/1000							
11	Champavat	54.75	1024	934/1000							
12	Hardwar	52.60	868	862/1000							
13	U. S. Nagar	—	902	882/1000							
14	Total	60.26	964	908/1000							

## **CHAPTER - 2**

# **DEMOGRAPHY**

Uttaranchal ranks 20<sup>th</sup> in India by its population size (2001) and has an annual growth rate of 1.92 percent. The density of population per square km has increased from 133 (1991) to 159 (2001). In population figures thus Uttaranchal has compared well with many other states of North India and has been below the national average. Uttaranchal's total population of 84,79,562 in 2001, constitutes 0.82 per cent of India's total population. Uttaranchal is one of the twenty six states where the population growth has declined by 5.03% points between 1991 and 2001. (Tables 2.1 and 2.2).

The male female ratio of population in Uttaranchal is 964 to 1000 males. As table 2.3 will show the sex ratio of Uttaranchal (964) is better than the national average (933). It has also improved from the previous 1991 figure of 936 women per thousand males. This improvement in sex ratio has been witnessed in all the thirteen districts of Uttaranchal. (Table 2.3).

74.4 percent of Uttaranchal population lives in its villages. Of this 50.2 percent are women. Of the total female population 76.1 percent are rural women. This is important as in Uttaranchal the women look after the land almost completely and undertake the actual cultivation. (Tables 2.1 and 1.2)

This may possibly be due to the increasing trend of Uttaranchal men seeking to find jobs in the state itself and thereby reversing the earlier practice of men moving to Delhi and other places in large numbers in search of employment.

The a low sex rate is also attributable to low female literacy, lack of nutrition and health facilities and, of course, the patriarchal order of the society. One may analyse these factors, in the context of Uttaranchal women.

The high and low of sex ratio are varied among the districts. It is note worthy that the sex ratio in the eight hilly districts of Chamoli, Rudraprayag, Tehri, Pauri, Almora, Bageshwar, Pithoragarh and Champawat have been to the advantage of women. It thereby confirms to the saying of "Women in Villages and Men in Towns". On the other hand, the sex ratio of Hardwar, Dehradun, Nainital, Udham Singh Nagar and Uttarkashi are so low as to bring down the state average. These are mostly plain areas and are considered more developed. The reason may have to be sought in the migrancy of men from higher attitudes and interior areas, to the more developed areas in search of jobs. The women in the interior continue to stay back, look after the land and sustain the families, thereby pushing up the sex ratio. The men migrating to towns and developed areas have swelled the male population in

Dehradun and Nainital. Hardwar and Udham Singh Nagar. As plain areas they have been more akin culturally to Uttar Pradesh where the sex ratio has been one of the lowest in India.

The same bleak picture emerges when one sees the break up of sex ratio by way of age variation.

**Age Wise Sex Ratio:**

The age group 0-6 which constitutes 15.56 of the total population has a low sex ratio of 906:1000. The proportion of infant population is slightly more than the national average of 15.42 but the gap between male and female infants is appreciable (.08) though this is less than the national figure of 0.11. The sex ratio, infact, is disadvantageous all through the ages, except in the 20-24 age group where it is more or less equal. (Table 2.6)

The sex ratio of 906 is also less than the 1991 figures, when it was 948/1000. Does this indicate female foeticide and higher infant mortality rate in the ten intervening years. There is a popular impression that families resort to sex determination tests and termination of pregnancies in case it is a female fetus.

The state has an appreciable proportion of Scheduled Caste population, (17.48%) besides representatives of major religions like Hindus, Muslims, Sikhs, Christians and Buddhists.

It has a tribal population of 3.10 percent, (1991) who belong to major tribes like Bhotias, Buksa, Jaunsari, Raji, Van Rawat.

Muslim groups like Van Gujjars belong to Uttaranchal.

## 2.1 Total Population 1991

Name of District Wise	Total	Female	Male	Sex Ratio	Growth 1981-91
Uttarkashi	239709			918	
Chamoli	325311			982	
Tehri	520214			1048	
Dehradun	1025679			843	
Pauri	671541			1058	
Rudraprayag	200493			1094	
Hardwar	1124488			846	
Pithoragarh	416647			992	
Almora	608210			1099	
Nainital	582729			863	
Udham Singh Nagar	914569			1055	
Bageshwar	228407			1055	
Champavat	192637			945	
<b>Total</b>	<b>70,50,634</b>	<b>34,09,739</b>	<b>36,40,895</b>	<b>936 / 1000</b>	<b>24.33</b>
<b>India</b>					<b>23.85</b>



## 2.2 Total Population (2001)

Name of District Wise	Male	Female	Total	Sex Ratio	Growth 1991-2001
Uttarkashi	151599	142580	294179	941	22.72
Chamoli	183033	186165	369198	1017	13.51
Tehri	294842	309766	604608	1051	16.15
Dehradun	675549	603534	1279083	893	24.71
Pauri	331138	365713	696851	1104	3.87
Rudraprayag	107425	120035	227461	1117	13.44
Hardwar	773173	671040	1444213	868	26.30
Pithoragarh	227592	234557	462149	1031	10.92
Almora	293576	336870	630446	1147	3.14
Nainital	400336	362576	762912	906	32.88
U.S. Nagar	649020	585528	1234548	902	27.79
Bageshwar	118202	131251	249453	1110	9.21
Champawat	110916	113545	224461	1024	17.56
<b>Total</b>	<b>43,16,401</b>	<b>41,63,161</b>	<b>84,79,562</b>	<b>964 / 1000</b>	<b>19.20</b>

### 2.3 Uttarakhand Male/Female Sex Ratio 1901 - 2001

District	1901	1911	1921	1931	1941	1951	1961	1971	1981	1991	2001
Uttarkashi	1015	1026	1035	1017	976	993	964	899	881	918	941
Chamoli	1028	1033	1080	1066	1073	1092	1103	1035	1020	982	1017
Rudraprayag	1061	1067	1105	1092	1084	1144	1169	1169	1121	1094	1117
Tehri	1006	1061	1025	1007	967	1122	1196	1179	1081	1048	1051
Dehradun	733	696	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	843	893
Pauri	1031	1035	1083	1069	1076	1137	1163	1119	1091	1058	1104
Hardwar	864	823	818	820	802	806	796	803	817	846	868
Almora	989	983	1012	1011	1023	1060	1114	1100	1095	1099	1147
Bageshwar	936	931	959	957	969	1008	1024	1057	1031	1055	1110
Nainital	780	753	706	693	689	699	715	837	847	881	906
U.S. Nagar	812	785	737	723	720	731	726	774	841	863	902
Pithoragarh	977	971	1000	998	1010	1020	1052	1033	1027	992	1031
Champavat	928	924	946	947	961	956	929	955	947	945	1024
Uttarakhand	831	907	916	913	907	940	947	940	936	936	964

Source : Jangana Report - 2001

#### 2.4 District wise Population By Religion (1991)

District	Total Population	Hindus	Muslims	Christians	Sikhs	Buddhists	Jains	Other Religions	Religion not stated
Nainital & Udham Singh Nagar	1,540,174	1,167,489 75.80	234,520 15.23	5,742 0.37	129,824 8.43	1,906 0.12	504 0.03	148 0.01	41 0.00
Almora & Bageshwar	836,617	828,437 99.02	5,307 0.63	1,620 0.19	776 0.09	233 0.03	24 0.00	214 0.03	6 0.00
Pithoragarh & Champawat	566,408	561,797 99.19	2,826 0.50	1,070 0.19	316 0.06	206 0.04	12 0.00	181 0.03	— —
Dehra Dun	1,025,679	874,760 85.29	98,748 9.63	8,949 0.87	30,417 2.97	8,345 0.81	4,159 0.41	225 0.02	76 0.01
Tehri Garhwal	580,153	574,330 99.00	4,818 0.83	285 0.05	412 0.07	70 0.01	139 0.02	66 0.01	33 0.01
Uttarakasi	239,709	235,550 98.26	2,164 0.90	89 0.04	241 0.10	1,377 0.57	284 0.12	2 0.00	2 0.00
Garhwal	682,535	663,485 97.21	15,495 2.27	1,639 0.24	1,165 0.17	145 0.02	256 0.04	283 0.04	67 0.01
Chamoli & Rudraprayag	454,871	449,973 98.92	3,274 0.72	120 0.03	885 0.19	209 0.05	95 0.02	59 0.01	256 0.06
Hardwar	1,124,488	768,688 68.36	3,38,146 30.07	1,990 0.18	12,822 1.14	359 0.03	2,397 0.21	17 0.00	69 0.01
<b>Total</b>	<b>7,050,634</b>	<b>6,124,509</b>	<b>7,052,98</b>	<b>21,504</b>	<b>1,76,858</b>	<b>12,850</b>	<b>7,870</b>	<b>1,745</b>	<b>—</b>

Figure in top position indicates absolute value

Figure in below position indicates percentage

### 2.5 District Wise Population By Religion (2001)

District	Total Population	Hindus	Muslims	Christians	Sikhs	Buddhists	Jains	Other Religions
Almora	630567	621203	7283	959	492	185	34	12
Uttarkashi	295013	290201	2817	230	284	1239	157	871
Tehri	604747	596769	6390	533	561	69	147	44
Rudraprayag	227439	225773	1406	48	54	32	13	23
Pithoragarh	462289	456277	4031	1215	437	206	17	8
Dehradun	1282143	1086094	139197	10322	33379	7499	5018	166
Champawat	224542	216646	6642	626	473	71	22	1
U.S. Nagar	1235614	832811	254407	3880	141462	1439	762	384
Chamoli	370359	365396	3725	240	439	171	26	0
Pauri Garhwal	697078	673471	20157	1915	892	95	264	7
Bageshwar	249462	247402	1280	361	119	163	6	9
Hardwar	1447187	944927	478274	3048	17326	674	2451	30
Nainital	762909	655290	86532	3739	16107	591	332	78
<b>Total</b>	<b>849349</b>	<b>7212260</b>	<b>1012141</b>	<b>27116</b>	<b>212025</b>	<b>12434</b>	<b>9249</b>	<b>770</b>

## 2.6 Population - Age Wise (1991)

S.No	Age Factor	Population				
		Male	Female	Total	Village	Town
1.	Total	3640895	3409739	7050634	5416550	1634084
2.	0-4	457651	434610	892261	712290	179971
3.	5-9	475062	456974	932036	735044	196992
4.	10-14	454897	427204	881501	676657	204844
5.	15-19	384388	338654	723042	555818	167224
6.	20-24	295771	296820	592591	436797	155794
7.	25-29	298152	266357	534509	393708	140801
8.	30-34	226908	224027	450935	326100	124835
9.	35-39	216980	207185	424165	307220	116945
10.	40-44	179076	166334	345410	254922	90488
11.	45.-49	157317	140350	297667	226091	71576
12.	50-54	137720	120473	258193	205427	52766
13.	55-59	104029	92003	196032	155090	40942
14.	60 up	271644	229578	501222	416306	84916
15.	No Age Proof	11900	9170	21070	15080	5990

Source: Censsex Report - 1991

### 2.7 Child Population 2001

Year	Age (0-4)				Age (0-6)			
	Total Population	% of Male	% of Female	Sex Ratio	Total Population	Male %	Female %	Sex Ratio
1991	12.7%	457651	434610	943/1000	2535979	1313147	1222832	
2001				948/1000	1360032	712949	647083	906/1000
						16.01%	52.4%	47.6

### 2.8 Population of S.C. and S.T. (1991)

Districts	SC			ST		
	Total	M	F	Total	M	F
Uttarkashi	54594	28082	26512	2300	1205	1095
Chamoli	57551			10085		
Tehri	72674	41590	40749	608	266	549
Dehradun	137464	80251	38204	84076	44510	39566
Pauri	90682			1500		
Rudraprayag	33289			197		
Hardwar	242658			2026		
Pithoragarh	91458			18152		
Almora	128203			916		
Nainital	114676			3392		
U. S. Nagar	121306			86327		
Bageshwar	55934			1823		
Champawat	31706			462		
Uttaranchal	1232195			216546		
Percentage of Total Population	17.48			3.10%		

## 2.9 Demographic Structure 1991

Name of Districts	Area (sq. km.)	P O P U L A T I O N						Density of population per km.
		Rural	Male	Female	Urban	Male	Female	
Nainital & Udham Singh Nagar	6,794	10,37,210	5,50,781	4,86,429	5,02,964	2,73,017	2,29,947	227
		S.C. 1,86,858	99,818	87,040	S.C. 56,456	30,584	25,872	
		S.T. 88,061	45,233	42,828	S.T. 1,959	1,080	879	
Almora & Bageshwar	5,385	7,83,110	3,70,074	4,13,036	53,507	30,826	22,681	155
		S.C. 1,75,702	86,680	89,022	S.C. 8,535	4,623	3,912	
		S.T. 2,044	1,031	1,031	S.T. 695	395	303	
Pithoragarh & Champawat	8856	5,24,295	2,61,674	2,62,621	42,113	23,623	18,490	64
		S.C. 1,09,234	55,625	53,609	S.C. 6,598	3,585	3,013	
		S.T. 15,140	7,638	7,502	S.T. 3,173	1,543	1,630	
Dehra Dun	3,088	5,10,199	2,74,112	2,36,087	5,15,480	2,82,320	2,33,160	332
		S.C. 77,287	41,861	35,426	S.C. 60,177	32,390	27,787	
		S.T. 81,005	42,686	38,319	S.T. 3,071	1,824	1,247	
Tehri Garhwal	4,421	5,47,258	2,60,889	2,86,369	32,895	21,045	11,850	131
		S.C. 79,013	39,651	39,362	S.C. 3,371	1,939	1,432	
		S.T. 548	220	328	S.T. 67	46	21	
Uttar Kashi	8,016	2,22,448	1,14,723	1,07,725	17,261	10,255	7,006	30
		S.C. 52,355	26,842	25,513	S.C. 2,239	1,240	999	
		S.T. 2,240	1,174	1,066	S.T. 60	31	29	
Pauri Garhwal	5,438	6,01,353	2,83,753	3,17,600	81,182	47,618	33,564	126
		S.C. 83,640	41,069	42,571	S.C. 8,621	4,753	3,868	
		S.T. 1,358	761	597	S.T. 144	100	44	
Chamoli & Rudraprayag	9,126	4,14,331	2,02,168	2,12,163	40,540	24,936	15,577	50
		S.C. 72,837	36,474	36,363	S.C. 6,735	3,775	2,960	
		S.T. 7,939	3,758	4,181	S.T. 2,334	1,224	1,110	
Hardwar	2,360	7,76,346	4,19,974	3,56,372	3,48,142	1,89,089	1,59,062	476
		S.C. 2,05,386	1,11,460	93,926	S.C. 37,272	20,192	17,080	
		S.T. 2,004	1,117	887	S.T. 22	11	11	
Total	—	5416550	2738148	2678402	1634084	9,02,756	7,31,337	132

**2.10 Population - Rural - 2001**

<b>District</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Male</b>	<b>Female</b>	<b>% age to total Population</b>
Uttarkashi	271255	138388	132927	92.21
Chamoli	319613	154461	165152	86.57
Tehri	546133	259078	287055	90.33
Dehradun	601965	314296	287669	47.06
Pauri	608629	291581	325048	87.05
Rudraprayag	224740	105539	119201	98.80
Hardwar	998550	531528	467022	69.14
Pithoragarh	406025	197517	208508	87.86
Almora	576497	263114	313383	91.44
Nainital	493126	256642	236484	64.64
Udham Singh Nagar	831407	434162	397245	67.35
Bageshwar	241650	113896	127754	96.87
Champawat	191727	93238	96489	85.42
Uttaranchal	6309317	3143380	3165937	74.41



### 2.11 Child Population (2001)

District	0-6		
	Total	Male	Female
Uttaranchal	1360032	712949	647083
Bageshwar	41206	21352	19854
Chamoli	55710	28794	25916
Rudraprayag	35876	18368	17508
Nainital	113645	59489	54156
Almora	97368	50376	46992
Champawat	39939	20650	19289
Pithoragarh	72080	37892	34188
Hardwar	262894	141157	121737
Pauri Garhwal	101255	52464	48791
Dehradun	172486	91065	81421
Tehri Garhwal	91500	47351	44149
U.S. Nagar	219291	114607	104684
Uttarkashi	249462	118510	130952

### 2.12 Child Population and Sex Ratio By Religion (2001)

Religion	Total	Age Group 0-6	Child Population	Literacy	
				Women	Total
Hindu	978	908	15.4%	61.7	74.1
Muslims	875	915	21.2%	40.3	51.1
Christians	960	989	11.7	85.3	87.9
Sikhs	898	844	14.8	64.2	73.1
Buddhists	778	802	9.1	68	76.3
Jains	930	833	9.81	94.4	96.3

**2.13 Population and Sex Ratio of S.C. and S.T. (2001)**

<b>District</b>	<b>SC</b>	<b>Sex Ratio</b>	<b>ST</b>	<b>Sex Ratio</b>
Uttaranchal	1517186	943	256129	950
Uttarkashi	67467	967	2685	899
Chamoli	67539	987	10484	1063
Rudraprayag	40311	1019	186	755
Tehri	87325	1000	691	337
Dehradun	173448	887	99329	913
Garhwal	106653	1030	1594	795
Pithoragarh	106449	990	19279	1046
Bhageswar	64524	1028	1943	1161
Almora	140430	1079	878	905
Champawat	38098	975	740	922
Nainital	148184	901	4961	932
U.S. Nagar	162782	879	110220	970
Hardwar	313976	872	3139	817

## CHAPTER - 3

# ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Uttaranchal stands out as one of the few states in India where an overwhelming number of women have always been part of the active work force, due to their total involvement with agriculture, forest protection, cattle care, and dairying. Women here have thus emerged as the main stay of the rural economy and as the female heads of the families where men have migrated to towns or joined services. Even where the men continue to reside in the villages, it is the women and girls who look after agriculture and cattle.

They live in close harmony with nature and environment and help to maintain the traditions of Uttaranchal agriculture and quality of life.

In agriculture and animal care the women contribute to 90 percent of the total work. The men come in only to plough the land. Decisions regarding the agricultural operations are with the women.

Thus 98.54 percent of the rural women work force participate in agriculture and cattle. Even where women participate in other activities, the latter are over and above the agriculture work and not a substitute. Women who work in jobs (0.73 percent) and in labour (0.73 percent) too have to work in their own agricultural fields. Only about 2.21 percent women in rural areas work exclusively in an eight hour schedule of 10 am to 5 pm.

However working in the land and undertaking other para agricultural activities has not meant women's economic empowerment. Women in Uttaranchal do not own the land on which they are working. Nor does this give them the power to make decisions in major economic matters concerning property, sale and investment. Nor do the land yield so much production or income that it gives women the much needed cash and decision making power to look after her needs and those of the children. Despite being the heads of these households, women still can not overcome the patriarchal divide.

This lack of cash income and the gap between work and economic gain hence need to be bridged by other economic activities. There have been a few government schemes and programmes of wage employment and self employment, to augment the income of the women, particularly in rural areas.

**Wage Employment :** The Swarna Jayanthi Rozghar Yojana (Formerly the Jawahar Rozghar Yojana) has been able to provide the bare minimum of earning under wage employment to nearly 11 lakh

mandays constituting 21 percent of total mandays in the years 2001-2, 2002-3, and 2003-4. The government also provides training to S.C., S.T. and other women for employment. However the number of women selected for training is negligible, as against those who have registered themselves. Thereby it is as good as not being offered.

The state government also has the Pradhan Mantri Rozgar Yojana for entrepreneurship development program. However only a small number of 103 women in 2000-2001 and 128 in 2001-02 have benefitted from this. Not much is known about their activities.

Besides them the state government also provides some training towards employment for the women who are in shelter homes as a way of rehabilitation. While 72 women have benefitted from them in 2000-1 and 2001-02, the trades they trained in are very archaic, traditional, and gender stereotyped. One does not have much details about the follow up by way of their employment.

The wage employment thus has not been given much importance by the state particularly when one notices the large number of women who have registered themselves in the employment exchanges or training institutions. The government possibly has the impression that women in Uttaranchal are not keen for wage employment due to their preoccupation with agriculture and the remoteness of the village and towns.

The state does not seem to have any data on all the women who are employed in different government jobs or NGO sector, at various levels. One can get some figures about school and college teachers, due to the strong teacher's movement and vast network of government run schools.

### **Self Employment**

The small size of the land holdings per family and the large number of women and children depending on this small piece of land has made the available per capita food grain quite meager in Uttaranchal. To it should be added the paucity of capital and modern equipment. Most of the land in Uttaranchal, being situated at a height and in the remote areas are not fed by the river water, though the rivers are all year around. With no proper irrigation facilities around, the women are dependent on the rain water.

This means that the families in Uttaranchal are cash strapped with no agricultural surplus or market oriented production. By and large still based on the money order economy, the women in Uttaranchal need other avenues for income generation, if they have to be freed from dependence on men.

The scheme called Swa - Shakti project, based on the women forming Self Help Groups, has been adopted in Uttaranchal. However presently it is available only in 3 (out of 13) districts where 14 NGOs operating in 14 blocks have achieved the target of forming 1560 groups. Some of the details as provided by the State Government (2004) are given at the end.

Uttaranchal also has adopted the Swayamsidha project. Some of the progress details, as provided by the state government (2004) are given below.

The reliance on a self sufficient agriculture and the "money order" economy with remittances from abroad has led to a good rate of per capita income of Rs. 14808 (1999-2000) which is somewhat higher than that of India. This of course is reflected in the standard of life of the family and educational pattern of the girls. Members of these households are also more exposed to outside world, as they have travelled to towns and nearby cities and have the facility of TV and radio. However, by and large, the women and girl children are confined to their work on hand, have moved around in the neighbourhood. In some remote areas, evening a travel by bus becomes a luxury and an event, as buses do not reach them and there are no roads except the hilly pathways.

### 3.1 Percentage of Workers 1991

S.No.	Districts	% Workers Main			%age To Main workers			% Marginal workers			% No workers		
		Total	F	M	T	F	M	T	F	M	T	F	M
1.	Uttarkhasi	48			98.9								
2	Tehri Garhwal	40.1			78.3								
3	Pouri Garhwal	31.7			63.6								
4	Chamoli	42.3			71.5								
5	Rudraprayag	42.1			81.4								
6	Dehradun	32.4			31.9								
7	Bhageswar	44.8			81.4								
8	Nainital	35.4			55.7								
9	U. S. Nagar	31.3			63.6								
10	Almora	38.5			75.7								
11	Hardwar	28.9			54.8								
12	Pithoragarh	41.7			72.2								
13	Champavat	33.7			73.1								
14	Total	35.2			98.54								

### 3.2 Women's Participation in Work 2001

District	Total Women Workers %	Total Women Workers Rural %	Total Women Workers Urban %	Main Workers %	Main Workers (Rural)	Main Workers (Urban)
Uttarkashi	45.94	47.53	19.42	43.96	45.65	18.87
Chamoli	50.44	53.96	21.60	44.79	49.46	19.89
Rudraprayag	52.67	53.35	4.54	48.66	49.46	4.65
Tehri	49.76	53.62	9.01	41.55	46.13	7.25
Dehradun	18.46	24.92	11.84	15.04	19.53	11.16
Pauri	49.99	53.86	12.72	43.30	48.20	12.22
Hardwar	13.26	14.84	9.50	8.09	8.160	7.95
Almora	55.25	57.95	12.93	52.03	55.46	12.81
Bageshwar	55.07	55.88	12.03	53.06	54.07	10.59
Nainital	30.72	37.68	11.14	25.23	31.72	10.35
U.S. Nagar	19.90	24.07	9.73	11.63	13.52	7.74
Pithoragarh	50.25	52.70	21.40	42.97	46.15	16.06
Champavat	46.44	50.51	16.66	35.37	39.70	15.51
Uttaranchal	35.98	42.17	11.47	29.08	35.23	10.21

Source : Janganana Report - 2001

### 3.3 Per capita / Total Income of Uttaranchal

Year	Per Capita Income		Total Income
	Uttaranchal Rupees	India Rupees	Uttaranchal
1993-94	8928	7698	666154
1997-98	13901	12729	1123876
1998-99	14086	14682	1160669
1999-2000	14808	14682	1228740

Source : Central Statistical Organisation, Government of India

### 3.4 Registered Unemployed Figures - 2000

S.No.	District	Total Unemployed	Female	Percentage
1.	Uttarkashi	7699	1233	16.02
2.	Tehri Garhwal	19237	2129	11.07
3.	Chamoli	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.
4.	Rudraprayag	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.
5.	Pauri Garhwal	23192	3527	15.21
6.	Dehradun	72436	15643	21.60
7.	Hardwar	30533	3698	12.11
8.	Pithoragarh	18930	2985	15.77
9.	Champawat	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.
10.	Almora	31427	4491	14.29
11.	Bageshwar	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.
12.	Nainital	23466	6833	29.12
13.	Udham Singh Nagar	15066	2160	14.34
14.	Uttaranchal	258082	44774	17.35

Source : Statistical Book - 2002

### 3.5 Number of women registered in the Employment Exchange

Exchange year	SC Women	ST Women	Others
1999-2000	8419	1826	33454
2000-2001	8927	2011	34745
2001-2002	10308	2417	43330

### 3.6 Wage Employment of Women

Year	Scheme	Total	Women
2001-2002	SGRY	51.64 Lakhs Mandays	10.89 Lakhs Manday
2002-2003	SGRY	65.02 Lakhs Mandays	13.43 Lakhs Manday
2003-2004	SGRY	148.05 Lakhs Mandays	26.313 Lakhs Mandays

### 3.7 Entrepreneur Development

Scheme	Year	No of beneficiaries - 2001- 2003
Prime Minister	2001-02	186 128
Rojgar Yojana	2002-03	510
	2003-04	465

### 3.8 Self Employment of Women

Year	Scheme	Groups Financed		Number Benefitted		Individual Benefitted	
		Total	Women	Total	Women	Total	Women
2001-2002	S.G.S.Y	388	214	4205	2542	7608	7608
2002-2003	S.G.S.Y	653	300	6748	3564	942	266
2003-2004	S.G.S.Y	1078	447	10538	5817	242	59

### 3.9 Training for Entrepreneurship

Entrepreneurial	Women Trained
Development Programme 2002-3	300
(Training) 2003-4	350

Deendayal

Hathkargha Protosahan Yojana

2001-02

one

Women Weavers Cooperative Society

300 members

### 3.10 Self Help Groups and Micro Credit (2004)

Districts	Blocks No.	No of SHGs	No. of Village Covered	Total Saving
Almora	3	120	89	605046
Pithoragarh	6	240	197	1127538
Tehri Garhwal	5	200	112	1100862
Total	14	560	398	2833446



### 3.11 Economic Activity Pattern of Women (2001)

District	Total Workers Total	M	F	Cultivators Total	M	F	Agricultural workers Total	M	F	Household industry workers Total	M	F	Other Workers Total	M	F	Non Workers Total	M	F
Chamoli	164729	82509	82220	114594	40149	74445	1380	714	666	4216	1999	2217	44539	39647	4892	205630	101236	104394
Rudraprayag	102033	45504	56529	77411	23734	53677	635	324	311	1099	826	273	22888	20620	2268	125406	62031	63375
Tehri Garhwal	264715	133016	131699	185276	63500	121776	3416	1855	1561	2341	1768	573	73672	65893	7789	340032	162152	177880
Dehradun	400475	324725	75750	75354	45948	29406	27877	19854	8023	10176	7039	3137	287068	251884	35184	881668	354858	526810
Garhwal	269871	135030	134841	179424	58734	120690	4528	2468	2060	3451	2699	752	82468	71129	11339	427207	196031	231176
Pithoragarh	198709	98796	99913	134336	47169	87167	2532	1223	1309	7919	3540	4379	53922	46864	7058	263580	128819	134761
Bageshwar	118844	53499	65345	88574	29271	59303	3597	1592	2005	2499	1518	981	24174	21118	3056	130618	65011	65607
Almora	292182	130833	161349	218280	69658	148622	4568	1928	2640	3826	2937	889	65508	56310	9198	338385	163015	175370
Champawat	90208	48306	41902	62851	25077	37774	1801	1049	752	1554	1045	509	24002	21135	2867	134334	62778	71556
Nainital	278947	192347	86600	116703	59997	56706	24327	14359	9968	5759	3229	2530	132158	114762	17396	483962	207907	276055
U.S. Nagar	392156	311946	80210	118664	89014	29650	101428	75135	26293	9710	5273	4437	162354	142524	19830	843458	337538	505920
Hardwar	425263	366268	58995	97042	86864	10178	80889	68560	12329	17823	10713	7110	229509	200131	29378	1021924	409753	612171
Uttarkashi	135904	73398	62506	101607	45307	56300	2705	1433	1272	2075	1158	917	29517	25500	4017	159109	78618	80491
Uttaranchal	3134036	1996177	1137859	1570116	684429	885694	259683	190494	69189	72448	43744	28704	1231789	1077517	154272	53555313	232974	3025566
%age	—	63.7	36.3	50.1	43.6	56.4	8.29	73.4	26.6	2.31	60.4	39.6	39.3	87.5	12.5	17.1	43.5	56.5

## CHAPTER - 4

# EDUCATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Uttaranchal stands out as one of the more developed states of India in the educational status of its population. Its growth in educational level, particularly for the females has been phenomenal between 1991 and 2001. While it has grown by 14.48% for the entire population, the female literacy itself has gone up by 18.56%. In fact there has been a steady improvement in female education, which has reached 60.26% in 2001. This gives Uttaranchal 18th rank in India in female literacy. It also shows that in the past thirty years female literacy has grown at a higher rate than that of men (Table 4.1).

However this educational growth is not uniformly distributed among all the districts like Hardwar with its general literacy rate of 64.60% is the least educated, Uttarkashi with a female literacy rate of 47.48% is the lowest among the thirteen districts. Dehradun, Nainital and Pauri are among the highest educated districts by way of female as well as general literacy. Nainital and Pauri (Srinagar) are also the locations of the three major Universities of Uttaranchal. (Table 4.3)

As table 4.4 shows, there has been a growth in education in all the districts, and this has been due essentially to the higher educational growth rate among the girls. This is evidenced by the fact that growth rate among the girls is more than the average growth rate for boys and girls.

This remarkable increase may be due to the increasing awareness of the value and need for girls education among the people. It may also be due to the fact that the Government of Uttaranchal has made the education of children from the age of 6 to 14 free and compulsory.

The state also has a midday meals programme in the primary schools since November 2002. Some 11331 schools have adopted this, and 787193 have availed of this facility. Besides, the state claims that it has distributed free of charge 1,84,607 books to children in classes 1-8.

However the midday meals schemes are running into problems due to lack of enough food grains in the ration shops, the high price to be paid by way of labour charges to lift the grains and the difficulty in getting and lifting the gas supply or other fuels, drinking water, etc. It is also doubtful whether the midday meal and other incentives have been able to attract or sustain the children in the schools.

One needs to wait for a few more years to see the impact of the midday meal scheme.

**Drop Out :** Despite the heavy emphasis on girls' education, the drop out rate of girls is quite high. It is 17 percent at the primary school stage and 35 percent at the secondary level. This is indeed

a very high rate, and has to be attributed to the load of domestic chores and work on the land that the girls of Uttaranchal are expected to do. They share the burden of mothers in collection of fuel and fodder. Above all they stay back to look after the younger siblings particularly because the mothers and older women leave home early in the morning for cultivation, and collection of fodder and fuel, and animal care.

As for higher (University) education, the state has 10 girls only colleges and 61 co-ed colleges. While it has provided free education for girls in degree level from 2002-3, it does not have hostels for girls even in girls' colleges.

**Technical / Professional Education :** The same bright picture, of girls' enrolment however is not obtained when it comes to technical and vocational education. The number of polytechnics and vocational institutes is very few and far between, located mainly in the four big cities. Though the state claims to have 66 ITIs and 51 vocational institutes, not even one is dedicated to girls separately. There is no law school, or medical college or courses in journalism. There is one B.Ed College, meant for girls only, possibly on the assumption that girls prefer to be teachers.

The participation of girls in vocational education is very low. It is significant that Uttaranchal does not have a single girls hostel nor any non-formal educational centre. The universities do not run any correspondence courses. The boys and girls, however, avail 8 IGNOU study centres for correspondence courses.

#### **Government Programmes:**

The government claims to recognise the high rate of non enrolment of girls and has hence started ECCE Centres (Early Child Care Education). So far 1480 such centres have come up under the government grant.

The government has also adopted a scheme called EGS (Educational Guarantee Scheme), under which the girls in the age group of 6-11 who have been deprived of education due to economic, social and traditional reasons, will be brought into mainstream education, 578 educational centres have been opened up at the slums and unauthorised areas. According to the government figures, 6449 girls are currently (2004) benefitting from this programme.

The government has, under the Sarvashiksha Abhiyan and D.P.E.P,

- (i) identified 84 Nyaya panchayats where the drop out rate is high, to found model cluster (Adarsh Sankool).
- (ii) In these clusters, awareness programmes have been initiated through the screening of the 'Meena' films (430), Ma-Beti Mela (153), Bal Mela (473) and street plays (372).

The government has also sought to inspire the girl students and educate the women through discussions. Towards this the schools belonging to the model clusters have started the 'Mamta Samooh' (Mother's education group).

They have also started 2 days training cum dialogue programmes on gender sensitisation with mothers, in the schools. The model clusters have also started the NPEGEL programme for the literate women. Besides this, the state government also proposes to open 50 Kasturba Gandhi boarding schools for the girls not going to school.

Finally, under the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan the state government proposed to start courses on computer literacy, remedial teaching, skiing, paragliding, skill building for making chalk, fruit preservation, candles, painting etc.

The State Government also proposes to

- (1) open girls high schools in 17 development blocs:
- (2) provide common room and clean toilets in the girls' secondary and middle schools.
- (3) provide computer as a priority in government and private girls' schools.
- (4) in the BTC training, provide 20 percent reservation in admission for women.
- (5) start efforts for giving women empowerment through education, for equality. Hence programmes that are relevant to life, that will make them economically and financially independent, will be introduced.

The ultimate goal would be to have a total literacy for persons between 6-35, by the year 2010.

**Role of Local Bodies :** By its order on 2 June 2004, the state government had decentralised education and transferred the powers for starting new basic schools, allotting space to them, planning for their future development and monitoring the functioning of basic (elementary) schools, to the village panchayats. The panchayats at the village, bloc and district levels will also be empowered to spend the grants to schools and to distribute funds to the welfare of S.C. and S.T.

There will be a village education committee at every district level. Similar committee will be formed at the bloc development level.

### **Reservation Policy in Uttarakhand**

The Government of Uttarakhand has adopted the following terms for reservation for weaker sections in its public services, public sector and educational institutions etc.

- |                           |   |            |
|---------------------------|---|------------|
| (1) Scheduled Castes      | - | 19 percent |
| (2) Scheduled Tribes      | - | 04 percent |
| (3) Other Backward Castes | - | 14 percent |

The state government has also reserved 20 percent of jobs and positions in direct recruitment for women. This will, however, not apply to in service promotions. This has helped the women teachers.

The state government has adopted the provision for paternity leave of 15 days for male government servants with less than two surviving children.

The government has also adopted free distribution of foodgrains for children of scheduled caste families. It has provided free education to girls upto the degree level.

#### 4.1 Literacy Rate - (1971-2001)

Year	Total	Male	Female
1971	31.02	45.57	15.45
1981	39.29	53.85	24.11
1991	57.80	72.80	41.70
2001	72.28	84.01	60.26
Growth in 30 years	41.26	38.44	44.81

#### 4.2 Literacy Rate

Year Wise	Male	Female	Total	Rural			Urban		
				M	F	T	F		
1971	45.57	15.45	31.02						
1981	53.85	24.11	39.29						
1991	72.80	41.70	57.80		35.09		65.5		
2001	84.01	60.26	72.28		55.52		74.77		

### 4.3 Total Literacy District Wise - 1991

District Wise (in %)	Male	Female	Total	Rural			Urban		
				M	F	T	F		
Uttarkashi		23.57	68.74		20.66			67.62	
Tehri		26.41	48.38		24.79			65.92	
Chamoli		40.37	61.08		38.35			67.60	
R. Prayag		37.10	-		NA			-	
Pauri		49.44	65.35		47.08			72.09	
Dehradun		59.26	69.50		44.39			73.71	
Hardwar		34.93	48.35		21.74			62.76	
Pithoragarh		38.37	59.01		35.69			75.69	
Champawat		26.18	-		-			-	
Almorah		39.60	58.66		37.31			80.04	
Bageshwar		35.37	-		-			-	
Nainital		43.19	56.52		37.55			55.09	
U. S. Nagar		35.83	-		-			-	
Uttaranchal	72.80	41.70	57.80		35.09			65.5	

Gap Between Males and Females: 31.10

Gap Between Rural and Urban Females: 30.41

#### 4.4 Total Literacy District Wise - 2001

District Wise (in %)	Male	Female	Total	Rural			Urban		
				M	F	T	F		
Uttarkashi	84.52	47.48	66.58		45.10			78.48	
Tehri	85.62	68.14	67.04		47.34			79.91	
Chamoli	89.81	49.76	76.23		60.54			81.98	
R. Prayag	90.73	59.98	74.23		59.84			80.51	
Pauri Garhwal	91.47	54.75	77.99		64.01			82.94	
Dehradun	85.87	71.22	78.96		61.57			79.61	
Hardwar	75.06	52.60	64.60		44.15			70.52	
Pithoragarh	90.57	63.14	76.48		60.40			84.33	
Champawat	88.13	63.00	71.11		51.93			72.69	
Almorah	90.15	61.43	74.53		59.93			88.68	
Bageshwar	88.56	57.45	71.94		56.77			81.98	
Nainital	87.39	70.98	79.60		67.61			77.16	
U. S. Nagar	76-20	54.16	65.76		50.11			62.5	
Uttaranchal	84.01	60.26	72.28	82.74	55.52	68.95	87.21	74.77	81.55

Gap between Rural and Urban: 19.25

Gap between Rural and Urban Females: 19.25

Gap between Males and Females:

Total : 23.75%

Urban : 12.44%

Rural : 27.22%

#### 4.5 Growth Rate in Female and General Literacy - (1991-2001)

Districts	General	Female
Uttarkashi	19.35	23.91
Chamoli	15.83	23.34
Rudraprayag	17.76	22.90
Pauri Garhwal	12.46	16.49
Dehradun	09.46	11.96
Tehri	18.58	23.45
Pithoragarh	15.10	20.67
Champavat	15.30	22.13
Almora	14.70	20.11
Bageshwar	17.40	23.23
Nainital	9.24	16.47
U.S. Nagar	16.47	18.14
Hardwar	16.63	18.23

#### 4.6 Percentage of enrolment of Girls (General) at different Stages

Year	Pre-primary	I-V Primary	VI-VIII Secondary	XI-XII Higher Secondary	Polytechnic I.T.I. Vocational Schools	Higher Education
2000-2001		442146	271521	45065	-	
2001-2002		490477	305401	49522	-	
2002-2003		527443	399385	52975	-	
2003-2004						



#### 4.7 Enrolment of Students (2004)

Stages	Boys	Girls	Total
Primary (1-5)	536705	52055	588760
Middle Schools (6-8)	180107	159583	588760
Senior School (9-10)	118800	98906	217706
Higher Secondary (11-12)	199818	171977	371795
Total	635430	482521	1517951

#### 4.8 Details of Institutions- School level wise

Level	Total	Boys	Girls
Polytechnic	17	14	3
Inter	987	878	109
High Schools	768	677	91
Senior Basic	3557	3038	519
Junior Basic (Primary	14312	14251	61

No: of NFE Centre - Nil

No: of female adult educational centre - Nil

#### 4.9 Details of Higher Education Institutions

		98-99	99-00	2004	Girls
Total	Universities	4	5	6	-
	Deemed University	2	1	-	-
	Degree College	42	51	71	10
	Girls' Hostel	Nil			
	Professional College B. Ed	1 (girls only)			
	IGNOU Correspondence Course Centres	08			

Students	Enrolled	2000-01	647
		2001-02	770
		2002-03	1083

#### 4.10 Teachers' Strength in Higher Education

Year	Male	Female	Total
2004 General	1551	483	2034
2004 Polytechnic	223	13	236

#### 4.11 Student's Strength In

	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03
Higher Education	46289	48572	51319
Polytechnic	2207	2100	2266
Polytechnic girls	501	468	569

#### 4.12 Teachers' Strength in Schools

Year 2002-03 High School Teachers	3985	3576	409	Presently Working	2143	(Total)
Year 2004	Positions			Working		
	Total	Male	Female	T	F	M
Teachers (Inter college)	1686	1398	288	1040	243	992
Principals (Inter College)	212	182	30	123	103	20
Asst. Teachers (Inter College)	3072	2581	491	1957	387	1570
Principal (High School)	534	470	64	172	160	12
Teachers (High Schools)	4557	3948	609	3912	513	3399

## **CHAPTER - 5**

### **HEALTH**

One of the reasons for the low sex ratio in Uttaranchal, can be the poor health of women in the state. The life and work patterns of women here have been gruelling and takes a heavy toll of them. With 76 percent women living in the rural side, their daily lives include heavy tasks of cultivation, fuel and fodder collection by trudging along the mountainous roads and hilly slopes for as much as 10 to 15 kms a day, in search of necessities. The women walk daily 1-2 kms of mountainous road to fetch drinking water. The daily work profile of women in this region will include, in addition, cooking and washing at home, looking after the cattle including grazing, feeding and milching them, leaning their sheds and undertaking all other household chores, marketing and buying necessities. All these are in addition to the main work of cultivation in a subsistence economy. The never ending work starts early in the morning by about 5 am and stops only by about 10 pm. Unlike women in plain areas, the women here look after all the agricultural operations (except preparing the field for sowing) and trek large areas. Dependent mostly on the rain water in the high altitudes, the women thus fret over unprofitable lands all through the year, just to produce a handfull enough for survival. With irrigation facilities for just 43.8 percent of the total cultivated area, the heavy tasks of the women often do not yield corresponding benefits, particularly since the average size of the holdings is small. Women thus undertake 75 percent of the load in the villages, particularly since most of the men have shifted to towns in search of salaried jobs. The money order economy, for which the Uttaranchal family income pattern is well known, could not have been sustained for so long but for the hard work that women in the village have been contributing.

This heavy work is bound to have its impact on the health of the women and girls in Uttaranchal. While much of data both from official and non-official sources on the health of the women are missing, the few which is available after 2000, is casual and unhelpful to draw authoritative conclusions.

One of the most common complaint women have is leukeria, poor nutrition and anaemia and bodyache. Hard work and lack of protein have resulted in low height and weight of the women; When measured by Body Mass Index weight and height, most of the women and girls are below normal. According to a research paper, in the rural areas of Uttaranchal, 50 percent of women, 70 percent of girls and 80 percent of children are suffering from anaemia. Sixty percent children in rural areas are not getting adequate nutrition. According to the government data 45.6 percent women had anaemia in 2004. 77.40 percent of children of the age 6-35 months are anaemic (2004).

Women suffer most in Uttaranchal due to the delivery practices. In the rural side some of the traditional practices are still continuing. Though education, rising economic standards and social awareness have somewhat reduced them, many women who deliver babies are still subjected to isolation in unhealthy conditions, deprivation of proper nutritional food and other amenities due to false beliefs. 41 percent newborn infants are less than average weight. The harm they cause to the young mothers and the newly born, have never received the attention of medical practitioners, health workers or social reformers.

Along with this, is also the widespread practice of Dais as the "deliverer" in villages and small towns. These dais experienced in traditional ways and inspiring confidence in families, are preferred by elders in the family than the hospitals. Also in the remote hilly areas, there are no hospital facilities available; PHC sub centres are few and far between and the ANMs and Health workers are rarely available. Carrying down the women who are in pain, has been often dangerous and nearly impossible. Unless there is an emergency the women are never known to have been taken to hospitals in the rural areas. One is not sure, how many of these babies and the mothers were really safe, though the data from the Health Directorate, Uttaranchal puts "safe delivery" at 24.2 percent (2003) and 51.2 percent in 2004. But the official data itself gives the figures for delivery in hospital at 18.1 percent (2004) only. No wonder the infant mortality rate is as high as 52 percent (2003) and 44 percent (2004). One is of course, unaware of the official data on female mortality rate or maternal mortality rate.

Obviously there is a good number cases of frequent pregnancies and lack of access to family planning methods. 21 percent women had no access to family planning. 24.70 percent deliveries are within a period of 24 months of the birth of the previous child.

In the absence of the official data one has to depend on field surveys undertaken by the NGOs and other agencies. According to one such survey undertaken by the International Institute of Population Sciences in 1998-99, the infant mortality rate is as high as 37.6. Its figures confirm that 45.8% deliveries are by Dais and 9.8% by midwives, ANMs and nurses. Only 24.8% are delivered by doctors.

On the nutrition front too women's and Children position is precarious. 45.6 percent women and 77.4 percent of 6-35 months children suffer from anaemia.

Most of them belong to severe to moderate anemia category. Some 46.6 percent children are chronically undernourished and even stunted. Some 7.6 percent children are acutely under nourished. Through 65.9% women breast feed their children for first 3 months and on an average children are breast fed for about 2 years, this does not seem to include adequate nutrition supplement. Mother's own nutrition also can be deficient. Only a quarter of the pregnant mothers have received any proper check up and iron and folic acid supplements.

In general children of growing years seem to be lacking in nutrition and nearly 42 percent of them underweight<sup>1</sup>.

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<sup>1</sup> International Institute of Population Sciences, National Family Health Survey, (NFHS-2) India, 1998-99, Uttaranchal (Mumbai, April 2002)

To add to this issue is the frequency of children. As per the above source, the average number of children is 4.2 per women. There are 46.4% women with more than three children. (this figure is 9.1% according to official data) Many women would like to have a third child in order to have a son.

**Age of Marriage :** In general, compared to some other backward regions of India, the average of marriage for Uttaranchal women has been above the legal age. With most women getting married at 18, there are only 17 percent girls getting married between 15 to 19 years. This has helped many students to complete their high school education.

This, however, has not meant pursuit of other activities, especially in the rural areas. In the rural areas the girls share much of the burden of domestic chores like collection of fuel and fodder, and agricultural operations, besides sibling care.

They also share, along with the other elder women, the problems and consequences of poor toilet facilities, toilets without flushes, safe water supply and lack of hospital facilities for sickness, at easy distance.

The comparative figures for Uttaranchal on the health issues of women call for much more attention. In many ways it is behind even the all India average.

### 5.1 Statement of Uttaranchal Health Indicators ( 2004) In Percentage

Item	2001	2004
Couple Protection Rate	43.1	43.1
Complete Immunized Children	40.9	55
Safe Delivery	24.2	51.2
Unmet Need for Family Planning		21.0
Women with 3 and above Children		51.1
RTI among Women		41.2
Institutional Delivery	18.1	18.1
Decadal Growth		17.6
Crude Birth Rate	19.6	18.10
Crude Death Rate	6.5	6.50
Infant Mortality Rate	52	44.00
Total Fertility Rate	2.6	2.6
Sex Ratio	964	964
MTP year - 2002-03		7197
year - 2003-04		8180

## 5.2 Health Infrastructure

<b>Health Infrastructure</b>	<b>1991</b>	<b>2001</b>	<b>2003</b>
Family Welfare Centre		84	
Family Welfare Sub Centres		1525	
Allopathic Hospitals	553	325	729
Homeopathic Hospitals	60		55
Ayurvedic Hospitals	415		
PHCs		84	
Additional PHCs		173	
Rural Women Hospitals		38	
Community Health Centres		36	
District Hospitals (Men)		06	
District Hospitals (Women)		06	
District Common Hospital		04	
Base Hospitals		03	
Other Big Hospitals		15	
"Mathautva Labh" Plan			
no : of beneficiaries		3651 (2001-02)	8918 (2002-03)

**5.3 Distribution of Medical (Allopathic And Homeopathic) Institutions  
District Wise**

<b>Name of Districts</b>	<b>Rural</b>	<b>Urban</b>	<b>Unaided (Private)</b>	<b>Others</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>No. of Homeopathic Hospital and Dispensaries</b>
Nainital & Udham Singh Nagar	100	27	-	-	127	8
Almora & Bageshwar	98	12	-	-	110	7
Pithoragarh & Champawat	78	7	-	-	85	5
Dehra Dun	54	55	-	-	109	8
Tehri Garhwal	61	7	-	-	68	9
Uttar Kashi	38	1	-	-	39	4
Pauri Garhwal	108	12	-	-	120	7
Chamoli & Rudraprayag	61	10	-	-	71	7
Hardwar	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Total</b>						<b>55</b>

**5.4 Mother and Child Welfare Programme**

<b>Programme</b>	<b>% - 2003-04</b>	<b>% - 2004-05</b>
D.P.T.	6.2	6.2
Polio	6.2	6.2
B.C.G.	6.2	1.5
Measles	5.2	5.2
Pregnant Women Registration	5.8	5.8
Pregnant Women Injection Registration	5.1	5.2
T.D. Percentage	5.1	5.2
Vitamin-A	3.9	3.7
Delivery at Institutions	18.1	18.1
Delivery with trained health attendants	-	-
Delivery by any person	-	-



### 5.5 Information on Child Welfare Improvement - 2003-2004

Sl. No.	District	Registration		Delivery at Institution		Delivery with health workers		Delivery with trained health attendants		Delivery without trained persons		Women with iron facilities	
		2004	2003	2004	2003	2004	2003	2004	2003	2004	2003	2004	2003
1.	Dehradun	1816	2087	671	688	297	257	290	303	217	99	2054	1925
2.	Pauri	1059	1022	115	73	381	368	142	125	60	40	1054	1392
3.	Uttarkashi	524	537	76	58	108	108	79	101	15	35	411	370
4.	Tehri	1071	1113	55	35	309	310	164	180	49	18	986	-
5.	Chamoli	674	786	50	69	269	263	88	103	9	12	536	530
6.	Rudraprayag	448	482	56	40	187	151	91	86	17	13	261	299
7.	Hardwar	2902	3036	248	294	495	472	745	652	208	193	1699	1756
8.	Nainital	969	1258	220	158	322	288	281	509	45	18	1030	792
9.	U.S. Nagar	2612	2298	278	365	538	712	351	449	192	420	1330	1240
10.	Almora	749	616	44	27	270	214	82	50	73	50	395	408
11.	Bageshwar	416	467	65	19	231	236	27	34	38	39	126	170
12.	Pithoragarh	877	695	113	66	338	298	84	73	33	19	746	-
13.	Champavat	222	222	11	-	140	112	22	27	16	15	207	208
	Total	14339	14619	2002	1892	3879	3789	2446	2692	972	971	10835	9090

**5.6 Comparative Data on Delivery Practices  
(In Percentages)**

Official Data			Survey 1998-99
2003	2004		
24.2	51.2	Safe Delivery	-
18.1	18.1	Delivery in Hospitals	24.8
		Delivery by traditional birth attendant	45.8
		Delivery by ANM/Nurses/LHV	9.8
19.6	18.1	Birth Rate	
52	44	Infant Mortality Rate	37.6
		under 5 mortality rate	56.1
6.5	6.5	Death Rate	
2.6	2.6	Total Fertility Rate	2.6
40.9	55	Completely Immunised Children	40.9
-	21	Unmet family planning needs	21

**5.7 Women Employed in Health Dept.**

	Health Officials	Total	Male	Female	Female %
1.	First Level	257	209	48	18.68
2.	Second Level	1015	910	105	10.34
3.	(Casual Contract) appointments	190	155	35	18.42
	<b>Nursing</b>				
4.	Matron	02	-	02	100
5.	Asst.	09	-	09	100
6.	Sister	126	-	126	100
7.	Staff Nurse	483	02	481	99-59

Source: Health Dept. Uttaranchal - 2004

## CHAPTER - 6

### SPECIAL ISSUES AND SUPPORT SERVICES FOR WOMEN

The seemingly developed, economically self reliant and empowered situation of women in Uttaranchal and the strong cultural traditions of Uttaranchal area, may often lead to the incorrect view that women in Uttaranchal do not need any special support of services.

**Right to Property :** Despite the fact that women cultivate the land and look after the cattle and trees, the women do not have any share in the property which pass on from father to son, with wives and daughters having no right in it. Women and girls also have become victims of the emerging culture of dowry and violence.

**Crimes Against Women :** Tables 6.1, 6.2 and 6.3 give a picture of the increasing crime against women. A limited data, as it comes from police records and does not include data from revenue districts, this obviously shows that with increasing development and urbanisation, the atrocities against women are growing in dimensions and number. Alcoholism and beating are increasing with more access to drinks. As per the above tables, there is an increase in three years in rape, molestation and kidnapping as well as other crimes. According to another source, there were 8073 incidents to IPC of total cognizable crimes in Uttaranchal during 2001. According to IPC Uttaranchal accounted for 0.5 percent of total crimes in India in 2001 and ranked 28<sup>th</sup> among Indian states in criminality.

It also shows that such crimes are more in the plain areas and big cities, rather than in the remote region, clearly pointing out to the linkage between development, modernisation and atrocities against women.

According to SLL the same had been listed as 39548 incidents in 2001. This constituted 1.1 percent of total reported incidents in India and gave Uttaranchal 6<sup>th</sup> rank in criminality. Some of the relevant details of this criminality, by way heads of crime are given in Table 6.3

At the same time the geographical situation and remoteness of the villages make it difficult for women to have access to the police, conselling centres, remedial measures and supports schemes. These are mostly located in towns and three major cities of Uttaranchal. In Uttaranchal the local patwaris rather than police is in charge of resolving the disputes and crimes in the villages. An ancient tradition, this has both the advantages and minus points, especially for gender justice, as the patriarchal order is heavily anti friendly to women.

It is noteworthy that the Uttarakhand state has two divisions in the department that deals with women. They are called Women Empowerment and Child Development departments. That the government has designed it as empowerment and not as welfare or development, indicates the understanding and objectives of the women's department. However, issues like widow pension, remarriage, and dowry prohibition still are important in Uttarakhand. With many men working in distant towns and in military service, the issue of family life getting disrupted is quite common in Uttarakhand. Though still unrecognised officially, and undocumented, many women in Uttarakhand remain "separated" for long years; neither leading to divorce nor restitution, this has led to bigamous marriages and gender injustice. But there is no data available on this.

### **Special Measures**

The government has established five family courts in five districts, but one does not have any further details about the number and nature of cases. Of course there is no information on the mode of resolution of issues.

The government has some data about the Nari Niketans and Balika Niketans which should work as half way houses for women who have no support. There obviously is no short stay home in Uttarakhand.

A list of available services is given below.

### **Support Service Provided**

No of Women Police Stations - 2 at Almora and Srinagar, (Mahila Thana)

Proposes to start a "Mahila Prakosht" to listen to the women's complaints - one in every district.

Family Courts - 5 at

(1)	Pauri Garhwal
(2)	Nainital
(3)	Dehradun
(4)	Hardwar
(5)	Udham Singh Nagar

The government has also started Family Courts at two more places in Rishikesh and Roorkee. It proposes to start a Family Court in every district.

There are other schemes and provisions for women, such as

	Girls / Women benefitted
Nari Niketan	- 49
Rajakiya Balika Niketan	- —
Rajkiya ATS Bidhyalaya	- 91
Shishushale Balwari	- 23

Under Arthik Karyakrama / Samajik Uttam Schemes, the state has conducted activities like

- (a) Nirashrit Vidhwa Pension
- (b) Vidhwa remarriage
- (c) Dahej Pratished Adhinyam
- (d) Kishor Nyay Adhinyam

No details, however, are available

In addition there are other Schemes

Year	Scheme	Capacity	No. of Women admitted
2001-2002	Zilla Sharnalaya and Praveshalaya	25 women in each centre in 5 districts	Dehradun - 23
			Pauri - 22
			Tehri - 5
			Nainital - 14
			U.S. Nagar - Nil
2003-2004	ICDS Centres	1550	

Further according to government sources, the government has started in 2003-04 Indira Gandhi Integrated Development plan to make it easy for women to access the various schemes, in a single window system.

The Uttaranchal government has also established a State Social Welfare Advisory Board and a State Commission for Women in 2003-2004

### **Girl Children**

In 2002-2003 the government had initiated, with the help of Planning Commission of India, a nutrition programme for pregnant women and adolescent girls, at Hardwar.

Balika Samrudhi Yojana to make girls self reliant was started. In 2002-03, 20829 girls benefitted from this scheme.

Midday Meals Schemes has been started since 14 November 2002, 11331 schools are participating in this and 7,87, 193 students are benefitting. It has provided for a "Bhojan Mata" - i.e. one of the mothers will cook the food for the children of the school in a healthy and clean way. She will be provided with a honorarium of Rs. 250 to Rs. 450 per month. There are presently 11361 mothers who are helping with food preparation. In addition there will be a kitchen assistant to help the mothers in case the number of children exceed 100. This will also be a mother of a student and will be paid Rs. 250/- a month.

The state also has adopted the adolescent girls scheme Kishori Shakti Yojana for girls between 11-18 years of age. It is implemented in 40 blocs of 9 districts.

**6.1 Crimes Against Women -01-01-2003 to 31.12.2003**

S.No.	Crime Title	Duration	ALM	BGR	PTH	CPT	NTL	UDN	UKI	TWL	CMI	RPG	PWL	DAD	HDR	TOTAL
1.	Murder	2003	1	-	-	-	6	4	1	-	-	-	4	4	13	33
		2002	1	-	2	2	7	10	2	1	-	2	-	7	13	47
		2001	-	1	2	1	2	5	1	1	-	1	1	8	15	38
2.	Molestation	2003	-	-	3	1	3	11	5	-	-	1	2	13	27	66
		2002	1	1	2	2	2	10	2	2	1	-	1	9	29	62
		2001	1	-	4	-	3	8	1	-	-	-	3	14	17	51
3.	Rape	2003	-	1	8	1	10	29	3	2	-	-	-	13	19	86
		2002	-	-	4	1	12	24	2	2	1	-	2	10	41	99
		2001	-	1	-	2	5	7	6	1	2	2	-	12	18	56
4.	Kidnapping	2003	-	-	1	1	8	32	3	1	-	-	2	18	24	90
		2002	-	-	-	3	13	19	1	1	-	-	5	36	31	109
		2001	-	2	1	1	9	24	1	2	-	1	2	39	21	103
5.	Harassment	2003	2	-	2	1	3	20	1	1	2	-	3	31	36	102
		2002	-	-	1	-	-	18	3	5	7	-	4	29	30	97
		2001	-	-	1	1	2	22	-	3	-	1	3	19	33	85
6.	Chain Snatching	2003	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	2	26	11	41
		2002	-	-	-	-	3	1	-	-	-	-	-	27	12	43
		2001	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	2	30	10	44
7.	Dowry Murder	2003	1	1	2	1	10	14	-	2	-	1	-	11	7	50
		2002	1	-	2	1	4	11	-	3	2	-	-	5	10	39
		2001	1	3	-	-	3	10	1	2	-	-	1	4	10	35
8.	I.P.C. 498 (A)	2003	-	-	-	1	24	69	1	7	-	-	7	85	70	264
		2002	4	2	2	2	31	40	5	1	1	-	6	75	88	257
		2001	2	-	2	4	28	23	7	1	-	1	3	78	98	247
9.	Trafficking in Women	2003	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	3
		2002	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
		2001	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
10.	Others	2003	-	-	1	1	5	33	-	2	1	-	4	3	-	50
		2002	-	2	5	4	-	21	-	-	1	-	4	1	-	38
		2001	-	1	1	1	-	40	-	2	2	-	3	-	-	50
	Total	2003	4	2	17	7	71	212	14	15	3	2	24	207	207	785
		2002	7	5	18	15	72	154	15	15	13	2	22	199	254	791
		2001	4	8	11	10	54	140	17	12	4	6	18	204	222	710

Source : As Provided by the Department of Women Empowerment and Child Development

**6.2 Crimes Against Women - 2002- 31 May 2004**

S.No.	Crime Title	Duration	ALM	BGR	PTH	CPT	NTL	UDN	UKI	TWL	CMI	RPG	PWL	DAD	HDR	TOTAL
1.	Murder	2004	-	-	1	1	3	6	-	-	-	-	-	2	2	15
		2003	1	-	-	-	2	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	4	10
		2002	-	-	2	-	2	3	2	1	-	1	-	-	4	6
2.	Molestation	2004	-	1	4	-	2	5	1	-	-	-	3	3	7	26
		2003	-	-	2	1	3	3	1	-	-	-	-	3	14	27
		2002	1	1	1	2	1	4	2	1	-	-	1	5	6	25
3.	Rape	2004	-	-	1	-	5	11	1	-	-	-	5	6	9	38
		2003	-	-	4	-	7	8	1	-	-	-	-	4	5	29
		2002	-	-	-	-	3	9	1	-	1	-	1	4	17	36
4.	Kidnapping	2004	-	1	1	-	8	14	2	-	-	-	1	8	21	56
		2003	-	-	1	-	2	10	-	-	-	-	1	8	10	32
		2002	-	-	-	2	4	6	-	-	-	-	1	19	14	46
5.	Harassment	2004	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	15	20	38
		2003	1	-	1	-	2	7	1	-	-	-	1	13	14	40
		2002	-	-	1	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	1	12	11	27
6.	Chain Snatching	2004	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	6	10
		2003	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	9	3	12
		2002	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	13	3	17
7.	Dowry Murder	2004	1	-	1	-	2	8	-	-	-	-	-	3	1	16
		2003	-	-	1	-	6	5	-	1	-	-	-	7	2	22
		2002	1	-	1	-	3	2	-	2	1	-	-	3	3	16
8.	I.P.C. 498 (A)	2004	-	1	1	-	9	25	1	1	-	-	1	33	33	105
		2003	-	-	-	1	14	19	-	-	-	-	-	26	27	87
		2002	2	-	-	-	14	10	3	-	-	-	3	37	28	97
9.	Trafficking in Women	2004	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
		2003	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1
		2002	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0
10.	Others	2004	-	-	1	-	2	18	-	-	-	-	-	-	12	33
		2003	-	-	-	-	2	14	-	-	-	1	1	1	-	19
		2002	-	1	1	1	-	5	1	-	-	-	1	1	-	11
	Total	2004	2	3	10	1	34	87	5	1	-	-	11	73	111	338
		2003	2	-	9	2	38	66	4	1	-	1	4	73	79	279
		2002	4	2	6	5	28	41	9	4	2	1	8	98	88	296

Source : Provided by the office of Additional Director General of Police, Dehradun.

### 6.3 Crime in Uttarakhand - 2001 (according to SLL)

Murder	316	3.7%
Attempt to Commit murder	279	3.3
C.H. not amounting to murder	38	0.4
Rape	74	0.9
Custodial Rape	0	0.0
Others	1958	1.2
Molestation	103	1.2
Kidnapping and abduction of women and girl	126	1.5
Kidnapping and abduction of others	57	0.7
Sexual Harassment	84	1.0
Dowry Hurt	830	9.8
Dowry Deaths	56	0.7
Cruelty by husbands and Relatives	301	3.5
Import of girls	0	0.0

### 6.4 Other Support Structures

#### Scheme Indira Awas, PMGY Awas, Addl. IAY Yojana

Year	Details	T	W
2001-2002	Houses Constructed	6775	3979
	Upgradation of Houses	4470	2587
2002-2003	Houses constructed	10291	7345
	Upgradation	3371	2254
2003-2004	Houses constructed	12321	—
	Upgradation	—	4386



## **CHAPTER - 7**

# **POLITICAL PARTICIPATION**

Participation and leadership in collective activities for achieving a cause has not been new to the women of Uttaranchal. The Chipko movement is an outstanding example where the soft and meek looking women in a solidarity, protected the environment and prevented the cutting of trees, by taking on the men, mafia and muscle power. In what has now become a world wide well known event, the women of this area demonstrated their resilience to resist and struggle. It also gave birth to Mahila Mangal Dal (Women's group) in every village of the Garhwal region.

The Uttarakhand agitation, particularly in the second half of nineties had been a great landmark in the awakening of political consciousness of women. The women understood the need for participation in large numbers in the broader political movements for a cause, and participated eagerly in the regional movement for securing a separate state. They came forward attending meetings, campaigning, leading, shouting slogans and marching for the cause of a state. They even braved the might of the state, in the notorious firing and molestation by the U.P. police in the midnight of 1 October 1994, at Muzaffarnagar. Many of them lost their children in the agitation but stood firmly. The fire that was born then and the political consciousness have been sustained, and the women's movement continues to take up various issues of concern to women and children. A widespread and strong movement under the Uttaranchal Mahila Manch has its members from all classes, professions and regions of Uttaranchal.

For a new state that is only four years old, Uttaranchal has a number of voluntary organisations, working particularly on the three major issues of "Jameen, Jal and Janghal" (land, water and forests). They have also been active on other fronts like panchayati raj, alcohol, legal rights, violence against women, education, economic empowerment, impact of tourism etc. The active and watchful NGOs with strong and articulate women are monitoring the development trends and their fall out for women. It is to their credit that their voices are heard, their leaders are recognised and quite a bit has been accomplished e.g. the formation of a State Commission for Women, and the present steps for formulating a State Policy for Women.

From grass root activity to political arena has not been a long step for women. In the first elections to Panchayati Raj Institutions of the region held in 1996, as well as in the second elections in the state in 2003, the women have come out in great numbers to contest and be elected. Some of the notable features are:

- (i) The percentage of women elected as members to Gram Panchayats exceeds the mandatory one third; it is 35.49 percent in the second elections.
- (ii) The figures for members of Kshetra Panchayat (34.87%) and Zila Panchayats (37.97%) is more than one third reserved for them.
- (iii) More than one third Bloc Pramukhs (36.84%) and zilla Presidents (38.46%) are women.
- (iv) Same is true of urban municipalities, 35.48% of Municipal Chairpersons and 46.43% of chairpersons of Nagar Panchayats are women.
- (v) There is only one corporation (Dehradun) in Uttaranchal, and the first mayor is a woman.

Tables at the end give the details of women's participation in local governments, in the two elections.

### **Training and Capacity Building**

On the government side, a training programme for capacity building of elected representatives in local government has been started recently and one such camp of three days was held in Hardwar.

However NGOs like Rural Litigation and Entitlement Kendra (RLEK), Himalayan Action Research Centre (HARC), Experiments in Rural Advancement (ERA), Disha etc have been undertaking voter awareness, candidates' identification and training, skill and capacity building, and training for elected women, for a number of years.

### **Women's Participation in Decision Making**

At the higher level of politics, however there are not many women visible.

- Only 4 out of 71 MLAs are women
- Only 1 cabinet Minister is a woman. So too there is only one women Minister of State.
- Presently there is no woman M.P. from the State. Only 5 women contested the 4 seats in the 2004 elections to Lok Sabha and all of them lost the elections.

At the public, governmental level there is presently

- (i) A woman secretary for Rural Development.
- (ii) The Director General of Police is a woman. (Incidentally she is the first woman DG in entire India).
- (iii) Women have not come up as vice Chancellors or heads of educational institutions, except in all women colleges or schools.
- (iv) Despite the reservation of 20 percent jobs, women have not been appointed to fill all the vacancies even at the lower positions. Women constitute only 5.3 percent of the police force.

### **Some Public Policies for Women**

- In every district there is one community forest ("Samudhaya Van") Managed by a Joint Forest Committee. In each committee four out of a total of 9 members will be women.
- Every village will have a van panchayat that will be under the Gram Panchayat. There are presently 11000 such van panchayat. There are 40 all women van panchayats.
- Fodder will be provided within the village itself and the panchayats have been given the right to collect fodder. Women will not have to trek long distance to collect fodder.
- The system of patwaris to undertake police function will continue as they understand the village and is a part of them. Villagers can settle their own issues. Reduces police interference.
- A scheme called "Jana Shree" whereby Rs. 50,000/- is given as accident insurance, and Rs. 20,000/- for disabled women.
- The state will soon finalise the women policy.
- The department of women's empowerment will be decentralised and entrusted to the panchayats.
- The family courts will be extended to all the districts.
- The State Commission for Women will be strengthened and made statutory.
- Fourteen departments including education, forestry have been decentralised to panchayats.
- Two central committees against sexual harassment have been set up by the government in the two mandals of Garhwal and Kumaon.

**Rural : Panchayati Raj**

**7.1 First Elections (7-8 April 1996) Gram Panchayat**

<b>S.No</b>	<b>Districts</b>	<b>Total no. of Units</b>	<b>Total Members</b>	<b>F Members</b>	<b>Total Chairpersons</b>	<b>F</b>
1	Chamoli	703	6489	2189	703	247
2	Tehri	858	7894	2653	858	292
3	Uttarkashi	373	3420	1195	373	135
4	Dehradun	335	3535	1246	335	119
5	Pauri	1198	10948	3822	1198	411
6	Hardwar	Women Pradhans from unreserved (general) seats -6			299	112
7	Total	3766		3766		1294 34.3%

**7.2 Second Elections (June, 2003) Gram Panchayat**

S.No	Districts	Total no. of Units	Total Members	F	%	Total Chairperson	F	%
1.	Tehri	928	5490			928	313	
2.	U.S. Nagar	303	3007			303	105	
3.	Bageshwar	363	2263			363	123	
4.	Almora	1122	6606			1122	379	
5.	Uttarkashi	427	2511			427	139	
6.	Dehradun	370	2860			370	126	
7.	Pithoragarh	644	3932			644	216	
8.	Chamoli	552	3292			552	188	
9.	Nainital	450	3072			450	157	
10.	Champawat	283	1727			283	96	
11.	Rudra Prayag	318	2012			318	107	
12.	Pauri	1165	6759			1165	392	
13.	Hardwar	299	3771			299	102	
14.	Total	7224	47310	16789	35.49	7224	2443	33.82

Total S.C. Women Chairpersons	-	490
Total S.T. Women Chairpersons	-	98
Total OBC Women Chairpersons	-	145
Total General Women Chairpersons	-	1710
Total Women Chairpersons	-	2443
Total Women reservation	-	33.8% of total seats

### 7.3 First Elections (7-18 April 1996) Kshetra Panchayats

<b>Districts</b>	<b>Total no. of Units</b>	<b>Total Members</b>	<b>F Members</b>	<b>Total Chairpersons</b>	<b>F</b>
Chamoli		341	119		
Tehri		495	169		
Dehradun		406	148		
Uuuarakashi		372	143		
Pauri		588	201		
Total		2202	780		
			35%		

#### 7.4 Second Elections (2003) Kshetra Panchayats

Districts	Total no. of Units	Total Members	M	F	%	Total Chairperson	M	F	%
Tehri	9	342				9		3	
U.S. Nagar	7	226				7		3	
Bageshwar	3	120				3		1	
Almora	11	404				11		4	
Uttarkashi	6	178				6		2	
Dehradun	6	236				6		2	
Pithoragarh	8	289				8		3	
Chamoli	9	234				9		3	
Nainital	8	224				8		3	
Champawat	4	122				4		2	
Rudra Prayag	3	111				3		1	
Pauri	15	446				15		5	
Hardwar	6	383				6		2	
<b>Total</b>	<b>95</b>	<b>3315</b>	<b>2159</b>	<b>1156</b>	<b>34.87</b>	<b>95</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>37%</b>

Total S.C. Women Chairpersons - 6

Total S.T. Women Chairpersons - 1

Total O.B.C. Women Chairpersons - 2

Total General Women Chairpersons - 25

Reservation for Women Chairperson : 36 percent

### 7.5 First Elections (1996) Zila Parishad

<b>Districts</b>	<b>Total Members</b>	<b>M</b>	<b>F</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>Total Chairpersons</b>	<b>M</b>	<b>F</b>	<b>%</b>
Chamoli	50	33	17		1			
Tehri	68	45	23		1			
Uttarkashi	79	52	27		1			
Dehradun	40	26	14		1			
Pauri	33	18	15		1			
<b>Total</b>	<b>270</b>	<b>174</b>	<b>96</b>	<b>36%</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>38.46</b>



### 7.6 Second Elections (2003) Zila Parishads

Districts	Total no. of Units	Total Members	M	F	%	Total Chairperson	M	F	%
Tehri		39				1		1	
U.S. Nagar		24				1	1	-	
Bageshwar		19				1		1	
Almora		46				1	1	-	
Uttarkashi		19				1	1	-	
Dehradun		27				1	1	-	
Pithoragarh		32				1	1	-	
Chamoli		23				1	1	-	
Nainital		24				1	1	-	
Champawat		12				1	1	-	
Rudraprayag		16				1		1	
Pauri		48				1		1	
Hardwar		16				1		1	
<b>Total</b>		<b>345</b>	<b>214</b>	<b>131</b>	<b>37.97</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>05</b>	<b>38.46</b>

Total S.C. Women Chairperson - 1  
 Total OBC Women Chairperson - 1  
 Total General Women Chairpersons - 3  
 Reservation for Women Chairperson - 33.3%

Comment : Some women chairpersons have contested from general seats.

**Urban : Municipalities**

**7.7 First Elections (1996) Nagar Panchayats**

<b>Districts</b>	<b>Tota No. of Units 1991</b>	<b>Total Members</b>	<b>M</b>	<b>F</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>Total Chairpersons</b>	<b>F</b>	<b>%</b>
Uttarkhasi	3							
Tehri Garhwal	6							
Pauri Garhwal	7							
Chamoli	6							
Rudraprayag	2							
Dehradun Dt.	17							
Pithoragarh (Bhageswar)	1							
Champavat	4							
Nainital	8							
U. S. Nagar	15							
Almora	4							
Hardwar	8							
<b>Total</b>	<b>84</b>					<b>28</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>46.43</b>

**7.8 Election to Nagar Palika (2004)**

<b>Year</b>	<b>Total No. of Chairpersons</b>	<b>Women</b>	<b>%</b>
2001	43	—	—
2003	31	11	35.48

**7.9 Urban - Nagar Nigam (Corporation)**

<b>Total Members</b>	<b>M</b>	<b>F</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>Chairpersons Mayor</b>	<b>F</b>
				1	1

## 7.10 No. of Parliamentary Constituencies

### 1. Lok Sabha

Names of Constituencies	Name of M. Ps (2004)
Hardwar	Rajendra Kumar (S.P.)
Pauri Garhwal	B.C. Khanduri (BJP)
Tehri Garhwal	Manavendra Shah (BJP)
Almora	Bachi Singh Rawat (BJP)
Nainital	Mahendra Singh Pal (Congress)

Total no of contestants -

Total no of Women contestants - 5

Total no of Women won - Nil

### 7.11 Rajya Sabha

Total number of seats :	Names
3	Sushma Swaraj
	Sangamitra Gautam
	Manoharwathi Dyani

### 7.12 No. of Vidhan Sabha Constituencies - 2004

	Number of MLAs	Women	%
Total No.	71	04	5.63
Total SC	12		
Total ST	3		

### 7.13 Reserved Constituencies

<b>Leg. Assembly</b>	<b>S.C.</b>	<b>Names</b>	<b>ST</b>	<b>Names</b>
	12	Gangolight	3	Chakratha
		Bageshwar		Katima
		Rudraprayag		Dharchula
		Smeshwar		
		Mukteshwar		
		Pindar		
		Srinagar		
		Dhanolti		
		Purola		
		Bhagwanpur		
		Sahaspur		
		Sitarganj		
Parliament	1	Hardwar		

**CHAPTER - 8**  
**BUDGETARY DETAILS**

**8.1**

<b>Year</b>	<b>2000-2001</b>	<b>2001-2002 (RE) In Thousands</b>	<b>2002-2003 (BE)</b>
Total Expenditure of State	91,36,100	4,16,60,000	4,46,83,600
Expenditure on Women	-0-	2,49,585	2,44,556
Percentage	-0-	0.599	0.547
Total Expenditure on Child Development	-0-	71,08,563	93,86,597
Percentage	-0-	17.063	21.007
Plan Expenditure on Education and Training	-	9,305	7,912
Non-Plan expenditure on Education and Training		81,263	89,055
Plan Expenditure Women In Need	-	10,001	12,957
Non Plan Expenditure Women in Need	-	51,972	52,180
Plan Expenditure Women Medical	-	65,530	48,295
Non Plan Expenditure Women Medical	-	-0-	-0-
Plan Expenditure Women Empowerment	-	13,601	20,900
Non Plan Expenditure Women Empowerment	-	151	151
Plan Expenditure Women (Mis)		17,698	13,000
Non Plan Expenditure Women (Mis)		64	76
Plan Expenditure on ICDS		115454	258078
Non Plan Expenditure Women (Mis)		-0-	0
Plan Expenditure on Nutrition		20512	24663
Non Plan Expenditure on Nutrition		0	0
Plan Expenditure on Elementary Education		9,80,053	7,94,027
Non-Plan Expenditure on Elementary Education		25,02,640	44,40,075
Plan Expenditure on Secondary Education		33,31,493	4,61,011

<b>Year</b>	<b>2000-2001</b>	<b>2001-2002 (RE) In Thousands</b>	<b>2002-2003 (BE)</b>
Non-Plan Expenditure on Secondary Education		2,20,61,396	32,56,993
Plan Expenditure on Child Misc		1,16,079	1,28,395
Non Plan Expenditure on Child Misc		11,571	23,355
Total Women Development		2,49,585	2,44,556
Total Child Development		71,08,563	93,86,597

The tables also confirm the absence of any data on various items like the share of Women and Child Development, in the Net State Domestic Product (NSDP), per capita expenditure on women and child development, etc.

**Source :** S.C. Sahai, Analysis of Budgeted Expenditure on Women and Child Development during 1993-94-2002-2003. Report submitted to Department of Women and Child Development, New Delhi, Jan. 2004.

## **State Visit of National Commission for Women to the State of Uttarakhand/ Summary Report**

The National Commission for Women interacted, on the first day with the NGOs, activists, grass root workers, sarpanches and members of the press to learn about the situational problems of women in the State. Representatives of each district were present and the meeting began with a head count. In order to ensure complete dissemination of information of the National Commission for Women's visit, a public notice was issued by the Commission. The meeting was organized by the Uttarakhand State Women's Commission (an eight month old body set up by an executive order and lacking in statutory authority) and the Department of Women's Empowerment of the State government.

On day two the Commission interacted with the chief Secretary and secretaries of all the other departments connected with gender issues. The concerns raised on day one were addressed on day 2. This report is the culmination of the proceedings of both the days.

The Chief Minister Shri N.D. Tewari inaugurated the NGO Meeting. During the course of his speech, he laid stress on the following: The State would soon be finalizing on its women's policy, the Department of Women's Empowerment will be decentralised to the village panchayats; Expansion of family courts after assessment to other districts, as per the need; Strengthening of the State Commission for Women after the budget session, as per the strong suggestion of National Commission for Women that it should get a statutory status; awareness camps will be held in all districts; availability of hospitals in all remote areas and access to women; need to educate women against superstitious practices and rituals.

The panel consisting of the Chairperson of National Commission for Women, Dr. Poonima Advani, Chairperson, Uttarakhand State Commission for Women, Dr. Santosh Chauhan, Ms. Anusuya Uike, Member National Commission for Women, other members of the State Women's Commission heard the representatives from the 13 districts of Uttarakhand.

Following points in the nature of comments and recommendations emerged during the interface.

### **Education**

- Information on Technical Education and the information emanating from professional institutions should be disseminated among women.

- The midday meals recently introduced in the schools is distracting the students and teachers from classes. The teachers are involved in cooking and distributing meals and not paying attention to teaching. The midday meals should be stopped.
- The earlier pattern of distribution of grains is better than this
- Girls/Women should be given access to horticulture and agriculture courses. Hostels for girls/women in educational institutions should be provided especially in remote areas.
- Girls should get health education
- Girls of 10<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> class should be informed and trained on methods of family control it could be in the form of orientation courses.
- Where there is a heavy drop out after class V, there should be separate schools for girls.
- Children rescued from child labor should be given facilities for education and training.
- Reservation of seats and jobs for women:
  - The State Government has reserved 20% of seats for girls in colleges. This should be available in all professional colleges/institutes for women.
  - This should be filled up and made effective. Where there are vacant seats, they should be carried to next year and not filled by men.
  - Similar type of reservation should be given in teaching jobs as well as in the government jobs. If is not filled it should be kept vacant and carried to next year.
  - The advertisement for admission should carry the reservation for women explicitly in separate columns.
- All advertisement for admission should be reviewed by the State Women Commission for this reservation. Annual report should be submitted to the state legislature.
- This should also be the concern of the sexual harassment committee of the commission.
- Paternity leave provision in the government jobs should be implemented.
- A woman University should be opened in the state to focus on Indepth studies on women.
- A women's studies centre should be started at the HN Batuguma Garhwal University
- In the secondary School Co-educational schools, only male teachers are recruited. There should be female teachers, so that the drop out of girls is reduced. This would also increase the job opportunities for women teachers.

### **Crime and Social Security**

- Women do not speak out on the crimes against them out of public shame and criticism.



- Women should be given legal literacy camps which should be held in villages.
- Due to red tapism and delay women do not go to file FIRs; only 30 to 40 percent cases are registered.
- The police and panchayat members should hold camps in the village
- The police should not ignore the women when they visit villages they need to be women friendly and help in filing FIRs.
- In more than 65% of villages there is no police presence. Only patwaris look into cases. They tend to hush up the cases. Hence the patwaris should be given gender sensitization as well as have empathy for poor and low caste women.
- Cross filing of cases against women who file case or pursue them vigorously is widespread This should be looked into and harassment of women stopped.
- Jails for women should be separate; just now there is only a room for women in jails and they are not even maintained properly.
- In areas where severe crime cases have been mentioned the police and State Women Commission members should visit and provide a sense of security to the women of the area.
- Police should undertake gender sensitization of its force and prevent crime against women
- Action should be taken against officials in the "Muzaffarnagar Khand"

### **Health**

- The PHCs do not have a lady doctor or maternity and child care centers.
- There should be one lady doctor in every PHC.
- ANMs do not visit villages. They should be activated and medicines distributed properly. The visit of ANMs is irregular due to the shortage. ANMs and their vast jurisdiction. Their number should be increased and the area under their jurisdiction should be reduced.
- Due to the poor road connections and absence of PHCs, there is a lot of female mortality and maternal mortality.
- Heavy workload of women has its impact on women and has led to a high rate of TB 40 percent and anaemia among women. The LPG/kerosene should be subsidized and prices reduced, so that the load by way of fuel collection is reduced. Portable gas cylinders should be made widely available
- Due to remoteness of the villages, mobile health care should be made available; facilities should be there for blood test and other necessary medical needs.

- There should be better monitoring of the presence of doctors; Others should be prevented from administering medicines.
- There is no follow up of operations. There should be some way of back conveying them to their homes.
- Dhais and traditional medical practitioners should be given training and recognition, so that they can get some income
- Health facilities are at times available only 50 kms away. Because of this the women are forced to resort to traditional practices and superstitious rituals.
- In every PHC there should be a counsellor for those who take to alcoholism and drug.

#### **Panchayat Raj and Women:**

- Presently only 10 percent of elected women attend the meetings. Elected women representatives should regularly attend the Panchayat meeting. Husbands, sons and male relatives should be prevented from attending or making decisions for them.
- The women member should get conveyance and security to attend the district panchayat meetings
- There is no security at the panchayat level. Panchayat members should meet the people and assure them of their safety.
- Panchayat women should pay attention to children orphaned due to various reasons.
- They should form a "kishori" club and work against female foeticide and infanticide.
- There should be capacity building and training for elected women members.
- There should be reservation for women in van panchayats
- Gender sensitization of village level officials to make them listen to the elected women and their issues. This should become a part of their normal training.

#### **Income Generation and Employment**

- Those women who have started their activities recently and have not made much of profit should be exempted from paying sales tax
- Income generating group activity need to be encouraged. Their linkage with the banks and ready access to cash should be strengthened.
- Women should get the right to property
- There should be widespread information on various schemes to women.
- Due credit and recognition should be given to the work of the safai majdoor women.

- The NCW and SCW should visit their colonies and listen to their problems.
- Women should get control over land, water and forests.
- Women do not have much information on schemes like widow pension and old age pension. Women who are deserted should be provided with economic empowerment and other support.
- Widows pension should be paid regularly and the procedure made more easy.
- The 20% job reservation should be included in service rules, for effective implementation.
- Women should be given training and encouraged to take up mushroom cultivation and silk industry.
- Women's work should be given protection. Their produce are destroyed by "Junglee Suwar", monkeys and wild animals; Children are killed often. The state should take some action. It should give compensation for injuries and produce destroyed. Agriculture Insurance facilities should be available with easy access and procedures.
- NGOs who are working mainly on road head get help and attention. NGOs working in the rural areas do not get much help.
- Anganwadi workers should be appointed from outside the village as they will get better attention from the village people.
- Privatisation and disinvestment have led to unemployment leading to women going back to the villages losing their income
- Privatisation of common resources like the land, water and forest should be stopped.

### **Alcohol**

- The State policy on alcohol supports drinking because of army persons Army subsidises it; even after retirement, the army persons get it at cheap rate. This should be stopped.
- The state should find alternate sources of income. If alcohol cannot be banned, it should find ways of controlling it and regulate its sale
- The practice of issuing license in the name of women and widows on the plea of self employment should be stopped
- The policy which prohibited drinking in public place needs to be effectively enforced.
- Tourism is identified with alcohol. This is leading to much hazards and social atrocities against women and children. There are better alternatives to attract tourists and this need to be worked out. Markets should be encouraged to sell handicrafts and food products made in Uttaranchal.
- Counseling against alcoholism and drug should be supported. It should be treated like a disease and counseling provided in the PHCs. Women should come out openly and seek help from the counsellor.

- The struggle against alcohol should be strengthened and sustained.
- Uttaranchal should become liquor free.

### **Agriculture and Water**

- There should be patenting of traditional agricultural and herbal/ medical knowledge.
- The losses accruing from joint river projects should be assessed and the project as it applies in Uttaranchal, should be reviewed.
- Water should be available first to people who need them and only the surplus water be sold.

### **General Suggestions**

- Meeting of this nature should be held in every district/ block/ villages/ and panchayat.
- Women's commission should have visibility by their hardwork.
- The State should have a State policy for women. The draft should be widely circulated and women's views elicited
- Information should be made available to women in local languages
- Nari-Niketan inmates should be helped to marry. The Nari-Niketan should arrange for the same. Nari-Niketan should form committees.
- All committees appointed by the government and their public sector units should have a woman member.

**Minutes of the Meeting of the National Commission for Women with the Chief Secretary and other Secretaries of the Government of Uttaranchal held at Secretariat, Dehradun on 25th June 2004**

The above meeting was taken by the Chair Person of the National Commission for Women. Apart from the officials, the Chair Person and members of the State Commission of Women of Uttaranchal, Mrs. Anusuya Uike, member, National Commission, Prof. Sushila Kaushik, Research Advisor were also present. The List of participants is attached.

The Chairperson explained the objectives of the meeting and sought information as well as response of the officials on the major points raised by the NGOs in their meeting the previous day.

The Chief Secretary in his opening remarks pointed out that Uttaranchal was friendly to women in many ways.

Out of 13 districts, the demographic details and socio economic conditions of women was satisfactory in 9 districts . He also pointed out - some of the measures that the state government has under taken.

In every district there will be one community forest(Samudaya van). In each Joint Forest Management committee, out of a total of 9 members 4 will be women. Every village will have a van spanchayat, which will be under the supervision of the gram panchayats; so far 11000 such van panchayats have been setup. Fodder will be provided within the village itself and the van Panchayat have been given the right to collect the fodder.

The crime has gone down in many districts of Uttaranchal but the crimes against women are increasing especially in 4 districts.

The police system by patwaries is unique to Uttaranchal and in line with its histrocial evolution. It is also advantageous as the patwari understands the village and is a part of them. It also helps in reducing the police force and their interference. Villages can settle their own issues. The revenue system covers 65 % of the areas.

The Chief Secretary also clarified that privatisation of community resources is not taking place. Even the reserved forest are being handed over to the J.F.M. and the community. He also talked about the scheme called Jana Shree whereby Rs.50000/- is given as accident insurance and Rs20000/- for disability to the women. He said female infantiades are un heard of in Uttaranchal.

Ms. Vibha Puri Das, Secretary, Forests and Rural Development, presented various details on the participation of women in "Swa Rojgar Yojana". Out of the 17000 groups, 6719 were women groups. In addition on 6000 joint groups, women were also participating. Thus Uttaranchal was the first state in the country to adopt the scheme with women participating substantially. She also presented details of women participation in watershed Development Programmes I and II and Uttaranchal State Co operative Bank, their savings as well as the loans they have taken and the activities.

She also told about the participation of women in Panchayati Raj and the three days capacity building workshop which has been started recently in Hardwar and other place. The issues of housing, forestry, wage employment, van panchayats were also raised. She pointed out that women are given representation (4 out of 9) in the Joint Forest Management Committee. However the women are not happy to take up wage employment under the various schemes under poverty alleviation as they prefer to work on their own land.

### **Crime and Security**

The Home Secretary, Shri Das pointed out that as of today two (Mahila thanas) Women Police Stations are in Almora and Pauri but there is a demand for one at Dehradun, Udham Singh Nagar, Hardwar.

However it was believed that there should be women desks at all the police stations rather than only women police stations.

Apart from civil police, in Uttaranchal the unique feature is the revenue police operated by the patwaris. He watches the situation and transfers the case to civil police, if they are not solved at the village level.

Women constitute 5.3 % in police force. The government would like to increase it to 20%. The Director General of Police Mrs. Kiran Chaudhry Bhattacharya assured that women issues will be given the highest importance by the police. She believed in creating a helpline and counseling center in police station and work with active NGOs. The helpline will have a 4 digits telephone number which will be disseminated among women in the rural areas. She believed the need for sending a message that the doors of police are open and responsive, and to create a friendly environment. The helpline will have a direct line to the DGP.

The visiting team believed that

- A structure for the revenue police should be constituted. This will send a message to the criminals. This should be well publicised through the Information Department
- The Government should collect data of the various cases of revenue police and this should be on the gender segregated basis.
- There is a need to setup a forensic department and lab; Need to send the medical information and procedural details regarding rape cases to all police stations.

- A Counselor should be associated with every police station, in women's case. Though there may be a shortage of counselor, the government agreed.
- Since 65 percent of rural areas is covered by revenue police there is a need to bring more coordination between civil and revenue police.
- The revenue police should handover detail of cases to the civil police.
- The patwaries should undergo a training for gender sensitization and legal information.
- There should be coordinated mechanism-between the police surgeons, hospitals, short stay homes and others concerned, for dealing with cases of violence and rape against women.
- There should be a holistic structure, inter-departmental liaison and mechanisms for policy implementation. The government agreed to look into this.

On the Muzaffarnagar khand episode and the convictions of the criminals, compensations had been given to 85 cases. However the punishment has to come from the UP court as it was located in UP. The CBI reports should be secured.

- NCW agreed to write to the U.P. government to bring the guilty to book soon.

The secretary of Law and Justice said that women do not know their rights; the reporting place is far off and the women are scared to report. If the cases do not lead to a conviction the situation becomes worse for the women.

The Chairperson also raised the issue of Ms Indira Jenny's case. She talked about the prolonged illegal confinement of Jenny in Nari-Niketan and the fact that no FIR had been filed in the case

The chair person believed that she should be sent back to Assam, along with her child, with due escort. The Chair person of NCW agreed to write to the Chief Minister of Assam to provide her due protection and arrange to send her to Uttaranchal whenever there was a need for her presence.

The Chief Secretary agreed on the suggestion to send her back home as there is no police case right now.

## **Health**

Shri Das, Secretary, Health informed about the Universal Insurance company which will be formed by combining National Insurance Company and Oriental Insurance Company. It will be cover women of the BPL families, who will be given Rs. 30000/- as insurance. The scheme will be announced on 15<sup>th</sup> August.

As for the strength of female doctors, the secretary informed that there is a shortage of male and female doctors and some PHC's do not have any doctor. Over all there are 700 doctors sanctioned; 71 female doctors have been sanctioned but only 05 female doctors are available

There are 6 Mahila Hospitals.

Since doctors are unwilling to go to remote areas, they are provided with transit housing facilities for the families at district headquarters at Pithoragarh and Pauri, So that the doctors can visit the rural area as.

- The Health Secretary pointed out to some restriction like population norms for opening PHCs. This could be reduced and norms relaxed and made flexible.
- There should be an integrated approach to medical systems and not be divided in to Ayurveda allopathy etc.
- There should be training of dais.

The Health Secretary agreed 40% women suffer from TB, 48% from anaemia and other related diseases.

He agreed to survey the impact of head loading on women, and take suitable measures to treat them.

The government is increasing the numbers of PHCs. and houses for doctors with the help of HUDCO.

- The ANM's need to be monitored by the PRI.
- Their large area of operation should be reduced.
- The ANM's work should be integrated with that of ICDS functionaries and some co-ordination mechanism worked out.

There will be more de-addiction centres and they should be increased. Every district will be having a drug addition centre. Right now there are 2 such centres in Dehradun and Haldwani.

Umbrella societies in the state consisting of Drugs, AIDS, Leprosy, TB, HIV etc. are formed in the state. In each district a medical officer will head it and 6 deputy CMOs will be looking after each section. There will be a VCDC in every district.

Indigenous medicines should be utilised.

### **Law and Justice**

On family courts, the role of advocates, and counselors were discussed. At present there are no counselors. The family courts are having lawyers and male judges.

The State will do a revamping of councilors; they are being paid law salary.

There will be reconciliation bureaus.

- Their booklets on women's right should be distributed.



- All the State Women commission member should be supplied with these booklets.
- There are at present 5 family courts, two more will be setup in Rishikesh and Roorkee.
- There is no female judge in these courts. Most of the officers are retired women officers.
- Mahila Lok Adalat has tried under the district courts
- The Chairperson suggested that the Mahila Lok Adalats should work jointly with state women's commission and district legal authorities.
- Uttaranchal should get the family court rules model prepared by National Commission for Women and formulate a state family court Act.

### **Education**

- There is confusion among the teachers on the mid day meals. There is no knowledge on the provision of a committee consisting of panchayat Raj teachers and parents.
- Information on the committee should be widely distributed. Kitchen sheds and toilets are being constructed in schools.
- Schools should be regularly monitored by the panchayats and officials.
- Bridges should be built between formal and informal centres of education, like the Mahila Samakhya and School system.
- The SHGs, family courts, Mahila samakhya should be linked through a common structure.
- There is a need to increase the awareness of men too. They need to share the responsibilities.
- There are no hostels in educational institutions. The state government should look into it and provide for hostels.
- There is a provision for 20 percent reservation for women in admission and jobs. The state should look into fact as to whether the 20 percent quota of women teachers are filled or not, effort should be made to fill it up.

### **Labour**

Employment is practiced without gender discrimination.

- There is no information on availing of paternity leave; it should be disseminated.
- There is no survey of child labour in the state.
- As per some survey there are only 647 child labour in the state. A survey will start soon in Dehradun by NCLP.
- There is no hazardous industry in the state.

- There should be an effort to send the child labour to school with the help of department of labour.

#### **Panchayati Raj:**

A three days training programme for elected representatives at all levels for both men and women is currently going on at Hardwar.

Fourteen departments have been decentralized .

There are 40 all women van panchayats

No TA/DA/allowance is given for PRI elected members. No conveyance or TA/DA is provided for attending district level meetings

A SIRD has been setup recently

Women component will be introduced in all the training modules.

Training will be under taken for the local level officials.

No. programme envisaged exclusively for women members, This has been left to NGOs.

#### **Sexual Harassment:**

Uttaranchal Government has instituted two central committees in the Mandals of Kumaon and Garhwal. They are dealing with the three types of women workers (1)Forest women (2)Government servants and (3) Industrial establishment.

- The Chairperson of NCW said that the committees should be appointed at the district levels.
- Committees should be appointed at all colleges, university, all offices and industrial establishments, as per the Supreme Court Directive.

#### **General:**

- Womens policy should be circulated and discussed widely, starting with grass root level.
- It should be discussed by the State Women's Commission and their views taken mandatorily.
- In Nari –Niketans both mental cases and other are put up in the same room; they should be separated.
- The members of State Women's commission should be consulted in all matters and policies concerning women
- Some policy should be formulated for the deserted women which is a common phenomenon in this state.

- The State Commission for Women should be strengthened . They should be full time and provided with salary and quasi judicial powers. They should have TA/DA, telephone facilities.

At present they have power but lot of responsibilities.

- It should get statutory recognition and status and not be just a women's group
- Widows pensions could not be provided to all due to budgetary constraints. They have now cleared all case up to 01/04/2004.

It is a unique feature of Uttaranchal that it is called the Department of Women's empowerment (and not welfare or department).

It is based on the principle of practical work and women's share and participation in activities.

In the end The Chief secretary responded to the various points. He appreciated the interest of the National Commission for Women in Uttaranchal. He said efforts will be made to bring more recognition to women and their right in the state.

### **Special Session On Sexual Harassment**

A Special session on sexual harassment committees in uttaranchal took place at the secretariat on 25<sup>th</sup> June 2004. List of Participants / attached. Most of them were heads of central government departments located at Dehradun. Very few state government representatives were present. Member Mrs. Anusuya Uike and Dr. Kusum Nautiyal participated. National Commission for Women.

While committees had been formed in many organizations no case had come up so far.

The state education officers said that they had sent the circular to the educational institutions in the districts.

However the SC guidelines regarding the Vishaka judgment had not reached any of them. No great interest has been shown on this issue.

## **Planning Process for Socio-Economic Development of Women**

- Moved by the plight of the deserted women of Uttarakhand, the National Commission of Women organized a public hearing at Dehradun. The women who deposed, narrated their pathetic cases before a jury comprising Adviser NCW, Mr. D.P. Singh, Mr. Uma Shankar Thapliyal of a local NGO and the Chairperson, NCW.
- Desertion, an acute problem, probably started when a woman did not have any children or did not bear a male child to continue the family tree. According to a survey conducted by the Dehradun based Himalayan Action Research Centre, every village in Uttarakhand has at least two to three abandoned women. As many as 30.5 percent women were abandoned after their husbands remarried. 7.5 percent did not know the whereabouts of their life partners who had left the native village in search of jobs. 42 percent were deserted for not bearing children and 7.6 percent for not giving birth to a son.
- Over 35.5 percent deserted women were less than 30 years of age and 57.5 between the age-group of 30 to 50 years. 63.2 percent were illiterate. As many as 91.2 percent did not have any elementary legal knowledge.
- It was hoped that the public inquiry will serve as an eye-opener to the legislators, executives and officials of the Judicial system and particularly motive government functionaries, NGOs and other to evolve strategies to help the deserted women.
- The inquiry created a sense of awareness of the sad plight to these women. To improve their living conditions they should be given legal rights as well as old-age pension and vocational training and employment opportunities, free education and hostel facilities to the children of deserted women. The Jury felt that free legal aid must be provided to these unfortunate women to fight against social injustice perpetrated against them by their relatives. The government on the other hand, should maintain a record of deserted women, establish counselling centers and family courts, provide housing facilities, and enforce joint property rights and registration of marriages to check desertion. A deserted woman should be given Rs. 50,000/- from cooperative banks without security to start a self-supporting business, so that she can live with dignity and honour.

## **Women in agriculture**

- Member, NCW attended a seminar on Environmental Changes and Sustainable Development in 21st Century : Uttarakhand Himalayan Perspective organized by the Department of Geography, H.N. Bahuguna Garhwal University, Srinagar, Garhwal. The seminar highlighted gender issue with regard to women in agriculture.
- Though 94% women are engaged in agriculture, yet the back-breaking conventional method of agriculture is still prevailing. Women from the remote tribal areas of district Chamoli discussed their problems pertaining to the unfavourable developmental policies. These women demanded more information about technological transfer, tribal cooperative for forest products and medicinal herbs.

### **1999-2000**

#### **Survey of Economic Condition of Rural Women belonging to Hill Region of Uttar Pradesh**

The Commission undertook the samples survey in the villages of three districts viz., Dehradun, Tehri Garhwal and Uttarkashi.

The problems of weaker sections of women of the plains are quite different from that of the rural hill region.

The rural women of hill region are a neglected lot. They mobilized their potentiality at the time of 'Chipko Movement' which became a force to be reckoned with.

#### **Recommendation**

**Dehradun District :** The economic problems of rural women residing in the villages Kargi Grant and Kalsi could be solved if the proposed Cooperative Society i.e. Sahakari Samit start taking shape in the field of Dairy and Mushroom Cultivation. It would be more appropriate if the women of the above area are engaged in above work as the same would increase the income sources for them.

**Tehri Garhwal :** The income generation of rural women of this area can be increased if the women start their own cooperative society in the field of Dairy. Due to low literacy level among rural women, other methods of providing vocational training/technical training etc. may not yield desired result.

**Uttarkashi District :** The rural women of this district can be motivated to form their own cooperative societies for selling goods produced in the areas such as Dairy, Floriculture, Jam/Chaatni/Pickles. The few women who want to enter services can be trained/counselled and recommended to the concerned authorities.

#### **Conclusion**

The rural women is a very hard working segment of the population and they preferred to be engaged in the work of agriculture and animal husbandry. As they are comparatively uneducated., they

are unable to migrate for enhancing income generation. The economic condition of women of above three districts can be improved by providing work in the area in which they are residing. The development through cooperative means is best suited for the rural women belonging to weaker sections of the hill region of Uttar Pradesh.

The NGOs like Himalayan Action Research Centre can be constructively involved in solving economic problems of women of Hill region of Himalaya as this organization was found to be working with a great sense of dedication.

The Central and State Governments may provide direct financial assistance to cooperative societies (Sahakari Samiti) formed by the rural women of hill region without much bureaucratic hurdles.

## **2000-2001**

### **Uttarakhand (Pithoragarh District)**

#### **Special Groups - Minority Women**

While receiving representations from individuals and women groups the Member met a delegation of the minority community women and discussed the ways and means for their all round development. The Member advised the delegation to raise with the Himalayan Study Centre to achieve the objective.

#### **Other issues**

The charge sheet in the case of attempted rape of social worker Ms. Snehal had been filed.

- In the land dispute between Ms. Kamla Pant and the State Administration, the member, urged the SDM and Chief Development Officer to settle the case as early as possible ensuring that the woman got justice.
- The biggest problem of the region was unemployment. It is also essential to set up Family Counselling Centres in this region.

#### **Anti liquor**

As Almora, the Member assured the women engaged in the anti-liquor movement that the NCW would liaise between the Government authorities and the Women Campaigners in tackling the issues involved.

At Nainital, the Member met the representatives of Uttaranchal Mahila Manch and Mahila Maitri Samuha and discussed with them issues relating to Muzaffarnagar incident of rape of women of Uttarakhand Movement. The women representatives handed over a Memorandum highlighting the following points :

- (i) No charge-sheet have been filed against the rapists.
- (ii) NCW may inquire into the incident of lathi charge on women protesters at Dehradun.

(iii) Arrange extensive training of the local women as dia.

The following issues emerged during the tour of member of Kumaun region of Uttarakhand which need be taken up with the concerned authorities :

- (i) To interact with the State Government on prohibition and modification in excise policy;
- (ii) To interact with the State Department, looking after tribal development, regarding development of (a) Tharu tribals in Khatima, District Udham Singh Nagar and (b) Raji (Vanravat) in Askot, District Pithoragarh;
- (iii) To process further the case of the girl Bhawani - the inmate of Pithoragarh Women's Protection Home (Nari Sanrakshan Griha) after obtaining details from the Home;
- (iv) To write to the District Collector of Champawat regarding health delivery services to women and appointment of a lady Gynaecologist in Champawat.
- (v) To write to the District Collector of Champawat on the problem of potable water in Barakot;
- (vi) To discuss Muzaffarnagar rape incident, in NCW, from legal angle; and call for an Action Taken Report of the District Collector on Dehradun lathi-charge.

## **Report of the Seminar on National Policy For The Empowerment of Women At Dehradun, (Uttaranchal)**

12-13 February, 2004 Organized by Centre For Development Studies And Action, New Delhi, in collaboration with Uttaranchal Mahila Manch, Dehradun Sponsored by National Commission for Women, New Delhi

A two days workshop on National Policy for the Empowerment of Women was held in Uttaranchal on the 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> February 2004, at Dehradun.

Following were the recommendations of the Workshop.

### **Agriculture**

The main issues that emerged during the discussions were, need for a specific policy keeping in mind the hilly regions, women should be given the status of farmers, facilities should be provided for protection of agricultural products in the village itself and along with this, appropriate facilities for the transfer of these products from the village to the market should be made.

- Agriculture related training should be provided in the villages and knowledge about agricultural equipment's should be propagated amongst the farmers, knowledge about lands should be given to gram sabha and not patwari.
- There should be patency of traditional knowledge.
- Subject on agriculture should be made compulsory in schools and should be taught to girls
- Rural areas should hold agricultural related exhibitions and melas
- People from the interior areas should also benefit from the women's policy and technical knowledge should be provided to them at the right time
- Work should be done on cash crops as well
- Tanks should be built near farms in the hilly areas for collection of water which can be used for irrigation.
- Agricultural insurance should be provided



- Knowledge of modern methods in agriculture should be imparted to farmers
- Media should help in propagation of information relating to agriculture.

### **Water Policy**

- All possible use of water should be implemented so as to reduce the burden on women
- Technical knowledge on maintenance of different resources of water should be given to women
- Special consideration should be give to women coming from families who have been displaced due to development plans of the state. They suffer the most culturally and also in relation to facilities that were available to them.
- Information on various natural products resulting from rain should be given to women at the right time. Storage of rain water should be done properly.
- The loss accruing from joining of different rivers should be assessed properly.
- Water should be made available firstly to places which need them and only then should the surplus water be sold.

### **Panchayati Raj**

- Rules should be made to ensure that meetings are held at the village and block level, and any male representative of the family do not substitute for woman.
- 50 percent participation of women in the gram sabha should be ensured or else the meeting should be postponed.
- Panchayats should be given full control in gram swaraj and there should be no role for the secretary. Sarpanch of the village should write the C.R. of the secretary.
- Women representatives should be given training at the level of blocks; there should be frequent training at regular intervals.
- 20 percent of the budget given to panchayats should be spent on women related programmes since women in the hilly areas are very poor.
- Also women reservation in panchayats should be increased from 33 percent to 50 percent.
- Panchayats should be given the power to solve disputes in the villages and families, especially those related to violence against women. The culprits should be given punishment by them.
- The process of nomination in panchayat elections should be made easy.
- Workshops and meetings that are held at the level of blocks outside the villages should have facilities for staying also.

## **Liquor**

- The state of Uttaranchal to be made liquor free.
- Politicians should work in accordance with promises made in their election manifesto and not according to their self interest
- Places where women take out movements to stop liquor should not open new shops and the existing shops should be closed.
- Liquor should be made more costly
- Women organisations and Mahila Mandals should be given the right to raid places selling liquor.
- Women actively involved in the anti-liquor campaigns should hold meetings with the district magistrate once every month.
- Liquor shops should be closed on all festival days..
- Women should be given all the information relating to liquor
- Liquor contracts should not be given in the name of women and the widows of Kargil soldiers should get some other facility, other than a quota of liquor shops.
- Liquor should not become the main source for women.

## **Tourism**

- Pubs and bars should not be allowed to open in the name of tourism. Opening up of five star hotels, farmhouses and resorts are leading to increase in exploitation of women and people should oppose such an unsafe environment for women.
- Tourism should be based on the lifestyle, culture and thinking of Uttaranchal. A civil code should be made aimed at protecting the culture and environment of the state which must be followed by all the tourists.
- Women should be encouraged to participate in tourism industry and for this geographical and cultural training should be given to them.
- Trains which start from Uttaranchal should serve food specific to Uttaranchal state.
- Local goods made by women artisans and producers in the villages should be made available in of the market.

## **Jungle**

- The role of forest corporations in cutting of trees should be stopped. Since women are the ones who take care of these trees, committees should be formed by them which should be given power to cut and plant trees.

- The money that is spent by the government on forests should be done with the consent of these women.
- Herbs should be planted in the forests and women should be given training on the use of these herbs.
- Joint Forest Management should take care of only reserve forests.
- Villages should have full control over the income generated from forests.
- Women should be given free legal services in cases relating to forests.
- Small industries related to forests should be built up at local level.
- Compensation should be given in cases of injuries due to attacks by wild animals. Insurance facilities should be available and the compensation should be given very easily.
- The process of freeing shepherds who are caught in the national park should be simple.

#### **Education**

- Education should be related to work.
- Equal education should be provided to all and dual system of education should end.
- Mid day meals divert attention from education in Anganwadi and other schools. Hence instead of this facility some other facility should be provided to students.
- Women should enter educational institution in greater numbers.
- A Women University should be opened for focussing on indepth studies on women.
- Women should be given preferences in subjects like biotechnology and environment science.
- Palmistry should become a part of Sanskrit education at the level of schools.
- At the level of block and district, training should be given in sports and mountain climbing.

#### **Electronic Media**

- Portrayal of women in the media is very negative and it adversely affects the image of women in society. Hence such telecasts should be stopped.
- Independence of women in media is judged by the lesser quantity of clothes worn by them and this should be stopped.
- Role of women should be positively shown in serials and advertisements
- More women oriented programmes showing the specific problems of women should be made and shown on T.V.

- Programmes focussing on science and knowledge should be telecasted more frequently.

### **Violence**

- Patriarchy should come to an end and man and woman should get equal rights on property.
- People involved with violence against women should get strict punishments and the women concerned should get adequate protection while her case is going on.
- Strict rules should be made and implemented to stop domestic violence and violence that take place at the work place.
- Organisations working on violence against women should be recognised and respected.
- Women sub inspector should be there in all police stations to write F.I.R. on violence against women.
- Women lawyer should be made available to look after the cases of women who have faced violence against them.
- Improvements should be made in women shelters.
- Officers should be given training for gender sensitization.
- Social evils against women should be brought into focus by Women Commission and strict rules should be made for preventing them.

**A SITUATIONAL ANALYSIS  
OF WOMEN AND GIRLS  
IN UTTARANCHAL**

**BY  
PROF. SUSHEELA KAUSHIK**



**NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR WOMEN  
NEW DELHI**

**NCW TEAM**

**DR. POORNIMA ADVANI**

*Chairperson*

*National Commission for Women*

**MS. ANUSUIYA UIKE**

*Member*

*National Commission for Women*

**MS. SUSHEELA KAUSHIK**

*Research Advisor*

**MR. A.L. NARULA**

*Project Co-ordinator*

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- 7.9 Urban - Nagar Nigam (Corporation)
- 7.10 No. of Parliamentary Constituencies (Lok Sabha)
- 7.11 No. of Parliamentary Constituencies (Raj Sabha)
- 7.12 No. of Vidhan Sabha Constituencies - 2004
- 7.13 Reserved Constituencies
- 8.1 Budgetary Details

## FOREWORD

The existential pathos of a woman's life has been inimitably captured by the great Hindi poet, Shri Maithilisharan Gupta, in a memorable couplet which says, "Alas, woman! Thy destiny is eternal sacrifice, eternal suffering!"

Despite the exalted position given to women in some of India's religious texts and the exceptional attainments of individual women in fields as diverse as philosophy, statecraft and even warfare, the profile of the average woman through the ages has been that of a perpetually poor, perpetually pregnant and perpetually powerless being.

Independent India has tried to redeem the situation by proclaiming equality of the sexes as a Fundamental Right under the Constitution and directing state policy towards removing the various disabilities that thwart women in realising their potential. Five decades of Independence have also seen a plethora of laws passed by the State and Federal Governments to protect women from violence and discrimination and to strengthen their entitlements in the social and economic fields. Numerous committees and commissions have x-rayed the position of women, the advances made by them and the obstacles faced by them, and they have made umpteen recommendations to improve the situation. Scores of schemes have been floated by various Ministries of the Government to address women's problems, particularly those relating to education, health, nutrition, livelihood and personal laws. In the institutional area, independent administrative departments to give undivided attention to women's problems have sprung up at the Centre as well as in the States. Development corporations were an innovation of the Eighties to energise economic benefit schemes. The Nineties saw the setting up of the National Commission for Women (NCW) and State Commissions in various States to inquire into the working of various legal and constitutional provisions concerning women, to investigate cases of violation of women's rights and generally to advise on the socio-economic policy framework in order to mainstream women's concerns. In recent years, the Governments, Central and State, have also articulated comprehensive policies for the empowerment of women through



a variety of instruments and approaches focusing on an explicit vision of equal partnership of women in all walks of life.

Credit must also be given to a robust women's movement which has often given forceful expression to women's aspirations and joined issue with all the organs of state — legislative, executive and judicial — for reviewing the age-old prescriptions of a patriarchal society. Often they have networked effectively with the international community and fora in the quest for worldwide solidarity on issues affecting women. These interactions have often times changed the idiom of discourse on women's right to justice and development.

The half-century of struggle and reform has undoubtedly had considerable impact on women's world. Some of the key indicators of development have perked up significantly; women's life expectancy has risen; education levels have improved; economic participation has grown. But there are areas of darkness too; crimes against women, both at home and outside, continue unabated; traditional economic occupations have withered in the face of global competition; there is increasing commodification of women's persona and vulgarisation of their image in the media's marketplace. The new economic regime, where Sensex swamps sensibility, has meant the precipitate withdrawal of the state from many fields leaving the weak, including women, in the cold. Similarly laws change; minds don't. Therefore between progressive legislation and sensitive enforcement falls a long shadow. Critics also point out that whatever advances have been made remain confined to urban India and the vast hinterland resists change obstinately.

The overall picture is thus a mixed one leaving the profile of the average Indian woman not substantially altered. But in this vast country there is no average Indian woman. As in all other matters, diversity marks the Indian woman's picture too. How society and economy are coping with the forces of modernisation differs substantially from region to region. The geography of a state provides its own constraints and opportunities; history gives its own moorings to values and momentum to change. Thus the regional profile is superimposed on the national profile. The NCW has therefore commissioned these studies to gauge how women's life has been changing or not changing in different States of the country, and to situate these studies in the historical and geographical context of each region or State so that progress can be measured across time and across space. Such spatial comparisons can highlight what lessons there are to be learnt from the 'leading' areas and equally they help in focusing the attention on the 'lagging' areas. Regionally disaggregated data helps in benchmarking progress of different regions, areas or districts, and can be used for improving performance by attempting to raise the performance levels of the laggards to the average of the State and then matching the State's average to the national average. Interesting insights can also be gleaned from the experience of implementing agencies, both governmental and non-governmental, in dealing with different problems. Some of these may be rooted in the soil of the region and may not lend themselves

to replication but many others can be useful examples to emulate. That is how Best Practices become common practices.

These studies have been carried out by different research groups having special knowledge and interest in the area — its people, its history, its administration, its cultural ambience etc. They have interacted with official agencies as well as with leading NGOs working with women in the respective areas. The NCW has given a helping hand by providing information from its own database where available and also by interacting with the government of the State to set the stage for these exercises. The result is in your hands.

The research effort in respect of Uttaranchal was anchored by Prof. Susheela Kaushik while the NCW team comprising **Dr. Poornima Advani**, Chairperson; **Ms. Anusuiya Uike**, Member and Mr. A.L. Narula, Project Co-ordinator facilitated the dialogue with the Uttaranchal Administration.

It is our hope that this effort will eventually result in the compilation of a comprehensive index of gender development focusing on the key issues in women's lives thus enabling comparisons of achievements and gaps regionally and nationally. This will help scholars and administrators alike.

Place : New Delhi  
Dated : 7.12.2004

  
**(POORNIMA ADVANI)**

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The women of Uttaranchal with whom I have been able to interact in various seminars, their information and views have benefitted me immensely and helped to clarify myself on many issues. My own earlier experiences in the region facilitated an empathetic understanding of the status of women and their issues.

I acknowledge the contribution of my able supporters in C.D.S.A., Shri Geetesh Kumar, Shri K.P. Benjwal and Shri Vijendra Kumar whose unstinted cooperation in typing and procuring material for me, made my tasks lighter.

I am aware the volume needs a follow up by way of additional information and analysis.

Documentation, information and analysis leading to policy making, political initiatives and social action, are continuous activities and need constant updating. One hopes this would come forth from academics, NGOs and Government agencies, belonging to both Uttaranchal and other areas, thereby focussing on the advancement of the brave women of this area, who struggle in their everyday lives to keep the family together and benefit the State and the Community. To these unsung soldiers of a harsh and hazardous mountainous region and their future generations, I dedicate my efforts and dreams.

New Delhi  
1<sup>st</sup> October 2004

**Prof. Susheela Kaushik**

## **PREFACE**

Forming the majority among the rural population, the women in Uttarakhand appear to be politically strong and consulted on various matters regarding the development of their areas, and hence influential. Women of Uttarakhand are popularly held to be self-reliant, fearless and free to make decisions in the family. However in reality the women are not that empowered in the objective sense.

The status of women in Uttarakhand is thus a picture of contradiction. While in some fields like education, agricultural work participation and decision making in agriculture they are better than women elsewhere, there are many other fields like decision making in the family, health and property rights, in which the women of Uttarakhand are in the same situation as other women of India.

To the women of Uttarakhand land, forest and water are the three very essential priorities. At least this is how it is perceived. While these issues are immediately and concretely important from the point of view of the needs of society, economy and the family, and her own daily work, women have other needs which are invisible and not recognised even by them. The women have been trained over centuries to forget or ignore them. The internalisation of patriarchy has helped them to overcome these needs, and thereby neglect themselves and their bodies.

Any situational analysis hence might deal not merely with the physical circumstances and developmental factors but will have to probe deeper into the cultural values and practices - inherited and emerging, as well as find the ways to fill up the gaps. It must view her not merely as a housewife, home manager and producer, but also as equal citizen with political and legal rights, a human being with equal human rights and equity, as well, as a leader and decision maker in the broader social, economic and political departments of the community and the state.

One would then attempt to bring out in this volume the status and rights of women in different aspects of their lives. A highlighting of these issues might help in shaping their future and adopting policies and measures that will lead to their advancement. Being a new state with a high morale and keenness to develop fast and rectify the gaps of previous years, the people of Uttarakhand display a high sense of political consciousness and involvement. This is even more so among the women, most of whom believe in their contribution to the cause of the birth of Uttarakhand.

The women of Uttarakhand then deserve a special look and a special study.

However so far no such study has emerged. In fact there are very little sources of factual information and much of popular impression.

## **Lack of Data**

Uttaranchal being a new state carved out of Uttar Pradesh, much of its data before 2001, has existed as part of those of Uttar Pradesh. The district wise data for UP has also been not available on many fronts. Further after 2000, Uttaranchal had created quite a few new districts by combining and splitting old districts. Access to data and collation has thus become a difficult task, since they are not always available on district wise basis to collate for the state as a whole.

There is, in addition, the normal complaint of all researchers. Data collection and its dissemination on various aspects are not pursued in India as a regular activity. Many details and figures are missing even with the government.

To cite some instance, data on many vital issues are totally lacking. In the case of **health** there is no data available on

- 1) Life expectancy
- 2) Birth rate by sex and rural-urban divide
- 3) Death rate by age, and rural-urban divide and sex.
- 4) Infant mortality rate, district wise and rural-urban divide
- 5) Age wise population rate, by sex and rural-urban divide after 1991
- 6) Average age of marriage; figures on widows, women separated and deserted etc. are totally missing
- 7) Availability of hospital beds on population basis-rural-urban; age and sex wise.

Even where some data on population and health are available it is only upto 1991. No work has been undertaken to compile data after 1991 in many fields, even though Uttaranchal came into being in 2001.

Education is the only field where the government has appreciable data. But even here the data on higher education participation by sex is absent and the figures, where they are do not agree.

This researcher, was further handicapped as the second release of data under 2001 Census was marred by the public controversy over religion based population growth, in September 2004. The figures went underground under the government order. One is also waiting for more data to be released on Census 2001.

Consequently many tables have gaps in them and the analysis based on them is left for the future. One hopes that the data will be released soon.

Still one hopes this volume will bring forth some vital information on Uttaranchal. This volume may be one of first ones, on the status of women in Uttaranchal in a comprehensive scale. More should follow. We hope that the National and State Commissions for Women, the N.G.Os and academic bodies will be working to improve the situation of women at a fast pace.