

## **A Study of the Development of Primary Education in Uttarkashi District (Uttarakhand) From 2001 To 2014**

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**ABSTRACT :** Primary education is recognized as perhaps the most significant phase of education for children's development and learning. The present study focuses on the development of primary education contexts with relatively low formal school enrolment rates, where dropout and failure rates are alarming, and where many children leave school semi-literate, soon to relapse into illiteracy. Educated parents are able to prepare their child for the smooth entry into formal education but no doubt, uneducated parents are unable to do this. In many countries, including the UK, educational policy is subject to continuous change but unfortunately not in India. Enrolment is decreasing, dropout rate is higher, and number of schools is almost same in Uttarkashi district in Uttarakhand state. Free and compulsory education to all children up to the age of fourteen years is a constitutional commitment in India. The Government of India and state government initiated a number of programmes to achieve the goal of Universalization of Elementary Education (UEE), among which the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA), launched in 2001. And Mid Day Meal in 1995 .which means 100 percent enrolment and retention of children with schooling facilities in all habitations. However, the present study highlights decrease in enrolment and retention. For successful implementation of any programme in general and educational programmes in particular, serious monitoring and an effective information system is required.

**KEYWORDS:** Primary Education, Enrolment, Gross Enrolment ratio, Retention

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### **I. INTRODUCTION**

The state is frequently denoted as the Dev Bhumi or Land of God because it houses various religious places and places of worships that are regarded as the most sacred and propitious areas of devotion and pilgrimage. Uttarakhand was created by joining a number of districts from the northwestern part of Uttar Pradesh and a portion of the Himalayan Mountain Range. At present, it is the 27th state of the country. There are 13 Districts in Uttarakhand: Pithoragarh, Almora, Nainital, Bageshwar, Champawat, Uttar Kashi, Udham Singh Nagar, Chamoli, Dehradun, Pauri Garhwal, Tehri Garhwal, Rudraprayag, and Haridwar (Urban). The Population of Uttarakhand as per the census of 2011 is 10,116,752. Out of these, the males constitute of 5,154,178 and females comprise of 4,962,574. The state had a growth rate of 19.17% over the last census. The male to female ratio is 1000: 963 and the population density is 189 per square kilometer. Out of the total population of Uttarakhand 69.45% resides in the rural areas. The total Rural Population of Uttarakhand is 7,025,583. The rest of the 30.55% resides in urban areas. The total Urban Population of Uttarakhand is 3,091,169. The Literacy Rate of Uttarakhand is 79.63 % with Male Literacy at 88.33 % and Female Literacy at 70.70 %. The Total Literate population of the state is 6,997,433. Uttarkashi is placed, at 30.73°N latitude and 78.45°E longitude, at a height of 1160 m above sea level. It is bounded by Chamoli District and China in the East, Dehradun District in the West, Himachal Pradesh in the North and Tehri and Rudraprayag District in the South. Uttarkashi as its name suggests is Kashi of north (Uttar) and is situated on the banks of river Bhagirathi. It is also called the land of Gods and Goddesses. The Ancient Vishwanath Temple devoted to Lord Shiva is situated at the heart of the town.

The Prestigious Nehru institute of mountaineering is also located in Uttarkashi, which conducts various mountaineering and rock climbing, bush craft, waterman ship courses.<sup>1</sup> Uttarkashi District is a district of Garhwal division of the Uttarakhand state in northern India, and has its headquarters at Uttarkashi city. It has six Tehsils named after Badkot, Bhatwadi, Chiniyalisaud, Dunda, Purola, and Mori. The district is named after its headquarters town Uttarkashi, an ancient place with rich cultural heritage and as the name suggests is the Kashi of north (Uttara) held almost as high a veneration as Kashi of the plain (Varanasi). Both the Kashi of the plain (Varanasi) as well as the Kashi of north are situated on the banks of the river Ganga (Bhagirathi). The area, which is held sacred and known as Uttarkashi, lies between the rivers Syalam Gad also known as the Varuna

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<sup>1</sup> <http://azimpremjifoundation.org/uttarkashi>

and Kaligad also known as the Asi. Uttarkashi District town lies high in the Himalaya range, and the district contains the source of both the Ganges and Yamuna rivers, which attract thousands of Hindu pilgrims.

The town lies on the main route to Gangotri, has many Hindu temples, and is considered an important Hindu pilgrimage centre. The terrain and climate of Uttarkashi district provide uncongenial physical environment for human settlement. Yet undaunted by hazards and hardships this land was inhabited by hill tribes since ancient times bringing out the best in man his adaptive talents. The hill tribes namely Kiratas, Uttara Kurus, Khasas, Tanganas, Kunindas, and Pratanganas find references in the Upayana Parva of Mahabharata. The land of Uttarkashi district has been held sacred by Indians since ages where the seers and sages had found solace and spiritual aspirations and performed penances and where devas performed their sacrifices and Vedic language was better known and spoken than elsewhere. People came here for learning Vedic language and speech.<sup>2</sup>

**HISTORY OF UTTARKASHI DISTRICT :** Uttarkashi district was created on February 24, 1960 out of what then constituted the parganas of Rawain and Uttarkashi of Rawain tahsil of erstwhile Tehri Garhwal district. It sprawls in the extreme north-west corner of the state over an area of 8016 sq. kms. In the rugged terrain of the mystic Himalayas. On its north lie Himachal Pradesh State, the territory of Tibet, and the district of Chamoli in the east. The district is named after its headquarters town Uttarkashi, an ancient place with rich cultural heritage and as the name suggests is the Kashi of north (Uttara) held almost as high a veneration as Kashi of the plain (Varanasi). Both the Kashi of the plain (Varanasi) as well as the Kashi of north are situated on the banks of the river Ganga (Bhagirathi). The area, which is held sacred and known as Uttarkashi, lies between the rivers Syalam Gad also known as the Varuna and Kaligad also known as the Asi. The Varuna and the Asi are also the names of the rivers between which the Kashi of the plain lies. One of the holiest Ghats in Uttarkashi is Manikarnika so is the one by the same name in Varanasi. Both have temples dedicated to Vishwanath.

The terrain and climate of Uttarkashi district provide uncongenial physical environment for human settlement. Yet undaunted by hazards and hardships this land was inhabited by hill tribes since ancient times bringing out the best in man his adaptive talents. The hill tribes namely Kiratas, Uttara Kurus, Khasas, Tanganas, Kunindas, and Pratanganas find references in the Upayana Parva of Mahabharata. The land of Uttarkashi district has been held sacred by Indians since ages where the seers and sages had found solace and spiritual aspirations and performed penances and where devas performed their sacrifices and Vedic language was better known and spoken than elsewhere. People came here for learning Vedic language and speech. According to an account given in the Mahabharata, Jada Bharatha a great sage performed penances at Uttarkashi. The Kedar Khand of Skanda Purana refers Uttarkashi and the rivers Bhagirathi, Jahanavi, and Bheel Ganga. The district of Uttarkashi was part of Gharwal Kingdom ruled by Garhwal dynasty that carried the cognomen 'Pal' which was changed to Sah during 15th century conferred by Sultan of Delhi perhaps Bahlul Lodi. In 1803, Gorkhas of Nepal invaded Garhwal and Amar Singh Thapa was made Governor of this region. The Gorkhas encountered the British power in 1814, as their frontiers in Gharwal became determinous with those of the British. The border troubles prompted the Britishers to invade Garhwal. In April 1815, Gorkhas were ousted from Garhwal region and Garhwal was annexed as British district and was split up into eastern and western Garhwal. The British Government retained the eastern Garhwal. The western Garhwal, lying to the west of the Alaknanda River with the exception of the Dun was made over to the heir of Garhwal dynasty Sudarshan Sah. This state came to be known as Tehri Garhwal and it was merged with the state of Uttar Pradesh in 1949 after India attained independence in 1947.<sup>3</sup>

**Uttarkashi District Population 2011 :** In 2011, Uttarkashi had population of 329,686 of which male and female were 168335 and 161351 respectively. In 2001 census, Uttarkashi had a population of 295,013 of which males were 152,016 and remaining 142,997 were females. Uttarkashi District population constituted 3.27 percent of total Maharashtra population. In 2001 census, this figure for Uttarkashi District was at 3.48 percent of Maharashtra population. There was change of 11.89 percent in the population compared to population as per 2001. In the previous census of India 2001, Uttarkashi District recorded increase of 23.07 percent to its population compared to 1991.

As per 2011 census, 92.64 % population of Uttarkashi districts lives in rural areas of villages. The total Uttarkashi district population living in rural areas is 305,781 of which males and females are 155,375 and

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<sup>2</sup> <http://dcmsme.gov.in/dips/DIPSR%20-%20Uttarkashi.pdf>

<sup>3</sup> <http://uttarkashi.nic.in/pages/display/54-history>

150,406 respectively. In rural areas of Uttarkashi district, in 2011 sex ratio is 959 females per 1000 males and in 2001 sex ratio was 941. If child sex ratio data of Uttarkashi district is considered, figure is 924 girls per 1000 boys. Child population in the age 0-6 is 43,663 in rural areas of which males were 22,691 and females were 20,972. The child population comprises 14.60 % of total rural population of Uttarkashi district. Literacy rate in rural areas of Uttarkashi district is 74.74 % as per census data 2011. Gender wise male and female literacy stood at 88.25 and 60.89 percent respectively. In total, 195,909 people were literate of which males and females were 117,095 and 78,814 respectively.<sup>4</sup>

**Uttarkashi Literacy Rate 2011 :** Average literacy rate of Uttarkashi in 2011 were 75.98 compared to 65.71 of 2001. If things are looked out at gender wise, male, and female literacy were 89.26 and 62.23 respectively. For 2001 census, same figures stood at 83.60 and 46.69 in Uttarkashi District. Total literate in Uttarkashi District were 215,126 of which male and female were 128,237 and 86,889 respectively in 2001,

**Primary Education in Uttarkashi :** School education besides being a basic human need is vital for raising the standard of life, providing gainful employment, removal of regional backwardness, thereby ensuring overall development and wellbeing of a country. Primary education is the foundation on which the development of every child and the nation as a whole built on. Uttarkashi is one of the hill district of Uttarakhand. In Uttarkashi, there are 769 primary schools and 23779 students were enrolled.<sup>5</sup> Free and compulsory education to all children up to the age fourteen is constitutional commitment in India. The Parliament of India has passed Right through which education has become fundamental right of all children of age group 6-14 years. The country is yet to achieve the elusive goal of Universalisation of Elementary education (UEE), which means 100 percent enrolment and retention of children with schooling facilities in all habitations.

National Programme of Nutritional support of Primary Education (NP-NSPE) popularly known as the Mid-day-meal (MDM) scheme was formally launched on the 15<sup>th</sup> August 1995. The scheme envisaged every child in primary school to be provided cooked meal during the school hours with a maximum content of 450 calories and 12 gm of protein each day of school. Earlier state was the part of Uttar Pradesh before 8 Nov. 2000. In Uttar Pradesh dry ration distribution pattern was observed for Mid-day-meal scheme. Children enrolled in primary schools with their parents received food grain to carry it home every month. Only rice or wheat was provided to the children. It was not felt sufficient from nutritional point of view. With these efforts there was a slight improvement in enrolment but retention of these children in scheme is still remaining a challenge to the department and Govt. According to Health check-up drive under DPEP-III and SSA It was noticed that about 50% children enrolled in primary schools are anaemic. Percentage of girls child is little higher. This shows that the pattern of providing MDM is not up to the satisfaction of the children as well as the govt so far the enrolment and retention are concerned. Sarva Siksha Abhiyan (SSA) is implemented as state's main programme for universalizing Elementary Education. Its overall goals include universal access and retention, bridging of gender and social category gaps in education and enhancement of learning levels of children. SSA provides a variety of interventions including inter alia opening of new schools and special training camps for the dropped out and out of school children for their admission in age appropriate classes, construction of schools and additional classrooms, separate toilets for boys and girls, adequate drinking water facilities, provisioning of regular teachers, part time teachers, training and academic resource support, textbooks, uniform and mainly supports for learning achievement.<sup>6</sup>

However, despite of all above initiatives taken by state and centre governments, the overall development of primary schools especially in hill and rural areas is not satisfactory. In this connection, many questions automatically spring up in the minds of everyone concerned with primary education. How is the development of primary education in Uttarakhand? What is the situation of enrollment particularly in rural areas? What is the pupil teacher ratio and what are the infrastructural constraints in the schools? These are many such questions will find reliable answer only through serious sincere, scientific and systematic research. This study will be a humble attempt in this direction.

**Need of the study :** There are number of studies in other states related to primary education. However, in Uttarakhand, there not any study related to primary education and there is a need to data study. The present study is an attempt to study the development of primary education in Uttarkashi district (Uttarakhand).

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<sup>4</sup> <http://www.census2011.co.in/census/district/574-uttarkashi.html>

[http://censusindia.gov.in/2011-prov-results/data\\_files/uttarakhand/ppt\\_figures\\_press](http://censusindia.gov.in/2011-prov-results/data_files/uttarakhand/ppt_figures_press)

<sup>5</sup> district Project Officer, Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan Uttarkashi

<sup>6</sup> <http://ssa.uk.gov.in/>

**Problem Entitled:** A Study Of The Development Of Primary Education In Uttarkashi District (Uttarakhand) From 2001 To 2014

### **Concept Employed in the Study**

- **Development-** Development in primary education refers to increase in enrollment, low dropout rate, good infrastructure, proper pupil teacher ratio, and good educational facilities.
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- **Primary Education-** School having class from 1<sup>st</sup> to 5<sup>th</sup> class is categorized as primary education in Uttarakhand government school education system.

## **II. REVIEW OF THE RELATED LITERATURE**

**Banerjee, Rukmini. (2000).** conducted field studies in Mumbai and Delhi to focus Poverty and primary schooling: The study, analyzed the hurdles, which have to be crossed in order to achieve universal primary education. The study revealed that the reason for so many children not being in school had less to do with their families economic circumstances than with the school system's shortcomings. The inadequacy of the school system to attract and keep children is more crucial than households' economic conditions. School enrolment has risen dramatically in cities and villages, but the ability of the government school system to retain and adequately educate children has been less impressive. The study also revealed that achievement levels in primary schools were the same between Classes III and IV. It was observed that children who had been to school for several years are not permanently literate. The study suggested adopting a flexible approach, accountability to the community, innovative actions at the local level whether in the classroom or in the community must be recognized for the universalization of primary education in India. Commitment on the part of schools and communities to the education of all children must be publicly rewarded.

**Adhikari, Tejaswini. (2001).** identified the gaps in the existing services and needs of students and teachers in the context of quality education. The survey included five schools, under Navi Mumbai Municipal Corporation (NMMC). The study revealed that the infrastructure of schools was in a very poor state. The number of classrooms, teachers, tables, and chairs were inadequate. For 420 students there were only three classrooms and only two teachers looked after the entire school. Due to their good accessible location and low cost education, most of the schools had a large number of children in their classrooms. There is a need to strengthen teachers on aspects of motivation, pro-children attitudes, and creative teaching learning process. Appointment of suitable staff is also recommended in order to lessen the burden on teachers. There is need to provide a good network of balwadis, restructure the human resource component of schools, and enhance community participation. There is also a need to provide training to functionaries.

### **Objectives of the study**

- To study the Demographic features of primary schools in Uttarkashi District.
- To trace the Growth and Development of primary education in Uttarkashi district in various aspects such as Schools, Teachers. Enrolment, retention.

**Delimitation of the study :** Delimitation is boundaries of the study. The delimitation of the study is a necessary point of research. Because it saves wastage of time, money and labor. The present study was confined to Uttarkashi district of Uttarakhand. The study was delimited to the government primary schools.

## **III. METHODOLOGY**

The present study is an attempt to discuss the development of primary education. In this study, Primary and secondary data has been taken into consideration. The data has been collected from district project officer Serva Shiksha Abhiyan, Uttarkashi and annual reports of state government. It is a data study and qualitative, historical study in nature. All primary schools and their teachers, students in Uttarkashi district constituted the population. All govt primary schools of Uttarkashi district has been taken as a sample of the study by using purposive sampling method.

### **Data Analysis**

**TABLE NO-1**  
Population of Uttarkashi district year wise

YEAR	POPULATION YEARWISE
2000-2001	295013
2001-2002	298494
2002-2003	301975
2003-2004	305456
2004-2005	308937
2005-2006	311418
2006-2007	314899
2007-2008	318380
2008-2009	321861
2009-2010	325342
2010-2011	329686

Source-District project officer SSA Uttarkashi District

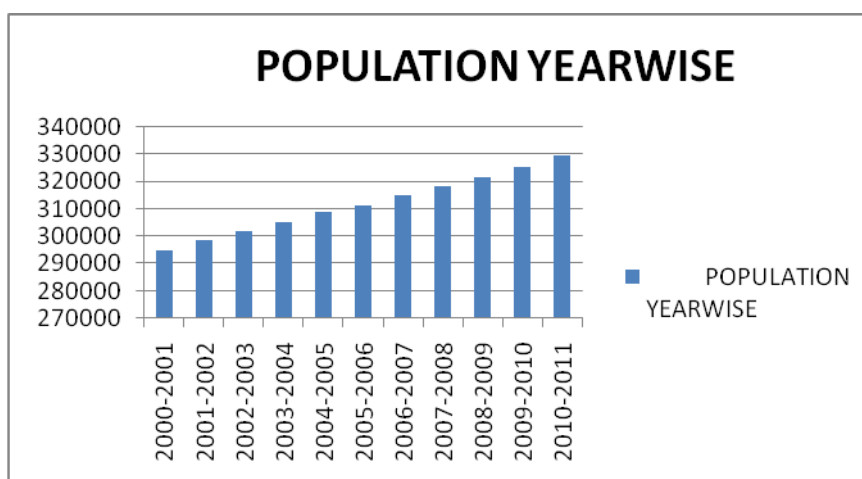


Table one show the population year wise of Uttarkashi district (Uttarakhand) there is a consistant growth in the population.

**TABLE NO-2**  
NO.OF PRIMARY SCHOOLS IN UTTARKASHI DISTRICT

YEAR	NO.OF PRIMARY SCHOOLS
2000-2001	699
2001-2002	699
2002-2003	699
2003-2004	699
2004-2005	700
2005-2006	716
2006-2007	741
2007-2008	758
2008-2009	769
2009-2010	769
2010-2011	769
2011-2012	769
2012-2013	769

Source-District project officer SSA Uttarkashi District

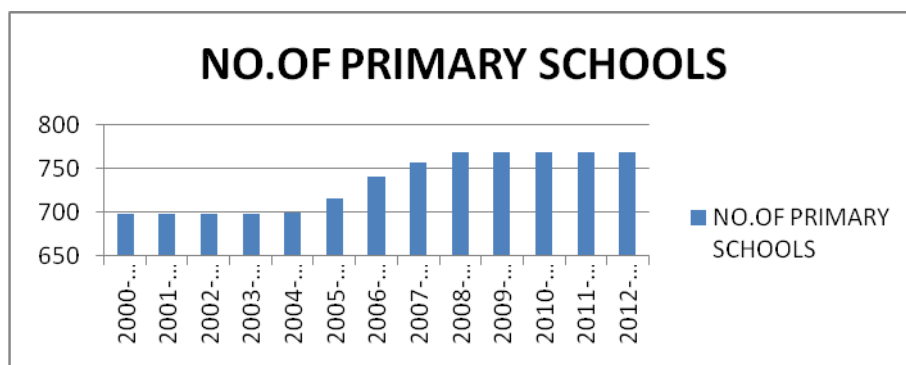


Table no. 2 shows the no. of primary schools and its growth year wise. From 2001 to 2005 no. of schools were same. The no. of schools rose from 2006 to 2013.

Table N0-3

Population Growth And Groth In Primary Schools In Uttarkashi District Year Wise From 2001 To 2010

Source-District project officer SSA Uttarkashi District

YEAR	POPULATION GROWTH(%)	GROWTH(%) IN PRIMARY SCHOOLS
2000-2001	1.17	0
2001-2002	1.16	0
2002-2003	1.15	0
2003-2004	1.13	0.001
2004-2005	1.12	0.022
2005-2006	1.11	0.035
2006-2007	1.1	0.022
2007-2008	1.09	0.014
2008-2009	1.08	0
2009-2010	1.31	0

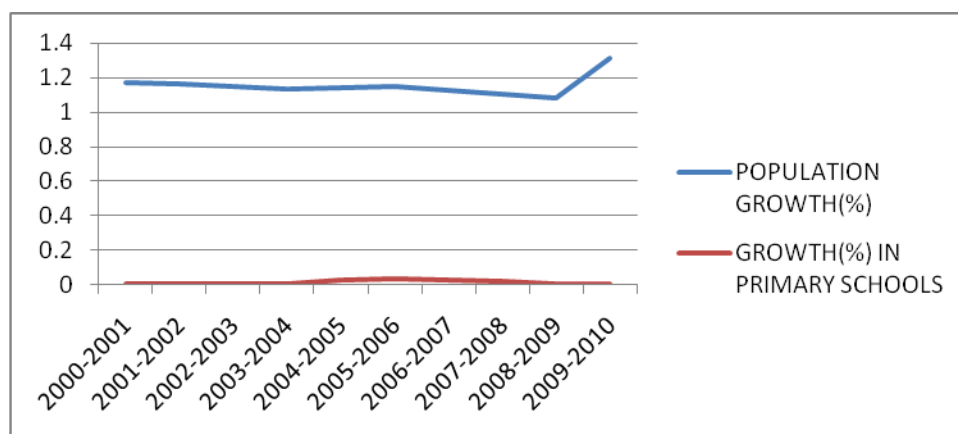
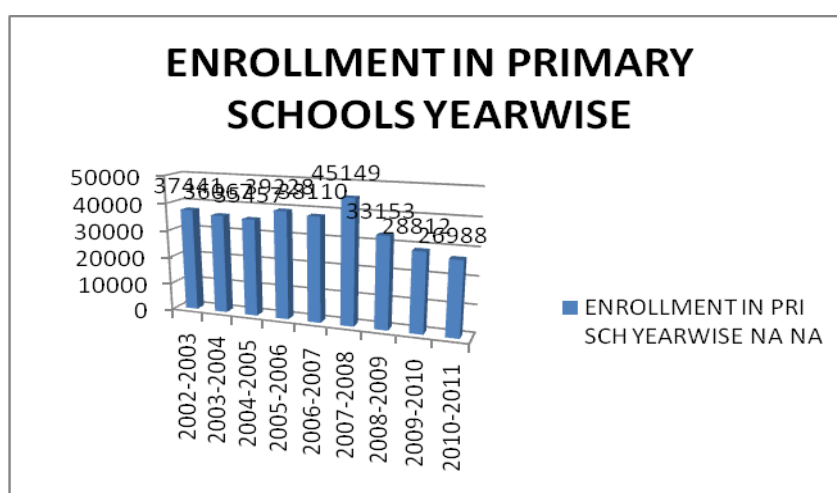


Table no three shows the growth in population and growth in primary schools from 2001 to 2010. In this period, there is a constant growth in population however; schools growth is not according to population. From 2001 to 2004 there was zero growth in primary schools in 2006-it rose and up to 2008. In 2009 and 2010, number was same means growth was zero in this period.

Table No -4  
Enrolment In Primary Schools In Uttarkashi

YEAR	ENROLLMENT IN PRI SCH YEARWISE
2000-2001	NA
2001-2002	NA
2002-2003	37441
2003-2004	36067
2004-2005	35457
2005-2006	39228
2006-2007	38110
2007-2008	45149
2008-2009	33153
2009-2010	28812
2010-2011	26988



Source-District project officer SSA Uttarkashi District

Table no four shows enrolment in primary schools in uttarkashi district. Table shows there is a constant decline in enrolment from 2001 to 2011.

Table No-5  
No. Of Boys And Girls Enrolled In Primary Schools  
In Uttarkashi District

Source-District project officer SSA Uttarkashi District

YEAR	NO. OF BOYS	NO.OF GIRLS
2000-2001	NA	NA
2001-2002	NA	NA
2002-2003	17065	20376
2003-2004	15652	20415
2004-2005	15994	19463
2005-2006	17869	21359
2006-2007	17193	20917
2007-2008	21112	24037
2008-2009	15172	17981
2009-2010	13000	15812
2010-2011	11916	15072
2011-2012	10878	14028
2012-2013	10338	13441
2013-2014	9818	12829

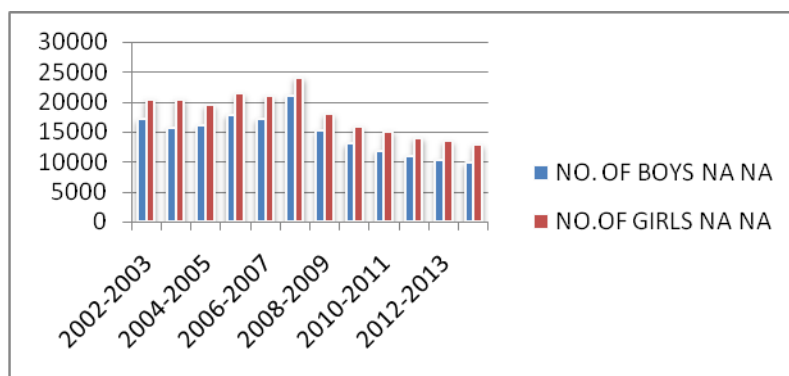


Table no five shows the number of boys and girls enrolled in primary schools in Uttarkashi district. Percentage of boys is lesser than girl's percentage.

Table No-6  
Percentage Of Girls And Boys In Primary Schools  
In Uttarkashi District

YEAR	% OF GIRLS ENROLMENT	% OF BOYS ENROLMENT
2000-2001	NA	NA
2001-2002	NA	NA
2002-2003	54.42	45.58
2003-2004	56.6	43.4
2004-2005	54.8	45.2
2005-2006	54.44	45.56
2006-2007	54.88	45.12
2007-2008	53.23	46.77
2008-2009	54.23	45.77
2009-2010	54.87	45.13
2010-2011	55.84	44.16
2011-2012	56.32	43.68
2012-2013	56.52	43.68
2013-2014	56.64	43.36

Source-District project officer SSA Uttarkashi District

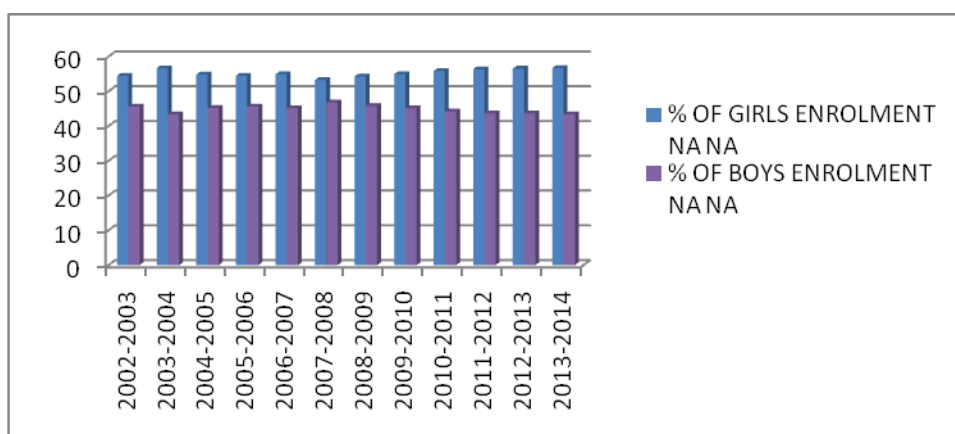


Table no six shows girl's percentage is higher than boy's percentage. Percentage of boys is decreasing consistently.



### **Findings of the study**

- There was consistent growth in population in Uttarakashi district from 2001 to 2011. In 2001, population was 295,013 and after a decade i.e. in 2011, it was 329,686.
- During 2001-2002 there were 699 primary schools in Uttarkashi district. In 2004-2005 number gone up to 700. In addition, in 2012-2013 there were 769 primary schools in the district. Total 70 primary schools were increased in last 13 years.
- Percentage of growth of primary schools was zero from 2001 to 2003. Growth rose in 2003-2004, 2004-2005, 2005-2006 and in 2007-2008 by 0.001, 0.022, 0.035, 0.022 and 0.014 respectively. During 2008-2009 and 2009-2010 schools, growth was zero.
- Enrolment of boys and girls is decreasing. In 2002-2003 session there were 37,441 students were enrolled, in 2010-2011 session enrolment was came down up to 26,988.
- In 2002-2003 there were 17065 boys enrolled and in 2013-2014 session enrolment came down up to 9818. Similarly, in 2002-2003 session girls enrolment was 20376. In addition, in 2013-2014 it was 12824. There was a huge down fall in enrolment of girls and boys from 2001 to 2014 onwards.

### **IV. CONCLUSION**

Education for children aged 6-14 is receiving a great deal of attention internationally. It is recognized as perhaps the most significant phase of education for children's development and learning. Not over all development of primary schools especially in hill and rural areas is satisfactory. In this connection, many questions automatically spring up in the minds of everyone concerned with primary education. There is a need of serious implementation of state, centre governments sponsored programmes like SSA and Mid Day Meal especially in hill, and rural areas of Uttarakhand. Government and Education Department must take serious steps to make education policy for hill and rural areas of Uttarakhand.

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