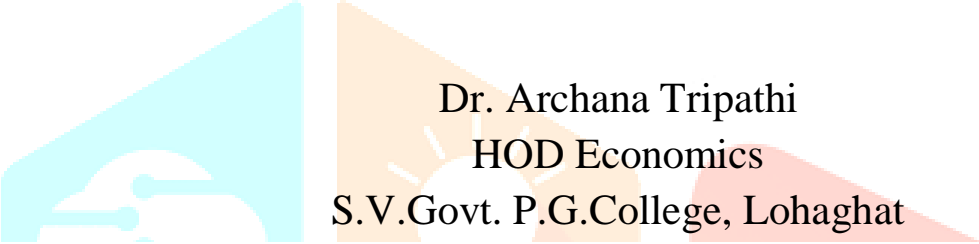




# A STUDY ABOUT FACTORS CAUSING THE ABSENTEEISM OF STUDENTS IN HIGHER EDUCATION OF UTTARAKHAND

(WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE OF DISTRICT CHAMPAWAT)



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## ABSTRACT-

Education is critical to a nation's social, economic, spiritual, and cultural development. Everyone, in every field of life, requires education. Higher education allows people to develop their abilities to their full potential throughout their lives, allowing them to progress intellectually and professionally, contribute successfully to society, and attain personal fulfilment. The Indian higher education system was ranked third in the world, but it is still lagging behind in the race for first place. Uttarakhand's higher education system is beset by issues. Student absenteeism at higher education institutions is a big issue. If students remain absent in their classes then they deprive from so many things as environment of college, personal effects of their teachers, involvement in co-curriculum activities etc. The purpose of this study to examine the factors which are responsible for students' absenteeism in higher education.

**KEYWORDS-** Students, Higher education, Absenteeism, Problem

**INTRODUCTION-** In India, the value of education is well recognized.

The adage "vidwan pujayte sarvatra" demonstrates the importance of an educated person. The importance of education in the development of a country cannot be overstated. As a result, the proliferation of educational institutes is expanding.

In terms of students, India's higher education system is the third largest in the world. To enter a more complicated and interdependent world, postsecondary education must provide graduates with new skills, a global knowledge foundation and a diverse set of competences. Higher education has a critical role in self-sufficiency and national development. One can obtain a higher education through institutions such as universities, colleges, and other similar institutions. Higher educational institutes, such as universities,

colleges, and other similar institutions, can help people expand their abilities, knowledge, and gain a broader perspective of the world around them. India is a federal country with both the centre and the states sharing responsibility. The higher education system of India is largest in the world with close to 52000 institutions and enrollment in it four times what it was in 2001 according to a November 2019 Brookings India report entitled Reviving higher education in India. Reviving Higher Education in India is a Brookings India report. In India, there are now 35.7 million students registered in institutions and colleges. In 2016, India's gross enrollment ratio was 26.3 percent, which is more than double the GER of a decade ago, which was 11.5 percent in 2006. It is still below the ministry of HRD's objective of 32.2 percent by 2022.

Higher education can help the region's economy in a variety of ways, including job creation, increased consumer spending, and cash generated from outside the region at the expense of students and tourists. The colleges in Uttarakhand are experiencing a shortage of students.

There is a low rate of attendance, particularly in government colleges. The purpose of this study is to learn more about the highly impacting factors that lead to poor attendance and absenteeism among children in the district of Champawat in Uttarakhand.

## HIGHER EDUCATION SENERIO IN UTTARAKHAND

According to The Times of India, nearly four out of every ten young people in Uttarakhand aged 18 to 23 attend college. Uttarakhand's GER was 39, which was significantly higher than the national average of 26.3. The following is the status of higher education in India and Uttarakhand:

	<b>INDIA</b>	<b>UTTARAKHAND</b>
Number of universities	760	29
Number of central universities	45	01
Number of public universities	322	11
Number of state private univercities	192	18
Number of deemed universities	128	3
Number of colleges	38498	454
Population (18-23 age)	14.10 crore	25.60 lakh
Total enrollment	3.42 crore	4-16 lakh
Gross enrollment ratio (GER)	27.1	41.5
GER of male	26.9	40.7
GER of female	27.3	42.3

College density (number of colleges per lakh population 18-23)	27	38
Number of total pass out student	8828545	108708

Source- [All India Survey On Higher Education (2019-20) M.H.R.D, Department of higher education, Government Of India]

### REVIEW OF LITERATURE-

According to the UGC Report on Higher Education (2005), examination reforms should be undertaken, gradually transitioning from terminal, annual, and semester tests to frequent and continuous assessments of Students' learning performance.

In his work, Dr. J. D. Singh (2011) emphasizes the importance of a massive rise in higher education institutions being able to address the key challenges of quality. It is critical to revisit financial resources, quality standards, reliance, and reactivity in order to meet future needs. We are supplying skilled individuals to the rest of the world. We can move our country from a developing to a developed country by identifying the true issues, reorganising our resources, and deciding on duties in higher education.

G. Shankaranarayan Rao (2021) collected data in an electronic format on the quality of higher education institutes in Andhra Pradesh in order to determine Whether or not students provide accurate feedback. He discovered that students frequently do not provide appropriate feedback. As a result, relying solely on surveys or data can provide a misleading picture of higher education. For accurate information, impartial observation is required.

### IN TERMS OF EDUCATION, THE STATE OF UTTARAKHAND SHOWS

A BETTER IMAGE, BUT MANY ACTIONS ARE STILL REQUIRED. There are numerous

reasons for students' absence from class, including a lack of

desire and motivation, the availability of substandard study materials on

the market, and a defective and erroneous evolution system, to name a few.

It is more vital to focus on the quality of higher education than than the quantity.

The quality of higher education is worsening as the number of students increases.

Graduates of colleges and universities are unable to express themselves clearly

and correctly in their native language as well as in English. Language and

Communication abilities are deteriorating at an alarming rate.

The grim reality is that government college's account for the majority of colleges in Uttarakhand. Students' financial circumstances require them to rely solely on these universities rather than other private options. On the other hand, the majority of the pupils come from outlying places. I found the cost of getting to and from college to be prohibitive. As a result, this is the primary cause of student absence. Because they cannot afford alternative options and are relatively static, these cater to kids from impoverished families and socially backward classes.

**THE STUDY AREA-** The district of Champawat has been chosen for this research. In census 2011, male and female populations were 131125 and 128523, respectively, in one of Uttarakhand's thirteen districts, which is part of the eastern Kumaun division. According to the 2011 census, it is the second least populous among Uttarakhand's 13 districts. Average literacy rate in Champawat district as per census 2011 is 82.65 percent of which males and females are 88.26 percent and 76-40 percent literates respectively. There are 11 higher education institutes in which 07 are Government institute and rest 04 are private institute.

### **STUDY OBJECTIVE**

- To investigate the factors that influence student absenteeism in colleges.
- Identifying problems encountered by students pursuing higher education
- To investigate the relationship between demographic, socioeconomic, and other factors influencing student absenteeism.

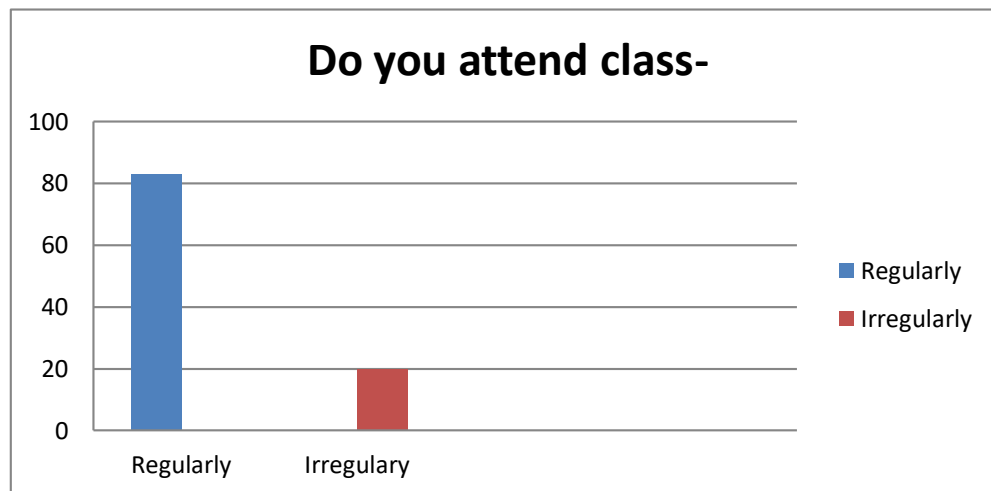
### **LIMITATIONS-**

- The following limitations are bound to have an impact on the study's results and findings.
- Because the results and findings are based on respondents' opinions, they cannot be generalized.
  - The study's sample size is limited to 130 participants.

### **RESEARCH METHODOLOGY-**

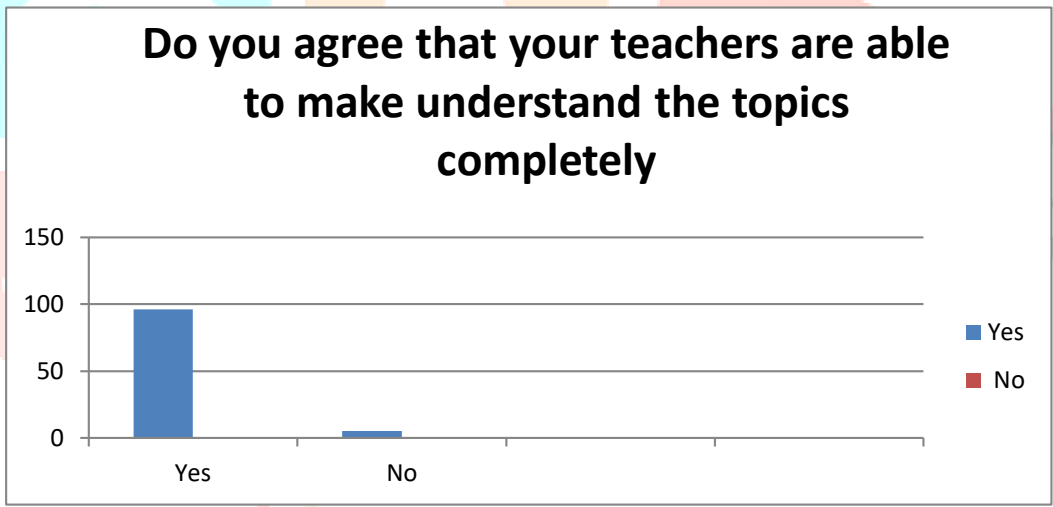
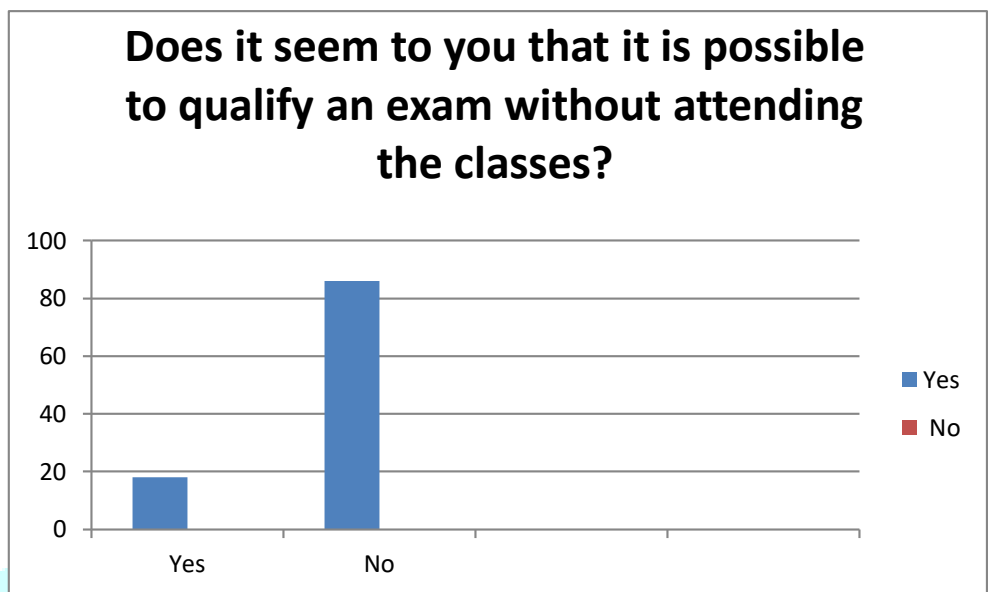
This is a descriptive study. The purpose of this study is to examine the factors that influence student absenteeism in colleges in the district Champawat of the state of Uttarakhand. A sample size of 130 (56 boys and 74 girls) respondents is chosen using the stratified random sampling technique. To analyze and draw conclusions, the percentage method analysis, descriptive statistics, and observation were used.

## INTERPRETATION AND ANALYSIS

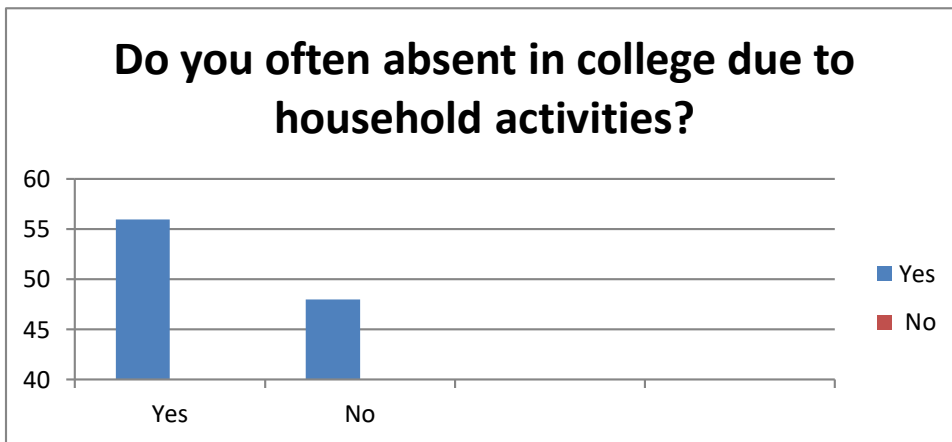


The table below depicts the number of pupils in each class. This is evident in the figure, which shows that 16.3 percent of students are aware that they are attending college on an irregular basis. By observation, we find that presence of students is not so much as the survey says. Usually students' enthusiasm remains at high level in starting semesters, but after two or three semester, students' presence in class begins to reduce. The reason behind this that after school education, students have charm and attraction and enthusiasm for college education and environment, but after sometimes charm and attraction of college reduce and students often join any coaching or computer class. Thus the presence of student reduces in classes.

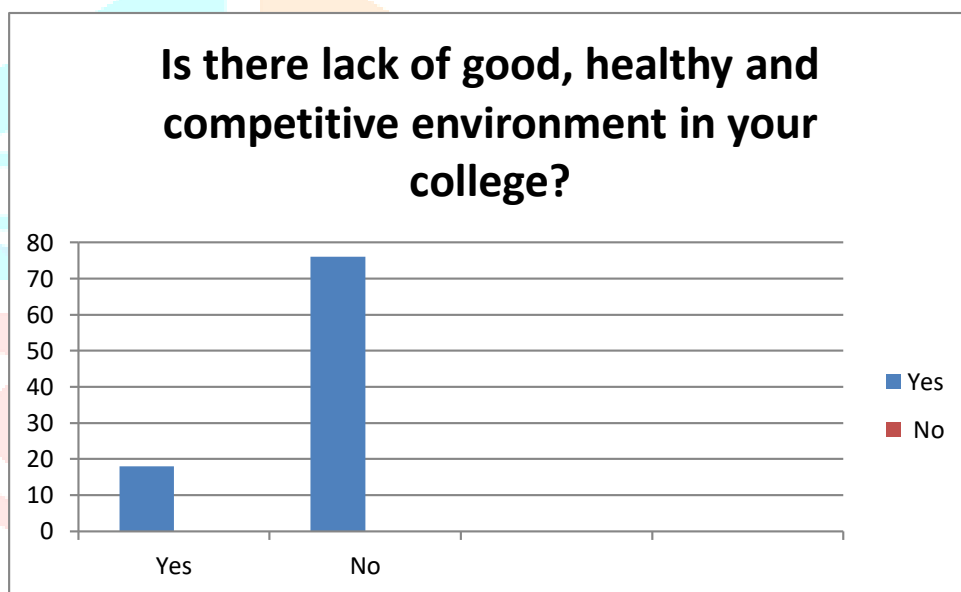
A huge majority of students believe that professors are capable of making issues understandable. 96.2 percent of students are happy with their professors. But it is a harsh truth that those faculties of higher education should be more perfect especially in uses of technology. As in pandemic time many teachers feel difficulties in using of gadgets.



In response to a query, it is possible to pass an examination without attending class. This is something that 14% of students agree with. Colleges play a vital role in qualifying examinations, according to the majority of students. Students who are technologically empowered and come from upper- and middle-class families agree that they can pass an examination without going to college. In this case, online research is beneficial. In response to the issue of whether schools can provide a decent, healthy, and competitive atmosphere, 76 percent of students believe they can.

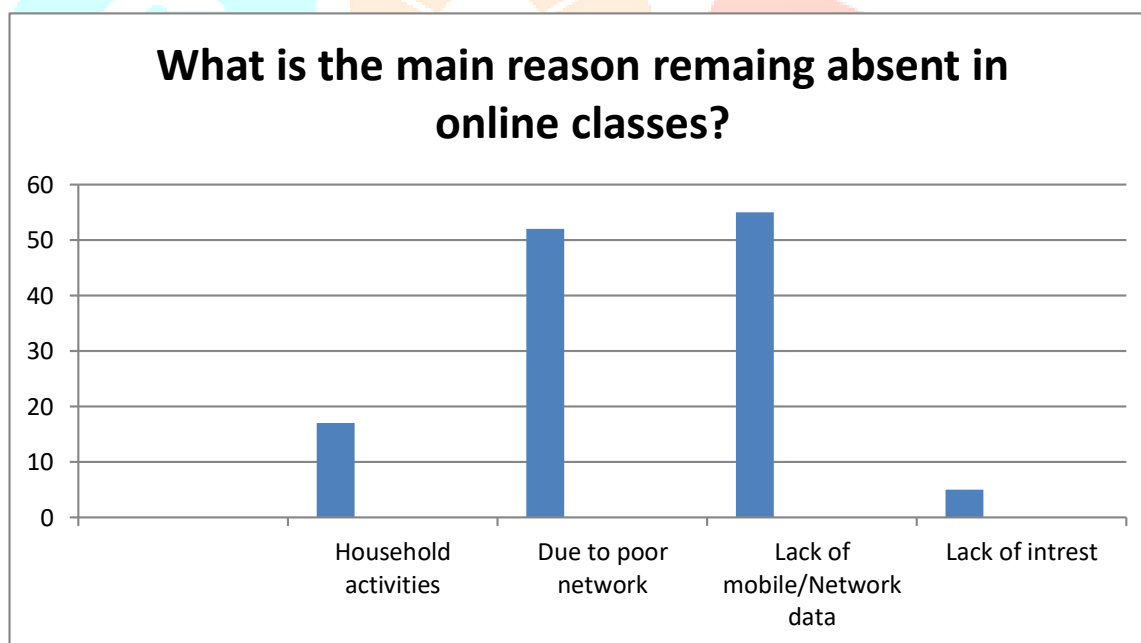
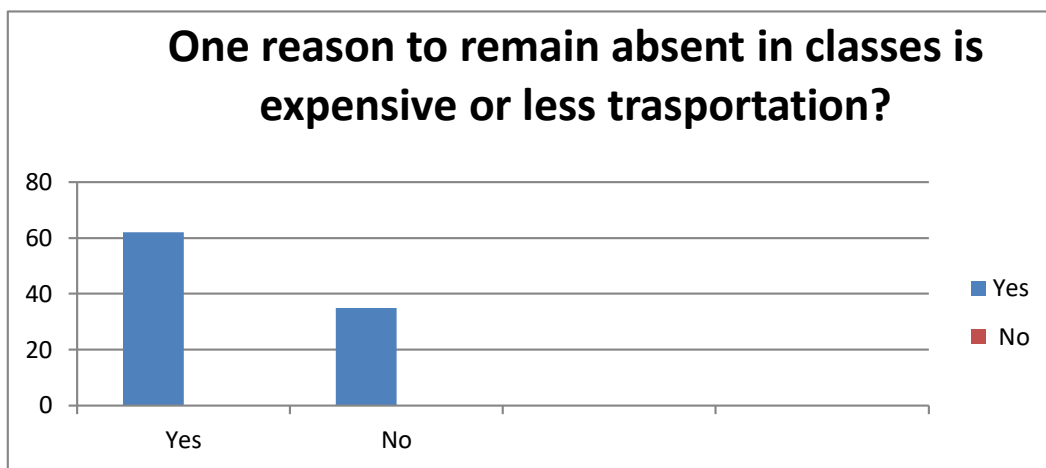


76% students accept that colleges are able to give a healthy and competitive environment. Mostly students seem to satisfy that colleges in hilly area are good enough to provide a healthy and competitive environment.



Students acknowledge that family chores are the primary cause of absenteeism. This is accepted by about half of the pupils (54.3%). Because there are more female students in colleges than male students, it is easy to deduce that girls fulfill domestic activities more willingly or unwillingly.

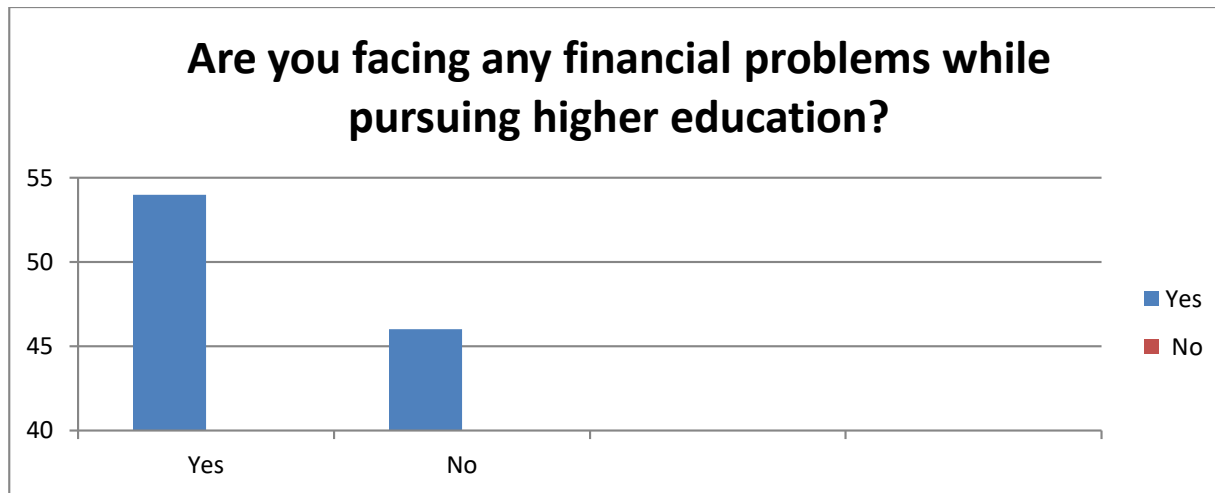
Absenteeism is common in online classes. Students acknowledge that a lack of mobile/network data is the primary cause. Lack of mobile/network data is cited as the primary cause for absence in online classes by 42.6 percent of students, followed by a weak network (40.3 percent), family activities (13.2 percent), and lack of interest (3 percent).



Students accept that insufficient or extensive transportation is a major cause of absenteeism. This is supported by 68.2% of students. Transportation plays a crucial part in ensuring that students attend college on a regular basis. Because the majority of pupils in the hilly region of Chapmawat come from rural areas, transportation should be frequent and inexpensive for them.



53.5% students accept that they feel financial problems to continuing the higher education. Students feel difficulties for paying fees, purchasing books, uniforms etc. In hills, mostly families are depend on seasonal agriculture and no frequent income so often it is difficult to pay money for education purpose.



## CONCLUSION-

In field of education, Uttarakhand state demonstrates a better picture but still many actions are needed. There are so many reasons for students' absenteeism in classes- lack of desire and motivation, availability of sub standard study material in the market, defected and wrongful evolution system etc. The growth of higher educational institute is growing rapidly but quality of higher education is more important instead of quantity. Quality of higher education is deteriorating with quantitative expansion. Those who are passing out of colleges and universities are not able to write and express themselves clearly and correctly either in their mother tongue or in English. The decline of linguistic and communication skills is alarming.

Here is a harsh truth that out of the total number of colleges in the Uttarakhand most are government colleges. The financial condition of the students force them to rely on these colleges only rather other private option. And other side most of the students belong to the remote areas, found transportation to the college expensive. Thus, this is the major reason for the absenteeism of students. These cater to students coming from poor families and socially backward classes as they cannot afford other options and are relatively immobile.

For female students, security is their priory. Mostly female students come from remote and rural area of district Champawat, so by providing a secure environment can lead to their presence. Good infrastructure and availably of toilets and water can increase the regular presence and participation of female students in all activities of college. Need of female students for more special facilities to ensure their greater and more regular participation in all

activities of institutions especially in rural area is missing. Private/public transport to and from the colleges is irregular and low frequency leads to very low attendance.

For lower economic class especially rural poor traditional institutions due to financial and mobility constraints are the only option available but public remains highly critical of their performance and role.

Most studies and researches do not raise the issue of absenteeism of students in higher education, which is a bit ironic. If this problem handled wisely and intelligently, any challenges in higher education can be solved. Regular presence of students in colleges build up skill development which leads to employment guarantees especially for rural and semi rural youths of Uttarakhand.

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