

## Status of Prisons and Prison Libraries in Uttarakhand State

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### Abstract

The prisons which are considered as the correctional centers must have the libraries so that those prisoners who are interested can pursue their studies using books from there. Others, also may have some entertainment material from these libraries. But it is seen prison library system in India is not so well established, and so is the case with Uttarakhand State.

This paper discusses the state of art of prison library system and what the prisoners want to have in their libraries. The findings of this study may be useful for the prison authorities to develop prison libraries in the state.

**Keywords:** Prisons; Prison Libraries; Uttarakhand.

### Introduction

The prison is “a place properly arranged and equipped for the reception of person who by legal process are committed to it for safe custody while awaiting trial or for the punishment”<sup>8</sup>. The main purpose of prison is the protection of the community, supply of food, clothing, shelter to convicted criminals, protection of inmates from each other and from persons in the outside community, imposition of punishment and rehabilitation of criminals. The prisons are managed and governed by the State Governments and Union Territories under the 7<sup>th</sup> Schedule of the Constitution of India. Governments of the States and Union Territories have the last word in all the matters relating to the prevention and detection of crime, trial and sentencing of offenders and the custody of criminals in prisons. State Governments have the powers to make rules and regulations for the administration and management of prisons and correctional institutions. However, there should be the libraries attached to the prisons so that, the prisoners can make use of them.

### What are Prison Libraries

Prison libraries are the special libraries which

within prisons usually serve a dual function: firstly, to provide for prisoners' private use a range of information resources and reading and listening materials and secondly, to provide resources to support prison education, training and rehabilitation programmes. Some prison libraries also provide access to distance learning courses, run basic skills classes and reading or creative writing programmes, and offer information and guidance services. These are usually staffed by a combination of professional librarians, prison officers, library assistants employed by local authorities and prison authorities.<sup>7</sup>

Lemon<sup>6</sup> is of the opinion that the libraries in prisons play an important role in supporting the prison's mission of rehabilitating the inmates, to assist them with legal issues, education, computer skills, career information, resumes and treatment. He further adds that the library should provide supplementary materials for inmates' learning and for on-the-job training courses offered at the prison institution, in such fields as air-conditioning and refrigeration, electrical and construction trades etc.

### Uttarakhand State

Uttarakhand, formerly known as Uttaranchal, is a state in the northern part of India. It is often

referred to as the "Land of the Gods" due to many holy Hindu temples and pilgrimage centers found throughout the state. Known for its natural beauty of the Himalayas, the Bhabhar and the Terai, the state was carved out of the Himalayan and adjoining north western districts of Uttar Pradesh on 9 November 2000, becoming the 27<sup>th</sup> state of the Republic of India.

Dehradun is the capital of the state and its area rank is 19<sup>th</sup> and literacy rate as per census of India 2011, is 79.63%. There are 13 districts in Uttarakhand which are grouped into two divisions: Kumaon and Garhwal. Besides, there are 107 subdistricts, 115 towns, 16793 villages and 108 CD blocks (<http://www.districtdemographicstat.com/uttarakhand/statedistrict.aspx>)

Table 1 shows that there are only 10 prisons in the state and all of them were established when the state was the part of Uttar Pradesh. No prison

is opened or established after the creation of the state; however, new campus for Dehradun prison was made in the year 2008. But there is no prison in Rudraprayag, Uttarkashi and Bageshwar districts and Udham Singh Nagar has its no district prison rather an open prison/central prison is there.

*Earlier Studies*

Anupama<sup>1</sup> has studied prison library system of Himachal Pradesh. Dhiman and Sharma<sup>3</sup> have also given stress over to develop prison libraries in India. However, as far as Uttarakhand state is concerned, only one study by Dhiman and Sharma<sup>4</sup> is carried out to compare library facility of Almora and Haridwar prison libraries. Thus, not many studies have been carried out for prison library system in our country, especially for Uttarakhand state.



**Figure 1: District Map of Uttarakhand**

**Table 1: Name of the Prisons and Establishment Year of them**

Sr. No	Types of Jails	Place	Establishment Year
1.	Almora (District Jail)	Almora	1972
2	Chamoli (District Jail)	Chamoli	1953
3	Dehradun (District Jail)	Dehradun	1907 (Shifted to its new campus in 2008)
4	Haldwani (Sub-Jail)	Haldwani	1902
5	Haridwar (District Jail)	Haridwar	1999
6	Nainital (District Jail)	Nainital	1906
7	Pauri Garhwal (District Jail)	Pauri	1902
8	Roorkee (SubJail)	Roorkee	1953
9	Tehri Garhwal (District Jail)	New Tehri	1992
10	Udham Singh Nagar (Open/Central) Jail	Sitar Ganj	1903

*Objectives of the Study*

The following objectives are formed for this study:

- To know the total numbers of prisoners
- To know the total strength of prisoners
- To know the age wise strength of the prisoners
- To know the education standard of the prisoners
- To know the religion wise strength of the prisoners
- To know the marital status of the prisoners
- To know the language wise strength of the prisoners
- To know the duration of imprisonment
- To know the offense wise strength of the prisoners
- To know the previous occupation of the prisoners
- To ascertain whether the prisons have libraries or not? and
- To know what the prisoners want to study in their libraries

**Research Methodology**

A standard questionnaire was prepared to collect various information from the prisoners. Though, it was very difficult to collect the data from the prisons and the prisoners, inspite of that personal visits were made in many of the prisons and prisoners were contacted to have their views on

various points. However, some information was also collected through secondary sources, i.e., from the prison authorities.

*Data Tabulation and Analysis*

It was very difficult to interact with the prisoners in the prisons due to security and other reasons; thus, only few responses came from the prisoner side. However, their responses along with the information collected from prison authorities are analyzed for various objectives framed for the study.

**Total Numbers of Prisoners and Responses received from Different Prisons**

Table 2 gives an idea about the strength of the prisoners in different prisons and the responses received from them. It is very clear from the data presented and analyzed in the table that maximum responses came from the Tehri Garhwal (5.94%) prison and minimum of 1.95% from Haridwar district prison. Further, out of total 5099 prisoners, interaction/information could be received from 128 prisoners who constitute to 2.51% among the total prisoners.

**Total Strength (Convicted and Under trial) of Prisoners**

Table 3 shows the detail of total strength of convicted and under – trial prisoners in all the prisons of Uttarakhand state.

It is clearly seen that out of total 5099 prisoners, 1725 males are convicted and 3124 are under trail – they are 33.83% and 61.24% of the total prisoners. Further, out of 5099 total prisoners, 75 females are convicted and 175 are under trail which form 1.47% and 3.43% among the total prisoners.

**Table 2:** Total Numbers of Prisoners and Responses received from Different Jails

Sr No	District/Sub-Jails	Name of the Prison	Total No. of Prisoners	No. of Respondents	% of Prisoners
1.	Dehradun	Dehradun	1134	34	02.99%
2.	Haridwar	Tapsthali	1021	20	01.95%
3.	Tehri Garhwal	Tehri Garhwal	101	06	05.94%
4.	Pauri Garhwal	Pauri Garhwal	100	02	02.00%
5.	Chamoli	Chamoli	331	10	03.02%
6.	Almora	Almora	151	06	03.97%
7.	Nainital	Nainital	100	03	03.00%
8.	Udham Singh Nagar	Shivir	930	19	02.04%
9.	Haldwani	Haldwani	900	18	02.00%
10.	Roorkee	Roorkee	331	10	03.02%
Total			5099	128	02.51%

**Table 3:** Total Strength (Convicted and under trial) of Prisoners

Sr No	Name of the Prison	Males		Females		Total	% of Responses
		Convicted	Under-trial	Convicted	Under-trial		
1	Dehradun	459	612	39	24	1134	34(02.99%)
2	Haridwar	649	324	33	15	1021	20(01.95%)
3	Tehri Garhwal	23	74	00	04	101	06(05.94%)
4	Pauri Garhwal	20	70	00	10	100	02(02.00%)
5	Chamoli	15	302	00	14	331	10(03.02%)
6	Almora	18	116	00	17	151	03(03.97%)
7	Nainital	48	52	00	00	100	03(03.00%)
8	Udham Singh Nagar (Sitarganj)	378	512	02	38	930	19(02.04%)
9	Haldwani	100	760	01	39	900	18(02.00%)
10	Roorkee	15	302	00	14	331	10(03.02%)
	Total	1725	3124	75	175	5099	125 (02.45%)

**Table 4:** Age Wise Strength of Prisoners

Sr No	Name of the Prison	Upto 18 Years		18-30 Years		30-40 Years		40-50 Years		50 Years and Above	
		No	%	No	%	No	%	No	%	No	%
		1	Dehradun	107	09.43%	334	29.45%	368	32.45%	234	20.63%
2	Haridwar	49	04.79%	270	26.44%	358	35.06%	228	22.33%	116	11.36%
3	Tehri Garhwal	00	00.00%	25	24.75%	40	39.60%	21	20.79%	15	14.85%
4	Pauri Garhwal	00	00.00%	26	26.00%	35	35.00%	22	22.00%	17	17.00%
5	Chamoli	00	00.00%	25	07.55%	203	61.32%	82	24.77%	21	06.34%
6	Almora	00	00.00%	14	09.27%	90	59.60%	35	23.17%	12	07.94%
7	Nainital	00	00.00%	30	30.00%	40	40.00%	10	10.00%	20	20.00%
8	Udham Singh Nagar	178	19.13%	362	38.92%	236	25.37%	97	10.43%	57	06.12%
9	Haldwani	18	02.00%	210	23.33%	340	37.77%	199	22.11%	133	14.77%
10	Roorkee	00	00.00%	19	05.74%	202	61.02%	88	26.58%	22	06.64%
	Total	352		1315		1912		1016		504	

However, maximum number (649) of convicted males is in Haridwar prison and minimum number (15) is in Chamoli and Roorkee prison while maximum males under trial are in Dehradun (612) district prison and minimum of them (52) are in Nainital prison. Likewise, maximum convicted females are in Dehradun prison and minimum (1) in Haldwani subprison while maximum under trail females are in Haldwani subprison and minimum (4) in Tehri Garhwal prison.<sup>39</sup>

**Age Wise Strength of Prisoners**

Age wise comparative analysis of all the prisons surveyed is presented in Table 4. It is seen that there are 352 prisoners of 18 years age, followed by 1315 prisoners of 18-30 years of age, and 1912 prisoners of 30-40 years age. They constitute 6.90%, 25.78% and 37.49% respectively.

Further, there are 1016 prisoners of 40-50 years of age and 504 of more than 50 years of age who constitute to 19.92% and 9.88% among the total prisoners.

**Education Standard Wise Strength of Prisoners**

Table 5 reflects the education wise strength of the prisoners in different prisons. It is very clear from the data analysis that there are 1584 illiterate prisoners and 3515 are literate prisoners in different prisons and they constitute to 31.06 and 68.93% of the total prisoners.

Further, if education standard of literate person is calculated, it can be seen that out of literate 3515 prisoners, 2478 are 8th passed, 725 prisoners 10<sup>th</sup> passed, 235 prisoners are 12<sup>th</sup> passed, and 52 prisoners are gradates. They all constitute 48.59%, 14.21%, 4.60% and 1.01% among the total prisoners in different prisons.

However, 25 prisoners were seen having postgraduate degree and they constitute to 0.49% of the total prisoners. If percentage among the literate prisoners is calculated, it is seen that 8th passed prisoners constitute to 70.49%, and 20.62% are 10th passed, 6.68% prisoners are 12th passed and 1.47% prisoners are graduates.

**Table 5: Education Standard Wise Strength of Prisoners**

Sr No	Name of the Prison	Illiterate		8 <sup>th</sup> Passed		10 <sup>th</sup> Passed		12 <sup>th</sup> Passed		Graduate		Postgraduate		Others	
		No	%	No	%	No	%	No	%	No	%	No	%	No	%
1	Dehradun	412	36.33%	535	47.17%	175	15.43%	11	0.97%	01	0.08%	00	0.00%	00	0.00%
2	Haridwar	44	4.30%	469	45.93%	338	33.10%	120	11.75%	30	2.93%	20	1.95%	00	0.00%
3	Tehri Garhwal	46	45.54%	22	21.785	16	15.84%	12	11.88%	05	4.95%	00	0.00%	00	0.00%
4	Pauri Garhwal	32	32.00%	62	62.00%	04	04.00%	01	1.00%	01	1.00%	00	0.00%	00	0.00%
5	Chamoli	21	6.34%	230	69.48%	47	41.19%	25	7.55%	06	1.81%	03	0.90%	00	0.00%
6	Almora	65	43.04%	63	41.72%	10	06.62%	12	7.94%	01	0.66%	00	0.00%	00	0.00%
7	Nainital	10	10.00%	70	70.00%	10	10.00%	07	7.00%	02	2.00%	01	01.0%	00	0.00%
8	Udham Singh Nagar	285	30.64%	524	56.34%	81	08.70%	35	3.76%	04	.043%	01	.010%	00	0.00%
9	Haldwani	480	53.33%	389	42.22%	26	02.77%	04	0.44%	01	.011%	00	0.00%	00	0.00%
10	Roorkee	189	57.09%	114	34.44%	18	05.43%	08	2.41%	01	0.30%	00	0.00%	00	0.00%
	Total	1584		2478		725		235		52		25		00	

**Table 6: Religion Wise Strength of Prisoners**

Sr No	Name of the Prison	Hindu		Muslim		Sikh		Christians		Others	
		No	%	No	%	No	%	No	%	No	%
1	Dehradun	680	59.96%	340	29.98%	57	5.02%	00	0.00%	57	5.02%
2	Haridwar	715	70.02%	276	27.03%	10	0.09%	00	0.00%	20	1.90%
3	Tehri Garhwal	71	70.29%	27	26.73%	01	0.99%	00	0.00%	02	1.98%
4	Pauri Garhwal	70	70.00%	27	27.00%	01	1.00%	00	0.00%	02	2.00%
5	Chamoli	199	60.12%	127	38.36%	02	0.60%	01	0.30%	02	0.60%
6	Almora	109	72.18%	38	25.16%	01	0.66%	00	0.00%	03	1.98%
7	Nainital	70	70.00%	27	27.00%	01	1.00%	00	0.00%	02	2.00%
8	Udham Singh Nagar	651	70.00%	251	26.98%	09	0.96%	00	0.00%	19	2.04%
9	Haldwani	630	70.00%	243	27.00%	09	1.00%	00	0.00%	18	2.00%
10	Roorkee	231	69.78%	90	27.19%	03	0.90%	00	0.00%	07	2.11%
	Total	3426		1446		94		01		132	

Further, postgraduate prisoners constitute to 0.71% among the total literate prisoners in all the prisons.

**Religion Wise Strength of Prisoners**

Religion wise breakup of the prisoners is shown in Table 6 which depicts that maximum number (3426) of the prisoners belong to Hindu religion, followed by 1446 Muslims, 94 Sikhs and only 1 Christian. They form 67.18%, 28.35%, 1.84% and 0.019% respectively among the total prisoners.

However, 132 prisoners were noted in the prison who belong to other religions that constitute to 2.58% to the total number of prisoners.

**Maritals Status of Prisoners**

It is seen from Table 7 that 2380 prisoners are married and 2514 prisoners are un-married which constitute to 46.67% and 49.30% among the total prisoners respectively.

Further, there are also 73 prisoners are divorcee and 132 prisoners are widow and they constitute to 1.43% and 2.58% among the total number of prisoners in all the prisons surveyed.

**Language Wise Strength of Prisoners**

Table 8 presents the details of the languages known by the prisoners, where it is very clear that all the prisoners know Hindi language. Further, 1374 prisoners were noted to know English and 1086 prisoner to know Urdu languages. They constitute to 100%, 26.94% and 21.29% respectively of the total prisoners.

However, 1379 and 1134 prisoners were also noted to speak Garhwali and Kumaoni languages.

**Duration of Imprisonment**

Table 9 shows the comparative analysis of the duration of the imprisonment of the prisoners. It is seen that out of 1800 convicted prisoners, most

**Table 7:** Marital Status of Prisoners

Sr No	District	Name of the Jail	Married	UnMarried	Divorcee	Widow
1.	Dehradun	Dehradun	601(52.99%)	476(41.97%)	34(2.99%)	23(2.02%)
2.	Haridwar	Haridwar	521(50.49%)	449(43.56%)	10(0.99%)	41(3.96%)
3.	Tehri Garhwal	Tehri Garhwal	51(50.49%)	45(44.55%)	01(1.00%)	04(4.00%)
4.	Pauri Garhwal	Pauri Garhwal	38(38.00%)	58(58.00%)	01(1.00%)	03(3.00%)
5.	Chamoli	Chamoli	170(51.35%)	159(48.03%)	01(0.33%)	01(0.33%)
6.	Almora	Almora	62(41.05%)	83(54.96%)	01(0.66%)	05(3.31%)
7.	Nainital	Nainital	41(41.00%)	55(55.00%)	04(4.00%)	00(0.00%)
8.	Udham Singh Nagar	Shivir	391(42.04%)	512(55.05%)	09(0.96%)	18(1.93%)
9.	Haldwani	Haldwani	369(41.00%)	495(55.00%)	09(1.00%)	27(3.00%)
10.	Roorkee	Roorkee	136(41.08%)	182(54.98%)	03(0.90%)	10(3.02%)
	Total		2380	2514	73	132

**Table 8:** Language Wise Strength of Prisoners

Sr No	Name of the Prison	Hindi		English		Urdu		Garhwali		Kumaoni		Others	
		No	%	No	%	No	%	No	%	No	%	No	%
1	Dehradun	1134	100%	340	29.98%	340	29.98%	227	20.01%	204	17.98%	23	2.02%
2.	Haridwar	1021	100%	255	24.9%	306	29.97%	276	27.03%	184	18.02%	30	2.93%
3.	Tehri Garhwal	101	100%	25	24.75%	31	30.69%	27	26.73%	18	17.82%	00	0.00%
4.	Pauri Garhwal	100	100%	25	25.00%	30	30.00%	27	27.00%	18	18%	00	0.00%
5.	Chamoli	331	100%	99	29.90%	33	9.96%	99	29.90%	83	25.07%	17	5.13%
6.	Almora	151	100%	45	29.80%	23	15.23%	42	27.81%	38	25.16%	03	1.98%
7.	Nainital	100	100%	30	30.00%	10	10.00%	30	30.00%	25	25.00%	05	5.00%
8.	Udham Singh Nagar	930	100%	186	20.00%	190	20.43%	279	30.00%	265	28.49%	10	1.07%
9.	Haldwani	900	100%	270	30.00%	90	10.00%	270	30.00%	225	25.00%	45	5.00%
10.	Roorkee	331	100%	99	29.90%	33	9.96%	102	30.81%	83	25.07%	14	4.22%
	Total	5099		1374		1086		1379		1134		147	

of them (760) are sent for short-term sentence, followed by 631 prisoners for long term sentence and 409 prisoners for life-term sentence and they constitute to 42.22%, 35.05% and 22.72% among the total convicted prisoners.

### Offense Wise Strength of Prisoners

Table 10 clearly depicts that out of total 5099 prisoners, 1800 are convicted and most of them are in Haridwar prison that consists of 682 prisoners, followed by 498 prisoners in Dehradun. But least number (15 each) of convicted prisoners are in Chamoli district prison and Roorkee subprison. If offense wise strength is seen, it is very clear that maximum convicted prisoners (559) are charged with murder cases, followed by 426 prisoners who are charged under cheating and minor offenses, 369 prisoners who are charged under NDBS (Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances) Act and 325 for dacoit and robbery cases.

However, least number (121) of them prisoners are sent to sentence under atrocity or women related cases.

### Previous Occupation of Prisoners

It is clear from Table 11 that out of total 5099 prisoners, most of the prisoners (1278) are from labour background and they are followed by 1128 from business background and 1069 were also unemployed. They all constitute 25.06%, 22.12% and 20.96% respectively to the total strength of the prisoners in all 10 prisons surveyed.

However, least number of prisoners that is only 66 were from government service in various capacities. Thus, it can be inferred education makes the man social as most of the prisoners were either from labour background or were unemployed. Therefore, if libraries are established in every prison, their use may change the mindset of the prisoners and they may become a civilized person after their release from the prisons.

### Whether the Prisons have the Libraries?

There are one Central prison at Sitarganj (Udham Singh Nagar), 7 district prisons at Pauri Garhwal, Haridwar Almora, Tehri Garhwal, Dehradun,

**Table 9:** Duration of Imprisonment

Sr No	District	Name of the jail	Short-term	Long-term	Life-term	Grand Total
1.	Dehradun	Dehradun	200(40.16%)	190(38.15%)	108(21.68%)	498
2.	Haridwar	Tapsthali	273(40.02%)	246(36.07%)	163(23.90%)	682
3.	Tehri Garhwal	Tehri Garhwal	09(39.13%)	08(34.78%)	06(26.08%)	23
4.	Pauri Garhwal	Pauri Garhwal	08(40.00%)	07(35.00%)	05(25%)	20
5.	Chamoli	Chamoli	05(33.33%)	07(46.66%)	03(20.00%)	15
6.	Almora	Almora	07(38.88%)	07(38.88%)	04(22.22%)	18
7.	Nainital	Nainital	20(41.66%)	16(33.33%)	12(25.00%)	48
8.	Udham Singh Nagar	Shiver	190(50.00%)	106(27.89%)	84(22.10%)	380
	Haldwani	Haldwani	40(39.60%)	39(38.61%)	22(21.78%)	101
10.	Roorkee	Roorkee	08(53.33%)	05(33.33%)	02(13.33%)	15
	Total		760(42.22%)	631(35.05%)	409(22.72%)	1800

**Table 10:** Offense Wise Strength of Prisoners

Sr No	District	Murder	Under NDBS	Atrocity Agent/ Women	Dacoit/ Robbery	Cheating/ Minor Offense	Total
1.	Dehradun	45	55	50	25	323	498
2.	Haridwar	471	51	70	60	30	682
3.	Tehri Garhwal	10	01	00	00	12	23
4.	Pauri Garhwal	03	15	00	01	01	20
5.	Chamoli	00	10	00	03	02	15
6.	Almora	03	10	00	03	02	18
7.	Nainital	10	19	00	10	09	48
8.	Udham Singh Nagar	15	130	01	200	34	380
9.	Haldwani	02	68	00	20	11	101
10.	Roorkee	00	10	00	03	02	15
	Total	559	369	121	325	426	1800

Nainital and Chamoli, 2 subprisons Roorkee (Haridwar) and Hiranagar (Haldwani) and an open prison at Sitarganj (US Nagar).

Table 12 clearly depicts that the books are available in almost all the libraries but newspapers are only available in Dehradun prison. Besides, no other facilities is there in any of the prison. However, IGNOU, NIOS centers exist only in Dehradun and Haridwar prisons.

**What the prisoners want to study in their libraries**

What the prisoners want to study in the prison? this question was asked from them. But most of the prisoners were not interested in reading any type of the documents – be it book, popular magazines or other recreational books. Though, some responses came from Dehradun and Haridwar prison libraries where some prisoners were studying in NIOS or IGNOU courses and a few want to read light magazines, such as the Sarita, Kadambani and Grahshobha etc.

**Major Findings of the Study**

The analysis presented in previous headings them solves clarifies the conditions of prisons and their libraries. But some special findings are summarized below:

- Table 1 shows that there are 10 prisons in Uttarakhand state which include one open/central prison at Sitarganj (Udham Singh Nagar), 07 districts prisons at Almora, Chamoli, Dehradun, Haridwar, Nainital, Pauri Garhwal, and Tehri Garhwal and 02 subprisons at Haldwani and Roorkee.
- Table 2 shows that out of 5099 prisoners, maximum prisoners are in Dehradun prison where 1134 prisoners are there which form 22.63% of the total and minimum 100 each in Pauri Garhwal and Nainital prisons respectively which form 01.96% of the total prisoners.

**Table 11:** Previous Occupation of Prisoners

Sr No	District	Name of the Jail	Labourer	Farmers	Govt. Service	Business	Students	Domestic Workers	Un-Employed	Others
1.	Dehradun	Dehradun	227 (20.00%)	57 (05.00%)	11 (1.00%)	454 (40.00%)	113 (10.00%)	23 (2.00%)	249 (22.00%)	00 (0.00%)
2.	Haridwar	Tapsthali	184 (18.02%)	81 (07.93%)	05 (0.48%)	388 (38.00%)	112 (10.96%)	31 (3.03%)	220 (21.54%)	00 (0.00%)
3.	Tehri Garhwal	Tehri Garhwal	35 (34.65%)	02 (01.98%)	03 (2.97%)	00 (0.00%)	19 (18.81%)	18 (17.18%)	24 (23.76%)	00 (0.00%)
4.	Pauri Garhwal	Pauri Garhwal	34 (34.00%)	02 (02.00%)	03 (3.00%)	00 (0.00%)	20 (20.00%)	18 (18.00%)	23 (23.00%)	00 (0.00%)
5.	Chamoli	Chamoli	142 (42.90%)	08 (02.41%)	01 (00.30%)	20 (6.04%)	60 (18.12%)	30 (9.06%)	70 (21.14%)	00 (0.00%)
6.	Almora	Almora	60 (39.73%)	45 (29.80%)	02 (01.32%)	23 (15.23%)	06 (03.97%)	00 (0.00%)	15 (09.93%)	00 (0.00%)
7.	Nainital	Nainital	40 (40.00%)	30 (30.00%)	01 (01.00%)	10 (10.00%)	10 (10.00%)	00 (0.00%)	09 (09.00%)	00 (0.00%)
8.	Udham Singh Nagar	Shivir	279 (30%)	149 (16.02%)	19 (02.02%)	65 (6.98%)	139 (14.94%)	93 (10.00%)	186 (20.00%)	00 (0.00%)
9.	Haldwani	Haldwani	144 (16.00%)	36 (04.00%)	18 (02.00%)	135 (15.00%)	144 (16.00%)	180 (20.00%)	243 (27.00%)	00 (0.00%)
10.	Roorkee	Roorkee	133 (40.18%)	99 (29.90%)	03 (00.90%)	33 (9.96%)	33 (09.96%)	00 (0.00%)	30 (09.06%)	00 (0.00%)
	Total		1278	509	66	1128	656	393	1069	00

**Table 12:** Status of Libraries in Different Prisons

Items	Dehradun Jail*	Haridwar Jail **	Tehri Jail	Pauri Jail	Chamoli Jail	Almora Jail	Nainital Jail	Udham Singh Nagar Jail	Haldwani Jail	Roorkee Sub Jail
Total No of Books	774	800	200	150	1000	-	20	250	600	500
Newspapers	50	02-04	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Magazines	04	04-05	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

Note: \*Out of 774 books, 523 are course related books, 135 religious books, and 116 books on English literature.

\*\* There are 11 computers in Haridwar prison.

- Table 3 shows that out of total 5099 prisoners, there are 1725 males convicted and 3124 are under trail – they constitute 33.83% and 61.24% of the total prisoners. Further, out of 5099 total prisoners, 75 females are convicted and 175 are under trail which form 1.47% and 3.43% among the total prisoners.
- Table 4 depicts that maximum prisoners (1912) belong to 30–40 years age group, followed by 1315 prisoners who belong to 18–30 years age group. However, least number of prisoners (352) are upto 18 years of age.
- Out of total 5099, there are 1584 illiterate prisoners and 3515 are literate prisoners in different prisons which constitute to 31.06% and 68.93% of the total prisoners (Table 5).
- Out of the total 5099 prisoners, maximum prisoners (3426) are Hindus followed by 1446 Muslim and 94 Sikhs. Only 01 Christian is seen in one prison of Uttarakhand state but 132 also there who belong to other religions (Table 6).
- Table 7 shows that out of total 5099 prisoners, 2380 prisoners are married and 2514 prisoners are un-married which constitute to 46.67% and 49.30% among the total prisoners. Further, there are also 73 prisoners divorcee and 132 prisoners are widow and they constitute to 1.43% and 2.58% among the total number of prisoners in all the prisons surveyed.
- Table 8 shows that all the prisoners can speak and understand Hindi language, so it is suggested most of the literature should be purchased or collected in Hindi language so that most of the prisoners could use them effectively.
- Table 9 shows that out of 1800 convicted prisoners, 760 prisoners are sent for short-term



sentence, followed by 631 prisoners who have given long term sentence and they constitute to 42.22% and 35.05% respectively among the total convicted prisoners. Thus, these prisoners can be rehabilitated and here prison libraries may play their important role in shaping their future.

- Table 10 shows that out of 5095 prisoners, 1800 are convicted and most of them are in Haridwar prison that consists of 682 prisoners, followed by 498 prisoners in Dehradun. But least number (15 each) of convicted are in Chamoli district prison and Roorkee sub prison. If offense wise strength is seen, it is very clear that maximum convicted prisoners (559) are charged with murder cases, followed by 426 prisoners who are charged under cheating and minor offenses, 369 prisoners who are charged under NDBS act and 325 for dacoit and robbery cases.
- Table 11 shows that most of the prisoners were either unemployed or from labour background. It means education affects the lives of man in various ways, and an educated man may be so much civilized as compared to uneducated person.
- Table 12 depicts the situation of library collection; it may be seen that books are available in almost in each prison. Newspapers are present only in Dehradun and Haridwar prisons. However, newspapers are subscribed in prison office in many of the prisons.

As far as the librarians are concerned, no prison were found to have the librarians; however, some prisoners in Haridwar and Dehradun are managing these libraries under supervision of their Jailors.

#### *Observations and Standards for Prisons Libraries*

It is seen in physical survey of the prisons that most of the prisoners did not demand books, or the magazines but some of the youngsters, especially who are under trail demanded some competitive magazines and also the books. However, no prison seems to be interested in availing library facilities.

As far as the prison libraries are concerned, except that of Haridwar and Dehradun prison there is no other library neither in districts or sub-prisons. Further, the conditions of two "so-called" libraries are not so good. There is no person to look after the libraries and collection is also not upto the standards. Only few donated books, (for example Kalyan special issues and other religious books from Gita Press, Gorakhpur and the religious books

from Shantikunj, Haridwar) and the study material provided by the Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU), New Delhi and National Institute of Open Learning (NIOS), New Delhi study centres in these two libraries is there. While as per IFLA guidelines, the prison libraries are supposed to possess following standards.<sup>5</sup>

- All prison libraries, regardless of size, should be supervised/managed by a professional librarian with the necessary qualifications and skills obtained through a university degree in library information science or equivalent library school diploma.
- All prisons with a population above 500 should have a fulltime professional librarian on site. Prisons with a population above 1000 should employ two (2) fulltime librarians. However, smaller prisons may reduce the number of hours but the library is to be staffed by a professional librarian.

Further, all library staff should possess the necessary professional and technical qualifications to provide direct user services and operational support. Though, the prison may employ inmate workers in the library among the skilled, experience, and familiar prisoners.

Besides, budgetary norms are also given for a prison library<sup>5</sup>, which are expected to be followed by each and every prison library:

- (i) For prisons with populations above 500, the average price (in local currency) of one (1) general hardback book will serve as the basis to calculate the minimum budget for an established library:

The average nonfiction hardback book price × 70% of the inmate population plus 10% for loss (e.g., 500 inmates × 70% × 32.00 euros = 11,200 euros + 1,120 euros (10% of \$11,200) = \$12,320 euros. This formula does not imply the library will purchase only hardback books, but represents a simple tool for calculating the total budget for all types of library materials. The materials budget will increase as the book price increases. OR

- (ii) For prisons with populations below 500, the annual minimum budget should be sufficient to replace 10% of the collection.

Further, the library collection should include materials in print and other formats to meet out the informational, educational, cultural, recreational and rehabilitative needs of the prison population.

It should also include a wide variety of current print and nonprint materials similar to those found in a public or school library. Besides, the library collection should also include reference material comprising of fiction, biographies, general reference books, nonfiction books, legal material, poetry, comics and audio visual materials along with popular magazines and newspaper in the native language and other languages, as needed.<sup>5</sup>

#### *Suggestions*

It is very clear from the data analysis that no real prison library exists in any of the prison in Uttarakhand state. But some recommendations are given which can be of immense help in improving the conditions of existing two “so-called” libraries in Haridwar and Dehradun district prisons and also for establishing new prison libraries in other prisons.

- (i) At least one trained librarian should be appointed to look after the library operations in the prison premises.
- (ii) Supporting staff may be recruited as per standards of public libraries.
- (iii) Library collection should be developed as suggested by IFLA Guidelines.
- (iv) Computer access may also be provided, if not for internet or online documents then at least for offline access of the documents.
- (v) Though public libraries are also lacking in Uttarakhand state and only few public libraries exist in reality <sup>2</sup> but their help may be sought wherever they exist in the state.
- (vi) Like Tihar jail, extension counters of public libraries wherever they exist can be opened / arranged weekly for prisoners.

Last but not least, the help from local academic libraries, especially from college or university libraries may be sought till a uniform model of

prison libraries in the state is achieved or developed.

**Note:** This paper is based on the findings of the PhD thesis awarded to Punita Sharma, by Maharaja Global University, Jaipur.

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