DISTRICT SKILL DEVELOPMENT PLAN (DSDP) 2021-22

ALMORA, UTTARAKHAND

District Skills Committee -Almora, Uttarakhand

INTRODUCTION

Despite being world's youngest country in terms of demographic dividend, India has only 2% of the workforce skilled compared with 96% in South Korea, 74% in Germany, 50% in USA & 45% in China. All these years, we have focused on building Higher Education and very little did we think of enhancing the Employability Quotient (EQ) and produce skilled manpower through skill training Interventions. Today, more than 62% of the population is in the working age group (15-59 years) and more than 54% of the total population below 25 years of age making India one of the youngest country in the World.

In today's world of Globalization, Skill Training is an Integral component of increasing efficiency & productivity for sound economic development of any economy. In India, it's still at a nascent stage, however the demand for skilled manpower is huge and to cover this gap, our Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi encouraged **"Skill India Mission"** and formed a separate ministry named **"Ministry of Skill Development & Entrepreneurship (MSDE)"** in 2014. The Ministry is dedicated to skill 400 million workforce by 2022. MSDE has launched **Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PMKVY)** which is the flagship program outcome based skill training scheme to mobilize a large no. of Indian youths to take up skill training & become employable and earn better livelihood. **National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC)** is a central nodal agency under MSDE responsible to build strong skill training capability through funding training partners.

In this context a separate state-wise department was formed. **Uttarakhand skill development mission (UKSDM)** is the nodal agency of Uttarakhand state. The approach and methodology used in preparing the **Almora District Skill Development Plan (DSDP)** is that, the planning was done in DSC meeting with the members and other relevant departments under the chairmanship of DM. The DSDP has been prepared targeting the rural youth by providing them the required skill sets and opportunities for Employment/Self-Employment in various fields and to be a productive member of their family and society. The field visits and data analysis, collection was done with the consultation of different stakeholders like government offices, Industries, etc. Much of the information/ data collection was done in close coordination with all the heads of the departments apart from the DSC members. Key findings and recommendations were compiled and the final draft report of the Action plan with the recommendations was presented to DM.

"This is to confirm that the plan has been prepared by the district and all the data, information provided has been taken from credible sources and referenced in the proposal"
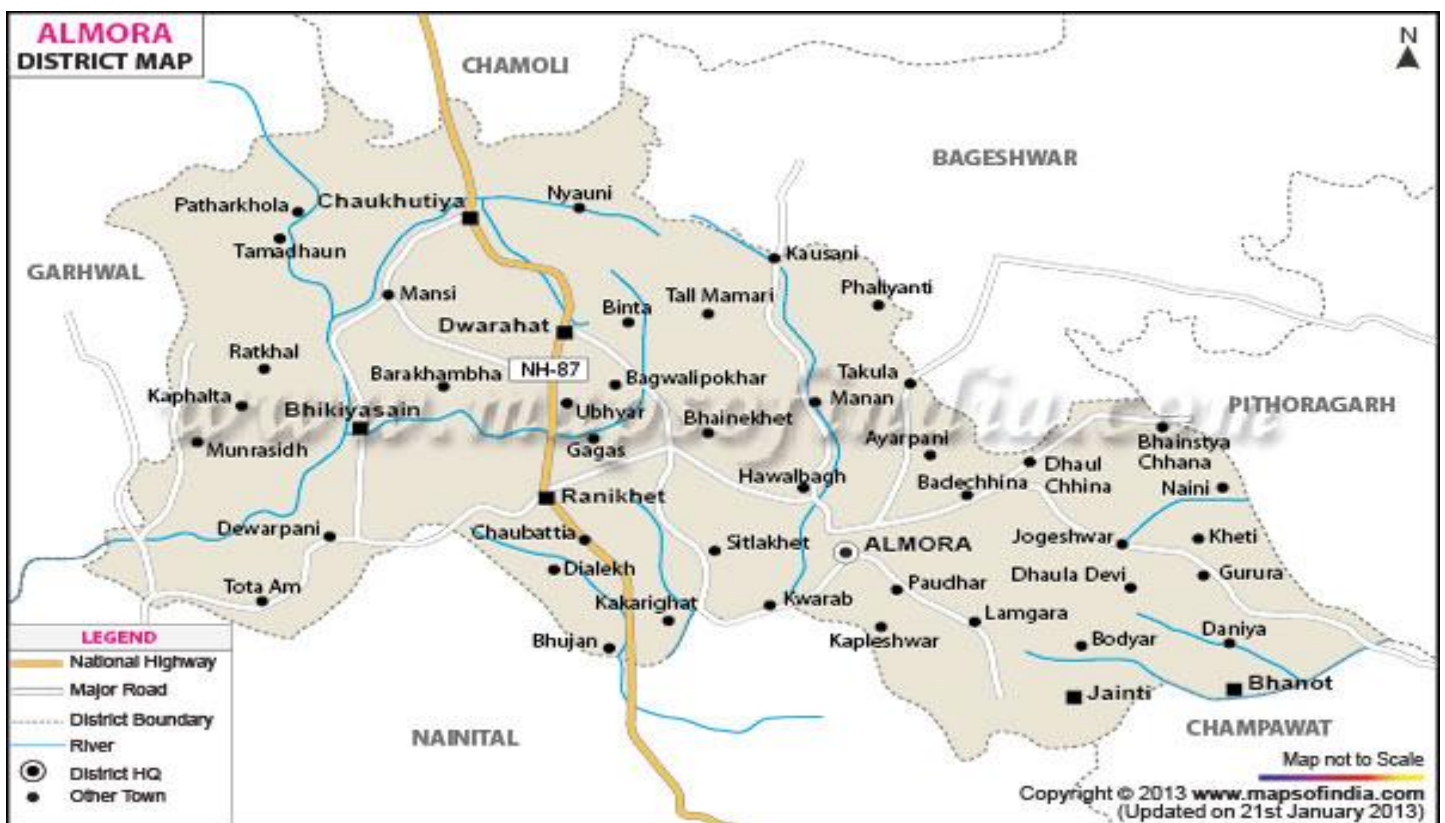
District Magistrate
Almora

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DISTRICT PROFILE

A. GENERAL PROFILE OF THE DISTRICT:

Almora district is a district in the Kumaon division of Uttarakhand state, India. administrative headquarters of Almora district. Almora is located on a ridge at the southern edge of the Kumaon Hills of the Himalaya range. The Koshi and Suyal rivers flow along the city and snow-capped Himalayas can be seen in the background.

It is 1,638 meters above sea level. The town of Almora is surrounded by Pithoragarh district to the east, Garhwal region to the west, Bageshwar district the north and Nainital district to the south.

The hill station of Almora is situated on a horseshoe-shaped ridge of a mountain, the eastern portion of which is called Talifat and the western one is known as Selifat. The landscape of Almora attracts tourists each year for its views of the Himalayas, cultural heritage, handicrafts and cuisine, and is a business hub for the Kumaon region. Developed by the kings of Chand dynasty, it was later maintained and further developed by the British regime.

The ancient town of Almora, before its establishment, was under the possession of Katyuri king Baichaldeo. He donated the major part of this land to a Gujrati Brahmin Sri Chand Tiwari.

Later on when Chand kingdom was founded in Baramandal, the town of Almora was founded at this centrally located place in 1568 by Kalyan Chand. In the days of the Chand Kings it was called Rajapur. The name 'Rajpur' is also mentioned on a number of ancient copper plates.

Almora town was the administrative headquarter of the Kumaun district; that was formed in 1815 following the defeat of Gorkha army in the Anglo-Gorkha war and the 1816 Treaty of Sugauli. The Kumaun district then consisted of the complete Kumaon Division excluding the Terai district with its headquarters at Kashipur. In 1837, Garhwal was made a separate district with its Headquarters at Pauri. The Nainital district was carved out of the Kumaun District in 1891, and the Kumaon District was then renamed Almora District after its Headquarter.

In the 1960s Bageshwar district, Pithoragarh district and Champawat district had not yet been formed and were part of Almora district. Pithoragarh district was carved out of Almora on 24 February 1960 and Bageshwar district on 15 September 1997.

photo source: Internet/wikipedia

Photo Source: Internet / wikipedia

Area (sq.km)	Total Tehsil	Total Block	Gram Panchayats	Towns
3139.00	12	11	1160	03

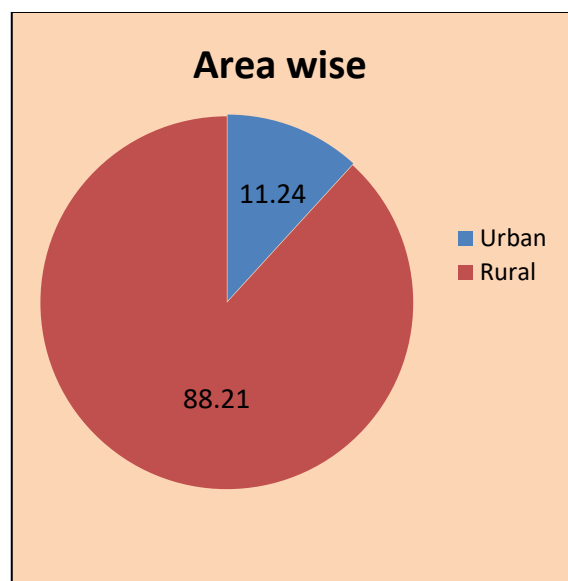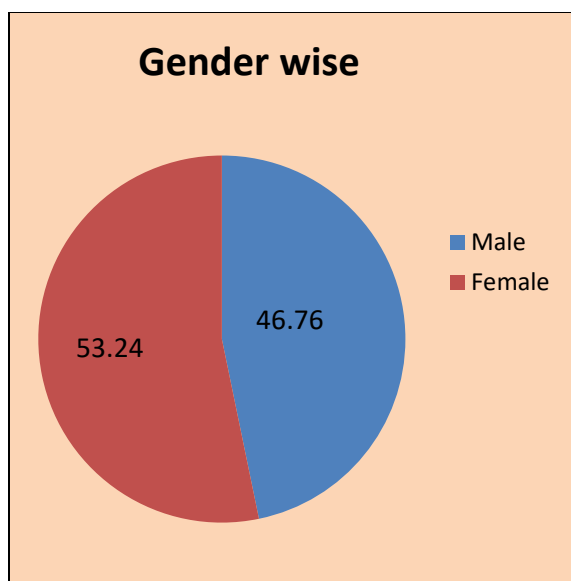| Villages	Nyay Panchayats	Municipalities	Assembly Constituency	Police Station
2289	95	03	06	08

SUPPLY SIDE PROFILE

A. DEMOGRAPHIC PROFILE

As per Census 2011, the total population of Almora is 622,506, out of which 291,081 were males and 331,425 were females. This gives a sex ratio of 1139 females per 1000 males. The percentage of urban population in the district is 10.01 percent, which is much lower than the state average of 30.23 percent. The decadal growth rate of population in Uttarakhand is 18.81 percent, while Almora reports a –1.64 percent decadal growth in the population. The decadal growth rate of urban population in Uttarakhand is 39.93 percent, while Almora reports a 14.33 percent. The district population density is 198 in 2011. The Scheduled Caste population in the district is 24.26 percent while Scheduled Tribe comprises 0.21 percent of the population.

Details Of The District Almora	
TOTAL AREA	3139.00 Sq.Kms.
FOREST AREA	1309.00 Sq. Kms.
TOTAL POPULATION	622506
MALE POPULATION	291081
FEMALE POPULATION	331425
URBAN POPULATION	73400
RURAL POPULATION	549106
LITERATES	436497
TOTAL WORKERS	278211
MAIN WORKERS	201078

Source: Census 2011, Government of India

Gender wise

Male 46.76
Female 53.24

Area wise
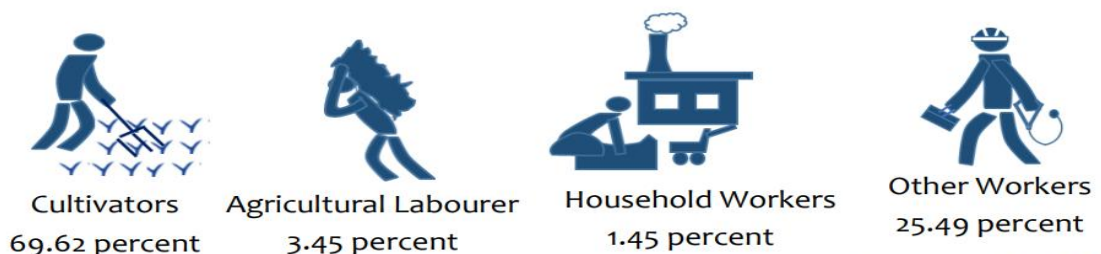
Urban 11.24
Rural 88.21

Source: Census 2011, Government of India

B. <u>SOCIO-ECONOMIC PROFILE</u>

The three sectors of the economy – primary, secondary and tertiary – reflect the direction of growth of any region. In Almora the tertiary (services) sector contributed the maximum share of 53.4 percent to Gross District Domestic Product (GDDP) which is slightly higher than that of Uttarakhand's share of 51.9 percent to Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP) in 2013-14. The district's primary (agricultural) sector contributes about 1/5th to GDDP (21.57 percent) while the secondary sector's contribution is 18.93 percent. The GDDP of Almora in primary sector is more than double compared to that in Uttarakhand.

As per Census 2011, the percentage of main workers in the total workforce in Almora is 32.30 percent which is higher than the State main workers (28.46 percent). Among the four categories, Cultivators form about 69.62 percent of all workers which form the highest percent, while agricultural labourers form 3.45 percent. The catchall category 'Other Workers' form 25.49 percent of the entire working population of the district which is much lower than that of the cultivators . It includes forms of employment in secondary and tertiary sector . The workers in household industry forms 1.45 percent.

Cultivators 69.62 percent   Agricultural Labourer 3.45 percent   Household Workers 1.45 percent   Other Workers 25.49 percent

Source: Census 2011

Agriculture: Although the share of agriculture in Gross District Domestic Product is declining, but still nearly 39% of the district's population is engaged in agriculture as its main occupation. The major crops in the district are cereals like Paddy, Wheat, barley, Maize, Mandua, Sawaan; Pulses like Urad, Lentil, Gram; Oilseeds like Mustard, Soybean, Sesame; Potato and Turmeric. Due to the hilly terrain large scale irrigation is not possible but still the valley parts of the districts are being irrigated by connecting rivers canals. A total of 5751.00 Hectare of area is under irrigation in the district. The Department of Agriculture has divided the agriculture land into two categories based on the availability of irrigation, viz. Talau Bhumi and Upraru Bhumi. The Talau Bhumi is an even area where irrigation facilities are present and the farmers can take Rabi, Kahrif and Zaid crops. Upraru Bhumi is an unirrigated area where only Kharif crop is taken but not Rabi.

Industry: Majority of the population i.e. 39.35% is engaged in agriculture and 34.13% as daily wage labour as their main source of income. The presence of industry is limited to small and micro enterprises, that too in few numbers.

Animal husbandry: Along with Agriculture, animal husbandry is one of the most important source of livelihood in the district. The rural population still rear drought animals for agricultural uses, milch animals, goats and sheep.The major livestock in the district is shown in the table below.

Services: In the lap of Himalayas, surrounded by the snow peaked mountains and the panoramic landscapes, district Almora, also known as the cultural capital of Kumaon, is endowed with the natural beauty. Since time immemorial Almora has been a renowned spiritual, cultural and religious destination. Almora is known for its cuisine, cultural history, traditions, fairs and festivals.

Important tourist destination in Almora

- **Jageshwar Dham**–Situated nearly 36 km from the city Almora on the Almora-Pithoragarh Highway, it is a group of 124 temples dedicated to the Lord Shiva. A fascinating architectural masterpiece of pre-medieval era, dating back around 2500 years, is situated between picturesque deodar forests. There are other religious places in the vicinity of Jageshwar Dham, like Vridh Jageswar Temple and Jhankar Saim Temple, which have their own significance.

- **Katarmal Sun Temple**-After Sun Temple at Konark, Odisha, it is the only Sun Temple dedicated to the Sun God. This 800 year old temple is only 17 km from the city Almora and is situated at an altitude of 2116m.
- **Kasar Devi**- It is a temple situated just 5 Km from the main town. The temple has been visited by well-known persons like Swami Vivekananda, and several westerners. It was a prominent and popular destination during the Hippie Movement of 1960s and 70s. There are several homestays and tourists from across the globe come to this place. Situated at the top of the Almora town, it offers splendid view of Himalayas, local culture, cuisine, and traditions.

- **Ranikhet**- Ranikhet is a cantonment area and is famous for its beautiful landscape. Tourist visit here for splendid view of Himalayas and beautiful meadows.
- **Gairad Golu Dev Temple**- Situated just outside the city, this is one of the famous temples of the district and the locals have a great faith and devotion.
- **Dwarahat**- Known as the Temple city of Uttarakhand, Dwdarahat is 70 km from Almora and is situated in the Ramganga river valley. Dwarahat was once the seat of Katyuri Dynasty and has great historical and archaeological importance.
- **Manila**- Manila is a hill station and is 85 km from Ranikhet. The Manila Devi Temple situated amidst the forest and the view of Himalayas offers great experience.
- **Binsar Mahadev**- 15 km from Ranikhet there is a great Binsar Temple.

There are number of other tourist destinations in the district Almora like, Binsar wildlife sanctuary Gananath Temple, Kasar Devi Temple, Nanada Devi Temple, Jhoola Devi Temple, Shitlakhet, Jalana, Vivekanand Ashram, G.B Pant Museum, and several others. Following are the famous fairs/festival organised in the district Almora

Important Festivals of Almora

- **Nanda Devi Festival**- Organised in the month of September, it is a famous fair of the town. It is believed that 'Nanda' used to be the family Goddess of Chand Dynasty. The temple of 'Nanda' in Almora was built by Dyot Chanda in 17th Century, the then ruler of this place. Presently, this temple remains the core of the festival. The duration of the festival is five days and approximately twenty five thousand people come to attend this festival.
- **Dussehra Festival Almora**- This festival celebrates the victory of Lord Rama over Ravana. Approximately five to six thousand tourists from the outskirts come to attend the festival in Almora town. The festival is generally celebrated in the month of October.

- **Jageshwer Monsoon Festival**- The festival has a great religious and historical importance. Jageshwer Monsoon Festival is organized from 15 July to 15 August. The temple of Lord Jagnath is one among the twelve 'Jyotirlinga' of Lord Shiva in India. Having its archaeological importance the group of temples of Jageshwer consists of 124 small and big temples of ancient times. This festival is of great religious importance for Kumauni society.

Fairs like Somnath mela, Janmashtami mela, Mahashivratri mela, Masi mela, Doonagiri mela, Devidhura mela etc. are the local fairs with a significant social and economic importance.
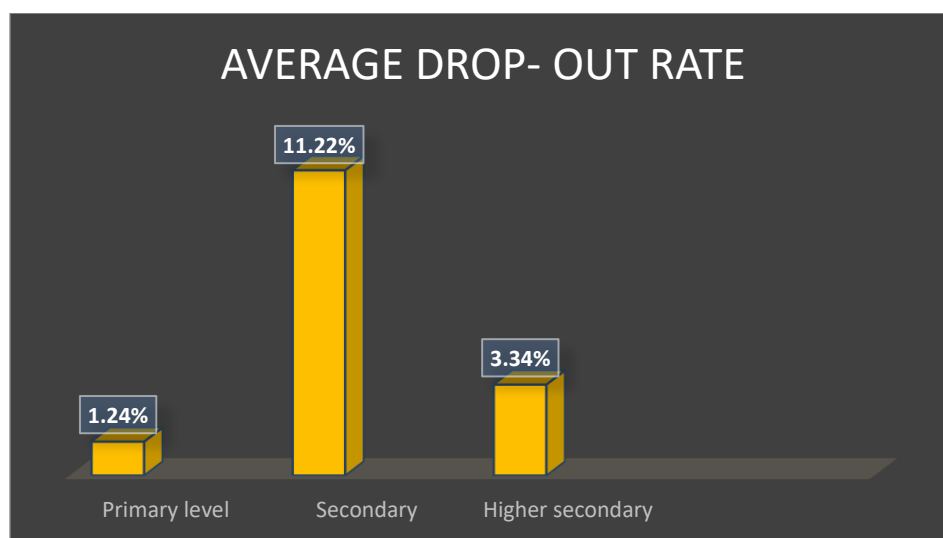
C. EDUCATIONAL STATUS

Education and training Infrastructure in the District:

Almora has 1870 Govt. schools, of which 1866 are till elementary grade. The district has 268 contractual teachers. Out of 1866 Govt. elementary schools in Almora have 1081 Anganwadi Centres. Of all 1870 Govt. schools; only 1081 have Anganwadis. In other words, only 57.8 percent of all Govt. schools have Anganwadis. In Almora, average numbers of teachers at elementary to higher secondary grade is 3.09 while it is approximately 3.1 at the elementary level. Pupil Teacher Ratio (PTR) at the elementary level is 9 in Almora, while it is 15 across schools with elementary to higher secondary grades.
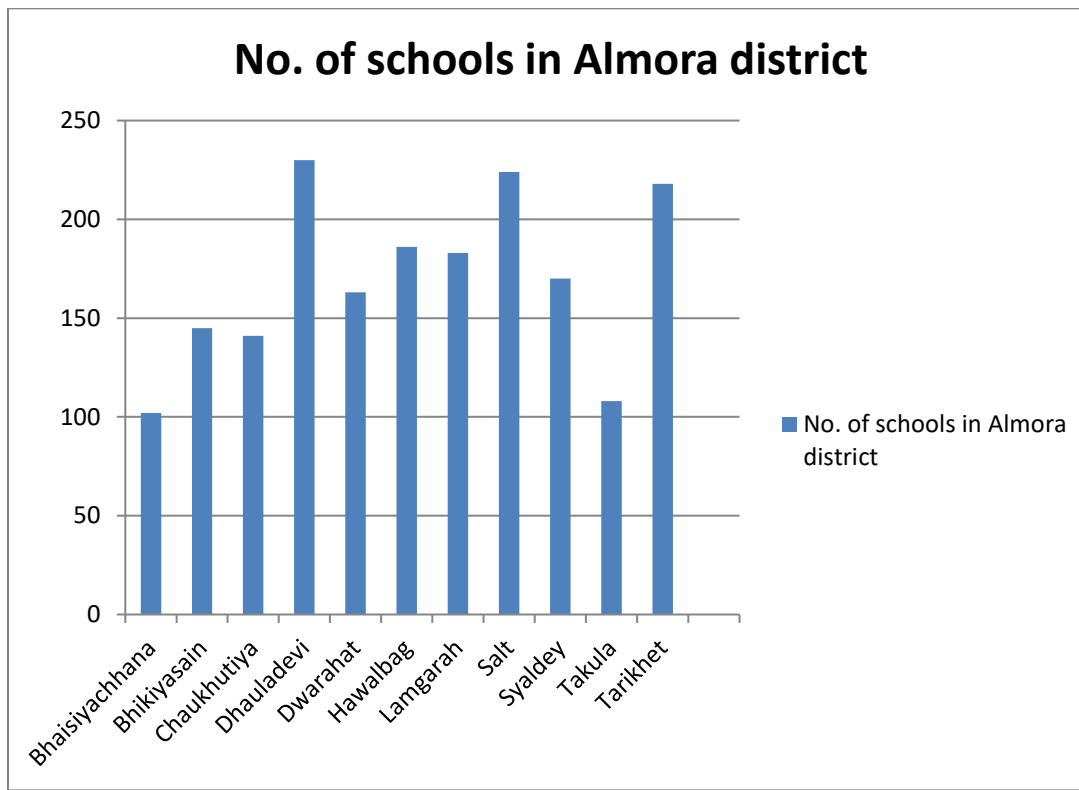
Average Annual Drop-Out Rate:
Drop-out rate in Govt. schools in Almora is 1.24 percent at the Primary level. However, it is seen to increase as one moves to higher grades. It is 11.22 percent at Secondary level and 3.34 percent at Higher Secondary level.

Source: Education Department, Almora

Boys tend to drop out slightly more than girls, and dropout rate increases as pupils move up the grade ladder. At the Secondary level, dropout rate among boys is 11.7 percent, while the same among girls is as high as 9.04percent. Drop-out rate for boys is seen to be highest at the secondary level.

School Infrastructure in Almora

No. of schools in Almora district

Source: Education Department, Almora