

CHAPTER XV

EDUCATION AND CULTURE

In ancient days the entire area of the district formed part of the traditional Manaskhand. The hermitage of the sage Vyas, accredited author of the *Mahabharata*, is said to have been located at Kalapani in *patti* Byans of this district. As elsewhere, the *ashramas* were centres of learning and culture in that period. Under the personal guidance of gurus, regular education began with the initiation ceremony called *upanayana samskar*. The student was free to choose his branch of specialization from among the traditional branches of learning, such as *itihasa-purana* (legend and lore), *vyakarana* (grammar), *rasi* (mathematics), *jyotish* (astronomy and astrology), *anvikshiki* (philosophy), *dharamshastra* (law), *shastravidya* (statecraft and military science) and *Ayuroveda* (the science of medicine). The Vedas (including *Mimamsa Karamkanda*) and grammar were generally studied by every student. Education was free of cost and the student was required to help the teacher in his household and farm work. The development of the character of the pupil and the acquisition by him of learning and sacred lore were the chief aims of education.

In course of time, this system of education became traditional, and such establishments where no fees were charged were called *pathshalas*. They were generally located in the vicinity of some temple or near a grove. In addition to the subjects that were taught, such as elementary Sanskrit and grammar, astrology, and mathematics, some students were also prepared for priesthood. This system of education remained unaltered during the reign of the Katyuri and Chand rajas, but suffered considerably during the Gurkha interregnum (1790–1815).

In 1823, Traill, the commissioner of Kumaon, wrote, "There are no public institutions of the nature of schools, and private tuition is almost confined to the upper classes. The teachers are commonly Brahmans who impart to their scholars the mere knowledge of reading, writing and accounts. The children of respectable Brahmans are also taught Sanskrit and are occasionally sent to Benaras to complete their studies, where they pass through the usual course of Hindu education." In 1840, Barron, in his book *Himmala*, wrote, "All the Paharis of Kumaon, however poor, could read and write". The lower class of schools, designed primarily for the education of the masses, in most cases, consisted of an upper and a lower grade, the latter comprising village schools and the former generally termed as *tahsildaree* schools. A model school was established at the headquarters of each tahsil. In 1837, the nearest government college was located at Bareilly.

Sir Henry Ramsay, describing his educational policy wrote in 1874, "It is considered mere beneficial to impart to many the useful knowledge of reading and writing sufficient for their every day use than to give to a smaller number a better education by employing qualified but more expensive teachers." By the end of the 19th century, agriculture alone could not support the Hillman and he, therefore, had recourse to service through education. As regards female education, it was said that girls were too valuable to be allowed to waste their time over book learning, as there was plenty of work for them to do by way of carrying wood and grass and tilling the fields. However, the first girls' school was opened at Milam (in tahsil Munsyari) in 1867, and in 1871 there were 18 girls attending it.

By 1909, there were 39 aided and 33 State primary schools and 2 vernacular middle schools in the district. In 1911, there were 34 aided primary schools, 28 State primary schools and one vernacular middle school, and by the year 1965, there were in the district in all, one degree college (both for boys and girls), 19 higher secondary schools, 56 junior high schools and 389 junior Basic schools.

Growth of Literacy

According to the census of 1961, the males and females in the district who were literate and educated numbered 53,605 and 7,943 respectively, the percentages of literate and educated males and females in relation to their respective total numbers, which were 1,28,292 and 1,35,287, being 41.78 and 5.87, respectively, and the proportion of males and females who were literate and educated in relation to the total population, which was 2,63,579, was 23.35 per cent. The majority among both the sexes was of those who had become literate without having attained any recognized educational standard, the number of literates among males being 32,803 and that among females 5,781.

Given below is a statement indicating the number of illiterate, literate and educated persons (having various educational standards) as revealed by the 1961 census:

Educational standard	Total	Males	Females
Rural: Total population	2,63,579	1,28,292	1,35,287
Illiterate	2,02,031	74,687	1,27,344
Literate (without educational level)	38,584	32,803	5,781
Primary or Junior Basic	20,265	18,274	1,991
Matriculation and above	2,699	2,528	171

GENERAL EDUCATION

General education now includes education from the pre-junior basic or nursery stage to the university stage. In 1964-65, the number of pre-junior basic or nursery schools in the district was one, that of junior basic schools 438 (those for boys being 389 and for girls 49) and that of senior basic schools 56 (of which 8 were for girls), there being also 4 Kumaon Shilpkar Sabha Schools imparting instruction up to the junior basic stage. There were, in 1965-66, in the district 15 higher secondary schools for boys and four for girls of which six for boys and one for girls were intermediate colleges, the rest being high schools. Of these, 11 for boys, one each at Askot, Berinag, Dharchula, Didihat, Gangolihat, Kanalichinna, Munsyari, Nachani (Munsyari), Pangu, Pipalkote and Pithoragarh and three for girls, one each at Berinag, Namjala (Munsyari) and Pithoragarh, are maintained by the State Government, and the rest for boys, one each at Bankote and Dewal Thal and two at Pithoragarh, and one for girls at Bhatkote (Pithoragarh), by private bodies. The only degree college in the district started functioning with effect from July, 1963, and is run by the State Government. The statement below gives the enrolment for each type of institution on different dates, indicated against each:

Institution	Number	Enrolment	As on (date)
1	2	3	4
For Boys – Pre-junior Basic or Nursery	1	57 (including 21 girls)	March 31, 1965
Junior Basic	389	35,613 (including 10,468 girls)	March 31, 1965
Senior Basic (or Junior High School)	48	9,651 (including 610 girls)	March 31, 1965
Higher Secondary (up to class X)	9	2,534	November 30, 1965
Higher Secondary (up to class XII)	6	3,092	November 30, 1965
Degree College	1	64 (including 13 girls)	March 31, 1965

1	2	3	4
For Girls – Junior Basic	49	3,811 (including 923 boys)	March 31, 1965
Senior Basic (or Junior High School)	8	565 (including 62 girls and 113 boys of junior Basic stage)	March 31, 1965
Higher Secondary (up to class X)	3	445	November 30, 1965
Higher Secondary (up to class XII)	1	354	November 30, 1965

The figures regarding general education for the last six years have been appended at the end of the Chapter I in Statement I.

Pre-junior Basic Stage

Pre-junior Basic Education, which is imparted to children up to six years of age, is of recent growth in the district, the Govind Ballabh Pant Nursery School, Pithoragarh, founded by Ganga Ram Punetha in July, 1961, being the only recognized institution of this type. As on March 31, 1965, it had a staff of two women teachers and an enrolment of 57 pupils (including 21 girls), and the expenditure incurred during 1964-65 amounted to Rs 6,608, the Assistant Inspectress of Girls' Schools being in charge of its inspection.

Junior and Senior Basic Stage

The Wardha Scheme of Education was adopted by the State Government with certain modifications including the introduction of an eight-year course of studies comprising the junior basic stage from classes I to V and the senior basic stage from classes VI to VIII, was already in operation in the tahsil of Pithoragarh in February 1960, when it became the district of Pithoragarh.

This system as it obtains in the district owes its origin to Mahatma Gandhi according to whom education meant 'an all-round drawing out of the best in child and man-body, mind and spirit'. The fundamentals of this form of education are that free and compulsory education for eight years be provided by the State, the mother-tongue be the medium of instruction, the process of education should centre round some useful handicraft, enabling the child to produce something from the moment his training is begun, and every school should be self-supporting.

The Antanim Zila Parishad is responsible for junior and senior basic education in the district, the deputy inspector of Schools and the Assistant Inspectress of Girls' Schools being in charge of boys' and girls' education respectively. In 1964-65, the Antanim Zila Parishad maintained 253 junior basic schools for boys with 26,723 pupils (including 7,488 girls) on roll and 11 such schools for girls with 939 pupils (including 255 boys) on roll, the number of State-managed boys junior basic schools being 132 with 8,661 pupils (including 2,915 girls) on roll, and that for girls being 37 with 2,832 pupils (including 646 boys) on roll. The number of State-managed senior basic schools for boys was 16, with 1,317 pupils (including 122 girls) on roll and that for girls six, with 257 girls on roll. The number of senior basic schools for boys managed by the Antanim Zila Parishad being also 16, with 1,873 pupils (including 195 girls) on roll and that for girls one, with 19 girls on roll. There were four privately managed boys' junior basic schools, with 229 pupils (including 65 girls) on roll and one such school for girls with 440 pupils

(including 22 boys) on roll. There were 16 privately managed boys' senior basic schools with 6,461 pupils (including 293 girls) on roll and one such school for girls with 298 girls (including 62 girls and 113 boys of junior Basic stage) on roll, all of which were recognized and received aid under the Uttarakhand Development scheme. The Antarim Zila Parishad employed 772 men and 62 women teachers in the junior Basic schools and 90 men and four women teachers in the senior Basic schools, the amount spent by it on education being Rs 7,85,450, which included the state Government's contribution as well. The number of male teachers in the State-managed senior and junior Basic schools was 78 and 270 respectively, women teachers being 25 in senior and 78 in junior Basic schools. The number of male teachers in the privately managed senior and junior Basic schools was 69 and four respectively, female teachers being 12 in senior and 4 in junior Basic schools.

The Antarim Zila Parishad also managed four Kumaon Shilpkar Sabha schools during 1964-65. The schools were supervised by a sub-deputy inspector of schools of the area. As on March 31, 1965, there was a staff of four teachers and an enrolment of 164 pupils (including 43 girls), the amount expended on them (during 1964-65) being Rs 2,520.

Re-orientation Scheme

The aims of this scheme are to train students in agriculture, to create in them a feeling for the dignity of labour and to augment the finances of the institution by the sale of the agricultural produce raised by the pupils. It has already been in operation in the tahsil of Pithoragarh since February, 1960, when it became a district, and during 1965-66 it was in force in 20 institutions (agriculture being a compulsory subject) of which eight were higher secondary and 12 senior Basic schools. The land attached to these institutions for teaching agriculture was 53.10 hectares.

Secondary Education

Secondary education, leads up from the junior Basic (or primary) stage to the collegiate. The old Zila schools imparting secondary education were government schools leading up to the School Leaving Certificate examination but with the establishment of the board of high school and intermediate education, U.P., in 1921, the high schools examination began to be held at the stage of class X and the intermediate examination at the stage of class XII. Formerly a high school started with class III, but with the reorganization of education in 1948, classes III to V were transferred to the junior Basic schools and the high schools, starting with class VI, were re-designated higher secondary schools. Thus secondary education now covers education beyond the junior Basic stage up to class XII.

In 1965-66, there were in the district, 15 institutions for boys with 5,626 pupils on roll, 6 (with 3,092 on roll) providing education up to the intermediate standard and the rest (with 2,534 on roll) up to class X. The girls' institutions numbered 4 with 799 girls on roll, one being an Intermediate College (with 354 pupils on roll) and the rest high schools, with 445 pupils on roll. Of these four schools for boys, one each at Banknote and Deal Thai and 2 at Pithoragarh and one for girls at Bhatkote are managed by private agencies which receive financial aid from the State Government. The remaining institutions (11 for boys and 3 for girls) are being maintained by the government. The statement below gives relevant particulars about these institutions:

Institution and location	Year of establishment	Founder	Status and year of upgrading	No. of pupils (1965-66)	No. of teachers (1965-66)	Income in rupees (1964-65)	Expenditure in rupees (1964-65)
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Mission Girls' Higher secondary school, Bhatkote (Pithoragarh)	1880	Methodist Mission North India Conference	Started as primary school, high school in 1965	314	12	--	--
Mission Intermediate College, Pithoragarh	1895	Ditto	Started as junior high school, high school in 1948, intermediate college in 1961	663	22	70,601	69,084
Government Intermediate College, Pithoragarh	1930	Public and Military Personnel	Started as junior high school, high school in 1931, intermediate college in 1951	567	34	1,47,829	1,47,279
Higher Secondary School, Dewal Thal	1942	Private Body	Started as junior high school high school in 1961	306	15	42,222	33,680
Government Intermediate College, Kanalichinna	1945	Ditto	Started as junior high school, in 1963, intermediate college in 1965	488	25	86,845	86,053
Government Intermediate College, Askot	1946	Narayan Swami	Started as junior high school, high school in 1949, intermediate college in 1953	379	20	1,32,580	1,11,671
Government Girls' Intermediate College, Pithoragarh	1946	State Government	Started as junior high school, high school in 1950, intermediate college in 1961	354	26	1,32,873	1,33,029
Government Higher Secondary School, Pangu	1946	Private Body	Started as junior high school, high school in 1956	175	15	1,06,147	1,05,239
Sri Sarswati Deb Singh Higher Secondary School, Pithoragarh	1947	Dan Singh Bisht	Started as high school	387	17	51,373	50,028
Government Intermediate College, Berinag	1948	Private body	Started as high school, intermediate college in 1962	565	28	96,728	95,003
Government Higher Secondary School, Gangolihat	1948	Ditto	Started as junior high school, high school in 1949	406	16	55,236	54,845
Government Higher Secondary School, Dharchula	1949	Prem Ballabh Kherkwal	Started as junior high school, high school in 1962	249	17	96,736	95,739
Janta Higher Secondary School, Bankote	1952	Private body	Started as junior high school, high school in 1959	391	13	41,428	36,114

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Government Intermediate College, Munsyari	1954	State Government	Started as high school, intermediate college in 1960	430	31	1,01,634	2,00,696
Government Girls' Higher Secondary School, Namjala, (Munsyari)	1960	Ditto	Started as junior high school, higher secondary school in 1965	51	5	Government funds	Not known
Government Higher Secondary School, Pipalkote	1961	Private body	Started as high school	421	16	36,701	32,828
Government Girls' Higher Secondary School, Berinag	1962	State Government	Started as junior high school, high school in 1965	80	7	Government funds	not known
Government Higher Secondary School, Nachani (Munsyari)	1964	Ditto	Started as high school	80	9	30,339	28,317
Government Higher Secondary School, Didihat	1964	Ditto	Ditto	128	9	33,022	32,081

EDUCATION OF SCHEDULED CASTES AND OTHER BACKWARD CLASSES

Particular attention was first directed to the education of the Scheduled Castes and Other Backward Classes in 1937-38 and now greater incentives are being provided for the spread of education among these groups. The number of pupils (figures for the Scheduled Castes being for 1964-65 and those for Other Backward Classes for 1963-64) in these groups is being given below:

School	Scheduled Castes		Other Backward Classes		Total
	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls	
Junior Basic	4,868	1,349	1,049	441	7,707
Senior Basic	480	30	139	68	717
Higher secondary (up to class X)	240	4	151	22	417
Higher secondary (up to class XII)	161	10	292	8	471
Normal (H. T. C.)	12	--	3	--	15

Boys of these communities are exempted from payment of fees up to class VI and girls up to class X, the wards of those whose monthly income is below Rs 200 also being exempt from payment of fees at the higher stages of education. The facilities made available are, relaxation of the time and upper age limits for admission to certain educational institutions, giving of free tuition, stipends, scholarships and financial assistance for the purchase of books and stationary and the providing to free hostel facilities. The number of pupils, belonging to these groups, receiving such facilities at various educational stages, during 1964-65 in case of the scheduled castes, and 1963-64 in case of Other Backward Classes, was as follows:

School	Scheduled Castes		Other Backward Classes		Total
	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls	
Junior Basic	112	24	144	33	313
Senior Basic	59	18	42	23	142
Higher secondary (up to classes X and XII)	197	7	224	27	455
Normal (H. T. C.)	12	--	3	--	15

Free accommodation is provided at village Bajeti Deolal (in tahsil Pithoragarh) for 20 students of these groups.

Higher Education

The Government Degree College, Pithoragarh, founded by the State Government in July, 1963, is the only institution in the district which imparts higher education. It is a co-educational institution and prepares students for the B. A. degree of the Agra University. The strength of students, during 1965-66, was 87 (including 24 girls). There were in all 19 teachers.

PROFESSIONAL AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION

Teachers' Training

Two government normal schools, for boys at Didihat (founded in 1961) and another for girls at Pithoragarh (started in July, 1965, as a wing of the Government Girls' Intermediate College) prepare candidates for the Hindustani Teacher' Certificate examination, the duration of the training being two years. The trainees in them numbered 94 and 20 respectively during 1965-66, the strength of teachers being 11 men and 3 women respectively.

Mali Training

Introduced in the district in 1960-61, this scheme seeks to prepare those interested in horticulture, in the art of pruning, grafting, plant protection measures, use of insecticides, etc. Batches of 20 to 30 are trained at a time, the duration of training being 3 months and the amount of stipend received by each trainee from the government funds being Rs 40. Those trained up to 1965-66, at various government nurseries, multipurpose horticulture farms and progeny orchards, numbered 342, and the amount expended was Rs 30,959, the government grant received in respect of the scheme since its inception amounting to Rs 36,200 and the year wise break-up being as follows:

Year				Number Trained	Expenditure (in rupees)	Government grant (in rupees)
1960-61	..	..	..	120	8,586	9,200
1961-62	..	..	..	49	4,584	7,000
1962-63	..	..	..	48	4,270	5,000
1963-64	..	..	..	44	4,741	5,000
1964-65	..	..	..	44	5,006	5,000
1965-66	..	..	..	37	3,772	5,000

Vocational Training

There are in the district 16 training-cum-production centres, run by the industries department, which impart vocational training in various handicrafts such as carpentry, smithery, spinning and weaving of wool, making of hosiery, tailoring, knitting, crochet work, embroidery, and carpet and shawl making, the duration of training, which is stipendary, being one year, on the completion of which successful trainees are awarded certificates by the department of industries.

To encourage technical education amongst the inhabitants of the district, stipends and scholarships are also awarded to suitable local students to enable them to join industrial training institutes, polytechnics and other technical institutions in other hill districts and the plains, Rs 82,000 and Rs 57,045 being the sums expended by government during 1964-65 and 1965-66, respectively, under this scheme in this and Chamoli and Uttarkashi districts.

ORIENTAL EDUCATION

Sanskrit

There were in the district (during 1965-66) only three Sanskrit pathshalas, one each at Kanalichinna, Pithoragarh and Gangolihat, which imparted education in Sanskrit literature, *vyakarana* (grammar), *ganita* (mathematics), *vyotish* (astronomy and astrology), *darshan* (philosophy), etc. The statement below gives relevant particulars about these institutions, all being affiliated to the Varanaseya Sanskrit Vishwavidyalaya, Varanasi and recognized by the State Government:

Name and location	Year of establishment	Founder	Courses of study	No. of pupils (1965-66)	No. of teachers (1965-66)	Income in rupees (1964-65)	Expenditure in rupees (1964-65)
Gauri Shanker Sanskrit Vidyalaya	1955	Laxmi Datt Pant	From Praveshika to Purva Madhyama	20	3	15,514	13,128
Sri Madan Mohan Malviya Sanskrit Vidyalaya, Pithoragarh	1962	Private body	Ditto	56	3	2,200	2,200
Sri Madan Mohan Sanskrit Pathshala, Gangolihat	1962	Ditto	Ditto	39	1	972	972

ADULT EDUCATION

Adult education classes are run by the development blocks under the supervision of block development officers, the duration of the course being six months. Instruction is imparted by part-time teachers and adult leaders and the examinations are conducted by the inspecting staff of the government. Adult centres for women are run by women village level workers (Gram Lakshmis), training being given in local crafts, handicrafts, nursing and community living. The adult education classes organized in the district during 1964-65 numbered 101, adults made

literate and Gram Sahayak trained, numbering 1,954 and 2,394 respectively, and the number of women trained in handicrafts being 1,237.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Physical education is given to boys and girls under the district Bharat Scouts and Guides Association in almost all types of higher secondary schools and most of the junior and senior Basic schools of the district.

FINE ARTS AND MUSIC

The district is very rich in various types of folk-songs and folk dances. Significant folk-songs are the Neoli, Chira, Chaiti, Hurkiyabol, Baira, Bhagnola, Jagar and Ghaneli. The Neoli is very popular in the eastern part of the district. It is a duet between lovers but the theme of the song is mainly ethical and philosophical. It is famous for its long pathetic tones. The Chira songs are the ceremonial songs of *patti* Johar and are sung by the women folk during the marriage ceremony and other auspicious occasions. The Chaitis (also known as the Bhaitoli or the Rituraina) are related with a local custom of giving presents to married sisters during the month of Chaitra. The Hurkiyabol songs are connected with the cultivation of paddy and are sung in open fields during the day time to inspire the labourers in their tedious work. The Baira songs are just like poetical debates which are composed on the spot on any current topic or on local events. The participants entertain the public for hours together. The Bhagnolas are mainly romantic songs. The main line of the song is uttered by the chief singer and is then elaborated upon by his followers. It is always sung in a standing posture. The Jagar and the Ghaneli songs contain long illustrative pieces from the *Mahabharata* or the Puranas, or narrate the deeds of local heroes now deified. These songs have a ritualistic importance and are usually sung in the long winter nights. They are also sung when somebody in the household is supposed to be under the influence of some evil spirit. The Jagars contain episodes of village gods and godlings, like Gananath, Bholanath, Bhagwati, Narsing and Churmalla, and in the Ghaneli the gods from the sacred pantheon are praised. Ramolas and Malushahis are mainly folk ballads; the former describe the episodes of the famous Ramola brothers and the latter narrate the heroine Rajula's wanderings.

Prominent folk-dances of the district are Jhora, Chanchari, Chapeli, Bhado, Devtali, Jhumaila, Chaufula, Dhol and the Hurka. The Jhora, Chanchari, Chapeli and Devtali are more popular folk-dances and are accompanied by songs. The Jhora is the most popular dance and may be performed by any number of people during the day or the night. It is associated with the coming of the spring season. The participants – men, women or both, hold each other by the arms and sang together bending forward and backward slowly in their movements. The main singer sings and dances inside the circle followed by others. It is a community dance. Sometimes the dancers stand on each other's shoulders when it is called Domanjala-Jhora. In the Chanchari dance the movements are slower than in the Jhora and the dance-circle is often divided into semi-circles. It is mostly seen during the fairs and festivals. The Chapeli is the dance of young couples who hold mirrors and kerchiefs in their hands. The main feature of the dance is its swift rhythm. The dancers do not sing, but the song sung by the Hurka players standing near-by. The only significant feature of the Devtali dance is that the gods are themselves supposed to participate in it. The Bhado dance depicts heroic narratives of local importance. The Cholia is a pure folk-dance, with no singing at all. The dancers present the warring scenes of Rajput heroes, with swords and shields in their hands. The swift steps are a peculiar feature of this dance. A similar folk-dance is the Kyunki in which women participate with small swords and mirrors in their hands. Both these dances are performed mainly at the time of departure of a marriage party. The Dhol dance is performed during some festive occasion, in front of the temples of gods and goddesses. The skill of the dancers in swinging the *dhols* in different ways is the main attraction. The Hurka dances,

accompanied by flutes, are performed in fairs by the dancers who show their traditional skill in the dance. Its main feature is the rising tempo which becomes faster towards the end. The Jhumaila and Chaufula are community dances which may be seen in the western part of the district and are mainly performed during the spring season. Men and women dancers stand opposite to each other and the people of all castes may participate in the dance. No instrument is used, the rhythm being given by clapping.

The other folk-dances, occasionally seen in the district, are the Dhurung, Chola, Syang and Dandiyala. The Dhurung is a death ceremony and a dance as well. In this community dance, men and women move in a circle while singing songs. Sometimes the dancers use long turbans. Songs are like hymns, sung in a very mild tone, and are connected with the departure of the dead. The Chola is another dance of the northern *patti* in which men and women dance in separate rows, playing with instruments like the *nagara*, *damua* and *jhanj*. It is a dance without song, performed mainly during a marriage ceremony. The Syang is another dance in which the participants sit together while singing, the presentation of different poses being the main feature. The Dandiyala is another dance with song performed on happy occasions. It resembles the Garba dance of Gujarat. The dancers play with small sticks while dancing, accompanied by alluring songs. The Pari dance is performed in memory of the fairies, supposed to dwell on the peaks of the Himalayan Mountains.

The Pandava Yatra and the Heel Yatra are the main folk operas of the district. The former is usually performed during the Dasahra festival, and is based on the *Mahabharata*, the actual dance being preceded by a ritualistic ceremony. The participants of the Heel Yatra wore masks which are made locally. It has interesting costumes and is connected with the social life of the villagers.

The folk-songs and folk-dances are accompanied by various musical instruments. Some of them are the *bausuli*, *murli*, *binai*, *turi*, *bhokari*, *hurka*, *dhol*, *nagara*, *damua*, *jhanj* and *thali*. The *hurka* and the flute are the main instruments. The musical instruments of modern times such as the *dholak*, *kartal*, *chintas*, *majira* and *harmonium*, are also becoming popular, but to keep the sanctity of festive occasions, the traditional musical instruments are preferred.

The costume of the folk dancers is worth noticing. It consists of a long *chola*, a belt around the waist, narrow piped white pyjamas and a big turban on the head. Turbans are sometimes replaced by caps. Faces of the dancers are decorated with sandal wood paste and red vermilion. They also wear ear-rings.

Various fairs and festivals of the district have played a major role in preserving the art and technique of folk-songs and folk-dances. The women folk mix freely in most of these dances, which is a specific feature of the social life in the hills.

LIBRARIES AND READING-ROOMS

There were in the district (during 1965-66) nine rural libraries and reading-rooms (run by the education expansion department under the education and social education programme) and a district library at Pithoragarh, founded in 1963-64, and run by government. As on June 30, 1966, the last named had 3,400 books and subscribed for a number of newspapers and magazines, the number of borrowers being 190 and that of daily visitors about 30.

STATEMENT I

Education

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Year	Junior Basic education				Senior Basic education				Higher secondary				College	Higher education	
	Schools		Students		Schools		Students		Schools		Students			Students	
	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls		Men	Women
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
1960-61	286	14	18,120	3,929	38	3	2,931	297	9	1	2,218	297	--	--	--
1961-62	296	18	19,322	4,778	39	4	3,092	491	11	1	2,915	338	--	--	--
1962-63	335	30	23,375	6,472	40	6	3,489	466	12	1	3,385	441	--	--	--
1963-64	373	40	25,612	11,403	47	8	3,765	601	13	1	4,126	534	1	27	6
1964-65	389	49	26,068	13,346	48	8	4,541	886	15	1	4,677	593	1	51	13
1965-66	403	64	26,511	14,582	49	6	5,091	788	15	4	5,442	983	1	63	24