



## An Empirical Study on the Trend and Government Policies to mitigate the Rural Migration concerning Garhwal District (Uttarakhand)

Seema Parveen<sup>1</sup>, Pradeep Mamgain<sup>1\*</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Department of Business Management, HNB Garhwal University Srinagar Uttarakhand

\*Corresponding author: [pradmamgain@gmail.com](mailto:pradmamgain@gmail.com)

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**Abstract:** The Uttarakhand state, throughout the long term, has seen a huge mass migration of individuals to the plain region due to fewer employment opportunities in the hill areas. The national lockdown has forced the migrants to return to their native places and rural hilly areas. Rural development is more explicit as this word focuses particularly on poverty and inequality. This study focuses on identifying the forward and backward integration that may be helpful for villagers to livelihood opportunities for large numbers of migrants. Though the coronavirus pandemic has been a huge problem to the world, it has been a blessing in disguise in Uttarakhand in creating reverse migration here. This study assessed the socio-economic impacts of labor concerning reverse migration in Uttarakhand. Various trends and Government policies operating in the economies of hill territories for agricultural improvement and thereby working upon the reverse migration are assessed. This study resolves in understanding the impact of these schemes on the economic and socio-development of hilly areas.

**Key Words:** Human Resource, Reverse Migration, Rural Livelihoods, Government Policies

### Introduction

The outmigration of human-resource is a major development issue in Hilly state like Uttarakhand. It was formed after its separation from Uttar Pradesh on November 9, 2000, with expectations of people for better business and livelihood opportunities. According to the census 2011 of Uttarakhand 16,793 villages, 1,055 don't have any inhabitants and other 405 villages possess a population of lower than 10. It shows a sluggish development of the population in a large portion of the mountain areas of the state. The speed of out-migration is immense to such an extent that a large number of the villages have been converted to ghost villages.

Generally speaking, the population development rate in the state is 1.74%, however, the mountainous areas saw a lot of lower population

development (0.70%) when contrasted with the field areas (2.83%). “The decadal growth of population development is highest in Dehradun, Haridwar, and Udham Singh Nagar (more than 30% in every one of the three regions) & Nainital was (more than 25%); modestly high in Champawat (14.5 %) and Uttarkashi (around 12 %); low (5% or less) in Pithoragarh, Rudraprayag, Bageshwar, Chamoli, Tehri Garhwal; and negative in Almora and Pauri” (Population Census Provisional Data 2011, referred to in Bahuguna and Belial, 2013). Almora and Pauri Garhwal have 17,868 individuals less in 2011 contrasted with 2001. Essentially, 33 villages evaporated from the guide of Uttarakhand somewhere in the range of 2001 and 2011. as per the census of 2011, 16,793 villages of Uttarakhand, 1053 have no habitants



and another 405 have less than ten population (Venkatesh, 2016). The Ghost villages number is accounted to have reached 3500 (Purnendu, 2012; Umar, 2012). Outmigration moreover affected the demographical segment and social syntheses of the mountain regions including Pauri Garhwal.

People have been migrating from one region to another region for better employment opportunities, health, and education together with socio-political and environmental reasons. The major population of the hill was earlier dependent on agriculture together with animal husbandry but due to the decline in agricultural productivity and human-wildlife conflict the youth of the region have disinterest in agriculture. Access to basic facilities i.e., water, electricity, fuel, and fodder has expanded outmigration from the mountains to the plain areas.

The Govt. of India has initiated several policies and programs for the development of hill states and to check the migration of human resources. The study critically examines the awareness and beneficiaries of various schemes by the central/state Government for the development of the hill district (Pauri Garhwal) of Uttarakhand.

### **Literature Review**

Out-migration is not a new phenomenon for the rural hilly areas, because people face so many difficulties in their living conditions. These problems pull them out from their native places for getting the better opportunity and facilities in metropolitan areas (Dinesshpa, Srinivasa, 2014;) After its formation, Uttarakhand has done well in terms of economical growth but Govt. has paid attention to only plain area (Rawat, 2017; Joshi 2018;) the absence of essential and fundamental requirements in hilly areas, for example, employment, education, health facility, nearest market availability, etc. drives individuals from rural to urban areas. The migration status in rural regions is subject to numerous elements,

(Jangwan, Upreti, 2019; Rawat 2017;). People are abandoning their villages for finding better opportunities in urban areas. In which youngsters have a majority who have migrated from the hills of Uttarakhand in unending waves, leaving in their wake either ghost villages or hamlets full of just the old and the infirm. The migration of humans is a major problem for the development of the state. The government has taken several initiatives to curb the exodus and boost the income of local people but there can only do so much. (Singh, 2017; Sati, 2016;) Uttarakhand is an agroecology-rich state with a huge no. of grain plants and grass species. It likewise upholds an enormous no of livestock population in hilly areas (Sati, 2016; Jain, 2010;) Lack of job opportunities in rural areas is one of the main reasons for migration to the urban region. Government of has introduced many schemes and welfare programs for the purpose to check migration from rural areas (Prasad.B, 2016;). “The majority of the hill districts have shown very less growth of population rwhereas there has been a sharp increase in population in the plain districts” (Census of India 2011; GoU 2018; Mamgain and Reddy 2017). To check migration from hilly regions state and central government framed development schemes were not implemented properly in backward areas and were unable to provide the job opportunity to local people. To a large extent, government development programs have not shown a significant impact on rural to urban migration (Mehta, Maikhuri, 2018; Jain, 2008;).

### **Statement of the Problem:**

The convergence of rural migrants to urban areas has brought about a consistent pouring of money from urban areas to rural territories. Most migrants are single, who, after getting urban jobs & work, generally, send a part of their wages and salary to their village home to enhance the small wages of their families. Remittances do not just



continue the village area's families; they likewise advance a village area's cash economy instead of the customary trade or bargain economy. A few rural areas have encountered critical changes in their financial status because of the remittances. The study focused on both primary and secondary data to highlights quantitative & qualitative approaches. Primary data was being collected from the Garhwal region in Uttarakhand State, through a survey method with the help of a Questionnaire and personal interviews from those households where migration and Government policies were reported. And secondary data was collected from annual reports, journals and research articles related to migration and Government schemes. The sample size of 600 was taken from the hilly villages for the study. The data was collected from the household members of the villages. Household members were randomly selected for the study. Both male and female household respondents were selected from this stream.

The present work is a quantitative and descriptive study. The quantitative study was adopted to examine proposed interrelationships among the different variables, hypotheses testing the underlying theoretical work, and achieve the objective of the study grounded on the utilization of quantifiable data. Further, the information has been analyzed through pie charts and graphs.

STUDY AREA is Pauri Garhwal, which is one of the hilly regions of Uttarakhand. The region ranges from the Bhabar field to Hilly region and slopes of Himalayas. The District of Pauri Garhwal is divided into 13 Tehsils and 15 Development Blocks. As per the census reports of 2011 it has a population of 6,87,271 and out of which 83.58% of the population lives in rural hilly regions and the rest 16.42% is the urban population.

### **Objectives of the study**

To study the dimensions, and determinants of migration of human resources in the research area.

- To evaluate the impact of Government policies in reducing the outward migration of human resources in the study area.
- To suggest an effective working strategy for implementation of government schemes in rural areas.

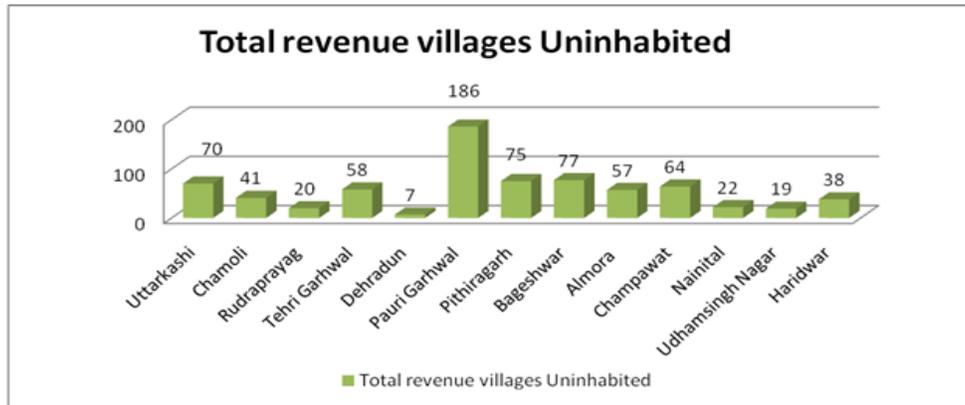
### **Hypothesis of the study**

- Capacity and infrastructure building through various Government schemes have a beneficial impact on the out-migration of human resources from the study area.
- There is a significant relationship between welfare government schemes and the economic betterment of local government scheme beneficiaries in the study area.

### **Results and Discussion**

Human resource out-migration from rural areas to metropolitan areas in the state is a major considerable issue an evaluation somewhere in the census of 2001 and 2011 shows information a sluggish decadal population development when it shows the majority for the hill parts of the state. According to the last 4 census, a negative population development rate -1.51 has been accounted and due to this declining pattern rural migration is a severe problem in the Pauri district of Uttarakhand.

The study shows that OutMigration from the hilly districts of Uttarakhand state was noticed higher than one other areas. Most of the villages in the Himalayas are uninhabited after 2010. The district-wise data is given below.



**Figure 1: Total revenue villages Uninhabited**

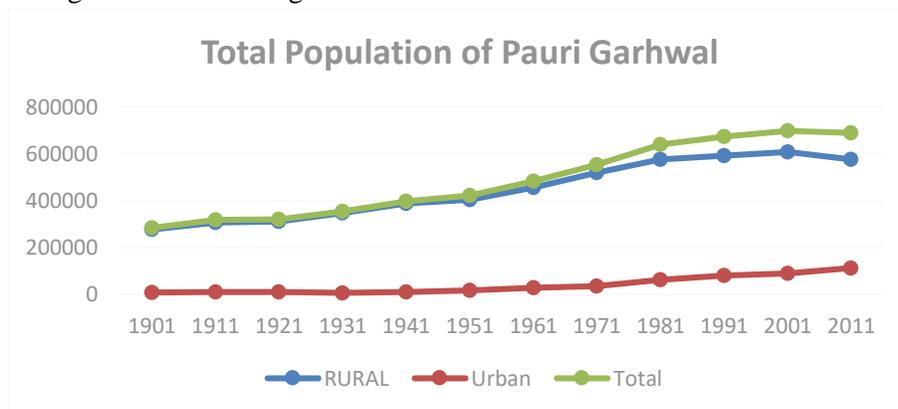
Source: Uttarakhand Migration Commission Report, September 2019

As per the census of 2011, out of 16793 villages of Uttarakhand, 1053 villages are in the state that are uninhabited – "ghost villages" and another 405 have a population of under 10. Pauri Garhwal is seeing huge scale migration from the state's hill parts. There has been negative decadal growth seen in the Pauri region (- 1.41%) which fairly demonstrates the high rate of migration. The population in the area fell by 9,808 persons somewhere in the census of 2001 and 2011 is a testimony to the large level of out-migration. In

the present study, Pauri Garhwal district's negative decadal growth (-1.41%) has been observed between 2001 and 2011. Due to this declining pattern rural migration is a severe problem in the Pauri district of Uttarakhand.

**Trends, Dimension, and Determinants of Migration**

The number of inhabitants in Pauri has seen a declining pattern in the course of the last four censuses.



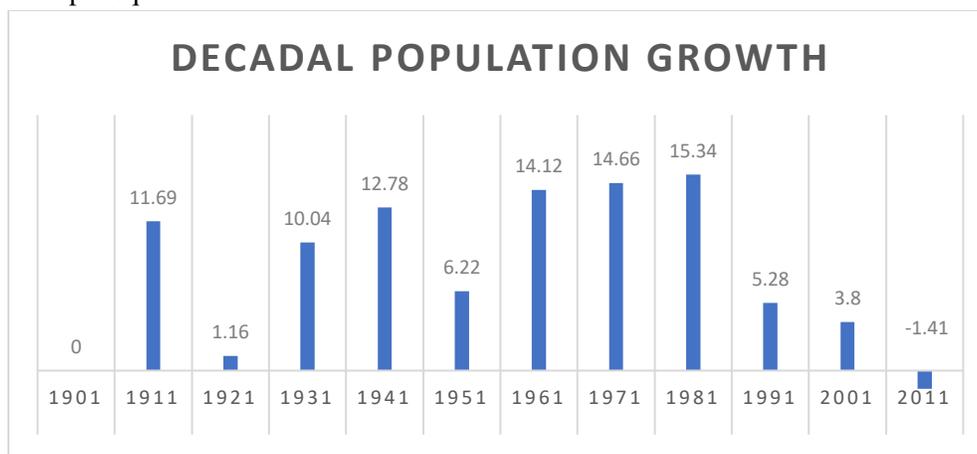
**Figure 2: Data source: DES, Pauri**

According to the last four census a negative population development rate -1.51 has been accounted and due to this declining pattern, rural migration is a severe problem in the Pauri district of Uttarakhand. As per the Census 2011, Pauri

Garhwal has 6.80% population of the state and it is the 5th most populated area of Uttarakhand. Where the population of male is 3.27 lakh, and the female is 3.62 lakh. Pauri District has an 1103 sex proportion, which is higher than the



Uttarakhand state and its population density is 129 individuals per square kilometer.



**Figure 3: Source: DES Statistical Magazine, 2017**

Source: DES, Pauri Garhwal

As per the 2011 census literacy rate of the district is 82.02%. The Birth Rate has been recorded at 18.51% and the Death Rate at 6.49% in the year 2016-17 in Pauri Garhwal. During this period the Mortality Rate of Infants is recorded per 1000 live births is 38 in number.

**Table 1: Number of Households in Pauri Garhwal (2015-16)**

Rural	Urban	Total
136181	25597	161778

(Source: DES, Pauri)

The data indicates the no. of households in rural area is 136181 and in urban areas is 25597. The total no of households in the district is 161778.

**Rural Population in Pauri Garhwal**

**Table 2: Block and state-wise description of the rural population in the district:**

Year	Total	Male	Female	Decadal Population Increase (%)
1991	5903	2787	31159	7.05
2001	6072	2817	32549	2.85
2011	5703	2658	30449	-6.07

**Temporary and Permanent Migration in Pauri Garhwal**

Over the most recent 10 years, an aggregate of 47,489 people in 1,025 Gram-panchayat has migrate temporarily, however they come to their native places and village from time to time and on special occasions and have not moved forever. Over the most recent 10 years, there are 25,585 Permanent migrants from 821 Gram-panchayats of Pauri Garhwal. The information demonstrates that there is more Temporary basis migrants than permanent migrants in Pauri Garhwal.

**Block wise Main Reasons for Migration from Pauri Garhwal**

The main causes of migration from the district are the issue of occupation/business/better employment followed by a shortage of education and health facility

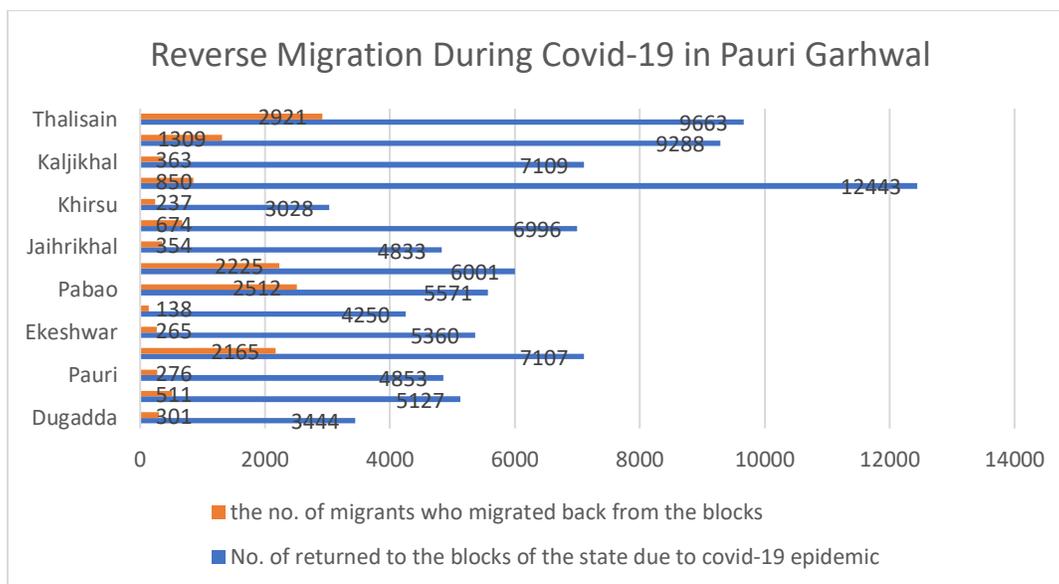


**Table 3: Data source: Interim Report of socio-economic development of Pauri Garhwal District**

Block Name	lack of livelihood/Employment (%)	Lack of Medical Facility (%)	lack of Education (%)	lack of Infrastructure facility (%)	low Farm production and productivity (%)	Emulating family, Relatives, etc. for migration (%)	Loss to farming caused by wild animals (%)	Any other reason (%)	Total
Birokhal	54.53	14.64	12.73	3.89	4.79	2.35	4.43	2.65	100
Luganda	54.07	8.66	15.05	4.14	5.73	3.32	7.5	1.52	100
Dwarekhal	57.92	12.43	16.74	3.79	3.03	0.75	4.95	0.42	100
Ekeswar	50.73	13.45	19.05	1.45	4.83	4.38	5.16	0.96	100
Kaljikhhal	52.86	12.1	15.1	1.82	6.36	2.68	7.45	1.62	100
Khirshu	60.62	12.48	12.12	1.14	3.63	4.64	3.94	1.39	100
Kote	41.03	13	16.75	3.32	6.57	3.25	9.36	6.71	100
Nainidanda	51.39	8.89	15.16	5.24	7.2	2.11	7.67	2.35	100
Pabo	45.82	12.5	15.12	4.31	8.75	1.75	9.42	2.33	100
Pauri	54.22	6.94	16	3.7	4.48	5.12	5.21	4.33	100
Pokhra	42.84	16.49	16.8	2.22	6.58	5.58	6.8	2.69	100
Rikhnikhal	49.03	11.74	12.48	1.25	5.47	1.44	4.36	14.3	100
Thailisain	67.11	8.13	13.53	1.58	3.5	0.98	2.43	2.74	100
Yamkeshwar	47.32	8.06	22.47	2.27	5.13	1.66	10.76	2.32	100
Jehrikhal	43.43	10	19.34	6.13	6.02	2.23	9.06	3.79	100

The above table indicates the block-wise causes of migration. As per the migration report, “approximately fifty-two percent of humans migrated from states because of a lack of employment and livelihood opportunities in hilly rural areas.” Whereas second main reason for migration is lack of education and health facility with fifteen and eleven percent. Loss to farming caused by the wild animal attacks is also six percent reason of migration from the rural hilly areas. Lack of infrastructure facilities (3%) and low farm productivity (5%)) are causes of human migration from the Pauri Garhwal.

Data indicates the 106 total villages in Pauri Garhwal where PHC facility is not available and where the population going decreased after 2011 by 50%. There are Birokhalhas 25 and rikhnikhalthas 14 villages where PHC is not available within one kilometer. A blockwise number of returned migrants to the blocks of Pauri Garhwal due to covid-19 epidemic and no. of those migrants who migrated During Covid-19 back to their native places.



**Figure 4: (Data Source: interim report of Covid-19 September 2020)**

#### Focused Welfare Oriented Schemes:

The government schemes provide the livelihood fewer opportunities inside villages. Socio and economic development of mountain villages are being taken up through several welfare-oriented government programs. There are many welfare-oriented programs introduced by the government for sustainable development of remote areas, there are main programs included the “AJEEVIKA (Rural Livelihood) and; Mahatma Gandhi Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA); Pradhan Mantri Gramin Sadak Yojna; Pradhan Mantri Avas Yojna.” The number of households covered under MGNREGA programs is 1,31,596 and the number of active job cardholders who are working under this scheme. Under the AJEEVIKA programs; 2351 SHGs are formed in the Pauri Garhwal district.

National Rural Employment Guarantee Act comes to existence in 2005. The Act is implemented in the whole country except for areas that have a hundred percent metropolitan population. MGNREGA scheme gives hundred

days of work for a family in a year. The Kind of work under the Schemes are:Flood Control & Protection works remembering waste for water logged regions.

In Pauri Garhwal district Mahatma Gandhi National Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) A complete number of 1.08 lakh work cards have been given of which an all-out number of 1.9 lakh work cards are dynamic (March 2021). An all-out number of 1.9 lakh laborers are dynamic in the district of 1.37 lakh laborers. Of the all-out dynamic laborers, 12.49 are SC and 0.07% are ST.

#### DAY-NRLM

The Rural Development Ministry is carrying out Deen Dayal Antodaya Yojana National Rural Livelihoods Mission to decrease poverty by empowering the poor people to get beneficial independent work and wage work opportunities. SHG Credit Linkage: While the schemes offer credit needs for the village’s poor families. The Mission in this manner expects that the SHGs influence beneficial funds of bank credit.The number of SHGs framed since the beginning is



higher than the objective for each monetary year. Thus 21308 SHGs have been framed since beginning against an objective of 19385. Self-employed or company owners made up 258 (43%) of the entire sample; housewives made up 230 (38.3%); students made up only 7 (1.2%) of the total sample; employed persons made up 58 (8.8%), and retired people made up 52 (8.7%).

### **Conclusion And Suggestion**

Based on a review of the study work on outmigration we can conclude beneficiaries' effect of various schemes on rural development and migration, particularly in the Pauri district, is on the rise. The various suggestions may be summarized as :

There is a need to formulate such Government plans and strategy which is helpful to local people for enhancing work opportunity in their native places according to their qualification and skills. Such type of capacity-enhancing program plays role in development of hilly area.

Pauri Garhwal district is one of the richest districts in nature and under this district, every block and place has different unique strengths. The Government welfare-oriented schemes need to lay emphasis on lowering the out migration.

There is a need for Government welfare-oriented government schemes to be a focus on properly educating the people about the schemes' work and their benefits. State Government needs to conduct awareness programs in remote areas related to many welfare-oriented schemes for the awareness of local people.

There is a government that needs to focus on formatting specific strategies for enhancing economic development opportunities in the rural hilly areas which's helpful for local people to increase their earning capacity in their native places. It is like to be helping to prevent human resources out-migration from their places and encourage migrants to come back to their native

areas. The economic condition of any area decided the social development of that area.

Many villages have similar conditions concerning land use; geography; level of human migration, weather conditions; accessibility; availability of basic facilities such as availability of water for personal use and agriculture use, etc. The government needs to be prepared by the guidance of a supervisor and with the attainment of the local people who are interested to increase and boost their income level. The government welfare-oriented schemes need to help those villagers who are interested in taking up economic activities about which they are often not aware.

Lack of basic facilities such as drinking water availability, road, and transportation connectivity, education, and health care facility is an important factor of out-migration from the rural hilly areas and the government needs to be addressed such problems with the help of proper implementation of various welfare-oriented program related with these problems in hilly areas.

For the next five years, rural development departments should need to be a focus on increasing the number of rural hilly areas in various blocks; particularly in those blocks where human migration has increased in the last decades.

The government needs to update different running Vocational training and skill development programs, which programs need to focus on improving the skills and knowledge of local people that would relate to the local economic growth. Such development programs could be related to improving agricultural technologies; such as new knowledge about new machines, a strategy of off-season cropping; food/fruit processing; learning programs for enhancing the dairying; dairy business at low cost; hospitality, etc. vocational training courses for local youth.



Due to the lack of irrigation water agriculture sector in the Pauri Garhwal region is largely dependent on climate conditions, and these situations increase the risk of crop failures, for local farmers. The changing weather situation in the Pauri Garhwal region can be the main reason for low production of local crops like jhangora, mandua and Koda. Wild animal attacks are also a big problem in the development of the agriculture sector and local farmers. Wild animals like elephants, wild pigs, monkey menace and bears damage local crops which's also compelling to local farmers abandon their agricultural occupation.

The government needs to focus on Encouraging and providing basic training to local farmers to shift to growing different kinds of vegetables including local crops like mandua; Kodo jhangora and potatoes to produce large volumes. Hence the production of different vegetables in large quantities is enough to attract big-level buyers. The cultivation of pulses and agro-products needs to be encouraged through agriculture intensive programs. The Pauri Garhwal region agriculture development sector needs to conduct an extensive survey of the production of cultivation of different areas. The Government should take correct steps to increase the quantity of agro-based products in region.

The quality of animal husbandry in study areas needs to be developed with modern technology so that animal husbandry can become the main source of earnings for local villagers Pauri and many families as possible. Milk and dairy products such as cheese and ghee have a huge scope in rural areas. There are some dairy farms in the district in the rural areas, which are supplying dairy products and fresh milk to big cities like Kotdwara Srinagar, Pauri, and Satpuli. However, these supplies of dairy products are not enough to reach the big level of the market. There is a government that needs to formulate such a strategy that can be decided supportive in the

development of modern technology to enhance the animal husbandry business at a big level of the market. The department of animal husbandry/dairying should need to provide training programs related to ways of animal husbandry, marketing availability; animal health; etc., and then formulate a strategy for strengthening this local occupation which can be helpful to boost the local economy of the district. The growth of small scales industries in any area plays an important role in the developing economy and provides livelihoods options for that area. The main industrial area in Pauri Garhwal district is located at Kotdwara. There is a large number of small units situated such as readymade garments/ embroideries; wood/ wood-based furniture and repairing and servicing units, etc. The MSME sector has a big potential to boost the economy of hilly areas. According to the study, the development of MSMEs in Pauri Garhwal is lowest or almost negligible in some blocks, especially in hilly areas. The government needs to pay attention in expanding small-scale enterprises and artisan units in all development blocks of Pauri Garhwal and help to conduct capacity building and entrepreneurship programs to encourage the local youth to identify the better livelihood opportunity.

The promotion of small-scale industries based on the pharma sector and power has a large scope to generate livelihood opportunities for human resources in hilly areas. The state government needs to come up with a comprehensive strategy and schemes to support the small scales industries based on the pharma and power sectors.

There are twenty-six biggest tourist places in the Pauri district which include wildlife, forests, high peaks, temples, and many sites. There are many guest houses for tourists and approximately more than 300 hotels and paying guest houses are also available in the district and there are also available homestays, most of them being in the Lansdowne area.



Pauri district is rich in nature and tourist places such as forests, beautiful landscapes, wildlife, rivers, lakes, and many temples. Thus, there is a big opportunity for the development of local-based tourism. This district is rich in natural resources, which is a positive point for government to promote eco-tourism with focus on the local people participation in such activity so that more employment is generated for villagers and boost the local economy.

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