

1. **Ms. B. Maithili, Ms. Piyali Mathawan, Dr. Vartika Saxena. Adolescent's educational status and reasons for dropout from the school in the state of Uttaranchal. India Journal of Community Medicine Vol 33, issue 2, April 2008.**

### **Abstract**

#### **Introduction:**

Adolescence is a period of acquiring new capacities. It is not only a time of opportunity but also of vulnerability to risky behavior, which can have life-long consequences, especially on education, career, and health. This research paper attempts to assess the educational status of adolescent and to analyze the reasons for dropout from the school so that effective strategies can be developed for improving the situation.

#### **Materials and Methods:**

This study was carried out in the three districts of the Uttaranchal Viz. Dehradun, Nainital, and Udham Singh Nagar. Adolescents of age group of 13 to 19 were included for the study. A total of 3,980 adolescents were covered in all the six blocks.

#### **Findings:**

A total of 28% girls said that their family and relatives did not approve their further continuation of the studies. A total of 9% girls and 1% boys reported lack of education facility in the nearby village as the reason for dropping out. Lack of quality education, imposition of parents choices upon adolescents, lack of privacy, and toilet facilities for girls in school and security reasons were few other reasons cited by adolescent for dropping out. Study indicated 73% male and 59% of female attending the school in the age group of 13 to 19. The dropout rates even at primary level are more for the girls than the boys.

#### **Results:**

The reason for girls remaining behind is the attitude of the parents. Other reasons are the burden of sibling care, domestic work, physical and sexual insecurity, parental education level etc., indicating the need of interventions in the family and social domains. These factors need to be properly addressed for not only improving the female literacy rate but also reduction in the overall dropout rates.