

## Comparative Analysis of Newspapers Publication in Uttarakhan

**Dr. Jyotsna Panwar**

*Department of Mass Communication, H.N.B.U. (A Central University), Srinagar (Garhwal), Uttarakhand, India.*

### ABSTRACT

*In Uttarakhand the credit of starting print media goes to a british businessman and social worker John Mckinnon, who published 'The hill' from Mussoorie in 1842. Though, Uttrakhand has very old history of print media publication, still the state was never supposed to be an important place in print media history of India. In the Uttarakhand, after its formation in November 2000 nothing much has been done in the area of print media journalism. According to RNI data of newspapers publication in India, Uttarakhand often managed to stay in the list of top 10 states of maximum numbers of newspapers publications in India. This study analyses the five years RNI data of newspapers publication in Uttarakhand from 2013 to 2018. This study will give the other media students a detailed comparative analysis of the newspapers publication and their circulation on both periodicity wise and language wise.*

**KEY WORDS:** *Print Media in Uttarakhand, circulation of newspapers, publication of newspapers.*

### Comparative Analysis of Newspapers Publication in Uttarakhan

There have been many studies like this in the different parts of the country but not in Uttarakhand. History writers and the big name in the field of print media journalism never took Uttarakhand seriously as an important place for the development of print media journalism. Probably this is one of the newest States of the country and after the formation people had many other survival and development related problems in the state, therefore working on the field of journalism had never be as important for people. A little work has been done in the field of the history of print media in Uttarakhand. Journalist and writer Shakti Prakash Saklani has been worked on the role of Uttarakhand in print media journalism. He published some books on the history of print media journalism in Uttarakhand. Before the analysis of the data of newspapers publications it is important to write about the historical background of print media journalism in the state.

### Brief history of print media in Uttarakhand

Shakti Prakash Saklani divided the history of journalism in Uttarakhand as following:

- (1) Pre-independence period
- (2) Post-independence period

The pre-independence period can be divided in three stages. In the first stage (before 1900), almost every newspaper was published from Mussoorie. It starts when an English businessman and social worker John Mckinnon published 'the hills' from Mussoorie in 1842. These newspapers were started and edited by English journalists who were rarely concerned about local issues.

These were the newspapers that created base for journalism in the state. The second stage was from 1900 to 1939. There seem to be many ups and downs in this stage. Purposeful journalism had started. News related to Indian independence movement and local issues had become main focus for the newspapers. Now they were also taking part in the fight for independence from the British. Shakti, Garhwali, Garhwal Samachar, Swadheen Praja, Tarun Kumaun, Abhay, Cosmopolitan, Gardesh, Sandesh, Jagrit Janta, Karm Bhumi were some of the important newspapers during this period. Some of them were closed during the same time period whereas the others played an important role in the Indian independence movement. At this stage, Hindi journalism had started making its space in the state. The third stage was from 1940 to 1947 when Indian independence movement was at its peak. During this period, many publications were closed by the English government. Many journalists and editors were put in prison. In 1946-47, and after India's independence, journalists and editors were released from prison. The field of journalism in Uttarakhand experienced more stability with a focus on local life in the state. There were two different phases in Uttarakhand journalism during the pre-independence period.

Mr. Saklani divided the post-independence period in two stages. The first stage is from 1947 to 1977. At this stage, growth of local newspapers was very low. Only few newspapers published during the pre-independence period could survive after independence. Even the remaining newspapers were also closed some time after the independence. On August 15, 1947, to raise voice for mass revolution against the monarchy in Tehri (garhwal), Prof. Bhagvati Prasad Panthari and Tejram Bhatt started 'Yugwani' from Deharadun. After some time, freedom fighter Shri Jai Datt Baila started 'Prajabandhu' from Ranikhet. It was a supporter of the Congress ideology. At the same time, English weekly 'Voice of the Doon' started from Dehradun. Swami Govinda Nand and Dharmanand Shashtri also started a religious monthly magazine from Dehradun. During this stage, only a little attention was given to the expansion of journalism in the state. From 1947 to 1952, few newspapers and magazine were published in state. Those were, Himanchal from Mussoorie, Frontier Mail (English), Himanchal Times (English), Desh Seval (Urdu), Nanhi Duniya (children's magazine), Angara (Garhwali cultural monthly magazine), Ram Sandesh (religious monthly magazine) and Chetavani (weekly newspaper). During 1952 to 1959, most of the newspapers (25) were publishing from Dehradun, 5 from Garhwal, 2 from Almora, 1 each from Tehri (Garhwal), Chamoli, Kashipur and Nainital were also publishing. During this period, journalism in the state became politics centric.

The second stage of the post-independence period began from 1977 and is still going on after the formation of Uttarakhand as a state in the year 2000. This was the time when newspapers increasingly participated in the state formation movement and raised voice in favour of the movement, also at same time journalism was becoming commercial. After the formation Uttarakhand state in 2000, journalism in the state became completely commercial. That was the time when young and combative journalist 'Umesh Dhobhal' was killed because of his writings against smugglers. During this period, many Garhwali, Kumauni, Urdu and multilingual magazines and weeklies were started but could not survive for a long time. Some of them were

Garhwali Ho, Rant-Raibar, Garsena, Chitthi, Jagwal from Dehradun, Uttarakhand Khabssaar from Pauri, Vyaantaar (monthly) from Almora, Kudboli (quarterly) from Ramnagar. Though in Uttarakhand journalism started as English journalism by English journalists, its contribution in the state after the independence is decreasing over time. Its contribution (as total publications) in the state journalism was 23 per cent during 1947 to 1977, it was 68 per cent in pre-independence period and now it is only 18 per cent. 'Garhwal Post' is an English newspaper which is continuously publishing from 1996 till now. Some of the its famous writers are Ruskin Bond, Bharat Dogara, Paritosh Kimothi, Sudhir Thapliyal, Dr. Anjali Nauriyal, etc. These days journalism in the state is controlled by business houses. Most famous and most circulated newspapers in the state like Amar Ujala, Dainik Jagaran, Dainik Hindustan, Rashtriya Sahara, Times of India and Hindustan Times are related to national level business families and companies.

### Objectives

1. To study the history of print media journalism in Uttarakhand.
2. To analyze periodicity wise data of newspapers publication in Uttarakhand.
3. To analyze language wise data of newspapers publication in Uttarakhand.
4. To analyze the periodicity wise data of newspapers circulation in Uttarakhand.

### Data of Newspapers Publication in Uttarakhand

**Table 1**

Total number of registered newspapers in Uttarakhand  
(Language and Periodicity wise)

Lang uage- Wise	Periodicity -wise	2013-14		2014-15		2015-16		2016-17		2017-18	
Hindi	Dailies	277		299		311		322		324	
	Bi/Tri-Weekly	3		3		3		3		3	
	Weeklies	1661		1729		1802		1850		1896	
	Fortnightly	298	26	309		330		342		351	
	Monthly	319	40	337	27	363	28	381	299	391	8
	Quarterly	46		49	62	52	98	54	0	54	
	Annual	1		1		2		2		37	
	Other	35		35		35		36		2	
Englis h	Dailies	16		19		21		21		21	
	Bi/Tri-Weekly	4		4		4		4		4	
	Weeklies	41		42		42		44		46	
	Fortnightly	7	12	7	13	7	13	7	143	8	
	Monthly	35	7	37	5	37	8	39		43	

	Quarterly	19		19		20		21		21	
	Other	5		7		7		7		7	
Urdu	Dailies	27	76	32	83	36	88	39	92	38	90
	Weeklies	27		28		29		29		29	
	Fortnightly	5		6		6		7		7	
	Monthly	7		7		7		7		6	
	Quarterly	9		9		9		9		9	
	Other	1		1		1		1		1	
Bilingual & Multilingual	dailies	10	152	11	162	12	170	12	178	11	180
	Weeklies	61		64		67		73		75	
	Fortnightly	13		13		13		13		13	
	Monthly	34		38		41		43		43	
	Quarterly	16		17		18		18		20	
	Annual	9		9		9		9		9	
	Other	9		10		10		10		9	
Sanskrit	Fortnightly	1	3	1	3	1	3	1	3	1	3
	Monthly	2		2		2		2		2	
Others	Dailies	2	29	2	34	3	36	4	37	5	37
	Weeklies	9		9		9		9		6	
	Fortnightly	3		3		3		3		5	
	Monthly	12		13		14		14		14	
	Annual	1		1		1		1		1	
	Other	2		5		6		6		6	
Total			3,027		3,179		3,333		3,443		3,518

**Source.** The Press in India, (2013-14). (14-15). (15-16). (16-17). Annual Report, Registrar of Newspapers for India, Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, Government of India.

## LANGUAGE WISE

As above table-1 shows that mostly registered single language papers are in Hindi followed by English and Urdu. In 2013-14 a total of 2640 Hindi newspapers and periodicals were registered. In 2014-15, 2,762 Hindi publications were registered which were 122 more than the previous year. In 2015-16 a total of 2898 Hindi publications were registered, 136 more than the previous year. In 2016-17, 92 new Hindi publications, a total of 2990 in number were registered. In 2017-18, with 68 new publications total 3058 Hindi publications were registered. In each year mentioned above in table-4.1 Hindi language papers were mostly in weekly category followed by fortnightly, monthly and dailies. English is the second main language in the state as English publications are mostly at the second place. In 2013-14, 124 English publications were registered which were added with 8, 3, 5 and 7 new publications in 2014-15, 2015-16, 2016-17 and 2017-18 respectively, raising the total to 150. Urdu publications come at third place as in 2013-14 there were 76 publications. Respectively 7, 5 and 4 new Urdu publications were added to these

in 2014-15, 2015-16 and 2016-17. These additions raised the total number of Urdu publications to 92. In 2017-18 it was decreased by 2 with 90 registered publications. There is good number of registered bilingual and multilingual registered publications in the state. In 2013-14 there were 152 registered publications in the state which increased by 10 in 2015-16, 8 in 2016-17 and 2 in 2017-18. Sanskrit is the official language of Uttarakhand. There are only 3 registered publications in Sanskrit in every year. Other language category comprises Garhwali & Kumauni (regional language of state), Punjabi, Nepali, Gujarati, Marathi, Odia, Bengali, Malayalam, Kannada, Tamil, etc. There were total 29, 34, 36, 37 and 37 publications in year 2013-14, 2014-15, 2015-16, 2016-17 and 2017-18 respectively in each periodically category.

### PERIODICITY WISE

As the above table-1 shows, in the year 2013-14, the number of registered newspapers was 3,026 comprising 332 dailies, 07 tri-bi/weeklies, 1799 weeklies, 326 fortnightlies, 409 monthlies, 90 quarterlies, 11 annuals and 52 with other periodicities. This number increased by 152 new publications in the year 2014-15. Out of these, 31, 73, 13, 25, 4 and 7 were dailies, weeklies, fortnightly, monthly, quarterly and other periodicals respectively. Hence, by the end of 2014-15 the number of registered newspapers and periodicals increased to 3,179 comprising 363 dailies, 07 tri-bi/weeklies, 1,872 weeklies, 339 fortnightlies, 434 monthlies, 94 quarterlies, 11 annuals and 59 with other periodicities. In the year of 2015-16, a total of 3,333 newspapers were registered out of which 154 registration were new - 20 dailies, 77 weeklies, 21 fortnightly, 30 monthly, 5 quarterly and 1 annual. In 2016-17, 110 new publications were registered increasing the total to 3443. In these new registrations, there were 15 dailies, 56 weeklies, 13 fortnightlies, 22 monthlies, 3 quarterlies, while 1 belonged to the category of other periodicity. In 2017-18, 75 new publications were registered. In these new publications, there were 1 daily, 47 weeklies, 13 monthlies and 12 fortnightlies.

### Data of Claimed circulations in Uttarakhand

The following circulation data of newspapers are of those publications who have submitted their annual statements to RNI under the Press and Registration of books Act, 1867. Claimed circulations are claimed circulated copies per publishing day by a publisher in his annual statement filed under the Press and Registration of books Act, 1867.

**Table 2**

Periodicity-wise Circulation of Newspapers in Uttarakhand (Based on Claimed Circulation in Annual Statement)

Other Periodicity wise category comprises Annual newspapers and tri/bi-monthlies.



Total Number		Dailies	Weeklies	Fortnightlies	Monthlies	Quarterlies	Others	Total
2013-14	No.	228	1,211	167	154	10	5	1,775
	Circulation	64,38,032	83,10,858	11,21,076	11,84,762	24,550	40,501	1,71,19,779
2014-15	No.	236	1,247	184	163	14	2	1,846
	Circulation	71,47,596	96,59,493	13,72,085	15,29,953	23,281	7,300	1,97,39,708
2015-16	No.	248	1,334	198	168	15	3	1,966
	Circulation	84,13,934	1,13,53,262	15,78,284	20,11,236	49,506	11,683	2,34,17,903
2016-17	No.	226	1,349	202	174	18	30	1,999
	Circulation	59,24,447	1,01,17,072	13,65,616	18,62,157	47,804	5,33,657	1,98,50,753
2017-18	No.	191	1287	191	155	17	26	1867
	Circulation	42,78,999	92,76,114	12,11,129	12,17,503	41,526	4,92,408	1,65,17,679

**Source.** The Press in India, (2013-14). (14-15). (15-16). (16-17). Annual Report of The Registrar of Newspapers for India, Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, Government of India.

As the above table 2 shows, 1,775 publications out of 3,027 publications submitted their annual reports in 2013-14. In 2014-15, 1,846 publications out of 3,179 publications submitted their reports. 1,966 publications out of 3,333 registered publications and 1,999 publications out of 3,443 registered publications submitted their annual reports respectively in 2015-16 and 2016-17. The above 1,775 publications claimed a total circulation of 1,71,19,779 copies per publishing day in 2013-14. Weekly publications were leading with 83,10,858 copies followed by dailies with 64,38,032 copies per publishing day. In 2014-15, total 1,846 publications claimed a total circulation of 1,97,39,708 copies per publishing day. Weekly publications were leading with 96,59,493 copies followed by dailies with 71,47,596 copies per publishing day. Total 1,966

publications claimed a total circulation of 2,34,17,903 copies per publishing day in 2015-16. Weekly publications were leading with 1,13,53,260 copies followed by dailies with 84,13,934 copies per publishing day. In 2016-17 total 1,999 publications claimed a total circulation of 1,98,50,753 copies per publishing day. Weekly publications were leading with 1,01,17,072 copies followed by Dailies 59,24,447 copies per publishing day. In 2017-18, out of 3,518, 1867 publications with 1,65,17,679 claimed circulation submitted their annual report. In 2017-18, publications were decreased by 132 in number and 33,33,074 in circulation.

According to RNI's report in 2013-14, with 1,775 publications, Uttarakhand was at the fourth place in the list of states with largest number of publications who submitted their annual report to RNI. The state with a total of 3,026 registered publications came at twelfth place in the list of total registered publications. After Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh, Uttarakhand with 1,632 publications in Hindi, was at the third place in the list of largest number of publications who submitted their annual report to RNI in any single language. Uttarakhand with 2,641 publications in Hindi language came at fifth place in the list of largest publication (total) in single language. In 2014-15, Uttarakhand with 1,846 publications Uttarakhand was at the fourth place in the list of states with largest number of publications who submitted their annual report to RNI. The state with a total of 3,179 registered publications came at eleventh place in the list of the number of registered publications in all the states. With 1,692 publications in Hindi language, Uttarakhand came at third place in the list of largest number of publications who submitted their annual report to RNI in any single language. The state with 2,762 publications in Hindi stood at fifth place in the list of number of publications (total) in any single language. In 2015-16, Uttarakhand with 1,966 publications was at the fourth place in the list of states with largest number of publications who submitted their annual report to RNI. With 1,795 publications in Hindi, the state stood at the third place in the list of largest number of publications who submitted their annual report to RNI in any single language. In 2016-17, Uttarakhand with 1,999 publications was at the sixth place in the list of states with largest number of publications who submitted their annual report to RNI. With 1,820 publications in Hindi language, this state was at the third place in the list of largest number of publications submitting their annual report to RNI in any single language. In the years 2015-16 and 2016-17, in the list of total number of publications in Hindi, Uttarakhand could not make into the top five states. In 2017-18, with 1,867 publications, Uttarakhand was at sixth place in list of states with largest number of publications who submitted their annual report to RNI. With publications in 12 languages Uttarakhand came at second place with one more state in the list of multiple language publication. With 1,707 Hindi publications, Uttarakhand came at third place in list of largest number of publications in single language with claimed circulation.

## CONCLUSION

The above analysis shows that Hindi the important language of newspapers in the state. In every year the percentage of the publication of Hindi language newspapers are twenty to twenty-one times more than English language newspapers. Even newspapers in other regional language have more numbers than English language newspapers. The study paradoxically shows that number publication of newspapers is increasing year by year, even with the decreasing numbers of newspapers circulation. As, it can be seen that with limited number of circulation Uttarakhand managed to make a place in the list of top ten states of the maximum numbers of newspapers

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publication who submitted their annual reports to RNI. This is the good sign for the print media journalism in uttarakhand.

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