

## **Rashtriya Uchchar Shiksha Abhiyan (RUSA)**

Higher education needs to be viewed as a long-term social investment for the promotion of economic growth, cultural development, social cohesion, equity and justice. The globalisation era has necessitated inculcation of competitive spirit at all levels. This can be achieved only by bringing quality of higher standards to every sphere of work. Therefore, the quality of higher education has become a major concern today.

Rashtriya Uchchar Shiksha Abhiyan (RUSA) is a centrally sponsored scheme proposed by the Ministry of Human Resource Development to ensure holistic planning at the state level and enhancement of allocations for the State Universities & Colleges, which will spread over the two plan periods (XIIth and XIIIth). There are 306 state universities and 8500 colleges that can be covered under RUSA. The funding will be provided in the (Centre: State) ratio of 90:10 for Uttarakhand.

RUSA will have a completely new approach towards funding higher education in state universities and colleges. It is based on key principles of performance-based funding, incentivising well performing institutions and decision making through clearly defined norms, which will establish and rely upon a management information system to gather the essential information from institutions.

In order to implement RUSA in the state, a State Higher Education Council (SHEC) has to be set up. This will perform multiple roles such as strategy formation, planning, monitoring and evaluation etc. State Government has to commit 2% of its GDP (Gross Domestic Products) for the state higher education sector. It is necessary to appoint full time faculty in adequate numbers. Hence, the states must ensure that the faculty positions are filled on a phase-wise manner. Assessment and accreditation in the higher education, through transparent and informed external review process are the effective means of quality assurance in higher education. Accreditation will be carried out by a recognised agency like NAAC.

There are various other provisions to get adequate funding under RUSA for the overall development of the state higher education system. However, accessing of fund strictly depend on the fulfilment of the various prerequisites and the effective utilisation of fund. So, all efforts of the state must be utilised in order to finish preparation of ground works in time so that adequate free flow of funding will come under RUSA.

On an average, 84% & 16 % students were enrolled in colleges and university campuses respectively in Uttarakhand during 2012-13. In Uttarakhand, there are 9 State Universities, 4 Deemed Universities, 10 Private Universities & 469 colleges in which 2,74,953 students were enrolled during 2012-13.

Certainly, RUSA can prove to be a boon for the states like Uttarakhand which are unable to implement the updated modern infrastructure and other essential items for upgradation of higher education systems due to shortage of fund.