

Young Children: Enrollment and Learning Status – Gujarat

Analysis based on data from households. 26 out of 26 districts were surveyed in ASER 2018.

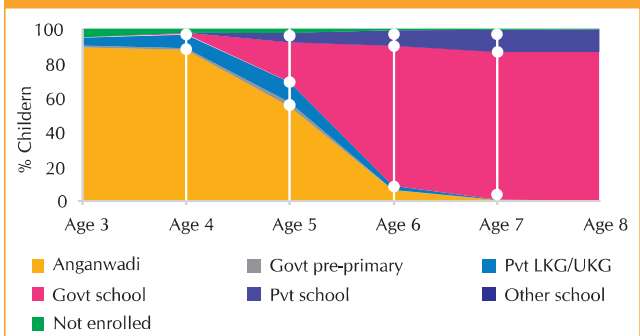
Early access to a supportive environment and exposure to developmentally appropriate activities can help children develop a solid foundation for future learning, both for school and for life. All major education policy and program documents in India now recognize this fact. However, recent ASER data shows major gaps between official norms and actual practice. These gaps are evident both when young children enter school and in what they are able to do in terms of foundational skills like reading and arithmetic. The gap between expectations and ground realities starts very early and needs to be addressed urgently. Once children fall behind, it is very difficult to catch up.

Age 3 to 8 years: Where are young children enrolled?

Table 1: % Children enrolled in different types of pre-schools and schools by age 2018

Age	Pre-school			School			Not enrolled	Total
	Anganwadi	Govt pre-primary	Pvt LKG/UKG	Govt	Pvt	Other		
Age 3	89.2	1.1	4.7	0.0	0.0	0.0	4.9	100
Age 4	88.0	0.9	7.8	0.7	0.2	0.0	2.5	100
Age 5	54.9	2.3	11.8	23.0	5.3	0.0	2.7	100
Age 6	6.1	0.2	2.4	81.2	9.0	0.0	1.1	100
Age 7	0.6	0.0	0.1	85.9	12.5	0.1	0.9	100
Age 8	0.0	0.0	0.0	86.6	12.8	0.0	0.6	100

Chart 1: % Children enrolled in different types of pre-schools and schools by age 2018



This table shows the proportion of children enrolled in different types of pre-schools and schools by age. For example, at age 3, 89.2% children are enrolled in anganwadis, 1.1% in government pre-primary classes, 4.7% in private LKG/UKG, and none in primary schools. 'Other' includes children going to any other type of institution. 4.9% children are not enrolled anywhere. Chart 1, a stacked area chart, is a visual representation of Table 1.

Key takeaways:

Children's pathways through pre-school and school do not always follow policy prescriptions or curriculum expectations.

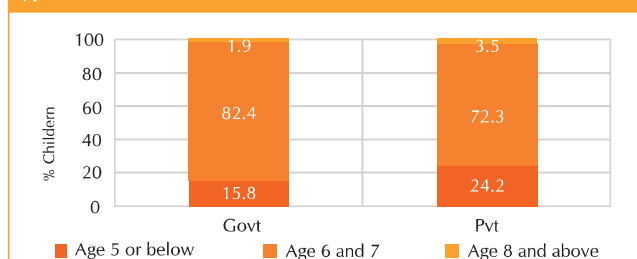
- **High enrollment in pre-school age:** Even at age 3, in Gujarat, close to 90% children are enrolled in anganwadis. This continues to be the case at age 4 as well. By age 5, a movement into schools is visible with 28.3% moving into schools. (Table 1)
- **Low enrollment in private institutions:** Whether in the pre-school age group or for older children, enrollment in private institutions is very low as compared to many other states. For example, of all children in Std I, less than 12% are enrolled in private schools. (Table 2)
- **Most children in Std I are 6 or 7 years old:** Most children in Std I are either 6 or 7 years old. A very small percentage is 8 or older. (Chart 2)

Std I: Can young children read letters and recognize numbers?

Table 2: % Children enrolled in Std I by school type 2018

% Children in Std I enrolled in	Govt	Pvt	Total
	88.1	11.9	100

Chart 2: % Children enrolled in Std I by age and school type 2018



This chart shows the distribution of Std I children enrolled in different types of schools by age.

Table 3: Reading and arithmetic levels for Std I children by age and school type 2018

Age	% Children who	
	Can read at least letters	Can recognize at least numbers (1-9)
Government schools		
Age 5	62.9	53.7
Age 6 and 7	62.1	66.5
Age 8 and above	Data insufficient	
All	62.5	64.7
Private schools		
Age 5	49.2	67.5
Age 6 and 7	78.8	86.2
Age 8 and above	Data insufficient	
All	70.8	81.7

This table shows the proportion of children in Std I who can read at least letters and recognize at least numbers up to 9.

Young Children: Enrollment and Learning Status by Sex – Gujarat

Analysis based on data from households. 26 out of 26 districts were surveyed in ASER 2018.

Age 4 to 8 years: Where are young boys and girls enrolled?

Table 4: % Children age 4-8 enrolled in Govt pre-schools/schools by sex 2018

Age	Enrolled in govt pre-schools/schools		Sex-wise difference in enrollment in percentage points
	Boys	Girls	
Age 4	89.8	89.3	-0.5
Age 5	76.4	84.6	8.2
Age 6	86.7	88.3	1.6
Age 7	83.2	90.2	7.0
Age 8	82.0	91.3	9.3

Note: Government pre-schools/schools include anganwadis, government pre-primary classes and government primary schools.

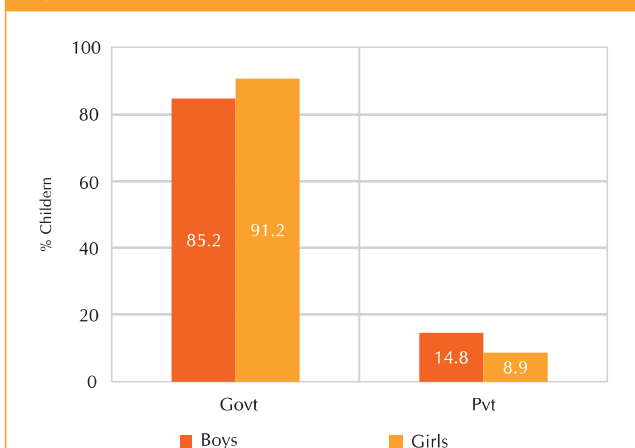


Key takeaways:

- **Higher percentage of girls are enrolled in government schools as compared to boys in Std I:** 85.2% of boys are enrolled in Std I in government schools as compared to 91.2% of girls. In contrast, only 8.9% of girls are enrolled in Std I in private schools as compared to 14.8% of boys. (Chart 3)
- **At age 5, learning levels of girls in Std I in government schools are higher than those of boys:** While 67.8% of girls can read at least letters, the corresponding number for boys is 58.9%. Similarly, 65.8% of girls can recognize at least single digit numbers as compared to 43.8% of boys. (Table 5)
- **Learning levels of boys in Std I in government schools improve with age, while that of girls decline:** 58.9% of boys can read at least letters at age 5, which increases to 62.3% at 6-7 years. On the contrary, 67.8% of girls at age 5 can read at least letters which decreases to 62% at age 6 and 7. Similar trends are visible in terms of ability to recognize single digit numbers. (Table 5)

Std I: Can young boys and girls read letters and recognize numbers?

Chart 3: % Children enrolled in Std I by sex and school type 2018



The chart shows the distribution of Std I children enrolled in different types of schools by sex. For example, of all boys enrolled in Std I, 85.2% of boys are enrolled in government schools and 14.8% of boys are enrolled in private schools. Of all girls enrolled in Std I, 91.2% of girls are enrolled in government schools and 8.9% of girls are enrolled in private schools.

Table 5: Reading and arithmetic levels for Std I children by age, sex, and school type 2018

Age	% Children who			
	Can read at least letters		Can recognize at least numbers (1-9)	
	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls
Government schools				
Age 5	58.9	67.8	43.8	65.8
Age 6 and 7	62.3	62.0	68.1	64.9
Age 8 and above	Data insufficient			
All	62.3	62.8	64.1	65.1
Private schools				
Age 5	Data insufficient			
Age 6 and 7	Data insufficient			
Age 8 and above	Data insufficient			
All	70.8	70.9	79.6	86.0

This table shows the proportion of children in Std I who can read at least letters and recognize at least numbers up to 9. The data shows patterns by age and sex.