

Young Children: Enrollment and Learning Status – Kerala

Analysis based on data from households. 12 out of 14 districts were surveyed in ASER 2018.

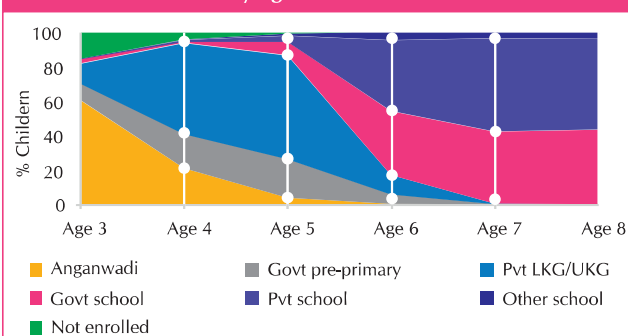
Early access to a supportive environment and exposure to developmentally appropriate activities can help children develop a solid foundation for future learning, both for school and for life. All major education policy and program documents in India now recognize this fact. However, recent ASER data 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	60.5	9.9	11.8	2.4	0.5	0.0	15.0	100
Age 4	20.9	20.1	53.0	0.6	1.2	0.2	3.9	100
Age 5	3.8	22.7	60.3	7.8	3.5	1.2	0.7	100
Age 6	0.3	5.8	11.3	37.0	41.3	4.3	0.0	100
Age 7	0.0	0.3	0.5	41.6	54.5	3.2	0.0	100
Age 8	0.2	0.2	0.0	43.1	52.9	3.6	0.0	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, 60.5% children are enrolled in anganwadis, 9.9% in government pre-primary classes, 11.8% in private LKG/UKG, 2.4% in government schools, and 0.5% in private schools. 'Other' includes children going to any other type of institution. 15% 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.

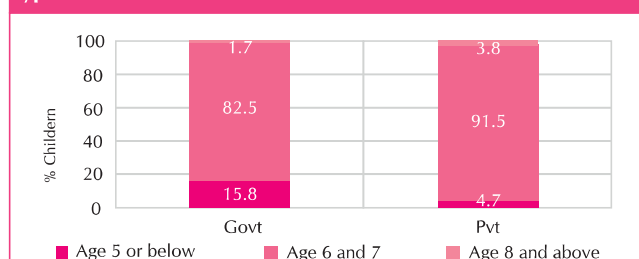
- **High anganwadi enrollment only at age 3:** Approximately 60% of children at age 3 are enrolled in anganwadis but this figure drops to 20.9% for 4 year olds. (Table 1)
- **High enrollment in private institutions:** At age 4 and 5, a substantial proportion of children are enrolled in private pre-school (53% at age 4, 60.3% at age 5). At age 7 and 8, more than half of all children are enrolled in private schools. (Table 1)
- **Children start school at age 6:** A vast majority of children in Std I are 6 or 7 years old. However, government schools do have 15.8% children who are 5 or below. The corresponding figure is less than 5% in private schools. (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
	46.6	53.4	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	Data insufficient	Data insufficient
Age 6 and 7	92.0	94.0
Age 8 and above	Data insufficient	Data insufficient
All	91.3	93.8
Private schools		
Age 5	Data insufficient	Data insufficient
Age 6 and 7	95.5	98.0
Age 8 and above	Data insufficient	Data insufficient
All	95.1	97.3

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 – Kerala

Analysis based on data from households. 12 out of 14 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	40.8	42.5	1.7
Age 5	34.0	34.8	0.8
Age 6	41.1	45.1	4.0
Age 7	35.3	48.0	12.8
Age 8	36.4	50.9	14.5

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

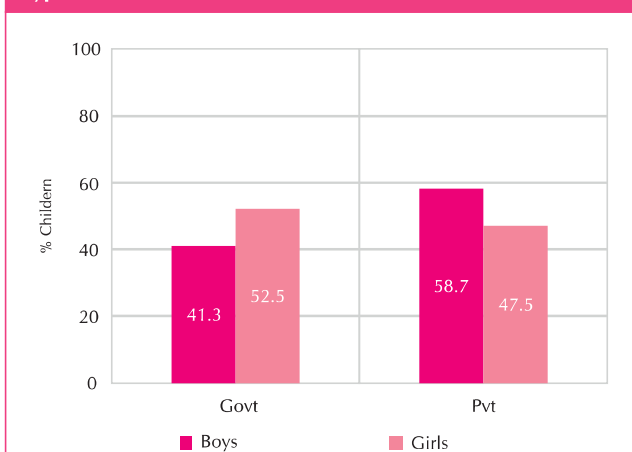


Key takeaways:

- **Sex-wise difference in enrollment:** In the age group 4 to 8 years, a higher percentage of girls are enrolled in government institutions (anganwadis, government pre-primary classes and government schools) as compared to boys. The sex-wise difference for children age 4 and 5 is small. But from age 6 to 8 years, the gap increases with age. By age 8, there is a 14.5 percentage point difference between boys' and girls' enrollment. Even in Std I a higher percentage of girls (52.5%) are in government schools as compared to boys (41.3%) – an 11.2 percentage point difference. (Table 4 and Chart 3)

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, 41.3% of boys are enrolled in government schools and 58.7% of boys are enrolled in private schools. Of all girls enrolled in Std I, 52.5% of girls are enrolled in government schools and 47.5% 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	Data insufficient			
Age 6 and 7	96.5	88.4	95.9	92.3
Age 8 and above	Data insufficient			
All	92.7	90.2	94.1	93.6
Private schools				
Age 5	Data insufficient			
Age 6 and 7	93.7	97.9	98.0	97.9
Age 8 and above	Data insufficient			
All	92.9	98.1	96.8	98.1

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.