

Young Children: Enrollment and Learning Status – Maharashtra

Analysis based on data from households. 33 out of 33 districts were surveyed in ASER 2018.

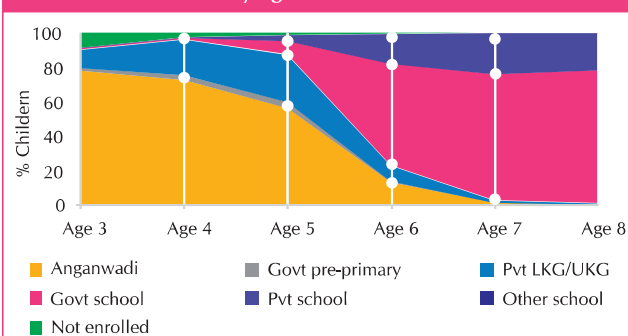
Early access to a supportive environment and exposure to developmentally appropriate activities can help children develop a solid foundation for future learning, both for school and for life. All major education policy and program documents in India now recognize this fact. However, recent ASER data 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	77.9	1.7	10.5	0.7	0.5	0.0	8.7	100
Age 4	72.4	2.9	20.8	0.7	0.5	0.0	2.7	100
Age 5	56.2	3.7	27.4	7.7	3.6	0.1	1.5	100
Age 6	13.0	0.9	9.0	59.0	17.3	0.1	0.8	100
Age 7	1.2	0.1	1.4	73.1	23.8	0.2	0.2	100
Age 8	0.2	0.2	0.7	77.1	21.6	0.1	0.2	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, 77.9% children are enrolled in anganwadis, 1.7% in government pre-primary classes, 10.5% in private LKG/UKG, 0.7% in government schools, and 0.5% in private schools. 'Other' includes children going to any other type of institution. 8.7% 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.

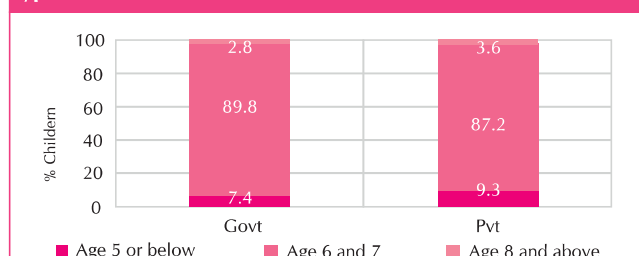
- **High enrollment in government institutions:** More than 70% of children age 3 and 4 are enrolled in anganwadis. Among children who are 7 and 8 years old, more than 70% are enrolled in government schools. (Table 1)
- **Children enter Std I at age 6:** In Maharashtra, the majority of children who are below 6 are enrolled in pre-schools (anganwadis and private pre-schools). It is only at age 6 or later that they enter school. (Table 1)
- **Age makes a difference:** Comparing children in Std I in the same type of school by age, older children do better. For example, among children in Std I in government schools, 66.7% of 6-7 year olds can read at least letters, as compared to 52.7% of 5 year old children. (Table 3)

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
	75.5	24.6	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	52.7	53.6
Age 6 and 7	66.7	67.0
Age 8 and above	Data insufficient	Data insufficient
All	66.2	66.6
Private schools		
Age 5	Data insufficient	Data insufficient
Age 6 and 7	85.1	87.0
Age 8 and above	Data insufficient	Data insufficient
All	84.5	86.3

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 – Maharashtra

Analysis based on data from households. 33 out of 33 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	73.8	78.4	4.6
Age 5	67.2	67.9	0.7
Age 6	70.6	75.4	4.8
Age 7	73.4	75.7	2.3
Age 8	73.3	81.7	8.4

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

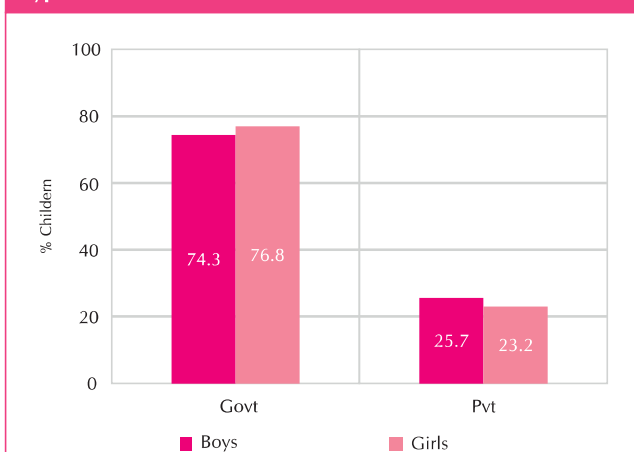


Key takeaways:

- **For all age groups, a higher percentage of girls are enrolled in government pre-schools or schools as compared to boys:** A slightly higher proportion of girls are enrolled in government institutions as compared to boys of the same age. This difference is particularly stark at age 8 where the number of girls in government schools/pre-schools is 81.7% as compared to 73.3% of boys. In Std I, 76.8% of girls are enrolled in government schools as compared to 74.3% of boys. (Table 4 and Chart 3)
- **Similar learning levels of girls and boys in Std I in government and private schools:** For example, for 6-7 year old children in Std I, 66.5% of boys and 66.8% of girls can read at least letters. A similar trend is visible in private schools. (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, 74.3% of boys are enrolled in government schools and 25.7% of boys are enrolled in private schools. Of all girls enrolled in Std I, 76.8% of girls are enrolled in government schools and 23.2% 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	66.5	66.8	67.4	66.5
Age 8 and above	Data insufficient			
All	66.0	66.5	67.3	65.9
Private schools				
Age 5	Data insufficient			
Age 6 and 7	85.6	84.6	85.7	88.5
Age 8 and above	Data insufficient			
All	84.2	84.9	84.5	88.5

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.