

ARE CHILDREN IN SCHOOL?
ARE CHILDREN ABLE TO READ?
ARE CHILDREN ABLE TO SOLVE BASIC ARITHMETIC PROBLEMS?
EVERY YEAR ASER ANSWERS THESE QUESTIONS.



ASER 2014 - ANNUAL STATUS OF EDUCATION REPORT

WHY IS ASER DONE?

96.7% of India's children in the age group of 6-14 years are enrolled in school. As a country, we have ensured that almost all children are enrolled in school. Now, we need to focus on whether children are learning well.

Every year, every citizen of India pays a 2% education cess for elementary education. As citizens we need to understand whether efforts and expenditures on education are leading to desired outcomes. Children are in school, but are they learning? It is only when the current situation is known and understood that effective action can be planned.

WHAT IS ASER?

ASER (Annual Status of Education Report) is the largest annual household survey carried out by citizens of India to understand whether children are enrolled in school and whether they are learning. Children aged 5-16 are asked to read and do basic arithmetic. For children aged 3-4 we only ask if they are enrolled in an *anganwadi* or pre-school.

ASER reaches a representative sample of children from every rural district in India. More than 6 lac children are surveyed each year in about 16,000 villages across the country.

A unique feature of ASER is that in each district, a local institution/organization conducts the survey. Every year, around 25,000 to 30,000 volunteers from over 500 organizations participate in conducting ASER. It is one of the largest participatory exercises in the country. By joining ASER in their district, people contribute to a massive and important national effort. ASER was launched in 2005 and has been done every year since then. 2014 is the tenth year of ASER.

WHAT WERE THE MAIN FINDINGS FROM ASER 2013?

96.7% of children are enrolled in school BUT national figures for rural India indicate that:

- More than half of all children in Std. 5 cannot read a Std. 2 level text fluently.
- Nearly half of all children in Std. 5 cannot solve a simple Std. 2 level subtraction problem.

Such figures are available for each state and for each standard in the ASER report.

WHAT HAS BEEN THE IMPACT OF ASER?

ASER is discussed widely at the national, state and district levels in the government and outside. ASER results are used by many state governments while preparing plans for elementary education. ASER has been cited in the Government of India's 12th Five Year Plan (2012-2017) and Economic Survey of India (2013-2014). In many states, volunteers have come forward to help in improving the learning levels of children at the village level. Inspired by ASER, several other countries like Pakistan, Kenya, Tanzania, Uganda, Mali, Senegal and Mexico are doing ASER-like initiatives.

For more information: See www.asercentre.org
ASER Centre, B4/54, Safdarjung Enclave, New Delhi 110029
Phone: 011-46023612, 011-26716084 E-mail: contact@asercentre.org

ASER Centre is the autonomous research and assesment unit of Pratham (www.pratham.org)

ARE CHILDREN ABLE TO READ?
ARE CHILDREN ABLE TO SOLVE BASIC ARITHMETIC PROBLEMS?

SAMPLE

BASIC ASER READING TOOL: ENGLISH

Std. II level text

Salma is a little girl. She had a pretty doll. She loved playing with her doll. One day the doll fell from her hand to the floor. It broke into many pieces. Salma was very sad. She cried a lot. Her mother gave her another doll. Now she is happy again.

Note: This text has been prepared after analysis of Std. I and II textbooks across India.

Reading tools available in all Indian languages.
See: www.asercentre.org, e-mail: contact@asercentre.org

Std. I level text

Ravi is a boy.
He has many friends.
He loves to draw.
He does not like to sing.

Letters

b s o
k m
y r h
t x

Common simple words

ring sun
ball
cold king
clap
foot fan

THIS IS A SAMPLE OF THE BASIC READING ASSESSMENT TOOL

For Letters/Words: Ask the child to read any 5, out of which at least 4 must be correct.

SAMPLE

BASIC ASER MATH TOOL

Number Recognition 1-9	Number Recognition 10-99	Subtraction (2 digit with borrow)	Division (3 digit by 1 digit)
1 4	51 83	$\begin{array}{r} 46 \\ - 29 \\ \hline \end{array}$ $\begin{array}{r} 63 \\ - 39 \\ \hline \end{array}$	$7 \overline{)879}$
7 3	37 65	$\begin{array}{r} 47 \\ - 28 \\ \hline \end{array}$ $\begin{array}{r} 45 \\ - 17 \\ \hline \end{array}$	$6 \overline{)824}$
6 9	55 26	$\begin{array}{r} 92 \\ - 76 \\ \hline \end{array}$ $\begin{array}{r} 84 \\ - 57 \\ \hline \end{array}$	$8 \overline{)985}$
5 2	91 43	$\begin{array}{r} 52 \\ - 14 \\ \hline \end{array}$ $\begin{array}{r} 66 \\ - 48 \\ \hline \end{array}$	$4 \overline{)517}$
36 27			

Ask the child to recognize any 5 numbers. At least 4 must be correct.

Ask the child to recognize any 5 numbers. At least 4 must be correct.

Ask the child to do any 2 subtraction problems. Both must be correct.

Ask the child to do any 1 division problem. It must be correct.

Note: In most Indian states, children are expected to do this kind of numerical subtraction problem in Std. II.

Note: In most Indian states, children are expected to do this kind of numerical division problem by Std. IV.

THIS IS A SAMPLE OF THE BASIC MATH ASSESSMENT TOOL

LETTER FOR HEAD MASTER



Date:
Head Master:
School:
Block/Tehsil:
District:

For more information:

See www.asercentre.org
ASER Centre, B4/54, Safdarjung Enclave,
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Greetings!

We seek your support to carry out the ASER 2014 survey. ASER stands for 'Annual Status of Education Report'. This is a national household survey done every year in India to assess whether children are in school and if they are learning. ASER has been done every year since 2005. It is facilitated by Pratham. Now that over 96% of children in the age group of 6-14 years are enrolled in school, we need to turn our attention to whether children are learning. The ASER survey provides this information for every rural district and state in India every year.

In each rural district of India, 30 villages are randomly selected for the ASER survey. This year your village is one of the 30 villages that has been selected. In every district, a local organization carries out ASER. The volunteers are trained to do ASER. It is the volunteers of this organization who are visiting your village and school to do ASER.

In the village, the ASER team will randomly select 20 households following a specific method that they have been trained in. In each household, they will collect information about children. They will ask about the schooling status of the child (if the child is 3 or 4 years old they will ask if the child goes to pre-school or *anganwad*). In addition, they will ask children to do simple reading in their regional language and English and arithmetic tasks. Each household will also be asked a few other questions.

As part of ASER, the volunteers visit one government school in each village. Here the volunteers collect basic information on enrollment and attendance as well as some information on school facilities.

ASER results are discussed widely at the national, state and district levels. Many state and district governments have begun to focus on improving school functioning and helping children learn better.

We request your help with the ASER 2014 survey by providing our ASER team with the information that they request. The name of the school will not be revealed to anyone. The data from the school will be used to understand the implementation of RTE norms. In addition, we request you to provide the ASER team with your mobile number. This information would solely be used for the purpose of recheck.

We are providing you with a sample of the reading and arithmetic tools used in ASER. We hope you will use them to understand how children in your school are doing in terms of basic learning. If you find that children's reading and arithmetic level is unsatisfactory, we hope you will take concrete steps at your own level to improve the basic competencies of weak children.

There is a poster given behind this letter. You may put this poster in your school for all teachers and children to see.

We thank you for your help and support. If you have any suggestions, please do write to us or contact us at the address(es) given here.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Rukmini Banerji'.

Dr. Rukmini Banerji

Director, ASER Centre

Contact address for ASER in the state:

Contact address of ASER district partner:

Help every child to learn well



In class

Make sure each teacher knows whether each child in her class can read and do arithmetic.

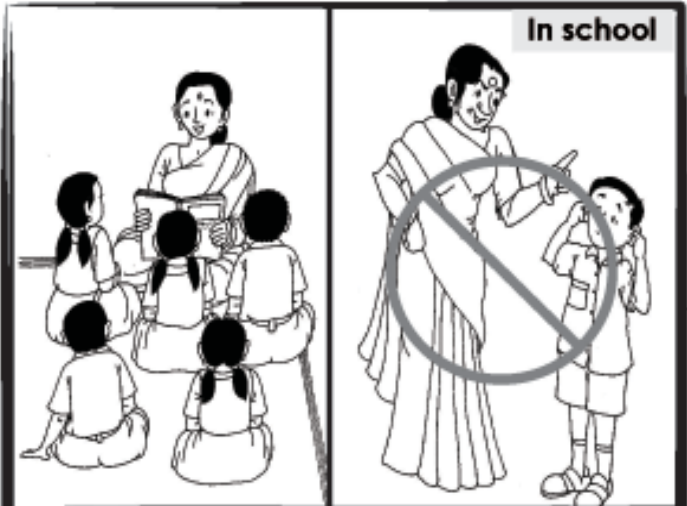
Ensure that weaker children receive extra attention and support.

Guarantee that children know the basics before they move on to the next class.



In school

Share the academic progress of the children with their parents regularly. Discuss what parents can do at home to support their children's learning.



In school

Encourage and support children to learn. Children learn best when they are appreciated.



With the SMC

Involve the School Management Committee (SMC) members in discussions about how to improve the school.

Seek their help in supporting teaching-learning activities.

Encourage the SMC members to interact frequently with children to assess their academic progress.