

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 assessment 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

THIS IS A SAMPLE OF THE BASIC MATH ASSESSMENT TOOL

Number Recognition 1-9	Number Recognition 10-99	Subtraction (2 digit with borrow)	Division (3 digit by 1 digit)
<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around;"> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; width: 30px; text-align: center;">1</div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; width: 30px; text-align: center;">4</div> </div>	<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around;"> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; width: 40px; text-align: center;">51</div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; width: 40px; text-align: center;">83</div> </div>	<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around;"> <div style="text-align: right;"> $\begin{array}{r} 46 \\ - 29 \\ \hline \end{array}$ </div> <div style="text-align: right;"> $\begin{array}{r} 63 \\ - 39 \\ \hline \end{array}$ </div> </div>	$\begin{array}{r} 7 \overline{) 879} \\ \hline \end{array}$
<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around;"> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; width: 30px; text-align: center;">7</div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; width: 30px; text-align: center;">3</div> </div>	<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around;"> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; width: 40px; text-align: center;">37</div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; width: 40px; text-align: center;">65</div> </div>	<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around;"> <div style="text-align: right;"> $\begin{array}{r} 47 \\ - 28 \\ \hline \end{array}$ </div> <div style="text-align: right;"> $\begin{array}{r} 45 \\ - 17 \\ \hline \end{array}$ </div> </div>	$\begin{array}{r} 6 \overline{) 824} \\ \hline \end{array}$
<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around;"> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; width: 30px; text-align: center;">6</div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; width: 30px; text-align: center;">9</div> </div>	<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around;"> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; width: 40px; text-align: center;">55</div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; width: 40px; text-align: center;">26</div> </div>	<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around;"> <div style="text-align: right;"> $\begin{array}{r} 92 \\ - 76 \\ \hline \end{array}$ </div> <div style="text-align: right;"> $\begin{array}{r} 84 \\ - 57 \\ \hline \end{array}$ </div> </div>	$\begin{array}{r} 8 \overline{) 985} \\ \hline \end{array}$
<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around;"> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; width: 30px; text-align: center;">5</div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; width: 30px; text-align: center;">2</div> </div>	<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around;"> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; width: 40px; text-align: center;">36</div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; width: 40px; text-align: center;">27</div> </div>	<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around;"> <div style="text-align: right;"> $\begin{array}{r} 52 \\ - 14 \\ \hline \end{array}$ </div> <div style="text-align: right;"> $\begin{array}{r} 66 \\ - 48 \\ \hline \end{array}$ </div> </div>	$\begin{array}{r} 4 \overline{) 517} \\ \hline \end{array}$

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.

LETTER FOR SARPANCH



Date:
Sarpanch:
Village:
Block/Tehsil:
District:

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

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 your 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 all children in the age group 3-16. They will do the following:

- o Ask if the child goes to school or *anganwad*?
- o Request the child to do a set of simple reading tasks in the regional language and English.
- o Encourage the child to do a set of basic arithmetic tasks.
- o Ask a family member a few other questions about the household.

We will also need some basic information about the village from you. In addition, we 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.

We request you to support the ASER team in carrying out this important survey for your village. We welcome you or any other local citizen to join us in surveying the children.

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 village are doing in terms of basic learning. If you find that children's reading and arithmetic level is unsatisfactory, we hope you will discuss the situation with the school teachers and decide how these basic competencies can be strengthened immediately.

There is a poster given behind this letter. You may put the poster outside your office or in a public place, like a panchayat bhavan for the villagers 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. You can ask the surveyor/ASER volunteer to show you the instruction manual for all details of the ASER process.

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:

Can every child read and do basic arithmetic?

Tell people in the village about the importance of children going to school AND learning well.



Help family members find out if children can read and do basic arithmetic.



Understand the reading and math level of children in village.



Discuss the findings from the assessment and think of solutions for improvement.



Things to do in the village to improve children's learning

In school



Give time and attention to children who need extra help.

Outside school



Find someone who can give extra time to children who need more help.

At home



Sit with children when they study. Meet the teacher regularly and try to understand the child's progress.