

## **ASER 2011 (Rural) FINDINGS**

### **The proportion of children currently not enrolled in school is declining**

- In ASER 2011, the proportion of children in the 6-14 age group not currently enrolled in school is 3.3%, down from 6.6% in 2006. In 2010, this number was 3.4%.
- 11 to 14 year old girls are the hardest to keep in school. Rural India shows substantial progress on this front. The figure for out of school girls (11-14) was 10.3% in 2006. It has declined to 5.2% in 2011.
- Many of the states that had a high proportion (over 10%) of 11-14 year old girls out of school in 2006 have made significant progress. In 2011, this proportion was lower than the All India average of 5.2% in states like Bihar (4.5%), West Bengal (4.3%) and Chhattisgarh (4.3%). Uttar Pradesh has shown the least progress with 11.1% girls in this age group out of school in 2006 and 9.7% in 2011.
- Substantial numbers of five year old children are enrolled in school. The All India figure stands at 57.8% for 2011. This proportion varies across states, ranging from 90.3% in Nagaland to 18.8% in Karnataka.

### **Private school enrollment is rising in most states**

- Nationally, private school enrollment has risen year after year for the 6-14 age group, increasing from 18.7% in 2006 to 25.6% in 2011.
- Two states in the country, Kerala and Manipur, have more than 60% of children enrolled in private schools. In both these states the proportion of aided private schools is high. According to ASER 2011 data, between 30 to 50% of children in rural areas of Haryana, Uttar Pradesh, Nagaland, Meghalaya, Punjab, Jammu & Kashmir, Rajasthan, Uttarakhand, Maharashtra and Andhra Pradesh are enrolled in private schools.
- Tamil Nadu shows an increase of 11.6 percentage points in private school enrollment between 2007 and 2011. In Uttar Pradesh, private school enrollment has increased from 39.3% in 2010 to 45.4% in 2011.

### **Reading levels showing decline in many states**

- Nationally, reading levels have declined in many states across North India. The All India figure for the proportion of children in Std V able to read a Std 2 level text has dropped from 53.7% in 2010 to 48.2% in 2011. However, in a few states there is good news. In Gujarat, Punjab and Tamil Nadu the numbers for 2011 are better than for 2010. Several states in the north-eastern region of India also show positive change. Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh numbers remain unchanged from last year.
- Similar trends are observed in the proportion of Std III children able to read at least a Std I level text. In addition to the states mentioned above, Himachal Pradesh does not show any decline in Std III reading levels.

### **Arithmetic levels also show a decline across most states**

- Basic arithmetic levels also show a decline. Nationally, the proportion of Std III children able to solve a 2 digit subtraction problem with borrowing has dropped from 36.3% in 2010 to 29.9% in 2011. This decline is visible in almost every state; only Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka and Tamil Nadu show improvements from 2010 to 2011. Several states in the north-eastern region of India also show positive change. There is no change in arithmetic levels for Std III in Gujarat.
- Among Std V children the ability to do the same task has dropped from 70.9% in 2010 to 61.0% in 2011.

### **A quarter of all rural children attend primary schools where the medium of instruction is different from their home language<sup>1</sup>**

- ASER 2011 recorded children's home and school language for the first time. The data indicates that children's home language was different from the school's medium of instruction for one out of four children surveyed. **This figure does not include most states of the North East or Jammu & Kashmir (NEED TO SAY WHY).**

### **Incidence of tuition is higher in Eastern states**

- In both government and private schools, between 20 to 25% of all children attend paid tuition classes outside school. This number varies considerably by state and by grade level. The proportion of children going to paid tutors remains high in the Eastern states of Orissa, Bihar, and West Bengal, where private school enrollment is very low. Kerala is another state with a high incidence of tuition.

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<sup>1</sup> The Right to Education Act states that "medium of instructions shall, as far as practicable, be in child's mother tongue" (Chapter V:29:f) .

## **ASER 2011 : SCHOOL OBSERVATIONS**

*The school information reported in ASER is collected during a visit to one government school with primary sections in each sampled village.*

### **Teachers' attendance is high**

- In ASER 2011, an average of about 87% of all appointed teachers were observed to be in school on the day of the visit. Gujarat stands out with 95.6% teachers attending in primary schools. Ten major states had teacher attendance figures that were 90% or higher.

### **Children's attendance of concern in some states**

- At the All India level, children's attendance shows a decline from 73.4% in 2007 to 70.9% in 2011 in rural primary schools. The decline is slightly steeper in upper primary schools, where it decreased from 75.6% in 2007 to 71.9% in 2011. In some states, children's attendance shows a sharp decline over time: for example in primary schools of Bihar, average attendance of children was 59.0% in 2007 and 50.0% in 2011. In Madhya Pradesh this figure has fallen from 67.0% in 2007 to 54.5% in 2011; in Uttar Pradesh from 64.4% (2007) to 57.3% (2011) and in Manipur from 76.7% in 2007 to 52.3% in 2011.

### **More than half of all Std 2 and Std 4 classes are multigrade**

- For Std 2 and Std 4, ASER observes whether children in these classes are sitting together with children from other classes. Nationally, for rural primary schools, data suggests that over half of all classes visited are multigrade. For example Std 2 was sitting with one or more other classes in 58.3% of primary schools and 57.6% of schools with upper primary sections. In Jammu and Kashmir, Jharkhand and Meghalaya, more than 80% of observed Std 2 and 4 classrooms in primary schools were multigrade.

### **Computers increasingly available in upper primary schools**

- Almost a third of upper primary schools visited had computers (30.8%). In addition, in several states, the proportion of schools where children were observed using computers was high – for example Kerala (78.7%), Tamil Nadu (51.1%), Gujarat (31.0%) and Maharashtra (30.6%).
- In contrast, only 7.9% of all government primary schools visited had computers. Kerala is a noteworthy exception, with 78.5% of primary schools having computers and 52.3% primary schools where children were observed using them.

### **Schools get their grants, but not on time**

- Between FY 2008-9 and FY 2010-11 the flow of SSA grants to schools improved significantly. However, this improvement occurred largely between FY 2008-9 and 2009-10. In fact a marginal decrease in the proportion of schools receiving grants is observed between FY 2009-10 and 2010-11.
- The data suggest that schools tend to get their grants during the second half of the fiscal year. There is a slight drop in the proportion of schools receiving grants in the first half of the fiscal year between 2010-11 and 2011-12.

## **RTE Indicators**

### **Not much change in compliance on PTR and CTR**

- At the All India level, there has been a marginal improvement in the proportion of schools complying with RTE norms on pupil-teacher ratio, from 38.9% in 2010 to 40.7% in 2011. In 2011, Kerala stands out with 94.1% of schools in compliance, and in Jammu & Kashmir, Nagaland and Manipur, more than 80% schools are in compliance with these norms.
- At the All India level, there has been a marginal decline in the proportion of schools with at least one classroom per teacher, from 76.2% in 2010 to 74.3% in 2011. In Mizoram, 94.8% of schools comply with the teacher-classroom norms and in Punjab, Uttarakhand, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, Gujarat and Maharashtra more than 80% of schools are in compliance.

### **No major changes in building, playground and boundary wall provision**

- All India figures for 2011 show no significant improvement in the proportion of schools with an office cum store. This figure remains at 74%. Similarly, for the country as a whole, about 62% of visited schools had a playground, both in 2010 and in 2011. However, there has been an increase in the proportion of all schools that have a boundary wall, from 50.9% in 2010 to 54.1% in 2011.

### **Drinking water provision unchanged**

- Nationally, the proportion of schools with no provision for drinking water remained almost the same – 17.0% in 2010 and 16.6% in 2011. In the North East, the proportion of schools with no water provision ranged from 23.8% in Assam to 87.3% in Manipur in 2011.
- The proportion of schools with a useable drinking water facility has remained steady at about 73%. Kerala has the best record with 93.8% schools that have a useable drinking water facility.

### **Better provision of girls' toilets**

- The All India proportion of schools with working toilets has increased marginally from 47.2% in 2010 to 49.1% in 2011.

- The proportion of schools where there was no separate girls' toilet has declined from 31.2% in 2010 to 22.6% in 2011. Also, there has been a substantial improvement in the proportion of schools that have separate girls' toilets that are useable. This figure has risen nationally from 32.9% in 2010 to 43.8% in 2011.

**More libraries in schools, and more children using them**

- The proportion of schools without libraries has declined from 37.5% in 2010 to 28.6% in 2011. Children were seen using the library in more schools as well – up from 37.9% in 2010 to 42.3% in 2011.