



Annual Status of Education Report

AGE 14-18

असर
ASER

2017

RURAL

Facilitated by PRATHAM

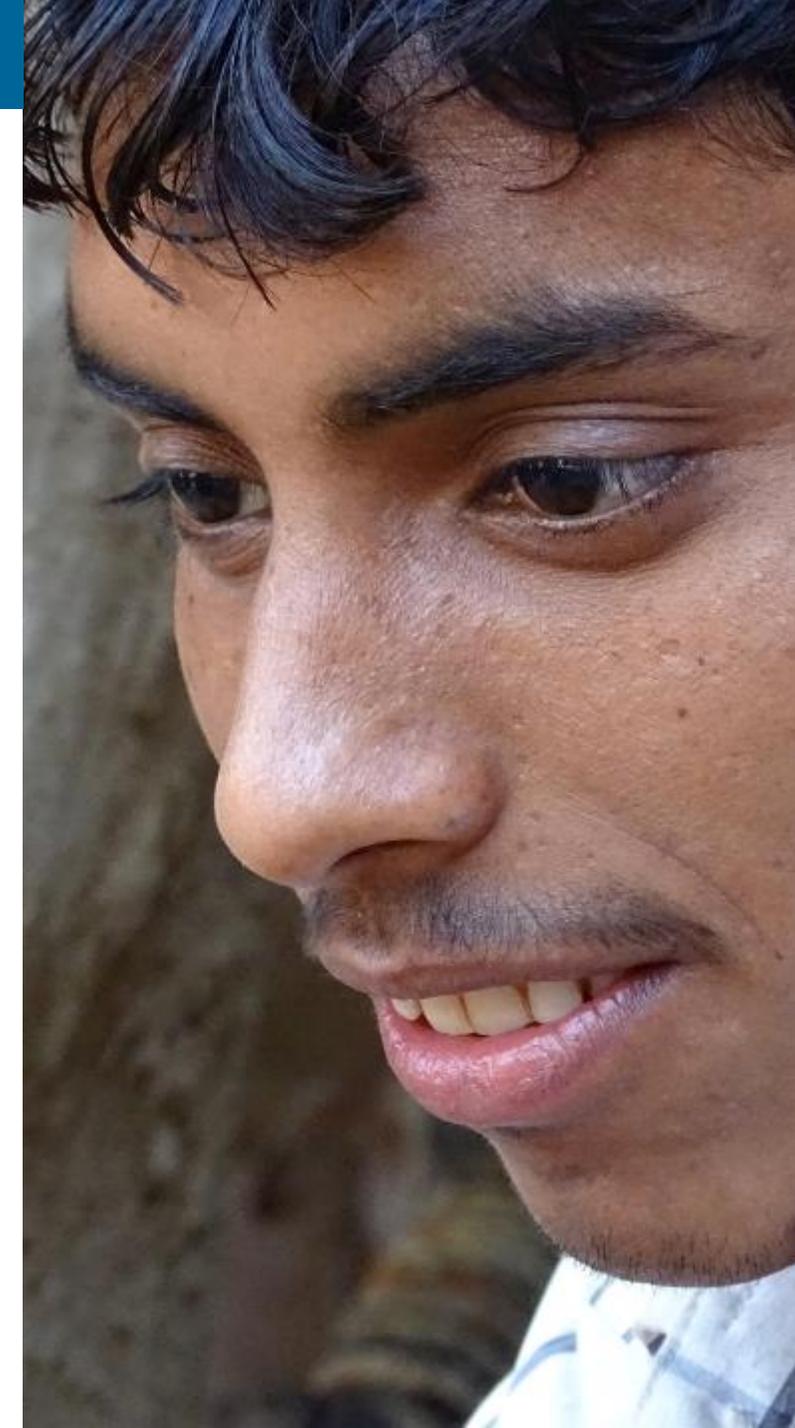
ASER 2017: Beyond Basics

Key Findings from All Districts

Why 'Beyond Basics'?

Our young people leave the ambit of the RTE Act at age 14. At 18, they become adults. Are they adequately prepared for adulthood?

- One out of every 10 Indians is currently in the age group of 14-18. This amounts to nearly 125 million youth in all (*Census 2011*)
- DISE data shows that the enrollment in Std VIII has almost doubled in the decade between 2004-05 and 2014-15, from 11 million to 22 million.
- Near universal enrollment and automatic promotion through elementary stage have resulted in more and more children successfully completing elementary schooling.
- However, many children lack foundational skills. ASER 2016 data shows that 27% of all children in Std VIII were unable to read a Std II level text. Almost 57% were unable to solve a 3-digit by 1-digit division sum.





What is 'Beyond Basics'?

ASER 2017: Beyond Basics focuses on this older age group and looks 'beyond basics' to explore a wider set of domains beyond foundational skills.

The 4 domains explored are:

- **Activity:** What are the youth currently doing? Are they enrolled in school or college, working, taking vocational training? Do they work?
- **Ability:** Are youth well prepared to handle literacy and numeracy tasks in every day situations? Can they do simple financial calculations?
- **Awareness:** Are they familiar with common digital and financial instruments and processes? How much is their exposure to media?
- **Aspirations:** What are their educational and career goals?

Where & Who : ASER 2017: Beyond Basics Coverage



This is the first time that ASER has focused on an older age group (14-18 years). The sample for this first attempt was limited to 1-2 districts per state.

CURRENTLY ENROLLED

Of all youth in the age group 14 to 18:

54% are still in school (Std X or below)

25% are in either Std XI or XII.

6% are in college.

14% are not enrolled anywhere.

CURRENTLY NOT ENROLLED

Age 14: % Youth not enrolled is low at **5%**.

Hardly any difference between boys and girls

Age 18: % Youth not enrolled is much higher at **30%**

Gender gap is visible.

32% females not enrolled. 28% males not enrolled

81% of all youth have completed 8 years of schooling.

VOCATIONAL TRAINING

Only about **5%** of all youth in this age group are doing vocational courses. Those who do such courses are enrolled in short courses of six months or less.

(34 % in course of 3 months or less, 25% in courses 3-6 months)

WORK

42% of all youth work.

Of those who are in college or school,

39% work;

Of those who are not currently enrolled

60% work.

Most (70%) work on their own family farm.

Both males and females also do household chores.

Text at Std II level

कहानी

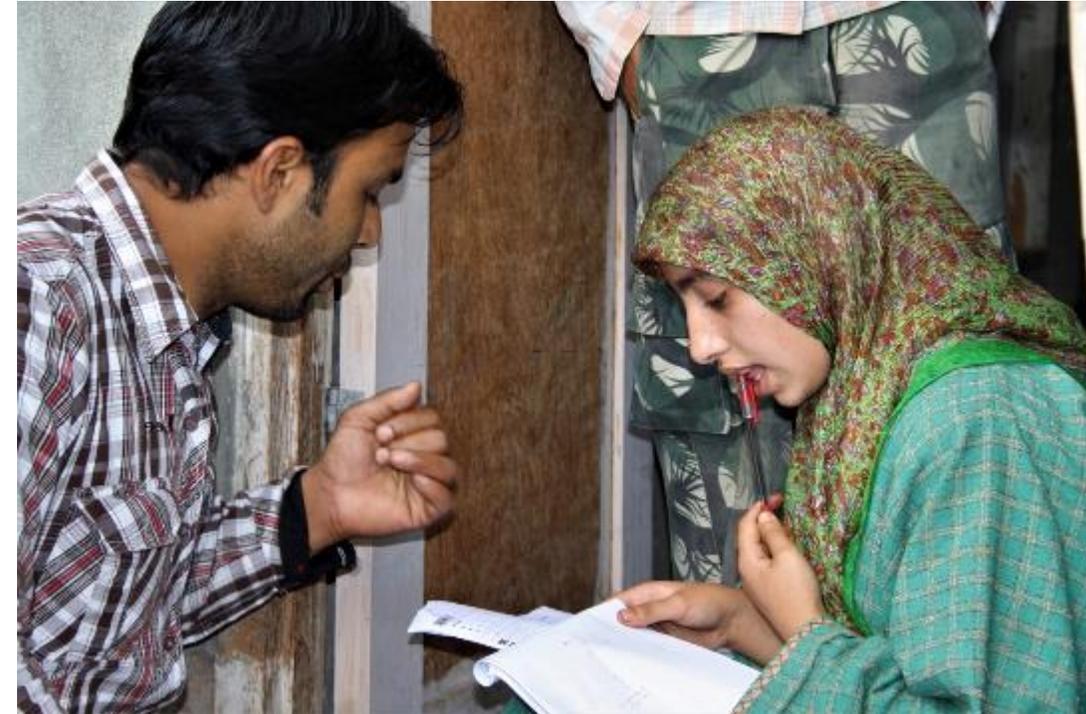
विमला और अजय मेला देखने गए। उन्हें मेले में तरह-तरह की दुकानें दिखी। मेले में बहुत झूले थे। वहाँ गरम-गरम हलवा और जलेबियाँ भी बिक रही थी। जलेबी देखकर दोनों के मुँह में पानी आने लगा। उन्हें जलेबी खाने का मन करने लगा। विमला ने जलेबी खरीदी। दोनों ने मिलकर जलेबी खाई। शाम को दोनों घर लौट आए।

77% of all youth in the age group 14 to 18 can read at least this level of text.

Arithmetic

$$7 \overline{) 872}$$

43% of all youth can do division problems.



There is no difference in performance of males and females on **ASER Reading** tasks in their own language.

On ASER Math, **40%** girls could at least solve the division problem as compared to **47%** boys.

Where is your house?

This is a long road.

I like to play.

She has a green kite.

58% of all 14 to 18 year olds can read English sentences.

Of those who can read sentences like these in English, **79%** can tell you the meaning of the sentence.

55% girls and **61%** of the boys could read these sentences. There is no difference in ability to comprehend these sentences between boys and girls.



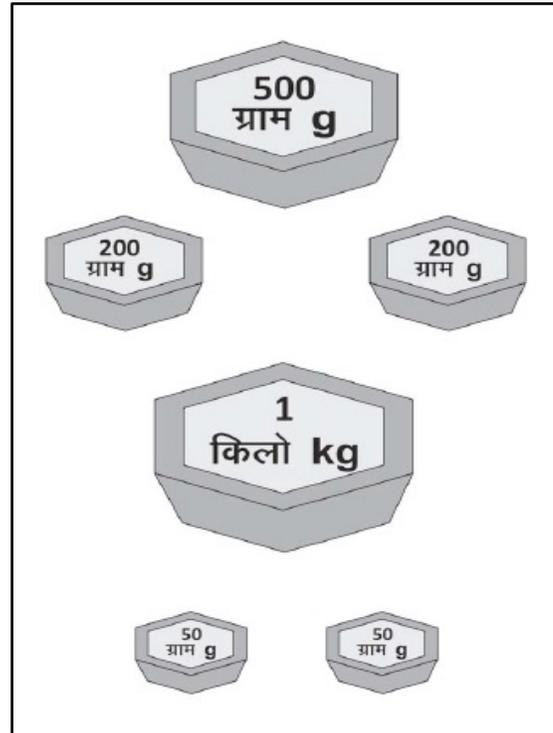
Can you count money?



Over **76%** of youth can count the notes correctly.

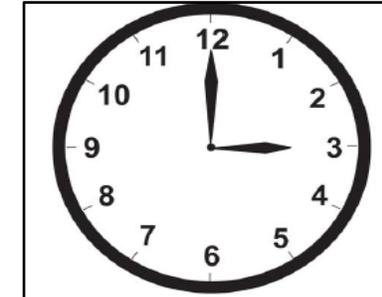
Can you add weights?

Adding across two units – kg and grams.

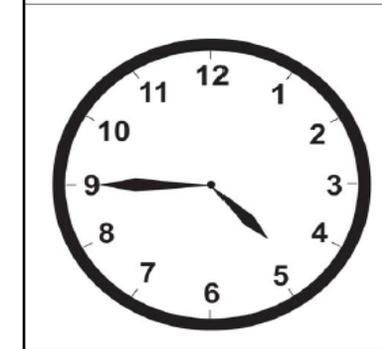


Overall **56%** of youth can add the weights correctly.

Can you tell time?



This is easy!!
83% got this correct

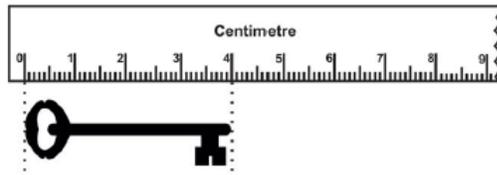


This is harder!
59% got this one correct

Boys do better than girls on each of these daily tasks. The difference is 10 or more percentage points for each task.

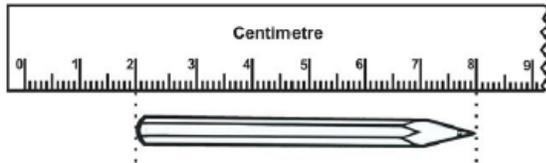
Youth with basic arithmetic skills do much better on all these tasks. By basic arithmetic skills we mean that the person knows numbers at least up to 100 and the basic four operations.

Can you measure length?



How long is the key?

86% of all youth get it right.



What is the length of this pencil?

Less than **40%** could give the right answer.

Only **32%** of girls could answer the length of pencil question as compared to **48%** boys. Here too for all tasks boys do better than girls.



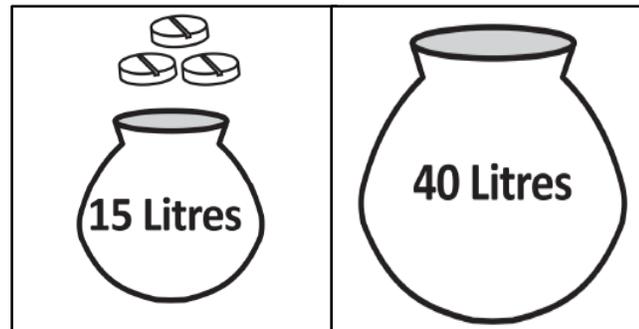
Can you calculate time?

Thinking about time this way is a bit harder than simply telling time.

Less than **40%** can come up with the right answer.

55% of those who have basic arithmetic skills could correctly say how long the girl had slept.

How many chlorine tablets will be needed for the big pot?



50% of youth can give the right answer.

Of the young people who have basic arithmetic skills, **70%** can solve this problem correctly.

ORS is used widely. For effective oral rehydration, following instructions properly is important.

ओ.आर.एस.

(जीवन रक्षक घोल)

ओ.आर.एस. घोल तैयार करने की विधि



साफ बर्तन में 1 लीटर पानी उबालें और उसे ठंडा कर लें।



ठंडे पानी में 1 पैकेट पूरा ओ.आर.एस. डाल दें।



इसे अच्छी तरह मिला लें।



यह घोल बच्चे को पिलाएँ।

ओ.आर.एस. के घोल की मात्रा उम्र और दस्त की गंभीरता को देखते हुए दें।

बच्चे : 1 से 2 लीटर घोल को 24 घंटे के अन्दर पिलाएँ।

युवा : 2 से 4 लीटर घोल को 24 घंटे के अन्दर पिलाएँ।

इस इलाज को दस्त ठीक होने तक जारी रखें।

सचेत:

- बना हुआ घोल ढककर रखें एवं 24 घंटे के अन्दर ही इस्तेमाल करें।
- बचा हुआ घोल फेंक दें।

इस पैकेट को सूखी जगह में ही रखें।

मूल्य : 19 रुपये

उत्पादन की तारीख : मार्च 2015

समाप्ति की तारीख : मार्च 2018

We asked young people to read instructions on an ORS package and orally answer four questions:

- How many packets of ORS to be mixed in 2 litres of water?
- In how many hours should the mixture be consumed?
- How many litres of can a 21 year old be given the mixture in 24 hours?
- Till when can the packet be used?

Remember that in our sample, more than **75%** of youth can read fluently. But for this task, about **54%** can read and follow the written instructions.

50% girls can read & follow instructions as compared to **58%** boys.

These questions were asked to youth who could at least do subtraction

Rate list	
Cold Drink.....	₹ 25
Tea.....	₹12
Namkeen.....	₹ 22
Biscuit.....	₹27
Chocolate.....	₹ 16

Need to buy 3 items for Rs 50. Which items will you buy?

64% of youth can do these calculations correctly.

Across the board, girls do worse than boys in each task.

Youth's ability to do financial calculations does not seem to be correlated with their access to banks or transactions

a, b

Shop 1	
Rate list	
Name of book	Price
Science	₹ 50
Math	₹ 80
Hindi	₹ 30
English	₹ 70
History	₹ 40

Shop 2	
Rate list	
Name of book	Price
Science	Special Offer!! Set of 5 books for ₹ 299 Only
Math	
Hindi	
English	
History	

Which shop to buy books from and for how much?



How much will the T-shirt cost?

38% youth can give the correct cost for the T-shirt.

For example for T shirt question: Correct answer from 29% girls as compared to 47% boys.

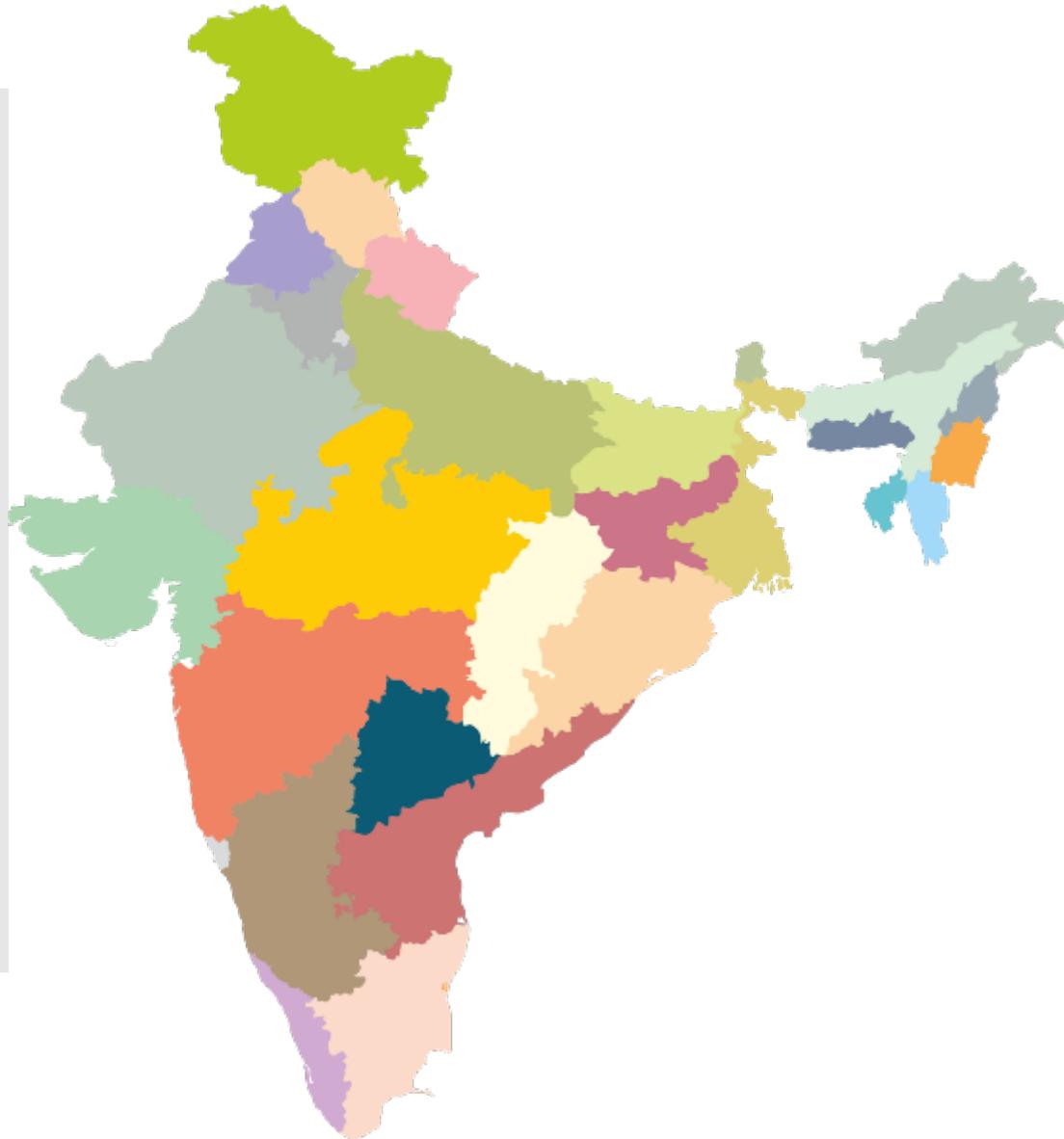
Rates of Interest offered by Banks	
Name of Bank	Interest Rate on loan
Laxmi Bank	11% per year
Lena Bank	12% per year
Rashi Bank	13% per year

Loan Amount = Rs. 20,000

Which bank to get loan from? How much to repay at the end of one year?

71% youth choose the bank correctly but only **22%** can calculate the correct repayment amount.

- The map shown here is of which country?
- What is the name of our country's capital?
- Which state do you live in currently? Name that state.
- On the given map, point and show the state you live in currently.



86% correctly identified the map of India.

79% correctly named their state.

64% correctly named the capital of the country.

42% could show their state on the map of India.

DIGITAL AWARENESS

73% have used a mobile phone in the last week.

30% have used the internet in the last week.

61% have never used the internet.

28% have used a computer in the last week.

56% have never used a computer.

Girls and young women have far lower access to computer and internet as compared to boys. While **49%** of males have never used the internet, close to **76%** of females have never done so.

With respect to internet & computers, being enrolled in formal education raises the likelihood of access.



ACCESS TO FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS

78% have own bank account

A slightly higher percentage of females have bank accounts than males in this age group.

51% have deposited or withdrawn money from the bank

16% have used ATM

Only **5%** have done any internet banking

MEDIA ACCESS

In the last week: among all youth

87% have watched TV last

63% have read a newspaper.

47% have heard a radio

Far lower gender differences in access to media as compared to access to the digital world



ASPIRATIONS

60% youth aspire to study beyond Grade 12.

18% boys aspire to join the Army or Police and

25% girls aspire to become a Teacher

30% of youth not enrolled in school/college could not name a specific occupation or profession they aspired to

40% youth reported having no role models for the occupation they aspired to

Concluding Thoughts

- Most youth are in school or college. Therefore there is still time to build their skill-sets before it becomes difficult to access them.
- The overall patterns indicate that having basic foundational skills like reading and arithmetic are very helpful even for daily tasks and common calculations.
- A large proportion of youth can read and understand simple English. This is an advantage that needs to be built on.
- The ability to do basic daily tasks involving simple calculations and simple financial calculations increases substantially with the ability to do math. Building very basic math skills generates large dividends.
- Exposure to mobile and other media is very high. But computer or internet use is much lower. Access to banks is also high but more in terms of having an account rather than actually doing financial transactions like using the ATM.
- In conclusion, our interactions with youth in this age group suggest that unless we ensure that our young people reach adulthood with the knowledge, skills, and opportunities so that India's much awaited 'demographic dividend' materializes. Serious & immediate rethinking about this age group is urgently needed.

For more information see

www.asercentre.org

www.pratham.org

Contact:

contact@asercentre.org or

info@pratham.org



Annual Status of Education Report

AGE 14-18 **असर** **ASER** 2017 **RURAL**

Facilitated by PRATHAM