Highlights from the ANNUAL STATUS OF EDUCATION REPORT (RURAL) 2017 'BEYOND BASICS'

Annual Status of Education Report असर ASER 2017 RURAL AGE 14-18 Facilitated by PRATHAM

ALL DISTRICTS

Analysis based on data from 26 districts in 24 states

Since 2005, ASER has highlighted the fact that although almost all children are enrolled in school, many are not acquiring foundational skills like reading and basic arithmetic that can help them progress in school and in life.

In 2017, ASER focuses on an older age group, youth who are 14-18 years old and have moved just beyond the elementary school age. The report looks 'beyond basics' and explores a wider set of domains beyond foundational reading and arithmetic.

ASER 2017 reached 28 districts in 24 states, 1,641 villages, 25,726 households and 30,532 youth. 35 local partner organizations and about 2,000 volunteers participated in this effort.

ACTIVITY

Table 1: Distribution of youth by age and enrollment status (%)

Age	Enrolled in			Not enrolled	Total
	Std X or below	Std XI and XII	Undergraduate or other		
14	93.4	1.3	0.1	5.3	100
15	82.2	9.7	0.2	8.0	100
16	46.5	39.6	1.0	12.9	100
17	21.4	49.7	8.2	20.7	100
18	10.6	32.0	27.2	30.2	100
All youth	54.1	25.4	6.1	14.4	100

Chart 1: % Youth currently not enrolled in school or college, by age and gender

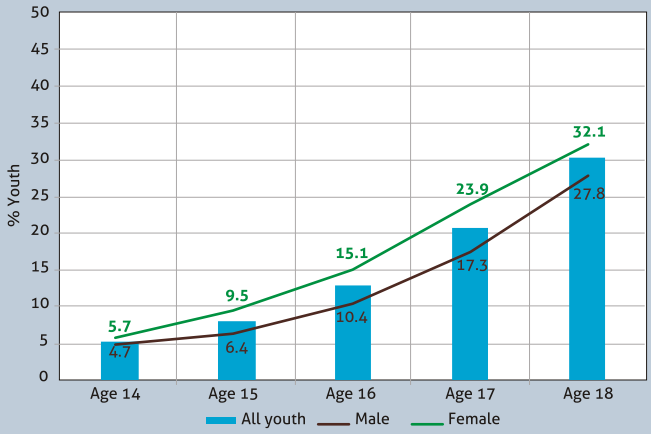


Table 2: % Youth by years of schooling completed, enrollment status and gender

Years of schooling completed	Enrollment status	All youth	Male	Female
8 or more years	Enrolled in school or college	71.0	72.9	69.3
	Not enrolled	10.0	7.8	12.0
Less than 8 years	Enrolled in school or college	14.7	14.9	14.5
	Not enrolled	4.3	4.4	4.2
Total		100	100	100

Vocational training

- Overall, about 5% of youth are taking some type of vocational training or courses. This includes those enrolled in school or college as well as those who are not currently enrolled.
- Youth who take vocational courses tend to take short duration courses of 6 months or less. Of those who are doing vocational courses, (34%) are enrolled in courses which are 3 months or shorter; 25% are enrolled in courses between 4 and 6 months in duration.

Work

- 42% of all youth are working, regardless of whether they are enrolled in formal education or not.
- Of those who work, 79% work in agriculture - almost all on their own family's farm.
- Also, more than three quarters of all youth do household chores daily - 77% of males and 89% of females.

BASIC ASER READING, ARITHMETIC AND ENGLISH: Youth age 14-18

Table 3: Youth at different learning levels, by gender. % Youth who can at least do the following tasks:

Basic ASER level	All youth	Male	Female
Read a Std II level text	76.6	76.5	76.8
Do a division problem	43.1	47.1	39.5
Read English sentences	58.2	61.2	55.5

ASER TOOL

Std II level text

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।

Division

4) 591

7) 872

6) 759

8) 986

English sentences

What is the time?

This is a large house.

I like to read.

She has many books.

DAILY TASKS: Youth age 14-18

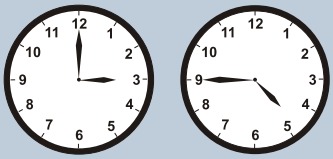
Table 4: % Youth who can do daily tasks, by gender

Task	All youth	Male	Female
Counting money	75.7	82.4	69.9
Adding weights	55.7	67.5	45.4
Telling time (hour)	82.7	86.2	79.6
Telling time (hour and minutes)	59.3	66.4	53.1

COUNTING MONEY

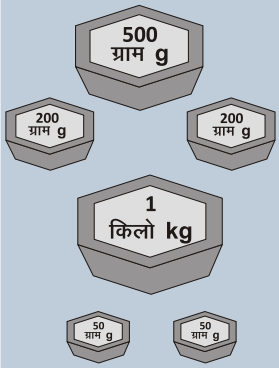
What is the total amount of money shown in this picture?

TELLING TIME



What is the time shown on these clocks?

ADDING WEIGHTS



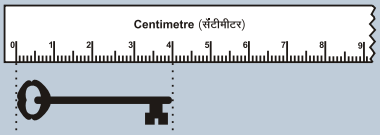
What is the total weight shown in this picture? Add and give the answer in kilograms.

COMMON CALCULATIONS: Youth age 14-18

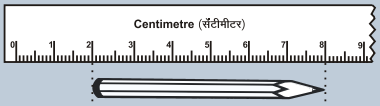
Table 5: % Youth who can do common calculations, by gender

Task	All youth	Male	Female
Measuring length (easy)	85.9	89.2	83.1
Measuring length (hard)	39.7	47.9	32.5
Applying unitary method	50.2	58.7	42.7
Calculating time	38.6	43.6	34.3

MEASURING LENGTH

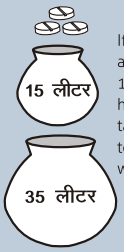


What is the length of the key? (easy)



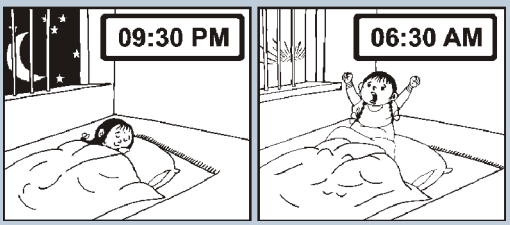
What is the length of the pencil? (hard)

APPLYING UNITARY METHOD



If 3 chlorine tablets are needed to purify 15 litres of water, how many chlorine tablets are needed to purify 35 litres of water?

CALCULATING TIME

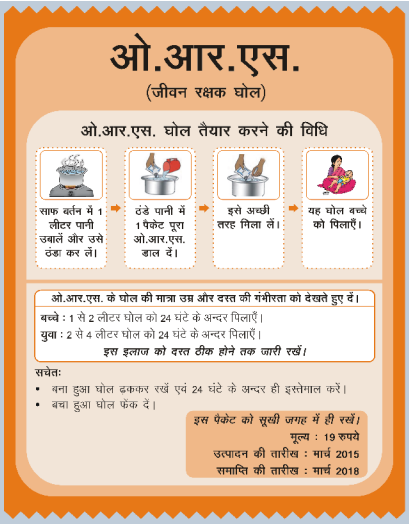


How many hours did this girl sleep?

READING AND UNDERSTANDING WRITTEN INSTRUCTIONS: Youth age 14-18

Table 6: % Youth who can read and understand written instructions, by gender

	All youth	Male	Female
Can read and understand at least 3 out of 4 instructions	53.5	57.5	49.9
Cannot read and understand even 3 out of 4 instructions	46.6	42.6	50.1
Total	100	100	100



All youth were asked to read this O.R.S. packet and were then asked the following 4 questions:

- How many packets of O.R.S. should be added to 2 litres of water?
- Within how many hours should the prepared solution of O.R.S. be consumed?
- How many litres of O.R.S. can be given to a 21-year old within a span of 24 hours?
- Based on the information given, can this packet of O.R.S. be consumed in December 2018?

FINANCIAL CALCULATIONS: Youth age 14-18

These tasks were administered only to youth who were at subtraction or division level on the ASER arithmetic assessment.

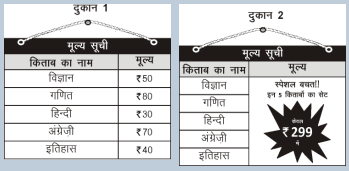
Table 7: % Youth who can do financial calculations, by gender

Task	All youth	Male	Female
Managing a budget	63.8	67.4	60.3
Taking a purchase decision	64.1	67.4	60.7
Applying a discount	37.7	46.7	28.7
Calculating repayment	15.4	18.7	12.1

MANAGING A BUDGET

You need to buy 3 different items for Rs 50. Which items can you buy?

TAKING A PURCHASE DECISION

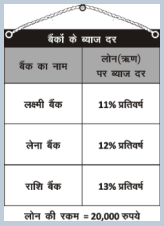


From which shop will you buy all 5 books and for how much?

APPLYING A DISCOUNT

The price of this T-shirt is shown here. It is available at a discount of 10%. How much money would you need to buy this T-shirt?

CALCULATING REPAYMENT



Which bank to take a loan from? How much to repay at the end of one year for a loan of Rs. 20,000?

MAP AND GENERAL KNOWLEDGE: Youth age 14-18

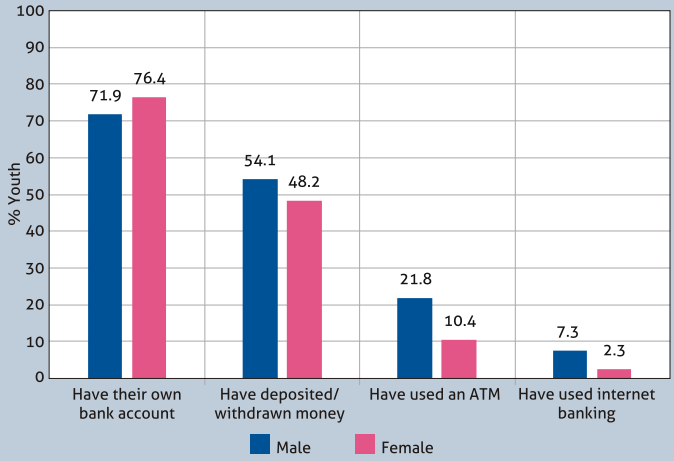
A map of India was shown to all youth and they were asked the following questions:

- "This is a map of which country?"
  86% answered India.
- "What is the name of the capital of the country?"
  64% answered correctly.
- "Which state do you live in?"
  79% answered correctly.
- "Can you point to your state on the map?"
  42% could do so.

Table 8: Digital use by youth age 14-18, by enrollment status (% youth)

	Frequency of usage	Enrolled in school/ college	Not enrolled	All youth
Mobile	Last week	72.9	70.6	72.6
	More than a week ago	10.1	7.9	9.8
	Never	17.0	21.5	17.6
	Total	100	100	100
Internet	Last week	30.0	16.1	28.0
	More than a week ago	8.7	6.2	8.3
	Never	61.4	77.7	63.7
	Total	100	100	100
Computer	Last week	28.2	9.0	25.5
	More than a week ago	16.3	7.8	15.1
	Never	55.5	83.1	59.3
	Total	100	100	100

Chart 2: Financial participation of youth age 14-18, by gender (% youth)



ASPIRATIONS

- Most youth (60%) want to study beyond Std XII.
- Youth's professional aspirations are gendered, with most males mentioning 'Army/Police' (18%) and 'Engineer' (12%), while females preferred 'Teacher' (25%) and 'Doctor/Nurse' (18%).
- 'Any government job' was also frequently cited by both males (13%) and females (9%).
- Among those not currently enrolled in school/college, about one third could not name a specific occupation or profession that they aspired to.
- Just 1% of rural youth aspire to work in agriculture.
- Almost 40% youth reported having no role models for the occupation they aspire to. Few youth aspired to pursue the same profession as their parents.

Note: Questions on aspirations were open-ended; options were not read out to the youth.