



Annual Status of Education Report 2017

**'Beyond Basics':
A survey of rural Indian youth**

What is 'Beyond Basics'?

Every year since 2005, ASER has reported on children's schooling status and their ability to do basic reading and arithmetic tasks. Year after year, 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. Since 2006, ASER has focused on the age group 5 to 16.

In 2017, ASER focused on an older age group, youth who are 14 to 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. As before, ASER 2017 too was a sample based household survey, comprising tasks that are simple to administer and easy to understand and conducted with the participation of local partner organizations.



Why focus on 14–18 year olds?

India's Right to Education Act (RTE, 2009) guarantees free and compulsory schooling for children up to age 14. And at age 18, we expect our youth to be prepared for adulthood, eligible to join the formal workforce and vote. So what are young people in India doing between the ages of 14 and 18?

Near-universal enrolment and automatic promotion through the elementary stage have resulted in more and more children successfully completing elementary schooling. According to official figures from the District Information System for Education (DISE), enrolment in Std VIII almost doubled in the decade between 2004-5 and 2014-15, from 11 million to almost 22 million.

Although the majority continue to secondary school, ASER data shows that many lack foundational reading and math abilities. In 2016, a quarter of all children in Std VIII in rural India were unable to read a Std II level text and over half were unable to solve a 3-digit by 1-digit division problem. Not much information is available on scale about the extent to which these young people are able to develop the skills and abilities they need to lead productive lives as adults.

According to Census 2011, one out of every ten Indians is currently in the age bracket of 14-18. This amounts to more than 100 million or 10 crore youth in all. If we do not ensure that these young people have access to the knowledge, skills, and opportunities they need to help themselves, their families, and their communities move forward, India's much awaited 'demographic dividend' will not take place. Our interactions with youth in this age group in recent years suggest that as a country we urgently need to attend to their needs. ASER 2017 is an attempt to shine a spotlight on this situation.



What information did ASER 2017 collect?

ASER 2017 collected information from sampled 14-18 year olds along the following dimensions:

- **Activity:** What are the youth currently doing? Are they enrolled in school or college, working, taking vocational training, preparing for entrance exams? Or some combination of these activities?
- **Ability:** Can they apply basic reading and arithmetic abilities to everyday situations? Can they do simple financial calculations?
- **Awareness and exposure:** What do youth report in terms of their exposure to media? Are they familiar with common digital and financial instruments and processes?
- **Aspirations:** What do youth in this age group report as their educational and career goals?

Snapshot of the assessment tasks

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	

Suppose that you go to a market to buy books. There are two bookshops in the market, each selling the same 5 books. Compare the rate lists of the 2 shops and tell me which shop will you buy the books from, if you have to buy all the 5 books?

What is the least amount of money you will have to spend in order to buy the 5 books?

O.R.S.
(Life Saving Solution)

Method of preparation of O.R.S.

The dosage of O.R.S. should depend on age and severity of dehydration.
 Child: 1-2 litres of solution to be consumed within 24 hours
 Youth: 2-4 litres of solution to be consumed within 24 hours
 Continue the treatment till dehydration persists

Attention:

- The prepared solution must be kept covered and consumed within 24 hours
- Throw away the leftover solution

This packet should be stored in a cool and dry place.
 Price: ₹ 19 Rupees
 Date of Manufacturing: March 2015
 Date of Expiry: March 2018

Sample questions based on the instructions given on the O.R.S. packet:

- Within how many hours should the prepared solution of O.R.S. be consumed?
- Can this packet of O.R.S. be consumed in December 2018?

Raju's father has to buy a plot of land. For this he has to take a loan from a bank. The rates of interest offered by 3 different banks has been listed below.

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

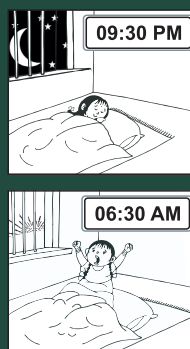
Loan Amount = Rs. 20,000

Taking a loan from which of these banks would be most profitable for Raju's father?

Raju's father took a loan of Rs. 20,000. After 1 year, what is the total amount, including the interest, that he would have to return to the bank?



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



If this girl sleeps at this time at night and wakes up at this time in the morning then for how many hours does she sleep?



This is the price of this t-shirt and it is available on a discount of 10 percent. If you were to buy this t-shirt, how much money would you need to spend?

Where was ASER 2017 done, and by who?

Since this is the first time the ASER survey focused on this age group, ASER 2017 was carried out in a total of 28 districts of 24 states, by 35 partner institutions.

