The National Picture
INDIA RURAL

OUT OF SCHOOL
11 TO 14 YEAR-OLD GIRLS

STATEWISE MAP SHOWING
% OF 11 TO 14 YEAR-OLD GIRLS WHO ARE NOT IN SCHOOL

% OF 11 TO 14 YEAR-OLD GIRLS WHO ARE NOT IN SCHOOL

20 and above
15-20
10-15
5-10
3-5
0-3

Maps may not be accurate or to-scale. These are mere representations.
INDIA RURAL

ATTENDANCE IN PRIMARY SCHOOL

STATEWISE MAP SHOWING % ENROLLED CHILDREN ATTENDING PRIMARY SCHOOL (Std I-IV/V)

% ENROLLED CHILDREN ATTENDING PRIMARY SCHOOL (Std I-IV/V)

- 50-60
- 60-70
- 70-80
- 80-90
- 90 and above

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ASER 2010
Statewise map showing % of children in Std III who can read Std I text.

Maps may not be accurate or to-scale. These are mere representations.
STATEWISE MAP SHOWING % OF CHILDREN IN Std III WHO CAN DO SUBTRACTION

% of Children in Std III who can do subtraction

- Less than 30
- 30-40
- 40-50
- 50-60
- 60 and above

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Statewise map showing % of children in Std V who can read Std II text.

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INDIA RURAL

STD V MATH

STATEWISE MAP SHOWING % OF CHILDREN IN Std V WHO CAN DO DIVISION

% OF CHILDREN IN STD V WHO CAN DO DIVISION

- Less than 30
- 30-40
- 40-50
- 50-60
- 60 and above

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ASER 2010 Findings

Percentage of Out of School Children in India at its Lowest Ever

- In 2010, for rural India, the percentage of children (age 6 to 14) not enrolled in school is 3.5%. This number was 4.0% last year and 6.6% in 2005.
- The proportion of girls (age 11-14) who are still out of school has declined from 6.8% in 2009 to 5.9 in 2010. This number was 11.2% in 2005.
- However, the percentage of out of school girls (11-14) is still high in some states like Rajasthan (12.1%) and Uttar Pradesh (9.7%) where the proportion remains largely unchanged since last year.
- Noteworthy in this regard is the performance of Bihar where the percentage of out of school girls and boys in all age groups has been declining steadily since 2005. In 2006, 12.3% of boys and 17.6% girls were out of school in the 11 to 14 age group. By 2010, these numbers had declined to 4.4% for boys and 4.6% for girls showing very little difference by gender.

Big Increases in Private School Enrollment in Some States Since Last Year

- Overall, ASER 2010 shows that private school enrollment for rural children in the age group 6 to 14 has increased from 21.8% in 2009 to 24.3% in 2010. This number has risen steadily since 2005 when it was 16.3% nationally.
- The southern states show substantial increases over last year in private school enrollment for the age group 6 to 14. Between 2009 and 2010, the percentage of children (age 6-14) enrolled in private school has increased from 29.7% to 36.1% in Andhra Pradesh, from 19.7% to 25.1% in Tamil Nadu, from 16.8% to 20% in Karnataka and from 51.5% to 54.2% in Kerala. Among other states, Punjab shows an increase from 30.5% to 38%.
- Private school enrollment (age 6-14) remains low in Bihar (5.2%), West Bengal (5.9%), Jharkhand (8.8%), Orissa (5.4%) and Tripura (2.8%).

Increasing Numbers of Five Year Olds Enrolled in School

- Nationally, the percentage of five year olds enrolled in school has increased from 54.6% in 2009 to 62.8% in 2010.
- The biggest increase is visible in Karnataka where the proportion of five year olds enrolled in school has increased from 17.1% in 2009 to 67.6 in 2010.¹
- There are several other states where school enrollment has increased substantially for five year olds between 2009 and 2010. These include Punjab (68.3% to 79.6%), Haryana (62.8% to 76.8%), Rajasthan (69.9% to 75.8%), Uttar Pradesh (55.7% to 73.1%) and Assam (49.1% to 59%).

Reading Ability Largely Unchanged Except in Some States

- Nationally there is not much change in reading levels as compared to last year. Only 53.4% children in Std 5 can read a Std II level text. This suggests that even after five years in school, close to half of all children are not even at the level expected of them after two years in school.
- In Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Haryana and Rajasthan, there is increase in the proportion of children in Std I who are able to recognize letters.
- Similarly, in Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Assam, Himachal Pradesh, Punjab, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal, there is increase in the proportion of children in Std V who can read Std II level text.

¹ This increase may be due to the fact that in April 2010 the Government of Karnataka reduced the minimum age of enrollment into primary school from 5 years 10 months to 5 years.
Small declines in math ability except in some states

- Nationally, there is a decline in the ability to do basic math (i.e. recognize numbers and do basic operations). This decrease of a few percentage points is visible across all classes. For example, the proportion of Std I children who can recognize numbers (1-9) has declined from 69.3% in 2009 to 65.8% in 2010. The proportion of children in Std III who can do two digit subtraction problems has decreased from 39% to 36.5% in the same period. The proportion of children in Std V who can do simple division problems in Std V has dropped from 38% in 2009 to 35.9% in 2010.

- Punjab’s performance in basic arithmetic has been improving over the last few years. For example, in Std II the percentage of children who can recognize numbers up to 100 was 56.3% in 2008. This number went up to 59.6% in 2009 and to 70.4% in 2010. Similarly the proportion of Std IV children who can do subtraction has gone from 66.9% in 2008 to 81.4% in 2010. The percentage of Std V children who can do division has risen from 43.5% in 2008 to 69.8% in 2010.

Middle school children weak on everyday calculations

- In ASER 2010, children in Std V and above were asked a set of questions that involved calculations that people do in everyday life. The tasks included calculations from a menu, using a calendar, estimating volume and calculating area.

- Overall, in Std VIII, three quarters of all children were able to do the calculations based on the menu, about two thirds of all children could use the calendar and only half could do the calculations related to area.

- The questions related to area seemed to be the most difficult for children to solve. Such problems are usually found in textbooks in Std IV or V. Here, among Std VIII children, Kerala does best with 79% children able to solve the problems followed by Bihar at 69%.

Tuition going down for private school children

- Nationally, there is not much change between 2009 and 2010 in the proportion of children who are enrolled in government schools and also take extra paid tuition classes. However there is a clear decrease in the incidence of tuition among children enrolled in private schools across all classes till Std VIII.

- Some states like Bihar, West Bengal and Orissa have very low private school enrollments but high proportions of children enrolled in government schools who also take tuition classes. For example, in 2010, in West Bengal 75.6% of Std V children enrolled in government schools take tuition classes. This number for Bihar is 55.5% and 49.9% for Orissa.
RTE Norms for pupil teacher ratio

- At the all India level, more than half of all schools are in compliance with the RTE norms regarding pupil to teacher ratio. This means that over the next few years, about half of India's primary and upper primary schools will need more teachers.

RTE Norms for teacher to classroom ratio

- About 30% of visited schools had only 1 or 2 teachers, and the majority of these met the RTE norm of one room for each teacher. However for schools with more teachers, compliance was lower. 20% of schools with three teachers did not meet the norm. 30% of schools with four teachers did not meet the norm and this figure is 35% and above for schools with five or more teachers. This implies that at least a third of all primary and upper primary schools in rural India will need more classrooms to be built over the next few years.

RTE Norms and school facilities

RTE stipulates norms for facilities that all schools should have. Some these RTE indicators were observed for the first time in ASER 2010. The evidence shows that in 2010:

- Office cum store: 75% of all visited schools had these.
- Playground: 62% of all visited schools had playgrounds.
- Boundary wall: Just over 50% of all visited schools had a boundary wall or fence.
- Library: 63% of all visited schools had a collection of books other than textbooks.
- Toilets: 90% of all schools visited had toilets. However, they were useable in only half of these schools.
- Separate girls' toilets: 70% of all schools visited had a separate girls' toilet. However, the toilet was useable in only 37% schools; elsewhere it was either locked or unusable.
- Kitchen shed for midday meals: 81% of schools had a kitchen shed. Midday meals were observed to be served in 83% schools.
- Drinking water: 72% of all schools had drinking water available.

Student and teacher attendance in schools

- The all India percentage of primary schools (Std 1-4/5) with all teachers present on the day of the visit shows a consistent decrease over three years, falling from 73.7 in 2007 to 69.2 in 2009 and 63.4 in 2010.
- For rural India as a whole, children's attendance shows no change over the period 2007-2010. Attendance remained at around 73% during this period. But there is considerable variation across states.