



## HYDERABAD

The Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Act, 2009 (RTE Act) was notified to come into force on April 1 2010. Almost five years have gone by since the RTE Act became a law. In the context of urban areas, especially with respect to low income neighbourhoods, what does “guaranteeing” education mean? How can citizens find out if every child in their community is in school and whether he/she is learning? What is the way for people to assess whether schools in their locality are complying with the norms laid down by the law?

The aim of this exercise was to find the answers to these questions and figure out what it would take to translate policy into practice in urban locations across India. Five cities participated in this exercise. These cities were: Delhi, Jaipur, Patna, Mysore and Hyderabad. In each of these cities, one municipal ward, typically a mixed or low income area, was chosen to be a “pilot” location and a census was carried out.

We hope that the measures, methods and findings from this exercise are useful as a demonstration of what can be done to understand the status of education in urban areas. We also hope that the actual example of a census of one municipal ward in the city can guide the way for community-based planning, not just for compliance with the RTE Act, but for guaranteeing quality elementary education for all children in the city.

### ENROLLMENT

Table 1: % Children in different types of schools 2014

Age group	*No. of children	Govt.	Pvt.	Other	Not in school	Total
Age: 6-14 ALL	1963	38.0	54.8	3.8	3.4	100
Age: 6-14 BOYS	1051	28.9	65.4	2.5	3.2	100
Age: 6-14 GIRLS	912	48.5	42.7	5.2	3.6	100
Age: 6-10 ALL	1184	34.5	60.3	3.3	1.9	100
Age: 6-10 BOYS	636	26.0	70.1	2.2	1.7	100
Age: 6-10 GIRLS	548	44.5	48.8	4.6	2.2	100
Age: 11-14 ALL	779	43.0	47.0	4.5	5.5	100
Age: 11-14 BOYS	415	33.2	58.4	3.0	5.5	100
Age: 11-14 GIRLS	364	54.2	33.9	6.2	5.7	100
Age: 15-16 ALL	266	41.4	31.3	3.9	23.4	100
Age: 15-16 BOYS	146	31.5	41.3	2.1	25.2	100
Age: 15-16 GIRLS	119	53.6	18.8	6.3	21.4	100

Note: 'Other' includes children going to madaras and EGS.

'Not in school' = dropped out + never enrolled

\* The numbers might not add up due to missing information under certain categories.

Table 2: % Children age 2-6 enrolled in different types of pre-schools and schools 2014

Age	No. of children	In balwadi or anganwadi	In LKG/UKG	In school			Not in school or pre-school	Total
				Govt.	Pvt.	Other		
Age 2	39	35.9	5.1				59.0	100
Age 3	139	35.3	41.0				23.7	100
Age 4	154	11.7	79.2				9.1	100
Age 5	260	5.8	30.8	10.4	46.9	1.2	5.0	100
Age 6	258	1.9	14.3	20.9	56.2	2.3	4.3	100

Note: For 2, 3 and 4 year old children, only pre-school status was recorded.

### ABOUT THE WARD

Out of a total of 150 wards in Hyderabad, Ward number 20 was surveyed for this study. Known as Indira Sewa Sadan (I S Sadan), the ward is located in the eastern part of Hyderabad and is part of the Saidabad zone. Some well-known localities in this ward are Vinay Nagar, Laxminagar, Singareni Colony and D.S. Nagar. Shops in the area specialise in construction material. Much of the working population in this area, especially men, are employed in construction work in different parts of the city. The ward has a mixed pattern of habitations with residential dwellings, workshops, small factories and shops coexisting with one another.

This survey was conducted in November-December 2014. It reached a total of 2,214 households and 3,003 children in the age group of 2 to 16 years.

Table 3: % Children going to schools in different location by school type 2014

School type	No. of children	Location of school		Total
		Inside ward	Outside ward	
Govt.	648	56.5	43.5	100
Pvt.	894	57.8	42.2	100
Other	22	22.7	77.3	100
Total	1564	56.8	43.2	100

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## READING

**Table 4: % Children by class and READING level  
All schools 2014**

Std	Not even letter	Letter	Word	Level 1 (Std I text)	Level 2 (Std II text)	Total
Std I-II	21.2	47.5	25.9	5.3	0.2	100
Std III-V	2.6	19.3	40.5	28.5	9.0	100
Std VI-VIII	1.7	6.7	13.7	34.1	43.9	100
Total	8.1	24.0	27.6	23.1	17.3	100

How to read this table: Each cell shows the highest level in reading achieved by a child. For example, in classes III-V, 2.6% children cannot even read letters, 19.3% can read letters but not more, 40.5% can read words but not Std I level text or higher, 28.5% can read Std I level text but not Std II level text, and 9% can read Std II level text. For each group of classes, the total of all these exclusive categories is 100%.



### Reading Tool

**కథ**

అది ఎండాకాలం. రమేష్ వాళ్ళ మామయ్య ఇంటికి బయలుదేరాడు. అతనికి దారిలో దాహం వేసింది. రమేష్ కు చుట్టూ ప్రకృతి ఎక్కడా నీళ్ళు కనిపించలేదు. కొంత దూరములో ఒక కొబ్బరి చెట్టు మీద కొలి కనిపించింది. రమేష్ కు మెరుపులా ఒక ఆలోచన వచ్చింది. వెంటనే ఒక రాయి తీసి దాన్ని బలంగా కొలిపై విసిరాడు. కొలి కూడ కొబ్బరి కాయను తెప్పి రమేష్ కి తిరిగి వేసింది. రమేష్ కొబ్బరి కాయను వగలగొట్టి దాని నీళ్ళు తాగి దాహం తీర్చుకున్నాడు. చాలాగా అతని మామయ్య ఇంటికి బయలు దేరాడు.

**పేరా**

భవాని బడికి వెళ్ళింది  
అమెకి దాహం వేసింది  
కుండలో నీటిని చూసింది  
నీటిలో రాళ్ళను వేసింది.

**అక్షరాలు**

అ డి  
క న ర  
డ గ  
మ

**పదాలు**

అట డాడ కల  
జాతీయ ఓటు  
ఓంబి పూలు  
నూది  
నెమలి రూపాయి

**Table 5: % Children in Std I to Std VIII at different READING levels  
by school type 2014**

Std	Reading level	Govt.		Pvt.		Govt. & Pvt.*	
		No. of children	%	No. of children	%	No. of children	%
Std I-II	Children who can read at least letters	159	79.9	305	78.4	464	78.9
Std III-V	Children who can read at least a Std I level text	237	34.2	330	39.7	567	37.4
Std VI-VIII	Children who can read a Std II level text	245	40.4	228	48.3	473	44.2

\* This is the weighted average of children in government and private schools only.

**Table 6: % Children studying in different medium of instruction  
by school type 2014**

Std	Type of school	No. of children surveyed	Telugu	English	Urdu	Other	Total
Std I-V	Govt.	400	68.5	27.8	3.5	0.3	100
	Pvt.	657	3.5	94.8	1.5	0.2	100
	Govt. & Pvt.*	1057	28.1	69.4	2.3	0.2	100
Std VI-VIII	Govt.	266	65.8	29.7	4.5	0.0	100
	Pvt.	236	3.8	95.8	0.4	0.0	100
	Govt. & Pvt.*	502	36.7	60.8	2.6	0.0	100

\* This is the weighted average of children in government and private schools only.

**Table 7: % Children in Std I to VIII at different READING levels  
by school medium of instruction and school type 2014**

Std	Reading level	Govt. school (Medium of instruction - Telugu)		Pvt. school (Medium of instruction - English)	
		No. of children	%	No. of children	%
Std I-II	Children who can read at least letters	101	82.2	286	78.0
Std III-V	Children who can read at least a Std I level text	162	34.6	314	39.5
Std VI-VIII	Children who can read at least a Std II level text	165	44.9	219	48.0

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## ARITHMETIC

## ENGLISH

**Table 8: % Children by class and ARITHMETIC level All schools 2014**

Std	Not even 1-9	Recognize numbers		Can subtract	Can divide	Total
		1-9	10-99			
Std I-II	14.1	34.3	45.1	6.5	0.0	100
Std III-V	0.9	10.4	49.6	31.8	7.4	100
Std VI-VIII	0.4	2.9	18.8	38.6	39.3	100
Total	4.8	15.5	38.6	26.1	15.1	100

How to read this table: Each cell shows the highest level in arithmetic achieved by a child. For example, in classes III-V, 0.9% children cannot even recognize numbers 1-9, 10.4% can recognize numbers up to 9 but not more, 49.6% can recognize numbers up to 99 but cannot do subtraction, 31.8% can do subtraction but cannot do division, and 7.4% can do division. For each group of classes, the total of all these exclusive categories is 100%.

**Table 10: % Children by class and READING level in ENGLISH All schools 2014**

Std	Not even capital letters	Capital letters	Small letters	Simple words	Easy sentences	Total
Std III-V	1.7	8.3	33.0	45.0	11.9	100
Std VI-VIII	0.6	3.4	11.0	38.5	46.5	100
Total	6.2	12.0	28.7	33.8	19.4	100

How to read this table: Each cell shows the highest level in reading English achieved by a child. For example, in classes III-V, 1.7% children cannot even read capital letters, 8.3% can read capital letters but not more, 33% can read small letters but not words or higher, 45% can read words but not sentences, and 11.9% can read sentences. For each group of classes, the total of all these exclusive categories is 100%.

### Math Tool

అంకెను గుర్తించండి 1-9	సంఖ్యను గుర్తించండి 10 - 99	తీవ్రత	భాగహారం
5 7	74 23	63 - 44 51 - 35	7) 898
8 4	91 86	92 - 48 71 - 35	4) 659
2 9	24 79	45 - 27 34 - 19	8) 946
3 1	37 61	43 - 29 46 - 17	6) 757
58 14			

ఏదైనా 5 అంకెలలో 4 అంకెలను సరిగ్గా గుర్తించాలి.    ఏదైనా 5 సంఖ్యలలో 4 సంఖ్యలను సరిగ్గా గుర్తించాలి.    ఏదైనా 2 లెక్కలను సరిగ్గా చేయాలి    ఏదైనా 1 లెక్కలను సరిగ్గా చేయాలి

### English Tool

ఈ పేజీ మూడు భాగాలు కలిగి ఉంది. మొదటి భాగంలో స్టాండ్ వర్ణాలను, రెండవ భాగంలో స్టాండ్ చిన్న అక్షరాలను, మూడవ భాగంలో పదాలను చూడండి.

<b>Capital letter</b> B H R L V M P F	<b>Small letter</b> z j o w g u s k
<b>Word</b> cow wet big hat man pen	<b>Sentence</b> Where is your house? This is a long road. I like to play. She has a green kite.

మొదటి భాగం: ఏ అక్షరం కనీసం ఒకసారి చూడండి. రెండవ భాగం: ఏ అక్షరం కనీసం ఒకసారి చూడండి. మూడవ భాగం: ఏ పదం కనీసం ఒకసారి చూడండి. నాలుగవ భాగం: ఏ వాక్యం కనీసం ఒకసారి చూడండి.

**Table 9: % Children in Std I to Std VIII at different ARITHMETIC levels by school type 2014**

Std	Arithmetic level	Govt.		Pvt.		Govt. & Pvt.*	
		No. of children	%	No. of children	%	No. of children	%
Std I-II	Children who can recognize numbers 1-9 or more	159	84.9	308	86.4	467	85.9
Std III-V	Children who can do at least subtraction	238	37.8	333	40.5	571	39.4
Std VI-VIII	Children who can do division	246	31.7	225	48.0	471	39.5

\* This is the weighted average of children in government and private schools only.

**Table 11: % Children in Std I to Std VIII at different ENGLISH levels by school type 2014**

Std	English level	Govt.		Pvt.		Govt. & Pvt.*	
		No. of children	%	No. of children	%	No. of children	%
Std I-II	Children who can recognize at least capital letters	158	77.9	306	85.3	464	82.8
Std III-V	Children who can read at least words	238	45.0	333	65.5	571	56.9
Std VI-VIII	Children who can read sentences	241	33.6	226	60.2	467	46.5

\* This is the weighted average of children in government and private schools only.

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## SCHOOLS

According to DISE (2013-14), Saidabad zone in Hyderabad has 214 schools. Our surveyors visited 25 schools of which 3 were government and 22 were private. All 3 government schools and only 3 private schools gave us permission to enter and record basic data on enrollment, attendance and school facilities. Compliance with the RTE indicators was more or less the same in government and private schools. Both kinds of schools were fully compliant with the PTR norm of the RTE Act. Similarly, all the government and private schools visited had drinking water available and children were seen using library books. In the case of computers, playground and boundary wall, 2 of the 3 schools of each type had the facility in question. However, in the case of toilets, 2 of the 3 government schools had useable toilets, including girls' toilet, while all the private schools had useable toilets including useable girls' toilet.

## KEY FINDINGS

### Enrollment in schools

- ◆ Close to 97% of children in the age group 6-14 years are enrolled in school.
- ◆ The proportion of children out of school in the age group 6-14 years is close to 3%. The proportion of children not in school increases by a huge amount as the children cross the elementary age group; 23% of children in the 15-16 years age group are out of school. For girls, the figure is 25% which is high as compared to boys (21%).
- ◆ About 60% of children in the age group 6-10 years are going to private schools and 35% of children in the same age group are going to government schools. (The remaining 5% are either enrolled in other schools or not in school). The proportion of boys going to private schools in the same age group is more than 20 percentage points higher than that for girls.
- ◆ The medium of instruction for most of the children studying in government schools is Telugu (more than 65%) while English is the medium of instruction for majority of children going to private schools (95%).

### Preschool

- ◆ About 35% of children who are 3 years old go to a government pre-school (*anganwadi/balwadi*), the corresponding figure for private pre-schools (*LKG/UKG*) is 41%.
- ◆ As the children move to the age group 4-6 years, an increase in the proportion of children going to private pre-schools (*LKG/UKG*) or private schools is noticed. For instance, the proportion of children who are 4-6 years old and enrolled in a private pre-school (*LKG/UKG*) or a private school is between 70-80%.

### Learning

- ◆ Only 9% of children in Std 3 to 5 could read a Std 2 level text. About 7% could do division and 12% could read simple sentences in English.
- ◆ There is not much difference between the performance of children in government and private schools, except in English.
- ◆ The proportion of children in Std 3 to 5 who could read at least a Std 1 level text is 34% for government school children and 40% for private school children.
- ◆ In arithmetic, while 38% of children in Std 3 to 5 in government schools could do at least subtraction, the corresponding figure for private school children is 41%.
- ◆ Lastly, in English, while 45% of children in Std 3 to 5 in government schools could read at least words, the corresponding figure for private school children is 66%.

### Thoughts on the way forward

Less than 4% children are out of school in 6-14 years age group, however the proportion of out of school children starts rising after the age of 10. The private schools in the ward are not significantly different from government schools as far as performance in basic reading and arithmetic skills is concerned. The low levels of learning in the primary grades points to the need to focus on improving basic reading, writing and math competencies for children from early grades.