

## **Evaluation Criteria for Papers/Proposals**

1. All papers must be based on original research
2. All papers must use ASER data, either for a single year or several years
3. While papers can be on any theme of interest to the researchers, all manuscripts must have a well- articulated theory or literature motivating the research, clearly outlined research question(s) and testable hypotheses, data and methods sections.
4. The proposal should briefly describe each of these sections
5. While ASER surveys collect data on a large scale, they include a limited number of indicators. One of the evaluation criteria is, therefore, whether the research questions can indeed be answered using ASER data. Please visit our website and refer to the variables available in ASER.
6. Researchers must indicate in their proposals if ASER data is already available with them.
7. ASER data will be made available to researchers who have submitted proposals and have been shortlisted for submitting full-length papers, but do not have ASER data.

### **Format**

1. Proposals and papers must use Times New Roman font with a minimum font size of 12. Documents should be submitted as Word files (.doc).
2. Proposals must clearly mention the name of the author, institutional affiliation and designation, if any and contact details (phone number and e-mail ID).
3. Manuscripts must be prepared as per the guidelines of <http://apastyle.apa.org>
4. The word limit for proposals in 2,000 words
5. Once proposals are submitted, a panel of experts will shortlist the candidates who will be invited to submit full length papers.
6. The word limit for full length papers is 8,000 words

### **Timeline**

1. July 15, 2015: Deadline for submission of proposals
2. August 15, 2015: Announcement of winning abstracts
3. October 15, 2015: First draft of manuscripts are due
4. November 15, 2015: Review of papers with comments from editors are due
5. December, 2015: Conference Scheduled
6. February 1, 2016: Final manuscripts for publication due
7. March-April 2016: Publication of volume

## Submission procedure

Proposals can be submitted before or by the submission deadline to the following email address: [callforpapers2014@asercentre.org](mailto:callforpapers2014@asercentre.org)

For further information, you may write to:

- Dr. Manjistha Banerji *at* [manjistha.banerji@asercentre.org](mailto:manjistha.banerji@asercentre.org)
- Ms Nayan Dave *at* [nayan.dave@asercentre.org](mailto:nayan.dave@asercentre.org)

## Overview of ASER survey

### Coverage

Unlike most other large-scale learning assessments, ASER is a household-based rather than school-based survey. This design enables all children to be included - those who have never been to school or have dropped out, as well as those who are in government schools, private schools, religious schools or elsewhere. See [ASER over the years](#) for more details about sample coverage.

### Sampling

In each rural district, 30 villages are surveyed. In each village, 20 randomly selected households are surveyed. This process generates a total of 600 households per district, or about 300,000 households for the country as a whole. All children in the age group 3-16 who are resident in the selected households are surveyed, generating a sample of over 600,000 children each year. Children in the age group 5-16 are tested

on basic reading and arithmetic; in some years additional learning assessments are also conducted (see section on Data below).

ASER employs a rotating panel of villages, with any two consecutive years having 20 common villages. Each year 10 villages are dropped and 10 new villages are added. For example, in ASER 2010, 10 villages from ASER 2007 were dropped, 10 villages from 2008 and 2009 were retained and 10 new villages were added. New villages are randomly sampled from the 2001 Census using Probability Proportional to Size (PPS) methodology. See the [Sampling](#) page for more information.

This sampling strategy and sample size has been followed since 2006. The sample size was slightly smaller in 2005 and only children in the age group of 6-14 years were surveyed. For analysis purposes, therefore, we suggest using data from 2006-2013.

## Data

The ASER data sets record data for every child in the age group 3-16 in sampled households. In addition to the child's age, gender, and schooling status, basic household information is also collected. Household indicators vary across years. In recent years additional information on parents has also been collected. Basic information about each sampled village is also available. See [ASER over the years](#) for more information.

Children in the age group 5-16 are assessed in basic reading and arithmetic. The reading tool has remained the same since 2005. The arithmetic tool was modified in 2007 but has remained the same since then. In some years, additional learning assessments have been conducted, for example basic English, reading comprehension, and applied arithmetic. These vary across years. See [Tools and Testing](#) and [ASER over the years](#) for more information.

To protect the privacy of our respondents, village, household and school identifiers are not in the public domain.

## Frequently asked questions

Many questions about ASER sampling, tools, processes, and data are answered in our [Frequently Asked Questions](#). If the FAQs do not answer your questions, please write to Dr. Manjistha Banerji at [manjistha.banerji@asercentre.org](mailto:manjistha.banerji@asercentre.org)