

ASER 2006 FINDINGS:

ENROLLMENT:

Overall enrollment is unchanged since last year.

Based on ASER 2006 and 2005 results, overall enrollment remains unchanged. There is however a perceptible shift towards private schools especially in Punjab, Haryana and Karnataka.

- Enrollment remains steady at 93.2% for the 6-14 year age group as against 93.5% last year. No change discernible at the national level.
- Out of all 5 year-old children, 46.6% are enrolled in formal schools. Nationally, 5 year-olds form 21.8% of the Std I class. In Orissa, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Himachal, Uttaranchal and Haryana, the Std I class in 2006-2007 has more than 30% children who were 5 years old. On the other hand, Maharashtra (3.2%), Nagaland (5.1%) and Karnataka (6.9%) have very small proportions of 5 year olds in the Std 1 cohort.
- In the 7-10 year age group, national enrollment stands at 95.3%. In most states except Rajasthan, Bihar, Orissa, West Bengal, Jharkhand, Arunachal and Meghalaya enrollment in 6-10 age group is above 95%.
- In the 11-14 year age group, national enrollment stands at 91.1%. In most states except Rajasthan, Bihar, Orissa, West Bengal, Jharkhand and Chhattisgarh enrollment is above 90%.

Enrollment of girls

- Amongst girls in the 7-10 year age group, more than 95% girls are enrolled in school in most states except Rajasthan, Bihar, Orissa and Jharkhand.
- Amongst girls in the 11-14 year age group, many states have 10%-20% girls out of school. In particular, Rajasthan at 19.6% out of school girls and Bihar at 17.6% stand out.

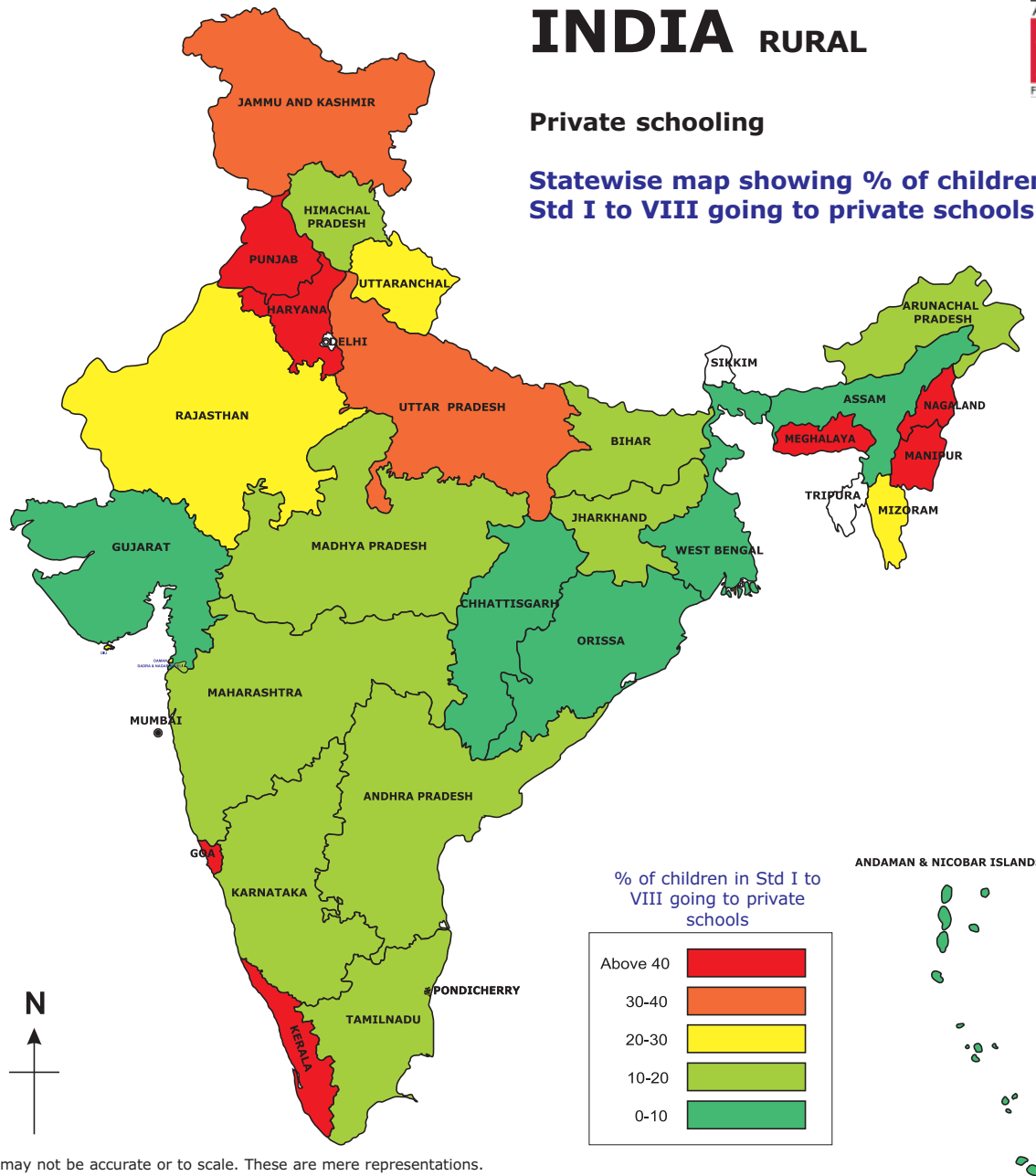
COMPLETING ELEMENTARY EDUCATION:

Four years after the 86th Amendment to the Constitution, large numbers of children will not complete elementary education.

- One of the goals of SSA is that children complete 8 years of schooling. ASER 2006 records that 13.5 % of 14 year old children are not in school and an additional 14.4% of those that are in school are studying in Std 6 or lower. This means that over 25% children who were 10 years old when the Constitution was amended in 2002 will not complete elementary education this year.
- In the 15-16 year age group, national enrollment stands at 78.7%. However, 24.7% of the 15-16 year olds who go to school are still enrolled in Std 8 or lower and are still in the process of trying to complete elementary schooling.
- If a child enters school at 6, she/he should be in Std 3 by age 8. If standard and age are compared across the country, overall, 21.4% of Std 3 children are 10 years or older. However, there are significant variations across states. In Bihar and Jharkhand, more than 35% of Std 3 children are 10 years or older. This number is 28% in UP. On the other hand, in Tamil Nadu and Kerala, the percentage of children in Std 3 who are 10 years or older is less than 3%. There are interesting and important implications to these numbers. Over-age children in primary school are less likely to complete the elementary stage.

Private schooling

Statewise map showing % of children in Std I to VIII going to private schools



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

PRIVATE SCHOOLS (including aided schools):

Shifts towards private schools in some states.

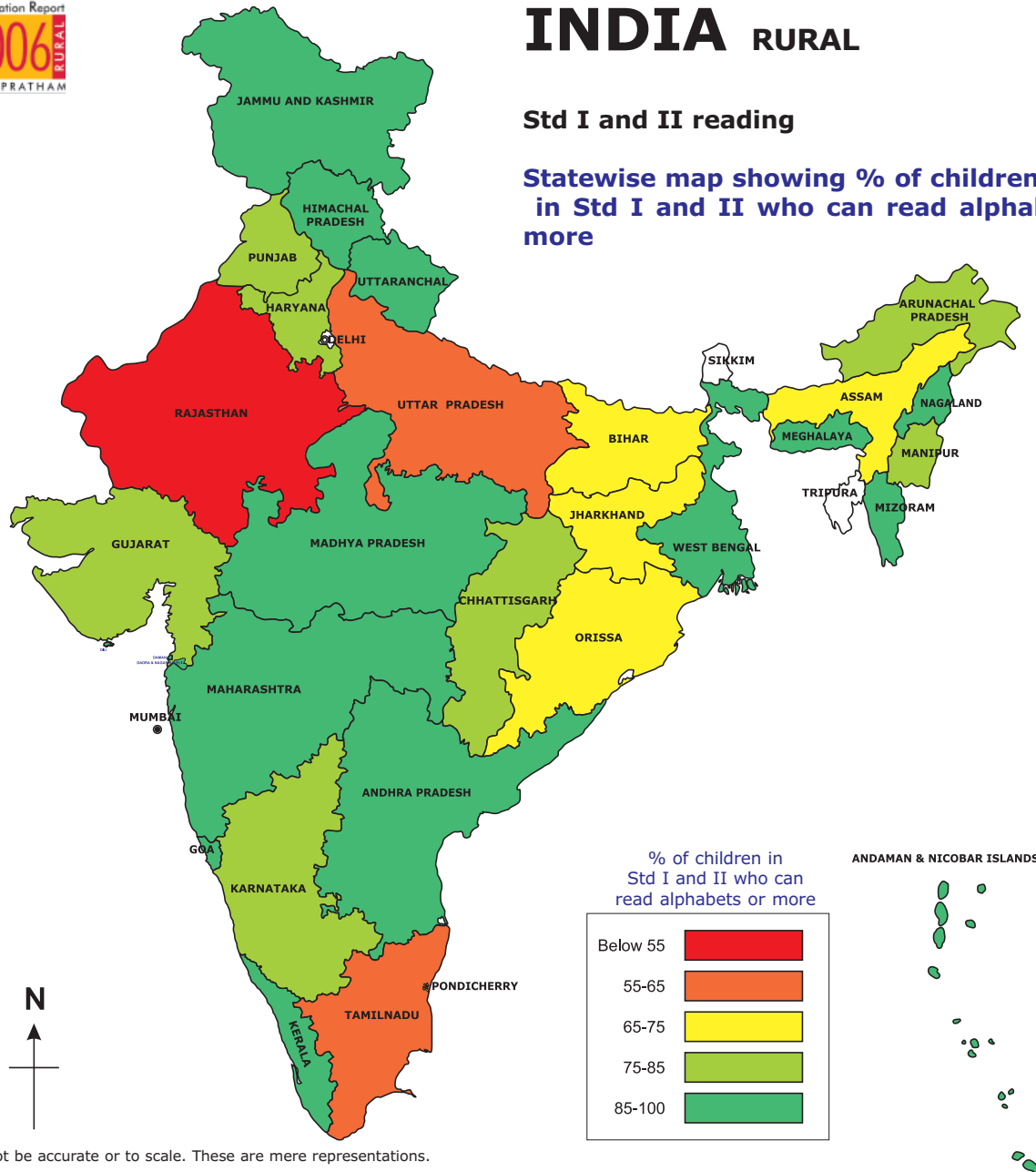
- Eight states have more than 30% children in non-government run schools whether primary (I-V) or upper primary (VI-VIII) - Manipur (56.7%), Nagaland (46.1), Kerala (45.2%), Meghalaya (44.6%), Goa (44.65), Haryana (40.35), Punjab (37.25) and UP (30.25). The states differ in the ratio of aided to unaided schools.
- Ten states have between 15% and 30% children in non-government run schools.
- ASER records big shifts in the last year into private schools. An increase of more than 5 percentage points was recorded in Punjab (16+), Goa (15.35+), Haryana (9.8+) and Karnataka (6.1+). The shift to private schools has been at the expense of government school enrollment.

Overall, more boys (20.4%) are in private schools than girls (16.8%). For the 7-10 age group, if we compare percentage of boys enrolled in private school with that of girls, the largest differences by gender are in Punjab (50% boys and 43% girls) and Haryana (51% boys and 39% girls).

INDIA RURAL

Std I and II reading

Statewise map showing % of children in Std I and II who can read alphabets or more



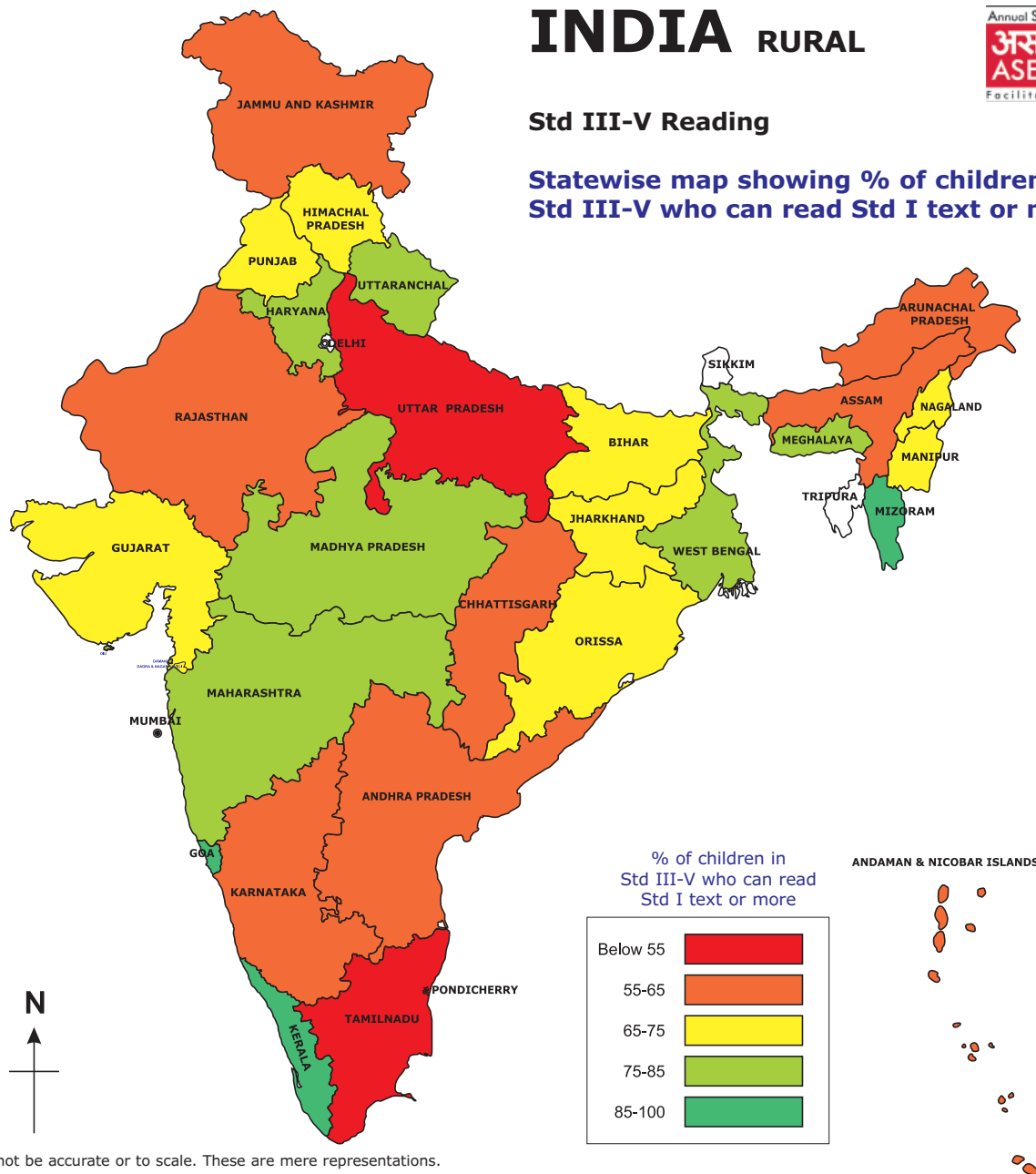
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LEARNING LEVELS: For Std I-II Reading

- At an all India level, a gain is recorded in the proportion of children who can read alphabets or more by 4.3 percentage points - up from 70.3% last year to 74.5% in 2006.
- More than 5 percentage points improvement recorded in Madhya Pradesh (+31.9), Punjab (+13.9), Orissa (+13.5), Haryana (+10.2), Andhra Pradesh (+9.6) and Maharashtra (+6.5).
- In Punjab there is only a minor improvement in the learning levels in government schools and there is no major improvement in learning levels in the private schools. Hence, the big overall change appears largely due to the massive shift to private schools, which show a much better performance than government schools.
- In most other states, there is a small change or no discernible change.

Std III-V Reading

Statewise map showing % of children in Std III-V who can read Std I text or more



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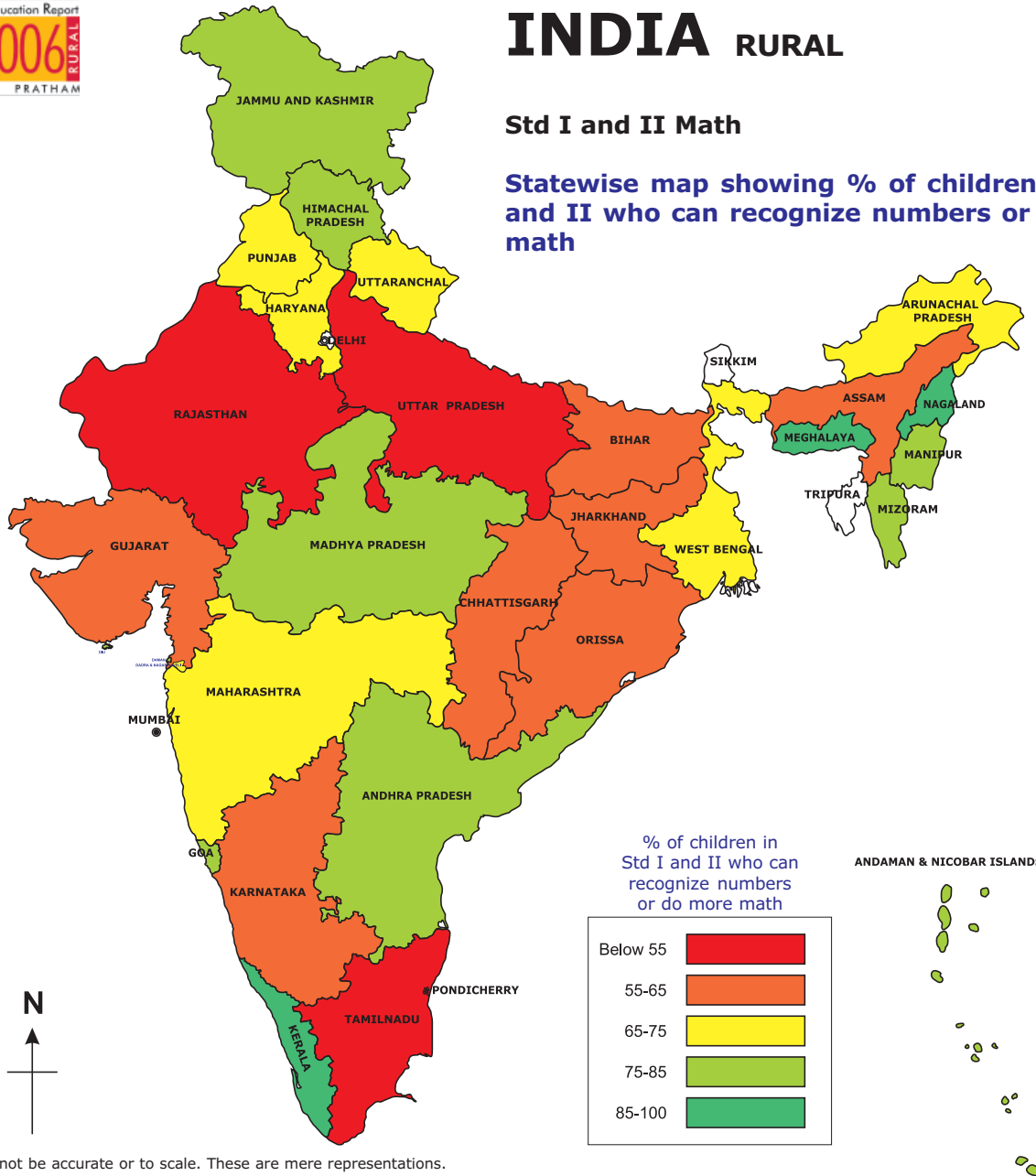
LEARNING LEVELS: For Std III- V Reading

- At an all India level, between 2005 and 2006, there is no change discernible in the percentage of children who can read either at Level 1 or Level 2. Compared to 67.4% children in Std 3-5 being able to read either level 1 or level 2 in 2005, the percentage in 2006 is recorded to be 66.2%.
- Madhya Pradesh and Haryana show major gains at 21.2 and 7.6 percentage points respectively, taking both within 5-10% of national leaders in reading such as Kerala, West Bengal, Nagaland and Meghalaya, which have Level 1+ Level 2 readers between 89-84%.
- The low reading levels in Tamil Nadu, and Karnataka are a cause for concern. ASER2006 records lower percentages of readers in these states along with Andhra Pradesh compared to last year. This does not necessarily mean that the situation has worsened. ASER looks at this as a fresh baseline starting in 2006.

INDIA RURAL

Std I and II Math

Statewise map showing % of children in Std I and II who can recognize numbers or do more math

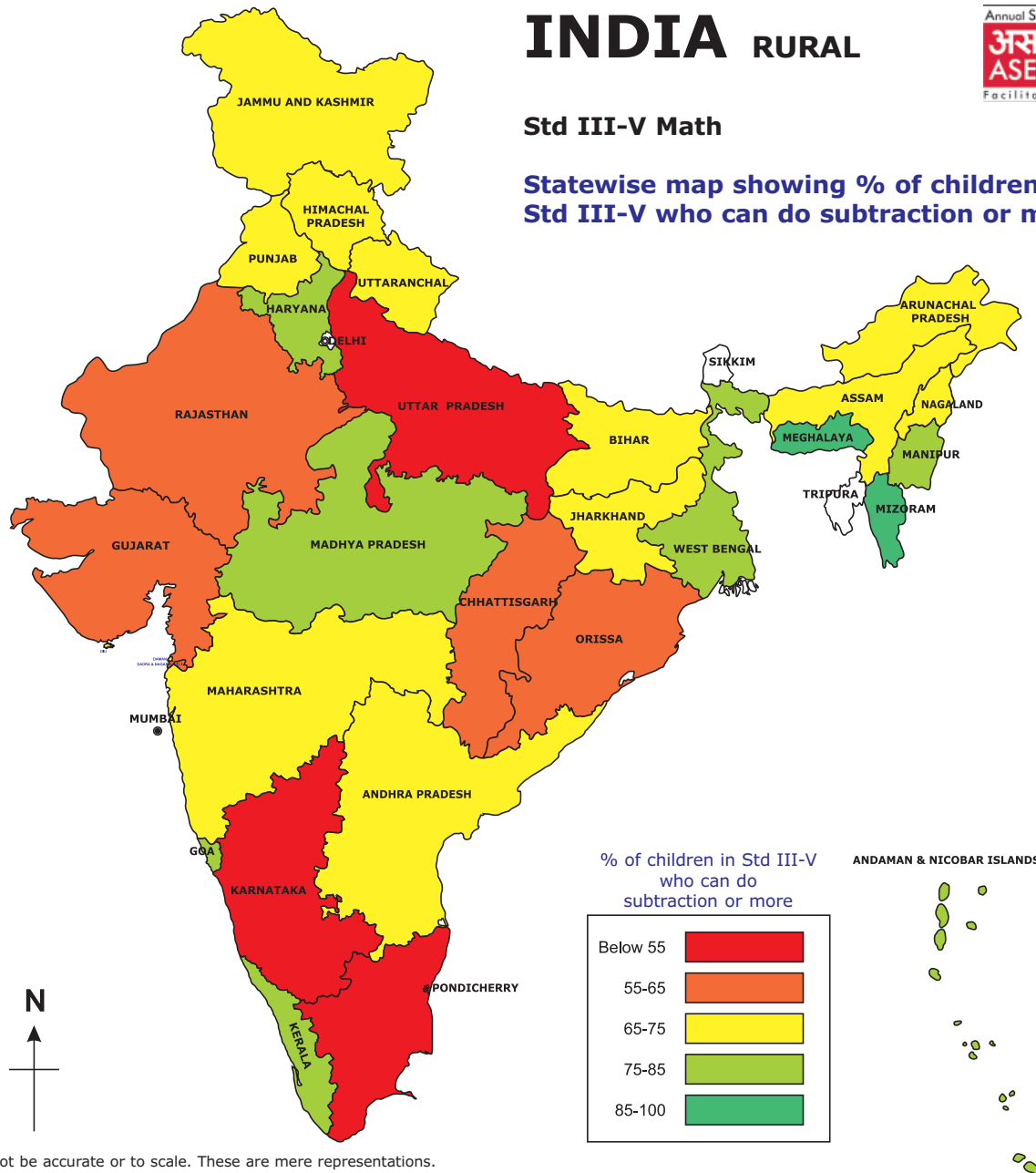


LEARNING LEVELS: For Std I- II Math

- At an all India level, a gain is recorded in the proportion of children who can recognize numbers or do more math by 5.3 percentage points up from 55.3% to 60.6%.
- More than 5 percentage points improvement recorded in Madhya Pradesh (+35.7), Orissa (+17.9), Maharashtra (+13.7), Haryana (+12.3), Chhattisgarh (+10.9), Andhra Pradesh (+9.4), Rajasthan (+7.5), Punjab (+7.0) and Jharkhand (+6.5).
- In most other states, there is a small change or no discernible change.
- The difference in % children who can recognize numbers or do more in math between Government and Private schools nationwide is only 8.4 percentage points in favor of Private schools. In Madhya Pradesh, Nagaland, Mizoram, Meghalaya, Goa, and Kerala the difference is under 2 percentage points. It is around 10-16 percentage points in UP, Punjab, Haryana, Himachal, Rajasthan, Karnataka, Bihar, Jharkhand and West Bengal.

Std III-V Math

Statewise map showing % of children in Std III-V who can do subtraction or more



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LEARNING LEVELS: For Std III- V Math

- In arithmetic for Std 3-5, there is an all India gain of 4 percentage points from 60.7% to 64.7% for children who can do subtraction or more.
- Madhya Pradesh shows a gain of 25.5 percentage points.
- Gains between 10-12 percentage points are recorded in four states: Maharashtra, Nagaland, Orissa and Goa.
- In four states, Kerala, Haryana, Jharkhand and Gujarat, a gain of 5-7 percentage points has been recorded.
- The difference between Government and Private schools increases to 10.8% over that in Std 1-2. In all states except Bihar, West Bengal, and Madhya Pradesh, the difference decreases by 3-4 percentage points. While Madhya Pradesh government school performance has improved significantly, which may explain this drop, in the other two states it is likely because of children dropping out from government schools.

COMPREHENSION:

Fluent readers comprehend. A case for improving fluent reading.

- Comprehension was measured for the first time in ASER 2006. The data indicates that if a child (at any age or standard) can read Level 2 text fluently, his or her ability to answer comprehension questions is high. By Std 4, over 90% of fluent readers are able to answer simple comprehension questions. Fluent readers' ability to correctly solve word problems in arithmetic is limited only by their inability to do arithmetic operations. This finding underlines the importance of ensuring fluent reading as a foundation for any educational progress.

MOTHERS:

A case to integrate mothers' literacy efforts with schools.

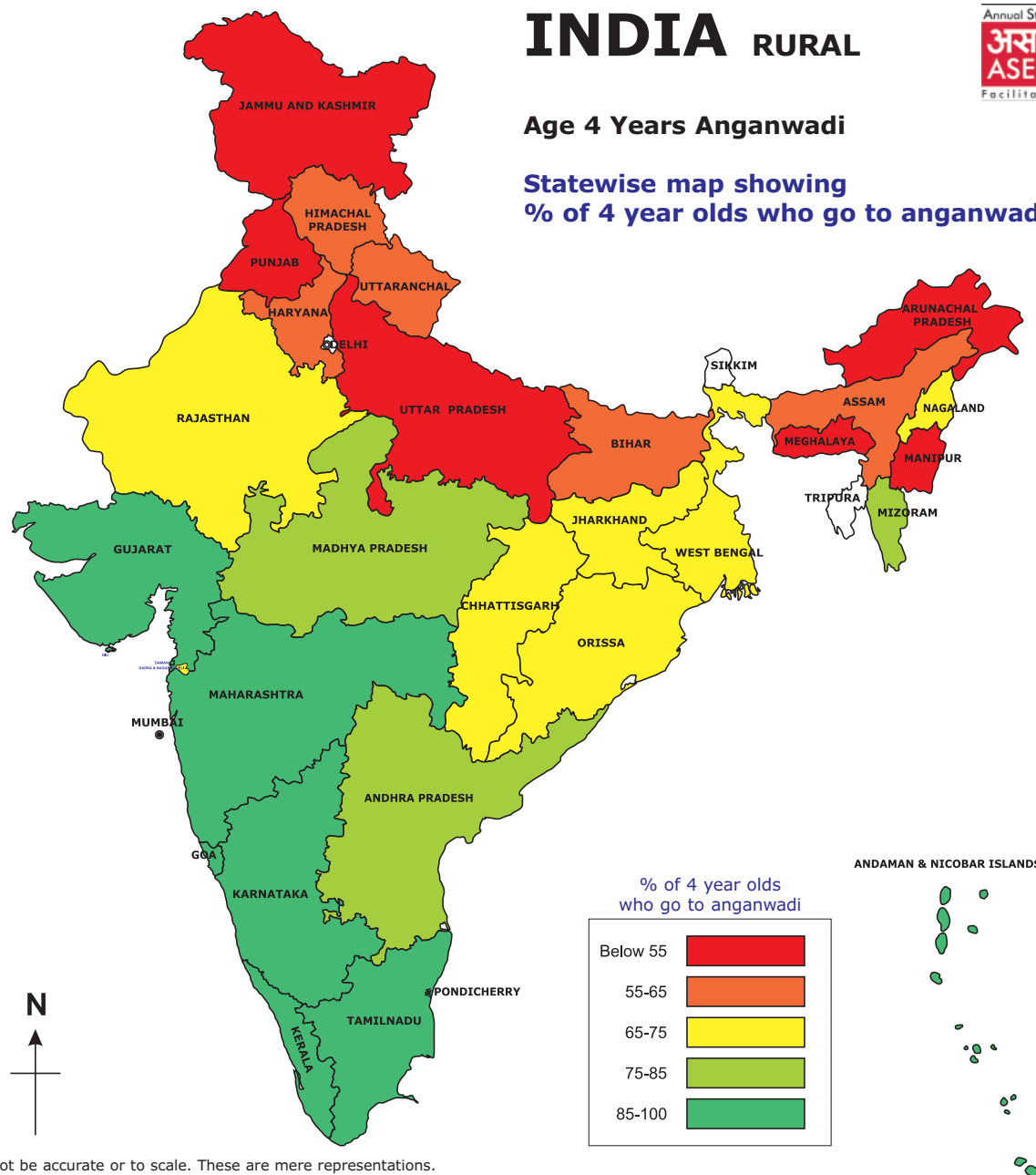
- Of mothers in the age group of 17 to 55 years who were surveyed in ASER 2006, 52.02% have not been to school and 52.87% cannot read a Level 1 (Std 1) text.
- 95.7% mothers who have completed Std 5 or more can read a Std 1 text. The proportion of mothers who can read is lower for mothers with lower levels of schooling. For example, just 50% mothers who have completed Std 1 are able to read. Of women who have not been to school, over 99% women cannot read.

Mothers and children

- For mothers who have had no schooling, the chances that their children will be out of school is much higher (at almost 10%) than that of their schooled counterparts (2.5%).
- There does not appear to be a gender difference in school enrollment of children whose mothers have had schooling. For unschooled mothers, the percentage of sons being out of school (at 8.4%) is lower than that of daughters (at 11.4%).
- In terms of the relationship between young children's learning levels and mothers' schooling, 25% children of unschooled mothers are unable to recognize even alphabets as compared to 12.8% children of schooled mothers.
- Across the board, more 6 to 8 year-old children cannot recognize numbers as compared to their ability to recognize letters. Here too, children of unschooled mothers have a greater disadvantage.

Age 4 Years Anganwadi

Statewise map showing
 % of 4 year olds who go to anganwadi



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YOUNG CHILDREN:

A self-evident case for pre-school classes in school.

- At the all India level, enrollment in anganwadi or balwadi is 68.6% for 4 year olds. However, there are inter-state variations. In Maharashtra and in Southern states except AP, more than 90% of all 4 year-olds go to anganwadis. But in the North and the Northeast less than 60% of all 4 year olds are in anganwadis in most states.
- By the time they are 5 years old, a large majority (84%) are either in anganwadi/balwadi or in school. The proportion of children in anganwadi drops from almost 68.6% at age 4 to 38% at age 5 with 46.6 % 5 year olds enrolling in Std I.
- There are significant variations at the state level. More than 60% of all five year olds are in school in Punjab, Rajasthan, Orissa, Arunachal Pradesh and Manipur. In 14 states, the proportion of 5 year-olds going to school is greater than 50%.
- Of all 5 year olds going to school, 12.2% are in private schools. In several states, however, more than 25% are in private schools. These include Jammu & Kashmir, Punjab and Haryana.

School enrollment is high by the time children are 6 years, most of them (88.4%) are in school.