



The national picture

Young Children: Enrollment and Learning Status – India

Analysis based on data from households. 596 out of 619 districts were surveyed in ASER 2018.

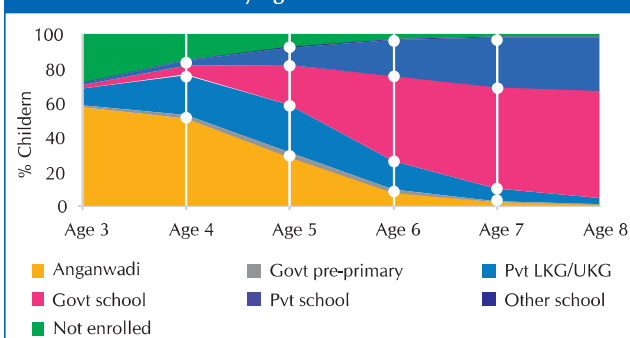
Early access to a supportive environment and exposure to developmentally appropriate activities can help children develop a solid foundation for future learning, both for school and for life. All major education policy and program documents in India now recognize this fact. However, recent ASER data shows major gaps between official norms and actual practice. These gaps are evident both when young children enter school and in what they are able to do in terms of foundational skills like reading and arithmetic. The gap between expectations and ground realities starts very early and needs to be addressed urgently. Once children fall behind, it is very difficult to catch up.

Age 3 to 8 years: Where are young children enrolled?

Table 1: % Children enrolled in different types of pre-schools and schools by age 2018

Age	Pre-school			School			Not enrolled	Total
	Anganwadi	Govt pre-primary	Pvt LKG/UKG	Govt	Pvt	Other		
Age 3	57.1	1.0	10.0	2.0	1.0	0.1	28.8	100
Age 4	50.5	2.1	23.4	5.3	3.0	0.2	15.6	100
Age 5	28.1	2.8	27.5	23.3	9.8	0.3	8.1	100
Age 6	7.6	1.9	16.4	49.5	20.7	0.5	3.3	100
Age 7	1.8	0.8	7.3	59.1	28.7	0.6	1.8	100
Age 8	0.7	0.4	3.3	62.6	30.8	0.7	1.5	100

Chart 1: % Children enrolled in different types of pre-schools and schools by age 2018



This table shows the proportion of children enrolled in different types of pre-schools and schools by age. For example, at age 3, 57.1% children are enrolled in anganwadis, 1% in government pre-primary classes, 10% in private LKG/UKG, 2% in government schools, and 1% in private schools. 'Other' includes children going to any other type of institution. 'Not enrolled' includes children who were never enrolled or have dropped out. 28.8% children are not enrolled anywhere. Chart 1, a stacked area chart, is a visual representation of Table 1.

Key takeaways:

Children's pathways through pre-school and school do not always follow policy prescriptions or curriculum expectations.

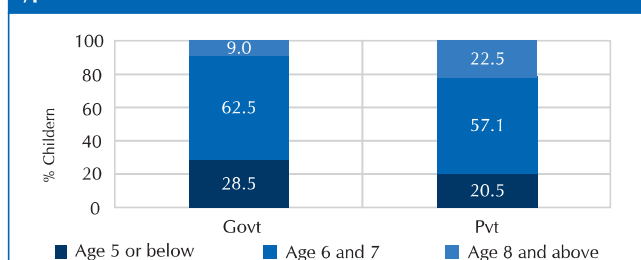
- **High enrollment in pre-school age group:** At age 5, most children are already enrolled in some kind of educational institution (91.9%). They could be going to an anganwadi (28.1%), or to a private pre-school (27.5%), or to a school (33.4%). This means that what is offered to, and expected from these young children varies enormously across the country depending on whether they are enrolled in pre-primary grades or in primary schools. (Table 1)
- **Private school children enter Std I at an older age:** Children enrolled in private schools are older when they enter Std I as compared to those in government schools. For example, 28.5% of children in Std I in government schools are 5 years or younger, whereas this figure is 8 percentage points lower in private schools (20.5%). But grade expectations are the same for all children regardless of age. (Chart 2)
- **Age makes a difference:** Comparing children in Std I in the same type of school by age, it is clear that older children are able to do more. For example, among children in Std I in government schools, 33% of 5 year olds can read at least letters, as compared to 50% of 6-7 year olds and 58.3% children age 8 and above. (Table 3)

Std I: Can young children read letters and recognize numbers?

Table 2: % Children enrolled in Std I by school type 2018

% Children in Std I enrolled in	Govt	Pvt	Total
	64.4	35.6	100

Chart 2: % Children enrolled in Std I by age and school type 2018



This chart shows the distribution of Std I children enrolled in different types of schools by age.

Table 3: Reading and arithmetic levels for Std I children by age and school type 2018

Age	% Children who	
	Can read at least letters	Can recognize at least numbers (1-9)
Government schools		
Age 5	33.0	38.7
Age 6 and 7	50.0	57.8
Age 8 and above	58.3	68.9
All	46.8	54.4
Private schools		
Age 5	57.1	63.4
Age 6 and 7	79.0	84.4
Age 8 and above	86.3	92.1
All	77.0	82.7

This table shows the proportion of children in Std I who can read at least letters and recognize at least numbers up to 9.

Young Children: Enrollment and Learning Status by Sex – India

Analysis based on data from households. 596 out of 619 districts were surveyed in ASER 2018.

Age 4 to 8 years: Where are young boys and girls enrolled?

Table 4: % Children age 4-8 enrolled in Govt pre-schools/schools by sex 2018

Age	Enrolled in govt pre-schools/schools		Sex-wise difference in enrollment in percentage points
	Boys	Girls	
Age 4	55.7	60.3	4.5
Age 5	51.8	56.8	5.0
Age 6	55.8	62.5	6.7
Age 7	58.1	65.6	7.6
Age 8	59.6	68.0	8.4

Note: Government pre-schools/schools include anganwadis, government pre-primary classes and government primary schools.

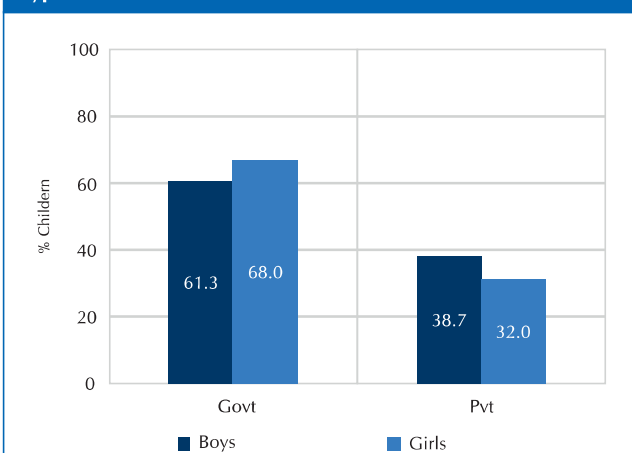


Key takeaways:

- **Sex-wise difference in enrollment:** In all age groups, a slightly higher proportion of girls are enrolled in government institutions (anganwadis or pre-primary grades or primary grades in government schools) as compared to boys of the same age. The proportion of boys and girls attending government institutions increases with age. However, interestingly, the sex-wise gap in enrollment also increases with age. For example, at age 5, the percentage of girls enrolled in government institutions is 56.8% as compared to that of boys at 51.8%. There is a 5 percentage point difference in enrollment. By age 8, there are more boys (59.6%) and girls (68%) in government schools but the sex-wise gap in enrollment has risen to 8.4 percentage points. (Table 4)
- **Difference in learning levels between boys and girls also increases with age:** In terms of their ability to recognize numbers or letters, there is hardly any difference between boys and girls who are aged 5 and are enrolled in Std I in government schools. However, among older children enrolled in Std I in government schools, boys are doing slightly better than girls. For example, among 8 year olds and older in Std I in government schools, 59.7% of boys can recognize at least letters as compared to 56.5% of girls. (Table 5)
- **In private schools, learning levels of girls are better than that of boys:** Across all age groups enrolled in Std I, girls in private schools are performing better than their male counterparts. This pattern can be seen in reading and in arithmetic. (Table 5)

Std I: Can young boys and girls read letters and recognize numbers?

Chart 3: % Children enrolled in Std I by sex and school type 2018



The chart shows the distribution of Std I children enrolled in different types of schools by sex. For example, of all boys enrolled in Std I, 61.3% of boys are enrolled in government schools and 38.7% of boys are enrolled in private schools. Of all girls enrolled in Std I, 68% of girls are enrolled in government schools and 32% of girls are enrolled in private schools.

Table 5: Reading and arithmetic levels for Std I children by age, sex, and school type 2018

Age	% Children who			
	Can read at least letters		Can recognize at least numbers (1-9)	
	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls
Government schools				
Age 5	33.2	32.9	39.2	38.2
Age 6 and 7	50.2	49.8	59.5	56.1
Age 8 and above	59.7	56.5	70.4	67.0
All	47.1	46.5	55.8	52.9
Private schools				
Age 5	56.0	58.6	62.2	65.0
Age 6 and 7	77.7	80.5	83.6	85.3
Age 8 and above	85.2	88.0	91.8	92.5
All	75.9	78.5	82.0	83.5

This table shows the proportion of children in Std I who can read at least letters and recognize at least numbers up to 9. The data shows patterns by age and sex.

Young Children: Enrollment and Learning Status – India

Analysis based on data from households. 596 out of 619 total rural districts were surveyed in ASER 2018.

Table 6: Children's enrollment in Std I by sex and school type

State	% Children enrolled in Std I by sex			% Children enrolled in Std I by school type		
	Boys	Girls	Total	Govt	Pvt	Total
Andhra Pradesh	50.4	49.6	100	53.4	46.6	100
Arunachal Pradesh	54.6	45.4	100	66.0	34.0	100
Assam	54.7	45.3	100	71.4	28.6	100
Bihar	54.5	45.6	100	74.3	25.7	100
Chhattisgarh	52.3	47.7	100	70.2	29.8	100
Gujarat	51.7	48.4	100	88.1	11.9	100
Haryana	53.8	46.2	100	35.6	64.4	100
Himachal Pradesh	53.8	46.2	100	49.1	50.9	100
Jammu and Kashmir	55.3	44.7	100	53.5	46.5	100
Jharkhand	53.2	46.8	100	76.8	23.2	100
Karnataka	50.5	49.5	100	65.2	34.8	100
Kerala	53.2	46.8	100	46.6	53.4	100
Madhya Pradesh	52.6	47.4	100	64.1	35.9	100
Maharashtra	53.1	46.9	100	75.5	24.6	100
Manipur	50.1	49.9	100	36.4	63.6	100
Meghalaya	52.8	47.2	100	39.9	60.1	100
Mizoram	50.3	49.7	100	68.3	31.7	100
Nagaland	52.7	47.3	100	56.6	43.4	100
Odisha	52.3	47.7	100	82.7	17.3	100
Punjab	51.8	48.2	100	34.2	65.8	100
Rajasthan	53.7	46.3	100	62.7	37.3	100
Tamil Nadu	50.9	49.1	100	54.0	46.1	100
Telangana	55.2	44.8	100	44.3	55.7	100
Tripura				80.5		100
Uttar Pradesh	54.8	45.2	100	50.2	49.8	100
Uttarakhand	55.9	44.1	100	46.0	54.0	100
West Bengal	53.2	46.9	100	86.1	13.9	100
All India	53.5	46.6	100	64.4	35.6	100

Young Children: Enrollment and Learning Status – India

Analysis based on data from households. 596 out of 619 total rural districts were surveyed in ASER 2018.

Table 7: Children's learning levels in Std I by sex

State	% Children in Std I who can read at least letters by sex			% Children in Std I who can recognize at least numbers (1-9) by sex		
	Boys	Girls	All	Boys	Girls	All
Andhra Pradesh	70.5	68.6	69.6	78.5	73.6	76.2
Arunachal Pradesh	73.4	75.6	74.4	77.0	81.1	78.8
Assam	64.9	62.7	63.9	70.6	67.2	69.0
Bihar	48.6	44.3	46.6	60.1	54.6	57.5
Chhattisgarh	53.6	55.1	54.3	63.7	60.5	62.1
Gujarat	63.5	63.4	63.4	66.4	66.6	66.5
Haryana	76.0	78.4	77.1	81.5	84.0	82.7
Himachal Pradesh	80.5	83.0	81.6	86.8	87.0	86.8
Jammu and Kashmir	82.0	82.8	82.4	84.7	82.3	83.6
Jharkhand	47.7	46.6	47.1	56.9	52.9	55.0
Karnataka	59.5	60.0	59.7	71.6	68.9	70.3
Kerala	92.8	93.9	93.3	95.7	95.7	95.7
Madhya Pradesh	48.4	44.4	46.5	53.6	49.2	51.5
Maharashtra	70.6	70.7	70.7	71.6	71.0	71.3
Manipur	95.6	96.0	95.8	97.5	98.5	98.0
Meghalaya	88.2	88.3	88.3	88.5	89.7	89.0
Mizoram	74.3	78.3	76.3	77.9	78.8	78.3
Nagaland	89.8	88.9	89.4	91.1	90.8	91.0
Odisha	64.0	60.7	62.4	63.4	61.2	62.3
Punjab	73.9	76.7	75.2	83.3	87.6	85.3
Rajasthan	36.0	35.9	36.0	45.1	40.8	43.1
Tamil Nadu	60.8	56.7	58.8	73.6	71.3	72.5
Telangana	74.2	77.9	76.0	78.7	81.8	80.2
Tripura						
Uttar Pradesh	54.7	51.9	53.5	64.3	58.4	61.7
Uttarakhand	75.0	66.8	71.4	78.1	69.0	74.1
West Bengal	74.6	75.8	75.2	78.9	80.1	79.5
All India	58.3	56.9	57.6	66.0	62.8	64.5

Young Children: Enrollment and Learning Status – India

Analysis based on data from households. 596 out of 619 total rural districts were surveyed in ASER 2018.

Table 8: Children's learning levels in Std I by school type

State	% Children in Std I who can read at least letters by school type			% Children in Std I who can recognize at least numbers (1-9) by school type		
	Govt	Pvt	All	Govt	Pvt	All
Andhra Pradesh	52.3	89.5	69.6	61.5	93.0	76.2
Arunachal Pradesh	64.5	93.2	74.4	69.2	97.2	78.9
Assam	55.6	84.9	64.0	61.3	88.5	69.1
Bihar	33.8	82.7	46.7	46.7	87.9	57.6
Chhattisgarh	44.0	78.7	54.3	53.0	83.7	62.1
Gujarat	62.5	70.8	63.4	64.7	81.7	66.5
Haryana	53.4	88.5	77.1	64.5	91.3	82.7
Himachal Pradesh	71.8	91.4	81.6	80.5	93.1	86.8
Jammu and Kashmir	71.6	93.4	82.4	72.0	95.4	83.6
Jharkhand	35.7	82.5	47.0	44.6	87.1	54.9
Karnataka	54.4	69.4	59.7	64.5	80.7	70.3
Kerala	91.3	95.1	93.3	93.8	97.3	95.7
Madhya Pradesh	32.0	71.5	46.5	38.3	74.3	51.5
Maharashtra	66.2	84.5	70.7	66.6	86.3	71.3
Manipur	90.9	98.6	95.8	95.7	99.3	98.0
Meghalaya	86.7	89.5	88.4	89.2	89.1	89.1
Mizoram	70.8	88.7	76.6	73.4	89.6	78.6
Nagaland	84.2	95.9	89.3	87.3	95.5	90.8
Odisha	57.9	85.7	62.4	57.8	85.8	62.3
Punjab	58.5	83.0	75.2	66.5	94.1	85.3
Rajasthan	23.9	56.6	36.1	32.1	62.0	43.3
Tamil Nadu	53.6	65.1	58.8	64.0	82.6	72.5
Telangana	59.3	89.6	76.0	68.4	89.6	80.2
Tripura	80.3		82.0	87.9		87.1
Uttar Pradesh	33.5	73.2	53.5	43.5	79.7	61.7
Uttarakhand	55.8	85.1	71.4	59.9	86.5	74.1
West Bengal	73.2	88.2	75.1	77.8	91.4	79.5
All India	46.8	77.0	57.6	54.4	82.7	64.5