# Tripura RURAL

ANALYSIS BASED ON DATA FROM HOUSEHOLDS. 4 OUT OF 4 DISTRICTS
Data is not presented where sample size is insufficient.

## Young Children Age 3 to 8: Schooling and learning trends

Engaging in developmentally appropriate activities from a young age and growing up in a supportive environment helps children to develop a solid foundation for learning. All major policy documents in India now recognize this fact. Recent ASER data for the "foundational stage" (age 3 to age 8) can be helpful in understanding the current status of schooling and learning so that appropriate steps can be taken to ensure that children enter Std I at the right age and are ready for formal school.

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

| Age | Pre-school | | | School | | | Not in pre-school or school | Total |
| | Anganwadi | Govt pre-primary | Pvt LKG/ UKG | Govt | Pvt | Other | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Age 3 | 73.9 | 2.4 | 11.8 | 0.6 | 0.6 | 0.0 | 10.6 | 100 |
| Age 4 | 67.4 | 0.0 | 29.1 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 3.5 | 100 |
| Age 5 | 50.9 | 3.4 | 41.4 | 3.0 | 1.1 | 0.0 | 0.3 | 100 |
| Age 6 | 24.4 | 0.5 | 26.7 | 41.5 | 5.8 | 0.0 | 1.1 | 100 |
| Age 7 | 8.0 | 1.7 | 6.4 | 63.8 | 18.8 | 0.0 | 1.2 | 100 |
| Age 8 | 0.9 | 2.0 | 0.3 | 71.3 | 25.6 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 100 |

### Table 2: % Children enrolled in different types of pre-schools and schools. By age. 2022

| Age | Pre-school | | | School | | | Not in pre-school or school | Total |
| | Anganwadi | Govt pre-primary | Pvt LKG/ UKG | Govt | Pvt | Other | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Age 3 | 83.5 | 0.9 | 12.0 | 0.3 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 3.3 | 100 |
| Age 4 | 64.4 | 1.3 | 32.4 | 0.0 | 1.2 | 0.0 | 0.8 | 100 |
| Age 5 | 51.3 | 1.7 | 43.2 | 2.2 | 1.0 | 0.0 | 0.6 | 100 |
| Age 6 | 14.1 | 0.4 | 7.0 | 60.9 | 16.5 | 0.8 | 0.4 | 100 |
| Age 7 | 0.3 | 0.4 | 1.3 | 77.3 | 19.2 | 1.3 | 0.3 | 100 |
| Age 8 | 0.0 | 0.3 | 1.0 | 81.7 | 15.5 | 1.5 | 0.0 | 100 |

### Table 3: Distribution of children in each grade by age (%). 2022

| Std | <=5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | >=10 | Total |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| I | 2.2 | 59.8 | 34.9 | 2.9 | 0.0 | 0.3 | 100 |
| II | 0.0 | 1.1 | 37.4 | 56.1 | 5.4 | 0.0 | 100 |
| III | 0.0 | 0.0 | 1.9 | 25.7 | 63.3 | 9.1 | 100 |

How to read the table: This table shows the age distribution for each grade. For example, in Tripura, of all children in Std I, 59.8% children are 6 years old, but there are also 2.2% who are 5 or younger, 34.9% who are 7, 2.9% who are 8, 0% who are 9, and 0.3% who are 10 or older.

## Key takeaways:

- **Increase in enrollment in government institutions:** Across most ages, in 2022, a higher proportion of children are enrolled in government institutions (anganwadis and government schools) than in 2018. For example, in Tripura, the percentage of children aged 3 enrolled in anganwadis increased from 73.9% in 2018 to 83.5% in 2022 (Table 1 and Table 2).

- **Different curricular expectations in different pre-school institutions:** At age 5, nearly all children are already enrolled in some kind of educational institution (99.4%). They could be going to an anganwadi (51.3%), or to a private pre-school (43.2%), or to a school (3%) (Table 2). This means that what is offered to, and expected from these young children varies enormously across the state depending on whether they are enrolled in their pre-school years and for how long. These differences need to be understood and addressed once children are in Std I.

- **Variation in age composition in each grade:** In any given grade, there are considerable age variations. The Right to Education (RTE) Act, 2010 and National Education Policy (NEP), 2020 deem age 6 as the appropriate age of entry to Std I. Table 3 shows that while 59.8% children enrolled in Std I are 6-years-old, 2.2% are age 5 or below and 38% children are age 7 or above.

- **Age makes a difference:** By the time a child enters formal schooling in Std I, she should have a strong foundation for learning. While school readiness rests on a breadth of skills, ASER can provide data on a few foundational literacy and numeracy skills such as letter and number recognition. The data for this age group is insufficient in Tripura. However, in other states where sample sizes are larger, it is clear that older children have a higher learning level than younger children in the same grade.