National Findings from ASER 2024 survey

Annual Status of Education Report

असर ASER 2024 RURAL

Facilitated by PRATHAM

Pratham

About ASER 2024: Scale, partners and timelines

ASER 2024 is the 14th nationwide field based ASER survey

After 10 years of ASER from 2005 to 2014, there was a break of one year in 2015. Then the series resumed with ASER in 2016 & 2018. Due to the pandemic there was no nationwide field ASER in 2020. Post COVID, ASER was done in 2022 and now in 2024.

ASER 2024 reach:

- Districts = 605 (rural)
- Villages = 17,997
- Households = 352,028
- Children (age 3-16) = 649,491

ASER 2024 participation:

- Partner institutions: 641
- Master trainers: 988
- Volunteers: 25,557

Across states, 227 DIETs have participated in the 2024 survey as district level partners

ASER 2024 timelines:

- National workshop = September, 2024
- National report release = January, 2025

Annual Status of Education Report
असर ASER 2024 RURAL
Facilitated by PRATHAM

About ASER 2024: Key features

WHERE:
Household survey of a representative sample of **rural** children of India. Every rural district visited

One government school with primary sections in the sampled village is also visited

HOW: Sampling using Census 2011 frame

- 30 villages randomly selected in each district
- 20 households randomly selected in each village
- All children age 3-16 in household surveyed
- All children age 5-16 in household assessed

Sampling method has remained consistent over time

WHAT: Assessment

- **One-on-one** assessment with each child
- Basic reading, arithmetic for all (age 5-16)
- 'Beyond Basics' (for age 14-16 only)
- **Same tasks** with **all children**; several samples used

The same assessment approach has been used over time

WHO: Partners

In each rural district, a district level organization or institution conducts ASER: Colleges, universities, NGOs, teacher training institutions
For example: 227 DIETs participated in ASER 2024
District partners have been a feature of the ASER architecture since 2005

Annual Status of Education Report
असर ASER 2024 RURAL
Facilitated by PRATHAM

Contents

Contents

Household survey: Key findings
- Young children (under 6)
- School going children (age 6-14)
- Older children (age 15-16)

School observations: Key findings

Annual Status of Education Report
असर ASER 2024 RURAL
Facilitated by PRATHAM

Annual Status of Education Report
असर ASER 2024 RURAL
Facilitated by PRATHAM

Young children (under age 6)

Children under 6 years: All India (rural) figures show that preschool enrollment is rising

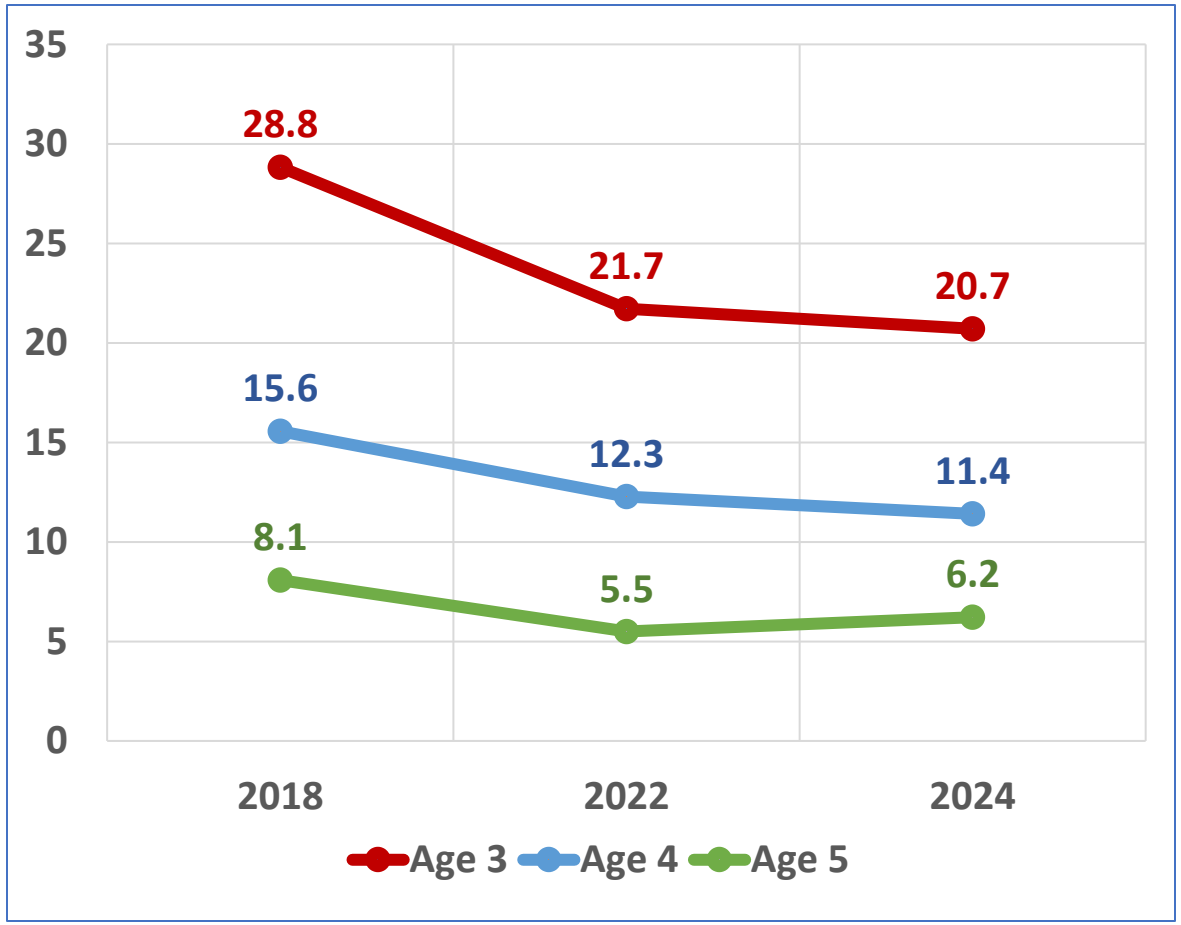
% Children age 3-5 <u>enrolled in any type of pre-school</u>
All India (rural) ASER 2018-2024

% Children enrolled in any type of preschool	2018	2022	2024
Age 3	68.1	75.8	77.4
Age 4	76.0	82.0	83.3
Age 5	58.5	62.2	71.4

Increase in preschool enrollment over time is a function of the fall in the proportion of children not enrolled anywhere, as well as a drop in the percentage of "under age" (less than 6 years) enrolled in primary grades.

In 2024, nationally, 67% of children age 3 and 58% of children age 4 are enrolled in anganwadis in rural India.

% Children age 3-5 <u>not enrolled anywhere</u>
All India (rural) ASER 2018-2024



Note: Young children can be in preschool, primary school or not enrolled anywhere.
Preschool coverage = children can be enrolled in anganwadis, pre-primary classes in school or in private LKG/UKG.

More children entering Std I at the “right” age (age 6 or more)

At the level of both policy and practice, age of entry into formal schooling (Std I) is an important structural issue for the education system.

India is moving towards ensuring that children enter Std I at age 6.

Enrolled in Std I In different types of schools:			
% Children who are age 5 or under			
Year	All	Govt	Pvt
2018	25.6	28.5	20.5
2022	22.7	24.2	18.7
2024	16.7	17.7	15.0

Data on age in Std I over time shows that “underage” enrollment has dropped sharply between 2022 and 2024, especially in government schools.

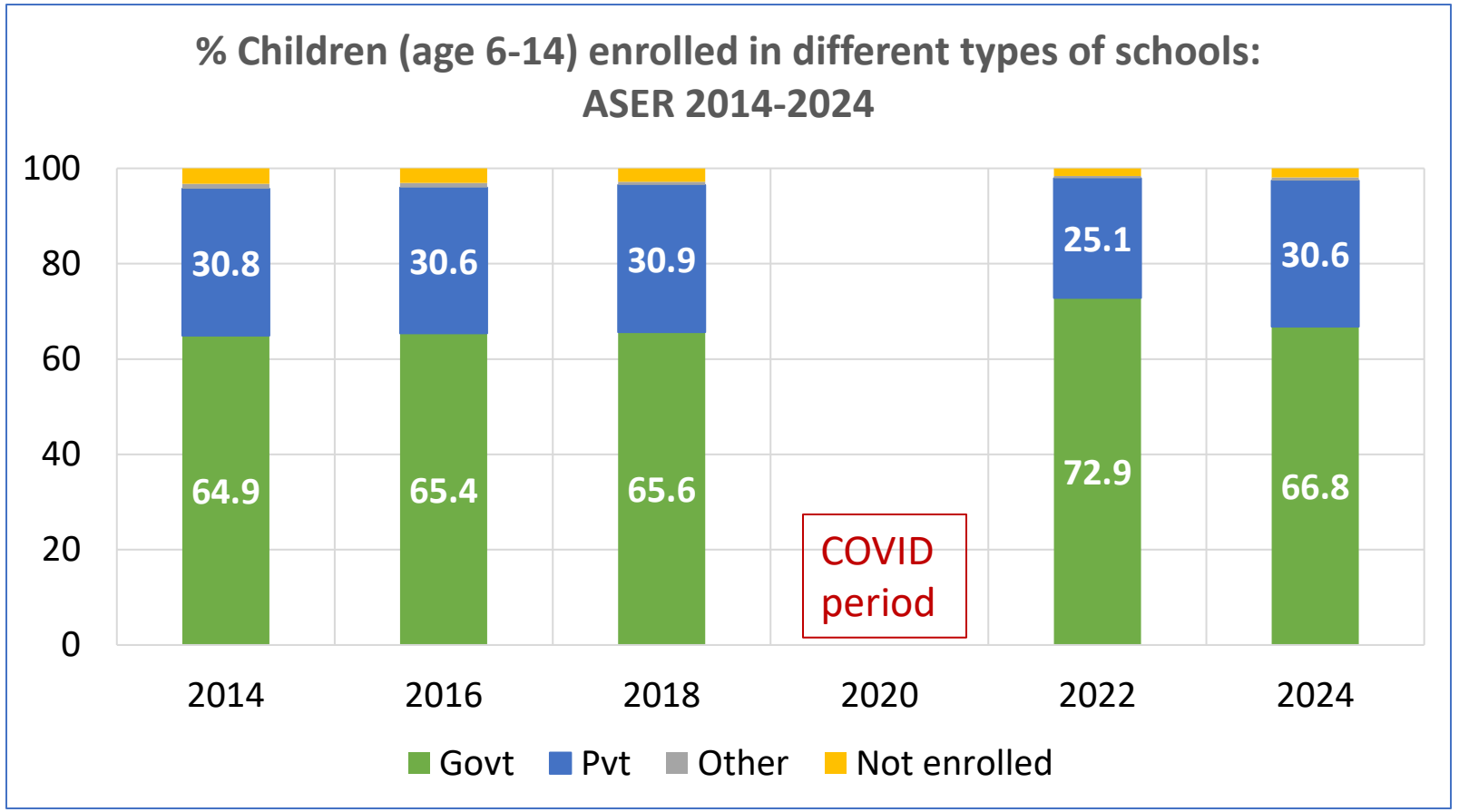
Annual Status of Education Report

असर ASER 2024 RURAL

Facilitated by PRATHAM

Elementary school age children (age 6-14)

Children age 6-14: Overall, close to universal enrollment for rural children in this age group
Private school enrollment patterns back to pre-COVID levels



In 2024, private school enrollment has returned to pre-COVID levels.
Private school enrollment has been around 30% nationally for rural children (age 6-14) for over ten years.

For age group 6-14, school enrollment levels have been more than 95% for over 20 years.

Nationally, enrollment levels have been more than 98% since 2022.

Annual Status of Education Report
असर ASER 2024 RURAL
Facilitated by PRATHAM

ASER tasks: Reading & Arithmetic - Quick glimpse

READING TASKS

Std II level text

राजू नाम का एक लड़का था। उसकी एक बड़ी बहन व एक छोटा भाई था। उसका भाई गाँव के पास के विद्यालय में पढ़ने जाता। वह खूब मेहनत करता था। उसकी बहन बहुत अच्छी खिलाड़ी थी। उसे लंबी दौड़ लगाना अच्छा लगता था। वे तीनों रोज़ साथ-साथ मौज-मस्ती करते थे।

Std I level text

रानी नदी किनारे रहती है।
नदी में बहुत मछलियाँ हैं।
रानी उनको दाना देती है।
वे सब मज़े से दाना खाती हैं।

Letters

म र ड
ह च
ल ब न
क य

Words

गाना खुश
मौसी
पैर झोला
किला
आग मोर

ARITHMETIC TASKS

Number Recognition/ अंक पहचान 1-9		Number Recognition/ संख्या पहचान 11-99	
3	7	65	38
1	4	92	23

Subtraction/घटाव
(2 digit with carry over)

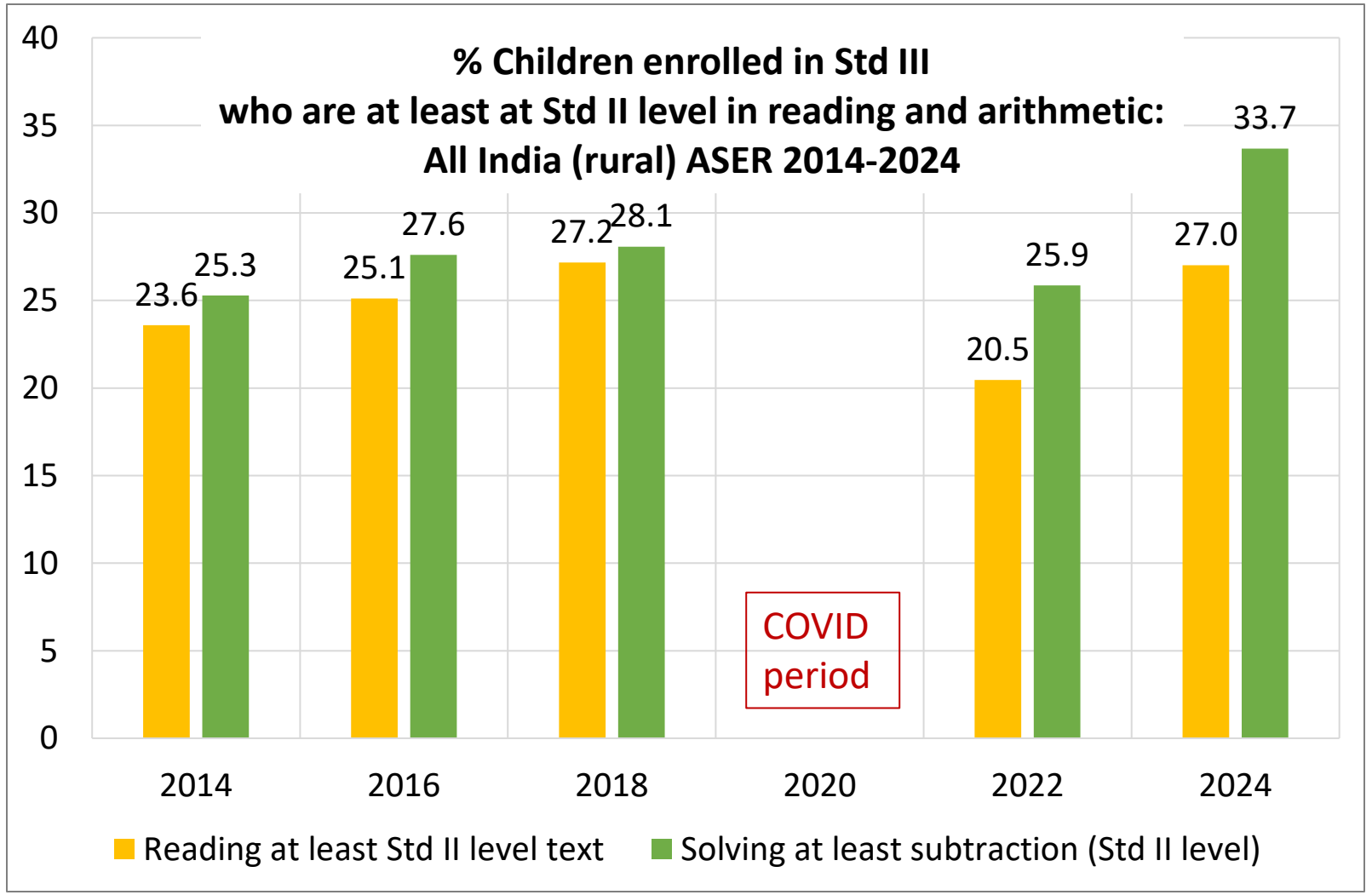
52	76
− 24	− 47

Division/भाग
(3 digit by 1 digit)

6) 919

Each child assessed one on one.
S/he is marked at the highest level that s/he is able to do.
Reading tasks are available in 19 languages.

Std III: Nationally, big improvement in foundational literacy and numeracy levels



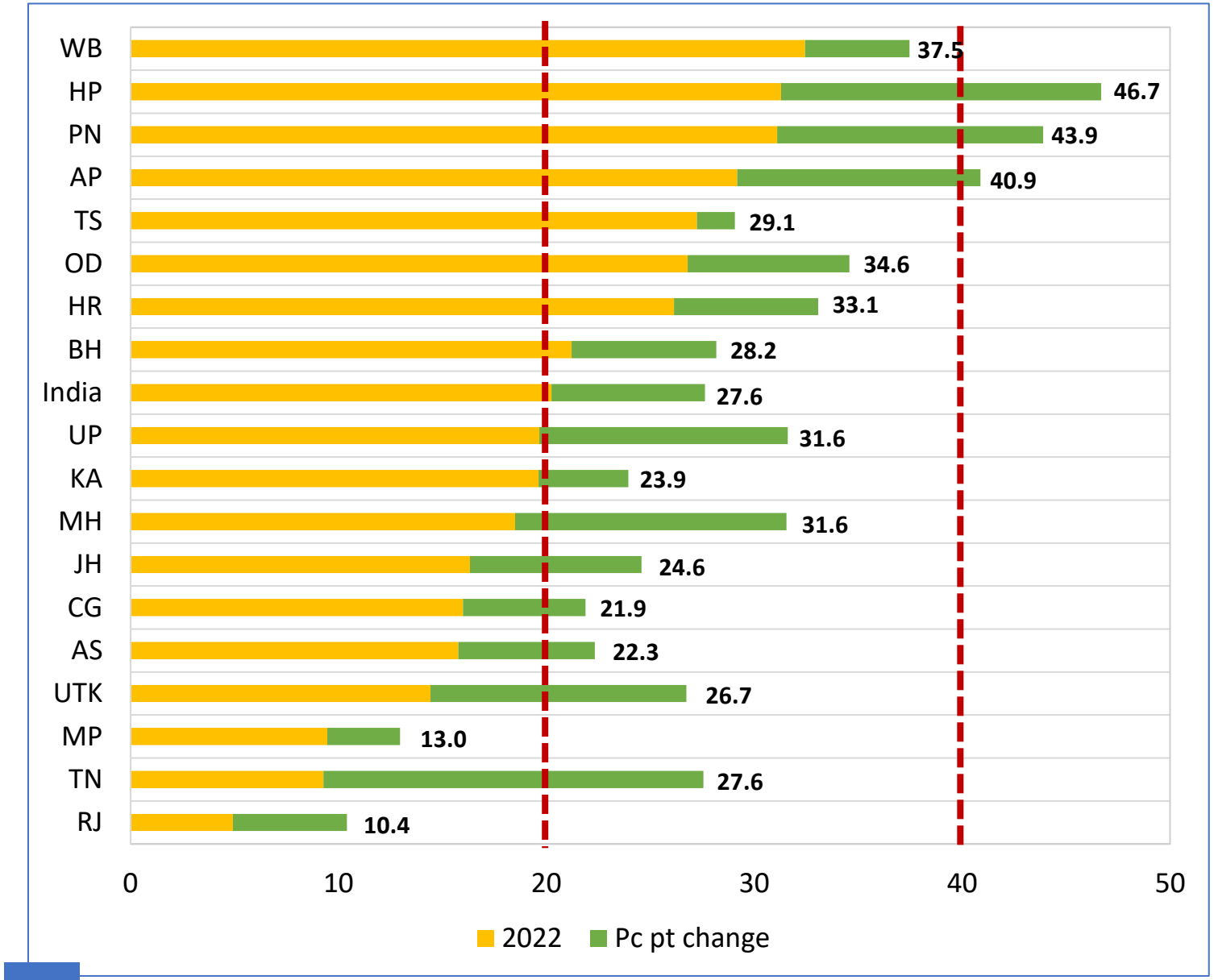
ASER data from 2014 to 2024 shows three trends:

- Incremental increase in basic reading and arithmetic between 2014 and 2018
- Drop between 2018 and 2022 due to the pandemic
- Sharp increase (highest in last 10 years) between 2022 and 2024

Percentage point learning gain between 2022 & 2024 for children enrolled in different types of schools	
Reading gain: Govt schools	**7.1**
Reading gain: Private schools	2.4
Arithmetic gain: Govt schools	**7.4**
Arithmetic gain: Private schools	4.4

For Std III, learning "recovery" is visible between 2022 & 2024.
In the case of arithmetic, the gain between 2022 & 2024 is substantially more than recovery.

Std III: Almost all states show significant increase in arithmetic levels since 2022



% Children enrolled in Std III in government schools who are at least able to do subtraction (2-digit with borrowing): Major states 2022 & 2024

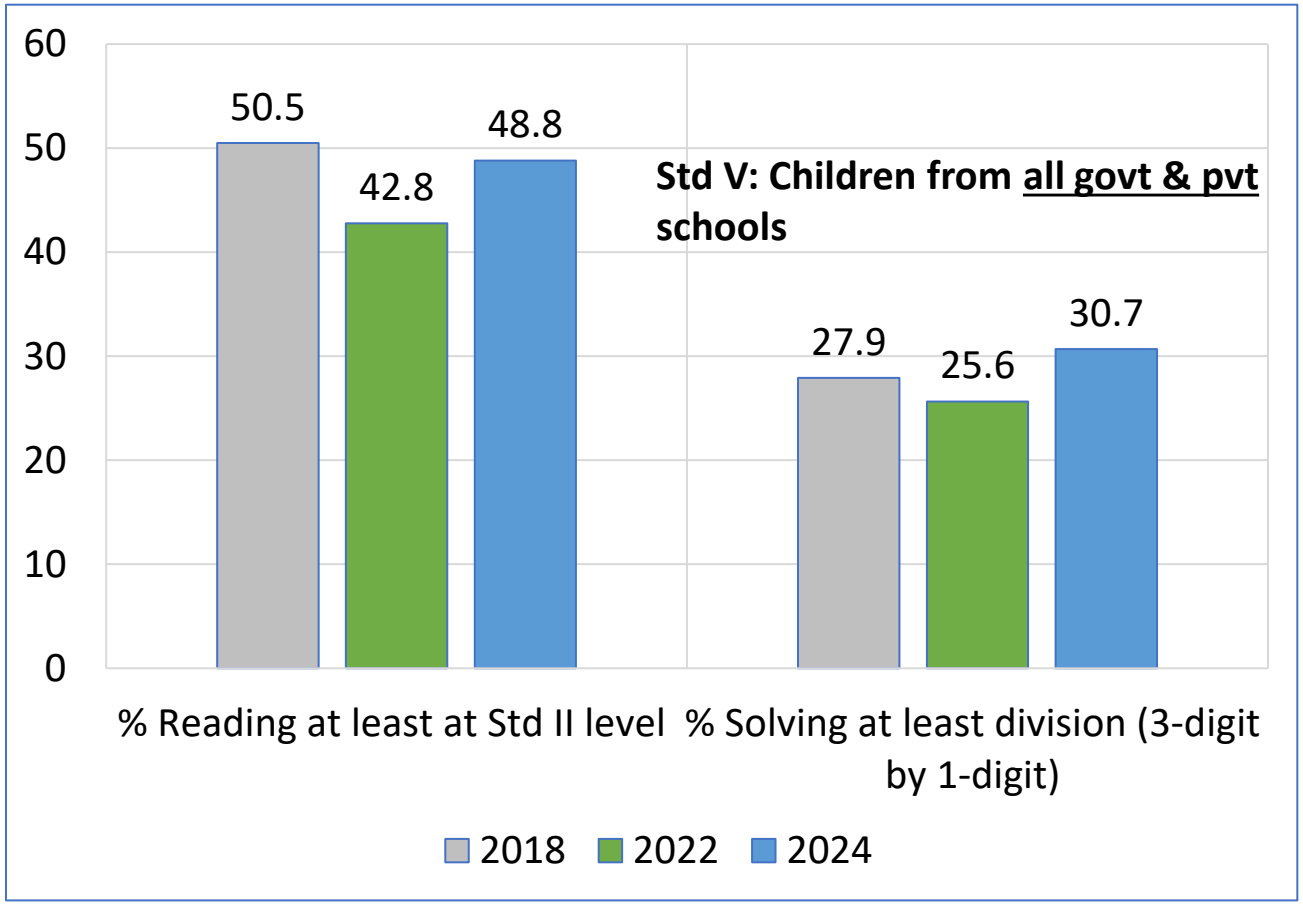
For Std III children enrolled in government schools: in most states, substantial learning improvement seen between 2022 and 2024.

Data shown here is for arithmetic, but similar trends for reading as well.

States where Std III arithmetic levels in 2024 are not higher as compared to 2022 include Gujarat, Kerala and Jammu & Kashmir.

Std V: All-India figures show learning "recovery" since COVID in reading & arithmetic

% Children enrolled in Std V who can at least read a Std II level text and solve a 3-digit by 1-digit division problem: All India (rural) ASER 2018, 2022 & 2024



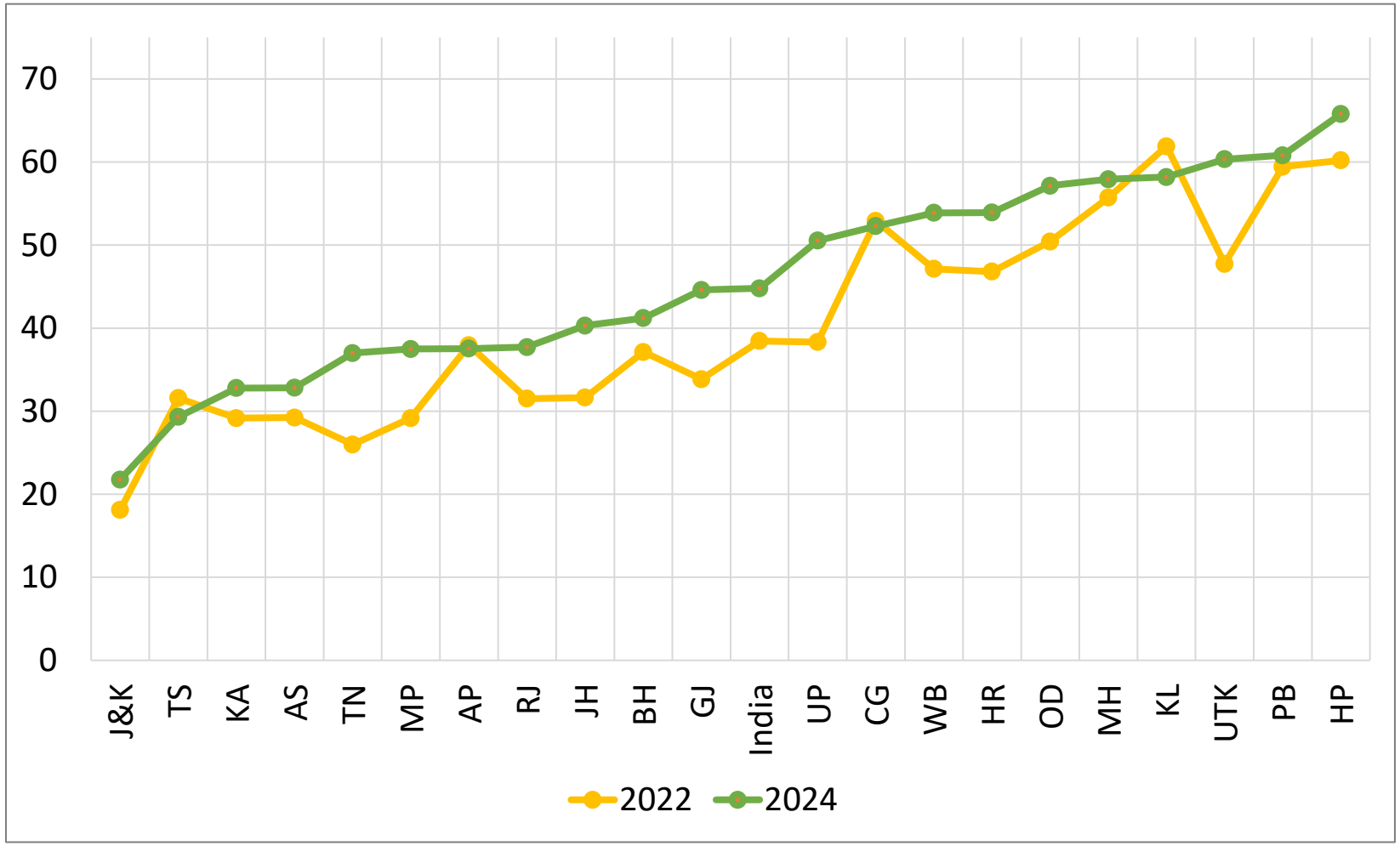
Learning level improvement by type of school	2022	2024	Percentage point increase in learning level
% Children in Std V who can at least read a Std II level text			
Govt schools	38.5	44.8	**6.3 pc pt**
Private schools	56.8	59.3	**2.5 pc pt**
% Children in Std V who can at least **solve division** problems (3-digit by 1-digit)			
Govt schools	21.6	26.5	**4.9 pc pt**
Private schools	38.7	41.8	**3.1 pc pt**

Nationally, Std V reading and arithmetic levels fell between 2018 and 2022, and have improved since 2022.

Higher percentage point increase seen among children enrolled in government schools as compared to children enrolled in private schools.

Std V: Despite variation by state, in most cases 2024 reading levels are higher than in 2022

% Children enrolled in Std V in government schools who can at least read Std II level text: Selected states 2022 & 2024



In almost all states, Std V children enrolled in government schools have higher reading levels in 2024 as compared to 2022.

Percentage point improvement between 2022 & 2024	
Increase	States
10 pc pt or more	GJ, UP, UTK, TN, SK, MZ
6 to 9.9 pc pt	OD, HR, WB, JH, RJ, MG
4 to 5.9 pc pt	HP, BH

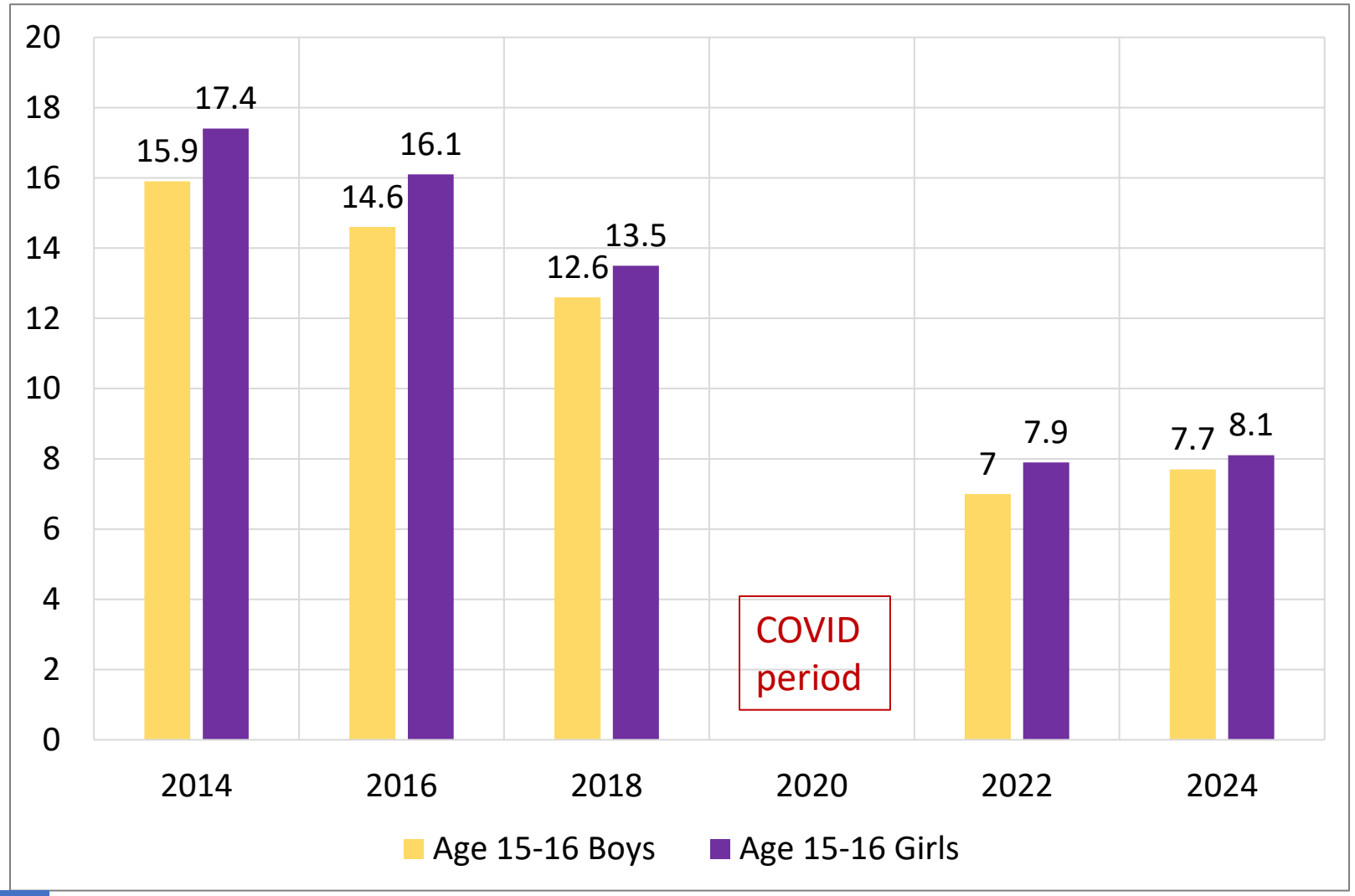
For most states, the reading level for Std V in 2024 is higher than in 2022. There has been recovery from the "learning loss" seen after the pandemic.

Annual Status of Education Report
असर ASER 2024 RURAL
Facilitated by PRATHAM

Older children
(age 15-16)

Older children: Out of school figures for boys and girls are low even in the 15-16 age group

% Children currently not enrolled in school (age 15-16): All India (rural) 2014-2024



The Right to Education Act (RTE) 2009 guarantees free and compulsory education for children between the ages of 6 and 14.

Data from ASER show that even in the age group beyond 6-14, enrollment levels for older children have been consistently rising.

For example, in the age group 15-16, more than 90% of rural boys and girls continue to be enrolled in school. Gender gap has narrowed to less than 1%.

Older children (age 14-16): Digital access, availability and usage (self-reported)

Smartphone access & availability

<u>Self-reported</u>: Access to smartphone

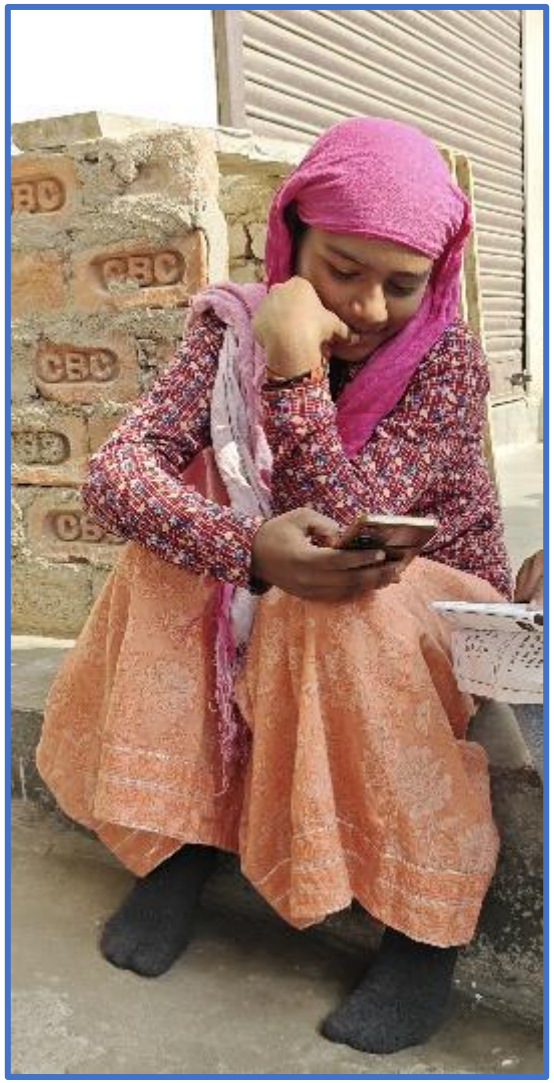
% Adolescents (age 14-16) who <u>say</u>:

- Have a smartphone at home = 89.1%
- Can use a smartphone = 82.2%
- Of those who can use a smartphone, % who own their own phone = 31.4%

<u>Demonstrated</u>: Availability of smartphone

% Adolescents (age 14-16) who <u>could</u>:

- Bring a smartphone to do tasks on the day of the survey = 65.9%



Smartphone use

<u>Self-reported</u>: Use of smartphone

Out of the adolescents who said they could use a smartphone, in the 7 days prior to the survey:

% Adolescents (age 14-16) who <u>say</u> that they used a smartphone for the following activities:

- Education related = 57%
- Social media related = 76%
- Of those who used social media:
  - 62% can block/report profile
  - 55.2% make a profile private
  - 57.7% can change a password

Note: For the figures cited on this page,

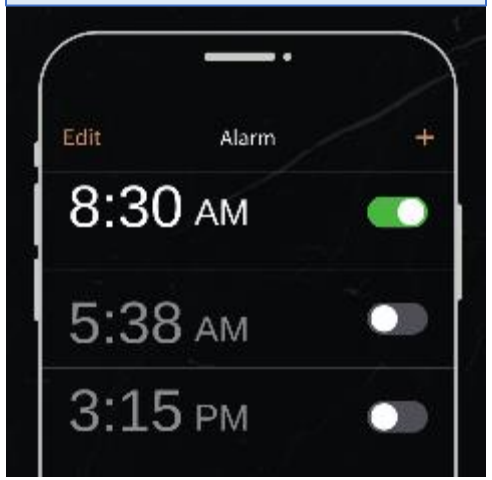
- *Age matters: 16-year-olds have higher estimates than 14-year-olds*
- *Gender matters: Boys have more access and usage than girls*

Annual Status of Education Report
असर ASER 2024 RURAL
Facilitated by PRATHAM

Older children (age 14-16): One-on-one activity to assess basic digital skills

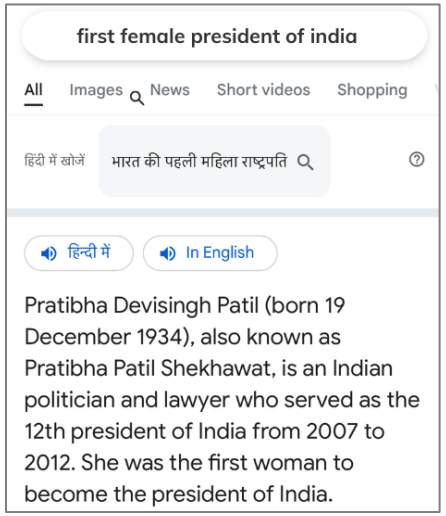
Each sampled adolescent who could bring a smartphone was asked to do **three digital tasks:**

Task 1: Set an alarm



76.9% of 14-16 year olds tested could do the task.

Task 2: Browse for information



79.3% of 14-16 year olds tested could do the task.

Task 3: Find a video about a specific topic & share with a friend or family member using WhatsApp or Telegram

87% of 14-16-year-olds tested could do the task.
Of those who found the video, 92.1% could share it.

Note: For the figures cited on this page,

- *Age matters: 16-year-olds perform better on digital tasks than 14-year-olds*
- *Gender matters: Boys perform better on digital tasks than girls*

Annual Status of Education Report
असर ASER 2024 RURAL
Facilitated by PRATHAM

School observations

In each sampled village, one government school with primary sections is visited.

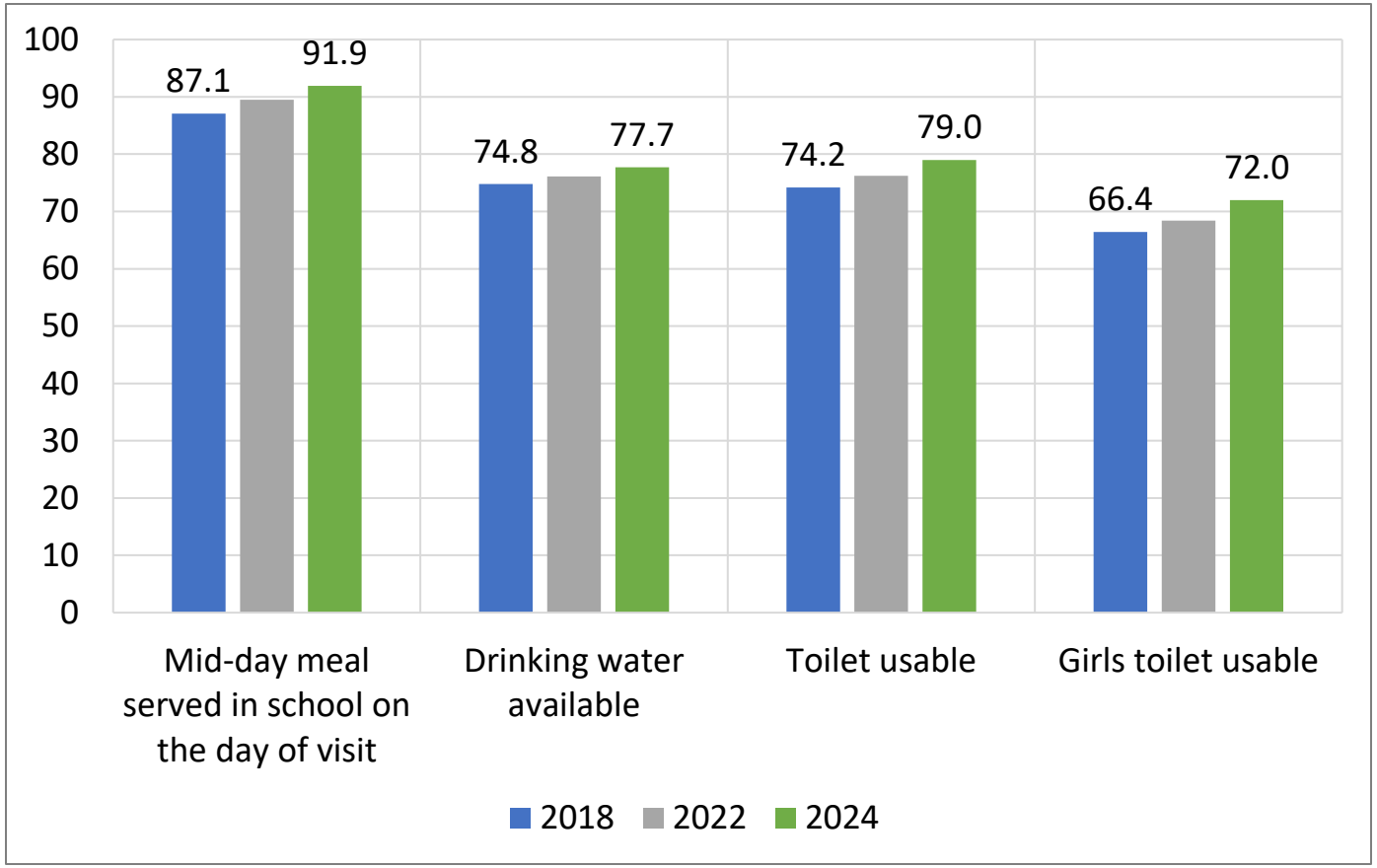
This section has findings based on these school observations.

15,728 schools were visited during ASER 2024

School facilities consistently improving

ASER school observations are focused on availability and usage of facilities

% Schools with usable facilities 2018-2024: All India (rural)



% Schools with:	2018	2024
No library	25.8	17.5
Library but no books being used by children on the day of visit	37.3	31.2
Library books being used by children on the day of visit	36.9	51.3
Total	100	100
Electricity connection	75.0	95.9
Of schools with electricity connection, % schools with electricity available on the day of visit	78.5	89.7

Consistent increase in school services and facilities like mid-day meals, drinking water and usable toilets. Other inputs and facilities in school like electricity & libraries also improving.

Student attendance has remained approximately at about 75%, with a big increase only in Uttar Pradesh. Teacher attendance also remained the same at about 85%.

Schools reported high level of inputs & activities related to FLN for early grades

% Schools reporting FLN inputs & activities: All India (rural)

% Schools	Current school year (2024-25)*	Previous school year (2023-24)*
Received a directive from govt to implement activities with Std I-II/III	83.2	83.4
At least 1 teacher received training on FLN in-person	77.6	80.4
At least 1 teacher received training on FLN online	64.0	72.5
Received TLM for FLN activities	74.5	76.5
Received funds for FLN activities	36.2	43.6
School readiness program for Std I	76.6	76.0

*Information for 2023-24 is for a full year.
Information for the current school year (2024-25) is for half the year (until time of survey).

Since the launch of the National Education Policy in 2020, high priority has been placed on helping children in early grades in primary school acquire foundational literacy and numeracy (FLN) skills.

To strengthen the education system for delivering FLN skills to children, there have been focused inputs on teacher training and appropriate teaching-learning materials (TLM) for early grades.

Three month "school readiness" programs for incoming Std I children are also being conducted in government primary schools.

ASER data indicates that levels of FLN inputs and activities have been high in the past two years.

Summarizing main findings from ASER 2024

Data from household survey:

Age 3-5:

- Enrollment in early childhood education programs or preschool is high – close to 80% for age 3 and 4.
- "Underage" (under age 5) children enrolled in Std I is declining. In 2024, in Std I, 16.7% children are "underage".

Age 6-14:

- Overall enrollment in school for age group 6-14 remains very high at 98%.
- Nationally, major improvements in basic reading and arithmetic seen in all grades, especially in early grades.
- Learning gains higher for children enrolled in government schools as compared to private schools.

Age 14-16:

- Out of school numbers for age 15-16 now 8% or less for boys and girls. Gender gap less than 1%.
- Access to smartphones high for 14-16 age group. More than 75% can do basic digital tasks.

School observations:

- Basic school facilities like mid-day meals, drinking water, toilets, electricity, and libraries improving over time.
- Schools report receiving directives, training and materials or funds related to strengthening foundational literacy and numeracy (FLN) for early grades in primary school.
- More than 75% schools had three month "school readiness" programs for incoming Std I children in government schools.

Annual Status of Education Report
असर ASER 2024 RURAL
Facilitated by PRATHAM

For more information :
contact@asercentre.org
info@pratham.org

All ASER reports are available on:
www.asercentre.org

Annual Status of Education Report
असर ASER 2024 RURAL
Facilitated by PRATHAM