



ASER 2022

National
Findings

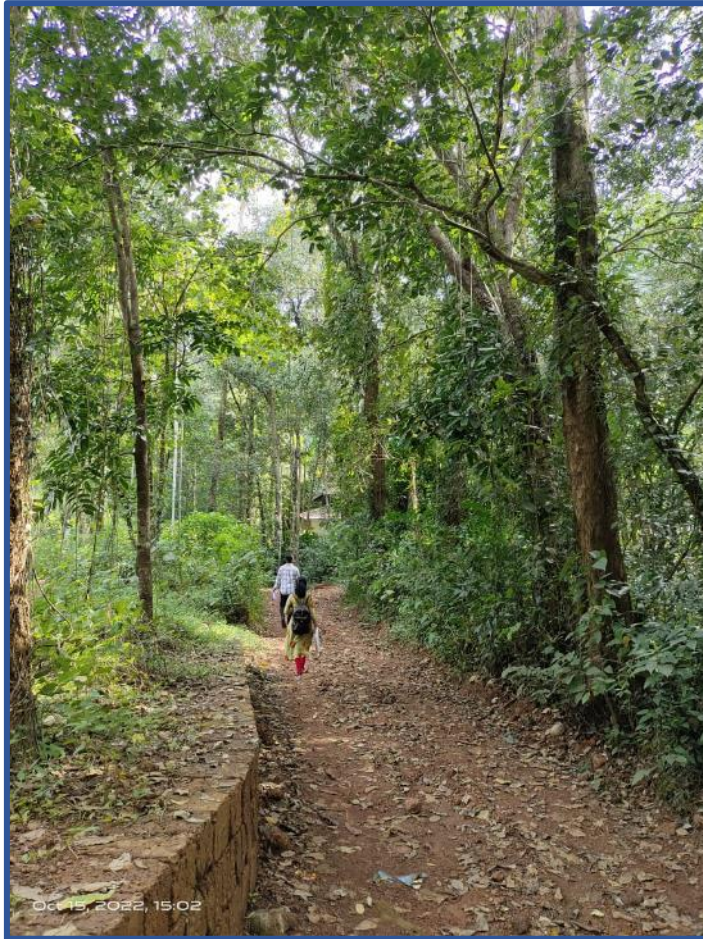
January
2023

Annual Status of Education Report

असर
ASER 2022 RURAL

Facilitated by PRATHAM

About ASER: Scale of ASER 2022



ASER 2022 reach:

- Districts (rural) = 616
- Villages = 19,060
- Households = 374,554
- Children (age 3-16) = 699,597

ASER 2022 participation:

- Partner institutions = 591
- Master Trainers = 920
- Volunteers = 27,536

ASER 2022 timelines :

- Kick off workshop = Aug 4-11 2022
- National report release = Jan 18 2023

ASER – the Annual Status of Education Report is a **nation-wide rural household survey** that reaches every rural district in India. The ASER survey was carried out every year from 2005 to 2014. After a break of one year in 2015, it has been carried out in 2016, 2018 and now in 2022.

Annual Status of Education Report

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ASER 2022 RURAL

Facilitated by PRATHA

About ASER: Key features of ASER 2022

WHERE: Household survey of a representative sample of rural children of India. Every rural district. In each sampled village, a government school 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

WHAT: Assessment

- One-on-one assessment with each child in sampled household
- Basic reading, arithmetic for all (age 5-16)
- Assessment of basic English – reading & comprehension also done this year
- Same tasks with all children; several samples used

WHO: In each district

A district level organization or institution conducts ASER
Colleges, universities, NGOs, teacher training institutions.
254 DIETs participated in ASER 2022

(DIET is a District Institute of Educational Training – the government teacher training institution)

For each district, Master Trainers are provided by ASER Centre. These trainers also do monitoring, district & field and desk rechecks.





Contents:

- Are children in school?
- Are children learning?
- Are schools functioning?



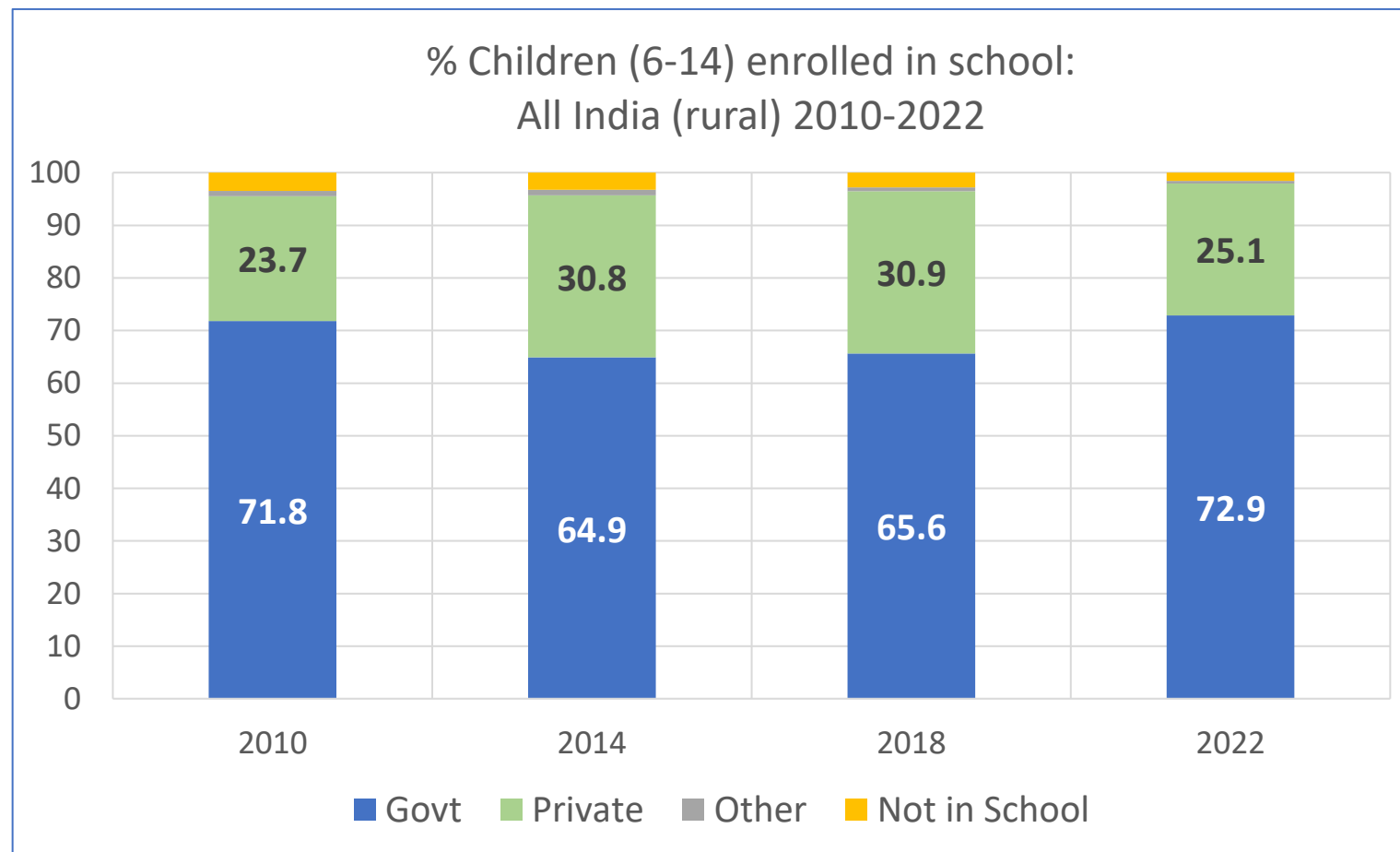
Are children in school?



ASER 2022 data collection happened in the September to November 2022 period. By this time schools had been open only for about 6-8 months.

Enrollment: Almost all children (age 6-14) enrolled in school in 2022

- For children age 6-14, enrollment levels in rural India have been very high for more than a decade.
- By 2008, school enrollment levels had reached above 95%.
- Enrollment levels have gone from 96.6% in 2010 to 96.7% in 2014. **97.2% in 2018 to 98.4% in 2022.**



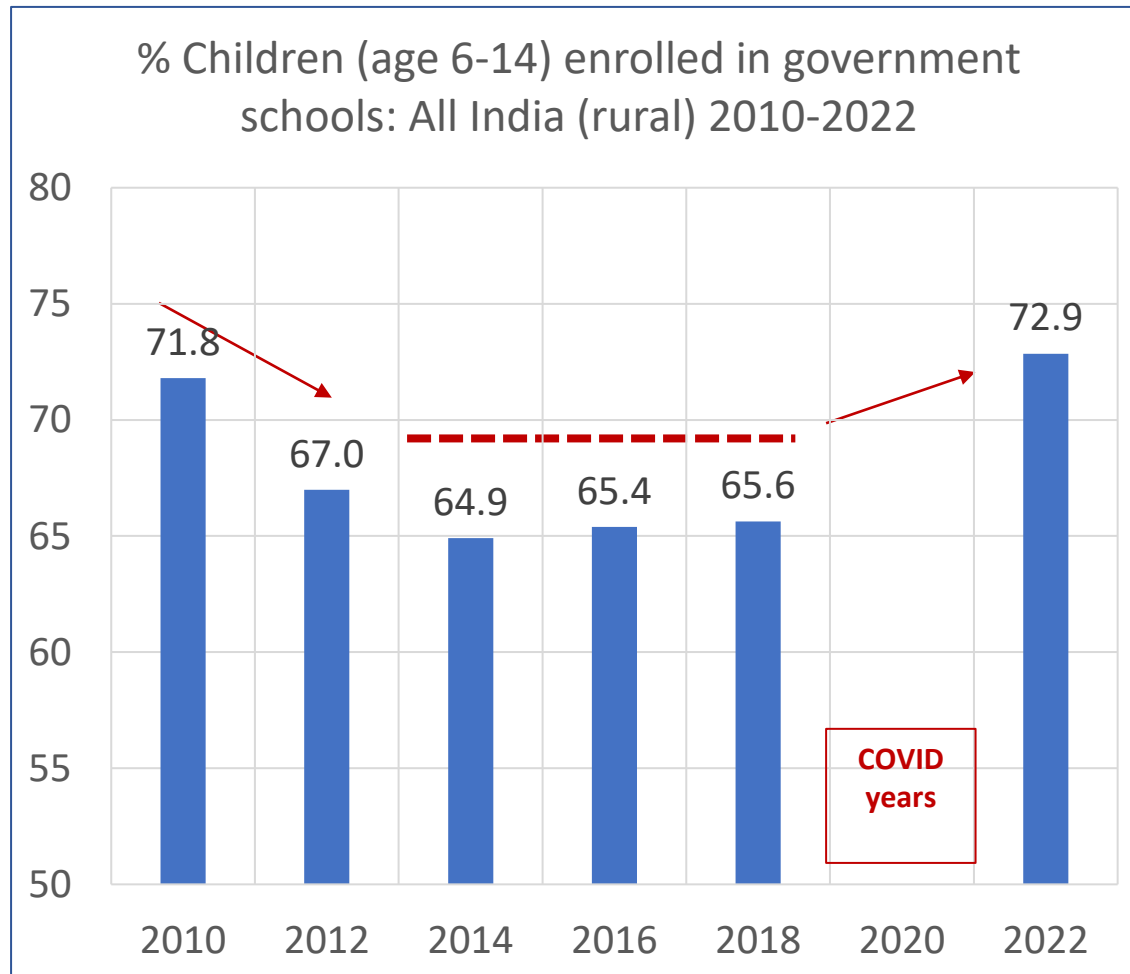
Government school enrollment has increased between 2018 & 2022

Nationally, proportion of children enrolled in government schools has increased since 2018.

The period 2010 to 2014 saw a decline in government school enrollment.

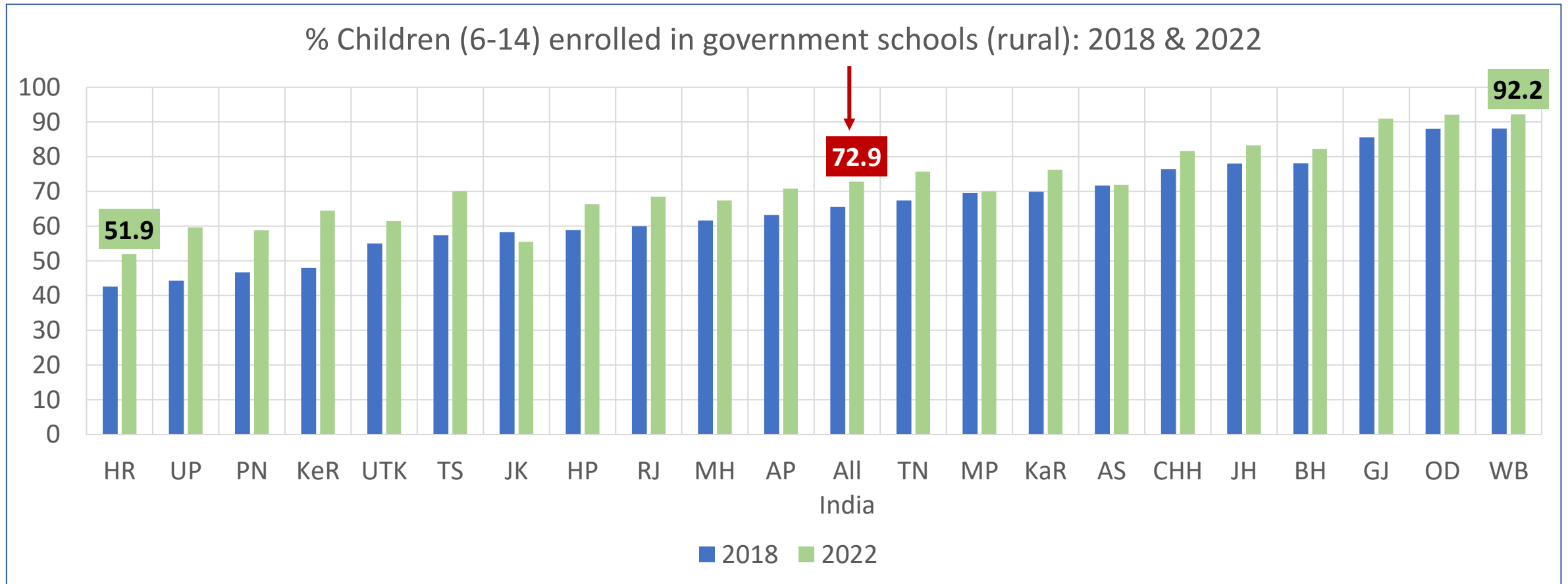
This was followed by a “plateau” period (2014-2018).

There is an increase of 7.3 percentage points in government school enrollment in the period 2018 to 2022.



Govt school enrollment has increased in all states : 2018 vs 2022

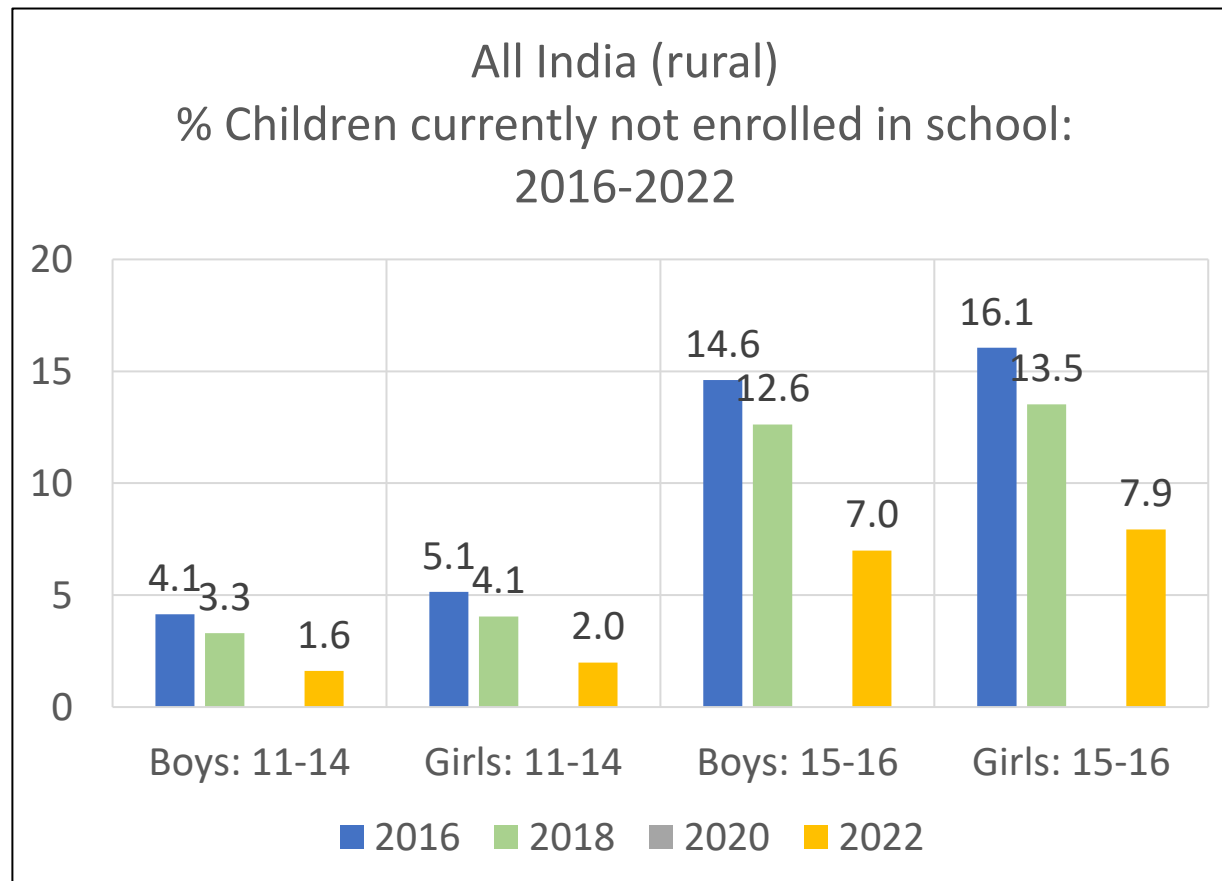
There is considerable variation in rural India, in the proportion of children who are enrolled in government schools. However, in almost all states, there has been a rise in government school enrollment between 2018 and 2022.



Year	MN	MG	NG	ArunP	SK	MZ	TR
2018	28.0	35.7	49.3	60.1	68.6	72.4	85.2
2022	32.8	43.7	50.8	62.2	75.2	64.7	86.1

Proportion of children currently not enrolled in school has dropped since 2018 even for older girls

In 2022, for the first time, the percentage of children currently not enrolled in school has dropped to 2% or below. Despite prolonged school closures, proportion of children not enrolled in school continued to decline between 2018 & 2022. Gender differences between boys and girls (in terms of percentage out of school), are also minimal. In states which had more than 10% girls (age 11-14) out of school in 2006, the figure in most cases is less than 3%.



State name	% Girls (11-14) not enrolled in school				
	2006	2010	2014	2018	2022
Rajasthan	19.6	12.1	12.1	7.4	2.9
Bihar	17.6	4.6	5.7	4.2	1.8
Odisha	13.7	7.2	4.7	2.2	1.2
Chhattisgarh	13.6	3.2	3.0	5.6	2.4
Jharkhand	13.0	4.9	6.0	3.4	1.2
West Bengal	12.1	5.5	3.6	1.3	0.7
Gujarat	11.7	8.0	7.2	3.6	2.0
Uttar Pradesh	11.1	9.7	9.2	7.4	4.1
Andhra Pradesh	10.5	7.5	4.6	2.9	1.0
All India	10.3	5.7	5.7	4.1	2.0

Enrollment in Anganwadis (age 3-5) has gone up: 2018 & 2022

The National Education Policy 2020 gives high priority to the age group 3 to 8 with a focus on the continuum of education provision from pre-school to formal school. For the age group 3 to 5, there are a variety of options for enrollment.



ASER 2018	AW	Govt LKG/UKG	Pvt LKG/UKG	Govt School	Pvt School	Not enrolled	Total
Age 3	57.1	1.0	10.0	2.0	1.0	28.8	100
Age 4	50.5	2.1	23.4	5.3	3.0	15.6	100
Age 5	28.1	2.8	27.5	23.3	9.8	8.1	100

ASER 2022	AW	Govt LKG/UKG	Pvt LKG/UKG	Govt School	Pvt School	Not enrolled	Total
Age 3	66.8	1.3	7.7	1.9	0.6	21.7	100
Age 4	61.2	2.7	18.1	3.8	1.8	12.3	100
Age 5	35.3	3.4	23.4	24.6	7.3	5.5	100

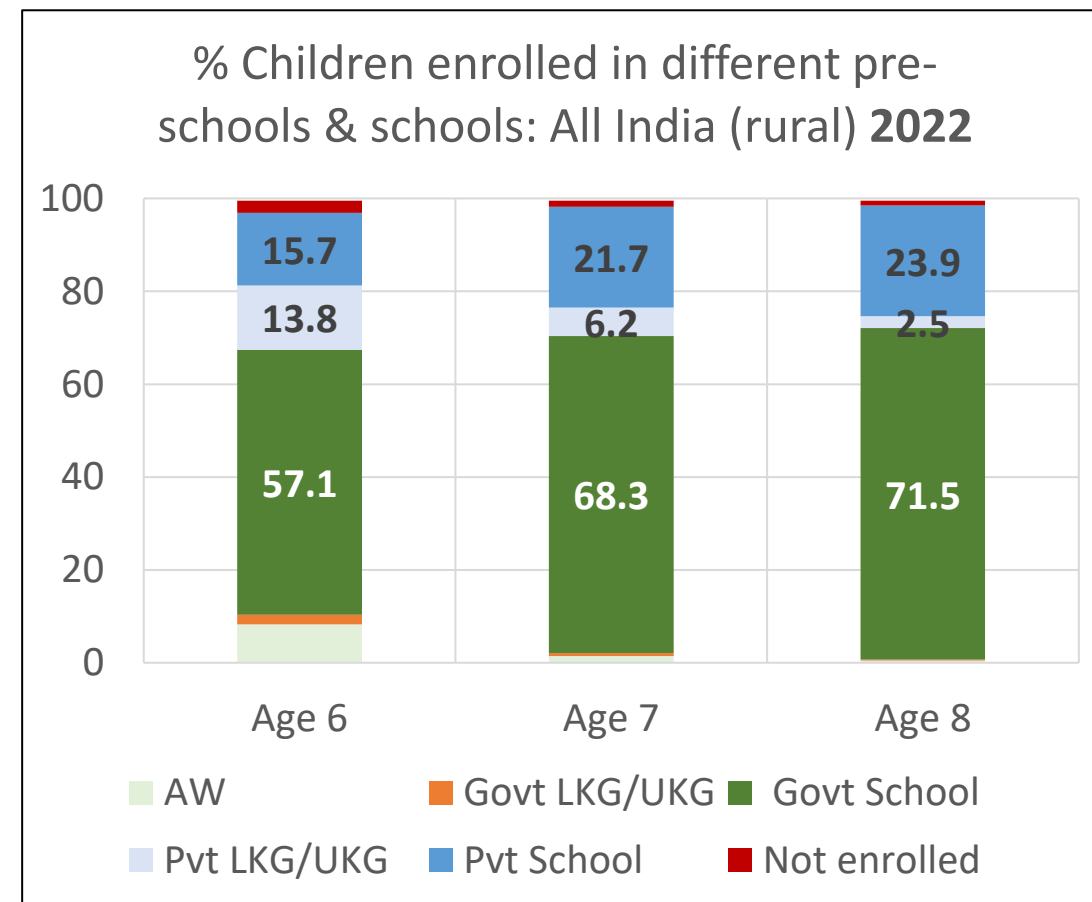
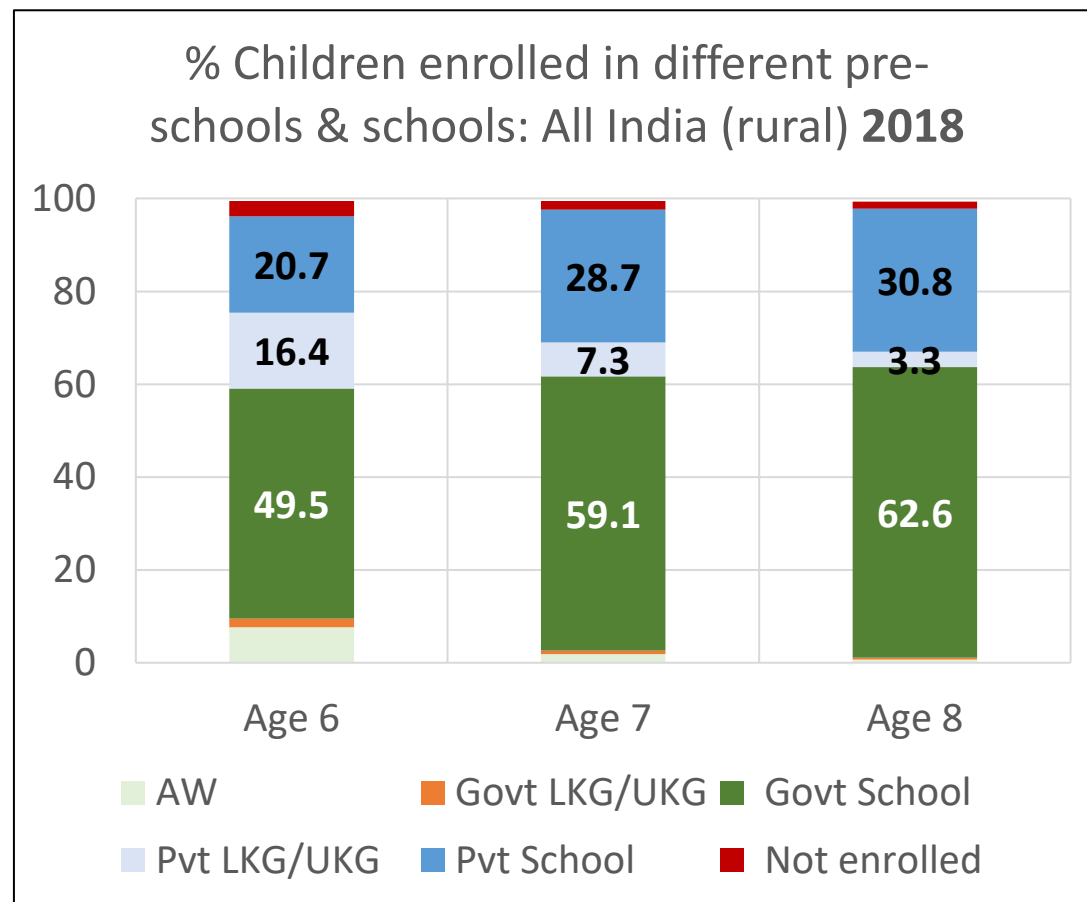
Data from ASER 2018 & 2022 indicate that:

- For children age 3 to 5: Enrollment in anganwadis has gone up since 2018.
- There is a drop in % children age 3-5 who are not enrolled anywhere.
- In 2022, at age 5, 1/3 of all children are in anganwadi, 1/4th are in private school LKG or UKG and another 1/4th are enrolled in govt school (most likely in Grade I).

Enrollment in govt schools is up even for young children (age 6-8)

By age 6, most children are enrolled either government or private schools.

Between 2018 and 2022, % children in government schools has gone up across each age group from age 6 to age 8.



Interestingly, there are also shifts in the Grade I age distribution between 2018 & 2022.

In 2018, 27.6% of children in Grade I were 5 or younger. This number has dropped to 23% in 2022.

Children's attendance relatively unchanged. Slight increase in teacher attendance

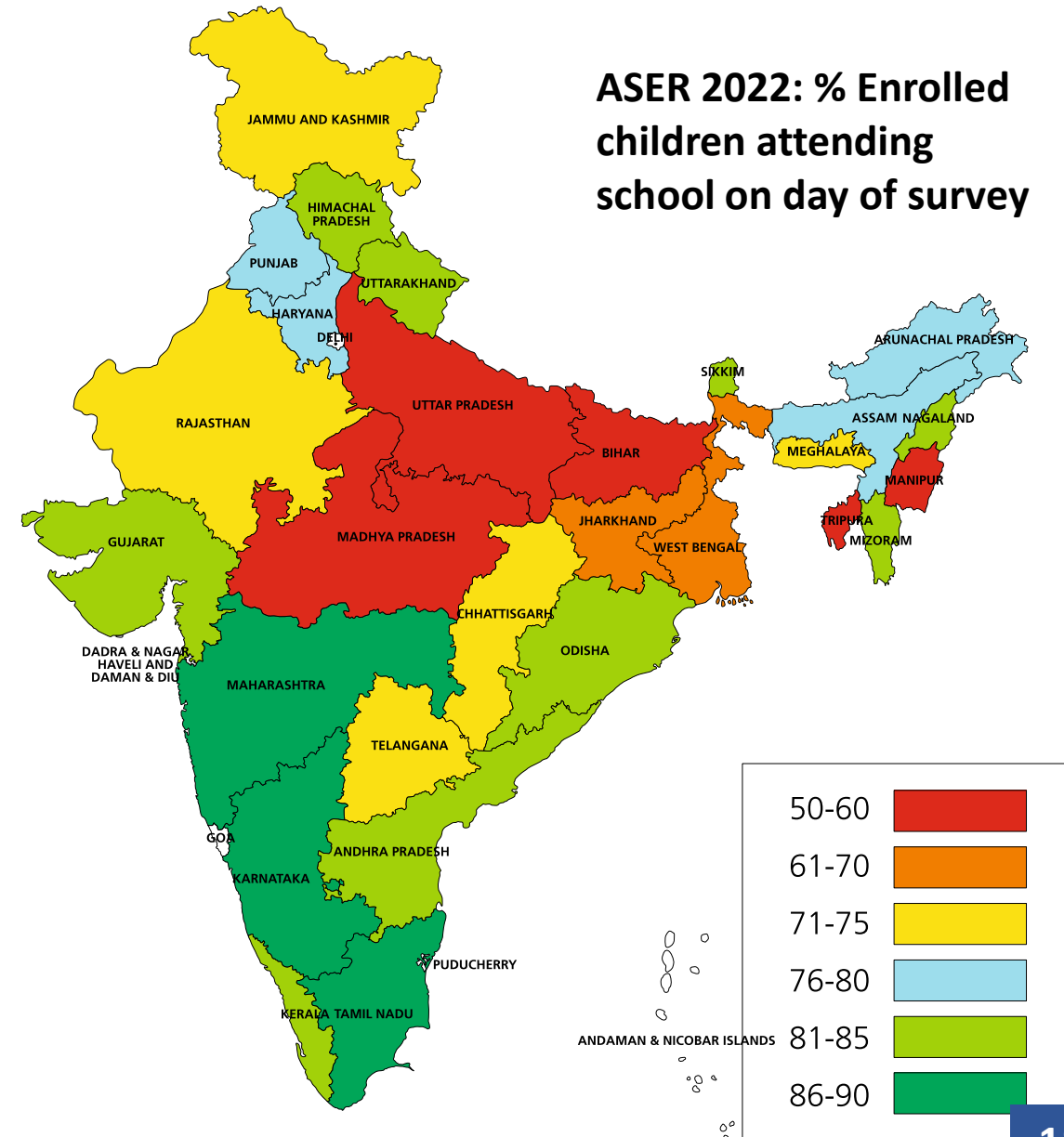
Attendance patterns, both for children and teachers have remained steady over time.

All-India (rural) figures for children's attendance remains close to 72% while that for teachers is a little above 85%. However, there continues to be wide variation across states.

Year	Children's attendance in school		Teachers' attendance in school	
	In Grade I-IV/V schools	In Grade I-VII/VIII schools	In Grade I-IV/V schools	In Grade I-VII/VIII schools
2010	72.9	73.4	87.1	86.4
2014	71.3	71.1	85.0	85.8
2018	72.4	72.3	85.1	85.8
2022	72.9	71.3	86.8	87.5

In every sampled village, one government school with primary sections is also visited. Observations are made on a number of school indicators including attendance.

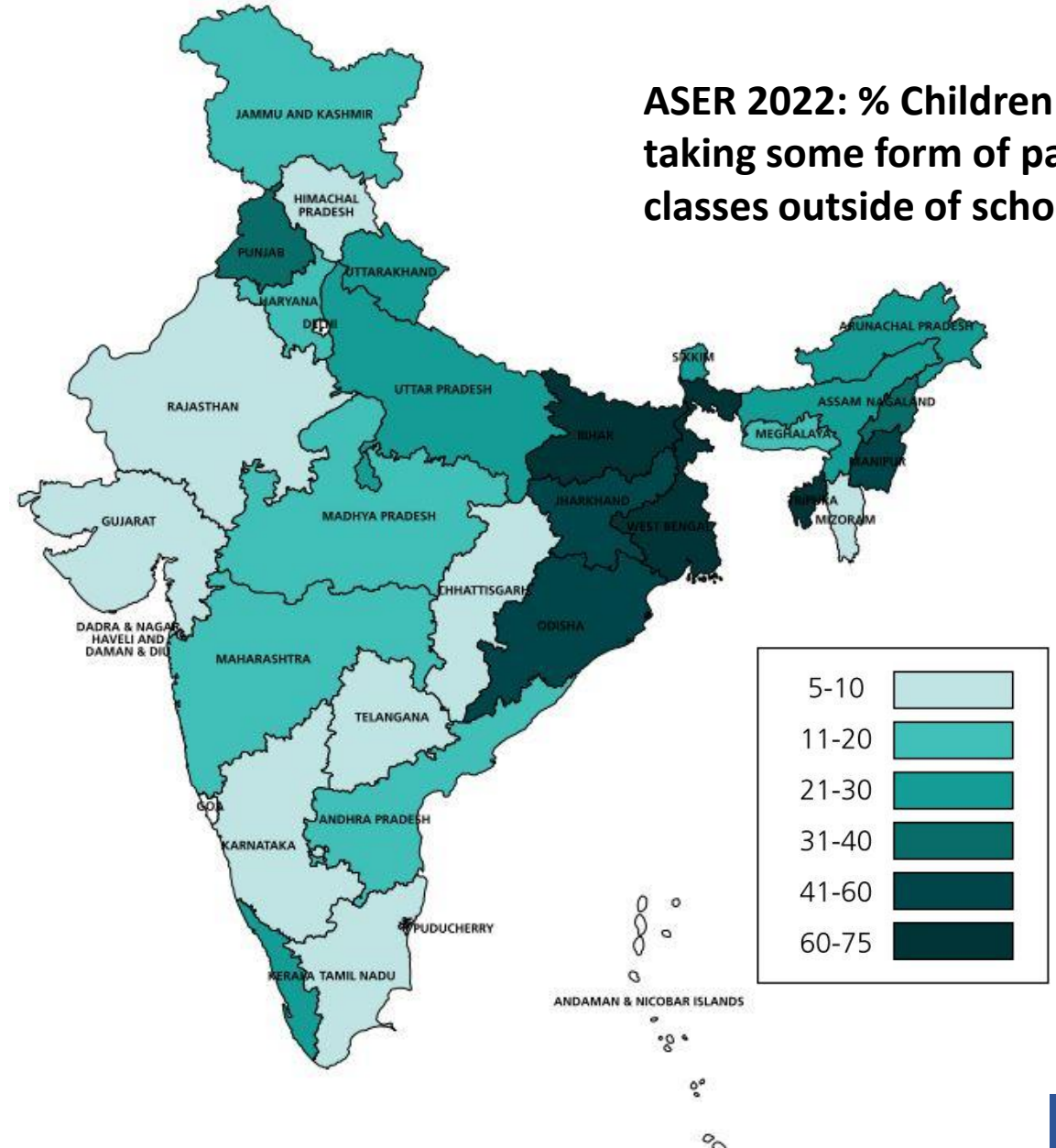
ASER 2022: % Enrolled children attending school on day of survey



“Tuition” has gone up in most states since 2018

Between 2018 & 2022, in all states, there is an increase in the proportion of children who attend tuition classes (paid classes outside of school). The exceptions are Gujarat, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Kerala and Tripura.

ASER 2022: % Children taking some form of paid classes outside of school



% Children attending “tuition” classes in government and private schools. Selected states where change is more than 5 percentage points since 2018 and All India			
State	2018	2022	Pc pt change
Assam	18.8	25.3	6.5
Uttar Pradesh	15.9	23.7	7.9
Nagaland	25.4	34.9	9.4
Jharkhand	36.9	45.3	8.4
Manipur	45.1	53.4	8.3
Bihar	62.2	71.7	9.6
All India	26.4	30.5	4.2

Are children learning?



Quick glimpse - ASER tasks : Reading & Arithmetic

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

3

7

1

4

Number Recognition/
संख्या पहचान 11-99

65

38

92

23

Subtraction/घटाव
(2 digit with carry over)

52
- 24

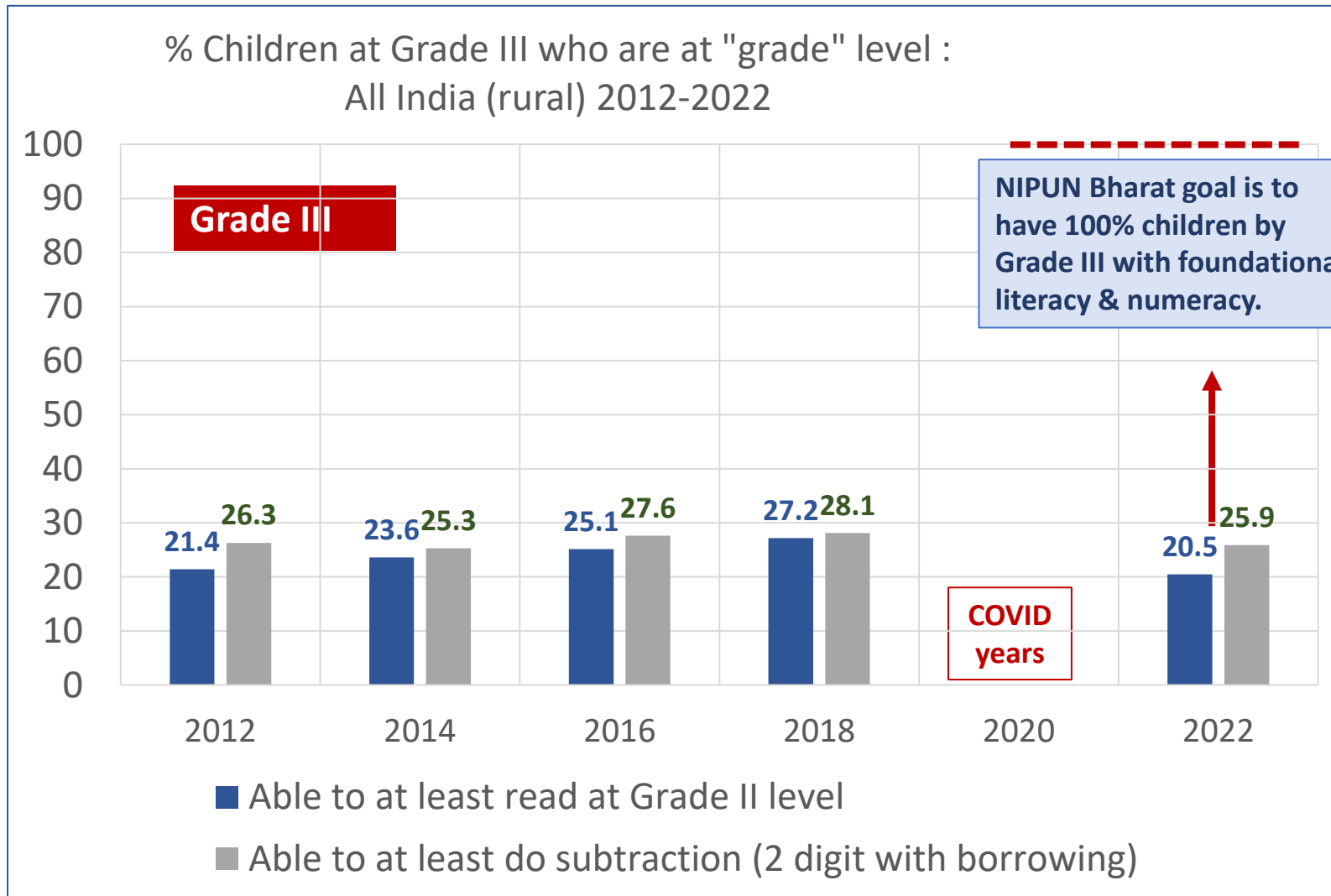
76
- 47

Division/भाग
(3 digit by 1 digit)

6 919

ASER is a household survey. 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 all regional languages.

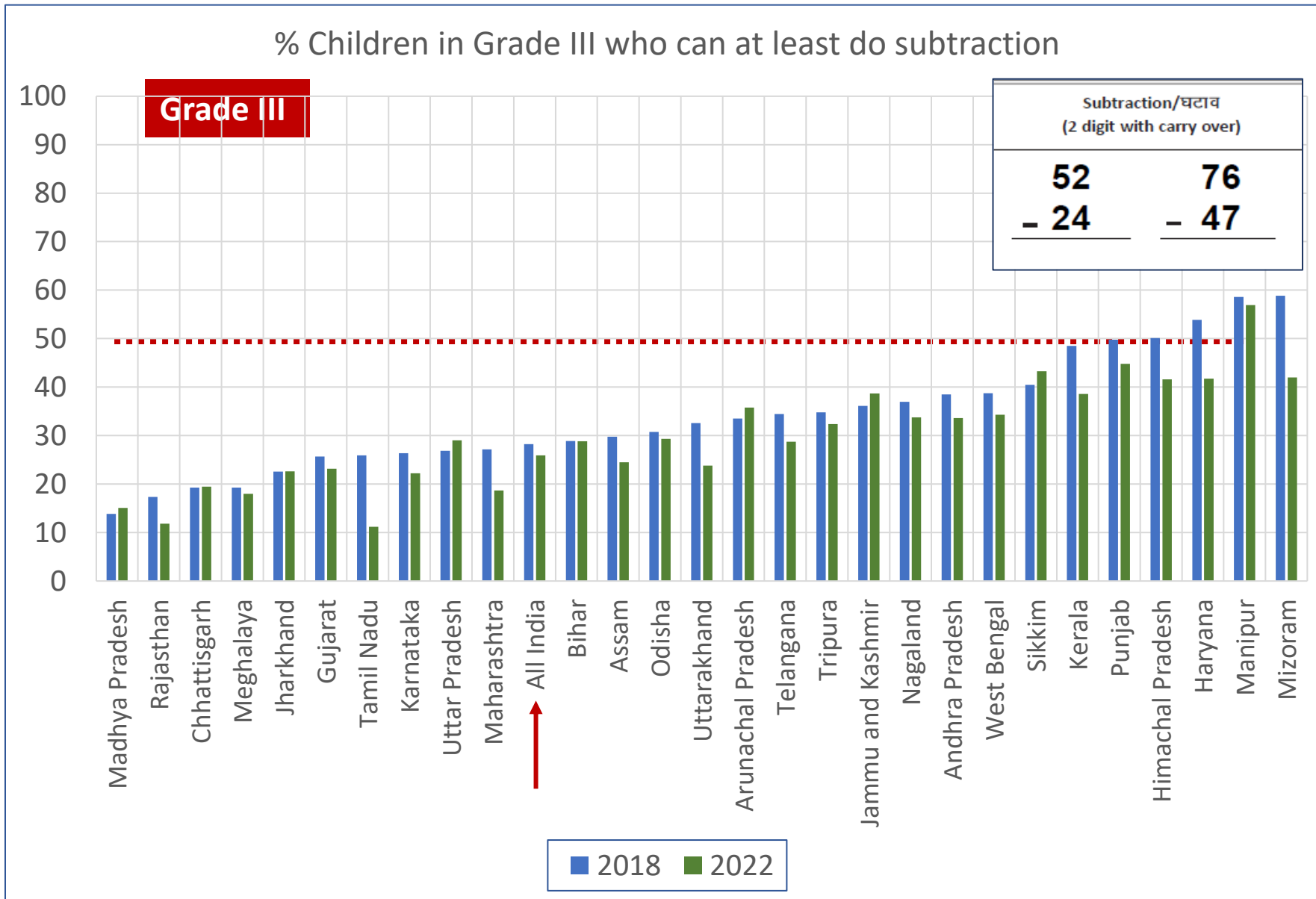
Big push is needed to reach foundational literacy-numeracy goals



By the end of Grade II in India, children are expected to be able to read a simple text fluently and also be able to do basic operations like subtraction. Hence, it is possible to use ASER data as a 'proxy' for the proportion of children who are at 'grade level' by the time they have reached the middle of the school year in Grade III.

- All India figures suggest that from 2014 to 2018, there had been a gradual improvement in both basic reading and math. However this was interrupted by the pandemic years.
- Greater “recovery” is needed in reading as compared to arithmetic.
- In 2022, only 1/4th of all children in Grade III were at ‘grade level’ in math & about 20% in reading. This means that most children:
 - need urgent help in acquiring foundational skills in literacy and numeracy
 - require a big push in early grades to help children reach NIPUN Bharat goals in the next few years.

Wide variations across states in learning levels & in “recovery”: Grade III



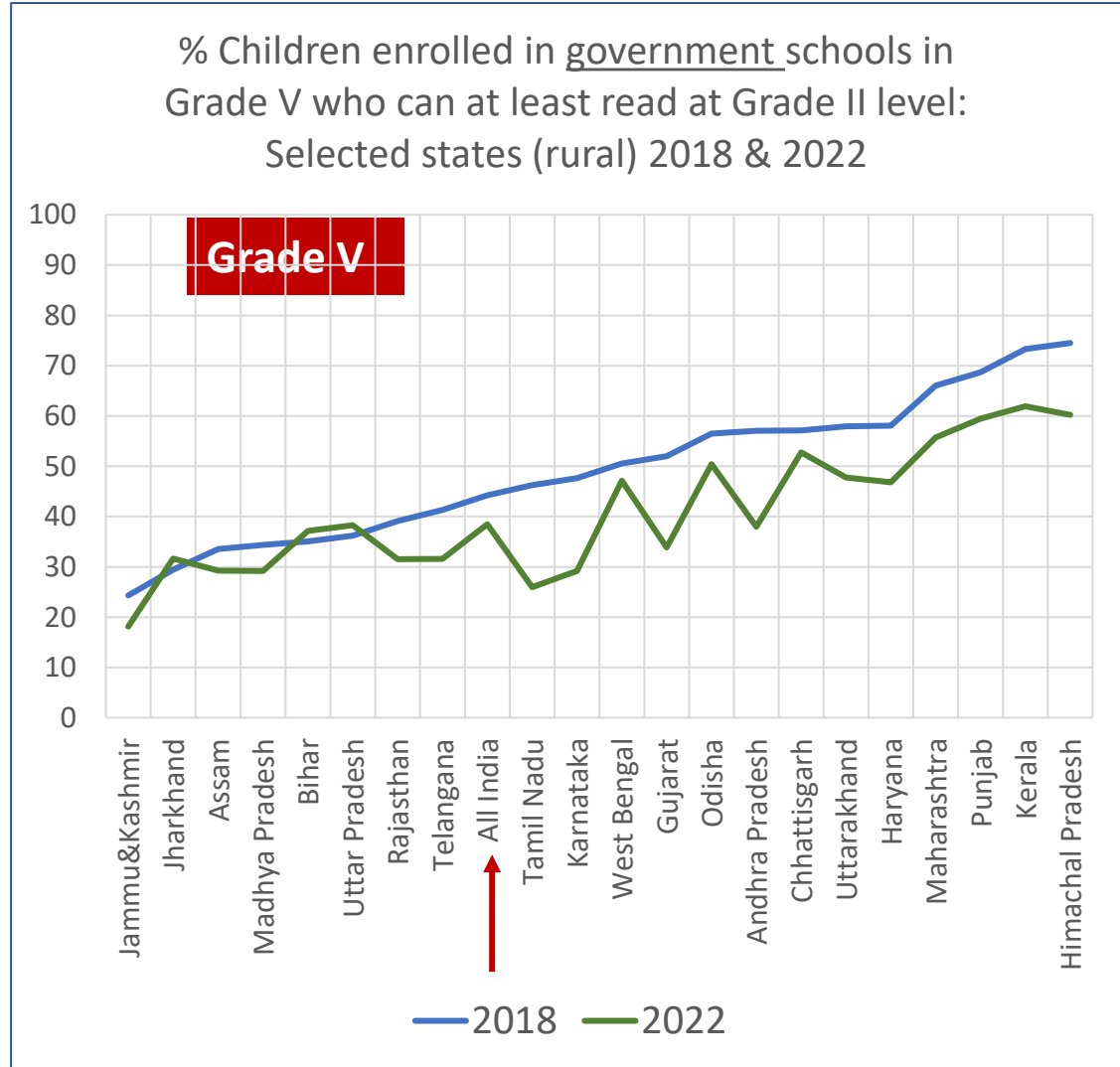
Even in pre-COVID times, there was wide variation across states in basic learning levels.

The pandemic has worsened the situation in many states. The extent of the decline in math levels between 2018 and 2022 also varies considerably across states.

However some states have shown that strong recovery is possible.

Grade V: Reading levels in 2018 and in 2022

Grade V: % Children in govt schools who can at least read at Grade II level. All India (rural)	2018	2022
	44.2%	38.5%



Data shows big variation across states even in 2018.

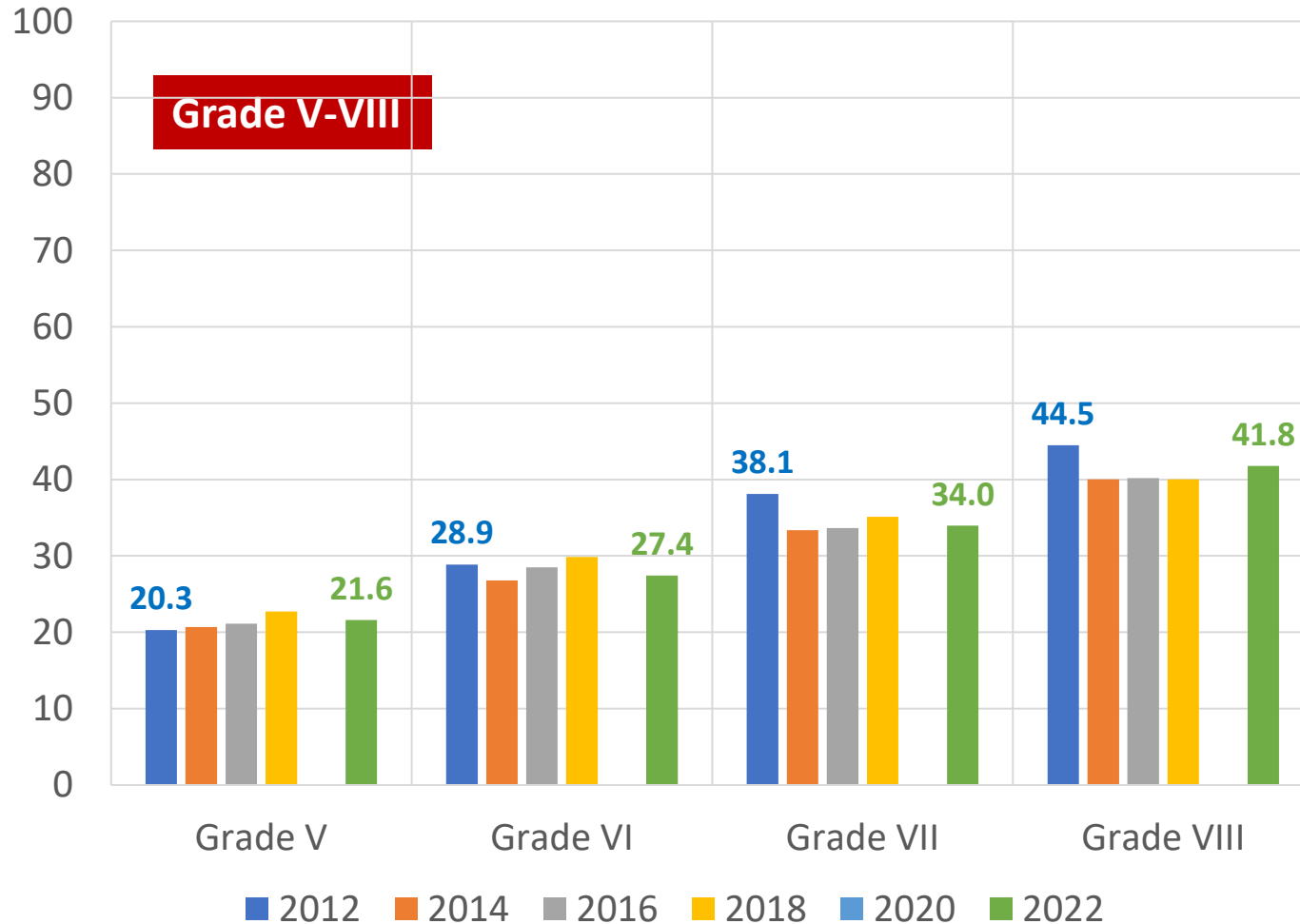
In the last few years, we have seen about two years of school closure and almost 6 months of schools being open until ASER data collection was done in Sept-Oct 2022.

In states, where 2018 reading levels were low, learning loss has been relatively low and in many cases “recovery” has taken place to come back closer to 2018 levels. In fact, Jharkhand, Uttar Pradesh and Bihar have made gains that take them higher than 2018 levels.

States with higher reading levels like Himachal Pradesh, Kerala, Punjab have seen relatively higher learning losses between 2018 & 2022.

Upper primary grades: Maths trends over time

Grade V-VIII: % Children enrolled in government schools who can at least do division: All India (rural) 2012-2022



Data from the 10 year period from 2012 to 2022 show the following trends:

- Learning trajectories over these grades are relatively flat (For example, the difference between learning levels in Grade VII vs that in Grade VI or V is not very much).
- Levels of basic learning in grades V-VIII have not seen much improvement in the last decade.
- As far as basic maths is concerned, a comprehensive strategy for learning improvement, starting with basic skills, is urgently needed for the upper primary grades.

Are school facilities improving?

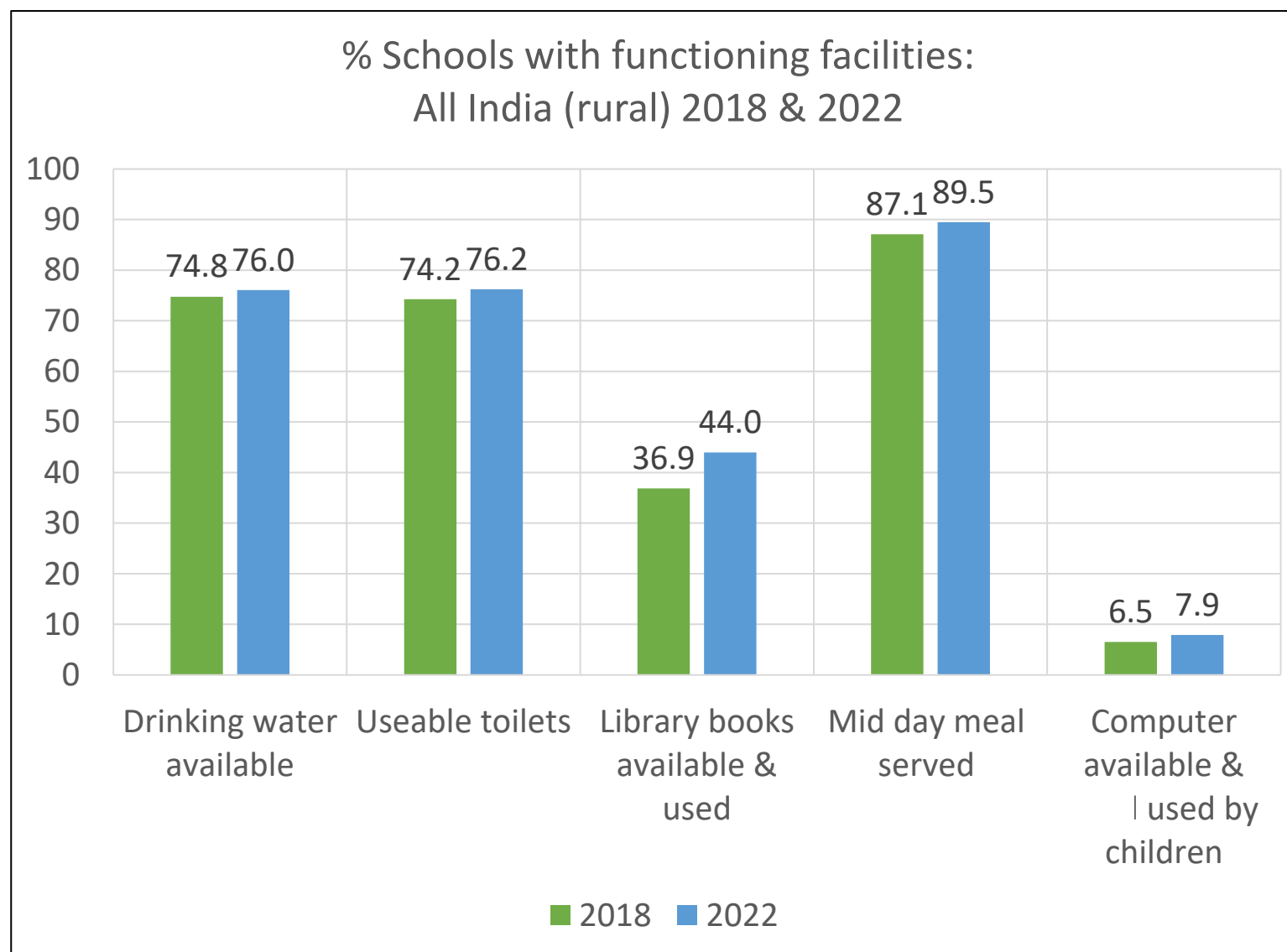


As part of the ASER survey, one government school with primary sections is visited in each sampled village. If more than one government schools is present in a village, preference is given to the larger school.

In 2022, ASER surveyors visited 17,002 government schools with primary sections across rural India. Of these:

- 9,577 were primary schools
- 7,425 were upper primary schools

School facilities continue to show steady improvement



All “Right to Education” RTE indicators show improvement.

National averages hide major variations across states. For example, the proportion of schools with drinking water available increased from 58.1% in 2018 to 65.6% in Andhra Pradesh, and 82.7% in 2018 to 92.7% in Punjab.

Significant increase between 2018 & 2022 in the % of schools which have computers that are being used by children. Punjab (3.8% to 22.2%) and Gujarat (24% to 40.9%).

Other school indicators

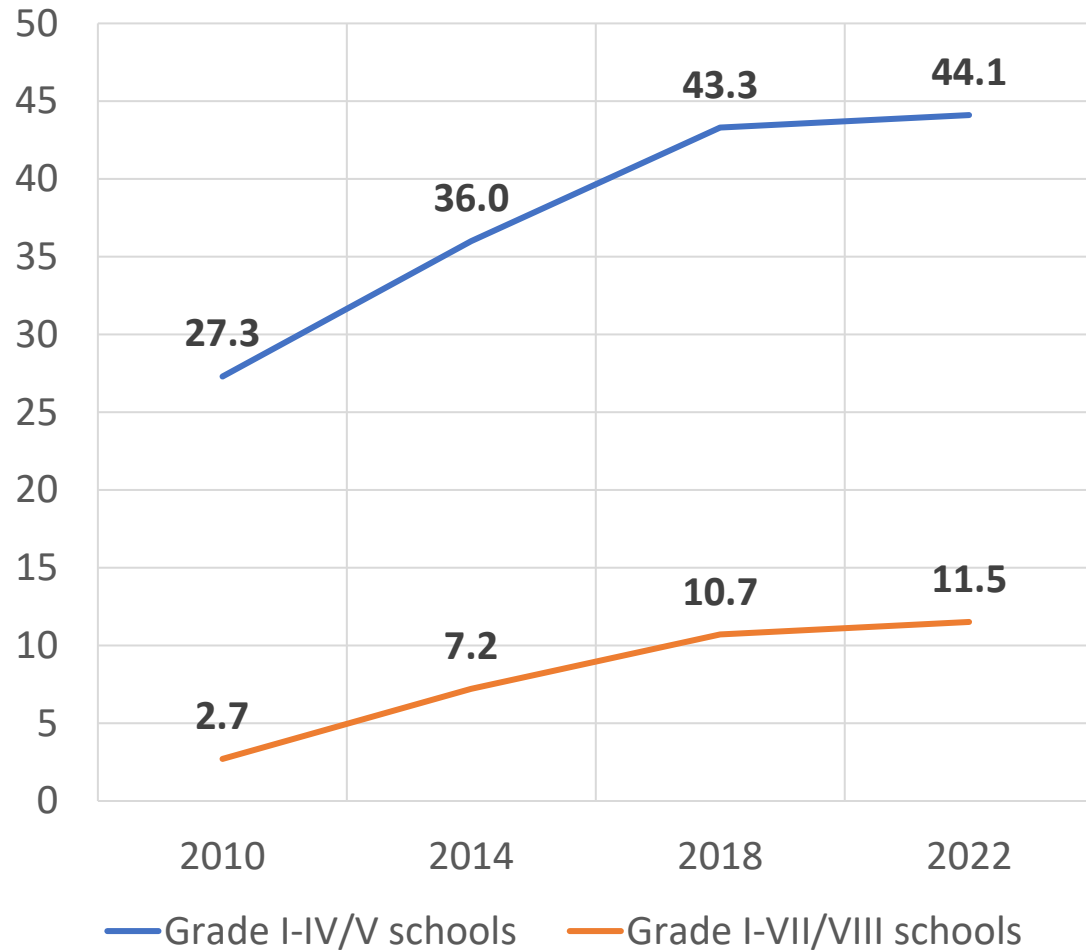
Other school related indicators

- Most sports-related indicators also remain at close to the levels observed in 2018. For example, in 2022, 68.9% schools have a playground, up slightly from 66.5% in 2018.
- By the time ASER 2022 was in the field in September: Most children had received their textbooks for the current academic year. Textbooks had been distributed to all grades in 90.1% of primary schools and in 84.4% of upper primary schools.
- About 80% of all primary schools had received a directive to implement Foundational Literacy and Numeracy (FLN) activities with their students, and about the same proportion had at least 1 teacher who had received training on FLN.



Percentage of small schools in the government sector remains high

All India: Proportion of small schools (enrollment 60 or less) among govt schools



Of total government primary schools visited, what proportion of schools were small? (Enrollment = 60 children or less):

80% or more government primary schools visited fall into this category:

Sikkim, Nagaland, Karnataka, Jammu and Kashmir, Manipur, Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh, Arunachal Pradesh

70-80% of government primary schools visited which are small (enrollment 60 children or less):

Uttarakhand, Mizoram, Meghalaya

Less than 50% of total government primary schools visited which are small (enrollment 60 children or less):

Kerala, Telangana, Maharashtra, West Bengal, Assam, Tripura, Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Haryana, Punjab, Chhattisgarh

Concluding thoughts

- Rising enrollment across all states and age groups is a very welcome sign. India's children are back in school.
- There have always been variations in attendance across states. Now is the time to focus and ensure high daily attendance.
- A great deal of effort is being made by governments towards achieving goals for the foundational stage (age 3-8) as outlined in the NEP 2020. We can see rising enrollment in pre-school classes, less under-age children going to Grade I, FLN notifications to all schools & widespread teacher training. This momentum must be maintained.
- Big changes in practice, appropriate activities & high effort needed in the classroom if all children are to achieve basic foundational literacy & numeracy by Grade III by 2027.
- Urgent need for “catch up” in Grades IV & V and in all upper primary/ middle school grades for ensuring foundational literacy & numeracy throughout the elementary stage.



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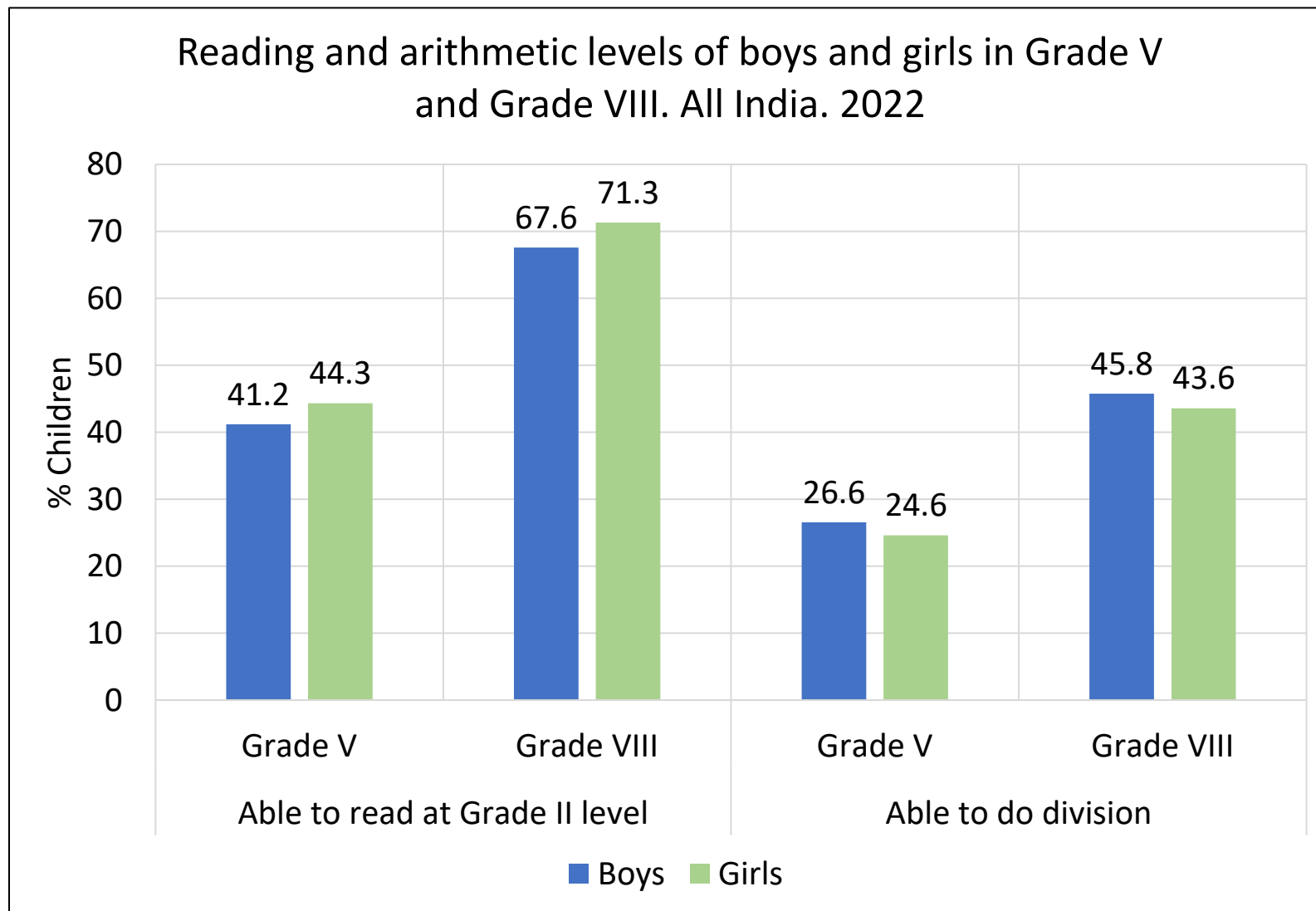
2022

RURAL

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For more information : contact@asercentre.org or info@pratham.org
Full report is available : www.asercentre.org

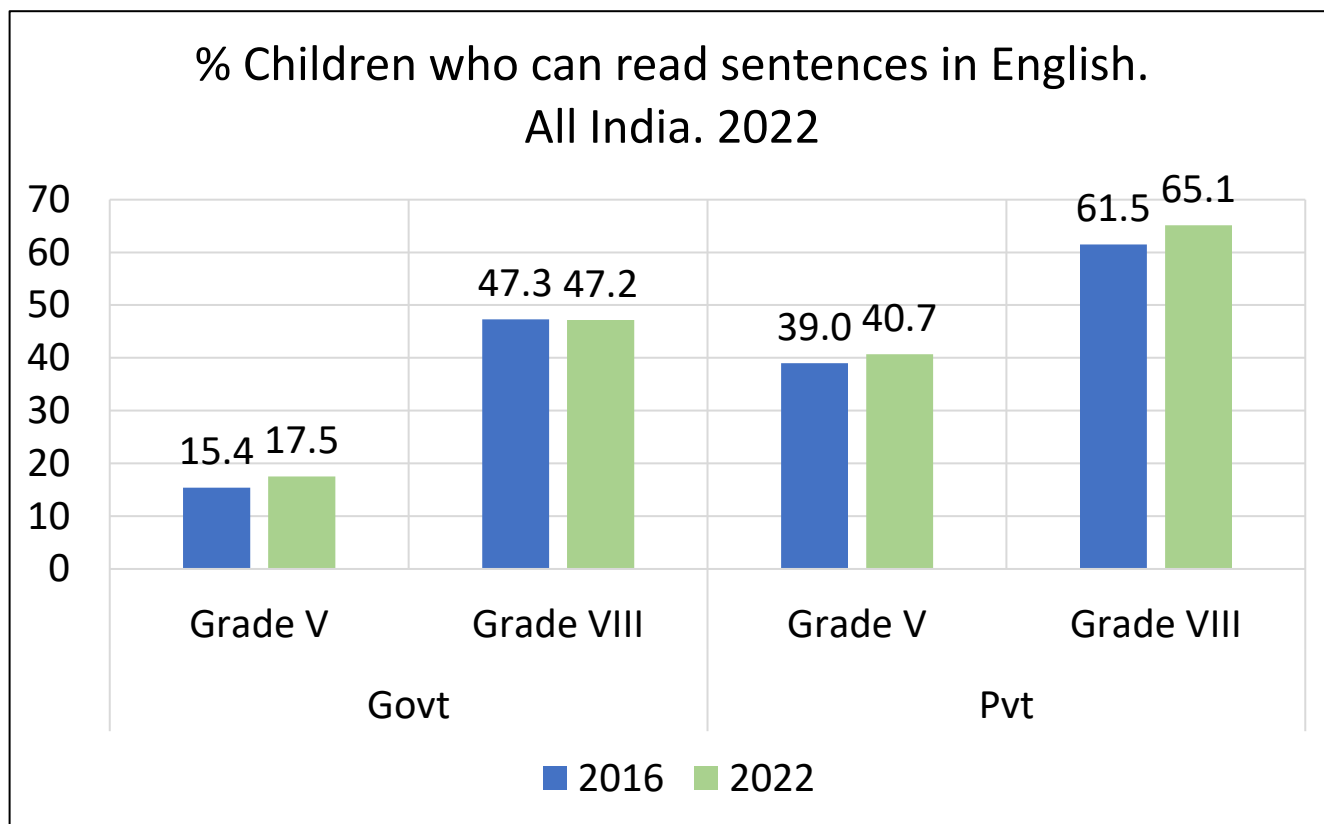
Annexure 1: Almost no difference in learning levels by sex



At All India level, there is little to no difference in the learning levels of children by their gender.

However, variations exist across states and regions. For example, in all southern states and in Maharashtra, girls outperform boys in both reading and arithmetic tasks in Grade V and Grade VIII.

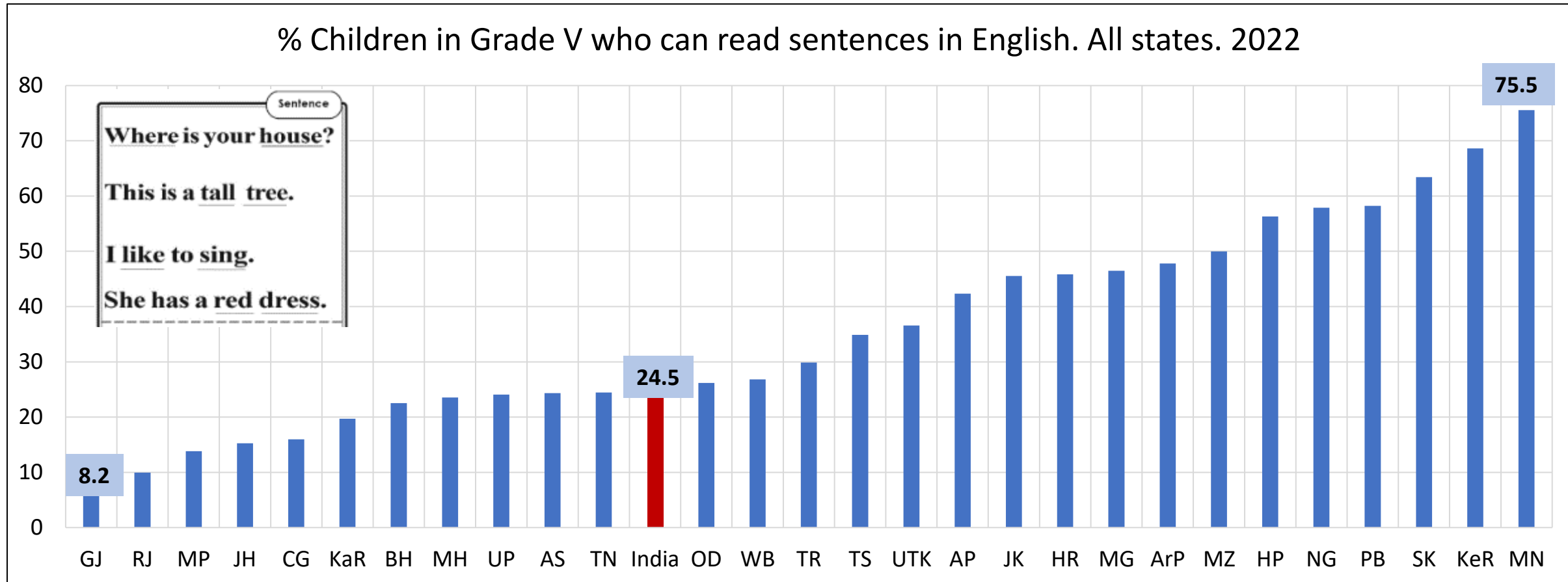
Annexure 2.1: 1 in 4 Grade V children can read English sentences



Capital letter	Small letter
<p>C K S</p> <p>Q F</p> <p>W O Z</p> <p>Ask the child to recognize any 5 letters. At least 4 must be correct.</p>	<p>n p g</p> <p>v e</p> <p>j r b</p> <p>Ask the child to recognize any 5 letters. At least 4 must be correct.</p>
Word	Sentence
<p>day old</p> <p>sit</p> <p>run rat</p> <p>bag</p> <p>Ask the child to read any 5 words. At least 4 must be correct.</p>	<p>Where is your <u>house</u>?</p> <p>This is a <u>tall</u> <u>tree</u>.</p> <p>I <u>like</u> to <u>sing</u>.</p> <p>She has a <u>red</u> <u>dress</u>.</p> <p>Ask the child to read all sentences. At least 2 must be correct.</p>

- Overall, only 1 out of 4 children in Grade V and almost half the children in Grade VIII in India can read simple English sentences; more private school children can do this task as compared to government school children.
- The proportion of children who can read sentences has remained consistent between 2016 and 2022.
- Wide variations can be seen across states, with many northern and north-eastern states like Manipur, Punjab, Nagaland and Himachal Pradesh performing better than others.

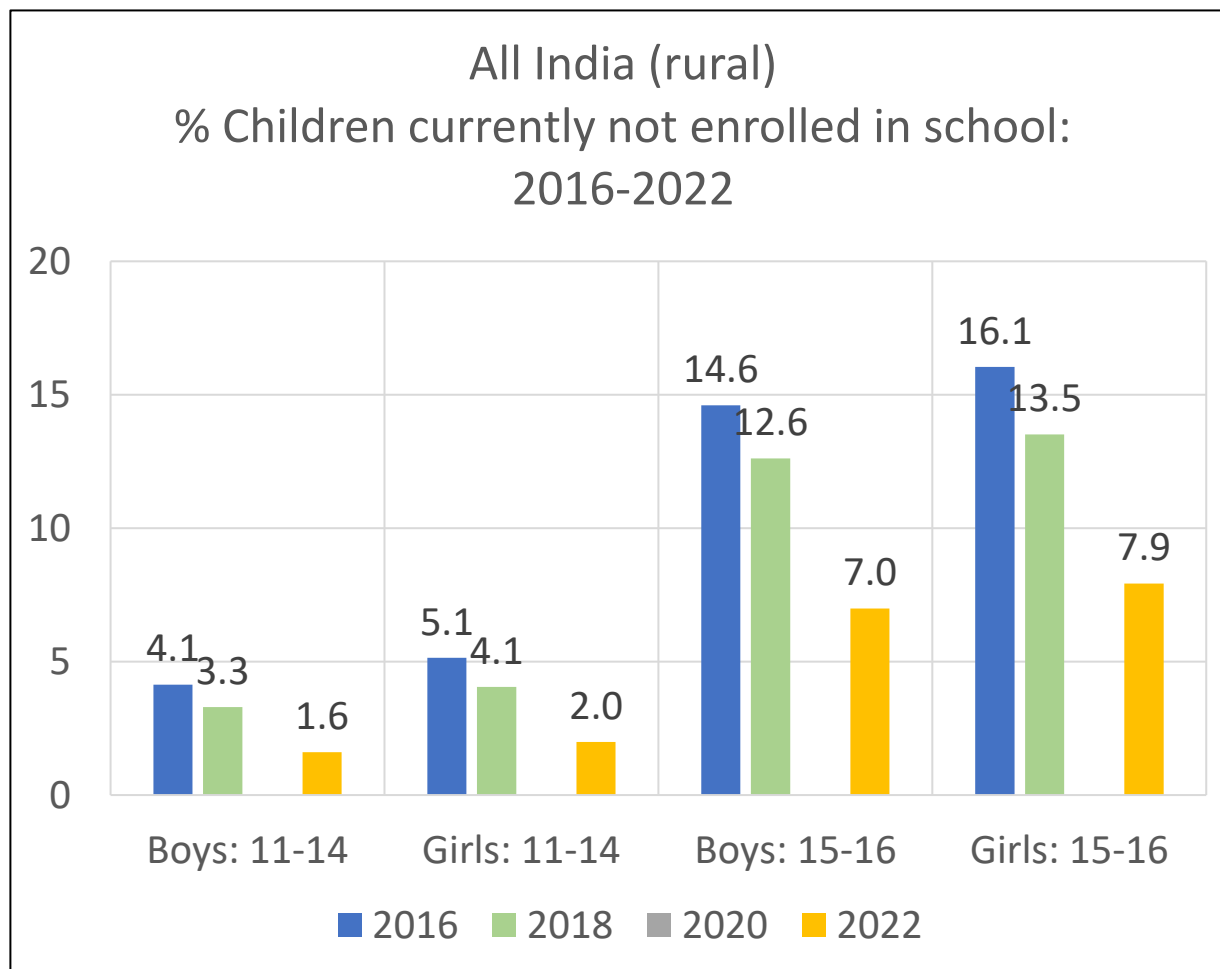
Annexure 2.2: Wide variations across states in English reading



- Overall, only 1 out of 4 children in Grade V in India can read simple English sentences; more private school children can do this task as compared to government school children.
- Out of those who can read sentences, 62.3% can comprehend their meanings.
- Massive variations can be seen by state, with many northern and north-eastern states performing better than others.

Annexure 3: Proportion of 15-16-year-old girls not enrolled in school has dropped since 2018

Despite prolonged school closures, proportion of children not enrolled in school continued to decline between 2018 & 2022. Gender differences between boys and girls (in terms of percentage out of school), are also minimal. In states which had more than 20% girls (age 15-16) out of school in 2006, the figure in most cases is less than 10%.



State name	% Girls (15-16) not enrolled in school				
	2006	2010	2014	2018	2022
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Chhattisgarh	33.6	13.2	11.6	21.2	11.1
Odisha	31.4	23.5	24.0	12.3	7.3
Jharkhand	29.2	14.5	17.6	11.2	5.2
Bihar	28.2	11.0	15.6	9.8	6.7
Gujarat	27.3	29.1	30.2	24.9	8.0
Uttar Pradesh	25.6	23.6	22.7	22.2	15.0
West Bengal	24.9	17.5	10.8	4.8	2.6
Madhya Pradesh	23.4	13.4	23.7	26.8	17.0
Andhra Pradesh	21.3	24.0	20.4	9.7	2.0
All India	22.6	16.6	17.4	13.5	7.9