Young Children: Enrollment and Learning Status – Andhra Pradesh

Analysis based on data from households. 13 out of 13 districts were surveyed in ASER 2018.
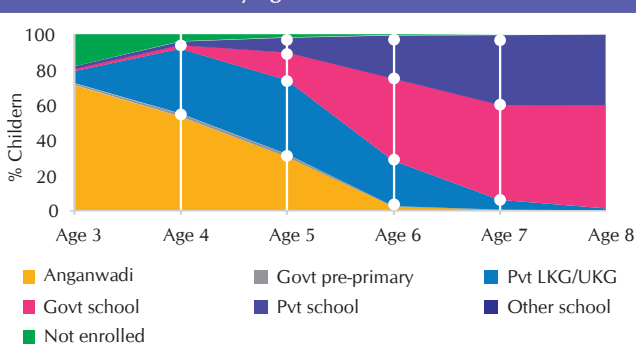
Early access to a supportive environment and exposure to developmentally appropriate activities can help children develop a solid foundation for future learning, both for school and for life. All major education policy and program documents in India now recognize this fact. However, recent ASER data 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	71.3	0.9	6.6	1.4	1.6	0.0	18.2	100
Age 4	53.4	1.5	36.6	2.2	2.1	0.0	4.2	100
Age 5	30.4	1.6	41.8	15.8	8.4	0.0	2.0	100
Age 6	2.3	0.3	25.7	46.6	24.4	0.0	0.7	100
Age 7	0.4	0.2	5.6	53.9	39.5	0.2	0.3	100
Age 8	0.2	0.0	1.1	58.3	40.2	0.0	0.2	100

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

Legend: Anganwadi, Govt pre-primary, Pvt LKG/UKG, Govt school, Pvt school, Other school, Not enrolled

This table shows the proportion of children enrolled in different types of pre-schools and schools by age. For example, at age 3, 71.3% children are enrolled in anganwadis, 0.9% in government pre-primary classes, 6.6% in private LKG/UKG, 1.4% in government schools, and 1.6% in private schools. 'Other' includes children going to any other type of institution. 18.2% 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.
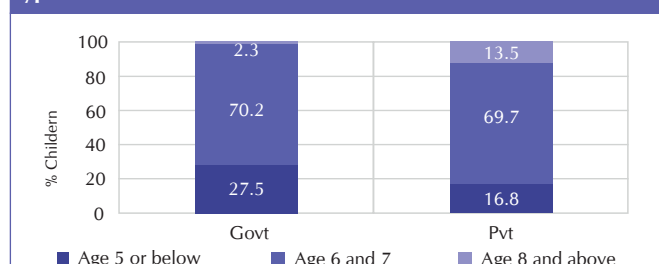
- **High enrollment in pre-school age group:** At age 3, 18.2% of children are not enrolled anywhere. However, by age 4, 53.4% children are in anganwadis and 36.6% are in private pre-schools. This leaves only 4.2% who are not enrolled. (Table 1)
- **Variation in enrollment at age 5:** At age 5, children could be going to an anganwadi centre (30.4%), to a private pre-school (41.8%), or to a primary school (24.2%). This means that what is offered to and expected from these young children varies enormously depending on whether they are enrolled in pre-primary grades or in primary school. (Table 1)
- **Younger children in government schools in Std I:** If age distributions are compared in Std I, the data indicates that the proportion of children 5 or younger is higher in government schools (27.5%) as compared to private schools (16.8%). In contrast, the proportion of older children (8 and older) is smaller in government schools as compared to private schools. (Chart 2)
- **Private school learning levels in Std I higher than that in government schools:** The learning levels of 6-7 year old children in Std I in private schools is higher than those in government schools. For example, 93.8% of children in private schools can recognize at least single digit numbers as compared to 64.3% in government schools. (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
	53.4	46.6	100

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

	Govt	Pvt
Age 8 and above	2.3	13.5
Age 6 and 7	70.2	69.7
Age 5 or below	27.5	16.8

Legend: Age 5 or below, Age 6 and 7, Age 8 and above

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	Data insufficient	
Age 6 and 7	55.3	64.3
Age 8 and above	Data insufficient	
All	52.3	61.5
Private schools		
Age 5	Data insufficient	
Age 6 and 7	91.2	93.8
Age 8 and above	Data insufficient	
All	89.5	93.0

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

Data is not presented where sample size is insufficient.

Young Children: Enrollment and Learning Status by Sex – Andhra Pradesh

Analysis based on data from households. 13 out of 13 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	56.4	57.9	1.5
Age 5	45.7	50.3	4.6
Age 6	45.5	52.7	7.3
Age 7	51.8	57.2	5.5
Age 8	53.7	62.6	8.9

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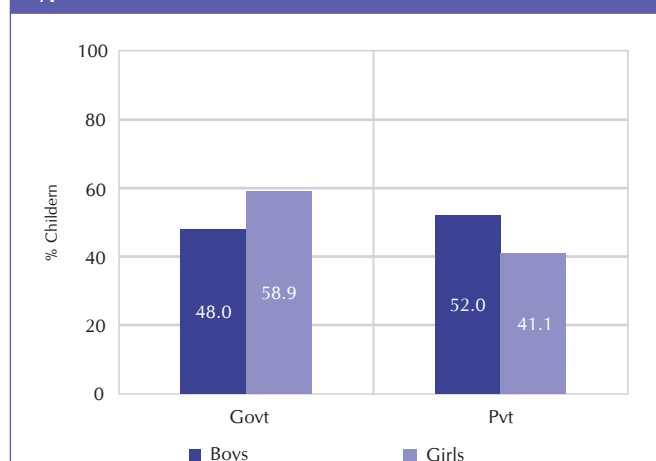
Key takeaways:

- **Sex-wise difference in enrollment for all age groups:** Girls' enrollment in government institutions is higher than that of boys for all age groups from age 4 to age 8. However, the sex-wise difference is higher for older ages. For example, at age 4, 56.4% of boys are enrolled in government pre-schools/anganwadis as compared to 57.9% of girls. At age 8, 53.7% of boys are enrolled in government schools as compared to 62.6% of girls. (Table 4)
- **Girls outperform boys in Std I in government schools:** For example, at age 6-7 years, 57.6% of girls can read at least letters as compared to 52.7% of boys and 63.3% of boys can recognize at least single digit numbers while 65.2% girls can do so. (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

School type	Boys	Girls
Govt	48.0	58.9
Pvt	52.0	41.1

(y-axis: % Children, 0 to 100)

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, 48% of boys are enrolled in government schools and 52% of boys are enrolled in private schools. Of all girls enrolled in Std I, 58.9% of girls are enrolled in government schools and 41.1% 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	Data insufficient			
Age 6 and 7	52.7	57.6	63.3	65.2
Age 8 and above	Data insufficient			
All	48.3	55.8	62.0	61.1
Private schools				
Age 5	Data insufficient			
Age 6 and 7	91.0	91.4	93.3	94.7
Age 8 and above	Data insufficient			
All	90.6	87.7	93.3	92.5

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.