

Young Children: Enrollment and Learning Status – Arunachal Pradesh

Analysis based on data from households. 8 out of 16 districts were surveyed in ASER 2018.

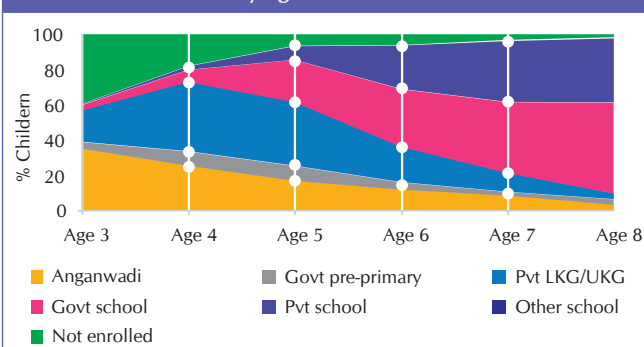
Early access to a supportive environment and exposure to developmentally appropriate activities can help children develop a solid foundation for future learning, both for school and for life. All major education policy and program documents in India now recognize this fact. However, recent ASER data 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	35.2	3.8	17.9	3.0	0.4	0.0	39.7	100
Age 4	25.6	8.0	39.4	6.9	1.9	0.0	18.2	100
Age 5	17.1	8.4	36.1	24.0	7.7	0.0	6.8	100
Age 6	12.1	4.1	20.1	32.7	24.7	0.0	6.4	100
Age 7	8.7	2.1	10.7	40.1	34.6	0.4	3.4	100
Age 8	3.6	3.0	3.4	51.5	36.3	0.4	1.9	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, 35.2% children are enrolled in anganwadis, 3.8% in government pre-primary classes, 17.9% in private LKG/UKG, 3% in government schools, and 0.4% in private schools. 'Other' includes children going to any other type of institution. 39.7% children are not enrolled anywhere at age 3. 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.

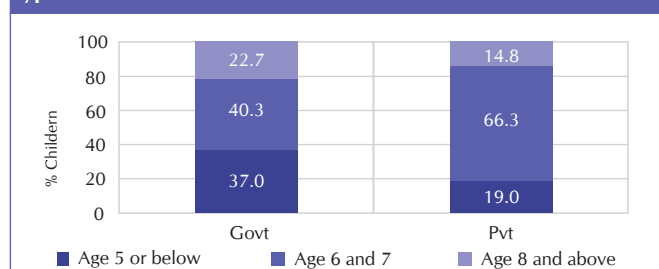
- **A high percentage of children of pre-school age are not enrolled:** Close to 40% of age 3 and about 20% of age 4 children are not enrolled anywhere. (Table 1)
- **Different patterns in enrollment by level and type of institution:** There is a lot of difference regarding where 5 and 6 year old children are enrolled. For example, at age 6, 12.1% are still in anganwadis, 20.1% in private pre-schools, 32.7% in government schools and 24.7% in private schools. 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)
- **Private school children in Std I are older than their counterparts in government schools:** Comparing age distributions by school type for Std I, data indicates that of all children enrolled in government schools, close to 40% are 5 years or younger whereas the same figure is less than 20% among private school children. Within the same type of school, in Std I, older children can do more. For example, among children in Std I in government schools, 56.4% of 5 year olds can read at least letters, as compared to 66.8% of 6-7 year olds. (Chart 2 and 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
	66.0	34.0	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	56.4	58.9
Age 6 and 7	66.8	75.1
Age 8 and above	Data insufficient	
All	64.5	69.2
Private schools		
Age 5	Data insufficient	
Age 6 and 7	95.0	98.3
Age 8 and above	Data insufficient	
All	93.2	97.2

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

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	34.9	46.2	11.3
Age 5	50.6	48.9	-1.7
Age 6	46.7	51.0	4.3
Age 7	50.3	51.3	1.1
Age 8	54.5	61.5	7.0

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

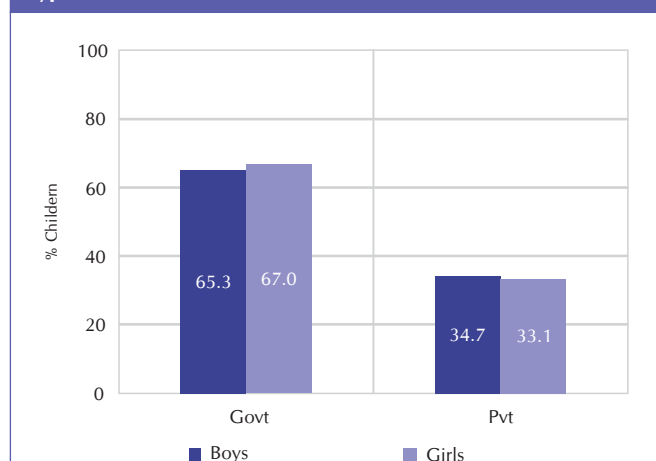


Key takeaways:

- **No clear trend visible in enrollment of girls and boys across age groups:** More girls are enrolled in government schools and pre-schools at age 4 with a high percentage point difference of 11.3. While this difference becomes negative at age 5, we again see a change at age 8 where 61.5% of girls as compared to 54.5% of boys are enrolled in government educational institutions and the percentage point difference is 7. (Table 4)
- **A slightly higher percentage of girls are enrolled in government schools as compared to boys in Std I:** 67% of girls are enrolled in government schools in comparison to 65.3% of boys. In private schools, 33.1% of girls are enrolled as against 34.7% of boys. (Chart 3)

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, 65.3% of boys are enrolled in government schools and 34.7% of boys are enrolled in private schools. Of all girls enrolled in Std I, 67% of girls are enrolled in government schools and 33.1% 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				
Age 8 and above				
All				
Private schools				
Age 5	Data insufficient			
Age 6 and 7				
Age 8 and above				
All				

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.