

Bihar RURAL

ANALYSIS BASED ON DATA FROM HOUSEHOLDS. 38 OUT OF 38 DISTRICTS*

Data is not presented where sample size is insufficient.

Enrollment trends: Children aged 3-8 (Foundational Stage)

Exposure to developmentally appropriate activities from a young age and growing up in a supportive learning environment helps children develop strong foundations for learning. Major education policy documents in India now recognise these facts. ASER 2024 data for the “foundational stage” (age 3-8) is helpful in understanding the current status of schooling and learning so that evidence can inform actions for ensuring that children enter school at the right age and are ready for formal schooling.

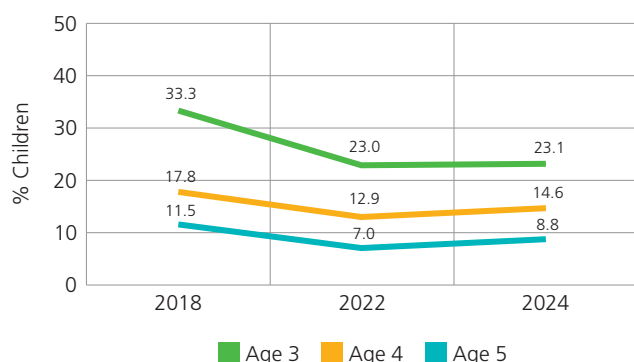
Table 1: % Children enrolled in different types of pre-schools and schools. By age. 2022

Age	Pre-school			School			Not in pre-school or school	Total
	Anganwadi	Govt pre-primary	Pvt LKG/UKG	Govt	Pvt	Other		
Age 3	66.9	0.2	5.1	4.1	0.6	0.2	23.0	100
Age 4	67.1	0.3	11.2	6.7	1.3	0.5	12.9	100
Age 5	45.8	0.6	15.5	25.5	4.9	0.7	7.0	100
Age 6	15.7	0.3	15.5	56.2	7.4	0.8	4.1	100
Age 7	4.0	0.3	13.1	67.0	12.8	0.8	1.9	100
Age 8	1.0	0.1	6.8	75.0	14.7	0.6	1.8	100

Table 2: % Children enrolled in different types of pre-schools and schools. By age. 2024

Age	Pre-school			School			Not in pre-school or school	Total
	Anganwadi	Govt pre-primary	Pvt LKG/UKG	Govt	Pvt	Other		
Age 3	68.9	0.4	4.8	2.2	0.4	0.1	23.1	100
Age 4	66.9	0.4	11.7	4.8	1.2	0.4	14.6	100
Age 5	48.3	0.4	18.4	19.1	4.2	0.8	8.8	100
Age 6	19.0	0.6	19.3	44.9	8.8	1.5	6.0	100
Age 7	5.2	0.4	14.3	63.8	11.4	1.4	3.5	100
Age 8	1.5	0.3	7.4	70.8	16.5	1.3	2.2	100

Chart 1: % Children age 3-5 not enrolled anywhere. 2018, 2022, 2024



Key takeaways

- **High enrollment in anganwadi for children aged 3-4 years:** In 2024, the percentage of 3-year-old and 4-year-old children enrolled in anganwadis is 68.9% and 66.9% respectively (Table 2). This data needs to be kept in mind while planning for this age group.
- **Decline in proportion of children not enrolled in pre-school at age 3 since 2018:** At age 3, the percentage of children who are not enrolled anywhere declined from 33.3% in 2018 to 23.1% in 2024 (Chart 1). At age 4 and 5, a slight decrease in out of school children can also be seen between 2018 and 2024. However, these figures indicate that further efforts are still required to achieve universal pre-primary coverage.
- **Decrease in ‘underage’ enrollment in Std I:** The percentage of children who are ‘underage’ (age 5 or below) enrolled in Std I in government and private schools has decreased since 2018. In 2018, the percentage of ‘underage’ children in schools was 27.1% as compared to 19.4% in 2024 (Table 3).

Table 3: % Children aged 5 or below enrolled in Std I. By school type. 2018, 2022, 2024

Year	All	Govt	Pvt
2018	27.1	31.2	15.2
2022	23.2	26.5	12.0
2024	19.4	23.1	10.3



*The number of districts in the state is based on Census 2011, which has been used as the sampling frame for ASER surveys since 2016.

Table 4: Performance of states: % Children not enrolled anywhere by age and % children in Std I who are "underage" (age 5 or below). 2018, 2022, 2024

State	% Children not enrolled anywhere. By age. 2018, 2022, 2024									% Children who are "underage" (age 5 or below) enrolled in Std I. By school type. 2018, 2022, 2024								
	Age 3			Age 4			Age 5			Govt			Pvt			Govt & Pvt		
	2018	2022	2024	2018	2022	2024	2018	2022	2024	2018	2022	2024	2018	2022	2024	2018	2022	2024
Andhra Pradesh	18.2	9.2	1.6	4.2	1.6	0.5	2.0	0.5	0.1	27.5	15.6	12.4	16.9	16.8	12.3	22.6	16.1	12.3
Arunachal Pradesh	39.7	35.7	28.8	18.2	21.8	18.4	6.8	10.9	11.9	37.0	30.6	23.9	19.0	19.8	17.8	30.9	27.4	21.3
Assam	21.4	13.3	8.8	10.7	5.3	2.6	4.3	2.5	2.0	28.2	21.8	20.0	18.9	11.0	10.6	25.6	18.6	16.9
Bihar	33.3	23.0	23.1	17.8	12.9	14.6	11.5	7.0	8.8	31.2	26.5	23.1	15.2	12.0	10.3	27.1	23.2	19.4
Chhattisgarh	14.5	11.4	8.8	7.6	6.0	3.6	5.0	4.7	2.7	16.6	12.4	9.5	18.1	15.4	15.1	17.1	13.1	11.0
Gujarat	4.9	17.2	4.7	2.5	8.2	2.5	2.7	2.5	1.3	15.8	37.6	3.5	24.2	15.8	4.6	16.8	36.4	3.7
Haryana	22.4	12.3	14.4	10.7	6.6	9.8	4.4	3.3	4.3	53.9	49.2	32.0	32.8	28.7	19.1	40.3	38.0	24.2
Himachal Pradesh	6.6	17.7	10.2	3.1	5.4	3.8	1.7	2.1	1.3	38.3	43.4	21.5	28.2	33.0	9.1	33.2	39.6	13.7
Jammu and Kashmir	24.2	14.4	11.9	15.5	6.9	5.5	6.1	1.6	2.6	30.6	20.5	18.7	14.1	14.5	6.8	22.9	17.9	13.4
Jharkhand	17.3	23.0	12.3	10.4	11.5	8.5	5.5	6.2	5.3	37.3	25.2	26.5	20.0	11.0	12.4	33.2	22.6	22.7
Karnataka	7.8	5.7	7.1	1.8	0.9	1.6	0.6	0.1	0.7	6.9	3.4	2.9	6.0	3.0	4.4	6.6	3.3	3.4
Kerala	15.0	29.7	18.8	3.9	6.9	3.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	15.8	14.7	10.4	4.7	8.2	3.5	9.9	12.2	6.1
Madhya Pradesh	13.7	9.6	7.5	8.4	7.5	4.3	6.7	4.1	2.9	39.3	33.5	23.7	30.8	29.8	22.6	36.3	32.3	23.3
Maharashtra	8.7	4.0	3.7	2.7	1.0	1.1	1.5	1.2	0.5	7.4	5.0	3.7	9.3	7.2	4.9	7.8	5.4	4.0
Meghalaya	65.4	43.4	60.0	26.4	25.3	27.0	8.9	5.2	9.0	10.9	10.0	9.7	10.2	8.5	6.7	10.5	9.3	7.9
Mizoram	0.0	2.3	8.1	0.4	1.4	3.1	0.3	1.4	1.3	24.4	24.1	20.1	21.5	10.7	4.8	23.4	19.7	13.4
Nagaland	59.9	46.6	37.0	18.6	7.1	9.9	3.9	1.2	1.9	11.8	6.5	6.1	7.8	6.4	3.7	10.1	6.4	4.8
Odisha	6.3	2.1	3.4	1.1	1.0	0.8	0.9	0.5	0.7	20.6	11.5	7.9	21.0	11.2	13.6	20.6	11.4	9.0
Punjab	22.1	21.7	10.1	4.2	5.1	1.3	1.8	1.2	0.3	46.4	29.7	33.3	15.2	9.2	9.8	25.9	19.7	21.1
Rajasthan	49.5	30.4	35.2	25.7	19.1	19.6	8.9	6.8	8.1	49.4	49.7	40.3	40.9	43.1	36.7	46.2	47.4	38.5
Sikkim	0.7	3.3	6.0	0.3	0.0	0.7	0.8	0.0	1.1	24.9	29.0	18.3	15.9	9.2	12.0	19.8	20.9	15.5
Tamil Nadu	10.6	2.5	3.4	3.8	0.8	1.0	1.3	0.4	0.6	35.7	34.1	33.2	28.9	32.4	27.6	32.6	33.5	30.6
Telangana	13.5	4.4	3.3	2.5	1.2	0.5	0.4	1.0	0.0	33.8	26.8	31.5	12.1	11.6	11.2	21.7	20.8	20.6
Tripura	10.6	3.3	3.7	3.5	0.8	2.9	0.3	0.6	0.0	3.0	1.9	4.4	8.6	3.0	6.1	4.1	2.2	5.1
Uttar Pradesh	64.7	51.9	52.1	42.3	33.0	30.0	18.0	11.9	14.9	35.7	27.1	19.7	19.6	16.6	13.1	27.7	23.4	16.3
Uttarakhand	23.4	20.3	18.9	9.4	9.8	5.4	4.3	2.9	2.7	39.7	26.2	18.8	18.0	18.1	16.5	28.0	22.3	17.7
West Bengal	18.8	6.6	5.9	9.9	4.8	5.3	5.1	3.2	2.7	15.5	12.3	6.3	18.3	14.6	7.6	15.9	12.5	6.5
All India	28.8	21.7	20.7	15.6	12.3	11.4	8.1	5.5	6.2	28.5	24.2	17.7	20.5	18.7	15.0	25.6	22.7	16.7

1. Andhra Pradesh was bifurcated into Telangana and Andhra Pradesh in 2014. As a result, the sample frames of Census 2011 do not have the new state divisions. Of the 22 districts in undivided Andhra Pradesh, 9 rural districts are located in Telangana and the remaining 13 districts are located in Andhra Pradesh. ASER estimates for the two states are based on this separation of districts.

2. Estimates for the Union Territories of Ladakh and Jammu and Kashmir have been presented in a combined form for comparability with ASER estimates of previous years.

3. ASER 2024 was not conducted in Goa and Manipur.

Foundational learning in Std II

Achieving Foundational Literacy and Numeracy (FLN) in primary school is a national priority (NEP 2020). The policy states that every student will attain foundational literacy and numeracy by Std III. The tables below describe reading and arithmetic levels in Std II. Why should we focus on Std II? At the time of testing for ASER 2024, children would have completed about half of their academic year in Std II. Therefore, it is important to track children's progress and understand how far they have come in their journey of meeting FLN goals.

Table 5: % Children enrolled in Std II. By school type. 2024

% Children in Std II enrolled in	Govt	Pvt	Total
	75.4	24.6	100

Chart 2: % Children enrolled in Std II. By age and school type. 2022 and 2024

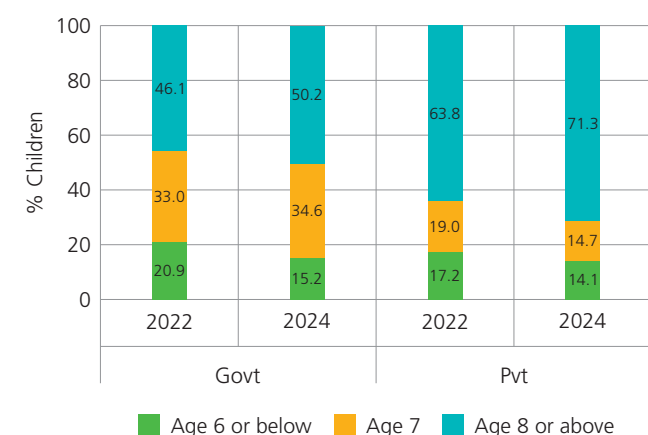


Table 6: Reading and arithmetic levels of children in Std II. By age and school type. 2022 and 2024

Age	% Children who can at least read words		% Children who can at least recognise numbers till 99	
	2022	2024	2022	2024
Government schools				
Age 6 or below	16.3	19.2	22.2	24.6
Age 7	21.9	28.3	33.4	36.7
Age 8 or above	27.8	35.8	38.5	47.0
All	23.5	30.6	33.5	40.1
Private schools				
Age 6 or below	34.3	36.4	45.4	45.1
Age 7	56.2	67.4	74.7	80.1
Age 8 or above	83.3	81.0	89.4	90.1
All	70.8	74.1	80.1	83.7

Key takeaways

- Majority of Std II students are in government schools:** In 2024, 75.4% of children in Std II were enrolled in government schools, while only 24.6% attended private schools (Table 5).
- Age matters for learning outcomes:** For both types of schools, children at age 8 and above are doing better than younger children in the same grade in 2024. For example, in government schools, the percentage of children aged 8 or above who can at least recognise numbers till 99 is 47%, while the same figure for children aged 6 or below is 24.6% (Table 6). This shows that age of entry and age composition are important structural features of early grades in schools.
- Improvement in learning levels across schools:** Overall, children's performance in reading and arithmetic tasks has improved between 2022 to 2024. For example, the percentage of children in government schools who can at least read words increased from 23.5% in 2022 to 30.6% in 2024. In private schools, this percentage increased from 70.8% in 2022 to 74.1% in 2024 (Table 6).
- Private school students continue to perform better in reading and arithmetic:** In 2024, 74.1% of private school students could at least read words, compared to 30.6% in government schools. Similarly, 83.7% of private school students could at least recognise numbers till 99, while only 40.1% of government school students could do so (Table 6).

Reading tool

Std II level text

नगमा समझदार लड़की थी।
मगर उसका छोटा भाई अमन
बहुत नटखट था। एक दिन दोनो
बाज़ार में घूम रहे थे। अमन ने
रास्ते में पकौड़े देखे। उसे पकौड़े
बहुत पसंद थे। सो उसने लिए
पकौड़े बनायी थी। नगमा ने कहा
यह पकौड़े तीखे होंगे। मगर अमन
नहीं माना। अमन ने पकौड़े खाए
और उसकी आँखों से आँसू
निकलने लगे।

Std II level text

रात हो गई है।
चौद दिख रहा है।
तारे भी चमक रहे हैं।
सब लोग सो गए हैं।

Letters

न प म
ख स
थ य द
र ल

Words

आग खेब
ताला पानी
गिर धुन
मौका देरा
पेरा बूझ

Arithmetic tool

अंक पहचान
1-9

5 7

8 4

2 9

3 1

संख्या पहचान
11-99

74 23

91 86

24 79

37 61

58 14

घटाव

63 51
- 44 - 35

92 71
- 48 - 35

45 34
- 27 - 19

43 46
- 29 - 17

भाग

898

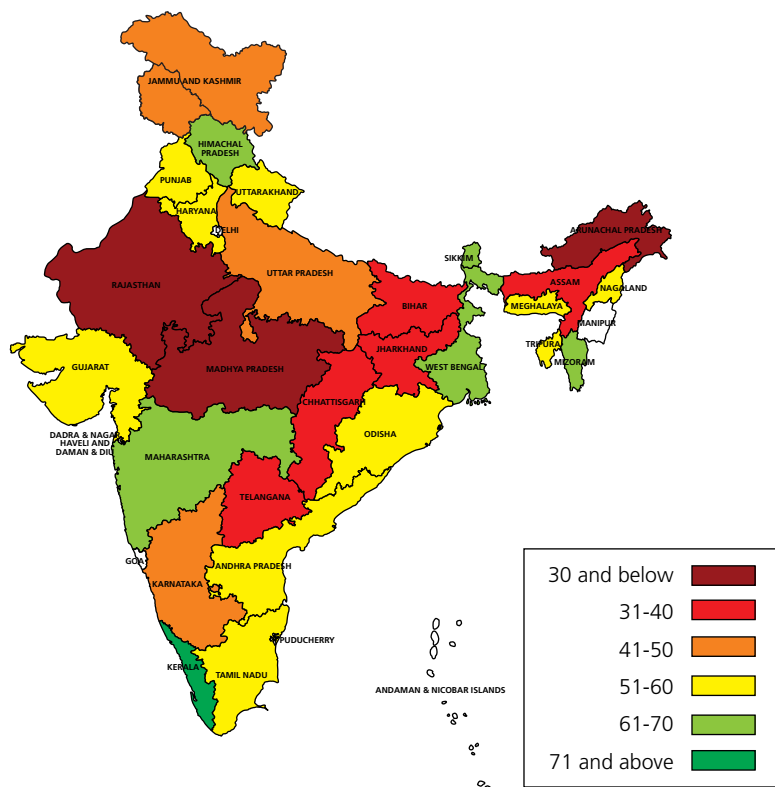
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946

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Data is not presented where sample size is insufficient.

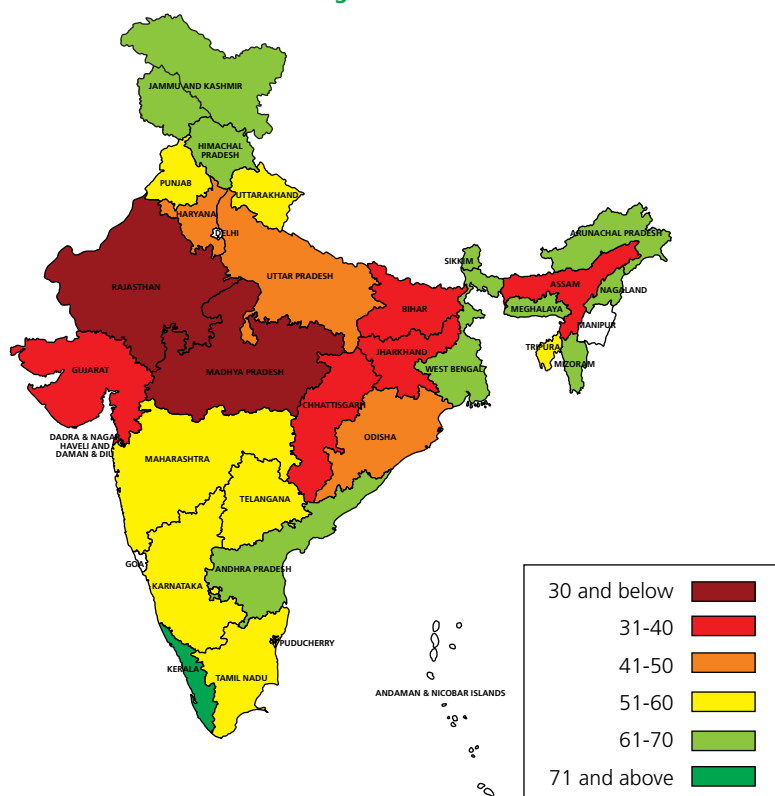
State-wise map showing % of government school children enrolled in Std II who can at least read words. 2024



State-wise table showing % of government school children enrolled in Std II who can at least read words and can at least recognise numbers till 99. 2018, 2022, 2024

State	% Children who can at least read words			% Children who can at least recognise numbers till 99		
	2018	2022	2024	2018	2022	2024
Andhra Pradesh	59.7	38.9	52.9	65.9	53.5	66.2
Arunachal Pradesh	31.8	34.0	29.3	69.7	75.9	70.0
Assam	48.0	35.0	39.6	42.2	31.0	37.5
Bihar	22.6	23.5	30.6	27.1	33.5	40.1
Chhattisgarh	32.2	29.8	36.2	30.6	33.3	35.7
Gujarat	61.4	45.7	55.1	39.2	34.3	36.3
Haryana	49.9	46.8	56.5	44.7	49.8	48.7
Himachal Pradesh	68.4	48.0	66.8	63.5	59.6	64.4
Jammu & Kashmir	43.2	46.0	46.2	54.7	62.8	63.0
Jharkhand	23.7	24.2	33.9	24.8	30.1	39.6
Karnataka	49.8	43.9	50.2	58.1	53.1	59.0
Kerala	82.3	65.8	72.8	89.8	77.3	86.5
Madhya Pradesh	17.8	15.6	25.7	16.4	20.2	24.7
Maharashtra	63.8	57.6	66.6	46.0	45.7	54.5
Meghalaya	46.0	47.3	59.5	73.7	71.6	70.7
Mizoram	71.4	58.9	65.7	76.5	80.0	85.6
Nagaland	60.6	61.4	60.0	74.7	75.9	86.3
Odisha	55.1	49.9	52.6	46.8	45.6	50.2
Punjab	60.2	48.2	57.3	57.6	50.2	57.2
Rajasthan	20.4	16.1	21.4	19.0	17.5	19.9
Sikkim	69.3	51.0	70.0	75.3	74.7	82.2
Tamil Nadu	57.7	41.8	51.8	57.8	48.2	56.5
Telangana	47.9	36.6	36.8	61.4	60.6	52.6
Tripura	55.2	49.2	53.6	48.8	59.6	55.6
Uttar Pradesh	21.7	27.2	44.4	22.5	31.9	41.8
Uttarakhand	53.2	32.9	52.4	41.5	31.8	52.7
West Bengal	66.2	62.6	67.3	56.2	56.7	61.6
All India	39.7	35.7	44.6	37.5	38.7	45.7

State-wise map showing % of government school children enrolled in Std II who can at least recognise numbers till 99. 2024



1. Andhra Pradesh was bifurcated into Telangana and Andhra Pradesh in 2014. As a result, the sample frames of Census 2011 do not have the new state divisions. Of the 22 districts in undivided Andhra Pradesh, 9 rural districts are located in Telangana and the remaining 13 districts are located in Andhra Pradesh. ASER estimates for the two states are based on this separation of districts.
2. Estimates for the Union Territories of Ladakh and Jammu and Kashmir have been presented in a combined form for comparability with ASER estimates of previous years.
3. ASER 2024 was not conducted in Goa and Manipur.
4. Map may not be accurate or to scale. This is a mere representation.