

Young Children: Enrollment and Learning Status – Chhattisgarh

Analysis based on data from households. 16 out of 18 districts were surveyed in ASER 2018.

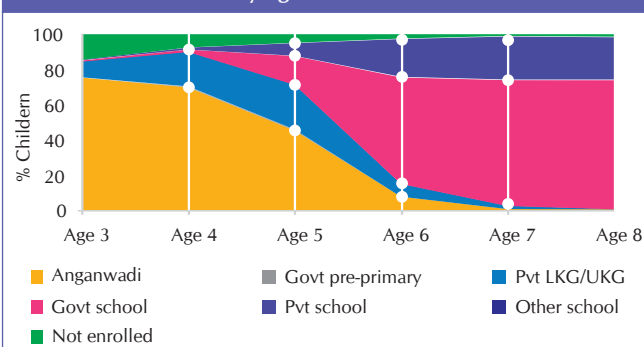
Early access to a supportive environment and exposure to developmentally appropriate activities can help children develop a solid foundation for future learning, both for school and for life. All major education policy and program documents in India now recognize this fact. However, recent ASER data 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	75.4	0.0	9.1	0.6	0.4	0.0	14.5	100
Age 4	69.9	0.3	19.8	1.4	1.1	0.0	7.6	100
Age 5	45.4	0.5	25.5	16.4	7.3	0.0	5.0	100
Age 6	7.8	0.0	7.4	60.4	21.8	0.0	2.6	100
Age 7	0.7	0.0	2.0	71.3	24.8	0.0	1.2	100
Age 8	0.6	0.0	0.2	73.2	24.4	0.0	1.6	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, 75.4% children are enrolled in anganwadis, 0% in government pre-primary classes, 9.1% in private LKG/UKG, 0.6% in government schools, and 0.4% in private schools. 'Other' includes children going to any other type of institution. 14.5% 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.

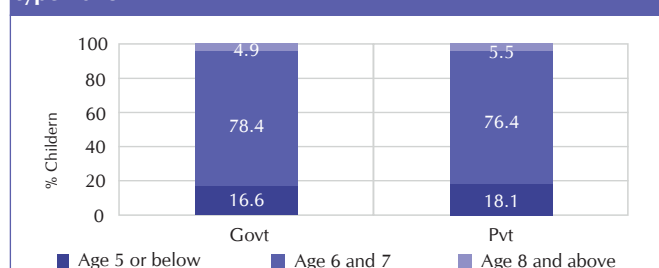
- **High enrollment in pre-school age:** At age 3, three quarters of all children are enrolled in anganwadis. However, there are still about 15% children at age 3 who are not enrolled anywhere. At age 4, the anganwadi enrollment number comes close to 70%, along with a jump in private pre-school enrollment. (Table 1)
- **Variation at age 5 in terms of enrollment and school type:** At age 5, close to half of all children are still in anganwadis. A quarter of all children of this age group attend private pre-schools. Another 23.7% are enrolled in school. 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)
- **High enrollment in government institutions:** Across age groups, around 70% of children are enrolled in either anganwadis when they are younger (3-4 years), or government schools at older stages for children aged 7 and 8 years. (Table 1)
- **Age makes a difference:** Comparing children in Std I in same type of school by age, it is clear that older children do better. For example, among children in Std I in government schools, 43.9% of 6 and 7 year olds can read at least letters, as compared to 33.5% of children at age 5. (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
	70.2	29.8	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	33.5	40.8
Age 6 and 7	43.9	53.5
Age 8 and above	Data insufficient	
All	44.0	53.0
Private schools		
Age 5	Data insufficient	
Age 6 and 7	82.0	87.7
Age 8 and above	Data insufficient	
All	78.7	83.7

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	71.9	71.3	-0.6
Age 5	63.2	61.0	-2.2
Age 6	66.5	69.8	3.3
Age 7	69.0	75.5	6.5
Age 8	72.7	74.9	2.2

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



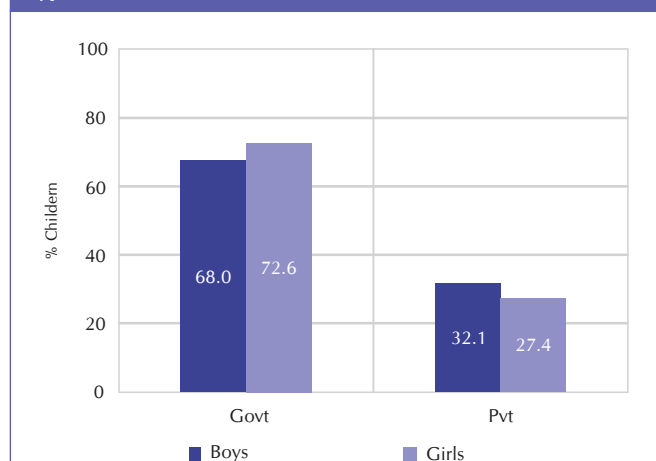
Key takeaways:

- **Sex-wise difference in enrollment patterns from age 6 onwards:** From age 6 to 8, the proportion of girls enrolled in government institutions is slightly higher than that of boys. This is particularly stark at age 7 where the sex-wise difference in enrollment is 6.5 percentage points. 68% of boys are enrolled in Std I in government schools as compared to 72.6% of girls. (Table 4 and Chart 3)
- **Learning levels for boys at 6-7 years in Std I is higher than those of girls in government schools:** Boys perform better than girls in terms of their ability to read letters and recognize numbers at 6-7 years. 57.7% of boys can recognize at least single digit numbers as compared to 49.4% of girls. This trend changes in case of private schools where girls perform better than boys. (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



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, 68% of boys are enrolled in government schools and 32.1% of boys are enrolled in private schools. Of all girls enrolled in Std I, 72.6% of girls are enrolled in government schools and 27.4% 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	44.8	43.0	57.7	49.4
Age 8 and above	Data insufficient			
All	44.6	43.3	56.5	49.5
Private schools				
Age 5	Data insufficient			
Age 6 and 7	76.0	90.1	84.8	91.6
Age 8 and above	Data insufficient			
All	72.4	86.9	78.7	90.2

This table shows the proportion of children in Std I who can read at least letters and recognize at least numbers up to 9. The data shows patterns by age and sex.