YOUNG CHILDREN REPORT CARD

From the Annual Status of Education Report (ASER) 2024

Annual Status of Education Report
असर ASER 2024 RURAL
Facilitated by PRATHAM

India RURAL

ANALYSIS BASED ON DATA FROM HOUSEHOLD SURVEY. 605 OUT OF 618 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.

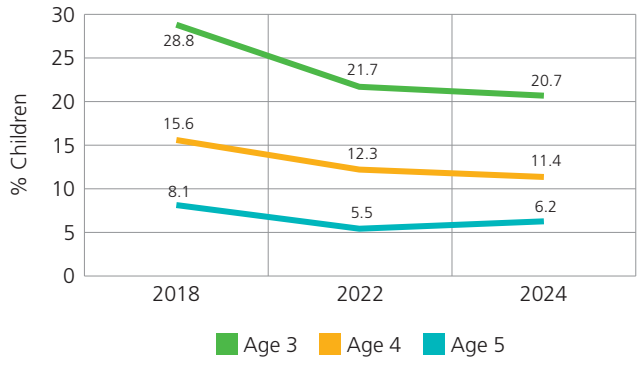
Table 1: % Children enrolled in different types of pre-schools and schools. By age. 2022

Age	Pre-school			School			Not in pre-school or school	Total
	Anganwadi	Govt pre-primary	Pvt LKG/ UKG	Govt	Pvt	Other		
Age 3	66.8	1.3	7.7	1.9	0.6	0.1	21.7	100
Age 4	61.2	2.7	18.1	3.8	1.7	0.1	12.3	100
Age 5	35.3	3.4	23.4	24.6	7.3	0.4	5.5	100
Age 6	8.2	2.1	13.8	57.1	15.7	0.5	2.6	100
Age 7	1.4	0.6	6.2	68.3	21.7	0.5	1.3	100
Age 8	0.5	0.2	2.5	71.4	23.9	0.5	1.0	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	66.8	2.0	8.6	1.2	0.8	0.0	20.7	100
Age 4	57.7	3.3	22.4	2.9	2.2	0.2	11.4	100
Age 5	37.0	4.9	29.5	14.1	8.0	0.4	6.2	100
Age 6	10.7	4.1	19.0	42.9	19.3	0.6	3.3	100
Age 7	1.8	1.1	8.6	58.5	27.5	0.6	1.8	100
Age 8	0.5	0.2	3.2	64.1	30.2	0.7	1.1	100

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



Key takeaways

- **Increase in enrollment in pre-primary institutions at age 5:** At age 5, 71.4% of children are enrolled in pre-primary institutions. This is a significant increase from the figure of 62.2% in 2022 (Table 1 and 2).
- **Sharp decline in proportion of children not enrolled in preschool at age 3 since 2018:** The percentage of children aged 3 who are not enrolled anywhere has declined from 28.8% in 2018 to 20.7% in 2024 (Chart 1). These figures indicate progress towards 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 from 25.6% in 2018 to 16.7% in 2024 (Table 3). This suggests substantial efforts in ensuring appropriate age of entry into Std I.
- **While enrollment in government institutions remains high, enrollment in private institutions has increased:** While enrollment in government institutions remains high, enrollment in private institutions has increased slightly for most ages between 2022 and 2024. For example, at age 7, 27.5% of children were enrolled in private schools in 2024 as compared to 21.7% in 2022 (Table 1 and 2).

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

Year	All	Govt	Pvt
2018	25.6	28.5	20.5
2022	22.7	24.2	18.7
2024	16.7	17.7	15.0

*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.

Data is not presented where sample size is insufficient.

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
	62.8	37.2	100

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

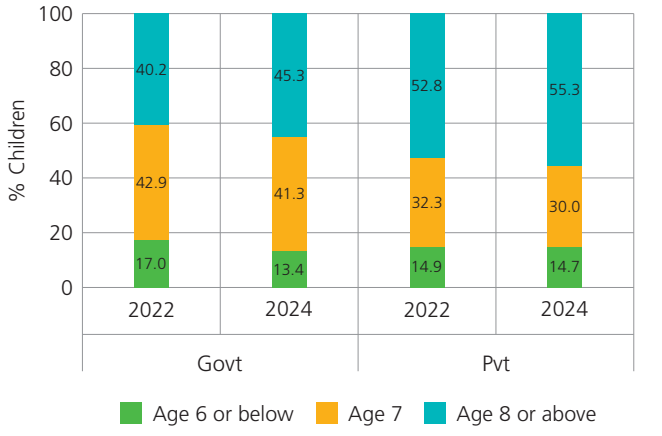


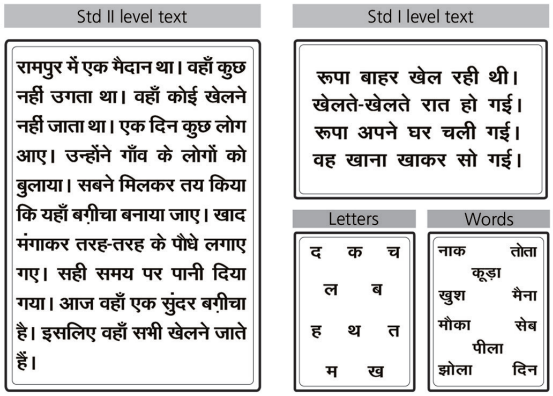
Table 6: Reading and arithmetic levels of children in Std II. By age and school type. 2022 and 2024

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	21.3	30.7	24.3	30.8
Age 7	35.7	42.6	39.2	43.7
Age 8 or above	41.6	50.4	44.2	51.7
All	35.7	44.6	38.7	45.7
Private schools				
Age 6 or below	38.3	41.7	49.0	49.1
Age 7	55.0	62.7	68.3	71.7
Age 8 or above	64.0	72.5	75.7	80.5
All	57.5	65.5	69.6	73.8

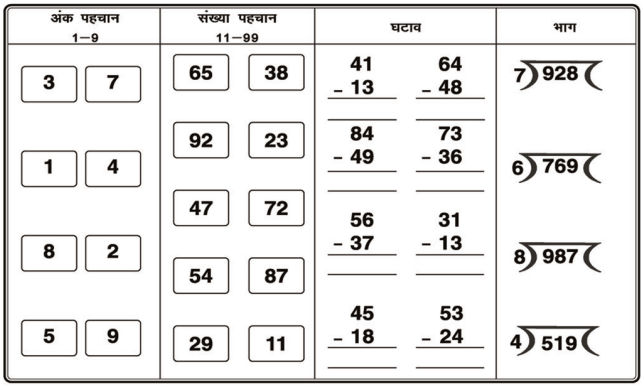
Key takeaways

- **Age matters for learning outcomes:** Across 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 6 or below who can at least read words is 30.7%, as compared to 42.6% of children aged 7 and 50.4% of children aged 8 or above (Table 6). This shows that age of entry and age composition are important structural features of early grades in schools.
- **Improvement in reading and arithmetic levels across government and private schools:** The overall proportion of children in both government and private schools who were able to at least read words and at least recognise numbers till 99 improved from 2022 to 2024. For example, in government schools, the percentage of children who can at least recognise numbers till 99 increased from 38.7% to 45.7% between 2022 and 2024 (Table 6).
- **Learning levels remain lower in government schools as compared to private schools:** While learning levels in both reading and arithmetic have increased in government schools, a significant gap remains in comparison to private schools. For example, in 2024, 44.6% of children could at least read words in government schools, as compared to 65.5% in private schools (Table 6).

Reading tool



Arithmetic tool



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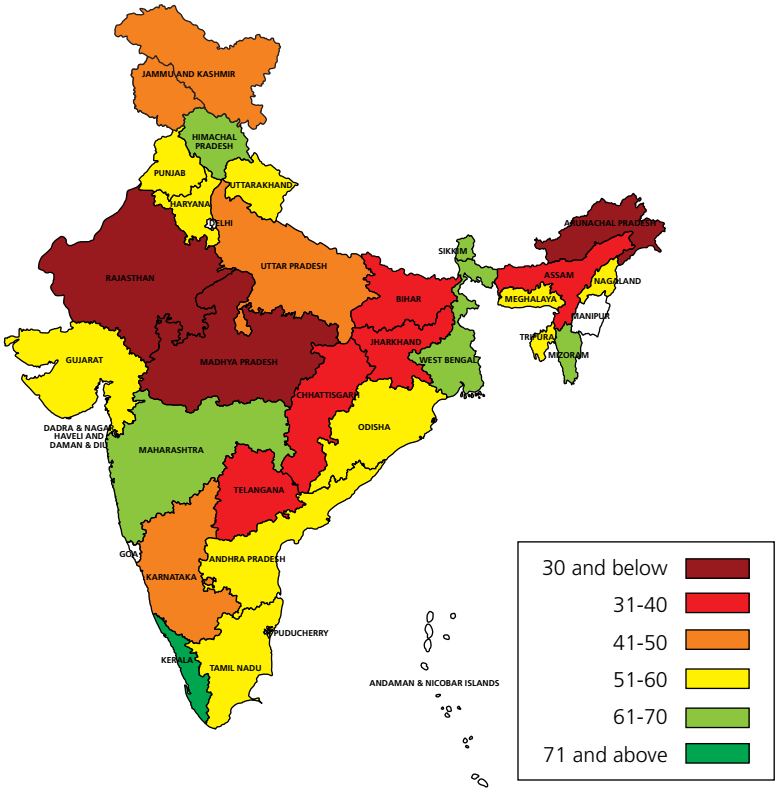
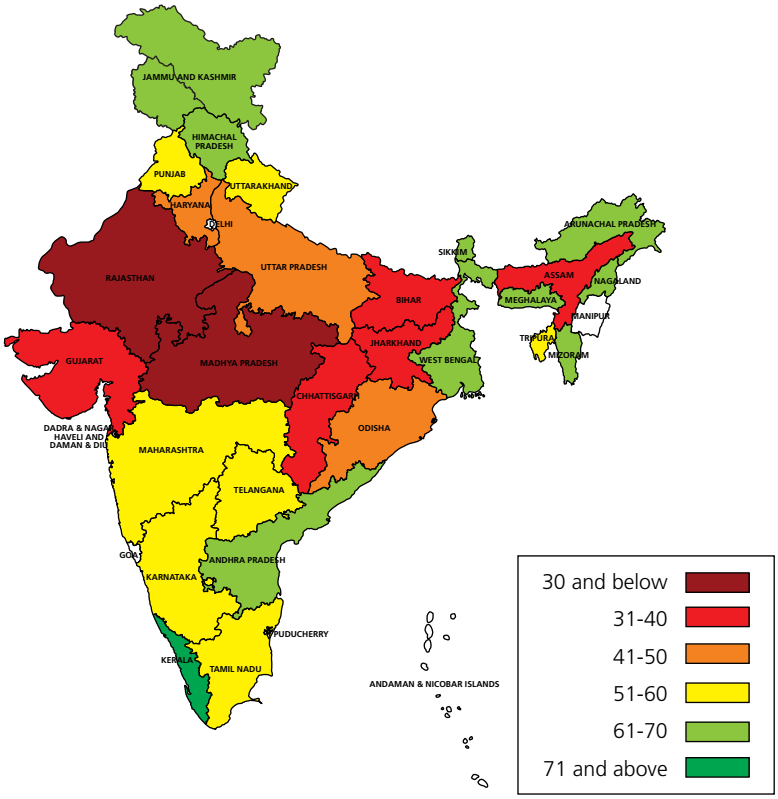
State-wise map showing % of government school children enrolled in Std II who can at least read words. 2024



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

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3. ASER 2024 was not conducted in Goa and Manipur.
4. Map may not be accurate or to scale. This is a mere representation.