

Analysis based on data from households. 14 out of 22 districts were surveyed in ASER 2018.

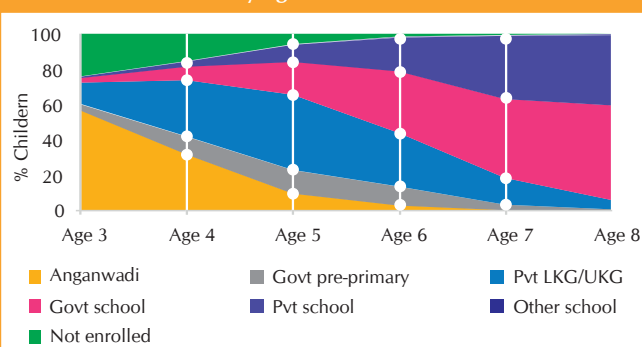
Early access to a supportive environment and exposure to developmentally appropriate activities can help children develop a solid foundation for future learning, both for school and for life. All major education policy and program documents in India now recognize this fact. However, recent ASER data 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	56.6	3.5	12.0	2.8	0.8	0.0	24.2	100
Age 4	31.8	10.1	31.6	7.9	2.9	0.1	15.5	100
Age 5	9.7	13.4	42.3	18.8	9.8	0.0	6.1	100
Age 6	2.9	10.8	30.2	34.9	19.3	0.3	1.8	100
Age 7	0.3	3.2	15.1	44.5	35.9	0.1	0.9	100
Age 8	0.4	0.5	5.3	53.3	39.9	0.4	0.3	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, 56.6% children are enrolled in anganwadis, 3.5% in government pre-primary classes, 12% in private LKG/UKG, 2.8% in government schools, and 0.8% in private schools. 'Other' includes children going to any other type of institution. 24.2% 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.

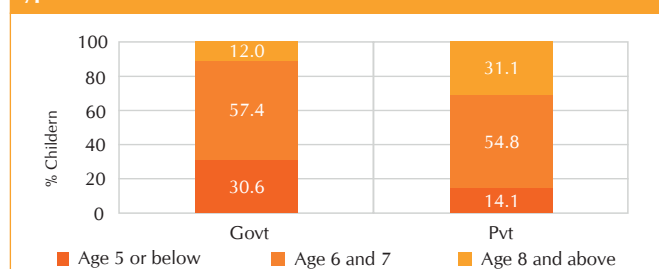
- **Many young children not enrolled anywhere:** In Jammu & Kashmir, about a quarter of all children age 3 and 15.5% children age 4 are not enrolled anywhere. (Table 1)
- **Different patterns in enrollment and type of institution at age 6:** Almost 14% are enrolled government pre-school institutions, 30.2% are in private pre-schools, 34.9% in government schools and almost 20% 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 enter Std I at an older age:** Children enrolled in private institutions tend to enter Std I later than those in government institutions. For example, 30.6% of children in Std I in government schools are 5 years or younger, whereas this figure is 16.5 percentage points lower in private schools (14.1%). However, grade expectations are the same for all children regardless of age. (Chart 2)
- **Age makes a difference:** Comparing across age groups in Std I in the same type of school, it is clear that older children are able to do more. For example, among children in Std I in government schools, 57.5% of 5 year olds can recognize at least single digit numbers, as compared to 74.1% of 6-7 year olds. (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
	53.5	46.5	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	62.3	57.5
Age 6 and 7	71.1	74.1
Age 8 and above	89.4	85.1
All	71.6	72.0
Private schools		
Age 5	Data insufficient	
Age 6 and 7	94.6	95.1
Age 8 and above	97.6	99.6
All	93.4	95.4

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	51.3	48.1	-3.2
Age 5	38.9	45.4	6.5
Age 6	48.5	48.7	0.3
Age 7	42.6	53.1	10.5
Age 8	48.9	59.9	11.0

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

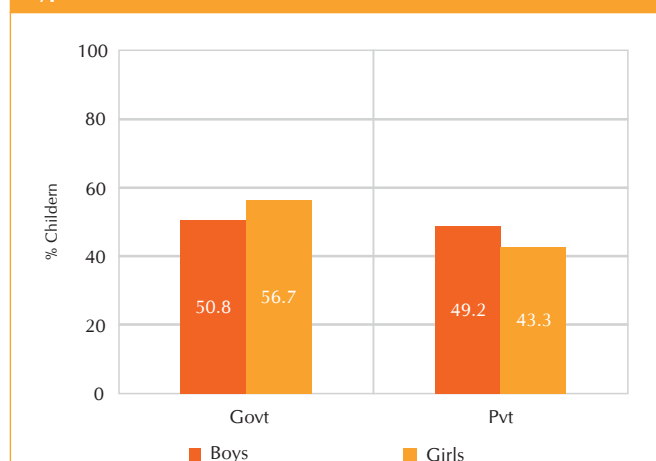


Key takeaways:

- **Sex-wise differences in enrollment are visible at age 7 and 8:** At age 7, 42.6% of boys are in government pre-schools/schools as compared to 53.1% of girls. This percentage point difference increases to 11 at age 8 where almost 49% of boys are in government institutions as compared to about 60% of girls. (Table 4)
- **Higher percentage of girls are in Std I in government schools as compared to boys:** Of the total number of boys enrolled in Std I, roughly half go to government schools while the other half go to private schools. This distribution is not so even in the case of girls where 56.7% of girls are in government schools as compared to only 43.3% in private schools. (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, 50.8% of boys are enrolled in government schools and 49.2% of boys are enrolled in private schools. Of all girls enrolled in Std I, 56.7% of girls are enrolled in government schools and 43.3% 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	73.0	69.1	75.8	72.3
Age 8 and above	Data insufficient			
All	69.3	74.1	71.4	72.5
Private schools				
Age 5	Data insufficient			
Age 6 and 7	95.2	93.9	96.1	93.9
Age 8 and above	Data insufficient			
All	94.4	92.3	97.2	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. The data shows patterns by age and sex.