Young Children: Enrollment and Learning Status – Jharkhand

Analysis based on data from households. 24 out of 24 districts were surveyed in ASER 2018.
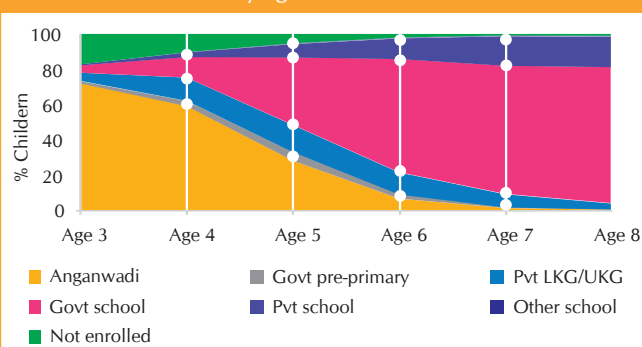
Early access to a supportive environment and exposure to developmentally appropriate activities can help children develop a solid foundation for future learning, both for school and for life. All major education policy and program documents in India now recognize this fact. However, recent ASER data 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	72.0	1.3	4.5	4.2	0.7	0.0	17.3	100
Age 4	59.1	3.0	13.0	11.7	2.7	0.1	10.4	100
Age 5	28.2	5.0	15.2	38.1	7.7	0.3	5.5	100
Age 6	6.7	2.6	12.4	63.9	11.8	0.3	2.3	100
Age 7	1.4	0.7	7.4	72.4	16.8	0.3	1.1	100
Age 8	0.5	0.4	3.4	76.8	17.3	0.4	1.3	100

Chart 1: % Children enrolled in different types of pre-schools and schools by age 2018

Legend: Anganwadi, Govt pre-primary, Pvt LKG/UKG, Govt school, Pvt school, Other school, Not enrolled

This table shows the proportion of children enrolled in different types of pre-schools and schools by age. For example, at age 3, 72% children are enrolled in anganwadis, 1.3% in government pre-primary classes, 4.5% in private LKG/UKG, 4.2% in government schools, and 0.7% in private schools. 'Other' includes children going to any other type of institution. 17.3% 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.
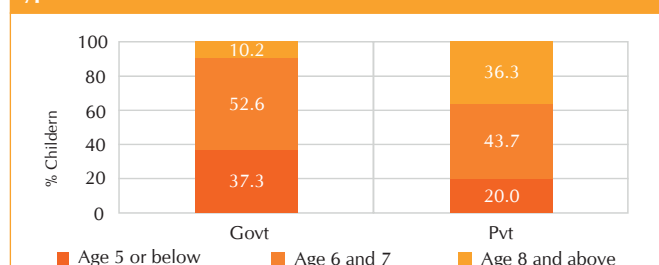
- **High enrollment in government institutions:** At younger ages, a significant proportion of children are enrolled in anganwadis (72% at age 3). From age 6 to 8, majority of children are enrolled in government schools. At age 5, most children are already enrolled in some kind of educational institution (94.5%). Overall, in Std I, well over 75% children are enrolled in government schools. (Table 1 and Table 2)

- **Private school children enter Std I at an older age:** Children enrolled in private schools are older when they enter Std I as compared to those in government schools. For example, 37.3% of children in Std I in government schools are 5 years or younger, whereas this figure is 17.3 percentage points lower in private schools (20%). However, grade expectations are the same for all children regardless of age. (Chart 2)

- **Age makes a difference:** Comparing children in Std I in same type of school by age, it is clear that older children are able to do more. For example, among children in Std I in government schools, 28.7% of 5 year olds can read at least letters, as compared to 37.9% of 6-7 year olds and 42.8% children age 8 and above. (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
	76.8	23.2	100

Chart 2: % Children enrolled in Std I by age and school type 2018

Govt: Age 5 or below 37.3, Age 6 and 7 52.6, Age 8 and above 10.2
Pvt: Age 5 or below 20.0, Age 6 and 7 43.7, Age 8 and above 36.3

Legend: Age 5 or below, Age 6 and 7, Age 8 and above

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	28.7	34.6
Age 6 and 7	37.9	47.4
Age 8 and above	42.8	55.9
All	35.7	44.6
Private schools		
Age 5	52.8	64.4
Age 6 and 7	85.0	88.0
Age 8 and above	90.5	94.4
All	82.5	87.1

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

Data is not presented where sample size is insufficient.

Young Children: Enrollment and Learning Status by Sex – Jharkhand

Analysis based on data from households. 24 out of 24 districts were surveyed in ASER 2018.

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	72.0	75.3	3.3
Age 5	70.0	72.4	2.4
Age 6	72.1	74.7	2.7
Age 7	69.9	78.9	9.1
Age 8	74.7	80.8	6.1

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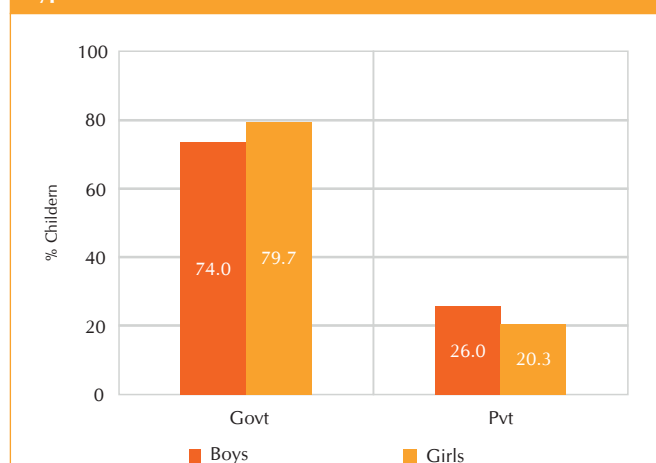
Key takeaways:

- **More girls enrolled in government pre-schools and schools:** At every age between 4 and 8, more girls are enrolled in government institutions than boys. For the age group 6 to 8 years, the data suggest that the sex-wise difference is increasing with age. (Table 4)

- **Among Std I children in government schools, similar learning levels of boys and girls:** At age 5, girls perform slightly better than boys in terms of their ability to read letters and numbers but age 6 onwards, the learning levels for both become similar. For age 8 and above, 42.3% of girls can read at least letters in comparison to 43.7% of boys of the same age. (Table 5)

- **In Std I in private schools, learning levels of girls and boys are similar:** Less than a quarter of all children are enrolled in private schools in Jharkhand. Learning levels of boys and girls are similar. (Table 2 and 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

Govt: Boys 74.0, Girls 79.7
Pvt: Boys 26.0, Girls 20.3
(% Children, legend: Boys, Girls)

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, 74% of boys are enrolled in government schools and 26% of boys are enrolled in private schools. Of all girls enrolled in Std I, 79.7% of girls are enrolled in government schools and 20.3% 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	27.1	31.6	33.8	36.4
Age 6 and 7	37.0	38.4	49.9	44.3
Age 8 and above	43.7	42.3	56.1	56.2
All	34.8	36.8	45.8	43.3
Private schools				
Age 5	Data insufficient			
Age 6 and 7	85.9	83.5	89.3	86.2
Age 8 and above	90.7	90.1	93.7	95.6
All	82.8	81.7	86.7	87.4

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

Data is not presented where sample size is insufficient.