

Young Children: Enrollment and Learning Status – Karnataka

Analysis based on data from households. 30 out of 30 districts were surveyed in ASER 2018.

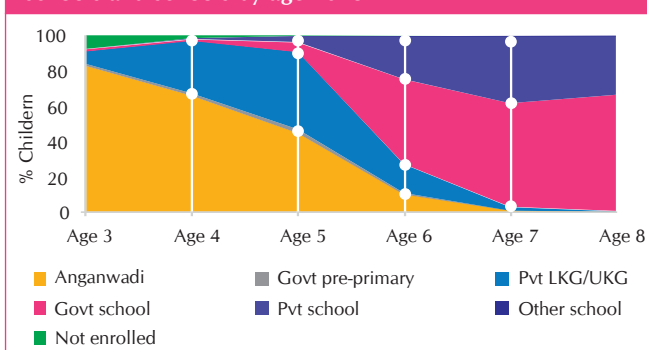
Early access to a supportive environment and exposure to developmentally appropriate activities can help children develop a solid foundation for future learning, both for school and for life. All major education policy and program documents in India now recognize this fact. However, recent ASER data 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	82.6	1.2	7.2	1.3	0.0	0.0	7.8	100
Age 4	65.7	1.4	29.9	0.8	0.5	0.0	1.8	100
Age 5	44.6	2.2	43.7	5.5	3.4	0.1	0.6	100
Age 6	10.0	0.9	16.2	48.0	24.3	0.3	0.3	100
Age 7	0.8	0.1	2.0	58.8	37.8	0.4	0.2	100
Age 8	0.2	0.0	0.2	65.9	33.1	0.4	0.1	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, 82.6% children are enrolled in anganwadis, 1.2% in government pre-primary classes, 7.2% in private LKG/UKG, 1.3% in government schools, and 0% in private schools. 'Other' includes children going to any other type of institution. 7.8% 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.

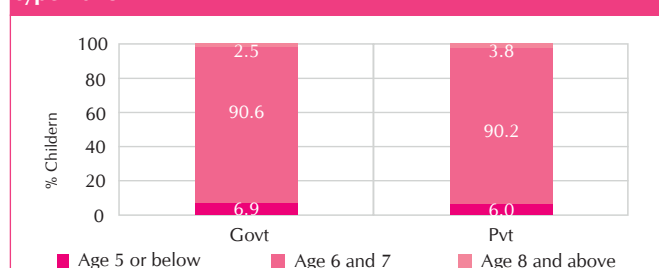
- **High enrollment in pre-school age group:** Even at age 3, in Karnataka, close to 90% children are enrolled in some type of pre-school (82.6% in anganwadis and 7.2% in private pre-school). At age 5, pre-school enrollment remains high at well over 80% but by this age about half of all pre-school children are attending private pre-schools. (Table 1)
- **Children enter school at age 6:** At age 5, less than 10% children are enrolled in school. But by age 6, three quarters of all children are going to school. There are very few children who are either overage or underage for Std I. The age distributions for Std I are similar in government schools and private schools. (Table 1 and Chart 2)
- **Age makes a difference in government schools:** Even though there is very little variation by age within Std I, it is clear that being older does have an advantage. For example, among children in Std I in government schools, 64.7% of 6 and 7 year olds can recognize at least single digit numbers, as compared to 50.1% of children 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
	65.2	34.8	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	43.3	50.1
Age 6 and 7	54.4	64.7
Age 8 and above	Data insufficient	
All	54.4	64.5
Private schools		
Age 5	Data insufficient	
Age 6 and 7	69.9	81.7
Age 8 and above	Data insufficient	
All	69.4	80.7

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	67.3	68.5	1.2
Age 5	51.1	53.6	2.6
Age 6	53.9	64.4	10.5
Age 7	54.2	65.1	10.9
Age 8	63.1	68.9	5.8

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



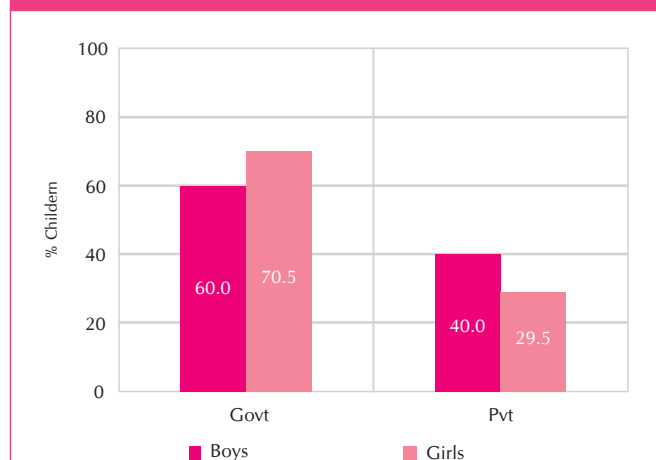
Key takeaways:

- Sex-wise difference in enrollment for all age groups:** Girls' enrollment in government institutions is higher than that of boys for all age groups from age 4 to 8. However, the sex-wise difference is larger for older ages. For example, at age 4, 67.3% boys are enrolled in government pre-schools/schools as compared to 68.5% girls. At age 8, 63.1% boys are enrolled in government pre-schools/schools as compared to 68.9% of girls. (Table 4)

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, 60% of boys are enrolled in government schools and 40% of boys are enrolled in private schools. Of all girls enrolled in Std I, 70.5% of girls are enrolled in government schools and 29.5% 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	54.1	54.7	65.4	64.2
Age 8 and above		Data insufficient		
All	54.4	54.4	65.4	63.8
Private schools				
Age 5		Data insufficient		
Age 6 and 7	67.7	72.9	82.0	81.2
Age 8 and above		Data insufficient		
All	66.8	72.8	80.5	81.0

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.