

# Young Children: Enrollment and Learning Status – Rajasthan

Analysis based on data from households. 33 out of 33 districts were surveyed in ASER 2018.

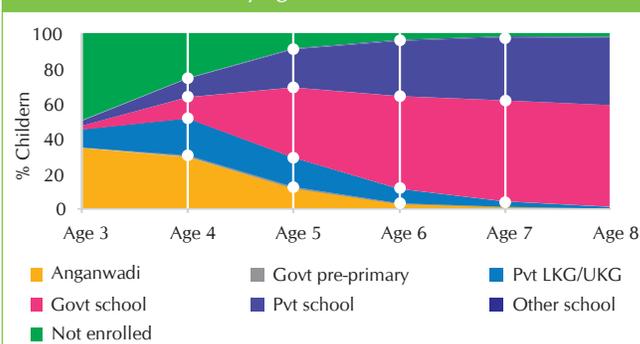
Early access to a supportive environment and exposure to developmentally appropriate activities can help children develop a solid foundation for future learning, both for school and for life. All major education policy and program documents in India now recognize this fact. However, recent ASER data 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	34.5	0.4	10.3	2.3	2.8	0.2	49.5	100
Age 4	29.4	1.1	21.0	12.2	10.5	0.2	25.7	100
Age 5	11.6	1.0	16.7	39.9	21.6	0.4	8.9	100
Age 6	2.8	0.5	8.2	52.7	31.2	0.5	4.1	100
Age 7	1.0	0.3	3.1	57.4	35.7	0.4	2.1	100
Age 8	0.3	0.0	1.0	57.9	38.0	0.7	2.2	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, 34.5% children are enrolled in anganwadis, 0.4% in government pre-primary classes, 10.3% in private LKG/UKG, 2.3% in government schools, and 2.8% in private schools. 'Other' includes children going to any other type of institution. 49.5% 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 proportion of young children not enrolled anywhere:** Half of all children at age 3 and a quarter of children at age 4 are not enrolled in any kind of pre-schools or schools. At age 5, 61.9% of children attend primary school. This means that when children eventually enter Std I, a considerable proportion do not have the skills expected from them due to lack of exposure to developmentally appropriate pre-school inputs. (Table 1)
- **Many young children in Std I:** In both government schools and private schools, close to half of all children in Std I are 5 or younger. 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 do better. For example, among children in Std I in government schools, 20% of 5 year olds can read at least letters, as compared to 25.5% of 6 and 7 year olds and 35% of children age 8 and above. (Table 3)
- **Private school children are doing better across age groups:** Comparing children in Std I in government and private schools, children in private schools seem to do better. For example, at age 5, 24.8% of children in government schools can recognize at least numbers, while 43.6% of children in private schools can. This trend continues across ages. (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
		62.7	37.3

**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	20.0	24.8
Age 6 and 7	25.5	36.0
Age 8 and above	35.0	47.0
All	24.0	32.2
Private schools		
Age 5	39.7	43.6
Age 6 and 7	63.5	69.2
Age 8 and above	73.7	81.2
All	56.6	62.0

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

## 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	39.6	46.5	7.0
Age 5	50.4	54.6	4.1
Age 6	51.1	61.4	10.3
Age 7	54.3	63.6	9.3
Age 8	52.4	64.9	12.5

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



### Key takeaways:

- **Sex-wise differences in enrollment by type of school for all age groups:** For all age groups, a higher proportion of girls are enrolled in government pre-schools and schools as compared to boys. The sex-wise difference is greater for older age groups (ages 6, 7 and 8) as compared to younger children (ages 4 and 5). Of all boys enrolled in Std I, 59.5% go to government schools. For girls, the comparable figure is 66.2%. (Table 4 and Chart 3)
- **For Std I children in government schools, sex-wise difference in learning levels for younger age groups is low:** In government schools, girls and boys start off with similar learning levels. For example, 19.9% of boys and 19.8% of girls at age 5 can read at least letters.
- **In private schools, girls in Std I do better than boys in terms of learning:** In Std I in private schools, learning levels of girls are higher than that of boys in terms of their ability to read letters and numbers. For example, of all 6-7 year old children, 68.1% of girls can read at least letters as compared to 60.6% of 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, 59.5% of boys are enrolled in government schools and 40.5% of boys are enrolled in private schools. Of all girls enrolled in Std I, 66.2% of girls are enrolled in government schools and 33.8% 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	19.9	19.8	25.5	23.3
Age 6 and 7	25.2	25.3	39.6	31.7
Age 8 and above	Data insufficient			
All	23.9	23.3	34.4	28.9
Private schools				
Age 5	37.0	43.1	44.0	43.1
Age 6 and 7	60.6	68.1	66.7	73.5
Age 8 and above	69.5		79.6	
All	54.1	60.1	61.1	63.3

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.