

Young Children: Enrollment and Learning Status – Tamil Nadu

Analysis based on data from households. 31 out of 31 districts were surveyed in ASER 2018.

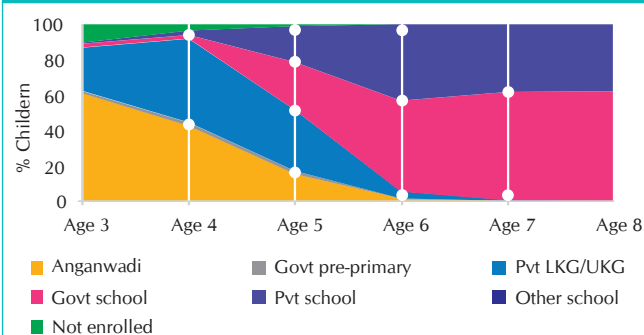
Early access to a supportive environment and exposure to developmentally appropriate activities can help children develop a solid foundation for future learning, both for school and for life. All major education policy and program documents in India now recognize this fact. However, recent ASER data 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	61.1	1.2	24.4	2.1	0.6	0.0	10.6	100
Age 4	42.6	1.9	47.2	1.9	2.5	0.0	3.8	100
Age 5	15.3	1.8	34.5	27.0	20.2	0.0	1.3	100
Age 6	1.4	0.1	4.1	51.3	42.9	0.1	0.2	100
Age 7	0.1	0.1	0.6	61.0	38.2	0.1	0.1	100
Age 8	0.2	0.0	0.3	61.6	37.8	0.1	0.0	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, 61.1% children are enrolled in anganwadis, 1.2% in government pre-primary classes, 24.4% in private LKG/UKG, 2.1% in government schools, and 0.6% in private schools. 'Other' includes children going to any other type of institution. 10.6% 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.

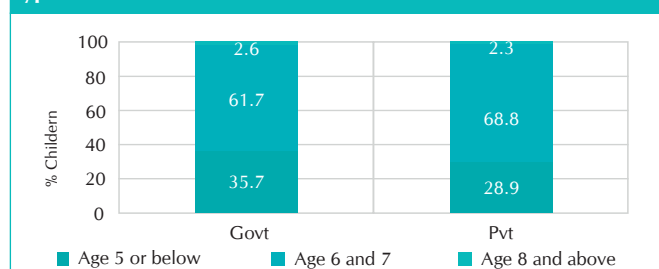
- High enrollment in pre-school age:** At age 3 and 4, well over 80% are already enrolled in some kind of pre-school. However, by age 5 close to half of all children are enrolled in school rather than in pre-school. (Table 1)
- Enrollment in private institutions is high:** At age 4 and 5, approximately half of all children are enrolled either in private pre-schools or in private schools. Even at older ages (age 6, 7 and 8), close to 40% of all children in each age group are enrolled in private schools. Data indicates that in Std I, 46.1% are enrolled in private school. (Table 1 and 2)
- Age makes a difference:** Among children in Std I in government schools, 42.2% of 5 year olds can read at least letters, as compared to 57.6% of 6 and 7 year olds. (Table 3)
- Children in Std I in private schools do better than those in government schools:** Between children in private and government schools in Std I, those in private schools do better than those in government schools. For example, 85.3% children aged 6 and 7 in private schools can recognize at least numbers (1-9); the corresponding number for government schools is 69.4%. (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
	54.0	46.1	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	42.2	50.5
Age 6 and 7	57.6	69.4
Age 8 and above	Data insufficient	
All	53.6	64.0
Private schools		
Age 5	56.4	75.2
Age 6 and 7	67.8	85.3
Age 8 and above	Data insufficient	
All	65.1	82.6

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

Young Children: Enrollment and Learning Status by Sex – Tamil Nadu

Analysis based on data from households. 31 out of 31 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	40.9	51.6	10.7
Age 5	40.5	47.9	7.4
Age 6	49.3	56.5	7.3
Age 7	58.7	63.6	4.9
Age 8	58.1	65.6	7.6

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



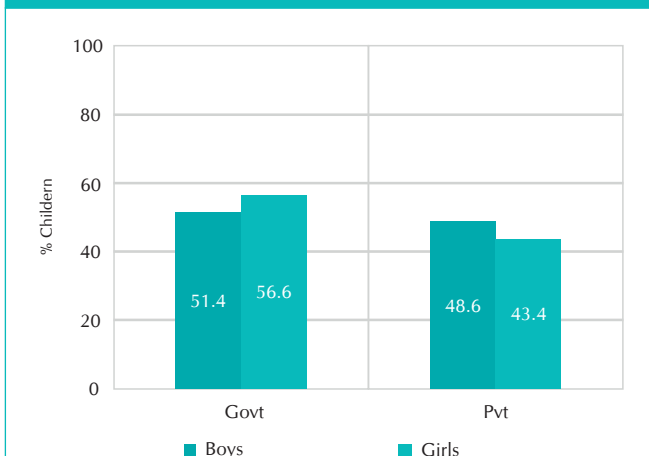
Key takeaways:

- **Sex-wise difference in enrollment:** In the age group 4 to 8 years, more girls are enrolled in government institutions (anganwadis and government schools) as compared to boys. Of all boys enrolled in Std I, 51.4% go to government schools. The comparable figure for girls is 56.6%. (Table 4 and Chart 3)
- **In Std I in government schools, learning levels for boys higher than girls while reverse holds true in private schools:** Boys perform better than girls in terms of their ability to read at least letters and recognize at least single digit numbers from age 5 to 7. This trend changes in case of private schools where girls perform better than 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, 51.4% of boys are enrolled in government schools and 48.6% of boys are enrolled in private schools. Of all girls enrolled in Std I, 56.6% of girls are enrolled in government schools and 43.4% 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	51.2	33.2	55.1	45.9
Age 6 and 7	61.5	53.8	72.3	66.7
Age 8 and above	Data insufficient			
All	59.0	48.2	67.3	60.8
Private schools				
Age 5	52.9	60.3	72.8	77.9
Age 6 and 7	65.8	70.2	83.3	87.7
Age 8 and above	Data insufficient			
All	62.7	68.0	80.5	85.1

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