

Young Children: Enrollment and Learning Status – Uttar Pradesh

Analysis based on data from households. 70 out of 71 districts were surveyed in ASER 2018.

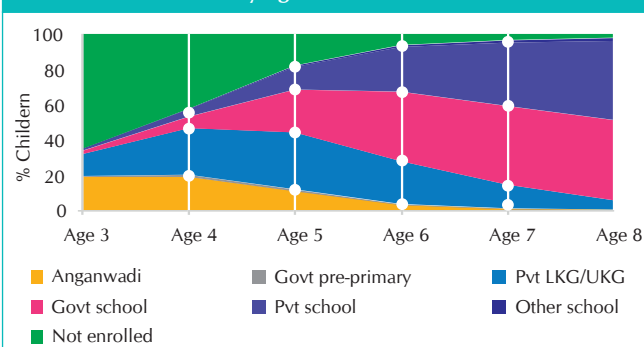
Early access to a supportive environment and exposure to developmentally appropriate activities can help children develop a solid foundation for future learning, both for school and for life. All major education policy and program documents in India now recognize this fact. However, recent ASER data 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	19.2	0.4	12.5	1.9	1.2	0.2	64.7	100
Age 4	19.2	1.2	26.4	6.5	4.1	0.4	42.3	100
Age 5	11.1	1.0	32.2	24.3	12.8	0.6	18.0	100
Age 6	3.3	0.4	24.2	39.4	25.3	0.9	6.4	100
Age 7	1.0	0.3	13.4	44.6	35.9	1.2	3.6	100
Age 8	0.4	0.2	5.3	45.5	44.8	1.6	2.3	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, 19.2% children are enrolled in anganwadis, 0.4% in government pre-primary classes, 12.5% in private LKG/UKG, 1.9% in government schools, and 1.2% in private schools. 'Other' includes children going to any other type of institution. 64.7% 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.

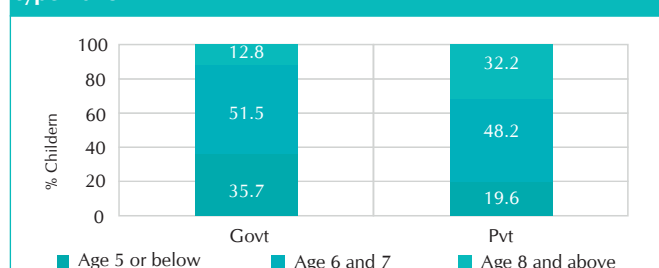
- Enrollment increases considerably with age:** At age 3, a significant proportion of children (64.7%) are not enrolled in any kind of educational institution. At age 4, 46.8% of children are enrolled in some kind of pre-school. At age 5, the pre-school enrollment is at 44.3% while 37.7% are enrolled in some kind of school. By age 8, 91.9% of children go to school. (Table 1)
- Private school children enter school at an older age:** Children enrolled in private schools are older when they enter Std I as compared to children in government schools. For example, 35.7% of children in Std I in government schools are 5 years or younger, whereas this figure is 16 percentage points lower in private schools (19.6%). However, grade expectations are the same for all children regardless of age. (Chart 2)
- Age makes a difference:** Comparing children in Std I in the 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, 34.2% of 6 and 7 year olds can read at least letters, as compared to 46.3% of those who are 8 and above. (Table 3)
- Private school learning levels in Std I higher than that in government schools:** The learning levels of children in all age groups in Std I in private schools are higher than those in government schools. For example, 51.8% of 5 year olds in private schools can read at least letters as compared to 26.4% in government schools. (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
	50.2	49.8	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	26.4	33.4
Age 6 and 7	34.2	45.0
Age 8 and above	46.3	59.7
All	33.5	43.4
Private schools		
Age 5	51.8	58.6
Age 6 and 7	74.8	80.2
Age 8 and above	80.9	89.1
All	73.2	79.7

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	23.0	31.0	7.9
Age 5	33.5	39.9	6.4
Age 6	40.5	46.2	5.6
Age 7	42.7	49.6	6.9
Age 8	42.3	50.5	8.3

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

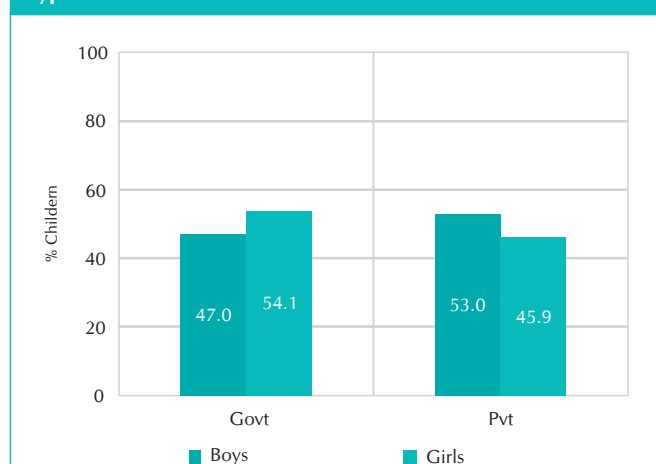


Key takeaways:

- **Higher proportion of girls in government schools than boys:** In all age groups, a higher proportion of girls are enrolled in government institutions (anganwadis or pre-primary or primary grades in government schools) as compared to boys of the same age. For example, at age 4, 23% of boys are enrolled in government schools/pre-schools, as compared to 31% of girls. We see similar differences based on sex in enrollment even at age 8 with 42.3% of boys enrolled in government schools, as compared to 50.5% of girls. (Table 4)
- **In Std I in government schools, difference in learning levels between boys and girls increases with age:** Learning levels are almost similar for girls and boys at age 5. From age 6 onwards, boys perform significantly better than girls in terms of their ability to recognize numbers or read letters. At age 8 and above, 51.1% of boys can read at least letters as compared to 40.2% of girls. (Table 5)
- **In private schools, similar learning levels for girls and boys in Std I:** Learning levels are similar for boys and girls for all age groups in Std I in terms of their ability to read letters and recognize numbers. Overall learning levels for both boys and girls in private schools are significantly better than that in government schools for all age groups. (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, 47% of boys are enrolled in government schools and 53% of boys are enrolled in private schools. Of all girls enrolled in Std I, 54.1% of girls are enrolled in government schools and 45.9% 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	25.9	26.8	34.1	32.8
Age 6 and 7	35.1	33.2	48.8	40.8
Age 8 and above	51.1	40.2	66.2	51.4
All	34.7	32.1	47.0	39.6
Private schools				
Age 5	52.5	50.7	57.5	60.3
Age 6 and 7	74.0	75.8	80.9	79.3
Age 8 and above	80.4	81.7	89.2	88.9
All	72.6	74.2	79.8	79.6

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