

West Bengal RURAL

ANALYSIS BASED ON DATA FROM HOUSEHOLD SURVEY. 18 OUT OF 18 DISTRICTS\*
Data is not presented where sample size is insufficient.

Enrollment trends: Children aged 3-8 (Foundational Stage)

Exposure to developmentally appropriate activities from a young age and growing up in a supportive learning environment helps children develop strong foundations for learning. Major education policy documents in India now recognise these facts. ASER 2024 data for the "foundational stage" (age 3-8) is helpful in understanding the current status of schooling and learning so that evidence can inform actions for ensuring that children enter school at the right age and are ready for formal schooling.

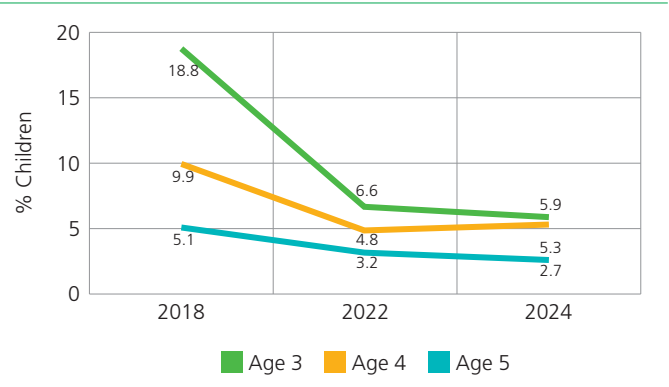
Table 1: % Children enrolled in different types of pre-schools and schools. By age. 2022

Table with 9 columns: Age, Pre-school (Anganwadi, Govt pre-primary, Pvt LKG/UKG), School (Govt, Pvt, Other), Not in pre-school or school, Total. Rows for Age 3 to Age 8.

Table 2: % Children enrolled in different types of pre-schools and schools. By age. 2024

Table with 9 columns: Age, Pre-school (Anganwadi, Govt pre-primary, Pvt LKG/UKG), School (Govt, Pvt, Other), Not in pre-school or school, Total. Rows for Age 3 to Age 8.

Chart 1: % Children age 3-5 not enrolled anywhere. 2018, 2022, 2024



Key takeaways

- High enrollment in anganwadi for children aged 3 to 4 years: In 2024, the percentage of 3-year-old and 4-year-old children enrolled in anganwadis is 89.4% and 77.1% respectively (Table 2). This data needs to be kept in mind while planning for this age group.
- Sharp decline in proportion of children not enrolled in preschool at age 3 since 2018: The percentage of children aged 3 who are not enrolled anywhere has declined from 18.8% in 2018 to 5.9% in 2024 (Chart 1). These figures indicate progress towards universal pre-primary coverage.
- Decrease in 'underage' enrollment in Std I: The percentage of children who are 'underage' (age 5 or below) enrolled in Std I in government and private schools has decreased from 15.9% in 2018 to 6.5% in 2024 (Table 3). This suggests substantial efforts in ensuring appropriate age of entry into Std I.

Table 3: % Children aged 5 or below enrolled in Std I. By school type. 2018, 2022, 2024

Table with 4 columns: Year, All, Govt, Pvt. Rows for 2018, 2022, 2024.



\*The number of districts in the state is based on Census 2011, which has been used as the sampling frame for ASER surveys since 2016.

Table 4: Performance of states: % Children not enrolled anywhere by age and % children in Std I who are "underage" (age 5 or below). 2018, 2022, 2024

State	% Children not enrolled anywhere. By age. 2018, 2022, 2024									% Children who are "underage" (age 5 or below) enrolled in Std I. By school type. 2018, 2022, 2024								
	Age 3			Age 4			Age 5			Govt			Pvt			Govt & Pvt		
	2018	2022	2024	2018	2022	2024	2018	2022	2024	2018	2022	2024	2018	2022	2024	2018	2022	2024
	18.2	9.2	1.6	4.2	1.6	0.5	2.0	0.5	0.1	27.5	15.6	12.4	16.9	16.8	12.3	22.6	16.1	12.3
Andhra Pradesh	39.7	35.7	28.8	18.2	21.8	18.4	6.8	10.9	11.9	37.0	30.6	23.9	19.0	19.8	17.8	30.9	27.4	21.3
Arunachal Pradesh	21.4	13.3	8.8	10.7	5.3	2.6	4.3	2.5	2.0	28.2	21.8	20.0	18.9	11.0	10.6	25.6	18.6	16.9
Assam	33.3	23.0	23.1	17.8	12.9	14.6	11.5	7.0	8.8	31.2	26.5	23.1	15.2	12.0	10.3	27.1	23.2	19.4
Bihar	14.5	11.4	8.8	7.6	6.0	3.6	5.0	4.7	2.7	16.6	12.4	9.5	18.1	15.4	15.1	17.1	13.1	11.0
Chhattisgarh	4.9	17.2	4.7	2.5	8.2	2.5	2.7	2.5	1.3	15.8	37.6	3.5	24.2	15.8	4.6	16.8	36.4	3.7
Gujarat	22.4	12.3	14.4	10.7	6.6	9.8	4.4	3.3	4.3	53.9	49.2	32.0	32.8	28.7	19.1	40.3	38.0	24.2
Haryana	6.6	17.7	10.2	3.1	5.4	3.8	1.7	2.1	1.3	38.3	43.4	21.5	28.2	33.0	9.1	33.2	39.6	13.7
Himachal Pradesh	24.2	14.4	11.9	15.5	6.9	5.5	6.1	1.6	2.6	30.6	20.5	18.7	14.1	14.5	6.8	22.9	17.9	13.4
Jammu and Kashmir	17.3	23.0	12.3	10.4	11.5	8.5	5.5	6.2	5.3	37.3	25.2	26.5	20.0	11.0	12.4	33.2	22.6	22.7
Jharkhand	7.8	5.7	7.1	1.8	0.9	1.6	0.6	0.1	0.7	6.9	3.4	2.9	6.0	3.0	4.4	6.6	3.3	3.4
Karnataka	15.0	29.7	18.8	3.9	6.9	3.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	15.8	14.7	10.4	4.7	8.2	3.5	9.9	12.2	6.1
Kerala	13.7	9.6	7.5	8.4	7.5	4.3	6.7	4.1	2.9	39.3	33.5	23.7	30.8	29.8	22.6	36.3	32.3	23.3
Madhya Pradesh	8.7	4.0	3.7	2.7	1.0	1.1	1.5	1.2	0.5	7.4	5.0	3.7	9.3	7.2	4.9	7.8	5.4	4.0
Maharashtra	65.4	43.4	60.0	26.4	25.3	27.0	8.9	5.2	9.0	10.9	10.0	9.7	10.2	8.5	6.7	10.5	9.3	7.9
Meghalaya	0.0	2.3	8.1	0.4	1.4	3.1	0.3	1.4	1.3	24.4	24.1	20.1	21.5	10.7	4.8	23.4	19.7	13.4
Mizoram	59.9	46.6	37.0	18.6	7.1	9.9	3.9	1.2	1.9	11.8	6.5	6.1	7.8	6.4	3.7	10.1	6.4	4.8
Nagaland	6.3	2.1	3.4	1.1	1.0	0.8	0.9	0.5	0.7	20.6	11.5	7.9	21.0	11.2	13.6	20.6	11.4	9.0
Odisha	22.1	21.7	10.1	4.2	5.1	1.3	1.8	1.2	0.3	46.4	29.7	33.3	15.2	9.2	9.8	25.9	19.7	21.1
Punjab	49.5	30.4	35.2	25.7	19.1	19.6	8.9	6.8	8.1	49.4	49.7	40.3	40.9	43.1	36.7	46.2	47.4	38.5
Rajasthan	0.7	3.3	6.0	0.3	0.0	0.7	0.8	0.0	1.1	24.9	29.0	18.3	15.9	9.2	12.0	19.8	20.9	15.5
Sikkim	10.6	2.5	3.4	3.8	0.8	1.0	1.3	0.4	0.6	35.7	34.1	33.2	28.9	32.4	27.6	32.6	33.5	30.6
Tamil Nadu	13.5	4.4	3.3	2.5	1.2	0.5	0.4	1.0	0.0	33.8	26.8	31.5	12.1	11.6	11.2	21.7	20.8	20.6
Telangana	10.6	3.3	3.7	3.5	0.8	2.9	0.3	0.6	0.0	3.0	1.9	4.4	8.6	3.0	6.1	4.1	2.2	5.1
Tripura	64.7	51.9	52.1	42.3	33.0	30.0	18.0	11.9	14.9	35.7	27.1	19.7	19.6	16.6	13.1	27.7	23.4	16.3
Uttar Pradesh	23.4	20.3	18.9	9.4	9.8	5.4	4.3	2.9	2.7	39.7	26.2	18.8	18.0	18.1	16.5	28.0	22.3	17.7
Uttarakhand	18.8	6.6	5.9	9.9	4.8	5.3	5.1	3.2	2.7	15.5	12.3	6.3	18.3	14.6	7.6	15.9	12.5	6.5
West Bengal	28.8	21.7	20.7	15.6	12.3	11.4	8.1	5.5	6.2	28.5	24.2	17.7	20.5	18.7	15.0	25.6	22.7	16.7
All India																		

1. Andhra Pradesh was bifurcated into Telangana and Andhra Pradesh in 2014. As a result, the sample frames of Census 2011 do not have the new state divisions. Of the 22 districts in undivided Andhra Pradesh, 9 rural districts are located in Telangana and the remaining 13 districts are located in Andhra Pradesh. ASER estimates for the two states are based on this separation of districts.

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3. ASER 2024 was not conducted in Goa and Manipur.

Foundational learning in Std II

Achieving Foundational Literacy and Numeracy (FLN) in primary school is a national priority (NEP 2020). The policy states that every student will attain foundational literacy and numeracy by Std III. The tables below describe reading and arithmetic levels in Std II. Why should we focus on Std II? At the time of testing for ASER 2024, children would have completed about half of their academic year in Std II. Therefore, it is important to track children’s progress and understand how far they have come in their journey of meeting FLN goals.

Table 5: % Children enrolled in Std II. By school type. 2024

% Children in Std II enrolled in	Govt	Pvt	Total
	84.4	15.6	100

Chart 2: % Children enrolled in Std II. By age and school type. 2022 and 2024

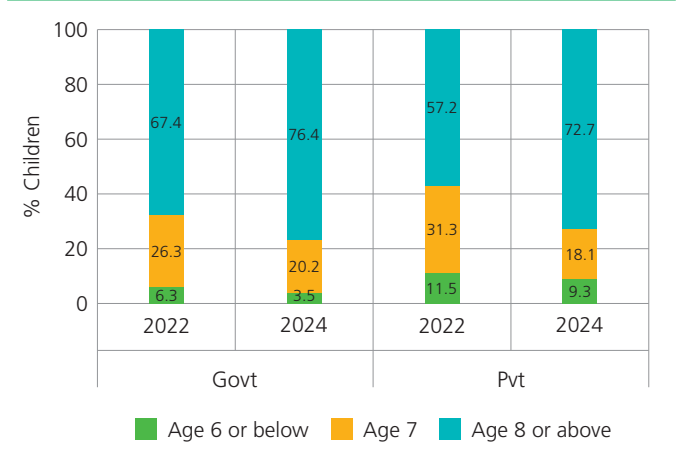


Table 6: Reading and arithmetic levels of children in Std II. By age and school type. 2022 and 2024

Age	% Children who can read at least words		% Children who can recognise at least 2-digit numbers (11-99)	
	2022	2024	2022	2024
Government schools				
Age 6 or below	DATA INSUFFICIENT			
Age 7	52.6	56.4	48.4	48.9
Age 8 or above	68.6	71.6	61.8	66.5
All	62.6	67.2	56.7	61.6
Private schools				
Age 6 or below	DATA INSUFFICIENT			
Age 7				
Age 8 or above		93.3		92.0
All	88.1	89.5	79.4	85.6

Key takeaways

- Majority of Std II students are in government schools:** In 2024, 84.4% of children in Std II were enrolled in government schools, while only 15.6% attended private schools (Table 5).
- Improvement in reading and arithmetic levels across government and private schools:** The overall proportion of children in both government and private schools who were able to at least read words and at least recognise numbers till 99 improved from 2022 to 2024. For example, in government schools, the percentage of children who can at least recognise numbers till 99 increased from 56.7% to 61.6% between 2022 and 2024 (Table 6).
- Learning levels remain lower in government schools as compared to private schools:** While learning levels in both reading and arithmetic have increased in government schools, a significant gap remains in comparison to private schools. For example, in 2024, 67.2% of children could at least read words in government schools, as compared to 89.5% in private schools (Table 6).

Reading tool

Std II level text

খড়িয়া গ্রামে একটা বড়ো খেলার মাঠ আছে। রোজ বিকেলে ছেলে মেয়েরা খেলতে আসে। কেউ ফুটবল খেলে, কেউ দৌড়াদৌড়ি করে। মাঝে মাঝে খেলার আয়োজন হয় বড়ো করে। তখন সবাই মাঠের ধারে আলো লাগায়। রেফারি থাকেন বাঁশি নিয়ে। মাঠের চারধারে কতলোক জড়ো হয়। লোকে খেলা দেখে, হাততালি দেয়। যে দল খেলায় জেতে, তাদের নিয়ে সবাই হই-চই করে। শেষে মিষ্টি খাওয়া হয়।

Std I level text

রাজা দাদা খুব ভালো খেলে।  
ও রোজ খুব ভোরে ওঠে।  
ব্যাট বল নিয়ে মাঠে যায়।  
তারপর ফিরে দাদা পড়তে বসে।

Letters

হ চ ট  
ল ন  
ফ ম র  
স ত

Words

ভুল আতা  
ভোজ  
রাগী পূজা  
আলো মাসি  
লোভ  
বেল নৌকা

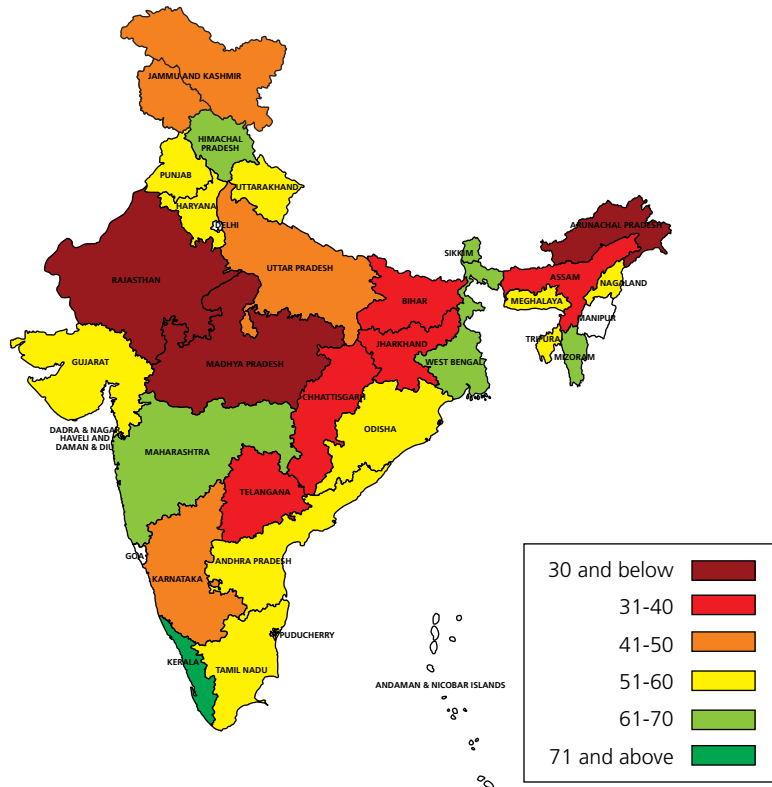
Arithmetic tool

সংখ্যা পরিচয় ১-৯	সংখ্যা পরিচয় ১১-৯৯	বিয়োগ	ভাগ
২ ৭	৭৬ ৫৮	৭৪ ৬৩ - ৫৭ - ২৭	৮)৯৯৩(
৫ ৩	৪৮ ৯৯	৪৭ ৮৪ - ২৯ - ৩৫	৬)৭৫৮(
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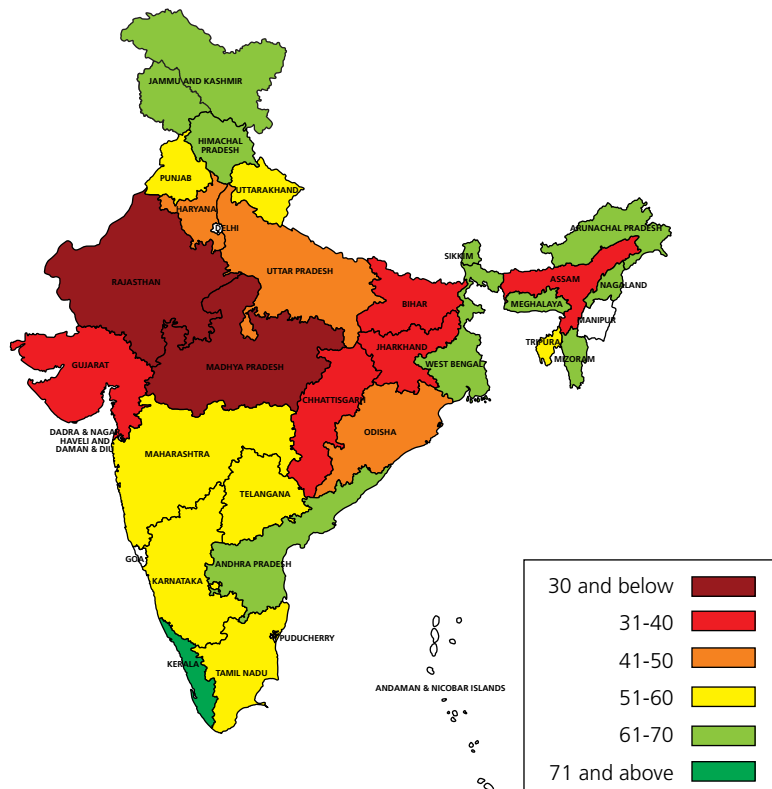
State-wise map showing % of government school children enrolled in Std II who can at least read words. 2024



State-wise table showing % of government school children enrolled in Std II who can at least read words and can at least recognise numbers till 99. 2018, 2022, 2024

State	% Children who can at least read words			% Children who can at least recognise numbers till 99		
	2018	2022	2024	2018	2022	2024
Andhra Pradesh	59.7	38.9	52.9	65.9	53.5	66.2
Arunachal Pradesh	31.8	34.0	29.3	69.7	75.9	70.0
Assam	48.0	35.0	39.6	42.2	31.0	37.5
Bihar	22.6	23.5	30.6	27.1	33.5	40.1
Chhattisgarh	32.2	29.8	36.2	30.6	33.3	35.7
Gujarat	61.4	45.7	55.1	39.2	34.3	36.3
Haryana	49.9	46.8	56.5	44.7	49.8	48.7
Himachal Pradesh	68.4	48.0	66.8	63.5	59.6	64.4
Jammu & Kashmir	43.2	46.0	46.2	54.7	62.8	63.0
Jharkhand	23.7	24.2	33.9	24.8	30.1	39.6
Karnataka	49.8	43.9	50.2	58.1	53.1	59.0
Kerala	82.3	65.8	72.8	89.8	77.3	86.5
Madhya Pradesh	17.8	15.6	25.7	16.4	20.2	24.7
Maharashtra	63.8	57.6	66.6	46.0	45.7	54.5
Meghalaya	46.0	47.3	59.5	73.7	71.6	70.7
Mizoram	71.4	58.9	65.7	76.5	80.0	85.6
Nagaland	60.6	61.4	60.0	74.7	75.9	86.3
Odisha	55.1	49.9	52.6	46.8	45.6	50.2
Punjab	60.2	48.2	57.3	57.6	50.2	57.2
Rajasthan	20.4	16.1	21.4	19.0	17.5	19.9
Sikkim	69.3	51.0	70.0	75.3	74.7	82.2
Tamil Nadu	57.7	41.8	51.8	57.8	48.2	56.5
Telangana	47.9	36.6	36.8	61.4	60.6	52.6
Tripura	55.2	49.2	53.6	48.8	59.6	55.6
Uttar Pradesh	21.7	27.2	44.4	22.5	31.9	41.8
Uttarakhand	53.2	32.9	52.4	41.5	31.8	52.7
West Bengal	66.2	62.6	67.3	56.2	56.7	61.6
<b>All India</b>	<b>39.7</b>	<b>35.7</b>	<b>44.6</b>	<b>37.5</b>	<b>38.7</b>	<b>45.7</b>

State-wise map showing % of government school children enrolled in Std II who can at least recognise numbers till 99. 2024



1. Andhra Pradesh was bifurcated into Telangana and Andhra Pradesh in 2014. As a result, the sample frames of Census 2011 do not have the new state divisions. Of the 22 districts in undivided Andhra Pradesh, 9 rural districts are located in Telangana and the remaining 13 districts are located in Andhra Pradesh. ASER estimates for the two states are based on this separation of districts.
2. Estimates for the Union Territories of Ladakh and Jammu and Kashmir have been presented in a combined form for comparability with ASER estimates of previous years.
3. ASER 2024 was not conducted in Goa and Manipur.
4. Map may not be accurate or to scale. This is a mere representation.