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Pratham Resource Center



Is every child in school and learning?

**RAPID ASSESSMENT OF LEARNING OUTCOMES
ALL INDIA: JUNE – AUGUST 2004¹**

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BACKGROUND:

The Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan document of the Government of India declares that by 2003, all 6-14 year olds must be in school. By 2007, every 10 year-old should have completed 4 years of schooling.

How far have we come in achieving these goals? If children are in school, are they learning? In the last few months, with the help of various collaborators, Pratham Resource Center has carried out a set of simple, rapid assessments in rural communities in 18 states across India.

The “dipstick” style survey includes basic indicators about the “status of schooling” (i.e. whether children are in school or not) and “status of learning” (i.e. can children read simple text, do basic arithmetic operations, write a simple dictated sentence). In its simplest form, this assessment is the first step towards a “Education Report Card” for the community, block, district or state.

Since the baseline dipsticks were done between June and August – monsoon months, districts were chosen keeping accessibility in mind. In all states, at least one district was selected. (In some states, depending on resources, weather and time, more than one district was included). In each district, two blocks were randomly selected. Within each block, five villages were randomly chosen. In each village, approximately 50 children between the ages of 7 and 14 were surveyed and tested.

¹ This is the first draft of the Rapid Assessment exercise and is based on preliminary analysis. We are grateful for the support provided by CEF and NOVIB through the Pratham Resource Center.

In all states, Pratham teams took the lead in the data collection effort. In addition, many individuals and agencies also joined hands in this exercise: SKS in Andhra Pradesh, Jana Sanskriti and Shanirbhar in West Bengal, students of Ravenshaw College in Cuttack, students of Catholic Youth Movement in Kerala, students of Indian Institute of Rural Management, Jaipur, staff of McKinsey and Co in Gurgaon, staff of SSA-Assam in Guwahati, Aid India and Vidyarambham in Tamil Nadu, anganwadi teachers in Punjab.

We are also very grateful to people especially children in villages where there was complete cooperation, enthusiasm and support from children, local youth and families during surveys and testing.

Children in the age group 7 to 14 were the focus. Children were asked simple questions about whether they are in school, what kind of school. If they are not in school, when did they leave school. At the same time, children were also asked to read simple text, write a dictated easy sentence and do basic arithmetic problems.

Q. WHO WAS SURVEYED?

Table 1: DESCRIPTION OF CHILDREN TESTED: ALL INDIA

State	District	Total Children Tested	Number of children : Age 7 to 10		Number of children : Age 11 to 14		Percentage of children : Age 7 to 14 in:		
			Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls	Govt. School	Private School	Out of School
Andhra Pradesh	Medak, Vizianagaram	820	218	213	174	215	69%	13%	18%
Assam	Kamrup	431	158	114	89	70	84%	11%	6%
Bihar	Patna, Vaishali	1028	265	249	249	265	63%	18%	20%
Chattisgarh	Durg	382	94	85	104	99	96%	1%	3%
Gujarat	Baroda, Rajkot, Banaskantha	1440	419	417	340	264	86%	5%	9%
Haryana	Gurgaon, Sonapat	810	242	195	202	171	47%	40%	12%
Himachal Pradesh	Hamirpur	451	117	121	105	108	71%	22%	7%
Jharkhand	Hazaribagh	461	130	125	98	108	80%	8%	12%
Karnataka	Mandya, Kolar	1230	282	285	311	352	81%	15%	4%
Kerala	Kottayam	642	152	160	214	116	38%	61%	1%
Madhya Pradesh	Baitul, Vidisha	926	268	257	256	145	87%	8%	5%
Orissa	Cuttack	508	137	153	122	96	81%	6%	13%
Punjab	Bhatinda	500	139	154	114	93	83%	15%	2%
Rajasthan	Jaipur, Ajmer, Jodhpur	1433	394	362	359	318	63%	22%	15%
Tamil Nadu	Nagapattinam	497	113	135	146	103	76%	24%	0%
Uttar Pradesh	Allahabad, Lucknow	1605	441	457	328	379	60%	24%	16%
West Bengal	North 24, Parganas	450	140	99	115	96	87%	6%	7%
All India		13614	3709	3581	3326	2998	72%	18%	10%

Source: Pratham Rapid Assessments (rural): June-August 2004

In each district, two blocks were randomly chosen. Within each block, five villages were randomly chosen. In each village, 50 children were tested. Therefore for each district, approximately 500 children were tested. Depending on the weather, resources and time, in some states more than one district was covered.

Jammu-Kashmir, Uttaranchal and the North-eastern states were not included in this study due to logistical considerations. A separate rapid assessment exercise has been recently done in all districts of Maharashtra. Those figures are not included here.

Q. WHO IS OUT OF SCHOOL?

Table 2: AGE GROUP: 7 TO 10

Percentage of children out of school and percentage of children attending government schools: Age group 7 to 10.

State	District	Total Children Surveyed Age: 7 to 10:		Percentage of age group in Government schools		Percentage of age group out of school	
		Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls
Andhra Pradesh	Medak, Vizianagaram	218	213	74%	80%	5%	7%
Assam	Kamrup	158	114	91%	92%	1%	1%
Bihar	Patna, Vaishali	265	249	60%	61%	12%	24%
Chattisgarh	Durg	94	85	96%	99%	2%	1%
Gujarat	Baroda, Rajkot, Banaskantha	419	417	88%	92%	9%	7%
Haryana	Gurgaon, Sonapat	242	195	42%	53%	7%	13%
Himachal Pradesh	Hamirpur	117	121	70%	61%	4%	12%
Jharkhand	Hazaribagh	130	125	79%	84%	8%	11%
Karnataka	Mandya, Kolar	282	285	81%	81%	1%	4%
Kerala	Kottayam	152	160	38%	42%	0%	1%
Madhya Pradesh	Baitul, Vidisha	268	257	92%	90%	3%	4%
Orissa	Cuttack	137	153	88%	80%	8%	10%
Punjab	Bhatinda	139	154	75%	82%	1%	4%
Rajasthan	Jaipur, Ajmer, Jodhpur	394	362	60%	64%	10%	17%
Tamil Nadu	Nagapattinam	113	135	78%	84%	0%	0%
Uttar Pradesh	Allahabad, Lucknow	441	457	67%	70%	10%	12%
West Bengal	North 24, Parganas	140	99	88%	90%	6%	1%
All India		3709	3581	73%	76%	6%	9%

Table 3: AGE GROUP: 11 TO 14

Percentage of children out of school and percentage of children attending government schools: Age group 11 to 14.

State	District	Total Children Surveyed Age: 11 to 14:		Percentage of age group in Government schools		Percentage of age group out of school	
		Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls
Andhra Pradesh	Medak, Vizianagaram	174	215	57%	63%	29%	33%
Assam	Kamrup	89	70	73%	69%	9%	19%
Bihar	Patna, Vaishali	249	265	67%	63%	13%	29%
Chattisgarh	Durg	104	99	96%	93%	3%	6%
Gujarat	Baroda, Rajkot, Banaskantha	340	264	83%	78%	4%	17%
Haryana	Gurgaon, Sonapat	202	171	48%	47%	7%	25%
Himachal Pradesh	Hamirpur	105	108	75%	79%	3%	7%
Jharkhand	Hazaribagh	98	108	84%	74%	9%	19%
Karnataka	Mandya, Kolar	311	352	81%	80%	5%	5%
Kerala	Kottayam	214	116	39%	31%	0%	1%
Madhya Pradesh	Baitul, Vidisha	256	145	84%	77%	4%	12%
Orissa	Cuttack	122	96	82%	73%	15%	21%
Punjab	Bhatinda	114	93	86%	95%	1%	1%
Rajasthan	Jaipur, Ajmer, Jodhpur	359	318	67%	60%	10%	24%
Tamil Nadu	Nagapattinam	146	103	69%	75%	0%	0%
Uttar Pradesh	Allahabad, Lucknow	328	379	53%	46%	13%	31%
West Bengal	North 24, Parganas	115	96	87%	82%	11%	8%
All India		3326	2998	70%	67%	8%	18%

Q. CAN CHILDREN READ SIMPLE TEXT?

If a child can only read alphabets but not read words or paragraphs, he/she is categorized as a non-reader or "cannot read".

Table 4. PERCENTAGE OF CHILDREN WHO CANNOT READ BY AGE

Note: In some districts, the number of children attending private schools is

State	District	Total tested Ages: 7 to 10	Percentage of children who cannot read words. Ages:7 to 10		Total tested Ages: 11 to 14	Percentage of children who cannot read words. Ages: 11 to 14	
			Govt.	Private.		Govt.	Private.
Andhra Pradesh	Medak, Vizianagaram	431	42%	19%	389	10%	9%
Assam	Kamrup	272	24%	48%	159	8%	40%
Bihar	Patna, Vaishali	514	61%	43%	514	23%	14%
Chattisgarh	Durg	179	43%		203	5%	
Gujarat	Baroda, Rajkot, Banaskantha	836	33%	11%	604	11%	0%
Haryana	Gurgaon, Sonapat	437	46%	15%	373	5%	3%
Himachal Pradesh	Hamirpur	238	24%	13%	213	2%	5%
Jharkhand	Hazaribagh	255	49%		206	17%	
Karnataka	Mandya, Kolar	567	30%	13%	663	9%	1%
Kerala	Kottayam	312	4%	6%	330	2%	2%
Madhya Pradesh	Baitul, Vidisha	525	79%	41%	401	31%	9%
Orissa	Cuttack	290	28%		218	9%	
Punjab	Bhatinda	293	51%	36%	207	13%	5%
Rajasthan	Jaipur, Ajmer, Jodhpur	756	47%	27%	677	9%	6%
Tamil Nadu	Nagapattinam	248	32%	20%	249	8%	6%
Uttar Pradesh	Allahabad, Lucknow	898	79%	44%	707	32%	16%
West Bengal	North 24, Parganas	239	18%		211	5%	
All India		7290	45%	24%	6324	13%	7%

very small, those cells are blank.

Q. CAN CHILDREN WRITE?

Children were asked to write a simple dictated sentence. If the child was able to write the sentence with no more than two simple spelling mistakes, he/she was categorized as "can write". If not, the child was categorized as "cannot write".

Table 5. PERCENTAGE OF CHILDREN WHO CANNOT WRITE BY AGE

State	District	Total tested Ages: 7 to 10	Percentage of children who cannot write a dictated sentence. Ages: 7 to 10		Total tested Ages: 11 to 14	Percentage of children who cannot write a dictated sentence. Ages: 11 to 14	
			Govt.	Private.		Govt.	Private.
Andhra Pradesh	Medak, Vizianagaram	431	67%	38%	389	25%	15%
Assam	Kamrup	272	28%	43%	159	14%	48%
Bihar	Patna, Vaishali	514	78%	62%	514	41%	31%
Chattisgarh	Durg	179	57%		203	10%	
Gujarat	Baroda, Rajkot, Banaskantha	836	48%	21%	604	19%	9%
Haryana	Gurgaon, Sonapat	437	57%	25%	373	10%	4%
Himachal Pradesh	Hamirpur	238	33%	19%	213	5%	11%
Jharkhand	Hazaribagh	255	64%		206	37%	
Karnataka	Mandya, Kolar	567	54%	40%	663	23%	18%
Kerala	Kottayam	312	10%	17%	330	2%	4%
Madhya Pradesh	Baitul, Vidisha	525	88%	59%	401	41%	16%
Orissa	Cuttack	290	36%		218	21%	
Punjab	Bhatinda	293	71%	55%	207	25%	16%
Rajasthan	Jaipur, Ajmer, Jodhpur	756	67%	48%	677	23%	10%
Tamil Nadu	Nagapattinam	248	48%	33%	249	11%	15%
Uttar Pradesh	Allahabad, Lucknow	898	86%	56%	707	51%	20%
West Bengal	North 24, Parganas	239	27%		211	11%	
All India		7290	60%	39%	6324	25%	14%

Q. CAN CHILDREN DO SIMPLE ARITHMETIC TASKS?

Children were given a set of simple arithmetic tasks. These included recognizing numbers between 1 and 100, 2 digit subtraction problems with borrowing and division problems (dividing 3 digit by 1 digit numbers).

In most states children are expected to do subtraction with borrowing problems by Std 2-Std 3.

Children who could not do these subtraction problems correctly are categorized here as "cannot do subtraction".

Table 6. PERCENTAGE OF CHILDREN WHO CANNOT DO SUBTRACTION

State	District	Total tested Ages: 7 to 10	Percentage of children who cannot do subtraction problems. Ages: 7 to 10		Total tested Ages: 11 to 14	Percentage of children who cannot do subtraction problems. Ages: 11 to 14	
			Govt.	Private.		Govt.	Private.
Andhra Pradesh	Medak, Vizianagaram	431	64%	43%	389	29%	24%
Assam	Kamrup	272	62%	81%	159	35%	60%
Bihar	Patna, Vaishali	514	79%	70%	514	45%	43%
Chattisgarh	Durg	179	78%		203	25%	
Gujarat	Baroda, Rajkot, Banaskantha	836	81%	68%	604	49%	34%
Haryana	Gurgaon, Sonapat	437	64%	36%	373	21%	7%
Himachal Pradesh	Hamirpur	238	53%	31%	213	13%	13%
Jharkhand	Hazaribagh	255	78%		206	49%	
Karnataka	Mandya, Kolar	567	74%	57%	663	33%	18%
Kerala	Kottayam	312	38%	41%	330	9%	14%
Madhya Pradesh	Baitul, Vidisha	525	93%	72%	401	57%	18%
Orissa	Cuttack	290	58%		218	29%	
Punjab	Bhatinda	293	76%	66%	207	32%	21%
Rajasthan	Jaipur, Ajmer, Jodhpur	756	79%	58%	677	32%	13%
Tamil Nadu	Nagapattinam	248	61%	63%	249	20%	34%
Uttar Pradesh	Allahabad, Lucknow	898	95%	71%	707	66%	45%
West Bengal	North 24, Parganas	239	53%		211	22%	
	All India	7290	75%	54%	6324	37%	25%

Q. HOW WERE CHILDREN TESTED ?

Apart from their name, age and sex, children were asked a series of questions:

- ?? **Type of school:** Are you enrolled in school? If so, do you go to a government school or a private school?
- ?? **Out of school:** If you are not currently in school, had you ever been enrolled in school? If so in what standard did you drop out?
- ?? **Reading:** The reading test has 4 reading tasks: reading stories, easy paragraphs, words, and alphabets. The child is asked to do tasks based on the ease with which he is able to complete the previous task. For example: children are first shown the easy paragraph, if the child can read the four line paragraph without too much difficulty, he is shown the story. (The story is at the level of texts in the Std 2 language text book.) If the child can fluently read the story, then he/she is a "story level" child. If he cannot fluently read the story, he is categorized as a "paragraph" child. If the child cannot read the paragraph, he is shown a list of words. If the child can correctly read at least four out of five words, then he/she is a "word" level child. If words are difficult, the child is shown a list of alphabets. If he can recognize at least 4 out of 5 alphabets, he is a "letter level" child. If the child cannot even do the alphabet task, he is categorized as a "nothing" child. **Children who either cannot read alphabets or cannot read words are called "Non-readers" or children who cannot read.**
- ?? **Writing:** Children are asked to write a simple sentence that is dictated to them. If the child can write the sentence with no more than two simple spelling mistakes (e.g. matra mistakes) then he is categorized as a child "who can write". If not, he is categorized as a child who "cannot write." By Std 2 (or age 7) children are expected to be able to write simple sentences.
- ?? **Arithmetic:** The arithmetic test has 3 tasks: number recognition (20-100), 2 digit subtraction problems with borrowing and division problems (in which a 3 digit number has to be divided by a 1 digit number). Like in the reading test, the child starts in the middle. She is shown the subtraction problems. If she can do at least 2 subtraction problems correctly, she is asked to do the division problem. If she can correctly do the division problem, then she is categorized as a "division" level child. If she cannot do the division problem, then she is categorized as a "subtraction" level child. If the child cannot do the subtraction problem, she is shown a list of numbers. If she can correctly recognize 4 out of 5 numbers, then she is a "number" level child. If she cannot correctly recognize numbers then she is categorized as a "nothing" level child. By Std 2-Std 3, children are expected to be able to do 2 digit subtraction problems.