

India - Annual Status of Education Report

ASER Centre - Non-profit organization

Report generated on: Nov 12, 2015

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Overview

Identification

Summary

ABSTRACT

Since 2005, the Annual Status of Education Report (ASER) has been carried out annually across India. This household-based assessment is a nationwide innovative exercise of engaging citizens in evaluating and understanding basic learning outcomes in elementary education, to answer a simple question: are children learning?

Over the past 10 years, ASER has been the only annual source of information on children's learning in India. Traditionally, policy and practice in education were focused on inputs rather than outcomes. In the last ten years, the ASER exercise has contributed significantly to shifting this focus; issues related to children's learning outcomes have moved to the centre of discussions on education in India.

Facilitated by Pratham, a non-profit organization, ASER is conducted by a local organization in every rural district in the country, and uses volunteers to administer the test to children.

ASER uses simple tools one-on-one with children to assess basic reading and arithmetic levels. The instruments, administered orally only, are easy to administer and to understand. There are four samples of each assessment tool.

ASER's main purposes are:

- To obtain estimates of schooling status and basic learning levels of all children aged 5 to 16 years in rural India
- To engage citizens in evaluating and understanding basic learning levels
- To build awareness of poor learning levels and catalyze action at all levels.

KIND OF DATA

Random sample

UNITS OF ANALYSIS

Data is disaggregated by sex, age groups, geographic location (district, regions, and states) and type of schools.

Results are disseminated through a national report. ASER also organizes several dissemination campaigns at state and national levels. The national and state releases are widely covered by national and state media (in print, television and electronic media).

Scope

NOTES

ASER comprises a Reading in regional language test, a Reading in English test, and an Arithmetic test. The Reading and Arithmetic booklets are produced in 20 languages: Hindi, Telugu, Bengali, Marathi, Tamil, Urdu, Gujarati, Kannada, Malayalam, Oriya, Punjabi, Assamese, Manipuri, Nepali, Bodo, Garo, Khasi, Kokborok, Mizo and English.

The English test is not administered every year. It was administered in 2007, 2009, 2012 and 2014.

Both the Reading and Arithmetic test begin with a moderate difficulty-level task. The volunteer then takes the child to an easier or more difficult task depending on the child's performance in the first task. Hence, the level of tasks administered is adapted to match the child's ability. Each child attempts only two or three tasks for each assessment, making the assessment quicker to administer.

Description of stimuli: Test stimuli consist of letters, words, sentences, paragraphs and numbers.

Reporting metrics: Results are reported using the proficiency levels, describing the highest level achieved (the highest section of the test the child was able to perform). Results are reported separately for Reading and Arithmetic.

Coverage

GEOGRAPHIC COVERAGE
Rural districts across India

UNIVERSE
Children aged 5 to 16 years in rural India.

Producers and Sponsors

PRIMARY INVESTIGATOR(S)

Name	Affiliation
ASER Centre	Non-profit organization

OTHER PRODUCER(S)

Name	Affiliation	Role
ASER Centre		Test development; data processing and analysis; data dissemination
Pratham		Test development; data dissemination
ASER Centre state level teams		Test development; data dissemination
The William and Flora Hewlett Foundation		Funding
Pratham USA		Funding
Civil society		Test administration

Metadata Production

METADATA PRODUCED BY

Name	Abbreviation	Affiliation	Role
ASER Centre			Data collection
UNESCO Institute for Statistics	UIS	United Nations	Questionnaire design, metadata collection, review and publication

DDI DOCUMENT ID
IND-ASER-2015

Sampling

Sampling Procedure

ASER uses a two-stage clustering sampling design. The sampling frame is the 2001 Census Directory. Within each rural district of India, 30 villages are selected using probability proportional to size sampling method. In each selected village 20 households are randomly selected for a total of 600 households per district. This translates into around 900-1200 children per district.

Questionnaires

Overview

ASER comprises a household questionnaire which collects information about:

- the children's age and schooling status, the language spoken at home (in 2011 only), and the availability of reading materials at home;
- the parents' age and level of education;
- the household composition, the level of education of other household members, the household assets, and other specific indicators that may vary over time.

Data Collection

Data Collection Dates

Start	End	Cycle
2014-09	2014-11	Annual

Data Collection Mode

Face-to-face [f2f]

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Data Access

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Access Conditions

To access the data, please send a request to ASER Centre, B 4/54 Safdarjung Enclave, New Delhi 110 029, India;
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email: contact@asercentre.org;
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