

Pakistan - Annual Status of Education Report

Idara-e-Taleem-o-Aagahi - Non-profit organization

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Overview

Identification

Summary

ABSTRACT

The Annual Status of Education Report (ASER) is a large, citizen led, household based assessment aiming at providing reliable estimates on the learning levels of children aged 5 to 16 years residing in all rural and a few urban districts of Pakistan.

ASER was first administered in Pakistan with a pilot in 2008. Being primarily a rural survey, ASER started to progressively include a few urban centres. ASER has thus successively expanded from 84 districts in 2011 with initial sampling of 3 urban centres to 144 districts and 21 urban centers in 2014.

Unlike contemporary national assessments, ASER is being implemented through a participatory coalition approach that involves ordinary citizens in the process of data collection. Idara-e-Taleem-o-Aagahi (ITA) coordinates the initiative, while many local organizations provide volunteers and logistics. This builds capacities and ownership of local organizations, and empowers citizen with an accessible tool for evidence gathering and action. Volunteers administer the instruments to each eligible child in selected households, and also fill the household questionnaire. In addition to assessing children in households, volunteers also collect data on enrollment and attendance, funding, facilities and teachers' qualification in selected government and private schools.

The instrument is administered orally only. Two different samples have been developed for each test. During the test administration, the child holds the booklet so as to make him or her feel comfortable. The child is allowed to choose the words and paragraphs for reading at his or her convenience.

ASER Pakistan's main purposes are:

- To get reliable estimates of the status of children's schooling and basic learning
- To measure the progress in these basic learning and school statistics compared to that of the year before
- To make these results available to inform policy decisions at various levels.

KIND OF DATA

Random sample

UNITS OF ANALYSIS

Data is disaggregated by sex, age groups, type of schools, geographic location (urban and rural), and socio-economic status of the household.

Results are disseminated through a report available in print and online. ASER also arranges different dissemination activities such as Baithaks (village gatherings) for parents, children and community members; dialogues with teacher unions and government officials; provincial and district launches; and university seminars to share ASER Findings.

Scope

NOTES

The Annual Status of Education Report assesses Reading and Arithmetic skills, and also General knowledge of children. Two reading tests are administered: the first one in Urdu, Sindhi or Pashto; and the second one in English.

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

Reporting metrics: Results are reported using the percentage of children who can perform the defined tasks (percentage of

children who can read letters, words, sentences, story - percentage of children who can do number recognition, subtraction, division, etc.).

Coverage

GEOGRAPHIC COVERAGE

National

UNIVERSE

Children aged 5 to 16 years. Complete information on 3-4 years old is also collected while only 5 to 16 years old are tested.

Producers and Sponsors

PRIMARY INVESTIGATOR(S)

Name	Affiliation
Idara-e-Taleem-o-Aagahi	Non-profit organization

OTHER PRODUCER(S)

Name	Affiliation	Role
Idara-e-Taleem-o-Aagahi		Test development and administration; staff training; data processing and analysis; data reporting and dissemination
Department for International Development - UK		Funding
Foundation Open Society Institute		Funding
Oxford University experts		Data processing and analysis
Local consultants		Data reporting
Civil society		Test administration; data dissemination

Metadata Production

METADATA PRODUCED BY

Name	Abbreviation	Affiliation	Role
Annual Status of Education Report - Pakistan	ASER Pakistan		Data collection
UNESCO Institute for Statistics	UIS	United Nations	Questionnaire design, metadata collection, review and publication

DDI DOCUMENT ID

PAK-ASER-2015

Sampling

Sampling Procedure

Two separate samples were drawn: one in districts where only rural areas are surveyed (123 districts), and another in districts where rural areas and urban centres are surveyed (21 districts).

The sampling frame used to draw units in rural areas only is the 1998 Population Census. A two-stage sample design was adopted:

- In the first stage, 30 villages are selected. Every year, 20 villages from the previous year are retained and 10 new villages are added, using probability proportional to size. This gives a "rotating panel" of villages, which generates better estimates to assess changes.
- In the second stage, 20 households are sampled in each of the 30 selected villages. The village is divided into four parts. In each of the four parts, volunteers start from the central location and pick every 5th household on the left hand-side in a circular fashion until 5 households are selected from each part. This allows the selection of 600 households.

To avoid bias in the sampling frame, the sampling of 21 rural and urban districts was done by Pakistan Bureau of Statistics. This way, it was ensured that the boundaries of rural and urban areas do not overlap with each other and selected blocks/villages are different for the urban districts and same rural districts. The sampling frame used to draw units in the 21 districts where urban centres were also surveyed is the 2011 Economic Census and the housing listing for 2011 census. A stratified two-stage sample design was adopted. Each urban area was divided into block of 200-250 households, to form the Primary Sampling Units (PSU) for urban domain. Villages are PSUs for rural domain. Then, stratification for urban areas was performed based on the type of area (large city, other urban area), and larger cities were further stratified according to income (high, middle, low). In rural domain, each administrative district has been treated as independent and separate stratum.

- In the first stage, PSUs are selected using probability proportional to size method.
- In the second stage, 20 households are sampled in each selected PSUs using systematic sampling technique.

Questionnaires

Overview

ASER comprises a household questionnaire, which collects information on school enrolment, drop out reason, paid tuition, distance from school, parents education and household indicators such as type of household, electricity connection, etc to assess socio-economic background.

Along with households, one government school and one private school are also surveyed in each village. Two separate questionnaires capturing information on a range of indicators such as budgeting, teacher attendance, student attendance, facilities, teacher training, number of teachers, etc are used for government and private schools.

Data Collection

Data Collection Dates

Start	End	Cycle
2014-09-01	2014-10-30	Every year

Data Collection Mode

Face-to-face [f2f]

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Data Access

Contact(s)

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Sehar Saeed (ASER Pakistan)

Access Conditions

To access the data, please send a request to ASER Pakistan, <http://www.aserpakistan.org/>