Annual Status of Education Report (ASER) 2019

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NGO Pratham has **released Annual Status of Education Report (ASER) 2019**

What is it?

- **ASER is a nation-wide household survey that provides data on children's schooling and learning** for a representative **sample of children across rural India.**
- **Children in the age group 3 to 16 are surveyed** to find out their **enrollment status** in pre-school or school.
- **Children in the age group 5 to 16 are assessed one-on-one to understand their basic reading and arithmetic abilities.**
- **Since 2005, ASER continues to be the only annual source of information about children's foundational skills across the country.**

Aim of ASER-2019

In 2019, ASER aims **to shine the spotlight on the early years, reporting on the schooling status as well as on a range of important developmental indicators for young children in the age group 4 to 8** across 26 districts in the country

About ASER-2019 report

- **ASER 'Early Years' reports on the pre-schooling or schooling status of children in the age group 4 to 8** and, in addition, explores their performance on some **competencies** that international research has identified as important predictors of future success.
- **These competencies have been categorized into four domains:**

1. Cognitive development
2. Early language
3. Early numeracy and
4. Social and emotional development

Key findings of the report

- It directs **attention to children between four and eight years of age** and suggests that India's learning crisis could be linked to the weakness of the country's pre-primary system.
- As per the report, more than **20 per cent of students in Standard I are less than six,** ASER 2019 reveals — they should ideally be in pre-school.
- 36 per cent of students in Standard 1 are older than the RTE-mandated age of six.
- The survey shows that **among Class 1 children who could correctly do none or only one of the tasks requiring cognitive skills,** about 14% could read words, while 19% could do single-digit addition.
- However, of those children who could correctly do all three cognitive tasks, **52% could read words, and 63% could solve the additional problem.**
- ASER data shows that children's performance on tasks requiring cognitive skills is strongly related to their ability to do early language and numeracy tasks
- **Of six-year olds in Class 1, 41.5% of those in private schools could read words in comparison to only 19% from government schools.** Similarly, 28% of those in government schools could do simple addition as against 47% in private schools
- The report also found that a classroom could include students from a range of age-groups, skewing towards younger children in government schools. **More than a quarter of Class 1 students in government schools are only 4 or 5 years old, younger than the recommended age.** The ASER data shows that these younger children **struggle**

more than others in all skills. Permitting underage children into primary grades puts them at a learning disadvantage which is difficult to overcome

- The emphasis, as ASER 2019 **emphasizes, should be on "developing problem-solving faculties and building memory of children, and not content knowledge"**
- ASER 2019 talks about leveraging the existing network of Anganwadi centres to implement school readiness
- According to the report, **there is a need to expand and upgrade Anganwadis to ensure that children get adequate and correct educational inputs** of the kind that are not modeled after the formal school