

Annual Status of Education Report (ASER) Survey, 2021

November 19, 2021

In news- Pratham foundation has released the 16th Annual Status of Education Report (ASER) 2021 (Rural) recently.

Key highlights of the survey-

- **ASER reports on the schooling status of children in the 5-16 age group across rural India** and their ability to do basic reading and arithmetic tasks.
- The survey tries to **find out how children in the age group of 5-16 studied at home since the onset of the pandemic** and the challenges that the schools and households now face as schools reopen across states.
- As field-based surveys could not be conducted due to the Pandemic, **ASER 2021 has followed the format of a phone-based survey**, conducted in September-October 2021.
- **ASER 2021 focused on four main areas:** school enrollment patterns, incidence of tuition patterns, availability and access to smartphones, and learning materials and support for learning at home.
- According to the report, **there has been an overall increase in the proportion of children enrolled in govt schools between 2018 and 2020** i.e from 64.3% to 65.8%.
- However, in the year **2021, the enrollment suddenly went up to 70.3%.**
- The **enrolment rate in private schools has however grown down** from last year.
- In 2020, the enrolment rate was 28.8% and **in 2021 the enrolment rate went down to 24.4%.**
- **About 73.1% school respondents have received training** for implementation of COVID prevention measures in 2021.
- Even though the availability of smartphones increased from 36.5% in 2018 to 67.6% in 2021, **more children in private schools had smartphones at home (79%) compared**

- to government school** going children (63.7%).
- Bihar and West Bengal showed below 60 percent smartphone penetration and **Kerala and Himachal Pradesh have near universal availability of these devices in households.**
 - **The financial distress caused by the pandemic is the reason behind the increase in govt school enrollments.**

About Pratham Organization-

- It is an innovative learning organization created to improve the quality of education in India.
- As one of the largest non-governmental organizations in the country, Pratham focuses on high-quality, low-cost, and replicable interventions to address gaps in the education system.
- Established in 1995 to provide education to children in the slums of Mumbai, Pratham has grown both in scope and geographical coverage.