

READING UNIT 5: GENDER BIAS STARTS AT SCHOOL LEVEL, FINDS EDUCATION REPORT



Amrita Madhukalya letters@hindustantimes.com

New Delhi: The gender gap in India's education system begins early, with more girls being enrolled in government schools and more boys in private schools, according to non-profit Prathama's 14th Annual Status of Education Report (ASER).

The report, which focuses on children in the 0-8 years age group, also finds significant learning gaps. For instance, only 50.8% of children in Class 3 were able to read a Class 1 text, indicating that at least one in two children in Class 3 is already two years behind.

Similarly, only 72.2% of children in Class 3 can recognise a two-digit number, while, as the report points out, according to NCERT's "specifications on learning outcomes" all children in Class 1 should be able to recognise numbers till 99. Among the interesting findings of the study is that younger children are at a disadvantage. The report says "permitting underage children into primary grades" only hurts their cause. For instance, it shows that 8-year olds in Class 3 do better than 7-year olds.

The report recommended that the state and national norms for entry into the first standard and expectations from children in that class should be reviewed and revisited. The report added that while a policy of age is in place, ground realities point to a different trend. "Older children have an advantage. Hence, early enrolment into formal schooling ought to be discouraged," the report reads. The survey, released Tuesday, was conducted among 36,930 children in the age group of 4-8 years in 1514 villages across 26 districts in 24 states.

The study looked at enrolment patterns in randomised villages in every district, and the cognitive, early math and early language abilities. As part of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), by 2030, signatories have to ensure that all girls and boys have access to quality early childhood development, care and pre-primary education.

"Gender gaps are visible even among young children with more girls than boys enrolled in government institutions and more boys than girls enrolled in private institutions," the report said.

In the age group of 4-5 years, 56.8% girls as compared to 50.4% boys are enrolled in government schools. The balance 43.2% girls are in private schools as are the balance 49.6% boys. That gap

only increases with time. Since more boys are being born, their numbers are higher. Once a child grows, parents usually divert their resources towards the boys in a family,” she said.

However, the big picture makes cause for cheer with at least 90% of children enrolled in the education system.

The report said that in all age cohorts, findings showed that those who were better at cognitive tasks are more likely to be better at other tasks as well. “Children’s performance on cognitive tasks (like sorting, spatial awareness, seriation, patterns, puzzles etc.) is strongly related to how well they can do early language tasks (like picture description & listening comprehension) and early numeracy tasks (counting objects or comparing objects). This suggests the need to strongly encourage play-based activities that develop cognitive abilities in pre-school years,” the report said.

Another recommendation is that the existing network of anganwadi centres should be expanded and strengthened. “These institutions cater to large proportions of children well before they can enter pre-primary grades. The already significant scale of this network can be leveraged.”

DOMAIN: READING LITERACY	THEME: EDUCATION	CLASS()ES:VI- VIII EXPECTED TIME: 30 MINUTES TOTAL CREDIT: 10
DESCRIPTION OF ITEM: TEXT	LEARNING OUTCOME: The students will develop newspaper reading habit and be able to know about gender bias education. (AS PER NCERT)	

5.1 What is NCERT’s specifications on learning outcome in class I, in Mathematics?

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FRAMEWORK	CHARACTERISTICS
Scenario	Public
Text format	Non continuous
Text type	Exposition
Process	Locate
Item format	Short response Item
Proficiency level	1b

5.2 The % of boys' enrollment in Private school in the age group of 4-5 is

- A. 56.8
- B. 49.6
- C. 50.4
- D. 43.2

FRAMEWORK	CHARACTERISTICS
Scenario	Public
Text format	Non continuous
Text type	Exposition
Process	locate
Item format	Simple MCQ
Proficiency level	1b

5.3 The above picture shows a girl and her brother both in uniform. What does the picture want to convey?

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FRAMEWORK	CHARACTERISTICS
Scenario	Public
Text format	Non continuous
Text type	Exposition
Process	locate
Item format	Short Response Item
Proficiency level	2

5.4 What is meant by cognitive skills? How can these skills be improved?

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FRAMEWORK	CHARACTERISTICS
Scenario	Public
Text format	Non continuous
Text type	Exposition
Process	Evaluate and reflect
Item format	Open Constructed Response
Proficiency level	3

5.5 In our society, gender discrimination was always there. A boy was always given preference to a girl. “But today women have come out of the four walls of the house and registered their presence in all walks of life.” Justify the above quote.

FRAMEWORK	CHARACTERISTICS
Scenario	Public
Text format	Non continuous
Text type	Exposition
Process	Evaluate and reflect
Item format	Open Constructed Response
Proficiency level	3

SCORING KEY

5.1 Full Credit: all children in Class 1 should be able to recognise numbers till 99

No Credit: Any other answer or missing

5.2 Full Credit: B 49.6

No Credit: any other or missing

5.3 Full Credit

90% children access to school education
Importance of education
Value girls' education
Literacy rate of India increased
Responsibility of siblings
Priority to girl's education

Partial Credit:

Girl is going to drop her brother to school.
Sharing her mother's responsibility
Preference of a boy to girl

No Credit:

Responsibility of girls' increased.
Unwilling to go to school.
Good picture scene.

5.4 Full Credit:

A. Cognitive skills are the core **skills** your brain uses to think, read, learn, remember, reason, and pay attention. Working together, they take incoming information and move it into the bank of knowledge you use every day at school, at work, and in life.

B. Reduce stress. Having a lot on your mind induces stress. ...

Meditate.

Stay hydrated. ...

Get enough good sleep. ...

Sleep some more. ...

Focus. ...

Engage all your senses. ...

Exercise your brain.

Play games and do puzzles

Partial Credit:

A. The skills used by mind.

B. exercise

Walking

Rest

Introspection
Ignore useless things

No Credit:

Stay happy
Sleep longer
Don't worry for anything
Read more and more

5.5 Full Credit:

Gender sensitization
Importance to girls equally
Girls are now supporter rather than burden.
Girls are doctors, engineers, pilots, army officers etc.
Girls' education strengthened.
Proved their existence
Right to get education
Various schemes launched by govt. for girls
Developed confidence and courage.

Partial Credit:

Love of parents to girls equally
Girls are good learners.
Right to equality
Any one of the above points.

No Credit

Girls were burden but not now
Work and support in family
Earned reputation in family and society

NAME OF THE TEACHER: Nafees Fatma
DESIGNATION: 9336188257
EMAIL nafeessuhail54@gmail.com
PHONE NO. 9336188257
NAME OF THE VIDYALAYA: K V Kanpur Cantt Kanpur,Shift II
KVS REGION: Lucknow
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