Primary School Net and Gross Attendance Rates, India

About one-fourth of school age children in India do not attend primary school on time although 95% of children attend primary school at some time in 2006.

- 73% of children in primary school age 6-10 attend primary school at the appropriate age with 74% for male and 71% for female.
- Students over or under the official primary school age range make up 22% of the primary school age population.
- Males are slightly more likely to attend primary school than females.

The net attendance ratio (NAR) is the percentage of the official primary school-age population that attends primary school. The gross attendance ratio (GAR) is the total number of students attending primary school - regardless of age - expressed as a percentage of the official primary school-age population. The primary NAR does not capture those students who have completed primary school and advanced to secondary school at an earlier age than the official age.

Primary School Net Attendance Rate in Urban and Rural Areas, India

Children in rural areas are less likely to attend school at the appropriate age than children in urban areas.

- In urban areas, 77% of children of primary school age attend school, compared to 71% in rural areas.
- No significant gender disparity is observed in urban areas whereas males attend school more than females in rural areas.

Primary School Net Attendance Rate by Region, India

There are considerable regional disparities in primary school attendance in India.

- Primary net attendance is highest in the Tamil Nadu region (90%); attendance is lowest in the Meghalaya region (46%).
- In Arunachal Pradesh, Bihar, Jharkhand, Meghalaya, and Nagaland, less than two-thirds of children attend schools at the appropriate age.
- Gender disparity is lowest in the Manipura region and highest in the Rajasthan region.
Secondary School Net and Gross Attendance Rates, India

About two-thirds of youth attend secondary school at some time and one-half attend on time in India in 2006.

- 56% of youth in secondary school age 11-17 attend secondary school at the appropriate age with 60% for males and 51% for females.
- Students over or under the official secondary school age range make up 7% of the secondary school age population.
- The gender disparity is more pronounced in secondary school than in primary school with about 10 percentage points higher in male attendance.

Secondary School Net Attendance Rate in Urban and Rural Areas, India

There are more youth attending secondary school in urban than in rural areas.

- In urban areas, 65% of children of secondary school age attend school, compared to 51% in rural areas.
- No significant gender disparity is observed in urban areas whereas males are more likely to attend than females in rural areas.

Secondary School Net Attendance Rate by Region, India

- Secondary net attendance is highest in the Himachal Pradesh region (85%); attendance is lowest in the Bihar region (39%).
- Gender disparity is highest in the Rajasthan region and lowest in the Goa region.
School Attendance by Age and Sex, India

- For females, the highest attendance rate is at age 9 (87%) and for males at age 11 (91%).
- Beyond those ages, school attendance gradually declines to 50% by age 17.

Over-Age, Under-Age, and On-Time Students in Primary School, India

Only about 31% of primary school students are in the appropriate GRADE for their age; the on-time proportion declines in the higher grades.

- About 50% of the male primary school students and 48% of the female students are over-age by grade.
- About 20% of the male primary school students and 21% of the female students are under-age by grade.
- In this country, a significant portion of children enter primary school at an older age than the official age.

The Implications of Over-Age/Under-Age Students

For the system: Both late entry into primary school and grade repetition can cause children to be over-age for their grade. Early entry in primary school can be a cause of underage attendance. In the classroom: Large numbers of over-age and/or under-age students present a challenge for teachers who must teach a more diverse group with differing levels of maturity and school preparedness.

Repetition, Dropout, and Promotion Rates by Grade, India

- Repetition rate is highest in grade 1 of primary school (8%) and lowest in grade 6 of secondary school (1%).
- Dropout rate is highest in grade 5 of secondary school (19%) and lowest in grade 1 of primary school (1%).

Source: Demographic and Health Survey 2006
Primary School Completion Rates, India

- About three-fourths of pupils complete primary school and females are as likely to complete as males.

- The probability of completing primary school is higher in urban than rural areas, and increases with the relative wealth of the student's household.

Educational Attainment, India

Men are much better educated than women across all age groups.

- 90% of men and 80% of women who are 15-19 years old have attended school.

- Among the population aged 20-24 years old, 27% of men and 20% of women have completed secondary or higher.

- Men and women combined, the cohort that entered school 15 years ago (20-24 year olds) is more likely to have completed secondary school or higher than the age cohort that entered school 25 years ago (30-34 year olds).
Female Literacy Rates, India

**Female Literacy Rate (age 15-24)**

- 86% of women age 15-24 in urban areas can read, compared to 63% in rural areas.

- The percentage of women who can read is 38% among women age 45-49 and 75% among women age 15-19.

- 80% of women who completed grade 5 can read and literacy rate increases with level of education completed.

**Female Literacy Rate by Age**

**Literacy Rate of Women 15-24 Years Old by Grade Completed**

Source: Demographic and Health Survey 2007

Source: Demographic and Health Survey 2006