

# Learning levels at all-time low: Report

## Half Of Class I Pupils Can't Read In Any Language

Himanshi Dhawan | TNN

**New Delhi:** Putting a question mark on government policies and the implementation of Right to Education Act, the Annual Status of Education Report (ASER) 2012 has found that learning levels have dipped to an all-time low. So, almost half the 6-7 year-olds (Class I) in India cannot read even one letter in any language, over 57% cannot read any English while almost 40% cannot recognize numbers between 1 and 9, the report said.

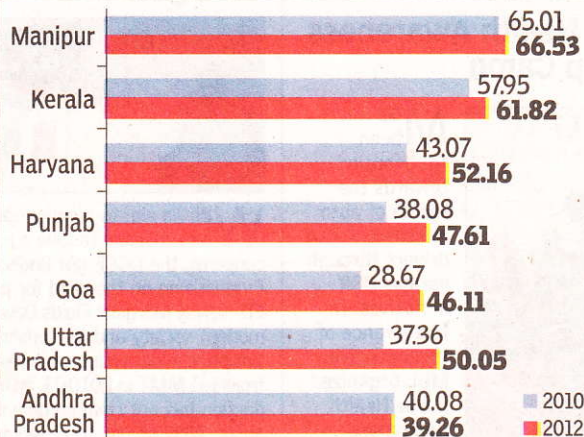
According to the report, 12.8% children between Class I and V could not read a single letter while 10.7% could not recognize numbers 1 to 9. The number of children in Class V who could read Class II text fell from 53.7% in 2010 to 46.8% in 2012. In 2010, seven out of 10 children could solve a two-digit subtraction problem with borrowing. This has come down to five out of 10 in 2012.

Scathing in his indictment of government policy, Pratham Education Foundation CEO-President Madhav Chavan said, "RTE has become the right to schooling and not to learning and education.

"The way RTE has been structured, the continuous comprehensive evaluation has led to neglect of learning. The ASER 2012 report has a lot of compelling information to

### PROGRESS REPORT

Enrolment in private schools (Class I-V) for rural India has seen an increase in most states, except Andhra Pradesh



(figures in %)

persuade people that we are looking at a deepening crisis in education that is like an unseen and quiet killer disease."

Pointing to what he described as an "alarming degeneration", the report said that in 2008, the proportion of children in Class III who could read a Class I text was under 50% which has dipped to nearly 30%. A child in Class III has to learn a two-digit subtraction but the proportion of children in government schools who can even recognize numbers up to 100 correctly has drop-

ped from 70% to about 50% since RTE was introduced.

Disputing the government report on education for 2010-11, Chavan claimed that private school education was not great and socio-economic-educational background of children's families, parental aspirations and additional support for learning contributed to their better performance.

The ASER report also asserted that for the money spent by families on private schooling, they deserved better education.