

# India

असर  
ASER

*Evidence for Action*



# India is...

## Very large

7<sup>th</sup> largest country in the world, in terms of geographic area.

India: ~ 3 million km<sup>2</sup>

Mexico: ~ 2 million km<sup>2</sup>



## Densely populated

India: 1.2 billion people / Mexico: 1.2 million people

\*60% of the population is below the age of 35.

\*More people in the age group 0-14 than the entire population of USA

## Very diverse

- 22 official languages and hundreds of dialects
- Religious diversity – Hinduism, Islam, Christianity, Buddhism, Jainism, Zoroastrianism, etc.
- Social categories – 3,000 castes and 25,000 subcastes

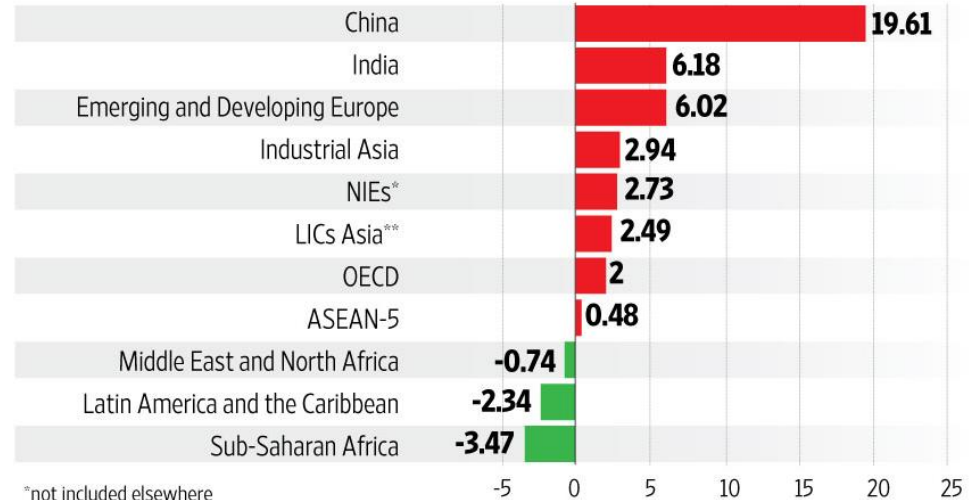
# India is also...

## Growing fast

6<sup>th</sup> largest economy in the world



Change in net Gini index 1990-2013



\*not included elsewhere

\*\*low-income countries

## But becoming more unequal

Significant wealth, gender, and regional inequalities

# Coverage, equity and educational quality

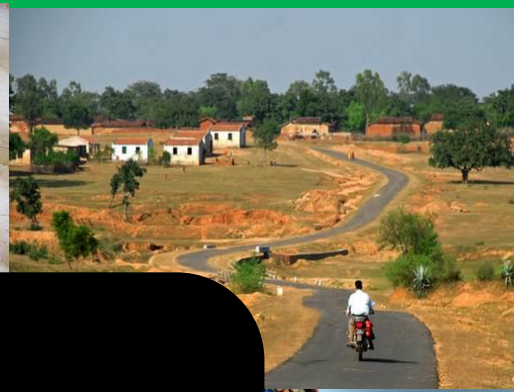
- Available figures shows that there is a primary school either in or within one kilometre of 94% of habitations in the country.
- Enrollment is near universal, though the last mile seems to be a problem
- High enrollment would indicate primary schooling is equitable
- Practically no gender bias in enrollment (all schools)
- Private school enrollment has increased over the last decade
- Boys are more likely to go to private schools than girls
- Learning levels low for a number of years
- Less than half in Grade 5 can read a Grade 2 level text
- About 1 in 4 in Grade 8 cannot read a Grade 2 level text
- About half in Grade 5 can compute a subtraction sum and about 1 in 4 can divide

# Uses and impact of the information produced by the Citizen Led Assessment

- Wide coverage in press throughout the year – articles, features, opeds and TV talk shows
- Questions raised in the Indian Parliament, as well as state assemblies
- Since 2009 ASER findings have featured in Economic Survey of India – a yearly pre-budget report of the Finance Ministry of India
- ASER findings have featured at various stages of the 11<sup>th</sup> Five Year Plan (2007 - 2012) and now the 12<sup>th</sup> Five Year Plan (2012 – 2017)
- Impacted national policy – right to learning has been inserted in Right to Free and Compulsory Education Act (RTE)
- Early grade learning became a focus since 2014
- Remedial programmes have been undertaken by state governments
- Skill development is now a focus area of the government – ASER findings are employed to make plans by the states

# What is the level of involvement of citizens in the Citizen Led Assessment in your country?

- ASER is conducted by volunteers of district partners
- Each year almost 25,000 volunteers participate in the data collection
- Since 2014, a large number of district partners have been DIETs (District Institute of Education and Training), universities and colleges
- In ASER 2016, 7 out of 10 volunteers were 25 years of age or less
- 40% of the volunteers were women
- All volunteers had completed Grade 12
- ASER not only builds their capacity to collect data, but the data collection process also gives them an ideal opportunity to understand the situation of schooling and learning in their respective region – empowers them to participate in local area debates on education



**Thank you**

For more information:  
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[www.pratham.org](http://www.pratham.org)

