

# BASIC SKILLS POOR IN REGIONAL LANGUAGES: NCERT

Relevant for: Developmental Issues | Topic: Education and related issues

Survey will help government determine benchmark in 20 languages.

Foundational learning of students in Hindi is poor but their performance in regional languages in some States was even worse, according to a survey carried out by the Union Ministry of Education and the National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT).

Around 53% of Class 3 students in 18 States surveyed for Hindi proficiency either lacked or had limited knowledge and skills in reading and comprehending the language. But proficiency of regional languages such as Kannada, which was analysed in States such as Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka and Kerala, was poorer with 59% students either lacking or displaying limited skills.

Around 67% students couldn't perform well in Assamese in Assam and Meghalaya. In Kerala, 56% students couldn't read or comprehend Malayalam, and in Goa, 59% of students could not do so in Konkani.

In Meghalaya, 61% of students couldn't perform well in Khasi, and 54% were found to be poor in Manipuri in Manipur.

The survey divides learners on the basis of their knowledge and skills into four categories — those who “lack” them, have “limited” proficiency, “sufficient” competency and those who are “superior”.

The findings are part of the National Report on Benchmarking of Oral Reading Fluency with Reading Comprehension and Numeracy, which aims to assess foundational learning of children at the end of class 3.

The National Education Policy 2022 which advocates for a three-language formula where two of the languages are native to India, says that medium of instruction till at least class 5 or preferably till class 8 should be in the mother tongue, after which it can be taught as a language.

The survey findings will help the government determine benchmarks in 20 languages and numeracy.

The government has launched NIPUN as a national mission to enable all children at the end of class 3 to attain foundational skills by the year 2026-2027 and these benchmarks will provide a baseline for subsequent surveys.

Approximately, 86,000 class 3 students from 10,000 schools were covered for the study.

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