

District _____ Taluk _____ Village _____ Respondent _____

Gram Panchayat name _____ Date _____

Village _____ Taluk _____

District _____ Interviewer _____

Name of Interviewee _____

Respondent's position in Gram Panchayat _____
(Adhyaksha/Upadhyaksham/Member)

QUESTIONNAIRE FOR PRESIDENT (ADHYAKSHA) OR MEMBERS

I am a student at Bangalore University doing a study on the Gram Panchayats. I am working with a team of social scientists to conduct this study, and we are interviewing members in many villages across the state of Karnataka.

The names of the respondents interviewed for this study will be kept strictly confidential. If you agree to participate, your identity will not be revealed, and none of your answers will be reported in a way that would reveal your identity. This is an independent study, and we are not linked to any political party or government agency.

The cooperation of many participants is necessary to make this study successful. Would you be willing to participate in our study? *(IF NO, PLEASE THANK THE RESPONDENT POLITELY. IF YES, PLEASE CONTINUE.)*

Thank you. We would first like to ask you some questions about yourself. These questions will allow us to know the types of people who participated in our study.

Again, all the information is confidential and for academic purposes only, so you can reply with total confidence.

1. Your sex: ☐ Male ☐ Female

2. In what year were you born? _____

3. Where were you born? _____

4. In which village do you reside ? _____

5. For how many years have you lived in the village? _____ years

6. *(If not since birth)* Where were you living before ? _____

7. What is your level of education? _____

8. What is your job or occupation, other than as a member/adhyaksha of the Grama Panchayat ?

(write here)

Now I would like to ask you some questions about the workings of your Grama Panchayat.

9. In the last six months, about how many meetings has this Grama Panchayat held?

0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 or
more

(please circle the number)

10. I am interested to know how time-consuming the work of the Gram Panchayat is for its members. In your opinion, about how many full days per week would you say that the adhyaksha spends working on matters relating to the Gram Panchayat?

Less than one 1 2 3 4 5 6 7
full day

(please circle the response)

11. In your opinion, how effective has this Gram Panchayat been in undertaking works and projects desired by its constituents? Would you say that the Gram Panchayat has been very effective, somewhat effective, neither effective nor ineffective, somewhat ineffective, or very ineffective ?

- ☐ 1. Very effective
- ☐ 2. Somewhat effective
- ☐ 3. Neither effective nor ineffective
- ☐ 4. Somewhat ineffective
- ☐ 5. Very ineffective
- ☐ 6. Doesn't know/Doesn't reply

12. I would like to know, in your opinion, what should be the most important priority of this Gram Panchayat. That is, in your opinion, what is the most important type of project or scheme that this Grama Panchayat should spend its funds on?

(write here)

13a. Considering the topic that you just mentioned, I would like to know: in reality, has this been the most important priority or type of project on which this Grama Panchayat has actually spent its funds?

- ☐ 1. Yes (*GO TO QUESTION 14*)
- ☐ 2. No (*GO TO QUESTION 13b*)
- ☐ 3. Does not know (*GO TO QUESTION 13b*)
- ☐ 4. Did not reply (*GO TO QUESTION 13b*)

13b. In your opinion, in reality, what is the top priority or type of work that this Grama Panchayat has actually spent its funds on ?

(write here)

14. I would like to know whether, in your opinion, the elected members of this Gram Panchayat work well together as a group.

Would you say that the members work very well together as a group, somewhat well together, neither well nor poorly together, somewhat poorly together, or very poorly together ?

- ☐ 1. Very well together
- ☐ 2. Somewhat well together
- ☐ 3. Neither well nor poorly together
- ☐ 4. Somewhat poorly together
- ☐ 5. Very poorly together
- ☐ 6. Doesn't know/Doesn't reply

15. As is well-known, sometimes members of Gram Panchayats have different opinions about what kinds of projects or schemes the Gram Panchayat should spend its funds on.

I would like to know what, in your opinion, members of this Gram Panchayat most often disagree about. Do they most often disagree about the village or area in which a new project will be located, about who should be the beneficiaries of schemes, or about some other topic ?

- ☐ 1. The village/area in which a new project/work will be located
- ☐ 2. Which citizens will be the beneficiary of schemes
- ☐ 3. Other (please describe)

(write answer above)

- ☐ 4. Doesn't know/Doesn't reply

16. When members of this Gram Panchayat disagree about what the Gram Panchayat should spend its funds on, how are those disagreements resolved ? For example, is there a majority vote of the

members, must the adhyaksha decide, must the secretary decide, or is there some other procedure for making a decision?

- ☐ 1. A majority vote of the members
 - ☐ 2. The adhyaksha must decide
 - ☐ 3. The secretary (bureaucrat) must decide
 - ☐ 4. Some other procedure (please describe)_____
-

17. In your opinion, how much independent power [does the adhyaksha of this Gram Panchayat (*for members*)/do you (*for the adhyaksha*)] have to set the expenditure priorities of the Grama Panchayat, relative to the other members ?

Would you say that [the adhyaksha has/you have] a lot more power, somewhat more power, about the same amount of power, somewhat less power, or a lot less power than other members of the Gram Panchayat?

- ☐ 1. A lot more power
- ☐ 2. Somewhat more power
- ☐ 3. About the same amount of power
- ☐ 4. Somewhat less power
- ☐ 5. A lot less power
- ☐ 6. Doesn't know/Doesn't reply

18. I would also like to know how much independent power [does the adhyaksha of this Gram Panchayat (*for members*)/do you (*for the adhyaksha*)] have to determine the beneficiaries of welfare schemes, relative to the other members.

Would you say that [the adhyaksha/you have] has a lot more power, more power, about the same, less power, or a lot less power than other members of the Gram Panchayat?

- ☐ 1. A lot more power
- ☐ 2. More power
- ☐ 3. About the same
- ☐ 4. Less power
- ☐ 5. A lot less power
- ☐ 6. Doesn't know/Doesn't reply

19. Next, in your opinion, how much independent power does the Secretary of the Gram Panchayat have to set the expenditure priorities of this Grama Panchayat, relative to the adhyaksha of the Gram Panchayat.

Would you say that the Executive Secretary has a lot more power, somewhat more power, about the same amount of power, somewhat less power, or a lot less power to set expenditure priorities than the adhyaksha of the Gram Panchayat?

- ☐ 1. A lot more power
- ☐ 2. Somewhat more power
- ☐ 3. About the same amount of power
- ☐ 4. Somewhat less power
- ☐ 5. A lot less power
- ☐ 6. Doesn't know/Doesn't reply

20. I would also like to know how much independent power the Secretary of this Gram Panchyat has to determine the particular beneficiaries of welfare schemes, relative to the adhyaksha of the Gram Panchayat.

Would you say that the Secretary has a lot more power, more power, about the same, less power, or a lot less power than the adhyaksha of the Gram Panchayat to determine the beneficiaries of welfare schemes?

- ☐ 1. A lot more power
- ☐ 2. More power
- ☐ 3. About the same
- ☐ 4. Less power
- ☐ 5. A lot less power
- ☐ 6. Doesn't know/Doesn't reply

21. In your opinion, why do voters in this Gram Panchayat choose to vote for particular candidates? That is, what makes them prefer one candidate over another ?

(write answer above)

22a. In your opinion, do voters in this Gram Panchayat tend to favor candidates who come from their own caste (*jati*)?

- ☐ 1. Yes (*GO TO QUESTION 22b*)
- ☐ 2. No (*GO TO QUESTION 23*)
- ☐ 3. Does not know (*GO TO QUESTION 23*)
- ☐ 4. Did not reply (*GO TO QUESTION 23*)

22b. In your opinion, why do voters tend to prefer candidates who are from their own caste or jati-baradari-Tribe ?

(write answer above)

23. In your opinion, which particular group in this community has the most power or influence over this Gram Panchayat?

(write answer above)

☐ Doesn't know/Doesn't reply

24. To which particular group in this community do you think that this Grama Panchayat gives the most priority, for example, in allocating funds for projects and schemes?

(write answer above)

☐ Doesn't know/Doesn't reply

25. I would like to know, in your opinion, how effectively this Gram Panchayat responds to the needs of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes.

Would you say that this Gram Panchayat responds very effectively, somewhat effectively, neither effectively nor ineffectively, somewhat ineffectively, or very ineffectively to the needs of previously-disadvantaged citizens in this area, such as Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes?

- ☐ 1. Very effectively
- ☐ 2. Somewhat effectively
- ☐ 3. Neither effectively nor ineffectively
- ☐ 4. Somewhat ineffectively
- ☐ 5. Very ineffectively
- ☐ 6. Doesn't know/Doesn't reply

26. In general, in deciding on works and projects to undertake, do you think that members of Gram Panchayats tend to favor their own villages?

- ☐ 1. Yes (go to b)
- ☐ 2. No
- ☐ 3. Does not know
- ☐ 4. Did not reply

27a. In general, in allocating jobs and benefits from various schemes, do you think that members of Gram Panchayats favor people from their own caste (*jati*)?

- ☐ 1. Yes (*GO TO QUESTION 27b*)
- ☐ 2. No (*GO TO QUESTION 28*)
- ☐ 3. Does not know (*GO TO QUESTION 28*)
- ☐ 4. Did not reply (*GO TO QUESTION 28*)

27b. Why do members favor people from their own caste or tribe? For example, is it because they care more about the welfare of people from their own caste/tribe, because they depend on the votes of members of their own caste/tribe, or for some other reason ?

Please choose the single best answer, in your opinion.

- ☐ 1. Members more about people from their own caste/jati-biradari/tribe
- ☐ 2. They depend on the votes of members of their own caste/jati-biradari/tribe
- ☐ 3. Other _____
(*please write answer here*)
- ☐ 4. Does not know
- ☐ 5. Did not reply

Now I would like to ask you more questions about meetings of the Gram Panchayat, about Gram and Ward Sabha meetings in this area, and about Panchayat Jamabandi (social audits) in this area.

28a. In the last six months, has there been a Gram Sabha meeting in this area?

- ☐ 1. Yes (*GO TO QUESTIONS 28b, 28c, AND 28d*)
- ☐ 2. No (*GO TO QUESTION 29*)
- ☐ 3. Does not know (*GO TO QUESTION 29*)
- ☐ 4. Did not reply (*GO TO QUESTION 29*)

28b. I would like to know if this Gram Sabha meeting was influential in setting the priorities of the Gram Panchayat. Please look at this ladder, which has 7 steps. Suppose the first step of the ladder means “not at all influential” and the 7th step means “very influential.” On what step would you place how influential this Gram Sabha meeting was in setting the priorities of the Grama Panchayat ?

(1 = not at all influential, 7 = very influential)

1 2 3 4 5 6 7

28c. In this Gram Sabha, did you discuss the revenues and expenditures of this Gram Panchayat? For example, did you discuss how much funds are available for particular projects?

- ☐ 1. Yes
- ☐ 2. No

- ☐ 3. Does not know
- ☐ 4. Did not reply

28d. What other topics did you discuss in the Gram Sabha?

_____ (write here)

- ☐ 3. Does not know ☐ 4 . Did not reply ☐ 9. N.A.

29a. In the last six months, have you participated in a Ward Sabha meeting?

- ☐ 1. Yes (*GO TO QUESTION 29b, 29c, AND 29d*)
- ☐ 2. No (*GO TO QUESTION 30*)
- ☐ 3. Does not know (*GO TO QUESTION 30*)
- ☐ 4. Did not reply (*GO TO QUESTION 30*)

29b. I would like to know if this Ward Sabha meeting was influential in setting the priorities of your Gram Panchayat. Suppose the first step of the ladder means “not at all influential” and the 7th step means “very influential.” On what step would you place how influential this Ward Sabha meeting was in setting the priorities of the Grama Panchayat ?

(1 = not at all influential, 7 = very influential)

1 2 3 4 5 6 7

29c. In this Ward Sabha, did you discuss the revenues and expenditures of this Gram Panchayat ? For example, did you discuss how much funds are available for particular projects?

- ☐ 1. Yes
- ☐ 2. No
- ☐ 3. Does not know
- ☐ 4. Did not reply

29d. What other topics did you discuss in the Ward Sabha?

_____ (write here)

- ☐ 3. Does not know ☐ 4 . Did not reply ☐ 9. N.A.

30a. In the last year, did the citizens in this Gram Panchayat participate in a Panchayat Jamabandi (social audit) exercise?

- ☐ 1. Yes (*GO TO QUESTIONS 30b, 30c, AND 30d*)
- ☐ 2. No (*GO TO QUESTION 31*)

- ☐ 3. Does not know (*GO TO QUESTION 31*)
- ☐ 4. Did not reply (*GO TO QUESTION 31*)

30b. I would like to know how effective this Panchayat Jamabandi (social audit) exercise was. Please look at this ladder, which has 7 steps. Suppose the first step of the ladder means “not at all effective,” and the 7th step means “very effective.”

On what step would you place how effective this Panchayat Jamabandi (social audit) meeting was in influencing or setting the priorities of the Grama Panchayat ?

(1 = not at all effective, 7 = very effective)

1 2 3 4 5 6 7

30c. In this Panchayat Jambandi, did you discuss the revenues and expenditures of this Gram Panchayat? For example, did you discuss how much funds are available for particular projects?

- ☐ 1. Yes
- ☐ 2. No
- ☐ 3. Does not know
- ☐ 4. Did not reply

30d. What other topics did you discuss in the Panchayat Jambandi?

_____ (*write here*)

- ☐ 3. Does not know ☐ 4 . Did not reply ☐ 9. N.A.

31a. I would like to know whether, in your opinion, the availability of funds in this Gram Panchayat is transparent to you ?

- ☐ 1. Yes (*GO TO QUESTION 32*)
- ☐ 2. No (*GO TO QUESTION 31b OR 31c*)
- ☐ 3. Does not know (*GO TO QUESTION 32*)
- ☐ 4. Did not reply (*GO TO QUESTION 32*)

31b. [*FOR ADHYAKSHAS ONLY*]. In your opinion, who is most responsible for the lack of transparency of funds ? Do you think the Executive Secretary is most responsible, or some other person ?

- ☐ 1. The Executive Secretary is most responsible
- ☐ 2. Some other person (please specify) _____
- ☐ 3. Does not know
- ☐ 4. Did not reply

31c. [FOR MEMBERS ONLY] In your opinion, who is most responsible for the lack of transparency of funds ? Do you think the adhyaksha is most responsible, the Executive Secretary is most responsible, or some other person ?

- ☐ 1. The adhyaksha is most responsible
- ☐ 2. The Executive Secretary is most responsible
- ☐ 3. Some other person (please specify) _____
- ☐ 4. Does not know
- ☐ 5. Did not reply

32a. I would like to know whether, in your opinion, you have a satisfactory knowledge of how funds are spent in this Gram Panchayat. That is, I would like to know whether the expenditures of this Gram Panchayat are transparent to you.

- ☐ 1. Yes (GO TO QUESTION 33)
- ☐ 2. No (GO TO QUESTION 32b OR 32c)
- ☐ 3. Does not know (GO TO QUESTION 33)
- ☐ 4. Did not reply (GO TO QUESTION 33)

32b. [FOR ADHYAKSHAS ONLY] Who do you think is most responsible for the lack of transparency of the expenditures of this Gram Panchayat? Do you think the Secretary is most responsible, or some other person ?

- ☐ 1. The Executive Secretary is most responsible
- ☐ 2. Some other person (please specify) _____
- ☐ 3. Does not know
- ☐ 4. Did not reply

32c. [FOR MEMBERS ONLY] Who do you think is most responsible for the lack of transparency of the expenditures of this Gram Panchayat? Do you think the adhyaksha is most responsible, the Secretary is most responsible, or some other person ?

- ☐ 1. The adhyaksha is most responsible
- ☐ 2. The Executive Secretary is most responsible
- ☐ 3. Some other person (please specify) _____
- ☐ 4. Does not know
- ☐ 5. Did not reply

33. When you hold meetings of this Gram Panchayat, do you discuss expenditures of the Gram Panchayat project-wise? That is, do you discuss how much funds are available and how the funds will be spent for each separate project?

- ☐ 1. Yes
- ☐ 2. No
- ☐ 3. Does not know
- ☐ 4. Did not reply

34. Does this Gram Panchayat have an action plan for each one of its projects, for example, for the National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (NREGA) and/or for other projects?

- ☐ 1. Yes
- ☐ 2. No
- ☐ 3. Does not know
- ☐ 4. Did not reply

35. Does the Executive Secretary of this Gram Panchayat circulate Government Circulars or other government documents relating to the revenues and expenditures of this Gram Panchayat ?

- ☐ 1. Yes
- ☐ 2. No
- ☐ 3. Does not know
- ☐ 4. Did not reply

36. Are funds for projects or works distributed equally among the members of the Gram Panchayat ? For example, if the Gram Panchayat has one lakh revenues for projects, does each member take an equal share for projects in his or her area ? Or are funds concentrated project-wise or in some other way?

- ☐ 1. Each member takes an equal share
- ☐ 2. Funds are concentrated scheme-wise
- ☐ 3. Some other procedure (please describe)_____

37. Does this Gram Panchayat raise revenues from taxes or fees, for example, from taxes on houses/property ?

- ☐ 1. Yes
- ☐ 2. No
- ☐ 3. Does not know
- ☐ 4. Did not reply

38. I would like to know, in your opinion, what are the major obstacles to raising greater revenues from taxes and fees in this Gram Panchayat?

(write answer above)

We are almost finished with the survey. Before we conclude, I would like to ask you some final questions about yourself as well as the other members of the Gram Panchayat. This will allow us to become better acquainted with the members of this Gram Panchayat.

39a. Have you ever been a member or adhyaksha of this Gram Panchayat in a previous term ?

- ☐ 1. Yes (*GO TO QUESTION 39b*)
- ☐ 2. No (*GO TO QUESTION 40*)
- ☐ 3. Does not know (*GO TO QUESTION 40*)
- ☐ 4. Did not reply (*GO TO QUESTION 40*)

39b. Can you give me the names and positions of adhyakshas and/or members in previous terms ?

i. _____
(years) (position : member/adhyaksha/upadhyaksha)

ii. _____
(years) (position : member/adhyaksha/upadhyaksha)

iii. _____
(years) (position : member/adhyaksha/upadhyaksha)

iv. _____
(years) (position : member/adhyaksha/upadhyaksha)

40. With which political party do you identify?

- ☐ 1. Indian National Congress (INC)
- ☐ 2. Janata Dal (S)
- ☐ 3. Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP)
- ☐ 4. Janata Dal (U)
- ☐ 5. Other (please specify) _____
- ☐ 6. Does not know
- ☐ 7. Did not reply

41. Please tell me the names of each of the other members of this Gram Panchayat.

For each member, please also tell me the member's gender, his or her position on the Gram Panchayat (such as member, adhyaksha, or upadhyaksha), and his or her political party:

i. _____
(name and gender) (member/adhyaksha/upadhyaksha) (party)

ii. _____
(name and gender) (member/adhyaksha/upadhyaksha) (party)

iii.	_____	_____	_____
	(name and gender)	(member/adhyaksha/upadhyaksha)	(party)
iv.	_____	_____	_____
	(name and gender)	(member/adhyaksha/upadhyaksha)	(political party)
v.	_____	_____	_____
	(name and gender)	(member/adhyaksha/upadhyaksha)	(political party)
vi.	_____	_____	_____
	(name and gender)	(member/adhyaksha/upadhyaksha)	(political party)
vii.	_____	_____	_____
	(name and gender)	(member/adhyaksha/upadhyaksha)	(political party)
viii.	_____	_____	_____
	(name and gender)	(member/adhyaksha/upadhyaksha)	(political party)
ix.	_____	_____	_____
	(name and gender)	(member/adhyaksha/upadhyaksha)	(political party)
x.	_____	_____	_____
	(name and gender)	(member/adhyaksha/upadhyaksha)	(political party)
xi.	_____	_____	_____
	(name and gender)	(member/adhyaksha/upadhyaksha)	(political party)
xii.	_____	_____	_____
	(name and gender)	(member/adhyaksha/upadhyaksha)	(political party)

42. What religion do you follow?

- ☐ 1. Hindu
- ☐ 2. Muslim
- ☐ 3. Christian
- ☐ 4. Sikh
- ☐ 5. Buddhist
- ☐ 6. Jain
- ☐ 7. Parsi
- ☐ 8. Other (please specify) _____

43. What is your Caste (*jati*)/Tribe name ? _____

44. What is your Caste group?

- ☐ 1. Forward caste (Brahmin, or other)
- ☐ 2. Backward Caste - A
- ☐ 3. Backward Caste - B
- ☐ 4. Scheduled Caste (SC)
- ☐ 5. Scheduled Tribe (ST)
- ☐ 6. Other (specify) _____

45. Could you please also tell me the caste (*jati*)/Tribe name, and the Caste group, of each member of the Gram Panchayat you identified above ?

By caste/*jati*-biradari/Tribe, I mean the name of the member's specific caste, *jati*-baradari, or tribe. By Caste group, I mean forward caste, backward caste A, backward caste B, Scheduled Caste, Scheduled Tribe, and so on. (*Write in member names from above*)

i.	_____	_____	_____
	(name)	(caste/ <i>jati</i> -biradari/Tribe)	(Caste group)
ii.	_____	_____	_____
	(name)	(caste/ <i>jati</i> -biradari/Tribe)	(Caste group)
iii.	_____	_____	_____
	(name)	(caste/ <i>jati</i> -biradari/Tribe)	(Caste group)
iv.	_____	_____	_____
	(name)	(caste/ <i>jati</i> -biradari/Tribe)	(Caste group)
v.	_____	_____	_____
	(name)	(caste/ <i>jati</i> -biradari/Tribe)	(Caste group)
vi.	_____	_____	_____
	(name)	(caste/ <i>jati</i> -biradari/Tribe)	(Caste group)
vii.	_____	_____	_____
	(name)	(caste/ <i>jati</i> -biradari/Tribe)	(Caste group)
viii.	_____	_____	_____
	(name)	(caste/ <i>jati</i> -biradari/Tribe)	(Caste group)
ix.	_____	_____	_____
	(name)	(caste/ <i>jati</i> -biradari/Tribe)	(Caste group)
x.	_____	_____	_____
	(name)	(caste/ <i>jati</i> -biradari/Tribe)	(Caste group)

xi. _____
 (name) (caste/jati-biradari/Tribe) (Caste group)

xii. _____
 (name) (caste/jati-biradari/Tribe) (Caste group)