

District _____ Taluk _____ Village _____ Respondent _____

Gram Panchayat name _____ Date _____

Village _____ Taluk _____

District _____ Interviewer _____

Name of GP Secretary _____ Phone Number of GP Secretary _____

GRAM PANCHAYAT SECRETARY QUESTIONNAIRE

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 or town do you reside ? _____

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

6. *(If not since birth)* Where did you live previously ? _____

7. What is your level of education? _____

8. What is your job or occupation, other than as secretary of the Grama Panchayat ?

(write here)

Now I would like to ask you some questions about the workings of this 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. 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 the people of this area? 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 which citizens 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 GP 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 Gram Panchayat secretary must decide
 - ☐ 4. Some other procedure (please describe)_____
-

17. In your opinion, how much independent power do you as Secretary of this Gram Panchayat have to set the expenditure priorities of the Grama Panchayat, relative to the members ?

Would you say that 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 you as Secretary of this Gram Panchayat have to determine the beneficiaries of welfare schemes, relative to the other members.

Would you say that you have 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. 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)

19a. 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 19b*)
- ☐ 2. No (*GO TO QUESTION 20*)
- ☐ 3. Does not know (*GO TO QUESTION 20*)
- ☐ 4. Did not reply (*GO TO QUESTION 20*)

19b. In your opinion, why do voters tend to prefer candidates who are from their own caste or jati-baradari-Tribe ?

(*write answer above*)

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

(*write answer above*)

- ☐ 3. Doesn't know
- ☐ 4. Doesn't reply
- ☐ 9. N.A.

21. 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*)

- ☐ 3. Doesn't know
- ☐ 4. Doesn't reply
- ☐ 9. N.A.

22a. Does this Gram Panchayat have an annual report that records its revenues and expenditures?

- ☐ 1. Yes (*GO TO QUESTION 21b*)
- ☐ 2. No (*GO TO QUESTION 22c*)
- ☐ 3. Does not know (*GO TO QUESTION 22c*)
- ☐ 4. Did not reply (*GO TO QUESTION 22c*)

22b. (*If yes*) Could you please provide me with a copy of that annual report, for the most recent year?

☐ 1. Collected ☐ 2. Report Not Available ☐ 3. Refused to give ☐ 9. N.A.

[PLEASE PHOTOCOPY THE REPORT AND BRING IT BACK WITH YOU]

22c. I would like to know what was the opening balance of this Gram Panchayat at the start of the most recent fiscal year (2007-2008). That is, how much did the Gram Panchayat have in total funds at the start of the fiscal year (2007-2008) ?

(write answer above)

22d. I would like to have data on the revenues of this Gram Panchayat for the most recent fiscal year (2007-2008). Could you please provide me with data on the revenues of this Gram Panchayat, broken down by the following categories:

- a. Grants from the Central Government _____
- b. Grants from the State Government _____
- c. Taxes _____
- d. Fees _____
- e. Other _____

☐ 1. Collected ☐ 2. Report Not Available ☐ 3. Refused to give ☐ 9. N.A.

22e. Please tell me what kinds of taxes and fees this Gram Panchayat has collected in the last year (for example, property tax, water tax, license fees, and so on). For each kind of tax or fee, I would like to know the amounts collected by the Gram Panchayat in the most recent year.

- a. Property tax _____
- b. Water tax _____
- c. Other taxes _____
- d. License fees _____
- e. Other fees _____

☐ 1. Collected ☐ 2. Report Not Available ☐ 3. Refused to give ☐ 9. N.A.

22f. I would like to have data on the expenditures of this Gram Panchayat for the most recent fiscal year (2007-2008). Could you please provide me with data on the expenditures of this Gram Panchayat ? I would like to have the total spending for each category : State-Sponsored Schemes, Centrally-Sponsored Schemes, and Other Schemes. I would also like to know how much the Gram Panchayat spent on each sub-category (each scheme).

State-Sponsored Schemes :

- 1. Section 206 of the PRI ACT 1993 _____
- 2. Developmental Grants _____
- 3. Nirmal Karnataka _____
- 4. Ashraya Scheme _____

-- Centrally-Sponsored Schemes :

- 5. 11/12th Finance Fund _____
- 6. IAY _____
- 7. Mini Water Supply _____
- 8. S.G.R.Y. _____

-- Other Schemes :

09. Swacha Grama Yojane _____
10. Male Neeru Koilo (rain water) _____
11. Library _____
12. Ambedkar housing scheme _____
13. Vada Samvadhana _____
14. Kugrama Suvarna Grama _____
15. Namma Bhumi Namma _____
16. Mid-Day Meals _____
17. Gram Swaraj _____
18. Employment Guarantee (NREGS) _____
19. Total Sanitation _____
20. Swajaladara _____
21. Watershed Development _____
22. Continuing Education _____
23. S.G.S.Y. _____
24. PMGY _____
25. Jal Nirmal _____
26. Jala Rakshane _____
27. Bharath Nirman _____
28. Drinking water maintenance _____

22g. Please provide me with the closing balance of the Gram Panchayat at the end of the most recent fiscal year (2007-2008). That is, how much did the Gram Panchayat have in total funds at the end of the fiscal year (2007-2008) ?

(write answer above)

- ☐ 1. Provided ☐ 2. Not Provided ☐ 3. Not Available

23. Please provide me with any other information you have on the revenues and expenditures of the Gram Panchayat, for the most recent year.

23a. Finally, is there any additional information on the finances of this Gram Panchayat available online?

[IF ANY OF THIS INFORMATION IS NOT AVAILABLE NOW, TELL THE SECRETARY THAT SOMEONE WILL BE IN TOUCH WITH HIM TO ASK ABOUT ACQUIRING IT LATER]

Before we conclude the interview, we would know the name and other information about the adhyaksha and other members.

[NOTE: TRY TO OBTAIN THIS INFORMATION FROM DOCUMENTS PROVIDED BY THE SECRETARY. IF IT IS NOT AVAILABLE THERE, THEN PLEASE ASK THE SECRETARY.]

24. 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*)/Tribe, I mean the name of the member's specific caste 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-jati/tribe)	(Caste group)
ii.	_____	_____	_____
	(name)	(caste-jati/tribe)	(Caste group)
iii.	_____	_____	_____
	(name)	(caste-jati/tribe)	(Caste group)
iv.	_____	_____	_____
	(name)	(caste-jati/tribe)	(Caste group)
v.	_____	_____	_____
	(name)	(caste-jati/tribe)	(Caste group)
vi.	_____	_____	_____
	(name)	(caste-jati/tribe)	(Caste group)
vii.	_____	_____	_____
	(name)	(caste-jati/tribe)	(Caste group)
viii.	_____	_____	_____
	(name)	(caste-jati/tribe)	(Caste group)
ix.	_____	_____	_____
	(name)	(caste-jati/tribe)	(Caste group)
x.	_____	_____	_____
	(name)	(caste-jati/tribe)	(Caste group)
xi.	_____	_____	_____
	(name)	(caste-jati/tribe)	(Caste group)
xii.	_____	_____	_____
	(name)	(caste-jati/tribe)	(Caste group)

25. Among the members of this Gram Panchayat, how many have been elected from village where the headquarters are located?

With that, we conclude our interview. Thank you very much.