

ASER: 2005
November-December

WHAT TO DO IN THE VILLAGE

A list of villages with block names for each district will be provided to each district team. It is VERY IMPORTANT that the district team visits ALL villages on the list given to them.

TASK 1: HOW TO MAKE A MAP

- **Contact Sarpanch:** Introduce yourself to the Sarpanch or to other senior members of the panchayat. Tell them about ASER. Ask them to help you to fill out the School information sheet about schools in the village and around the village. Get the approximate number of households in the village from the Sarpanch. Ask if he has a map of the village (usually patwari has it).
- **Start mapping:** To get to know the village, walk around and start mapping.
 - Talk to people: How many different hamlets/sections in the village? Where they are located? What is the social composition of the households in each hamlet/section? What is the estimate of households in each hamlet/section? Tell them about ASER.
 - Map: On the map, show the main landmarks – temples, mosques, river, road, school, bus-stop, panchayat bhavan, shop etc. Mark the main roads/streets/paths through the village prominently on the map.
- **Marking and numbering sections:** If the village has hamlets, then mark the hamlets on the map and number them. In the village is one continuous habitation then divide the entire village in 4 sections. For each hamlet/section, note the estimated number of households and the social composition of the hamlet/section. Verify all the information on the map with people in the village as you walk around.

TASK 2: HOW TO SAMPLE HOUSEHOLDS AND CHILDREN TO BE SURVEYED

- If the village consists of more than 4 different hamlets, then make chits with numbers for each hamlet. Randomly pick 4 chits. If there are 4 or less hamlets, then we will go to all of these hamlets. If the village is one continuous habitation, then divide the entire village into four quadrants/sections. We will visit each quadrant/section. Show these sections on the village map.
- In each hamlet/section of the village, we need to survey all children from 5 households. Thus for the entire village, there will be information for about 20 randomly selected households. (It is estimated that on average we will be sampling 50 children per village).
- Go to the hamlet/section. Try to find the central point in that habitation. Stand facing dwellings in the center of the habitation. Visit every 5th dwelling in the habitation (e.g. 1st house, 6th house, 11th house, etc. Get information about the household. Survey & test every child between the ages of 6 and 14 in that household. Stop after you have completed 5 households in that section. If you have reached the end of the section, go around again using the same every 5th household rule.
- Now move to the next selected hamlet/quadrant. Follow the same process.

- If the selected dwelling is closed or if there is no body at home, note that down on your survey sheet as "house closed" and move to the next house. Continue until you have 5 households in which there were inhabitants. Note down information about the household. Test children from 6 up to the age of 14.
- Make sure that you go to households **ONLY** when children are likely to be home. This means that it should be a Sunday or holiday.
- In each sampled dwelling:
 - **Joint families:** There may be a joint family, with several brothers, their wives and children. Make sure that you get all children in the age group 6 to 14 in the selected households) and information on their respective parents.
 - **Older children:** Ask members of the household as well as neighbours about who all live in the household on a regular basis. (Do not survey children who are visiting). Often older girls and boys (in the age group 11 to 14) may not be thought of as children. Often such children are busy working in the household or in the fields. Ask family members to call them so that you can speak to them directly. If they do not come immediately, mark that household and revisit it once you are done surveying the other households. If there are children in the family but not in the village at present, note down the details in the survey sheet.
- Children and adults are usually curious about the testing process and want to participate. Many children may come up to you and want to be included. Do not discourage children who want to be tested. You can interact with them. But concentrate on the fact that data must be noted down **ONLY** for children from households that have been randomly selected.

TASK 3: WHAT TO DO IN THE SCHOOL?

- Introduce yourselves to the Headmaster/mistress and teachers. Tell them about ASER. Make sure that no one is threatened or feels nervous about your visit to the school.
- As far as possible do not note down things in your format while you are in the school. Observe keenly and mentally take note until you are able to come out of the school and write it down. Both team members must agree on the observations of basic conditions of school infrastructure and functioning.
- If the Headmaster objects to your coming to the school and you are not able to persuade the Headmaster to let you stay, then leave. Later, put down on the format the circumstances under which you left the school. Closely observe what is going on in school. Spend at least one hour in the school. `
- Make sure that children in the school are not fearful or nervous of you. Talk to them, chat with them, play games with them and put them at ease.
- **MAKE SURE THAT EACH VOLUNTEER IS NEATLY DRESSED, TALKS POLITELY AND IS ABLE TO TALK ABOUT ASER 2005. MOST OF ALL ENJOY YOURSELF AND MAKE SURE THAT CHILDREN ARE ENJOYING THEMSELVES ALSO.**
- **For more information, please visit www.pratham.org**