

**IRSSI**  
**INDIAN RURAL SETTLEMENT SURVEY INSTITUTE**  
**AHMEDABAD**

**SACRED TOPOGRAPHY SURVEY PROGRAM**

**Q1**

**- BASIC QUESTIONNAIRE -**  
**FESTIVAL CALENDER OF RURAL SETTLEMENTS**

**AHMEDABAD OCTOBER 1994**

**INDIAN RURAL SETTLEMENT SURVEY INSTITUTE**  
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Preliminary notes:

(1) This **>Basic Questionnaire<**(Q1) is the fundament for the **>Questionnaire** for Special Rites **<**(Q2). It should give the general characteristics **of a** settlement and its festival calendar in all details. It serves for the decision whether or not to study certain rites, cult-festivals in depts. The basic questionnaire can thus form the ground for several reports **of the type Q2.** It should therefore be as **precise** and reliable as possible.

(2) RSU means **>Researched** Settlement Unit (hamlet, village, district of town)

(3) This **questionnaire** is made in a way that additional data-sheets can be introduced in each section. Please do not forget to put the section number on additional sheets. E. g. photographs related to environment and village: **C.6/**, then number each photograph on this sheet with **1, 2, or 3** etc.. Please use/for separating subdivisions, e.g. **C.6/6a.**

(4) The condition “sine **qua non**” for choosing a certain cult-festival to report **on is** the content of **>fibroconstructive** elements **<** in their **value-centre** (sacred objects). For the definition of **>fibroconstructive** signs and **symbols<** see manual MI). Please do not forget to mention and document (photo) such **very** ancient signs and symbols.

(5) **Very** important: for names of objects, places and buildings do not note your idea about it. but always ask some local person how they name it. Give always local designation first, then **hindi**, and third, English equivalent.

(6) Very important: Please always use the codes of the paragraph you are dealing with for additional sheets while making sketches and photographs. Your report will be given to professional persons to make elaborate graphic materials. They will need your photographs at the correct place to correctly interpret your notes and sketches. We will not be able **to** refund for reports that do not conform to this condition.

## PART I: GENERAL CHARACTERISTICS

The first part **of this** questionnaire deals with general characteristics **of the** settlement surveyed (RSU). These should be given in a way that the reader **of the** report gains a more or less clear image **of the** settlement. its people and their life conditions.

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**A.**    KEY DATA

4.1 Name of Settlement (**RSU**): \_\_\_\_\_

4.2    Administrative location: \_\_\_\_\_

**Please** give exact location of village (address)

1        District, \_\_\_\_\_

2        county, \_\_\_\_\_

3        State \_\_\_\_\_

4        Other indications \_\_\_\_\_

4.3 Nr. of related Basic Questionnaire Q2: \_\_\_\_\_

A.4 Most important literature<sup>1</sup> used \_\_\_\_\_

4.5 Researcher(s) of present survey.

1        Name \_\_\_\_\_

2        Adress \_\_\_\_\_

3        Telephone  
         residence  
         office  
         others \_\_\_\_\_

4.6 Dates of work for this report (from to):

a        in the field \_\_\_\_\_

b        at office \_\_\_\_\_



2 sectors (How many? names?)

a number \_\_\_\_\_

b names \_\_\_\_\_

3 Please provide a schematic sketch of the **settlement** (RSU) and its (subdivisions including names) on additional sheet, using code C.3/3

2.4 Type of settlement (RSU) according to location (please underline)

1 on **flatland** \_\_\_\_\_

2 on hilltop \_\_\_\_\_

3 in hilly region \_\_\_\_\_

4 in narrow valley \_\_\_\_\_

5 in deep valley \_\_\_\_\_

6 along sea-coast \_\_\_\_\_

7 along river \_\_\_\_\_

8 in deep forests \_\_\_\_\_

9 Other type \_\_\_\_\_

2.5 Formal typology of RSU (please underline)

1 The form of the village is

a concentric \_\_\_\_\_

b linear (along river, street) \_\_\_\_\_

c square \_\_\_\_\_

d with **slightly** dispersed houses \_\_\_\_\_

**e** houses are widely **diffused** \_\_\_\_\_

f structured according to different castes  
(please outline form) \_\_\_\_\_

g other formal characteristics \_\_\_\_\_

2.6 Photographs of environment and village.

Please give some typical photographs of settlement (RSU), number them on separate sheet characterised as 2.6 and give short explanations for each photograph under 1a, 1b, 2a, 2b, etc. (e.g. 'photo taken towards southwest, showing outside of village, or, photo shows village centre with surrounding houses).

Inside village

- a typical environment, street
- b villagecentre

2 Village from outside

- a village entrance (eventually with particular signs, decorations, gates)
- b village with houses seen from outside

3 Outside

- a towards the mountains,
- b towards the sea,
- c typical view of fields
- d border between settlement and fields,

D. POPULATION

2.1 Size

Number of families living in RSU

Number of houses in RSU

Approximate number of inhabitants

Remarks

2.2 Cultural

Name of tribe

Any affiliation with other villages, tribes? Give names.

### D.3 Photographs

Please add some photographs on separate sheet (with code D.3) which show some typical persons of RSU and indicate age-group, social function of person(s) on photograph. If several persons are shown on same photo, please refer to a, b, c, d marked near their heads.

1 photograph (e.g. with 3 persons)

a

b

c

2

a

b

c

3

a

b

c

### E. SOCIAL STRUCTURE

#### E.1 Ancienty of houses and families

1 Is there a distinction between ancient families (or houses) and later, **or** more recent families (or houses) settling in the RSU?

2 If so, how are they called (individually and collectively: all categories)?

local / **hindi** / **english**

a founderhouse \_\_\_\_\_

b descendants of founderhouse \_\_\_\_\_

c ancient families \_\_\_\_\_

d more recent families \_\_\_\_\_

3 Are the ancient families (or houses) considered to have high political influence in the settlement?

4 Of what nature is this political influence?

5 Are they represented in certain associations or corporations (related to cult, festivals, communal economy etc.) in the settlement ?

5 **Is** the founder house of the settlement still known?

7 Has its present representant a special role in the village community? (priest, village head, chief of certain rites)

### 3.2 Ritual associations

1 Who **organises** communal festivals? \_\_\_\_\_

2 Are there special groups related to certain communal festivals \_\_\_\_\_

3 If so, please list them and note how they are **called**. \_\_\_\_\_

local/**hindi**/ english

a

b

c

4 Please give main function of these **cultic** and ritual associations

5 Which one is most important?

a Please give its name \_\_\_\_\_

b **Is** it related to a particular **sanctuary**? \_\_\_\_\_

### F. LANGUAGE

#### F.1 Main language

1 Spoken by . . . .% **of the** RSU

2 Other languages spoken in RSU

1

2

3

F.3 Which language is most ancient in the settlement?

## G. ECONOMY

### G.1 Category of main economy in settlement (RSU)

- 1 sedentary agrarian (stable settlement, with coordinated fields)
- 2 shifting **agriculture** (nomadic element: periodically new fields are prepared, **village** follows) swidden culture?
- 3 breeders and **herdsmen** (nomadic element: winter/ summer movements or moving with animals)
- 4 eventually: **elements** of a hunters and collectors **culture** (essentially nomadic; such elements are survivals easily found even in modern **industrialised** cultures: **collecting** mushrooms, illegal hunting and trapping)

### G.2 Degree of modern influences (visible in technical outfit):

10 20 30 40 50 60 70 80 90 100%

### G.3 Village looks **technologically** conservative

- 1 very much
- 2 moderately
- 3 not at all

### G.4 Other economical aspects

### G.5 Photographs

Please add some photographs of typical economical aspects of RSU (handicraft, farming, pottery)

- 1
- 2
- 3
- 4
- 5
- 6

## H. BUILDINGS

### H.1 Please give short **typology** of houses found in the settlement

(RSU)

Please give photographs of each type of buildings described (numbered like the following)

- 1 Dwellings
  - a larger, for ruling families
  - b smaller houses for poorer people
  - c for freshly married couple

**d** other **dwelling**s

2 Storage

a granaries

b straw-heaps

c stables

d other storage

3 Front porch and fenced garden

4 Buildings or arrangements related to water (fountain, pond, lake, river)

5 Fences

6 Other permanent buildings

## I. OTHER MATERIAL CULTURE

I.1 Some examples of local products

1 Please document some objects (photo or drawing) which you saw at this place and which are typical for the locality. Put photos on additional sheet (with codes, e.g. ~~G.1/1a~~ <sup>J</sup> etc) and note how they are called locally below

a basket

b pottery

c agrarian tools

d mortar

e (other(s))

## PART II

### J. MAP(S)

J.1 Please provide a copied section of >Survey of India< map on separate sheet marked ~~H~~ <sup>J</sup>.1/1 or 2 etc according to **scale**

1 1:25'000 (should be favoured)

2 1:50'000

3 1:250'000

4 Other scale:

5 Please encircle researched settlement unit (RSU)

## K. SACRED TOPOGRAPHY

### Κ.1 Main village sanctuary

1 Please mark the main village or settlement temple on the map of the settlement RSU (J.1) by an arrow marked with (K.1/1, main village sanctuary)

2 Please visit the sanctuary and make a small sketchy plan giving position of the following elements

a main temple, its name and name of deity venerated

b **eventual** secondary temples at same place

c other buildings (please indicate function)

d entrance gate to sanctuary

e relation to village

3 Photographs of main sanctuary (on additional sheet K.3)

a main temple

b entrance gate

c **from** far towards entrance of temple

d related secondary temples in same precinct

### Κ.2 Temples and sanctuaries related to individual families and houses

1 name of family

---

2 name of house (address)

---

3 name of deity venerated

---

4 date and name of main festival

---

5 Please give its location on map with arrow (H.1)

6 Please give photographs of house (outside) and eventually inside (sanctuary) on separate sheet **usig** code K.2/6a, 6b. etc.

a outside

b inside

**K 3 Other sanctuaries in the village**

1 Please note location of other sanctuaries in the village on the map with thin arrows marked with meaning (e.g. K.3/1a, K.2/1b, etc.). Please give their names below, including deity venerated.

- a temples/ sanctuaries related to village entrance(s)
- b temples/ sanctuaries related to other paths and roads
- c temples/ sanctuaries related to rice cultivation
- d temples/ sanctuaries related to mountains, woods
- e temples/ sanctuaries related to water
- f temples/ sanctuaries related to other domains

2 Please give photographs of these secondary sanctuaries on separate sheet, using the same codes (K.3/1a, K.3/1b, etc.).

**L. FESTIVAL CALENDAR: CHRONOLOGICALLY**

L.1 Chronologically according to months (I = Indian, W = Western)

Please ask for the yearly festivals celebrated within the settlement (RSU). It is best to ask an elderly person who is competent in ritual matters. Please always give name of festival and time when it will be held (for present and following year).

a Present year (according to months: I = Indian, W = Western)  
Festival Name/ Time/ Related permanent sacred place/  
Related temporary sacred place/ Content of festival/  
Performed by/ contains fibroconstructive signs or symbols (yes/ no)

month

- I
- 2
- 3
- 4
- 5
- 6
- 7
- 8
- 9
- 10
- 11
- 12

>>>> Please use separate sheet with code L. 1/a if there is more information

Next year (according to months: I = Indian. W = Western)  
**Festival Name/ Time/ Related permanent sacred place/  
Related temporary sacred place/ Content of festival/  
Performed by/ contains fibroconstructive signs or sym  
bols (yes/ no)**

month

- 1
- 2
- 3
- 4
- 5
- 6
- 7
- 8
- 9
- 10
- 11
- 12

>>>> Please use separate sheet with code L.1/b if there is more information

#### **VI. FESTIVAL CALENDAR: TOPOGRAPHICALLY**

Please give festivals listed according to following sacred places

Festival Name/ Time/ Related permanent sacred place/  
related temporary sacred place/ Content/ Performed by/  
contains fibroconstructive symbols (yes/ no)

##### **VI.1 Related to the main village temple**

Festival Name/ Time/ Related permanent sacred place/  
related temporary sacred place/ Content/ Performed by/  
contains fibroconstructive symbols (yes/ no)

- a related to main temple
- b related to the secondary temples of the same precinct

##### **VI.2 Festivals related to important families and houses**

Festival Name/ Time/ Related permanent sacred place/  
related temporary sacred place/Content/ Performed by/  
contains fibroconstructive symbols (yes/ no)

- a related to entrance
- b sanctuary inside
- c other sacred places related to houses

### M.3 Festivals related to other temples of the village

Festival Name/ Time/ Related permanent sacred place/  
related temporary sacred place/ Content/ Performed by/  
contains fibroconstructive symbols(yes/ no)

- a related to village entrance
- b related to sanctuaries of paths or roads
- c related to sanctuaries of rice cultivation
  - 1 occupation of fields for planting
  - 2 sowing
  - 3 Transplanting
  - 4 Irrigating
  - 5 Protecting growing plants
  - 6 Harvesting
  - 7 Storing seeds
  - 8 Other
- d related to sanctuaries of mountains. woods
- e related to sanctuaries related to water
- f related to other sanctuaries of village

### M 4 Festivals related to superior structures

Festival Name/ Time/ Related permanent sacred place/  
related temporary sacred place/ Content/ Performed by/  
contains fibroconstructive symbols (yes/ no)

- a **Related** to a **centralised** temple system located outside or distant from the settlement?
- b Related to sanctuary of nearby town or city?
- c State
- d Nation

15 Festivals related to the individual life cycle of certain persons?

Festival Name/ Time/ Content/ Performed by/ contains fibroconstructive symbols (yes/ no)

- a birth
- b Marriage
- c Death
- d Other

1.6 Other types of festivals

Festival Name/ Time/ Related permanent sacred place/ related temporary sacred place/ Content/ Performed by/ contains fibroconstructive symbols (yes/ no)

- a Rites related to collection of vegetables or other materials collected in the woods?
- b Other rites in the woods, in the jungle?
- c rites performed at the foot or on top of hills, mountains
- d rites related to river, water places etc.

IV. FIBROCONSTRUCTIVE SIGNS AND SYMBOLS

For the definition of fibroconstructive signs and symbols see the separate >Manual for Research< (MI)

1 Questioning about the existence of fibroconstructive signs and symbols in the surveyed settlement (RSU)

Please ask the local elders whether there are any sacred objects consisting of fibrous plant materials (grasses, twigs, bamboo etc.) or similar decorations made and used during one of the festivals or rites noted above. If they mention such sacred objects (marking sacred places), or constructions (temporary temple), or "decorations" (e.g. demarkation of settlement borderlines with strings and ropes) please note them below. Please ask the informants to make drawings of such fibroconstructive signs and symbols or try to sketch them yourself and ask them whether your drawing is correct.

a Object (a)

- 1 Give name of object \_\_\_\_\_
- 2 Date and name of festival related. \_\_\_\_\_
- 3 Report when they are freshly made. \_\_\_\_\_
- 4 Please give also the name of the sanctuary related \_\_\_\_\_
- 5 Please give their duration (only for duration of festival, or, duration 1 year, then newly made),

6 If possible (e.g. if they remain in position through the year) give photographs on separate sheet of paper with code (e.g. N 1/a)

b Object (b)

>>>> Please use separate sheet, if there are more

N 2 Decorations of sacred places made with plants (garlands with flowers, leaves, twigs, rice-plants, ropes) at any of these festivals (Photo? Drawing available?)

Object's name/Made of which material/ Festival name/  
**date/ Sanctuary related/ Duration**

a

b

c

d

e

f

g

N 4 Fibrous sacred symbols related to rice cultivation (Photo?  
Drawing available?)

Object's name, Festival name, date, Sanctuary, Duration

a

b

c

d

N.5 Other sacred objects made with twigs, reeds, bamboo or other plant materials (Photo? Drawing available?)

Object's name, Festival name, date, Sanctuary, Duration

a

b

c

d

- 4.6 Other objects, e.g. sacred poles or pillars made of wood decorated with plants (twigs, grasses, rice, bamboo). (Photo? Drawing available?)

Object's name, Festival name, date, Sanctuary, Duration

a

b

c

d

## 3. DIACHRONICAL INDICES

Please try to find answers on the following questions questioning elders of the RSU

How long do local elders think their ancestors lived at this place?

How many generations are remembered?

Are there particular events in the village past, which are remembered?

Are there legends or verbal traditions describing the high age of the settlement?

Are there written sources somewhere? (most ancient house or family?)

## 4. SHORT GLOSSARY

Please give a short glossary of the most important terms you have found in your survey. Please give first the local word, then hindi and english equivalent. and explain the meaning according to the explanations received by local people.