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Courtesy By Rural Department Gujarat Government National Informatics Centre, Gujarat

Editorial Team

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SOCIO-ECONOMIC SURVEY (BPL SURVEY) PROJEGI

Objective

Prepare the list of Below Poverty Line (BPL) families of rural Gujarat and to identify the beneficiaries for Rural Development programs.

The Survey Process

The Socio Economic Survey for preparing the list of Below Poverty Line families in the country is initiated by the Government of India.

Ministry of Rural Development, Govt. of India, decided the methodology for the survey and asked state governments to conduct the survey. The criteria were 13 socio- economic indicators.

Department of Rural Development, Government of Gujarat decided to use latest technology tools to achieve maximum accuracy and transparency. Department has decided to scan all the survey forms to maintain records. It was also decided that instead of making data entry manually, scanned forms should be converted to build up the database of all surveyed families.



On the request of Commissioner, Rural Development, National Informatics Centre Services Incorporated (NICSI), New Delhi has arranged demonstration of various scanning solutions by private vendor. Initially it was decided to use this technology on pilot basis to seven talukas of the state. Accordingly, form was designed to capture survey data at village level. District-Taluka and Village coding scheme was prepared by NIC. Series of training programs were arranged by department to explain surveyor about the filling up the forms to have maximum accuracy. Various parameters were also coded to have minimum errors while filling up the forms. Scanning of forms captured about 2.5 (pilot project) lakhs family data and data was converted using Intelligent Character Recognition technology.

Encouraged by the result of Pilot data, it was decided by the department to use this technology for entire project. Accordingly NIC/NICSI was asked to carry out the work through its empanelled vendor. Before survey was conducted repetitive training programs were conducted through SATCOM facility to create awareness about the process of filling up the forms. Department and NIC for APO, Monitoring who played important role at the District level, jointly organized training cum lectures. Main project was executed in different phases.

- Coding and design of input survey form: Since this survey involved input data from all Villages of Gujarat, each village was assigned 05 digit code along with District and taluka code (district and taluka codes are as per census 2001). Since conversion of survey data involved scanning of all forms, it was designed to suit the requirements of scanning to minimize errors. Forms were filled up in English, however for ease of understanding, heading of each column was described in Gujarati.
- 2. Training to Field staff about filling up the forms.
- 3. Training cum lectures for APO, Monitoring.



- 4. Survey at Field level by Gram Sevak, Teachers and other officials as decided by department.
- 5. District wise scanning of forms and conversion of data to database.
- 6. Generation of error list through computer and correction of errors.
- 7. Verification of 10% of data by DRDA and correction of errors.
- 8. Compilation of data and generation of various query based reports.
- 9. Over 68.65 lakh households were individually visited and surveyed. Total 19 parameters were captured which indicate the social and economic status of each family. Out of these, 13 parameters are used to generate score of each family as per the guidelines of Government of India. Each parameter can have score ranging from 0 to 4. Thus each family gets his score out of 52.

The state government has decided the cut of score as follows,

Score between 0–16: <u>Very Poor Family</u> Score between 17-20: <u>Poor Family</u>

The proposed BPL list is being published in each gramasabha for citizens information. Department has also prescribed the procedure to address grievance, if any regarding the list.



Socio- Economic indicators & scoring pattern

- 1. Size of land holding.
- 2. Type of house.
- 3. Average availability of normal wear clothing. 11. Type of Indebtedness.
- 4. Food Security.
- 5. Sanitation.
- 6. Consumer items.
- 7. Literacy status.
- 8. Status of the household labor force.

New Initiatives Adopted In the State

- One page scan able survey form
- Additional information on socio economic characteristic of each household was captured to make data useful to other departments viz.
 - Family depended on female
 - Head of household widow
 - Any member of the family is physically disabled or not.
 - Whether household posses land for IAY or not.
- Dual code system was used to capture answers of each parameter to minimize errors. (i.e. A1, B2,C3,D4,E5)
- No manual data entry
- Survey forms were scanned for data preparation.
- Complete information regarding the survey data is available through GSWAN/Internet
- Entire process of data checking, verification and correction was done Online, which has reduced paper work and increase speed and transparency.

- 9. Means of livelihood.
- 10. Status of Children.
- 12. Reason for Migration.
- 13. Preference of assistance.



Technology Used:

Going The E-Way

68.65 lakh survey forms were scanned to make the database and thus avoided data entry work. Intelligent Character Recognition technology (ICR) was used for this purpose.

NIC Gujarat developed client server based and web based software for various activities like validating the scanned data, random checking of 10% surveyed data, correcting the resurveyed forms, score generation etc. A full-fledged web site is also developed. The web site shows survey details, BPL list, beneficiary lists of different schemes like IAY, SGSY etc. The site also has an online query facility of all the socio- economic indicators.

On line query module

On line query module is developed for extracting information based on any combination of the 16 socio-economic indicators up to household level.



Benefits

- Complete rural Gujarat data is now available on Public Domain.
- Dynamic BPL list that allows addition and removal of house holds every year
- Data is not only used for generation of BPL list, but other departments can also make use of this data for their schemes.
- On line query module is an excellent searching tool for extracting information based on any combination of survey parameters.
- Siving 'Face' to the poor- selection by 'Name' not by 'Numbers'.
- * Reduced pressure on decision-making authority from local vested interests.
- Objective selection of beneficiaries
- Saving in administrative cost
- Reduction in procedural harassment for people
- Benefits will be directed towards poorest of the poor.

Missing Links

- Village code mismatching: Even though care has been taken to avoid village code mismatching, we faced some problem of village mismatch. This was mainly due to same name of villages in district. In some cases there were mismatch between Revenue and Panchayat Village. Such problems were sorted out with department's help.
- 2. Errors in filling forms: In spite of due care taken in filling up the forms, few cases were observed where some columns were blanks. However such errors were removed and corrected using computer validation checks.



Milestones

The socio economic survey web site was made available to public domain got national level attention and appreciation. State level news papers have also taken note of this. Department has also arranged presentations for District and Taluka level officers about the usage of available data.

Screen Shots







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- An e-Governance Bulletin from GUJARAT INFORMATICS LTD.

eGovernance News

Gujarat bags 2 major e-Governance Awards at CSI - Nihilent 2005-06 at kokata

Founded in 1965, the Computer Society of India (CSI) is the largest association of Information Technology Professionals in India, with over 25,000 members on its rolls. CSI has been the only professional body in the country to institute a series of awards for recognizing the contributions made in the field of e-Governance. The basic objective of these awards has been to recognize and appreciate the successful efforts by the states and / or organizations in achieving good governance using ICT. Awards are also for the best e-Governance implementation from the point of view of achieving the pre-defined objectives for the same. During CSI-Nihilent 2004-05, Gujarat had won three awards.

In year 2006, Gujarat has submitted following nominations (Both in Hard copy & Soft copy) at the CSI – Nihilent e-Governance Awards 2005-06

- 1. Best e-Governed State
 - a. Nomination for Gujarat State
- 2. Best e-Governance Projects
 - a. Nomination for "e-Dhara (A Land Record Management System)"
 - b. Nomination for "SWIFT (State Wide Information on Financial Transactions)"
 - c. Nomination for "Pension Case Status Online"
 - d. Nomination for "Village wise Micro watershed wise and Water resource development Plan on satellite image"

Presentations for Best e-Governed State and e-Dhara were done on 11-12 October, 2006 at New Delhi.

On November 24, 2006, Awards winners were announced at Kolkata. Gujarat has won following two major awards at CSI-Nihilent 2005-06 eGovernance Awards.



eGovernance News

1. Best e-Governance State Category

1. Gujarat & Karnataka (Jointly at 1st Position)

2. Best e-Governance Projects Category

1. e-Dhara, Khajana & Bhoomi (Jointly at 2nd position – Runners Up)

In CSI – Nihilent 2005-06, 8 states had called for presentation for Best e-governance State. 92 projects from 21 states had participated in Best e-Governance project category. 25 projects were short listed for presentation.

Selection Criteria for Best e-governance State were as follows:

- Attitude towards partnership
- Client Satisfaction attributes
- Awards and recognition
- Quality of resources
- E-Governance project experience

Selection Criteria for Best e-governance project were as follows:

- Service Orientation
- Technology
- Sustainability
- Cost Effectiveness



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