HKU Student Research Team

Project DC03 Pre-election Fieldwork Report Form

This form can be downloaded from the project webpage. It should be completed on the day of each fieldwork session and submitted to the project organizer by email to hkusrt@hkupop.hku.hk, or by uploading to the project website directly.

Name of person(s) submitting these fieldwork notes : _Liu Sau Wai, Wong Ho Yee__

Name of constituency visited (please use one form for each constituency) :
_____Tung Wah , A13_____

Field trip details –

Date : 20th Nov 2003_ Time : _2040-2140_ Venue : open area at the junction of Wing Li Street and stair of Shing Wong St.

Description of the process (whether alone, accompanied by teammates, friends, campaign workers… etc.)

A team of two

Record the main purpose of your field trip by ticking on one or more of the following objectives:

□ To count, record, and analyze the content of campaign posters, banners, leaflets, etc.

✓ To observe campaign activities, like forums, door-to-door visits, open petitions, on-street broadcast, etc.

□ To interview candidates and campaign workers.

✓ To interview electors and ordinary residents.

✓ To take pictures, or collect campaign material for scanning.

□ Other purposes (please specify) : _____

Recording basic figures – like how many posters and where, how many people attended the forum during different time period…etc

- It was a meeting organized by a community centre, St. James' Settlement (聖雅各福群會) to discuss the issue on redevelopment of the old district (the area is included)
- Candidates 1 & 2 of Tung Wah (A13) and candidates of other constituency (郭家麟, 張翼雄) were invited
- There was a moderator, a person-in-charge of the centre
- Mr. Ho of A13 was on time and Mr. Kwok arrived at about 2105
- The meeting started from 2030 to 2130 (candidates left earlier at about 2120).
- There were about 30 people; some joined/left during the meeting;
- Since it was not an open forum regarding voting, not all participants were voters of Tung Wah (A13)
- However, both news clip about redevelopment and pamphlets about the candidates were distributed by the workers of the centre

Description of findings – could be in the form simple narrations, or in the form of questions and answer…(*the quotation may not be in exact wordings; but has been tried to recall as accurate as possible)

A. about candidates

- sometimes, candidates encouraged people to go voting though they said they were not aimed to solicit vote

e.g. candidate 2 said "今日唔係嚟拉票,… 記得去登記 (立法會)…無輪輸贏, 都會繼續跟進"

B. about participants

- a few people were especially enthusiastic in asking questions about redevelopment
- when there's dead air, an old male person said "有咩野就好問 le, 律師嚟架, 談話費好貴" (referring to Mr. Ho candidate 2)
- during the meeting, a middle-aged woman was asked the reason of coming.

(W: the woman; R: response from interviewer)

R: why do you join this meeting?

W: I want to know how the redevelopment is going on

R: We'll have election soon. Has similar kind of activities been held before the election period?

W: yes, they have organized picnics, provided moon cakes in mid-autumn festival …

- an old male person (林叔)was eager to ask question and challenged candidate 2 with strong personal view. He always discussed with others during the meeting. He shared his opinions “我係選民，有 5 張票,” “我梗係要行駛權利!” “(候選人)好的話，真係扑心扑命去同我地做事，當然去投佢” “一個都唔投!” “我幾次都唔投” “成日都話依法律程序辦事，成日開會，根本就係利用我地 d 時間去拉票” “我嚟係佢地(聖雅各福群會)叫我，佢地真係好有心，次次都親自打電話…” “如果有功夫的，出力去做，冇表現都唔可以怪”
- after the meeting, two female old people were asked if they would go voting on 23rd and what criteria they would consider. One answered “事但投一個囉” another said she did not receive letter for a few years

C. about passers-by

- a passer-by was interviewed (female, abt 30 yrs-old) and asked why she did not join the meeting. She claimed that it was because she did not have time that night but she used to join. She’s not a voter but her husband is.

D. the moderator

- the moderator chatted with the residents for a while after the candidates had left
- the moderator expressed to us “如果佢(current councilor)唔太差，市民都唔會出聲” “今次因主要講重建，所以冇人咁大聲嘈佢地做唔到野” “如果係論壇，就真係嘈!” “今次算係市民主導，雖然都會有 d 拉票” “何生有到，李生冇到，咁可能已經係拉票”

Conclusions drawn from your observation

- most of the time was focused on redevelopment
- though sometimes candidates “were suspected” to gain support
- participants were concerned about redevelopment

New questions generated from your observations or findings

- How can we evaluate “a good councilor”? To do whatever the residents request that may offend the law? Or how sincere the councilor is in helping the residents?

Open questions for discussion by all team members

- Should a candidate join this kind of meetings that is not totally an open petition?

Some may come just to show they are concerned about the community but for sincere people, they may be misunderstood as using this as strategy to solicit vote