

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 : Wong Ho Yee

Name of constituency visited (please use one form for each constituency) :
Tung Wah , A13

Field trip details –

Date : 23rd Nov 2003 Time : 0900-1800 Venue : the poll station

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

Alone while my partner was doing interview/ was observing

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

- ◆ Generally speaking, candidate 2, Mr. Ho Chun Kei, and his agent (代理人) were standing opposite to the poll station all day long from about 0930 (as long as we were still on duty)
- ◆ Candidate 1, Mr. Lee Wing Fui, appeared from time to time (especially in the afternoon, at around 4 o'clock). He at first stood near candidate 2 but later he went down the street and stood far away. Later, he went back to the original position.
- ◆ In comparison with candidate 1, there were people (walking into /out from the station) who greeted candidate 2.
- ◆ No special banners of candidate 2 near the poll station but candidate 1 had a counter with banners and helpers located at a “must-observable” place near the station
- ◆ Some voters came alone whereas some came with their family
- ◆ There were more voters in the afternoon
- ◆ A policeman was on duty outside the poll station

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 tried to recall as accurate as possible)

A. about voters

- ◆ Some people did not even know how many candidates there were until they looked at the board outside the station right before voting

e.g. a woman read the board's information and said “吓, 乜今日得兩個(候選人)咋...”

- ◆ Some did not vote based on their own decision but on others. Some of the “others” were just kids.

E.g. a mother was wondering which one she should vote for. Then she asked her little daughter (abt 4 years old) and the little kid said an number out

e.g. an old man reminded an old woman (a couple probably) “don't forget to vote for number 2, remember!!” (記得投 2 號呀!) The woman, who looked annoyed, said“哎呀, 得 le. 唔好出聲啦” (both were entering the station)

- ◆ Some did not really know the voting procedures until they finished doing so

e.g. a woman (abt 35 yrs old) said loudly outside the station “哎呀, 原來有個印架! 呢...好似個 stamp 咁.” Another woman responded “等 d 阿婆唔...(could not hear)”

e.g. a woman said “你個印倒轉左及, 得唔得架?” Another man replied “得架啦!” The woman continued “唔係因間俾民建.....(could not hear)”

- ◆ Some people voiced their preferences loudly in the public

e.g. a woman, who was walking towards the station, bumped into a group of people who were leaving the station (her friends probably). She asked “who did you vote for?” (哎呀, 你投咗邊個?). A woman in the group answered loudly, “of course, Number 2” (梗係投 2 號啦). Candidate 2 was smiling.

- ◆ a voter was not familiar with her own voting district

e.g. an old woman asked me if the school was the poll station of somebody called “甘 X 威”. I said no and the agent of candidate 2 came and helped and so did candidate 2. After figuring out, the old woman appreciated the agent’s kindness. She left and said “我投你一票”

- ◆ A middle-aged woman said something interesting after voting “幾好呀! 民主. 民主自由, 個個有救, 你同我都有救” (she was like talking to a man walking near her but the man later walked away)

- ◆ A male voter was aware of the title of candidate

e.g. he first addressed candidate 2 as “Councilor Ho” (何議員) and then he quickly asked in laugh whether he could still call candidate 2 in that way “仲叫得呀嘛?”

- ◆ A man was aware of the atmosphere of the election district

e.g. before entering the poll station, a man was talking on the phone and said the atmosphere was cool, even worse than new year “嘩, 咁冷清, 同外國 o 個 d 比真係... 仲冷清過新年!”

B. about candidates

- ◆ Candidates were welcomed by some voters

e.g. a voter met candidate 2 and said “good morning Mr. Ho. So glad to meet you here” (早晨何律師, 好高興見到你!);

e.g. a voter also presented a bundle of flowers to candidate 1.

- ◆ Candidates seemed like having tacit understanding (默契) with voters

e.g. a voter showed up his thumb and candidate 2 responded by waiving hand and saying “thank you”

- ◆ The conversation between the voters and the candidates could be personal concern

e.g. when candidate 2 chatted with 2 old people, he showed concern about their health and said “你幾好精神喎!!” & “你仲好過我”

- ◆ Chatting with others triggered suspicion that candidate 2 wanted to solicit vote. A policeman discussed this with candidate 2
- ◆ Candidate 2 helped a voter look after her dog and helped a passer-by take picture
- ◆ While I was chatting with candidate 2’s agent and helper (Democratic Party), I

asked about their (including candidate 1's - DBA) propaganda. They did mention the plenty of resources, e.g. manpower, of DBA

- ◆ Candidate 2 also showed concern to me by asking “feel tired?” and both questioned how long we had to be on duty
- ◆ I also asked candidate 1 about the bundle of flower and he said “有個街坊話有野俾我, 我本來 o 係下面(location), 咁咪走番上嚟囉”. His assistant added “個街坊支持佢呀嘛, 咪送花支持佢囉!”

C. Distribution of leaflets

- ◆ Most of the people were willing to receive the sheet though some said they did not know how to access the Internet
- ◆ A man said “係 hong kong u 就一定支持”
- ◆ A man felt dubious when he read out “學術研究??”
- ◆ Another man was accompanied by a female. Once he glanced the leaflet and heard about on-line questionnaire, he said “哦, 就係你地咁人!” I was very surprised and said “吓咁人, 先生你講乜, 我唔係好明啫?” He kept on reading the leaflet and said “係你地啦, 你有睇報紙架咩. 話填乜答案都得 ge 嘛!” I continued to explain “我諗你搞錯左 le, 我地係香港大學民意調查組” The female showed signal to him but he stopped me and said “係啦, 報紙都有講, 你都有睇...”. I said “我地呢個網上調查今日先開始, 又點會有報紙賣呢?” He said “呀, 係啫, 係維港呀!” The female said “搞錯咗 le!”
- ◆ A young lady came and asked “咦, 呢 d 咩野嚟架” (referring to the yellow sheet) I asked if she had voted or not. She answered “我未入去投呀, 可唔可以睇吓” I said “呢個其實係港大搞的網上調查, 投票之後, 三日內去呢個網址, 發表意見.....” later I discovered that she's a helper of candidate 1
- ◆ Candidate 2 also asked “你地個張係咩野嚟架?”

D. Interview

- ◆ Most of them answered without doubt
- ◆ Some became more sensitive when they were asked about the selection of candidates
- ◆ The voters knew they had the right to choose not to answer
- ◆ A woman, after answering the whole questionnaire gave some opinions and requested me to report it. (the woman's response – W; my response - R)

W: 你地問七.一, 咁咪即係有 stand point?

R: 係因為有人會覺得七一後, 好多香港人都明白自己真係可以表達自己意見, 行駛自己權利. 所以我地想睇吓佢地有否參與七一, 會唔會影響投票率或投票結果”

W: 咁咪即係你地已經假定咗係因為個原因囉, 你地呢 d 係 too simplified...你幫我寫低.

R: 就係唔佑所以先至要調查

W: 所以咪就係話你地諗野太簡單. 點解你唔諗吓, 係咪因為 D 人讀多咗書, 所以識得投票, 你地又唔諗吓其他原因點解去投票, 唔一定因為七一架啲, ...

R: 係, 但你講的教育問題已經係好耐, 唔會只係到而家先發揮效用而驅使 D 人突然去投票...

W: 咁咪問人地遠因係乜, 近因係乜. 點解會來投票.....

R: 好多謝你既意見, 但其實第一條問題已經問咗 “點解今日嚟投票?” 我地將參加七一 放在最後

W: 咁你地點解唔放埋七一落第一條(問題)度

R: 唔好意思, 但因為我唔係問卷設計人, 所以可能佢地有佢地的理由

W: 你地呢 d 係 too simplified...你地港大成日話做咗乜調查, 但其實就係將 d 野整得太簡單”

R: 我地呢個調查唔會向外公佈”

W: 咁即係乜?

R: 我地係學生研究, 鍾博士會有另一隊專業的訪問隊發表結果. 我地而家做的只係初步

W: 邊個負責?

R: 都係鍾庭耀博士, 但問卷係咪佢出就唔肯定

W: 咁佢負責都要知道問緊乜, 唔通話唔發表就亂來咩, 佢要負責架 wor...

.... (又一輪討論)

R: 你同我寫低佢, 真係 simplified 呀諗野...

.....

E. general

- ◆ It seemed that the location of the poll station was inconvenient as it was located along a steep slope; a person on wheelchair was accompanied by family
- ◆ Some people arrived the station with the map provided and another map book (perhaps they were not familiar with the location)

Conclusions drawn from your observation

- ◆ Some voters were quite irresponsible as they did not know the candidates well and

read the instruction before voting.

- ◆ Their prudent decisions would affect the fairness of the result
- ◆ Interviewees are not always “passive”. They do question the survey
- ◆ Being a candidate is not easy. It is not just about his/her own ability but also the affiliated party’s reputation and resources offered.

New questions generated from your observations or findings

- ◆ It’s observed that some voters were not familiar with the candidates and they were not serious about the process. Why they registered as a voter if they are not concerned about it?
- ◆ Once they have registered, why they didn’t spare some time in studying materials about the candidates?
- ◆ How many voters do understand the meaning of voting?
- ◆ What are the factors affecting the successful rate of a candidate? His own effort, money, manpower, other resources, and the affiliated party?
- ◆ Some voters voted based on the candidates’ past performance (immediate benefits related to the community’s facilities) whereas some considered the political background, can we judge which perspective is more appropriate in a district election?
- ◆ How useful it was to stand outside/near the poll station?

Open questions for discussion by all team members

- ◆ How valid was the questionnaire?
- ◆ Was it a biased one (like what the woman claimed)?
- ◆ “If we do not have a “stand point”, we won’t set it as a research question and conduct a survey”, is it logical?
- ◆ Taking picture for passer-by, taking care of a dog... true altruism / strategy to gain support?