

22. Which Preparatory Steps ought to be Completed ahead of Household Visitations?

Household visitations are the foundational work for the understanding of public sentiment and the collection of public opinion. It is only through preparatory work ahead of household visitations that an effective result can be attained.

- 1. Diligently study and grasp the various policies and relevant knowledge.** Work team¹ leaders ought to organise cadres stationed in the villages to earnestly study the Party's ethno-religious policies, "the two documents and one regulation,"² ethnic customs, as well as "benefiting the people" (*huimin* 惠民) policies and other relevant knowledge about the state and the autonomous region; this is so that the work team can respect the customs and habits of the rural population over the course of the household visitations, as well as properly propagandize the policies, laws, and regulation, and answer any questions from the rural population about these policies as they arise.
- 2. Accurately grasp the basic conditions of the village and clearly understand the data.** Ahead of household visitations, the work team ought to classify and tabulate, with the village small group as a unit, the basic conditions of the village such as the total number of households and population, the populations of permanent residents and sojourners, the cultivated area of land, the area of communal land, the number of livestock, the village's collective income, and per capita income, etc; as well as assess the "four elders," Party members, impoverished households, and religious persons and places, etc. Prepare a comprehensive and thorough investigation that assesses the problems that exist within the village and its principal contradiction to formulate a work plan and to build a solid foundation for the reform programme.

¹Literally, *gongzuo zu* 工作组, which is a "work team" formed for a particular task—in this instance, to implement "bilingual study." This term is also sometimes translated as "working group."

²Editors' note: We believe this concept refers to the following: "Several Guiding Opinions on Further Controlling Illegal Religious Activities According to the Law and Containing the Infiltration of Religious Extremist Thought" [关于进一步依法治理非法宗教活动遏制宗教极端思想渗透工作的若干指导意见], "Several Opinions on Further Strengthening and Improving the Work of Islamic Teaching" [关于进一步加强和完善伊斯兰教工作的若干意见]; as well as the "Regulations on Religious Affairs of the Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region" [新疆维吾尔自治区宗教事务条例]. These documents and regulations, promulgated or revised between 2014 and 2015, outlined the religious policies of the CCP for Xinjiang at the time. The key principles they delineate include protecting "legitimate" religious practices, suppressing "extremist" religious practices, severing the ties between local religious communities and "foreign forces," and channeling religious activities through state-sponsored religious organizations. They also urge religious believers to develop a proper "Chinese national identity." Further, the Regulations included new penalties for certain online "extremist" activities. The Regulations are available here, possibly behind a paywall: <http://cebbank.pkulaw.com/lar/3ffc9c54179d1cf425cbec5a106f40bbdbfb.html?keyword=%E6%96%B0%E7%96%86%E7%BB%B4%E5%90%BE%E5%B0%94%E8%87%AA%E6%B2%BB%E5%8C%BA%E5%AE%97%E6%95%99>. While some of these documents were issued internally and therefore not readily available to readers overseas, the above principles could be gleaned from official reports and explications such as these: 1) <https://archive.ph/qmrHX>; 2) <https://archive.ph/bBGMA>

3. **Properly develop the design of the questionnaires and be detailed about what to survey.** The content of the investigation should be categorized and refined to make it easier to perform data analysis and to discover and tabulate the issues. The contents of the household questionnaires include the basic circumstances of the households, land area, household income, vocational skills, opinions pertaining to the constraints on village development, matters within the village that require timely resolution, opinions regarding the village cadres, and other aspects. Refining questions in all these aspects will facilitate visits and data analysis.
4. **Properly hold a representative assembly, soliciting opinions from the masses.** Convene a meeting of the township and district cadres assigned to villages and village cadres to further mutual communication and a comprehensive understanding of the basic circumstances of the particular village; as well as to plan and measure for further development, existing problems, etc. Convene a representative assembly for party members, “four elders,” religious figures, and village representatives to solicit opinions and suggestions from the people on the development of the village, the “two committees” of the village [party branch commission and the village commission], and the village cadres. Convene a village meeting to push forward and mobilise the “*Fanghuijiu*” activities, let the village cadres meet with the masses, clarify the “what to ask,” “how to ask,” and other issues to ensure that the visitation work runs in an orderly and solid fashion.
5. **Properly publicise the work, let the masses acquaint themselves with the cadres residing in their village.** Publicise the photo, name, work unit, position, and contact number of the village cadres in the village committee, in the cultural hall of each village, as well as on the village bulletin boards and other places. Issue contact cards to clearly inform the masses about the work unit, position, and contact information of the cadres stationed in the village, so as to facilitate the collection of the villagers’ opinions and suggestions.

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