ANNEXURE

(SUBMITTED TO VIVA-VOCE BOARD)
DATED 11TH APRIL, 2011

Political Economy of Decentralisation in Orissa- A case study of two Grama Panchayats

SUNITI MISHRA
ANNEXURE

•PLY TO THE QUERIES RAISED BY THE EXAMINER FOR THE VIVA-VOCE

Justification of the title of the thesis: The thesis has been entitled 'Political Economy of Decentralisation in Orissa: A case study of two Grama Panchayats'. As the esteemed examiner has observed, political economy means economic situation where economic decisions and their implementation are determined not only by economic principle but also by different political and other non-economic compulsions imposed by various political parties, various interest groups or stakeholders. It can also be presented as the study of the political and economic processes with regard to various institutions. More specifically it can be presented as study of economic institutions in the domain of politics. Study of any such institution can be through examination of various dimensions of economic relationships among the agents or stakeholders and the role of power groups shaping these activities.

The present work has a modest objective as stated in Chapter-I to (i) To review the evolution of Panchayat Raj Institutions in India and in Orissa (ii) To study the nature of functioning of panchayats in Orissa through a case study of two panchayats one belonging to irrigated area and the other to unirrigated area (iii) To analyse the impact of 73rd Constitutional amendment Act on democratic decentralized governance through responses of people on the nature of performance of Panchayat institutions.

The present being a study of decentralization through case study of two panchayats, the political economy of decentralization is attempted through two important divisions one an economic division in terms of land size groups and the other through non-economic division in terms of caste groups. A genuine process of decentralization will witness changing functioning of the institutions on the one hand and its manifestation in changing the perception/awareness/consciousness of the people. While decentralized institution can be reinforced by the same traditional decision making agencies study of the functioning of the institution can at best throw light on relationship between various levels of governance, the character of decentralization can best be observed through a study of
The present work seeks to examine the variations among the people in terms of social division as well as non-economic division on their perceptions of the functioning of panchayat institutions through a case study of two panchayats. This justifies the title of the work.

(c). Explanation for the use of the technique ANOVA and its interpretations:

- analysing the responses of people on knowledge about own family, own village, and National level politics.
- Operation of the panchayat: the difference between the panchayats is presented in percentage terms for different responses. The responses are quantitatively different in case of both the panchayats with irrigated panchayats generally showing a higher level of awareness. However, statistically whether these differences between two panchayats in different aspects are statistically significant or not is determined through ANOVA with one-way classification. The statistical statements as responses statistically significant/not significant between two groups mean that the difference between two panchayats in responses is statistically significant/insignificant.

The economic significance of this is that development (represented by a higher level of status) has not contributed to the change in the perception of the people. This indicates that the process of development/decentralization is imposed from above.

It was found that statistically there is no difference between two panchayats in the responses regarding knowledge about own family, and knowledge about State & National politics. However, the difference is significant in case of knowledge about the village and information about the panchayat. The implications of these findings are presented in the context of such a process of transition.

In the context of such a process of transition, there existed one-way flow of governance from top to bottom, a characteristic of feudal traditional system. People became necessary for the continuance of the political system, as they are integral parts of the system for exercising franchise and electing governments but
perspective of development and governance the central position is not occupied by interest and needs of the people. It is determined from above............

Level of awareness of people, an essential ingredient for democratization, can be found to be a differentiated one and can be categorized as follows:

The lowest level of awareness where an individual is not aware of the happenings outside his family and the various relationships existing in his surrounding and the society at large.

The level of governance where in an individual is aware of the relationships around his surrounding but not aware of the broad relationships in the society at large.

The level of awareness where, an individual is aware of the surrounding and society at large but with no idea as to how to act to change the surrounding.

The level of awareness where in an individual is aware of the surrounding and society at large and participates in changing the surrounding.

In Indian context in general and Orissa in particular vast majority seem to be belonging to the first and second category. To that extent they become mute and passive recipients in the form of governance and provide continuity to the model of democracy which is based on centralized form of governance and the nature of decentralization of the various levels of governance is only in form but not in essence.'

& (e) Use of the Chi-square test: The chi-square tests have been conducted to examine whether the caste wise (non-economic) variations and land class wise (nomic) variations in both the panchayats are statistically significant regarding awareness about own family/about village/about state & national politics and about functioning of panchayats. The chi-square value indicates dependence/independence of a nonce and allegiance to a classifying group. If statistically not significant it means no differences among households in terms of land ownership in a particular nonce/awareness. No difference between two panchayats indicate that process of development does not change the level of awareness.
In such a context the results obtained are as follows: Awareness about own family depends on land size group in unirrigated panchayat in terms of all attributes though as of caste group there is variation across caste groups only in 3 out of 12 attributes. Irrigated panchayat while there is no variation in 9 out of 12 attributes across land s as well as caste groups. Thus qualitatively there is not much of difference between ed and unirrigated panchayats. In case of awareness about the village one similarly that in the irrigated panchayat in 14 out of 18 attributes there is no variation across groups and in 12 out of 18 attributes there is no variation across caste groups. In the gated panchayat, in 13 out of 18 attributes there is no variation across land groups a 7 out of 18 attributes there is no variation across caste groups. This indicates that h on the whole there is not much difference between the two panchayats, in gated panchayat caste wise awareness is different indicating importance of caste ation in the political economy at the village level. In case of awareness about state rational politics, only in 1 out of 6 attributes there is no variation across land groups igated panchayat while in 3 out of 6 attributes there is no variation across caste ps. In unirrigated panchayat in 4 out of 6 attributes there is no variation across land ps and in 4 out of 6 attributes there is no variation across caste groups. This indicates in irrigated panchayat economic division is relatively more important in the political omy at the village level. In terms of awareness about operation of panchayats one s that in 12 out 15 attributes there is no variation across land groups and 3 out of 15 butes there is no variation across caste groups in the irrigated panchayat. Similarly in rigated panchayat in 14 out of 15 attributes there is no variation across land groups in 11 out of 15 attributes there is no variation across caste groups. It is interesting that e wise variation is important in irrigated panchayat compared to unirrigated chayat contrary to expectation which has implications on the process of development lf. Thus on the whole one does not find clear cut polarization of importance of land ed classification in irrigated panchayat and caste based polarization in unirrigated chayat. In both the panchayats awareness level remains similar at best conforming to first two levels of consciousness as presented above indicating that development does ensure a greater degree of decentralization.
Regarding responses of the panchayat functionaries it may be indicated that in 
ed panchayat in 17 out of 21 attributes there is almost unanimity among the 
onaries in their responses, no further test such as Chi-square or F-tests were 
ed.

Copy of the Questionnaire used for the collection of data from respondents and 
ayat functionaries has been enclosed.

(Suniti Mishra)
QUESTIONNAIRE
SURVEY OF HOUSEHOLDS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Members</th>
<th>Age</th>
<th>Sex</th>
<th>Education</th>
<th>Occupation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Landownership</th>
<th>Acres</th>
<th>Irrigated</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>and owned</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>and leased in</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>and leased out</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>and cultivated</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Hour disposition particulars</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Farm workers Type of work Place of work Wage/salary</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Knowledge about Own family:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Income sufficient? If no why?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Is the land owned sufficient? If not reasons</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| Whether children of the family get opportunities for education, if not why |
| Are medical facilities available. If not why |

| Is any member of the family associated with panchayat- as what |
| Is any member of the family actively associated with politics, if no why |

| Is any member of the family associated with religious activities - form of association |
| i) Is any member of the family working outside the village- as what. Does he remit? |

| Is your family better off compared to parent's position |
| What modern gadgets you have? |

| Are you a beneficiary of govt. programme? Nature of assistance |
What are the main problems faced by your family? In production, in sale of goods, in getting loans, in hiring in/out labour

- Knowledge about the village:
  - Your village economically well off? If not why
  - Social harmony in the village? If not why
  - Caste problem in the village
  - Cultural activity in the village involving all villagers? Name them
  - Economic exploitation in the village? Illustrate.
  - Land equality in the village?
  - Educational institution in the village? How villagers are involved?
  - Different party affiliation among villagers?
  - Does the village receive attention from Govt. officials?
  - Which officers visit the village? What are their roles?

What are the main problems of the village?

What are the important activities of Panchayat in your village?

What should panchayat do for your village?

What should govt. do for the village?

How can your village develop?

Is there a system of mutual help among villagers.

What is the role of panchayat in production, trade, development of education, and other services.

What type of common village land/resources exist. Are you a beneficiary? Who owns these resources?

Knowledge about State and National politics

- Do you know who is the Chief Minister and which party is in power?

- Do you know who is the Prime Minister and which party is in power?
Which party can solve problems of your village?

Do you know about the policies of the present government?

What should be done for India to grow?

What are the main problems for India?

Do you have knowledge about the operation of panchayat?

Who is the Sarpanch of your panchayat? His party affiliation.

When was your panchayat formed? When was the first election? When was the last one?

How were you involved in the election of ward members, panchayat samiti member, or sarpanch of your panchayat?

What is the role of the sarpanch? Is the present Sarpanch helping in solving your national and village problems?

What is the role of your ward members? Are they taking up your personal or village issues?

What problems arise during election of panchayat functionaries?

What programmes have been taken up by your present panchayat? Are they good? Are you a beneficiary? Are there common village programmes? Name them.

What are the constraints faced by your panchayat?

How to make your panchayat very effective?

Are women members in panchayat more effective?

Is there reservation policy adopted in panchayat election? Do you support it?

Do the panchayat functionaries enjoy economic and social privilege?

What resources of the village are under the control of the panchayat?

How these resources are managed?

What social, political and cultural activities are taken up by the panchayat?
QUESTIONNAIRE
PANCHAYAT FUNCTIONARIES

Name: Position held:

Name of the village: Name of the Panchayat

Caste Education Occupation

Articulars of functionary:

1) When did you get elected:

2) Were you elected earlier Yes/No How many times:

3) What is your party affiliation

Support received from the Party:

Financial Yes/No b) Organisational Yes/No

Any other (Specify)

Whether received support from the villagers: Yes/No

Response on the performance of the Panchayat:

1) Is meeting held frequently in the panchayat: Yes/No

2) Do you perform your role in the meeting: Yes/No

3) Do you have contact with Govt. officials: Yes/No

4) Are you satisfied with the role of the Govt. officials: Yes/No

5) Is adequate finance available from the Government: Yes/No

6) Is share of the village in total fund adequate: Yes/No

7) Are you satisfied with the funds available to the panchayat: Yes/No

8) What are the main constraints of funds: specify

9) Are you associated with the programmes of the Panchayat: Yes/No

10) Is there any programme of the panchayat where you are not involved Yes/No Specify

11) Does the Panchayat play any role in the maintenance of the Common Property resources of the village: Yes/No Specify

12) Does the Panchayat give importance to the wishes of the villagers: Yes/No
m) Does the local MP/MLA take interest in the development of the panchayat/village
  yes/no
n) Are there conflict among villagers    Yes/no
o) Are villagers treated equally in the villages    yes/no
p) Is the opinion of the functionary respected by the villagers yes/no
q) Are steps taken for the redressal of the grievances of the panchayat yes/no
r) Is there reservation policy in the election of the functionaries in the panchayat
   ?Do you think it is appropriate to have reservation in the election of the
   functionaries    yes/no

Signed

Date: 11/4/11