

# Participant Information Sheet

Dear Teacher/Head-teacher,

You are being invited to take part in a research study on teachers’ views on citizenship in primary schools in India and Ghana.

Before you decide to take part, it is important for you to understand what the research is about, why the research is being done, and what it will involve. It is also important that you understand how your personal information and the interview will be kept safe and secure.

Please take time to read the following information carefully and discuss it with others if you wish. You can also contact me via email if there is anything that is not clear or if you would like more information. Take time to decide whether or not you wish to take part.

Please also take the time to read the Interview Topics that will be used which are attached to the end of this Participation Information Sheet. This will help to inform your consent. There is also a consent form attached for you to read.

If you decide to take part, there are different options to confirm your consent. You can

* Email me directly
* Tell your head-teacher and they will email me
* Tell me on my arrival at your school

You must sign a consent form, which I will give to you at the school.

The University of Glasgow College Research Ethics Committee has approved this project.

Thank you for reading this.

Kind Regards,

**1. Introducing the Research**

**Research Title**

Examining teachers’ constructions of citizenship and the civic ideal in the postcolonial classroom in India and Ghana

**Description of the Research**

The research is for a PhD study to explore how primary school teachers define citizenship of themselves and of their learners and the role of education in developing sense of belonging and national identity in schools.

**Purpose of the Research**

I am collecting teachers’ interviews from government schools and from two post-colonial countries of India and Ghana. The findings will:

1. Support teacher education agencies and NGOs to develop online teacher education training and resources.
2. Contribute towards policy discussions that are looking to increase the role of the teacher and their value in fostering citizenship.
3. Contribute to academic thinking by understanding postcolonial citizenship in schools and to develop future research.

**2. Taking Part in the Interview**

* Your participation will involve conducting an interview with me for approximately 1 hour and no longer than 2 hours with your consent. Our interview will be recorded.
* The interview will take place at your school during the hours of the school day and not when you are required to teach.
* The type of interview is called a semi-structured interview. I will ask you questions based on themes that will guide our discussion. These themes are listed at the end of this Participation Information Sheet for you to read.
* Your participation is voluntary.
* The benefits of this research will not be immediate for you. Even so, it is intended that this interview is an opportunity for you to voice your experiences and opinions on citizenship in primary schools and your role as a teacher to help make practical recommendations and contribute to new thinking in research.
* It is important that you are aware that all research carried out has some risks. These risks are from questions asked that may be sensitive to you, recognising your own or another teachers’ comments in the final write up (although every effort is made to anonymise your interview) or possible discussions on politics or culture that you would prefer not to engage in.
* Please note that you can decide on what to discuss at all times.

**3. Assuring your Confidentiality and Anonymity**

* Protecting your privacy is important at each stage of the research. This will happen in the following ways:

1. During the write up:

You can choose a pseudonym for your name (your age will be described with an age-range)

Your gender will be stated unless you specify otherwise).

Your school’s name will be described as ‘School 1’

The name of your city will not change

Your school’s area will only be described

Any information on your family or other members of staff in your school will be removed

b. Your audio recording and transcription containing all of your personal information will never be shared. It will never be shared with any member of staff at your school, including your head-teacher or any government official.

c. If you have any concerns about anonymity and confidentiality, you must contact myself, the College of Social Sciences Ethics Officer as well as my Principle Supervisor (contact information below).

**Confidentiality will be respected unless there are strong reasons for this to be breached. If this were the case where you may have disclosed sensitive information, I would inform you of any decisions that might limit your confidentiality.**

**4. Withdrawing from the Interview**

* You have the right to withdraw from this research up until, approximately, August 2021, without prejudice and without providing a reason. This is when the write-up of the PhD thesis will be near finalised so withdrawing your data will have issues.
* The interview themes are found below. You have the option not to answer questions on some of these themes by informing me either by email or in person. You can also opt-out of answering certain questions during the interview without giving prior notice. During the interview, you can choose to stop the interview at any time.
* If the interview has happened and you would like your interview to be withdrawn, you can email me directly to discuss this. I will also seek advice from the University of Glasgow. There is a certain time-period only that you can request to withdraw your interview.

**5. Using and Storing the Interview Data**

* Your audio recording will be stored securely and safely on the University of Glasgow online services that are encrypted and only I have access to.
* In the UK, your audio recording will be sent to a UK professional transcriber safely and securely. **You have the option to refuse professional transcription and I will transcribe the interview instead. Please let me know.**
* Only myself and the Principle Supervisor of this PhD thesis, Prof. Michele Schweisfurth will have secure, safe access to your anonymised transcript during the write-up of my PhD.
* Your anonymised interview will be used for the PhD, journal articles and presentations at conferences.
* Direct quotes will be used in all write-up (anonymised and with use of pseudonyms as above).
* **A summary of the PhD final write-up along with my findings will be emailed** to you, or your head-teacher. I will collect your email in order to do this with your consent.
* Once the PhD is completed, your original interview and audio recording will be permanently erased along with your personal contact information that we have used for correspondence, by December 2021.
* Your anonymised interview will then be stored in the ‘University of Glasgow Institutional Data Repository- Enlighten: Research Data’ for ten years.

**6. Giving Your Consent**

If you would like to take part in this research interview:

(1) You can contact me (the researcher)

(2) You can inform your head-teacher and they will email me directly or will inform me on the day of my arrival that you want to take part.

(3) You can approach me on the day of my arrival and give consent.

Please **read the consent form below.**

**On my arrival, you must sign the consent form.**

**INTERVIEW THEMES**

**Interview Information**

* Information about you as a teacher: (Training, experience, length of time at school, position, age-range)
* General characteristics of the classroom (Pupils age, number of pupils, their backgrounds)

**Your perspective on citizenship in relation to your learners**

* National Identity
* Cultural Identity
* Sense of belonging

**Your role as a Teacher in nurturing citizenship in your learners**

* Teaching citizenship in the classroom
* The role of the teacher in developing national identity
* What pupils need to know about ‘being Indian/Ghanaian’
* Helping children understand how they are the same and how they are different

**Citizenship and teaching during Educational Reform**

* Developments in education and citizenship at national-level
* Developments in education and citizenship at state-level
* Its role in affecting your ideas on citizenship as a teacher and how you teach
* The value of teaching in your country context
* What could change to support you as a teacher

**Understanding ‘local’ and ‘global’ citizenship**

* Your thoughts on teaching children on cultural heritage, philosophers and local histories in school
* Teaching children on colonialism as part of national history
* What skills, values and ideas are important in children becoming ‘global’ citizens
* The role of the school in developing ‘global’ and ‘local’ citizenship

**Your vision for citizenship and the education system**

* What describes a ‘good’ citizen
* What could change in your education system to support ‘good’ citizenship