

**CHAPTER 8, SECTION 8  
ANNEX X****DEPENDENT RELATIVES  
VILLAGE VISITS****1. INTRODUCTION**

Cases may arise where it is difficult if not impossible to resolve an application satisfactorily without verifying the true facts of the case. Village visits may be conducted by posts in the Indian Sub-Continent. These visits are conducted at the request of the Home Office and, on occasions the Appellate Authorities as well as for applications at the post.

**2. USE OF VILLAGE VISITS**

Village visits can be expensive and will often take some time to arrange, consequently they should only be requested where it appears to be the only avenue left to help resolve the application. These visits can only be undertaken in the winter months and because of the size of the Sub-Continent, unless the visit is within the city limits of the post in question, it is not possible for an entry clearance officer to make a single visit. Usually these visits are organised as part of a week-long programme which may involve the staff flying to the area.

**2.1. Confidentiality**

The success or failure of a village visit is to a large extent dependent on the element of surprise. It is therefore imperative that neither the applicant or the sponsor receive any forewarning of such a visit. Villagers can sometimes be reluctant to provide information for fear of recrimination. It is therefore essential to preserve the anonymity of villagers who have provided information. It must also be remembered that there will be occasions when a villager may deliberately provide misleading information because of a grievance he may have against the applicant or sponsor.