APPENDIX I

Interview Guide

_Socio-demographic details:_ These were interspersed throughout the interview and at times used to start conversations.

What is your name? Age? Education?, any nick names, any other name by which you are known in the community, preferred gender pronoun

What do you do currently?

Where do you come from (place)? Where is your family? Who all are there in your family?

Where do you live currently, who do you live with?

_Growing Up:_

Tell me a bit about your childhood. (Start with a broad question and let the person talk. Use the below questions as a check list of what all needs to be covered. Whatever is missed out can be probed through following questions)

_Childhood –_

How would you describe your childhood?

Where did you stay? Who all were there at home?

What were the things you liked doing as a child?

Who all were your friends?

How would you describe your school experiences?

Any significant influences at this time (parents, other relationships, role models, mentors)

_Adolescence –_

How would you describe your teenage years? What was the time around puberty like?

How would you describe peer relationships as a teenager?
When did you first learn about sex? What were your sources of information regarding sex? (Some probes - Peer group conversations, reading/print materials, participation in sexual activity, self-discovery, parents, seeing other people engaged in an intimate way etc)

What were your thoughts/feelings like when you first learnt about sex?

When did you first hear about same-sex attractions? How? Where?

What did you think/feel about the same? (Words that would describe that thought/feeling)

How were people in your surroundings reacting to your growing up? Were there instances of family members, teachers, peers trying to shape, check, correct, encourage some of your behaviors, for instance boys are supposed to…, girls are supposed to…?

**Process of identity development:**

I would like to know the process of how does one know about their sexual preference/ orientation, whatever term you would like to use. Can you share how, when did you know about your sexuality?

**First Sexual Experience –**

Are you able to remember the first time you felt attracted to someone or when you felt sexually aroused? What was that like for you? Who was that person, same-sex/opposite sex, relationship (acquaintance, friend, relative, stranger) with this person, age?

Are you able to recall and tell me, what were your feelings/thoughts like at this time?

Do you remember anytime while growing up fantasizing about someone in a romantic or sexual way? What was that experience like? What did you feel/think at the time?

Do you remember the first time when you had a physical contact with someone (eg. Hugging, kissing, holding hands), what was that like for you?

Do you remember anyone touching you in a certain way that may be made you feel unpleasant / uncomfortable?

While you were going through all these experiences, thoughts, fantasy, what was happening in your life otherwise? What was happening around you?
First Identification –

When did you first identify for yourself that you were someone attracted to persons of the same-sex? What were the words you used to describe this attraction? What did that feel like? (Words used to describe that thought/feeling)

Coming Out:

Have you ever felt like telling / sharing with anyone about your same-sex attractions?

Can you tell me a bit about your reasons for not sharing it with anyone?

Inability to share with anyone, how does that make you feel?

Have you talked with anyone about your same-sex attraction?

Between the time that you identified to yourself and the time that you told someone about it, what all happened?

Who did you discuss with first? What sort of discussion, could you please talk about that? Relationship to that person. Why did you choose that person to talk to? Describe the first experience of coming out.

How was that experience like? (Response to the disclosure, your reaction to this response, whether any change in the nature/quality of relationship)

Factors influencing identity development:

What would you say were the factors in your environment that helped you accept your same-sex attraction/preference?

What were the factors detrimental for the same?

Sexuality-related stress and stigma:

Do you think that people who have same-sex attractions face difficulties due to their sexual preference?

Can you describe any such experiences in your own life?

Can you talk about the stressors/difficulties you have encountered in your life due to your preference/attraction/identity?

How do you think these stressors/stigma has affected you?
APPENDIX II

GLOSSARY OF TERMS USED IN THE STUDY

- Gay – refers to a man who is sexually attracted to men and/or identifies as gay. It is also used to refer to any person (man or woman), who experiences sexual attraction to people of the same gender. In this study, I use the term gay in both way mentioned here.

- LGBT – refers to lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender persons. This acronym has often been used to refer to all sexual and gender minorities and to refer to all persons, who are non-heterosexual in their behaviors and identities.

  Sometimes, certain identity names/labels are added to this acronym, for instance LGBTQIA (Q meaning queer, I meaning person with intersex variation and A standing for asexual).

  Sometimes local identity terms such as hijras, kinnars, kothis, aravanis are added to the acronym of LGBT too. In this study LGBT and LGBTQ are used to refer to all sexual and gender minorities

- Trans* - This is a term used in the discipline of gender studies to refer to all persons whose own sense of gender does not match with the gender assigned to them at birth. Spelt with an asterix, trans* is an umbrella term used to refer to all non-cisgender identities and expressions. This includes transgender, transsexual, male to female (MtF), female to male (FtM), gender queer, gender fluid, third gender, multigendered, other and so on.

- Gender Binary - The gender binary is the classification of sex and gender into two distinct and disconnected forms of masculine and feminine. It can describe a social boundary that discourages people from crossing or mixing gender roles, or from creating other third (or more) forms of gender expression altogether. It can also represent some of the prejudices which stigmatize transgender persons and people with intersex variation. The term describes the system in which a society splits people into male and female gender roles, gender identities and attributes

  [Source: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gender_binary]

- Cisgender – refers to individuals who have a match between the gender they were assigned at birth, their bodies and their sense of personal identity

- Heteronormativity - It is a term coined by Michael Warner in 1991 to describe any of a set of lifestyle norms that hold that people fall into distinct and complementary genders (man and
woman) with natural roles in life. It also holds that heterosexuality is the normal sexual orientation, and states that sexual and marital relations are most (or only) fitting between a man and a woman. Consequently, a heteronormative view is one that involves alignment of biological sex, sexuality, gender identity, and gender roles

- Compulsory Heterosexuality - refers to the assumption that development ‘naturally’ proceeds in a heterosexual direction. It also refers to the pervasive assumption in society that all individuals are born and grow up to become heterosexual

- Bombay/Mumbai – In 1995, after the right-wing Hindu nationalist party Shiv Sena formed a coalition government in the State of Maharashtra, they renamed Bombay, Mumbai after the Hindu goddess Mumbadevi. For several years, people have resisted this name change and continued the use of term ‘Bombay’. This holds true for several of the study participants, who continue to use Bombay (both to refer to times in the pre-name change past as well as current time) and at time use Bombay and Mumbai interchangeably.