Appendix I

QUESTIONNAIRE-CUM-INTERVIEW SCHEDULE

(For Gram Sabha/Gram Panchayat Members)

Part-I

Background data

1. Code No. __________________________

2. Age ____________________________

3. Male/Female : ____________________

4. Caste : __________________________

5. Married/Unmarried : __________________

6. What is/was your father’s profession/Occupation? ____________

7. What is/was his monthly income? __________________________

8. What is your profession/occupation? _________________________

9. What is your monthly income? ________________________________

   (a) Below Rs. 500/-

   (b) Between Rs. 500/- -1000/-

   (c) Between Rs. 1000/- Rs. 1500/-

One
(d) Between Rs. 1500/-2000/-

(f) Above Rs. 3000/-

10. What are your liabilities dependents?

(a) Sons/daughters

(b) Brothers/Sisters

(c) Mother/Father

(d) Parents

(e) Any other (Please Specify)

11. What is your monthly expenditure? ____________________

12. No. of dependents in job ____________________________

13. No. of dependents in education ______________________

14. Are you educated? If yes, upto which class?

a. Primary

b. Matric

c. Graduate

d. Post-graduate

c. Illiterate

15. Have you permanent property such as land, shops etc. If yes, how much land?

Two
a. Up to 5 acres

b. Between 1 to 10 acres

c. Between 10 to 20 acres

d. Between 20 to 30 acres

e. Between 30 to 40 acres

f. Above 40 acres.

Part -II

Data about Political Orientation

16. Is/was your father associated with any political party?

If Yes, In what way? As a ___________________________

a. member

b. supporter/sympathiser

c. an office bearer

d. In any other way

17. Is / was your father associated with a political party? Yes/No.

a. Did he ever contest panchayat elections?

If Yes, When? ______________________________

Did he win or lose? ______________________________

Three
18. Are you associated with any political party?

If yes, in what way? As a ________________________

i. member      iv. an office bearer

ii. supporter   v. in any other way.

iii. sympathiser

19. Are you associated with a political party,

(a) Yes (b) No. If Yes

i. Did you ever contest panchayat election?

If Yes, when? ________________________

Did you win or lose? ________________

If you won the election, did you contest for Pradhan, M.LA. and M.P.?

20. Do you read Newspapers? If Yes, which newspaper do you read?

a. The Tribune       b. Indian Express

c. Punjab Kesari     d. Veer Pratap

e. Times of India    f. Dainik Tribune

g. Jansatta          h. Any Other (Please mention)

21. Do you read newspapers regularly or casually?

Four
22. Do you subscribe any newspaper?

23. What type of news interest you most?
   a. Sports
   b. Political Centre, State, Local
   c. News about Punjab
   d. Any Other type of news
      (please mention).

24. Some people say that caste, religion, language and regionalism play an important part/role in politics, what is your opinion?
   a. Caste    b. Religion    c. Language
   d. Regionalism

25. Which political party exercises greater influence in your area?
   a. Congress(l)
   b. Bhartiya Janta Party
   c. Janta Dal
   d. Communist Party
   e. Janata Party
f. Any other

26 What is your opinion about panchayat leaders of the area? Do they come to you only at the time of election or they visit to you afterwards also?

a. Come only at election time

b. Visit afterwards also.

27. Do the panchayat leaders do something for Public Welfare? Yes/No

28. What is the role of panchayat leaders in Parliamentary/Vidhan Sabha elections?

a. Very important role

b. Ordinary role

c. No role.

29. Are you interested in:

a. National politics  b. State Politics

c. Local politics  d. In all

e. In none

30. Some people believe that politics is controlled by money. Some say that poor people are also important. What is your opinion?

a. Controlled by money

b. Poor people are important.

c. Don’t know
31. Some people say that elections are won by money only, some say money is not important. What is your opinion?
   a. Won by money only
   b. Money not important
   c. Don’t know.

32. What is the role of caste in the politics of your village?
   a. Very important
   b. Important
   c. Marginal
   d. No role
   e. Don’t know

Data About Research Problem

33. The Govt. has enacted Legislation about land Ceiling, according to which surplus land will be given to the landless, is it a right step of the Govt.? 
   a. Yes
   b. No
   c. Don’t know

34. What is the impact of this Land Ceiling Act to the utilization of land to the landless people?

Seven
35. What is the role of land holding in politics?
   a. Small holdings ______________________
   b. Medium holding ______________________
   c. Big holding ______________________

36. Who play the role of pressure groups/interest groups?
   a. Agriculturists
   b. Horticulturists
   c. Kishan Sabha.

37. What are the minimum wages of landless?

38. Is there any association of SC/ST?

39. Which party/Parties plays/play an important role for landless SC/ST?________________________

40. Did you vote in last panchayat elections?
   A. Yes       b. No

   If not why?

41. Do you know the name of those who contested for Pradhan Up-Pradhan and Panches?

42. What according to you, were the reasons of their victory?

____________________________________

Eight
43. Do you vote for the candidates who belong to your______
   a. Caste  b. Community  c. religion  Yes/No

44. What were the various factors which determined you choice for a particular candidate?
   The candidate:
   a. was honest  b. was rich  c. had linkages with higher political leadership.
   d. belonged to your caste.  e. party affiliation of the candidate.
   f. Any other.

45. Did you vote with your____________________
   a. Free choice
   b. Influence/pressure

46. Was the election free and fair?
   a. yes  b. No  c. Don’t know

47. Was Govt. influence/pressure used in elections?
   a. Yes  b. No  c. Don’t know

48. Were votes purchased by money or other sources?
   a. Yes  b. No  c. Don’t know

49. What in your opinion were the reasons of defeat of defeated candidates?

______________________________________________________________

Nine
50. It is heard that the downtrodden and economically backward voters are not permitted their free choice. What is your opinion?

a. Correct    b. Incorrect  c. Don't know

51. What were the various factors which influence the voters to cast their votes for candidates who won the election?

Because of ____________________________

a. Land, property and wealth of the candidate
b. Linkages with police, bureaucracy and higher leadership
c. Majority of the caste of candidates
d. Groupism in the village
e. All these factors

52. Do the panchayat members of your area campaign during Parliamentary/Vidhan Sabha elections?

a. Yes       b. No        c. Don't know

53. Do the panchayat members of your area have formal/informal relations with state or centre level leaders?

54. Do the panchayat members of your area exploit the down-trodden through their linkages with the higher political leadership?

a. Yes       b. No        c. Don’t know

55. Have the high caste people in Himachal Pradesh monopolised the rural power structure?

Ten
56. Has the Panchayat System helped in socialization and politicization of rural masses?
   a. Yes  b. No  c. Don't know

57. Do the panchayat leaders act as "Vote Banks" during Parliamentary / Vidhan Sabha elections?
   a. Yes  b. No  c. Don't know

58. Are the panchayat leaders affiliated with different political parties?
   a. Yes  b. No  c. Don't know

If Yes

   Do they use their affiliation to increase their influence in village?

59. It is also believed that the panchayat leaders have fragmented and disintegrated Himachal's rural society through favouratism, Nepotism and groupism etc. Is it correct?
   a. Yes  b. No  c. Don't know

60. Is it correct that panchayat leaders have their hold on social, political and economic life of the village?
   a. Yes  b. No.  c. Don't know

61. Is it correct that at the time of panchayat election the poor and down trodden are compelled to vote for high caste candidates through money, power, physical coercion or other pressures?
62. Do the panchayat leaders from scheduled castes work freely in the panchayat or they are forced to work according to the wishes of high caste leaders?

a. Work freely
b. Forced to work according to the wishes of high caste leaders
c. Don't know

63. Has the panchayat system resulted in the welfare of common masses?

a. Yes  b. No  c. Don't know

64. In your opinion whether the power and finances given to the panchayats are

a. Adequate
b. Inadequate
c. Don't know

If Inadequate, what reforms do you suggest?

65. Whether the two meetings of Gram-Sabha regularly held in village panchayat area?

a. Yes  b. No  c. Don't know

If no, why?

Twelve
66. Does the panchayat system create groupism and factionalism in the village.

a. Yes  
b. No  
c. Don't know

If Yes, what are the reasons?

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67. Do the panchayat undertakes development work in the villages?

a. Yes  

b. No  
c. Don't know

If no, what are the reasons?

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68. Does the Pradhan favour the Panches of his group only?

a. Yes  

b. No  
c. Don't know

If yes, how can this be removed?

69. Has the panchayat system created democratic consciousness among the rural masses?

a. Yes  

b. No

70. What in your opinion has been the role of panchayats in developing grassroots democracy?

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71. Are you satisfied with the functioning of panchayat of your area?
Yes/No

Has your panchayat done something for education at village level

Yes/No

72. Has your panchayat done anything in providing loans etc. from rural banks to the people?

Yes/No

73. Do you think that Panchayat System should be _____________

a. Retained  b. Abolished

74. What are your views about the functioning of the gram-sabha of your village? ________________________________

75. It is believed that the women in rural areas have no choice of voting. They vote according to the wishes/instructions of their male counterparts. Is it correct?

a. Yes      b. No

Question related to 64th Amendment Bill

76. Is the 64th Amendment an emotive slogan for short term political gain in an election year (1989)?

a. Yes      b. No.

77. Is panchayati raj a sentimental throw back to the days of Mahatma Gandhi?
78. Is it a step in the direction of decentralization or further centralization?

79. Will it bring true democracy at grassroots level or erode the existing limited democracy?

80. Are the powers given to panchayats under 64th Amendment real or cosmetic?

81. How the central institutions like Election Commission/CAG affect the working of the panchayati Raj?

82. What are the short term/long term gains/losses for decentralization & democratization at village level? 

83. Should the Election-Commission be authorised to conduct panchayat elections although the panchayat is a state subject?

   Yes/No

84. Should the CAG of India be empowered to audit the panchayat accounts?

   Yes/No

85. Should the powers related to panchayats be entirely left to the states?

   Yes/No

86. Should 30 per cent reservation to women be given or not?

   Yes/No

87. Should the panchayat election be contested on party basis?

   Yes/No

Fifteen
88. Will the decentralization of powers lead to disintegrationist tendencies and centrifugal forces of the country? Yes/No

89. Will it put the powers in the hands of local vested interest coming from the dominant class/ caste? Yes/No

90. Will decentralization be achieved without changing existing socio-economic structure? Yes/No

91. Can decentralization be achieved without changing existing socio-economic structure?

92. Can we have decentralization without a fully operating federal system?

93. Is decentralization possible without adequate distribution of power and resources down from the centre to the lowest level? Yes/No

94. Can decentralization be achieved simply by holding elections at various levels? Yes/No

95. Can decentralization be achieved without structural reforms aimed at redistribution of economic power and opportunities? Yes/No

96. Should the panchayat election be held regularly? Yes/No

97. Can the present system of control by the Centre over the mass media and other information agencies serve the purpose of decentralization of power and decision making? Yes/No

98. Should the panchayats system cover the local level Nyaya Adalats? Yes/No

Sixteen
99. Is it perfectly possible that through this Bill, the Sarpanches and their like may further legitimize their role and sanctify their authority over the weaker section, without feeling the needs for public accountability?

Yes/No

100. How to create an atmosphere in which the panchayat raj institution can function effectively and as a mechanism for overall rural development?