Appendix A

Interview guide for filmmakers

This interview guide directed my questions during the in-depth interviews with the filmmakers. The guide comprised of two sections - issue-based questions and film-specific questions. Several sub-questions were thrown up by particular responses, and addressed by the filmmaker.

Issue-based questions:

1. Do you think the alternative/mainstream dichotomy is a valid one, especially with reference to documentaries in India?
2. How would you define your work?
3. Is there a specific agenda which motivates your work?
4. What do you have to say about the politics of representation in the alternative documentaries?
5. How do you conceptualize objectivity?
6. Would you consider the socio-economic location of the filmmaker as a critical issue that needs to be addressed?
7. What are your ideas about reflexivity in the alternative documentary?
8. How would you position yourself in the content versus form debate? Would you call yourself a filmmaker or a film-activist?
9. What do you think about the role of video in development?
10. What are your impressions about the audiences for 'alternative' documentaries in India?
11. What have been your experiences with various audiences, while showing your film?
12. How would you respond to the opinion that these films often 'preach to the converted' in film festivals and universities?
13. How adequate is the dissemination network for these films?
14. What do you think about the narrowcasting versus broadcasting debate?
15. That funding decides the agenda of the film, is one prevalent opinion. How would you react to this statement?
16. Can you share some of your experiences with NGOs and funding agencies?

Film-specific questions:

This section included questions about the particular film, by the filmmaker being interviewed, chosen for textual analysis. It included questions on the context within which the film was made, particular representational practices in the film, where the film has been screened and audience responses to the film.
Appendix B

Guidelines for the focus groups discussions

This interview guide helped me direct the focus group discussions in the study.

Before the screening of the film:

1. Introduce the study, the moderator and expectations from the audience, after the screening.
2. Introduce, in brief, the film and filmmaker.
3. Explain that the post-screening discussion will be video/audio taped, and the responses will be used purely for academic purposes in the study.
4. Inform the audiences that their real names will not be used, if so desired by them.

After the screening of the film:

1. Could you please introduce yourselves, and provide a name, occupation, age and any other details you would like to?
2. What would be your first reaction to the film?

After starting the discussion by asking for the initial reactions of the respondents, the moderator (in this study, me) guides the audience to explore the issue of unequal development, objectivity, authenticity, truth, reality, effectiveness of the film, 'target' audiences, documentaries, etc, with reference to the film screened. The discussion is built on the initial observations that the various respondents make about the film.

Pointers for the moderator (after the screening of the film)

1. Do not dominate the discussion.
2. Make sure the members in the group are at ease with you and with each other.
3. Ensure equal participation by all the respondents, and do not allow a few leaders in the group to dominate the discussion. Draw out responses from those members in the group, who may be introverts or reluctant to voice their opinions.
4. Try to avoid leading questions, and urge the members to articulate their opinions at length, and not in monosyllables.
5. Provoke a direct discussion between any members who may have conflicting opinions.
6. Jot down notes during the discussion, and make a note of any distinctive body language or attitude.
7. Thank the respondents for their time and co-operation.