APPENDIX – I

Interview Schedule-I

Interview Schedule for the Elected Leaders

Sl. No. .................

Village: ......................... G.P.: ...........................................

Part-I

1. Name of the Respondent: .................................................................

2. Constituency: .................................................................................

3. Post occupied in the PRIs. (i) GP President, (ii) GP Member, (iii) AP Member,
   (iv) AP President, (v) ZP Member, (vi) ZP Chairperson.

4. Age: (i) 18-30, (ii) 31-40, (iii) 41-50, (iv) 51 and above.

5. Sex: (i) Male, (ii) Female,

6. Caste: (i) General, (ii) SC, (iii) ST, (iv) OBC, (v) MOBC.


   Student, (vi) Pensioner, (vii) Others.

   (v) Graduate, (vi) P.G.

    Divorced.


12. Size of the Family (in nos.): (i) up to 5, (ii) 6-10, (iii) 11-15, (iv) 15 and above.

13. Respondent’s status in the Family: (i) Head, (ii) Member.

14. Monthly Income of the Respondent: (in Rs.): (i) up to 5000/-, (ii) 5001-10000/-,
    (iii) 10001-15000/-, (iv) 15001-20000/-, (v) Above 20000/-.

15. Monthly Income of the Family: (in Rs.): (i) up to 5000/-, (ii) 5001-10000/-, (iii)
    10001-15000/-, (iv) 15001-20000/-, (v) Above 20000/-.
16. Land holdings (in bighas): (i) up to 3, (ii) 4-6, (iii) 7-10, (iv) 11-15, (v) Above 16.

17. Do you have Electricity facility at your home?  
   Ans: - (i) Yes, (ii) No.

18. Do you have Sanitary Latrine at your home?  
   Ans: - (i) Yes, (ii) No.

19. Do you have Internet facility at your home?  
   Ans: - (i) Yes, (ii) No.

20. What is the nature of fuel used for cooking at your home?  

21. Do you subscribe to any daily newspaper at your home?  
   Ans: - (i) Yes, (ii) No.

**Part-II**

22. Do you belong to any Club or any other Social/ Political/ Educational Organization?  
   Ans: - (i) Yes, (ii) No.


24. Do you belong to any Political Party? (i) Yes, (ii) No.

25. Which Political Party do you prefer most?  
    (i) Congress, (ii) BJP, (iii) AUDF, (iv) AGP.

26. Do you think that there should be an involvement of political parties in Panchayat Election?  
   Ans: - (i) Yes, (ii) No.

27. Have you ever contested in any earlier election?  
   Ans: - (i) Yes, (ii) No.  
         (If yes,)

28. At which level: (i) G.P. President, (ii) G.P. Member, (iii) A.P. Member, (iv) A.P. President, (v) Z.P. Member, (vi) Z.P. Chairman, (vii) N.A.

29. In which year: - (i) 1992, (ii) 2002, (iii) N.A.

30. Have you ever elected in any earlier election?  
   Ans: - (i) Yes, (ii) No.  
         (If yes,)
31. At which level: (i) G.P. President, (ii) G.P. Member, (iii) A.P. Member, (iv) A.P. President, (v) Z.P. Member, (vi) Z.P. Chairman, (vii) N.A.

32. In which year: - (i) 1992, (ii) 2002, (iii) N.A.

33. How did you get yourself elected in the Panchayat Election, 2008?
   (i) as an independent candidate;
   (ii) as a party candidate;
   (iii) as a party follower;
   (iv) un-contested.

34. When did you think to be a candidate for the Panchayat Election, 2008?
   Ans: - (i) One month before the election, (ii) Three months before the election, (iii) Six months before the election, (iv) More than six months before the election,

35. What according to you is the important reason for your candidature in Panchayat Election?
   Ans: (i) Personal motivation; (ii) Popular demand; (iii) Reservation of seat; (iv) Any other.

36. Who was/were the patron(s) of your candidature in the last election?
   Ans: - (i) Father; (ii) Brother; (iii) Husband; (iv) Son; (v) Father-in-law; (vi) NGO; (vii) None.

37. Social status of your patron.
   (i) Govt. Employee; (ii) Pvt. Employee; (iii) Businessman; (iv) Cultivator; (v) Social Worker; (vi) Any other (vii) N.A.

38. Did you approach any higher political leader for your candidature in Panchayat Election, 2008?
   Ans: - (i) Yes, (ii) No.

39. What, according to you, is/are the prime requisite(s) to win election?
Part-III

40. Who is the convener of the meeting of the Gram Sabha?
   (i) Could not reply, (ii) Average, (iii) Satisfactory.

41. What is the purpose of convening Gram Sabha meeting?
   (i) Could not reply, (ii) Average, (iii) Satisfactory.

42. Who can be termed as Gram Sabha member?
   (i) Could not reply, (ii) Average, (iii) Satisfactory.

43. Mention any two general functions of Panchayat?
   (i) Could not reply, (ii) Average, (iii) Satisfactory.

44. As a Panchayat leader what can you do to provide drinking water to villagers?
   (i) Could not reply, (ii) Average, (iii) Satisfactory.

45. What can Panchayat do in the sphere of rural sanitation?
   (i) Could not reply, (ii) Average, (iii) Satisfactory.

46. What is the quota of Gram Sabha meeting?
   (i) Could not reply, (ii) Average, (iii) Satisfactory.

47. How many functions Panchayats have been given by the Constitution of India?
   (i) Could not reply, (ii) Average, (iii) Satisfactory.

APPENDIX – II
# Interview Schedule-II

## Interview Schedule for the Electorates

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sl. No.</th>
<th>Part-I</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Name of the Respondent:</td>
<td>……………………………………………………………</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. G.P.:</td>
<td>…………………………………………………………………………</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Age: (i) 18-30, (ii) 31-40, (iii) 41-50, (iv) 51-60, (v) Above 60 years,</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. Caste: (i) General, (ii) SC, (iii) ST, (iv) OBC, (v) MOBC.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11. Size of the Family (in nos.): (i) up to 5, (ii) 6-10, (iii) 11-15, (iv) 16 and above.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12. Respondent’s status in the Family: (i) Head, (ii) Member.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13. Monthly Income of the Respondent: (in Rs.): (i) No income, (ii) up to 5000/-, (iii) 5001-10000/-, (iv) 10001-15000/-, (v) 15001-20000/-, (vi) Above 20000/-.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14. Monthly Income of the Family: (in Rs.): (i) up to 5000/-, (ii) 5001-10000/-, (iii) 10001-15000/-, (iv) 15001-20000/-, (v) Above 20000/-.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## Part-II
16. Do you belong to any Club or any other Social/ Political/ Educational Organization?
   Ans: - (i) Yes, (ii) No.

17. If yes, specify:- (i) Social Organization, (ii) Political organization, (iii) Educational organization, (iv) Self help group, (v) Others, (vi) N.A.

18. Do you belong to any Political Party?
   Ans: - (i) Yes, (ii) No.

19. If yes, specify:- (i) Congress, (ii) BJP, (iii) AUDF, (iv) AGP, (v) CPI, (vi) Other (vii) N.A.

20. Which Political Party do you prefer most?
   (i) Congress, (ii) BJP, (iii) AUDF, (iv) AGP, (v) CPI, (vi) Others.

21. Do you think that there should be an involvement of political parties in Panchayat Election?
   Ans: - (i) Yes, (ii) No.

22. Have you ever contested election?
   Ans: - (i) Yes, (ii) No.

23. At which level: (i) G.P. President, (ii) G.P. Member, (iii) A.P. Member, (i) A.P. President, (ii) Z.P. Member, (i) Z.P. Chairman, (i) N.A.


25. Have you ever elected?
   Ans: - (i) Yes, (ii) No.

26. At which level: (i) G.P. President, (ii) G.P. Member, (iii) A.P. Member, (i) A.P. President, (ii) Z.P. Member, (i) Z.P. Chairman, (i) N.A.


28. Do you generally cast vote?
   Ans: - (i) Yes, (ii) No.

29. If no, why?
   (i) Lack of interest; (ii) Lack of faith on electoral system; (iii) Fear of violence in polling both; (iv) Any other, (v) N.A.

30. Did you vote in the Panchayat Election, 2008?
Ans: - (i) Yes, (ii) No.

31. While voting which factor(s) did influence you?

32. Did any candidate approach you before the Panchayat Election, 2008?
   Ans: - (i) Yes, (ii) No.

33. Did you work for any candidate/ attend party meeting/ motivation/ fund raising etc. in Panchayat Election, 2008?
   Ans: - (i) Yes, (ii) No.

34. What, according to you, is the most important factor that influences the support towards a candidate?
   (i) Heavy election campaign,
   (ii) Personal visit of candidate to you for your support,
   (iii) Philanthropic image of the candidate,
   (iv) Family background of the candidate,

35. Have you ever faced any challenge in exercising your franchise?
   Ans: - (i) Yes, (ii) No.

36. What type(s) of challenge(s) you have faced so far?
   (i) Inadequate security measures: Yes/No.
   (ii) Disclosure of choice of candidate: Yes/No.
   (iii) Threat from rival groups: Yes/No.
   (iv) Confusion over the presence of four ballots at a time: Yes/No.

37. What measure(s) do you like to adopt to make your candidate win? (Tick one or more)
   (i) Peaceful voting, (ii) Heavy campaigning, (iii) Booth capturing, (iv) Resisting voters who are not likely to vote for your candidate, (v) Any other (specify): -

38. Is the candidate for whom you voted win the Panchayat election, 2008?
   Ans: - (i) Yes, (ii) No.

39. If no, what, according to you, are the causes of defeat?
(i) Division of votes, (ii) Rigging, booth capturing by the other candidates, (iii) Absence of any personal or political identity of the candidate, (iv) Any other, (v) N.A.

40. What, according to you, is/are the most important reason(s) responsible for chaos in Panchayat election?
(i) Ignorance of the people: Yes/No. (ii) Blind power race among the rural elites: Yes/No. (iii) Involvement of political parties: Yes/No. (iv) Lack of administrative concern: Yes/No. (v) Any other: Yes/No.

Part-III

41. Are you satisfied with the leadership at the Panchayats?
 Ans: - (i) Yes, (ii) No.

42. If yes, what is/are the reason(s) behind your satisfaction?
(i) They are easily approachable, (ii) They are cooperative in nature, (iii) They used to access rural problems in consultation with the rural people, (iv) Any other.

43. If no, why are you not satisfied?
(i) They are ignorant and indifferent to rural problems, (ii) They are selfish in nature, (iii) They adopt corrupt practices, (iv) Any other.

44. Did you participate in the Gram Sabha meeting held in the period of last one year?
 Ans: - (i) Yes, (ii) No.

45. If no, what could be the reason for your non-participation in the same?
1. Lack of information;
2. No meeting convened;
3. Any other.

46. Did you ever approach any local leader for any problem of yours or the society?
 Ans: - (i) Yes, (ii) No.

47. If yes, what was the response?
(i) Acted promptly; (ii) Did not show any interest; (iii) No result achieved.

48. If no, why?
(i) No faith on them; (ii) They do not pay attention to common man’s problem; (iii) Due to ideological differences; (v) Any other.

49. Do you think that panchayat leaders play an important role in rural development?
Ans:- (i) Yes, (ii) No.

50. If yes, why?
(i) They are familiar to the local problems; (ii) They can identify the local problems in consultation with the local people; (iii) They are imparting political training and awareness among the rural masses.

51. If no, why?
(i) They are not concerned with rural development, rather engaged in their personal development; (ii) In the decision making, they are dictated by the political leaders at the top; (iii) They are ignorant and not aware of their rights and responsibilities.

52. What, according to you, are the factors that encourage people to join local politics?
(i) Personal ambition; (ii) Craving for power; (iii) Social commitment; (v) Any other.
APPENDIX – III

The 73rd (Constitution) Amendment Act, 1992

The Constitution of India

"PART IX* THE PANCHAYATS 243. Definition -In this Part, unless the context otherwise requires:-

a) "District" means a district in a State;
b) "Gram Sabha" means a body consisting of persons registered in the electoral rolls relating to a village comprised within the area of Panchayat at the village level;
c) "Intermediate level" means a level between the village and district levels specified by the Governor of a State by public notification to be the intermediate level for the purposes of this Part;
d) "Panchayat" means an institution (by whatever name called) of self-government constituted under article 243B, for the rural areas;
e) "Panchayat area" means the territorial area of a Panchayat;
f) "Population" means the population as ascertained at the last preceding census of which the relevant figures have been published;
g) "Village" means a village specified by the Governor by public notification to be a village for the purposes of this Part and includes a group of villages so specified.

243-A Gram Sabha - A Gram Sabha may exercise such powers and perform such functions at the village level as the Legislature of a State may, by law, provide.

243-B Constitution of Panchayats - (1) There shall be constituted in every State, Panchayats at the village, intermediate and district levels in accordance with the provisions of this Part. Notwithstanding anything in clause (1), Panchayats at the intermediate level may not be constituted in a State having a population not exceeding twenty lakhs.

243-C Composition of Panchayats –

(1) Subject to the provisions of this Part, the Legislature of a State may, by law, making provisions with respect to the composition of Panchayats:
Provided that the ratio between the populations of the territorial area of a Panchayat at any level and the number of seats in such Panchayat to be filled by election shall, so far as practicable, be the same throughout the State.

(2) All the seats in a Panchayat shall be filled by persons chosen by direct election from territorial constituencies in the Panchayat area and, forth is purpose, each Panchayat area shall be divided into territorial constituencies in such manner that the ratio between the population of each constituency and the number of seats allotted to it shall, so far as practicable, be the same throughout the Panchayat area.

(3) The Legislature of a State may, by law, provide for the representation -
a) of the Chairpersons of the Panchayats at the village level, in the Panchayats at the intermediate level or, in the case of a state not having Panchayats at the intermediate level, in the Panchayats at the district level;
b) of the Chairpersons of the Panchayats at the intermediate level, in the Panchayats at the district level;
c) of the members of the House of People and the members of the Legislative Assembly of the State representing constituencies which comprise wholly or partly a Panchayat area at a level other than the village level, in such Panchayat;
d) of the members of the Council of States and the members of the Legislative Council of the State, where they are registered as electors within-
   o Panchayat area at the intermediate level, in Panchayat at the intermediate level;
   o a Panchayat area at the district level, in Panchayat at the district level.

(4) The Chairperson of a Panchayat and other members of a Panchayat whether or not chosen by direct election from territorial constituencies in the Panchayat area shall have the right to vote in the meetings of the Panchayats.
(5) The Chairperson of -

a) a Panchayat at the village level shall be elected in such manner as the Legislature of a State may, by law, provide; and

b) a Panchayat at the intermediate level or district level shall be elected by, and from amongst, the elected members thereof.

243-D. Reservation of seats –

1. Seats shall be reserved for the Scheduled Castes; and the Scheduled Tribes in every Panchayat and the number of seats so reserved shall bear, as nearly as may be, the same proportion to the total number of seats to be filled by direct election in that Panchayat as the population of the Scheduled Castes in that Panchayat area or of the Scheduled Tribes in that Panchayat are bears to the total population of that area and such seats may be allotted by rotation to different constituencies in a Panchayat.

2. Not less than one-third of the total number of seats reserved under clause 1 shall be reserved for women belonging to the Scheduled castes or, as the case may be, the Scheduled Tribes.

3. Not less than one-third (including the number of seats reserved for women belonging to the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes ) of the total number of seats to be filled by direct election in every Panchayat shall be reserved for women and such seats may be allotted by rotation to different constituencies in a Panchayat.

4. The offices of the Chairpersons in the Panchayats at the village or any other level shall be reserved for the Scheduled Castes, the Scheduled Tribes and women in such manner as the Legislature of a State may, by law, provide: Provided that the number of offices of Chairpersons reserved for the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in the Panchayats at each level in any State shall bear, as nearly as may be, the same proportion to the total number of such offices in the Panchayats at each level as the population of the Scheduled Castes in the State or of the Scheduled Tribes in the State bears to the total population of the State 'Provided further that not less than one-third of the total number of offices of Chairpersons in the Panchayats at each level shall be reserved for women. Provided also that the
number of offices reserved under this clause shall be allotted by rotation to different Panchayats at each level.

5. The reservation of seats under clauses 1 and 2 and the reservation of offices of Chairpersons (other than the reservation for women) under clause 4 shall cease to have effect on the expiration of the period specified in Article 334.

6. Nothing in this Part shall prevent the Legislature of a State from making any provision for reservation of seats in any Panchayat or offices of Chairpersons in the Panchayats at any level in favour of backward class of citizens.

**243-E Duration of Panchayats etc.**

1. Every Panchayat, unless sooner dissolved under any law for the time being in force, shall continue for five years from the date appointed for its first meeting and no longer.

2. No amendment of any law for the time being in force shall have the effect of causing dissolution of a Panchayat at any level, which is functioning immediately before such amendment, till the expiration of its duration specified in Clause I.

3. An election to constitute a Panchayat shall be completed -
   a) Before the expiry of its duration specified in clause 1:
   b) Before the expiration of a period of six months from the date of its dissolution:

Provided that where the remainder of the period for which the dissolved Panchayat would have continued is less than six months, it shall not be necessary to hold any election under this clause for constituting the Panchayat.

4. A Panchayat constituted upon the dissolution of a Panchayat before the expiration of its duration shall continue only for the remainder of the period for which the dissolved Panchayat would have continued under clause (1) had it not been so dissolved.
243-F. Disqualifications for membership –

1. A person shall be disqualified for being chosen as, and for being, a member of a Panchayat -
   a) if he is so disqualified by or under any law for he time being in force for the purposes of elections to the Legislature of the State concerned:
      Provided that no person shall be disqualified on the ground that he is less than twenty-five years of age, if he has attained the age of twenty-one years;
   b) if he is so disqualified by or under any law made by the Legislature of the State.

2. If any question arises as to whether a member of a Panchayat has become subject to any of the disqualification mentioned in Clause I, the question shall be referred for the decision of such authority and in such manner as the Legislature of a State may, by law, provide.

243-G Powers, Authority and Responsibilities of Panchayats - Subject to the provisions of the Constitution, the Legislature of a State may, by law, endow the Panchayats with such powers and authority as may be necessary to enable them to function as institutions of self-government and such law may contain provisions for the devolution of powers and responsibilities upon Panchayats at the appropriate level, subject to such conditions as may be specified therein, with respect to:
   a) the preparation of plans for economic development and social justice;
   b) the implementation of. Schemes for economic development and social justice as may be entrusted to them including those in relation to the matters listed in the Eleventh Schedule.

243-H Powers to Impose Taxes by and Funds of the Panchayats-
The Legislature of a State may, by law, -
   a) authorize a Panchayat to levy, collect and appropriate such taxes, duties, tolls and fees in accordance with such procedure and subject to such limits;
b) assign to a Panchayat such taxes, duties, tolls and fees levied and collected by the State Government for such purposes and subject to such conditions and limits;

c) provide for making such grants-in-aid to the Panchayats from the Consolidated Fund of the State; and

d) Provide for constitution of such funds for crediting all moneys received, respectively, by or on behalf of the Panchayats and also for the withdrawal of such money there from as may be specified in the law.

The Governor of a State shall, as soon as may be within one year from the commencement of the Constitution (Seventy-third Amendment) Act, 1992, and thereafter at the expiration of every fifth year, constitute a Finance Commission to review the financial position of the Panchayats and to make recommendations to the Governor as to -

a) the principles which should govern -

(i) the distribution between the State and the Panchayats of the net proceeds of the taxes, duties, tolls and fees leviable by the State, which may be divided between them under this Part and the allocation between the Panchayats at all levels of their respective shares of such proceeds;

(ii) the determination of the taxes, duties, tolls and fees which may be assigned to, or appropriated by, the Panchayats;

Salient Features of the 73rd Constitutional Amendment

- **Continuity**: By providing for duration of 5 years for an elected panchayat and re-election of panchayats before expiry or within six months of their dissolution as well as non-interference by Courts in electoral matters, continuity of panchayats has been ensured by the 73rd Amendment.

- **Gram Sabha**: All States have provided that a Sarpanch/ Mukhia/ Adhyaksha/ Pradhan of the gram panchayat will convene a Gram Sabha, consisting of persons registered in the electoral rolls relating to a village
comprised within the area of panchayat at the village level at least twice a year.

**The following matters shall be placed before it by the Gram Panchayat:**

1. Annual Statement of accounts and audit report
2. Report on the administration of the previous year
3. Proposals for fresh taxation or for enhancement of existing taxes
4. Selection of schemes, beneficiaries and locations

- **Three-tier System:** A uniform structure of three tiers—village, intermediate and district levels has been prescribed but the constitution and composition of panchayats has been left to preferences of States subject to all seats being filled by elected persons from the respective territorial constituencies of the panchayats.

- **Reservation of Seats:** Seats have been reserved for SC/ST in every panchayat on the basis of proportional representation and such seats may be allotted by rotation to different constituencies in a panchayat. Not less than one-third of the seats so reserved are further reserved for women belonging to SC/ST. Besides this, not less than one-third of the total numbers of seats in a panchayat are reserved for women and such seats may be allotted by rotation to different constituencies in a panchayat. A similar reservation for backward classes has been left to the discretion of States.

- **Powers and Authority:** It is noteworthy that the 73rd Amendment provides for States to endow the panchayats with powers and authority 'to enable them to function as institutions of self government’. However, the functions of panchayats stated in the same Art. 243G are in the nature of entrusted development functions: ‘(a) preparation of plans for economic development and social justice and (b) the implementation of schemes for economic development and social justice as may be entrusted to them including those in relation to matters listed in the Eleventh Schedule.’ Functions that by tradition are uniquely assigned to panchayats consist of the provision and maintenance of what may be termed as ‘neighborhood’ public goods of street lighting, sanitation, village commons, and water supply as opposed to ‘national’ public goods like justice and national defense. The national level
is also uniquely assigned the functions of income redistribution and macro-economic stabilization, which involve cross-regional issues. There are intermediate functions like education, which cannot be classified in either local or national slots.

- **Election Commission:** Governors of States are empowered by the 73rd Amendment to appoint State Election Commissioners and stipulate by rules the tenure and conditions of their service.

- **Finance Commission:** Governors of States are also empowered to constitute State Finance Commissions to review the financial position of the panchayats and to make recommendations to the Governor as to

**The principles which should govern:**

1. The distribution between the State and the panchayats of the net proceeds of the taxes, duties, tolls and fees leviable by the State, which may be divided between them under this part and the allocation between the panchayats at all levels of their respective shares of such proceeds

2. The determination of the taxes, duties, tolls and fees which may be assigned to, or appropriated by, the panchayats

3. The grants in aid to the panchayats from the Consolidated Fund of the State

4. The measures needed to improve the financial position of the panchayats

5. Any other matter referred by the Governor in the interests of sound finance of the panchayats.

- **Audit of Accounts:** Audit of panchayats are to be provided for by the State Legislatures. We may note that only the Karnataka Panchayati Raj Act, 1993 has provided for entrusting audit of Taluk Panchayat Funds and Zilla Panchayat Funds to the Comptroller & Auditor General (CAG) while the Controller of State Accounts may authorize any officer to audit Gram Panchayat accounts.

(Source: UNDP, Decentralization in India Challenges and Opportunities)
APPENDIX – IV

The Map of India > North East > Assam
APPENDIX – V
The Map of Hailakandi District
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