# THE CONVICTS OF SHILLONG (MEGHALAYA): A SOCIO-DEMOGRAPHIC STUDY

## PRISON RECORD

1. Name  
2. Jail Registration  
3. Age  | 4. Sex Male/Female  
5. Father's Name  
6. Community  
7. Date of admission in Jail  
8. Case References  
9. Trying Court  
10. Permanent Address  
11. Nature of the crime  
12. Prison term  

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Investigator
A. PERSONAL BACKGROUND:

1. Name ___________________________ Code No. _______________________
2. Age _______________ 3. Place of Birth ___________________________
4. Religion _______________________________________________________
5. Caste/Tribe/Sub-Tribe ___________________________________________
6. Place of residence _____________________________________________
7. Educational Qualification _________________________________________
   (ii) Any training in other fields (specify) ___________________________
8. (i) Occupation _________________________________________________
(ii) Duration _____________________________________________________
(iii) Income _______________ weekly/fortnightly/monthly
9. Married/Single/Divorced (if divorced) state the reason why) ________
10. Age at marriage ________________________________________________
11. Residence of the respondent's family at present ______________________
12. (i) Place indicate the following about your family of orientation:

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<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Relation-Ship</th>
<th>Age</th>
<th>Sex</th>
<th>Educational Qualification</th>
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13. What are your habits:  
   (i)  
   (ii)  

14. What are your hobbies:  
   (i)  
   (ii)  

15. Do you have your own house or staying in a rented house?  

B. PARENTS BACKGROUND

1. Father's Name  
2. Age  
3. Religion  
4. Community  
5. Educational Qualification  
6. Profession  
8. Any other training/skills (specify)  

9. (i) Occupation is Regular  

   Irregular  

   (ii) His income is sufficient in running the home?  

   (a) to some extent  

   (b) to a great extent  

   (c) he never contributes  
10. (a) How would you rate his habits?
   (i) Gambling: Occasionally/often/always/never
   (ii) Drinking: Occasionally/often/always/never
   (iii) Debts: Occasionally/almost always
   (iv) Any other habits you would like to mention about ____________________________

(b) How do you feel about this? ____________________________

(c) Crime history, if any ____________________________ (specify)

C. 1. Mother's Name _________________________ 2. Age _________________________
     2. Religion _________________________ 4. (i) Community _________________
     (ii) Tribe/Caste/Sub-Tribe _________________
     5. Educational Qualification ____________________________
     6. Profession ____________________________
     7. Income ____________________________ weekly/fortnightly/monthly.
     8. (i) Occupation is Regular [ ] (Please tick)
          Irregular [ ]
     (ii) Her income is sufficient in running the home?
          (a) to some extent [ ]
          (b) to a great extent [ ]
          (c) she never contributes [ ]
D. 1. How would you describe your parents relationship? ________________________________

2. Father's relationship with:
   (i) You ________________________________
   (ii) Brothers ________________________________
   (iii) Sisters ________________________________
   (iv) Mother ________________________________
   (v) Others in the family ________________________________

3. Mother's relationship with:
   (i) You ________________________________
   (ii) Brothers ________________________________
   (iii) Sisters ________________________________
   (iv) Father ________________________________
   (v) Others in the family ________________________________

4. Your relationship with your:
   (i) Father ________________________________
   (ii) Mother ________________________________
   (iii) Brothers ________________________________
   (iv) Sisters ________________________________
   (v) Others in the family ________________________________

5. (a) To whom are you attached most. ________________________________
   (b) Why? ________________________________

6. Were you happy as a child? ________________________________

7. Did your parents give you enough attention during your childhood?
   (i) A lot and always ☐
8. As a child, how did you feel when your mother was out for work? 

9. Was it necessary for her to earn a living? 

10. When your parents were out to work, with whom were you left with? 

11. Were you happy with such arrangement(s)? Yes/No 
   If not, why? 

12. Were you always obedient to your parents? Yes/No 
   If no, why? 

13. What punishment were you given when you were 
   (i) Indifferent 
   (ii) Naughty 
   (iii) Very naughty 

14. Were you afraid of your father? Yes/No 
   If yes, why? 

15. Were you afraid of your mother? Yes/No 
   If yes, why? 

16. Did your parents allow you to take decision on your own? Yes/No
17. If Yes, what were the occasions you used to take your own decisions? ____________________________
   (a) If no, who generally used to impose decisions on you? ____________________________
   (b) How did you react on such impositions? ____________________________

18. If your parents' company, how did you use to feel?
   (i) happy ____________________________
   (ii) relaxed ____________________________
   (iii) uncomfortable ____________________________
   (iv) no comments ____________________________

19. Age at attending school ____________________________

20. Age at leaving school ____________________________

21.- Reason(s) for leaving school ____________________________

22. Did you enjoy going to school? (Reasons for your answer) Yes/No ____________________________

23. Did you attend classes regularly? Yes/No ____________________________
   If no, why? ____________________________

24. Did your parents encourage you to:
   (i) attend school regularly Yes/No ____________________________
   (ii) perform well in school Yes/No ____________________________

25. Who usually used to help you with your home assignments? ____________________________

26. Was moral instruction a part of your school curriculum? ____________________________
27. What topics/themes were covered through moral instructions?

28. Moral instruction was:
   (i) interesting
   (ii) boring
   (iii) hardly I gave any attention
   (iv) no comments

29. Do you have many friends? Yes/No

30. If yes, please tell me about their educational status, occupations, approximate income, etc.

31. Do you think that your friends liked you? Yes/No

32. Please give reasons why did they like you

33. Please give reasons why they did not like you

34. Do you generally get carried away with your friends' ideas/suggestions
   (i) always
   (ii) often
   (iii) occasionally
   (iv) rarely
   (v) never
35. Do your parents/Does your wife/husband approve of your having such friends? Yes/No
   Why?

36. Were you happy with your academic achievements?

37. Were you happy with your job/work? Yes/No
   If not, why?

38. Did you have a regular job? Yes/No
   If not, why?

39. Was your income good enough for running the home? Yes/No
   If not, what other ways you tried to obtain more money?

40. Were you ever unemployed? Yes/No
   If yes, for what length of time?

41. How did you utilise your time when you were without any employment?

42. How did you maintain yourself and/or your family when you were out of employment?
C. RESPONDENT'S FAMILY BACKGROUND

47. Year of marriage

48. Age of wife/husband

49. Academic qualification of the spouse

50. Number of children

51. Please state their:

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<th>Sex</th>
<th>Marital Status</th>
<th>Educational</th>
<th>Profession</th>
<th>Income</th>
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52. Is it your first marriage? Yes/No

53. if no, please tell about your previous marriage(s)
   (age at marriage, age of spouse, number of children, etc.)

54. What happened with your previous spouse?

55. (a) Please tell me about your previous spouse's occupation
55. (b) Educational Qualification

(c) Any other skills

(d) Income

56. (i) How would you describe your relationship with your spouse/spouses?

(ii) With your children

D. CRIME

1. Nature of the crime committed according to the informant

2. Is this your first imprisonment? Yes/No

3. If not, altogether how many times had you been imprisoned so far?

4. What were the crimes committed previously by you?

5. What made you continue doing that?

6. For how many years have you been in and out of jail?
   (a) Year _____________  Period _____________
   (b) Year _____________  Period _____________
   (c) Year _____________  Period _____________
   (d) Year _____________  Period _____________
7. How do you feel now, that you have been caught or imprisoned?

8. How many of your were in the party when the offence was committed?

9. Were your companions also apprehended? If not, why do you think/say so?

10. Do you feel that you have been betrayed? Yes/No

11. Were you caught red-handed? Yes/No

12. If no, after how many days/months of your committing the crime were you arrested?

13. When were you given the warrant of arrest?

14. Were you given at any point of time the chance to explain/deny the offence?

15. Did you try to plead your innocence? Yes/No

If yes, how?

If no, why?
16. Do you think you were at fault? Yes/No

17. If yes, at times do you pause to ask yourself the reasons why and what compelled/motivated you to commit such offence?

18. What (honestly) do you think are the reasons that motivated/compelled you to act in this manner?

19. Do you regret/feel guilty for what you have done?

20. What were your initial reaction/feeling while being (i) arrested and (ii) in jail?

21. How did you feel when you saw other fellow prisoners?

22. Describe the inmates behaviour towards you (i) initially (ii) now

23. Do you talk/discuss with your close inmates regarding the cause for your imprisonment, etc.?
24. What follows after this? ________________________________

25. Who is your close friend among your jailmates?
______________________________

26. Why do you say so? ________________________________

27. How would you describe your relationship with the warders/jail authorities?
______________________________

28. Do you always obey/carry out their orders? 
______________________________

29. If not, what kind of punishments do you receive?
______________________________

30. Do you think the degree of punishment is justified? Yes/No
______________________________

31. If not, why? ________________________________

32. What did you feel after receiving the punishment?
______________________________

33. How did you parents react/feel about your imprisonment?
______________________________

34. (a) If married, how did your wife feel/react to your imprisonment?
______________________________
34. (b) How did your children feel/react to your imprisonment?

35. How often do your family members visit you?
   Parents
   Wife
   Children

36. What do you bring when they visit you?

37. Are you allowed to accept them?

38. Have they tried to bail you out? Yes/No

39. If not, why?

40. If yes, how?

41. How do you behave when they meet you?

42. Do your friends visit you?

43. Do you notice any change in their attitude towards you? Yes/No
44. If yes, in what way do you think/observe their change in attitude/manner, etc.?  

__________________________________________________________________________  

__________________________________________________________________________  

__________________________________________________________________________  

45. How do you feel when they visit you?  

Father ________________________________________________________________  

Mother ________________________________________________________________  

Wife ________________________________________________________________  

Children ________________________________________________________________  

Friends ________________________________________________________________  

46. Do you eagerly await to see them? Yes/No  

__________________________________________________________________________  

47. (a) If yes, how often would you like to see them?  

__________________________________________________________________________  

(b) If no, why not?  

__________________________________________________________________________  

48. What would you like to do when you are released?  

__________________________________________________________________________  

__________________________________________________________________________  

49. Will you be able to go back home to your parents/family? Yes/No  

__________________________________________________________________________  

50. If not, why?  

__________________________________________________________________________
51. Do you think that they will accept you?

52. Do you think you stand a chance of getting an employment when released? (reasons)

53. If you are unable to get employment, have you given a thought what you are going to do?

54. What are your impressions of law and justice?

55. What could be the reasons that some people get involved in committing offences?

56. Do you think you will be able to lead a normal life when freed? Yes/No

57. (a) If yes, how?

(b) If not, why not?
58. How far do you think you will be able to mould your life in a socially acceptable pattern?

59. What ways/methods are you going to adjust to/adopt in order to achieve this?

60. Please tell me how did you actually commit the crime last?

61. Who/what provoked you to do this?

62. Who taught you the art of committing this particular crime?

63. Where did you exactly commit this crime?

64. Who were the people that helped/participated in this crime? (Tell about their ethnic composition, age, sex, marital status, etc.)

65. What did you gain by committing this crime?
   (a) in terms of money ________________________________
   (b) in terms of any other things ______________________
66. How did you plan this crime?

67. Can you suggest how the living condition in the jail can be improved? Yes/No

68. (a) If yes, please give your suggestions

(b) If no, why not?

69. Are you repentant for committing crimes? Yes/No

70. (a) If yes, how?

(b) If no, why not?

71. Tell me specifically what had gone wrong in your family that influenced you to commit such crimes?
Observer’s comments:

Date: Investigator