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(Outlook news, 17 March, 2023)

ANNEXURE-1

Semi Structured Interview Schedule for the General Citizen

General Citizen:

- 1. Why and whom did you vote in the last election?
- 2. Do you think is there any relationship between religion and politics?
- 3. Does ideology matter to you?
- 4. What are the considerations for choosing a political party or a candidate?
- 5. According to you, is there any political party which plays communal politics?
- 6. What do you think about the role of different communities in relation to elections in Assam?
- 7. According to you which political regime is the most successful regime?
- 8. What are the changes you have witnessed in your society after the BJP regime?
- 9. Have you realize any religious and cultural changes in society? If yes, then what could be the reason?
- 10. What is your opinion on religious organizations like RSS and Jamiat?
- 11. Have you seen any religious angle in the speeches of the leaders?
- 12. What could be the main reason behind BJPs victory in Assam Assembly and Lok Sabha elections?
- 13. Can you comment briefly regarding people's opinion on BJP, AIUDF and Congress and their relationship with each other in the constituency?
- 14. Have you witness or heard about any conflict that happen in your place because of politics?
- 15. Peoples view on the political stand of different religious and ethnic communities?
- 16. People's view on love jihad?
- 17. People's view on cow slaughtering?
- 18. People's opinion on Viswa Hindu parishad?
- 19. People's opinion on communal activities in the constituency?
- 20. What is your favorite political party at the centre (Lok Sabha) and why?
- 21. What are the considerations of people while voting in different elections?
- 22. What is your opinion on the emerging communal tensions between Hindu and Muslims across the country and what is the main reason behind it?

- 23. Do you know about the election manifesto of the political parties? What are the main issues of the political parties?
- 24. What are the issues of the political parties do you like and why?
- 25. What is your view on Hindu Bangladeshi Issue?
- 26. What is your take on NRC?
- 27. Who according to you is the best CM and PM since 2006 and why?
- 28. Have you witnessed any change in the religious practices in your society?
- 29. Have you witnessed any changes in the everyday practices of the people?
- 30. What is your view regarding people's perception on political parties?
- 31. What is your take on political leaders?
- 32. How does your panchayat function?
- 33. Do the schemes of Panchayat get distributed equally and not biased towards different religious and ethnic groups?
- 34. What is your view on Ram mandir issue?
- 35. What do you know about population policy? Is it necessary?
- 36. What is your view on Namami Brahmaputra?
- 37. What is your opinion on Assam movement and immigrant issue?
- 38. People's opinion on AASU, NSUI and AAMSU and their role before and after various successive governments, especially the BJP Government?
- 39. People's view on KMSS and its role before and after the BJP Government?
- 40. What do you think about immigration in Assam and its role in Assam politics?
- 41. What is your opinion on Assam movement and its implications?
- 42. How do you see the ongoing intolerance debate in our country?

ANNEXURE-2

Semi Structured Interview Schedule for the members and leaders of Political Parties/ affiliate organizations.

- 1. How cum your present MLA becomes your leader?
- 2. Why you have chosen your political party over others?
- 3. Are you a part of any religious organization? If yes then why?
- 4. Have you witnessed any religious conflict in your locality? If yes then how it had happened?
- 5. What are the socio- cultural changes you have observed in your constituency?
- 6. Have you notice any changes in the behavior of other communities? If yes then what is the reason according to you?
- 7. Dou you know about your party's electoral manifesto? Tell me something which you like the most and you dislike the most?
- 8. What is priority for you, Assam or India?
- 9. What is your view about the communal politics in India?
- 10. What role does the affiliated organization play for your party?
- 11. Who will win the present Lok Sabha election and why?
- 12. What is your view on RSS?
- 13. What is your view on AIUDF?
- 14. What is your view on AAMSU?
- 15. What is your view on AASU?
- 16. Have you notice any changes in your locality as well as in Assam because of political change of power in the state as well as in the centre?
- 17. How do you see congress's take on immigrant Muslims in Assam?
- 18. How do you see BJP's take on immigrant Muslims in Assam?
- 19. How do you see BJP's take on Indigenous Assamese population?
- 20. How do you see Congress's take on Indigenous Assamese population?
- 21. How do you see AGP's take on Indigenous Assamese population?
- 22. How do you see different political party's take on Bengali speaking Muslim population?
- 23. How do you see different political party's take on Bengali speaking Hindu population?
- 24. How does your party or organization look at non Assamese Hindu population?

- 25. What role your organizations play in the overall political mobilization of the affiliated political party?
- 26. What is your opinion on religion?
- 27. What is your opinion about other religion?
- 28. Why you join this religious organization?
- 29. What is the main reason behind the rapid demographic change in Assam?
- 30. What kind of religious ideologies preach by your organization?
- 31. What is your organization's take on other religion?
- 32. What are the differences have you noticed in the present Lok Sabha election to the last Lok Sabha election?
- 33. What are the differences you have witnessed from the last panchayat election to the present Lok Sabha election?
- 34. What are the differences you have witnessed from the last Vidhan Sabha election to the present Lok Sabha election?
- 35. Have you observed any religious angle in the last panchayat, Lok Sabha and Vidhana Sabha elections?
- 36. Are there any changes in the electoral campaign of the political parties from the 2006 Vidhan Sabha election?
- 37. What are the changes you have witnessed in your constituency in terms of performance of the rituals?
- 38. Have you witnessed any change in the practice of different religions located in your constituency?
- 39. What is your view on the relationship between religion and politics?
- 40. What is the present situation of Hindu Muslim relationship in your locality?
- 41. Have you witnessed any changes in the inter community relations in your constituency
- 42. What you are taught in the orientation program of your organization and political party?
- 43. How do your party and organization function?
- 44. What are the main issues of your party in the Panchayat election?
- 45. What do you think about peoples' perception about your party or organization?
- 46. How many members and active members do you have?
- 47. Do your leaders talk about religious issue?
- 48. What is your take on different communities and their voting behaviour?

- 49. What are the changes you have witnessed in your constituency from the previous election?
- 50. Do you get the opportunity to give feed back to the leaders of your party?
- 51. Tell me the most positive aspects of your party and the most negative aspect of your party according to you.
- 52. Why people should vote for your party?
- 53. Why people should join your organization?
- 54. Why you joined your political party and not others?
- 55. Does ideology matter to you?
- 56. What are the main symbols that you give importance in your organization?
- 57. What are the symbols you can associate with different political parties?
- 58. Tell me about the intra party relations in your political party or organization.
- 59. What kind of relations do you have with other party members?
- 60. What kind of relations do you have with other community members within your party
- 61. What kind of relations do you have with other community members in your constituency?

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Name: Hiranku Hazarika, Roll No. SOP17102, Department of Sociology. Supervisor: Prof. Kedilezo Kikhi

Chapter 1 Introduction

1.1 Introduction

Election constitutes an important element in the democracy that enables citizens to take part directly in the politics by selecting their representatives and to express their policy preferences (Joseph & Mahajan, 1991). Election is the most important and integral part of politics. While in a democracy, politics is the art and practice of dealing with political power, election is the prostere exercised by the government and elect government representatives (Joseph & Mahajan, 1991). Results of the election clearly open up the various aspects of human behaviour that help to point out the factors which shape their political character and voting preference. Election is an important factor to be understoodin social sciences. It is a proper field of specialization. The study of election is known as peephology (Bashir & Khalid, 2019).

Voting is the medium through which citizens participate in the election process. It is the main form of exercising political participation in democratic states. Voting is an essential process in the democratic setup and plays a pivotal role in the smooth functioning and existence of democracy (Ganguly&Ganguly, 1975). Voting is an action of individual, which involves a definite behavioural act. Hence, it proves valuable for understanding the social and psychological trends. Voting is a process to understand the mood and behaviour of the respondents (Bashir & &Khalid, 2019).It is considered as the mechanism of reaching consensus and at the same time an imperative means of institutionalizing conflicts amid various groups. It is one of those focal points of the democracy where political activities reach a high peak (Ganguly&Ganguly, 1975). Voting is defined in Universal Declaration of Human Rights as "A fundamental right of almost all citizens over the age of eighteen and it ensures that the will of the people is preserved"(Bashir & Khalid, 2019). Though, voting appearsto leo for transient importance apparently, it surely sits

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