

APPENDIX 4
Interview Topic Guides 1-3

Topic Guide 1

This is the English translation of the original topic guide (in Bengali) that was used in interviews with the villagers [Modifications were necessary on various occasions and this document is a cumulative version that incorporates such changes]

1. How long have you been living in this village?
2. Where did your father and mother live? Did they also live in this village or did they come from outside?
3. [For those who had a long family history with the village] Can you remember how many years (often changed to 'generations' when asking the question) ago your forefathers settled here?
4. What occupation did your parents have? Do you know what your forefathers did?
5. What do you do to make your living?
6. How much do you earn a month /a day?
7. Do you engage in sand lifting that is going on in your village?
8. [For those whom I saw engaged in sand lifting]: Where do you sell the sand? How is it priced?
9. Why are the people lifting sand from the river? Is it a source of good income? How does it compare with other sources of income?

10. Where do they sell this sand? How do they sell it?
11. How much can you earn here? Do you want to go to towns nearby?
12. What do you farm here?
13. What are the main crops of this area?
14. How much do you depend on the river for farming here?
15. Have you experienced flooding in this village? When was it? Can you tell me more about the flood?
16. Have you heard of flooding in earlier times? Can you tell me more about the flood?
17. How often do you experience flooding here?
18. What do you think are major causes for the floods?
19. Why do you live here despite past instances of severe floods affecting your village/
family?
20. Do you think nearby towns will be a safer place to live as far as floods are
concerned? Why or why not?
21. How many members are there in your family? What do they do?
22. How long have you been associated with this river?
23. Do you remember any change in the river's appearance that *you* witnessed with
your own eyes?

24. Do you remember any change in the river's characteristics that *you* witnessed with your own eyes?
25. Have you, from people of older generations, heard of any change in the river's appearance?
26. Have you, from people of older generations, heard of any change in the river's characteristics?
27. Do you drink the water from the river?
28. Does anyone drink the water from the river? Who are they?
29. What are the main uses of the riverwater in this village?
30. What is the source of your drinking water?
31. Tell me about how the season of monsoon is like in this area?
32. What happens when there is excessive rainfall in this area?
33. Tell me more about the river in the monsoon times.

Topic Guide 2

This is the English translation of the original topic guide (in Bengali) that was used in interviews with the Officer-in-Charge of the Water Monitoring Station at Satkahonia [Modifications were necessary on various occasions and this document is a cumulative version that incorporates such changes]

1. How long have you been working here?
2. How do you feel about working here?
3. How many staff do you have in this water monitoring station?
4. When was the water monitoring station established? How many years' records do you have? May I see the records?
5. Do you have digital records on the river? How do you preserve your records? How are they used?
6. Who does the monitoring activities here?
7. How often do floods come in this region?
8. Do you think floods have increased in recent years?
9. Can you explain the nature of floods in this region?
10. Have you witnessed floods with your own eyes? Or have you listened to eyewitness accounts? Can you elaborate a little?

11. What are the safety measures the villagers have against floods?
12. Why is this region said to be flood prone? What kind of flood damage do you witness here?
13. Do you agree that the upstream dam at Hinglo is responsible for the floods? Why?
14. What are the major causes of flood here?

[Questions added during the interview]

15. Can you tell a bit more about how it is like being the in charge of this station?
16. Where do you live most of the year?
17. Why do you think these villagers continue to live by the river even after being hit by floods repeatedly?
18. What kind of government assistance do the villagers get?
19. What kind of government assistance do you get?
20. Do you think the government is doing enough?
21. What kind of changes have you seen in the river in your lifetime?
22. What kind of changes in the river regime are you aware of as the in charge of this station?
23. What kind of changes have you seen in the localities around you recently? What is most remarkable about the changes?

Topic Guide 3

This is the English translation of the original topic guide (in Bengali) that was used in interviews with the students and residents in Santiniketan and Bolpur

[Modifications were necessary on various occasions and this document is a cumulative version that incorporates such changes]

1. What is your occupation?
2. How long have you been staying here?
3. In what ways are you associated with this place? Does your family also stay here?
4. How long have you been associated with Ajoy River?
5. What memories do you have of the river in earlier times? Has it changed recently?

Can you elaborate on the changes?

6. What do you know about the villages near the river?
7. Can you tell me more about village life here? What kind of works do they do?
8. Have you heard about the floods of Ajoy or have you witnessed any flood personally?

Can you elaborate a little more?

9. Do you think floods have increased in recent years?
10. How much are you aware of the upstream dam in Hinglo?

11. Do you think floods may have increased after the dam was built? Why?
12. What are the sources you have learnt about the floods of Ajoy from? Do you think they are accurate and reliable?
13. Do you think this area in the river basin is flood prone? Why?
14. How is the season of monsoon here? Do floods occur frequently in years of heavy rains?
15. Why do you think the villagers continue to live in the same villages despite being hit by floods repeatedly?
16. Do you think the government does enough for the flood hit?
17. What kinds of assistances are there for the flood hit villages?
18. Are you aware of the disaster management cell of Visva Bharati? Can you tell what kind of works they do?
19. Have you seen any change in the appearance of Ajoy River recently? Can you expand?
20. Have you seen any changes in the localities around the river? Can you expand?
21. Do you think that the river and its surrounding regions will be changed more in the coming years? How?

