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**APPLICATION TO OBTAIN THE PERMISSION TO CONDUCT A RESEARCH PROJECT**

To the headman of the village

Dear ,

We are Anthropologists from the University of Exeter in the UK, and we are conducting research on the economic behaviour of people living in villages in Meghalaya. We aim to understand how people use and distribute the resources that they have. With this application, we request your permission to conduct our research in your village.

To complete the research, we need to stay in your village for about 4 to 5 days. On the first day we will conduct a census in your village. After that, each day we will go from house to house to ask adults if they are happy to spend some time with us to answer our questions. If people do not want to participate that is completely fine. If people agree to participate in our study, we will compensate them for the time that they spend with us (about 1 hour per person) and away from their daily livelihood activities. Each adult who will participate in our study will receive a monetary compensation of 30 rupees.

For each participant, we will ask questions about their family and livelihood sources. We will also ask people how they obtained their land and other resources and how they use and distribute these amongst each other.

We would also like to play a game with some people from the village. Some people from the village will be invited to spend one day with us to play this game. People can earn money in this game based on the economic decisions they make. This game will help us understand the kind of economic decisions people make. We will compensate participants in the game for the time that they spend with us (1 day) and away from their daily livelihood activities. Each adult who will participate in the games will receive a monetary compensation of 50 rupees plus one meal. They will also be able to earn more money in the game based on their decisions and up to 150 rupees.

Finally, we will take a Polaroid picture which will be shown to the other residents of the village in order to find out how they are related to the participant. Once we have finished our study in your village, the picture will be given to the participant to keep.

In order to allow people to come to us at a time that suits them best – for instance early morning before work or in the evening after work – we would be very grateful if you were to grant us the permission to stay in the village overnight. We will bring our own food and sleeping pack. Because of the rain, however, we would like to request the permission to sleep in a village facility (school) or ask villagers to allocate us some floor space in their house for the night.

After completing the research, we hope to visit your village again later to communicate the results of our research to the villagers.

We are very grateful for your consideration and we are looking forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely,

Shakti Lamba