

Chalcolithic Culture: An Analysis

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Abstract: Cultural deposite of the chalcothis complex just over the natural soil which is of grenish yellow here. It me insured nearly 70 cms. And is compared of yellow compact alluvial earth, evidences revealed by operations showed a developed rural economy in which agriculture, hunting and fishing played an important role, which was similar to that of Sonpur Culture i. the evidences of rammed floors, huts made of wattle and duab have discovered. Ovens of various sizes came across at different levels of the period. Iron in any from was not encountered where as a fish hook of copper and a blade of carnelian were picked up from this level.

Keywords : Chalcolithic Culture, Rural Economy, Porttery, Material culture etc.

The porttery in general was wheel made and well fired but the hand, made specimens were not altogather wanting. The ceramics, although dominated by red were specimens were yet considerably represented by black – and – red were and black ware examples. The pottery had usually fine and thick slip ranging from chocolate through crimson – red, light red orange to ochre in color and the sherds of red ware as well as on red portions of the black – and – red ware. Jars were made in two parts, the rim portion was shaped on wheel while the profile was modelled by hands, and then both the parts were carefully luted-having no ship over them. The main pottery types included dish-on-stand bowl with a pedestal base bowl with blobular body and out curved or featureless rim, ring based bowl, perforated bowl. Spouted vessel, deep and shallow dish, small vase, small to medium size jar with a sharp crenation at the neck, flared out rim etc. the shoulders of a few jars of red ware showed a significant appliqué designs consisting of twisted rope. Pinched, appliqué designs, knob patterns, post firing scratched design etc. some pieces of black and Red ware, red ware and black ware bore white paintings in the form of wavy lines and straight and oblique strokes and dots.

Among notable antiquities of stone, were a Neolithic Celt a carnelian blade, a queen and a few pestles and a hammer like object, the important finds of bone were represented socketed as well as tanged arrow-heads, barbed arrow heads, points, chisels etc. The discovery of a single copper fish hook was very significant as it not only qualified the site for its chalcolithic characters but also hinted at its fishing economy during the period under review. The notable finds of terracotta were beads and comical object. A few disc shaped beads having perforation at the center were also noteworthy. With a view to bridging the great hiatus that stretched from the end of the Harrappan chalcolithic culture to the beginning of the historic period, archaeologists made a great, efforts by taking up excavations at a number of sites. Excavation at Taradih established the main focus of the chalco-lithic culture of Bodhgaya as excavations at Sonpur and Chirand indicated the efflorescence of the chalcolithic culture in Bihar. Chirand proved to be a veritable rich site of the culture in the post-Harrappa period. Son pur in the Gaya district is another promising site. Limited excavations at Taradih in the Gaya district yielded remains of the chalco-lithic period. Although the excavated remains from Chirand. Sonpur Taradih and other sites cannot stand in favorable comparision with what have been unearthed at Ahar, Gilund. Navadatoli, Jorwe etc; yet with the objects discovered, a palpably understandable picture can be drawn of the material culture of the people who resided in bodhgaya during the chalcoliyhic period. Moreover, the people of Bihar (Bodhgaya) at Taradih, Sonpur and Chirand in the chalcolithic period enjoyed the benefits of the same culture as at Abar,

Gilund, etc. However, the picture of the material culture of the chalcolithic Bodhgaya may also be reconstructed with the aid of what have been found at the other comparable sites.

The post-Harappan chalcolithic people of Bihar appear to have resided in extremely modest structures which they erected themselves. The chalcolithic people of Bodhgaya constructed their houses out of perishable materials like reed and bamboo which were probably locally available to them. The reed or bamboo were erected in a manner so as to serve as well to their houses which were finally finished off and plastered by mud. At Ahar, and Navadatoli on the west and Pandu – Rajar – Dhibi' on the east, similar methods of house construction were also employed. Bricks either sundried or kiln-burnt do not seem to have been used at Bodhgaya during the chalcolithic period. It was at Gilund only that kiln-burnt bricks were used for the construction of the houses in the chalcolithic period. The exact plan of the house is afforded by the post holes marking out areas which they enclosed, and on this basis the houses on plan appear to be either circular or scalare or rectangular. The floors of the houses were made up of clay mixed with silt and sometimes were also paved with river gravels. It is however anybody's guess how the houses may have been roofed, the superstructures on account of their impermanent character having numerally disappeared in due course by the ravage of time. Thatch worked to the bamboo or reed frame work may have efficiently been utilized for roofing the houses. Similar is the practice which the still follow in the construction people in this respect does not seem to have been much different from what is prevalent even these days. That the roofs of the houses may have been supported on wooden or bamboo posts seem more than certain. The houses, as at Ahar, were seemingly partitioned into a number of rooms by raising walls, one of having served the purpose of purpose of kitchen. Burnt spaces with the remains of ash at Sonpur, Chirand and Taradiah may indicate the cooking points in the kitchen where hearth was provided for the cooking purposes. Hearths of different types have been found at Ahar, Gilund, Pandu – Rajar – Dhibi and any of the types might have been in vogue in Bodhgaya. Single mouthed clay hearths, as at Pandu – Rajar – Dhibi, appear to have been favoured at Taradiah. Different kinds of ovens, circular, semi circular, hexagonal and triangular types, have been dug out from here belonging to trench No. TRH – III, IV, V & IX. From trench No. III & V, it appears that the uses of ovens have been started along with period I just with the start of an occupational layer. Semicircular hearth resembled the clay hearth used even these days by the villagers. Chirand has also yielded remains of multi armed hearths, but in the post chalcolithic level.

No doubt, the people took cultivation as means of their livelihood as proved by the the impression of paddy husks in the section of the potteries. This fact is further supported by the discovery of pestles and a quern at the site from periods therefore, agriculture, fishing and hunting seem to have been the main stay of their economy. It is although a fact that the chalcolithic people of this site or anywhere also have not yielded any agricultural implement. Yet there can be no doubt the the people during the period took to cultivation as means of their livelihood.

References :

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