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PRE AND EARLY HARAPPAN CULTURES OF GUJARAT WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE TO  
GULF OF CAMBAY REGION

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**Title of the Research : PRE AND EARLY HARAPPAN CULTURES OF GUJARAT WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE TO GULF OF CAMBAY REGION**

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**Research Guide : Prof. Vasant Shinde**

## **Chapter I**

### **Introduction**

This chapter deals mainly with the study area, previous work in Gujarat in general and previous work in study area in particular. The out come of the previous work is in the form of identification of four regional cultures such as Micaceous Red Ware, Anarta, Pre-Prabhas and Padri mainly in North Gujarat and Saurashtra is discussed and finally highlights the research problem, aims/objectives and methodology.

### **Study Area:**

The coastal region from Vallabhipur to Jafrabad was selected for the present study i.e. the southeastern area of Saurashtra. It mainly comprises some parts of Bhavnagar and Amreli districts. As it is clear from the earlier works, the upper portion or the northwestern area along the river valleys was better researched whereas the coastal land between Vallabhipur to Jafrabad had remained unexplored. Although few sites have been already reported by the earlier scholars from the area between Bhavnagar to Jafrabad, this area was selected for the present study

with a view to understand the distribution of sites. To demarcate the study area was difficult as far as northwestern or inland areas of the districts are concerned. Finally the hill range of Palitana was considered as an inland limit. The talukas of Mahuva, Palitana, Talaja, Umrala, Sihor, Gogha, and Bhavnagar of the Bhavnagar district and Rajula taluka and small portion of Jafrabad taluka of Amreli district were surveyed.

### **Aims**

1. To arrange different cultural complexes such as Anarta, Padri, Pre-Prabhas and Micaceous Red Ware cultures of Gujarat in proper chronological and cultural order.
2. Comparative analysis of various features of pottery such as shape, form, surface treatment, decorative patterns etc. Ceramic assemblage is mainly focused because the other cultural material is scanty and not available for the work. As well as the different cultures are identified on basis of ceramics that is why it is considered for the research.

3. Critical examination of these cultures to find out whether they were really different or shared common cultural traditions. There are some regional variations within them, which were designated by earlier scholars as different cultures.
4. To provide a definite terminology to these cultures in order to avoid confusion.
5. To find out if these Pre/Early Harappan/Local Chalcolithic cultures have contributed to the development of the Mature/Sorath Harappan phase in Saurashtra and Northern Gujarat.
6. To understand the distribution pattern of sites of Pre/Early Harappan/Local Chalcolithic cultures.

### **Methodology**

1. With the intention of understanding distribution pattern of Pre/Early/Local Chalcolithic and Mature Harappan sites, village-to-village survey was carried out in the study region. A total number of 670 villages were visited for this purpose. Besides looking for archaeological sites, I also carried out survey of the present ecological conditions to understand subsistence and economic conditions of the early cultures.
2. A format has been designed for documentation of various features including details of locations of sites, their nature, ecological and environmental details, geographical and geological aspects, etc.

3. Departments of Archaeology of various universities and institutes were visited in order to study the archaeological material housed there. Material excavated from the sites such as Loteshwar, Nagwada and Motiploti belonging to the Anarta tradition was studied and analyzed at the Department of Fine Arts, Maharaja Sayajirao University, Baroda, whereas the Pre/Early Harappan from sites in Rajasthan, Sindh, etc. were studied in the Antiquity Section of the Archaeological Survey of India in New Delhi.
4. Ceramic assemblage from the excavated site of Padri, housed in the repository of the Department of Archaeology, Deccan College, Pune was reorganized. The ceramic assemblage was reclassified and shapes were identified. Different forms were selected for documentation, typological and scientific analysis.
5. Comparative study of ceramic assemblage of Pre/Early Harappan from various regions was carried out on the basis of style and shapes, external surface treatment and firing technique, and X-ray diffraction analyses.

### **Chapter II**

#### **Physiographic and Environmental Features of Study Area**

It mainly deals with the geographical and geological features of the study area including drainage pattern, flora, fauna, climate, rainfall and minerals, etc.

### **Chapter III**

#### **Re-Analysis of Padri Ceramics**

This chapter is devoted to the re-analysis of the ceramic assemblage from the site of Padri, Talaja Taluka, Bhavnagar district, Gujarat from layers 8 to 11, which was previously analyzed by the excavators. The Padri Ware as designated by earlier scholars has been bifurcated into Black-on-Red variety and Red Slipped Unpainted variety. Similarly the different wares identified on the basis of surface treatment were re-defined.

In the first stage the ceramic assemblage is divided into basic wares such as Red Ware, Black/Grey Ware, Black and Red Ware and Buff Ware. On the basis of surface colour and treatment the two main wares- Red and Buff are further divided into various varieties such as:

Red Ware basic type and varieties are

- A) Black-on-Red or Painted Red Variety
- B) White-on-Red Variety
- C) Bichrome Variety
- D) Cream Slipped Variety, which again on the basis of presence or absence of paintings is subdivided into Painted and Unpainted Variety
- E) Pink Slipped Variety, which again on the basis of presence or absence of paintings is subdivided into Painted and Unpainted Variety
- F) Red Slipped Unpainted Variety
- G) Black Slipped Variety
- H) Red Untreated or Washed Variety

Buff Ware basic type and varieties are

- A) Red Slipped Variety
- B) Black Slipped Variety

The second stage of analysis deals with the forms of the vessels such as bowls, basins, globular pots and plates or dishes. Morphological descriptions such as rim, shape, firing, fabric and technology used for manufacturing and the distribution of various forms in all the layers were examined.

The third stage of analysis deals with the proper grouping of layers based on ceramic assemblage to understand the exact deposit of early phase and the transitional layer. On the basis of ceramic evidence, fabric and technology, a new chronology has been proposed for the site of Padri.

Fourth stage shows the development of various forms such as bowls, basins and bases from Early to Mature Harappan or Sorath period. This is done in order to show the continuity in the shapes and local development. This has helped in understanding the development of these cultures in the study area.

### **Chapter IV**

#### **Scientific Analysis of Padri Ceramics Using X-Ray Diffraction Method**

The X-Ray Diffraction Analysis was carried out on the selected pottery from the site of Padri. In some of the earlier works some scholars have mentioned that the black-on-red ware, pink slipped ware, cream slipped and black and red ware were imported from some other regions particularly from Rajasthan.

**Aims of this analysis**

1. Whether the pottery was manufactured locally or was it brought to the site from some other regions.
2. To locate the provenance of clay used for the production of ceramics.
3. Whether it is possible to classify different ceramics into similar mineralogical groups.
4. Whether it is possible to understand the trading network within the region.

**Chapter V****Comparative Analysis of Ceramics of Anarta and Padri Cultures**

The main aim of this research focuses on comparative analysis of Anarta culture and Padri Culture. The main aim behind it is to understand (using ceramics), whether the two cultures are similar or different. For this purpose the comparative analysis of ceramics is carried out. As these cultures are identified on the basis of ceramics the focus of this research is limited to pottery.

The comparative analysis is carried out in three stages:

- In first stage, the descriptions of different wares of Anarta and Padri are compared
- In second stage, the painted motifs and colour combinations of both the cultures are compared
- In third stage, shapes or forms of the vessels are compared.

**Chapter VI****Exploration**

This chapter deals with the discovered sites in the explored 670 villages and their description and distribution patterns. In all total 161 sites were visited out of that 78 sites are newly discovered. The sites belong to various cultural periods ranging from Padri/Anarta Cultural phase to Medieval period. Out of 161 sites only 5 sites have Padri/Anarta ceramic assemblage.

**Chapter VII****Conclusion**

It pertains with the re-analysis of ceramics from the site of Padri, X-Ray Diffraction analysis, comparative analysis of Anarta and Padri and exploration data. The major contributions of the research have been underlined in this chapter such as:

- 1) The ceramic production technology at the site of Padri develops locally. The layer 11 has most of the pottery either hand made or slow wheel made or some times both the techniques were used. In the subsequent layer i.e. 10 the slow wheel pottery dominates the assemblage but few fast wheel made pottery also makes its appearance. In layer 9 the fast wheel technology dominates the assemblage with some slow wheel pottery and finally in layer 8 the ceramic assemblage is completely fast wheel made. The same thing can be observed for the firing and the fabric. So this shows that the pottery

manufacturing technique was developed locally or indigenously. If the readymade technology was really borrowed from some where else then there would have been abrupt growth of fast wheel pottery which is not the case. There is gradual evolution from the hand made technique to slow wheel and finally the fast wheel made technique as well as same for the firing and fabric.

- 2) The scientific analysis, X-Ray Diffraction studies, also shows that all the ceramic types are locally manufactured using local clay.
- 3) Archaeological assemblage in Saurashtra particularly, was looked upon as if there are two sets of ceramic or cultural assemblage i.e. Sorath Harappan and Local Chalcolithic cultures. Nobody has tried to bridge these two cultures. The work on

development of ceramic forms shows that these so called Local Chalcolithic cultures develop into Sorath Harappan or Mature Harappan phase in Saurashtra.

- 4) The comparative analysis of Padri and Anarta cultures ceramic shows that, both the cultures are similar and hence termed as Padri/Anarta Cultural Complex.
- 5) As earlier stated, this cultural phase develops into Sorath Harappan or Mature Phase. As far as the spread of this phase is concerned it can be seen in Kachchh, Northern Gujarat and Saurashtra. On the basis of development of ceramic forms and distribution of sites, I suggest that this particular Padri/Anarta Cultural Complex should be recognized as Early Harappan rather than Pre Harappan or Local Chalcolithic.