CHAPTER 8:
CONCLUSION

The foregoing chapters have elaborately focused on the evidences of archaeological sites in the Dwarakeswar river valley. In discussing about the archaeological record, the investigator has put equal emphasis on the geographical parameters as well as the historical and archaeological data coming from the area. It has been mentioned already that the present study is not without limitations. But in spite of the shortcomings, it has been possible to bring out a complete picture of the archaeological record in the middle reaches of the river valley. On this account, the investigator would like to discuss about the observations regarding the archaeological record of the present study area.

The river has always been an important guiding factor for the location and distribution of archaeological sites. In spite of the micro-regional variations, the river and its flood plains have been the main area of concentration since the chalcolithic period. People adapted to the past environmental settings in specific ways and settled on the flood plains of the river. Large areas being under forest coverage might have helped the people with the essential forest products. In the present scenario also, we can see that large portions of the river valley are covered by forests and a considerable section of the tribal population survives on these forest products. The terrain and the fluvial regime prompted the people to pattern their settlements according to the particular location they were in and according to the function of the settlements in the system as a whole.

To deal with the present nature of the archaeological record, the regional survey methodology was adopted to locate and find even relatively small sites and sites in the distant areas of the river valley to bring out a complete picture of the archaeological record. It is evident that multicultural sites like Kushadwip or Birsingha situated away from the river, on the lateritic outcrops, had to depend on the available forest resources rather than the cultivable lands situated near the river valley. For these areas, the source of water might have been the smaller channels or creeks passing...
through the immediate vicinity. However, these channels also meet with the main river Dwarakeswar. In the present study, the intermediate phases between the prehistoric and medieval period at these sites could not be assessed with certainty, since excavated data is unavailable from these areas and the ceramic assemblage of these sites is also different from the rest. But undoubtedly, these areas should have received adequate attention from the archaeologists, in order to find out whether the sites in these areas were abandoned after the prehistoric phases and reoccupied in the medieval period or whether these were continuously inhabited during the three chronological periods (chalcolithic phase, early historical phase and medieval phase). As mentioned earlier, these areas have provided numerous celts, ring stones etc. which are equivalent with those found from the site Dihar, situated near the river. Dihar area has no local outcrop of stone. Kushadwip being the nearest source of the raw material for Dihar might have provided the same to the site. It has to be mentioned also, that the site Tamluk lying in the downstream areas of the river (after Dwarakeswar's confluence with Silabati which is known as Rupnarayan) revealed similar kind of celts without having any local stone outcrops in the vicinity. For analyzing all these factors, further probing is highly necessary.

The explored sites lying closer to the river have revealed black and red ware, early historical and medieval potteries and accordingly have been placed in chronological phases. These sites including Dihar, might have survived on a mixed subsistence pattern, in the initial stages of occupation. The profuse quantity of bone tools unearthed from the site Dihar from the chalcolithic phase indicates that it was not a purely agrarian society, instead a subsidiary mode of hunting and gathering characterised the site. Because the faunal reports, which could have helped us to learn about the wild and the domesticated species, are absent, this has to be accepted at present as a conjecture. Dihar has revealed similarities in the material assemblage with rest of the chalcolithic sites of Bengal like Bharatpur, Mangalkot, Pandurajardhibi, Baneswardanga and others. Regarding the rest of the explored BRW sites of the present study area, it can be said that they too might have functioned similarly as the site Dihar. The typological affinities noticed in the ceramic assemblage of the BRW sites undoubtedly speaks of uniformity in the material culture with that of Dihar. Though the black and red ware sites being very few did not bring
out any pattern of distribution, the importance of the water sources can be well be surmised from their location pattern.

During the early historical phase, the shift towards a more sedentary way of life with the main focus on agriculture can be discerned from the present data because all of them are situated on the flood plains of the river for utilizing the fertile soil. The explored early historic sites were chiefly found to be concentrated in the flood plains of the river in a linear fashion, mostly on the left bank of the river. Early historical potteries, on the basis of which early historic sites were identified, were noticed in scatters on top of the of mound areas, in cultivated fields, near the ponds and also in the habitation areas within the sites. In some of the exposed river sections, early historical potteries were noted in occasional disturbed patches. Though the available data is not enough to provide a detailed knowledge about the material culture of the early historic sites of the area, but it is true that there was an increase in the number of sites from the earlier phase and these sites were chiefly governed by the location of the main river; hence they were located in a linear fashion. It must be mentioned here, that the river not only provided fertile soils for cultivation but also might have helped in a kind of an exchange system that allowed the sites in this area to maintain a communication. Dihar, undoubtedly, must have acted as the main centre. Thus what emerges from the present data is that majority of sites in chalcolithic and early historical period were small, scattered, and flimsy with concentrated areas of semi-compact habitation. The river dynamics, the water resources and the exploitation of resources in various landforms played an important role in determining the nature of settlements in the flood plain.

The early historic sites in the Sali river valley also allowed us to have a fair picture of the early historical ceramic assemblage. The site Dayalpur revealed an early historical deposit of considerable depth (80 cm) in exposed context, revealing profuse amount of potteries. So, there are differences in the nature of archaeological record of the two river valleys. The modern and the medieval deposits have buried the early historic remains facilitating their better preservation in the Sali river valley. However, it will be unfair to generalize since the entire stretch of the Sali river has not yet been surveyed. Nevertheless, in both the cases, the sites are found to be situated in a linear fashion along the main rivers.
On this account, the investigator wants to discuss certain facts. From an excavated context, evidences of black slipped ware, rouletted ware, beads of semi-precious stones, cast copper coins, punched mark coins, Puri-Kushan coins and other artefacts have been unearthed at the site Dihar from the early historical levels. Puri-Kushan has also been reported from the adjacent site of Basantapur (Tilabani) also. The evidence of coins indicates towards an exchange system. The evidence of beads of semi precious stones (agate, chalcedony, jadeite and glass beads) is equally interesting because these areas do not have any local outcrops of stone in the vicinity. All these materials have been found from an excavated context. From the explored early historic sites, potteries collected were similar in forms, fabric and surface treatment to that of the excavated site Dihar. The excavator (R K. Chattopadhyay) believes that the site Dihar and the adjacent areas might have acted as an intervening zone between the routes linking the east coast (in and around Tamralipta area) with the Ganga valley (Pataliputra, Champa etc.) which might have linked the Chotanagpur area also. In this regard, it has to be emphasised that an extant channel has been traced by the geologists between Damodar and Dwarakeswar river valley termed as *Dakshin Saraswati*. The geologists believe that this channel might have provided an easy passage for communication between the Dwarakeswar and Damodar rivers and have attributed the abandonment of the *Tamralipta* (Tamluk) port due to the drying up of the *Dakshin Saraswati* channel. Besides this water-route, the old land-route extending from Tamluk to Pataliputra area was traced by Beglar, to pass through Bishnupur as well as the sites like Bahulara, Sonatopal and Ekteswar situated on the Dwarakeswar river. Based on all these evidences, it can be conjectured that the Dwarakeswar river and the sites situated in the river valley might have been involved in an exchange system but this definitely needs further probing. For establishing this, perhaps more intensive surveys and large scale excavated data is obligatory.

In this regard, the investigator would also like to discuss about the early historical material assemblage of the sites like Mangalkot, Kotasur, Pokhanna, Tamluk and Chandraketugarh. The concentration of the typical early historical wares like NBPW, rouletted ware, black slipped ware is much greater in the above mentioned sites in comparison to Dihar. The sites of coastal Bengal like Tamluk and Chandraketugarh have revealed the best evidences of NBPW. The evidence of NBP in substantial
numbers indicate contact with the middle Ganga valley, as considered by scholars, as there is no evidence till data that NBP was being produced in Bengal. Mangalkot, Kotasur and Pokhanna have also revealed evidence of NBPW. However, the absence of this ware in Dihar is quite surprising. The early historical material assemblage of sites in the Ganga valley is undoubtedly richer than that of Bengal. Moreover, the historical period can be well conceived through the literary texts and epigraphic data that are plentifully available for the early historic sites of north and south India. In case of Bengal, the scenario is entirely different where we have only one or two inscriptions. The Susunia inscription (fourth century AD) is the earliest one which lies close to the study area and gives reference of Pushkarana or Pokhanna. In absence of sufficient literary data, one has to take recourse to archaeology in order to understand the nature of sites. The non-availability of excavation reports creates a serious gap in the complete understanding of the early historic sites. From the initial reports of the early historic sites of Bengal, published in the form of various articles, it is evident that the early historical material assemblage of Dihar has some differences with the rest of the early historic sites of Bengal. Terracotta plaques which forms one of the most vital aspects of the early historical material assemblage has been found in very few numbers from the site. The site has revealed many terracotta animal and human figurines instead. This is quite surprising, because the site has also revealed cast copper coins, beads of glass and other semi precious stones, punched mark coins, terracotta and metal objects from the early historical levels which are similar to that of the other early historic sites of Bengal. According to Chattopadhyay (R.K. Chattopadhyaya, Excavator of the site), Dihar bears unique characteristics of metal working. Metal artefacts/objects and varying contexts of their appearance at Dihar have remained one of the most intriguing issues of the BRW bearing Early Village Farming phase of the region which continues till the medieval phase. Both finished and unfinished specimens made of copper and iron have been recorded at the mounds of Manasatala, Mabhavanitala and Hirapur; especially the Manasatala mound possesses extensive evidence of metal working activities. In this regard, the site maintains a uniqueness of its own. It is thus very important to analyse the artefactual data in relation to the landscape in order to comprehend the nature of early historic sites of Bengal. Studies on ceramic assemblage provide vital clues to understand the characteristics of sites and needs to be practiced on a much wider scale.
It has been mentioned in the beginning that, early medieval phase could not be ascertained through the present data. Potteries could not be segregated from others due to the absence of proper contextual data. Though we do not get any direct reference, but the findings of many early medieval sculptures and structural remains reported from the sites confirm some form of development in the early medieval period. The sites which have yielded early medieval sculptures ranging in time period from ninth to twelfth centuries AD have been extensively surveyed by the investigator. From most of the sites, medieval potteries have also been collected indicating that these are not mere find-spots. However, the early medieval ceramics could not be segregated and hence have been included within the medieval assemblage. It will be worth mentioning, that the temples and the sculptures coming from the sites like Salda-Gokulnagar, on the right bank of the river, show an Orissan influence in the form of art and architecture. The only indirect reference which we have of this period is of Dandabhukti, a major provincial administrative division under the rule of Sasanka (seventh century AD). The early medieval prosperity of Dandabhukti in terms of polity and culture is unquestionable in the light of consistent discoveries of epigraphic and archaeological remains from time to time. This comprised a major part of West Midnapur, which lies close to the Salda-Gokulnagar area and constituted a part of the early medieval geopolitical unit called Dakshin Rarh. The sites like Andra, Dayalpur situated in the Sali river valley (left bank of Dwarakeswar), on the other hand, have also revealed early medieval sculptures which are stylistically more refined and do not show Orissan influence in the form of iconoplastic art. We have to take resort to these indirect references coming from the area because till the medieval period, we do not have any direct historical record. All these observations necessitate further research in order to have a complete picture of the early medieval archaeological record. Some scholars have also stressed on the importance of Jainism in this period and have attributed many temples to be of Jain origin of which the temple at Dharapat and Bahulara deserves a mention. The medieval records reveal that this entire area was brought under a common administrative set-up with the formation of Mallabhum by the Malla Rajas. Mallabhum was one of the major autonomous, semi-independent principalities that developed in the medieval period (around fourteenth- fifteenth century AD).
proliferation and development of sites in the medieval period has to be understood in this backdrop.

The distribution pattern of the explored medieval sites in the river valley shows that the river was no more the most important factor for the people. Some sites were found to be located away from the river (even at a distance of 10-12 km). The location of the individual sites shows that, they were not only situated on the floodplains but even in the areas having local lateritic outcrops on the right bank of the river. In some areas of the river valley, the sites formed a compact form of settlement pattern where the average inter-spacing between the sites is less than 2 km. The areas which exhibited a semi-compact form of settlement in the early historical period, revealed a compact arrangement of settlement with the medieval sites. Besides the former sites, new sites have been encountered in the same areas. From these evidences, it is also understandable that the number of sites increased in the medieval period. Hence, they were found to be uniformly distributed throughout the study area.

The medieval phase in the study area has substantial evidences of temple building activities mostly propagated by the Malla Rajas. These ruling lineages are assumed to have constructed several tanks and artificial sources of water management in the areas, wherever they settled for a considerable period of time. The capitals established by this ruling lineage were found to be concentrated on the right bank of the river, on local lateritic outcrops. These areas (Laugram, Padumpur and Bishnupur areas respectively) show many temples dotted with numerous tanks constructed by the Malla Rajas. The concentration of the capitals only on the right bank of Dwarakeswar river reveals an interesting picture. Since the left bank of the river has always been the main area of concentration of sites till the early historical time, the establishment of the capitals in the forested areas in the right bank might have been due to the much needed shelter. It is known from the records that simultaneously with Mallabhum, there were other semi-independent principalities in the vicinity and the area was prone to attacks and invasions from the adjacent areas including the Orissan region. The location of the medieval sites show that with the development of economy, the factors like security became more important than the basic factors of survival like easy the availability of water, resources or fertile lands. On this account, it is also important to mention that the farthest sites in the Dwarakeswar river valley like Birsingha, lying on
the left bank of the river, has an exceptional medieval temple built by the Malla Raja Bir Singha after whom, the site has been named. This indicates that besides the capitals, these Rajas also established their control throughout a large part of the river valley and hence, constructed temples to strengthen their exercise over a particular area. Malla temples have also been reported from the adjacent areas of Birsingha like Sonamukhi, Patrasyer and Hodolnarayanpur. It can be surmised from these evidences that the entire area stretching from the flood plains of Damodar till that of Dwarakeswar, which supposedly formed a major part of Mallabhum, was brought under a uniform set-up by this ruling lineage. This is also reflected in the ceramic assemblage of the sites which shows large scale uniformity in forms, fabric, surface treatment and the other formal attributes in the medieval period. Interestingly enough, the differences noted in the ceramic assemblage in the early historical period between the sites of Sali river (Sali, a tributary of Damodar) and that of Dwarakeswar river were sorted in the medieval period, where the investigator found that the forms, fabric and surface treatment of potteries are identical.

The ceramic assemblage of the explored medieval sites is also impressive which shows the introduction of many new wares and different forms with better surface treatment. Since ceramics have never been looked upon as an important factor of archaeological study, understanding the sites through the explored ceramic assemblage is a relatively new attempt, at least for this part of Bengal. Attempting to study the medieval ceramic assemblage was initially difficult, since there are very few studies on the medieval ceramic assemblage of Bengal. In this regard, the excavated ceramic assemblage from the site Dihar helped the investigator to arrange the explored potteries into proper chronological order. So far as the ceramic assemblage is concerned, most of the specimens seem to be produced through local clays, revealed through the nature of inclusions noticed in the various pottery samples. The prevalence of red ware and red slipped ware is highest in the three chronological periods. It is interesting to note that in the present situation also, the prevalence of red ware is highest in this area. This is only due to the fact that the red slip which is generally applied on the vessels is easily available from the local lateritic soil, so abundantly available in the area. It is, nevertheless, very important to conduct
provenance studies on the ceramic assemblage in order to locate the original sources of clay.

From the present evidences, it is not possible to talk of the actual sizes or the extent of the sites, but it is possible to construct a rough picture of the bigger and the smaller sites in the area according to the extent of the explored artefacts. The site Dihar was undoubtedly the most important one which probably helped the adjacent sites like Basantapur, Bhatra, Thakurpur, Tilabani, Deuli and Dharapat to develop. All these sites are found to be situated very close to each other. Dharapat, Basantapur, Bhatra, Deuli and Thakurpur can be considered to be bigger sites in this area, after Dihar. All these are situated in and around the main meander loop of the river, on which Dihar is situated. Palasi, Dejhat, Madhuwan in this area, on the other hand, have revealed flimsy evidences of habitation where the concentration of artefacts was confined within one or two locations within the sites. A little upstream of this area, within the first micro-zone (100m - 60m above MSL), Hariharpur, Elyati, Bahulara, Bhadul, Pantrai can be considered to be bigger sites in comparison to the rest. Of them, Hariharpur and Elyati are early historic sites. In all these villages, the artefacts in the form of potteries were found to be concentrated throughout a large part of the modern villages. Medieval temples have also been recorded in some of these sites. In this area, Agra, Gamidya and Rajagram were evidently smaller sites in comparison to the above mentioned ones. A little downstream of the river Dwarakeswar, within the second micro-zone (80m - 40 m above MSL) and adjacent to the Dihar area, some other sites have been noted revealing substantial evidences of past habitations. Of them, Baikunthapur, Naricha, Salda and Gokuinagar are undoubtedly big sites. The mound at Baikunthapur still occupies a large part of the modern village and artefacts still lie in a buried context in this area. Besides pottery, innumerable sculptures have also been recorded from these sites. Again in this area, Mukundapur, Salkota and Balarampur yielded feeble evidences of past habitation. Coming to the third micro-zone (below 40 m), sites like Parikshapara, Pantrai, Malakarpota and Chaltakonda, are evidently bigger sites in comparison to Hati, Chandipur Banshi or Ranahat situated in the same area. Of these, Malakarpota and Chaltakonda are early historic sites but unfortunately, having no exposed sections, the potteries had to be studied from the surface. Medieval temples have also been recorded from some of these sites. It has to
be kept in mind that all these observations have been made on the basis of the explored artefacts, found largely from the surface. Determining the exact size of the sites is difficult and will be fallacious in this dynamic riverine landscape. The limitations of surface survey have to be considered and in this regard, trial digs are highly necessary to corroborate the present understanding. The exposed sections revealing medieval deposits in the sites Parikshapara, Pantrai, Dharapat, Baikunthapur, Bhatra and Basantapur are quite substantial and have helped in understanding the nature of the sites and the past landscape through the subsequent phases of occupation and abandonment.

Having given an overview of the sites in the study area, the investigator would like to discuss some more points pertaining to the aims of the present study.

- The prime objective was to document all the archaeological sites in the river valley which has been done by adopting a regional survey methodology, through which even the smaller sites in the river valley, have been brought into lime light. It has been possible to bring out a fruitful picture of the archaeological record in the present study area, which was otherwise largely unexplored. The investigator has concentrated chiefly on the three chronological periods, but the prehistoric sites have also been documented in the present study. There was indeed a pressing need to document all the sites since these are disappearing at an alarming rate from the present face of the landscape. It is really sad that the multicultural site Dihar is also under massive pressure and finding space for excavation will be really difficult in the future. The temples at the site are under protection but the entire village has modern habitations and there is no protected area within the site itself. The construction of brick factories, roads and modern houses has already caused destruction of the archaeological record in this area. In some cases, modern habitations were found on the mounds itself. Hence, the most vital task of documenting all the sites in the river valley with proper contextual reference has been undertaken in this attempt.

- The chronology of the explored sites has been determined on the basis of the explored ceramic assemblage which was not attempted in any of the earlier
explorations in district Bankura. Since early medieval ceramic assemblage could not be differentiated from others, the investigator has tried to focus on the chalcolithic, early historical and medieval phases as understood from the ceramic assemblage of the excavated site Dihar. The potteries have typological affinities with those found from the site Dihar. Overall the ceramic assemblage of the present study area shows uniformity in fabric and surface treatment with minor variations due to the micro-regional variations in the landscape.

- The explored sites are mostly habitational. Structural sites are rare except one or two. Structures are evident in the form of temples of the medieval period which have helped in many instances in preserving the medieval mounds. Black and red ware and early historic sites are few in comparison to the medieval sites of the area. They are patterned in diverse ways according to the immediate landscape settings. In all probability, these habitations were accustomed to the vagaries of the river and adjusted themselves accordingly. The concentration of sites has also been noted near the dry channels and the tributaries of the river namely Birai and Amodar. The exposed sections noticed at a few of the medieval sites revealed a brief desertion due to the high intensity or low intensity floods but were found to be reoccupied after a brief abandonment. No remnants of permanent dwelling structures have been encountered from the sites including the excavated site Dihar. The sites in the river valley have been affected by both erosion and aggradation which caused a large part of the archaeological record to get disturbed. A few sites are still buried by the deposits laid by the river. But due to extensive surveys conducted in the entire middle stretch of the river, it has been possible to bring out the archaeological potentiality of the area. From the evidences, it is certain that agriculture and exchange mechanisms went on simultaneously in the survival of the economy and there might have been small-scale measures to cope with the uncertainties of the entire area otherwise these sites could not have survived till the medieval period.

- The Dwarakeswar-Gandheswari zone is assumed to have lesser concentration of chalcolithic sites, which is to some extent true, the reasons of which can
been attributed to the hard impermeable rock structures (lateritic outcrops) in the region. The investigator has however found three more black and red ware sites in the vicinity of Dihar after which the extensive stretch of the forests begin. These forest areas, as mentioned earlier, could not be explored extensively due to some logistical problems. It might be possible that while clearing out the forests, the artefactual record has also been removed from the present landscape and the sites situated near the river might have been affected by the natural factors like erosion and aggradation. Trial digs are necessary to reach to the lower levels of the explored sites. There are early historic sites and medieval sites in the same area indicating that with the passage of time and with the gradual development of the economy, the concentration of sites increased. Hence, Dihar is not the only site in this area, as claimed earlier by the scholars. It has to be mentioned here that due to these rocky outcrops and forest coverage, we have many prehistoric sites in the area which is equally interesting.

- The BRW sites in the river valley were found to be concentrated around the main site Dihar and strictly near the water sources. Since they are very few in numbers, no pattern emerged from their distribution. In the early historical period, the number of sites increased and in the same area, few more sites are seen centering around Dihar. The early historic sites in this area revealed a semi-compact form of settlement pattern. Leaving out this area, other early historic sites were concentrated in linear fashion along the main river, reflecting the importance of water in the location of sites. The concentration of sites is highest in the areas of older alluvium. Coming to the medieval period, not only was there an increase in the number of sites throughout the entire stretch of the river, but the right bank of the river was also selected for habitations. The concentration of sites in the right bank of the river was negligible before the medieval period. Four to five areas in the entire middle stretch revealed semi-compact form of settlements with the medieval sites. The Dihar area witnessed maximum number of sites in this period and a compact form of settlement pattern is well reflected from the distribution pattern of the sites. The concentration of sites in the medieval period was
found to be uniform on both the banks of the river and was not confined only to the areas with older alluvium. Sites were also found on the lateritic outcrops, far away from the river, where they were found to be concentrated around the tanks and ponds for the daily supply of water. The Salda-Gokulnagar area can be cited as the best example in this regard. According to the records, the Malla Rajas constructed many tanks and canals for the benefit of the common people. The Bishnupur area has seven large tanks constructed by these ruling lineages. Probably the improved infrastructural facilities by this time allowed them to be located in any part of the river valley, irrespective of the benefits of easy availability of water and cultivable lands which were the prime reasons for the concentration of early historic sites closer to the main river. Dihar might have been the main site till the early historical period but with the subsequent passage of time, other areas developed as well, with semi-compact form of settlement pattern in the Dwarakeswar river valley. However, Dihar retained its individuality in being the main religious centre in the medieval period because, the Malla Rajas are believed to have offered regular pujas to the Sareswar and Saileswar temples in Dihar and were specially attached with the Gajan festival which was held every year under their supervision. This festival is observed till today with all the grandeur in the month of April. The settlement pattern, thus presents an interesting picture of the location and distribution of sites through the passage of time.

The present work was an attempt to holistically understand the archaeological record of the area. Detailed geoarchaeological work needs to be carried out in this area in order to understand the micro-regional variations in landscape, the nature of the flood deposits and also the soils and sediments by testing them in laboratories. Conducting provenance studies of the ceramics is important to locate the sources of clay and determine whether any differences can be made out for the potteries of the three chronological periods. Understanding the nature of the sites and the cultural debris through some trial digs will be insightful because the entire river valley has only a single excavated site. Since the sites have already been brought in a GIS environment, the investigator wants to extend the survey area till the lower reaches of the river, where the river meets Silabati and forms Rupnarayan and eventually drains into the
Bay of Bengal. This will enable to have a more convincing picture because it will be easier to talk of the networking process (Tamluk falling in the downstream area of the river) with definite proofs, which now unfortunately remains a conjecture.

The formation of Mallabhum in the present study area with all the explored medieval sites is a very significant area of research which will be taken up in the future. In this regard the innumerable manuscripts currently housed in the Bishnupur Museum needs to be studied together with an extensive reading of the vernacular literature in order to know more about Mallabhum. The understanding of the socio-economic structure under these local ruling lineages, together with the archaeological data from the area will, no doubt, generate a comprehensive picture of the development of the sites. The extensive ruins within Bishnupur itself (bastions, temples, moats) needs to be mapped and the present understanding of the medieval sites in this area will go a long way in interpreting the significance of Bishnupur, the capital of the Malla Rajas. Since it is one of the major ruling lineages in Bengal during the medieval period and the present study has yielded a very interesting picture of medieval record, it definitely deserves to be worked upon by a detailed study of the archaeological as well as the historical data.

The investigator hopes to pursue these studies and analyses in future in order to comprehend the present understanding of the sites in the middle reaches of the Dwarakeswar river valley. In spite of the limitations, a holistic understanding could be offered in the present study. With more intensive surveys and the coming of new evidences, the data can be interpreted with better models. The investigator also hopes that the sites will be protected and preserved through the collective responsibilities of archaeologists and the concerned authorities and there will be scope to conduct further research on the area. The regional approach adopted here, would help in a careful choice of sites suitable for excavation, thus conserving time and funds. Hopefully this present endeavour will rouse more interest in the development of further investigations and simultaneously more advanced approaches to study the archaeological record of the area.