CHAPTER 6

CONCLUSION

The OCP culture was discovered at Rajpur Parsu (Bijnor) and Bisauni (Badaun) in western Uttar Pradesh for the first time in 1951. Since then as many as 950 sites of OCP have been discovered from the different parts of western Uttar Pradesh, Haryana and Rajasthan. The westernmost excavated site of the OCP culture is Ganeshwar, Sikar district of Rajasthan, while Kakoria, Mirzapur district, Uttar Pradesh appears to be the easternmost excavated site. The Hastinapur (Saharanpur) and Noh (Bharatpur) is northernmost and southernmost excavated sites respectively. Some scholar thinks that this culture is connected with early Harappan, while other consider them of late Harappan stock who crosses the Yamuna after the decline of urban Harappan. Some scholar even thinks that the OCP culture is independent which originated in northwestern parts of Indian subcontinent from the local Mesolithic stock. This culture is chronologically placed between the time bracket of c. 3000-1200 B.C. This chronology makes it contemporary with early Harappan, Harappan, Late Harappan, Mesolithic culture of Rajasthan, Banas and Kayatha cultures. So to trace the evolution of OCP and its dissemination it was decided to undertake intensive archaeological fieldwork in the area of northeastern Rajasthan and southern Haryana on village to village basis in addition to the general survey of the published material. The number of the villages visited during this exercise is about 16000. These villages are spread over the districts of Churu, Jhunjhunu, Sikar, Jaipur, Alwar, Bharatpur, Nagaur and Ajmer in Rajasthan, Mahendragarh, Bhiwani, Rewari, Jhajjar, Gurgaon districts in Haryana and Mathura and Agra district in Uttar Pradesh.

The area of OCP is sub-divided into two climatic zones by the Yamuna river. The region west of Yamuna has arid to semi arid climate, while it is sub-humid on its east. The rivers in Haryana and Rajasthan are like streams, which remain active only for short duration in rainy season while perennial rivers exist in Uttar Pradesh. The vegetation in Rajasthan and Haryana is xerophytic and sparse, while the conditions in Uttar Pradesh are different. On the basis of the available evidences it appears that climatic conditions are not much altered since the mid Holocene in this region.

There are 889 OCP sites which are analysed. Out of which 501 are located in Rajasthan, 201 in Haryana and 187 in Uttar Pradesh. As my problem is concerned with the
evolution and dissemination of OCP settlements so I have categorised these sites in five size categories namely camp sites below 3000 square metre, very small villages 3001-6000 square metre, small villages 6001-9000 square metre, big villages 9001-12000 square metre and very big villages having an area above 12000 square metre. These categories are selected arbitrarily just to know whether there is any change in the hierarchy of sites in relation to the ecological variables in various districts. Moreover, there are significant number of sites available in each size category. If these sites are split in less number of size categories, some important information may not be represented specially in case of Rajasthan where camp sites occur in large number. As the sites are mainly concentrated in Rajasthan in the area of copper deposit. I have divided the settlements into four cultural categories on the basis of presence and absence of microlithic tools and copper slag in order to know the relative role of the changing technological competence in different districts. Moreover, it is found at Ganeshwar almost in these four cultural categories are: OCP+ microliths, OCP+ microliths+ copper slag, OCP + copper slag and the OCP only.

The highest number of the OCP sites are found in the district of Sikar followed by Jaipur, Jhunjhunu, Alwar and Bharatpur districts in Rajasthan. Nagaur district has the lowest number of the sites. If we combine the sites from Jhunjhunu, Sikar and Jaipur districts they cover almost all the OCP sites in the state of Rajasthan. Further, if we take into account the sites from the districts Jhunjhunu, Sikar and Alwar for the first two size categories they share almost all the sites under these categories. It appears that this area forms the core area of OCP settlements. Further the sites of the next categories (three and four) suggest eastward thrust as the combined share of Jhunjhunu, Sikar and Jaipur districts in these two size categories far less than the combined share of Sikar, Jaipur and Alwar districts. It is clear from this that the district of Jhunjhunu lost in favour of the Alwar district.

The share of Sikar district is highest in category one followed by Jhunjhunu, Jaipur, Alwar and Nagaur districts. For the second category Sikar district has the highest number of sites followed by Jhunjhunu, Alwar and Nagaur districts. There is a reduction in the share of Sikar and Jhunjhunu districts, and increase in the share Jaipur district in regard to the total settlements in the size category second. The district of Bharatpur also produced some sites in this category for the first time.

The number of the sites are further reduced, notably for Jhunjhunu district in category three while it increases for Jaipur and Alwar districts significantly in this category. However
there are no site for the district of Bharatpur and Nagaur. While the last district is blank in respect to sites and number is reduced in context of Jhunjhunu and Jaipur district in the next category. On the contrary significant increase in Alwar district is marked.

In the size category five, there is increase in the share of all the other districts except Nagaur and Alwar and Bharatpur. The last two districts register some increase in their share. This shows that the OCP settlements are expanding towards the east from its core area of development in Sikar, Jaipur and Jhunjhunu districts and at the same time the share of Alwar and Bharatpur districts are increasing in higher size categories only. The settlement share of the core area in size category five is highest which shows that this area enjoyed that during OCP period. There is gradual decrease in the share of the Jhunjhunu district in various size categories and increase in the shares of Bharatpur and Alwar district in all size categories, which shows that people of OCP was attracting towards east and northeast.

In the case of Haryana almost all the OCP sites in lower size categories existed in the parts sharing boundary with Rajasthan which are ecologically at par. As we proceed towards the north the number in lower size categories decreases. The highest number of sites existed in Gurgaon followed by Mahendragarh and Jhajjar districts. It shows that the people first settled in south Haryana and then proceeded towards the north. It, however, remains concentrated in the southern part of Haryana mainly in the districts of Gurgaon, Mahendragarh, Jhajjar, sonipat and Rewari. The relative percentage of the sites of different size categories show a further decrease in the number of camp sites and very small villages in comparison to Rajasthan. They show the extension towards the north.

When we further proceed towards Uttar Pradesh there is shift in hierarchy of the OCP settlements towards the higher side. The camp and very small village sites cease to exist in southern upper Ganga Plains and present nominally in northern upper Ganga plain. There is a trend towards the sites with higher size. It is clear that the camp sites and very small village were gradually giving way to the sites of higher categories.

When we see the cultural categories wise distribution of OCP sites the category one is mainly existed in Sikar, Jaipur and Jhunjhunu districts. This clearly shows that these districts appears to be the core region for the origin of OCP culture, but at the same time the OCP sites is noticed in Nagaur and Alwar district. In cultural category two the number of sites is the highest in Sikar district followed by Jaipur, Jhunjhunu, Alwar and Nagaur districts. There is a
significant increase for Jhunjhunu district and decrease for Jaipur district with the beginning of copper exploitation.

In category three Sikar district has the highest number of sites followed by Jaipur and Jhunjhunu districts while significant increase is marked in respect of the other districts, which show the evolution and fragmentation of the sites with the introduction of copper. Moreover, OCP sites also appear in Bharatpur district during this stage.

From the above discussion it is clear that sites OCP are concentrated in copper deposit areas and while the number of sites increase with the introduction of copper in category two these appear in Bharatpur district also where use of microliths is absent. It appears that they were getting stimuli from the Harappan as we see that the use of copper increased a lot during mature Harappan period along with the increase in the number of copper using OCP sites. Moreover, we also found Harappan pottery at Ganeshwar and Ganeshwar arrowheads at Kalibanga-l. As we move towards Haryana there is no site in category one and two. The sites are present in category three only in Mahendragarh and Rewari district. The number of sites are far higher in Mahendragarh than Rewari district. It shows that the OCP sites followed the gentle flowing Krishnawati and Dohan streams rather than the more furious Sahibi river.

If we compare the different cultural categories in various districts, it appears that there is strong base for microlithic using OCP people, particularly in Sikar and Jaipur districts. The microlithic using OCP people start using copper at slow pace. In the cultural category three there is significant increase in the number of OCP sites after the introduction of copper for all the districts except Nagaur. The OCP sites appear for the first in the Bharatpur district during this stage only. Interestingly with copper slag in Bharatpur district. It clearly shows that the use of copper was spreading slowly towards south and east from its place of origin. Moreover, there is a drastic decrease in the number of sites in the category four in comparison to category three in Jhunjhunu, Sikar, Nagaur and Jaipur districts, but at the same time, it increases heavily in Alwar and Bharatpur.

A location analysis of sites is attempted according to the water resources and the soil types. The emerging picture is that these people preferred the most the natural depressions followed by rain channels and streams by all size categories. The least preferred water resource was the combination of all these resources. It shows that excessive water is deterrent rather than being an attraction for the people having less technical and human resources. The same picture emerges in case of soil types. The most preferred soil is the sand soil followed
by sandy loam, silty loam and clay loam. The first three category of soil types are easy to work and handle in comparison to clay loam with limited tool types and working capacity. As the size of the sites increases the people exploited more resources with the increased human resources.

If we see the evolution in pottery and copper artefacts it appears that the pottery improve in quality as we proceed towards the northeast and east and show the highest stage at Lal qila. Some pottery shapes like dishes with the incised decorations near the base and pots with ring bases cease to exist when we proceed towards east while short and footed base appears. Moreover, the paintings, firing, types shows the improvement towards the east and northeast. There is no connection between copper hoards and copper tools of Ganeshwar. As only one artefact of copper hoard celt is similar, but it long, heavy and have more impurities than the Ganeshwar celts.

In last we can say that the OCP culture was copper using culture which originates in northeastern Rajasthan and then spreads towards the east through Alwar and Bharatpur to southern Upper Ganga Plains. The other line of dissemination was towards the northeast through Mahendragarh, Rewari, Jhajjar, Rohtak and Sonipat to the northern upper Ganga plains.