STATEMENT I

(Statement showing the particulars, on which the work is based, the discovery of new facts and new relationship between the facts and how the work tends to help the general advancement of knowledge)

The archaeological potential of Saurashtra was well recognized since the 1930's beginning with the excavations at Rangpur by M. S. Vats (1936). This was followed by renewed excavations at the site by Ghurye (1939) and M. G. Dikshit (1950). However, the Harappan studies in Gujarat turned a new leaf in the 1950s beginning with the systematic explorations and excavations by Rao (1963), followed by the pursuits of Possehl (1977), Chitalwala (1982), Bhan (1983), etc. in the later decades. These and later studies in the late 1980's and 1990's (Possehl and Herman 1990, Possehl and Raval 1989, Possehl 1992, Sonawane and Ajithprasad 1994) have presented a new perception and trend into the Harappan research in Gujarat emphasizing on regional diversity within the overall Harappan cultural domain. The “Sorath Harappan” regional model is a direct manifestation of the above developments. But a comprehensive picture of the Sorath Harappan could not be established as most of the earlier works were done partly in isolation.

An attempt has been made to systematically evaluate the nature and character of the Sorath Harappan sites with the help of data collected from excavation at the site of Jaidak (Pithad) in the Jamnagar district and through a systematic survey conducted to carry out a site-catchment analysis. It helped to gather information on nature and distribution of other sites in the region, the proximity of various resources such as water, cultivable land, and various raw materials for construction as well as for the production of lithic tools, terracotta objects and pottery. Besides, information on geography of the region was also sought. Systematic analysis of the material inventory from Jaidak together with the architectural remains was carried out on the basis of comparison and correlation with other major excavated sites in Saurashtra. Following are the findings of the present work, that would help provide a fairly clear picture of the cultural processes and trends of development of Sorath Harappan:

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1. Survey of the fifteen reported sites in the study area revealed the existence of seven proper Sorath Harappan sites in the region. The epicenter of the study is the site of Jaidak, which is excavated.

2. The site of Jaidak exhibits a bipartite plan of settlement with an outer fortification wall and is roughly parallelogram in shape, quite similar to that of Classical Harappan settlements. However the small size of the peripheral wall as well as the preference to stone as building material, besides other factors, are significant of its affiliation to the Sorath Harappan.

3. The architectural plan and layout observed at Jaidak is comparable to those at Rojdi and Kuntasi; although in size Jaidak is larger than these two sites and measures more closely to the Harappan site of Lothal.

4. Definite parallels between the pottery assemblage from Jaidak and those from other Sorath Harappan sites in the region on the basis of the following morphological characteristics were noticed:
   a) Basic vessel shapes include bowls with and without stud handles, medium to small sized pots and jars, basins, dishes, dishes-on-stand, miniature pots, lamps, etc. Absence of typical Classical Harappan forms, except a few sherds of perforated Jar or bulbous stem of dish-on stand is significant.
   b) After categorizing each vessel type in its varieties, it was observed that a few vessel forms are peculiar to Jaidak.
   c) Pottery predominately comprises of red ware. Besides buff and bichrome wares in the Fine variety are also present. The Coarse wares include coarse red ware, coarse black-and-red ware and coarse black/gray ware.
   d) The painted design repertoire is not very complex presenting use of linear designs and dots and circles, besides combinations of all types. Only one example of an animal figure has been found in the study. The decorations on coarse wares are mainly of geometric patterns incised at the shoulder.
   e) No association with local wares such as Micaceous Red ware or Lustrous Red ware has been observed as found at Rangpur and Lothal. Only from one site
among the explored sites has Lustrous Red ware associated with the Harappan pottery.

5. The artifact inventory from Jaidak as well as from the surveyed sites is not very elaborate as compared to the Classical Harappan sites but shows affinity to those from the major Sorath Harappan sites in the region. Some objects typical to Jaidak have also been noticed.

a) Terracotta or pottery discs constitute almost 50% of the total artifact assemblage. They are of varying shape and the number and position of perforations on them also vary.

b) The Copper objects although not many, show at least one example of ring, fish hook, chisel, etc. It also includes double spiral rings, similar to the one found at Kuntasi.

c) Shell objects include a few fragments of finished and unfinished bangles and beads of short cylindrical and small disc shapes. Two peculiar bobbin-shaped objects were also found from the site. These were made out of the collumella portion and well polished.

d) The semi-precious stone and other beads are conspicuous by their small number, but do include almost all the types viz., carnelian, chert, amazonite, black jasper (?), steatite and faience found in other Harappan sites in the area.

e) The lithic assemblage includes flakes, cores, chipped nodules, blade flakes and blanks as well as tools like scrapers, blades, a few lunates and trapezes made from locally available raw materials.

f) Terracotta Ear-Studs, both painted and plain varieties, a common feature in the Harappan sites in Saurashtra have been found in good number. Besides terracotta beads of different shapes and sizes have been reported.

g) Only a single animal figurine of a terracotta bull has been found. This is definitely a Classical Harappan specimen found at Jaidak in the earliest levels.

6. As in all other Sorath Harappan sites craft activity on a large scale was absent at Jaidak. The presence of copper crucibles associated with kilns, hearths and small kilns, unfinished bead is however significant. The explored sites also did not yield surface indications for such activities being carried out there.
7. The ceramics from Jaidak and the sites in the surrounding region were observed to be similar in texture, colour and surface treatment. This may point to the fact that they were made from nearby clay source and by local potters.

8. The faunal remains from Jaidak and the scattered findings from the surveyed sites include bones of cattle, sheep, goat, pig, etc. This is indicative of a blend of agriculture and pastoralism in the economy of the Harappans occupying the site.

9. The findings also include riverine bivalve shells and turtle shells, a few fish otoliths which show that hunting and fishing were also part of the subsistence economy of the Harappans at Jaidak.

10. The archaeobotanical remains from Jaidak have not been studied systematically so far. But interpolation of Harappan archaeobotanical studies from other sites in the region and the present agricultural practices indicate preference to the crop, draught resistant millets.

11. It was noticed that majority of the settlements in the region including Jaidak, are located on the banks of rivers or streams. A few sites were also located near to natural depressions, ponds, tanks or lakes.

12. It was also observed that generally the area is covered by the Black cotton soil. However, the soil towards the periphery of the study area (15-20km range) was slightly sandy and grayish in colour. On the other hand alluvium covers the river banks as seen in the deepest levels at Jaidak.

13. The survey further revealed the undulating nature of the Deccan trap covering majority of the area. The general topographic feature noticed was undulating plains intermittent with rocky outcrops. The south western part of the study area was however found to be more rocky and barren with scattered patches of acacia growth.

14. It was also noticed that most of the sites located within the range of 20km from Pithad are small in size, about 1hectare with meager artifacts. This point to their rural character and were perhaps temporary or satellite settlements that developed centering Jaidak.

15. Jaidak and the contemporary sites of Kuntasi, Bagasra and Rojdi form a close-knit group because of their similarity in several aspects. They also show affinity on a broader aspect to Rangpur and Lothal and to some extent with Surkotada in Kachchh.
16. The Harappan cultural complex of Gujarat, especially in Saurashtra demonstrates a uniqueness of several features and an urban character coexisting with the Classical Harappan sites in the Indus valley proper in the third millennium BC.

17. Presence of isolated examples of Classical Harappan artifacts at the Sorath Harappan sites suggests certain degree of interaction between the contemporary sites of both.
STATEMENT II

(Statement showing the sources of information, the extent to which the thesis is based on the works of others and the original portion of the thesis)

The study is based on the materials collected during the two seasons of excavation (2005-’06 and 2006-’07) at the site of Jaidak (Pithad). The study also covers other relevant data and information on vegetation, soil, landforms, and distribution of other sites, etc. collected through systematic explorations carried out in the region. The primary library sources include published articles, research papers, reports on previous studies carried out in various parts of Saurashtra, especially in Jamnagar, Rajkot and Surendranagar districts. These sources aided in proper understanding of the diversification and various facets of Harappan research. These papers also enhanced knowledge on the environmental, geological and archaeological aspects and helped in formulating the strategies for data collection, analysis and exploration subsequently. The secondary sources included the excavation reports of the major sites in the region, which provided the basis for comparison and correlation used for analysis and interpretation of the artifact assemblage.

The data collected during the excavation as well as during the surveys of the sites in the region, its analyses and interpretation in the best possible method form the original part of the thesis. The study of Sorath Harappan settlement pattern in the region has also been emphasizes in this study.

Following is the list of selected references:


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