CHAPTER VII
MEGALITHIC SITES

It is a well known fact that in most parts of India, the Neolithic/Chalcolithic culture was followed by the Iron using Megalithic culture characterised by numerous curious looking burials popularly termed as 'Megaliths'. The nature of these commemorative monuments were both sepulchral and religious.

History of the study of the Megalithic culture in India goes as far back as to 1823 (Babington) and since then both foreign and indigenous Archaeologists have made detailed study highlighting the various aspects of this culture.

To understand the multifaceted personality of this culture along with its wide spread ramifications across the length and breadth of the country, it is necessary to glance through the evidences available in various regions.

Some glimpses of Megalithic burials in North India were brought to light as far back as in 1871-72 when Carlleyle reported occurrence of cairns at Jagner and at Khera 10 Km west of Fatehpur Sikri in Uttar Pradesh. Other important sites reported in the region in the 19th century include Mirzapore (Cockburn, J., 1894). Subsequent explorations revealed large number of Megalithic burial sites scattered "near the junction of the northern slope of the Vindhyas and the alluvial of the Ganga valley" (Sharma, G.R., 1980). Occurrence of cairn circles in the Varanasi - Banda region and cists in Mirzapore - Allahabad region is noteworthy. Besides this, cists within cairns, urn burials and menhirs are the other types reported from the region. Excavations of Megalithic tombs in the Chandraprabha valley, district Varanasi, has yielded grave furnitures comprising Black and Red ware, Black slipped ware and Red ware, terracotta beads, gold bangles,
microliths and skeletal remains generally of bovids. These are found kept on sand cushion provided at the floor level of the pits. This cists are smaller in size compared to South Indian types. Chronologically the three Megalithic groups in the Vindhyan region have been placed between 800 B.C. and 300 B.C. (Sharma, 1985). Excavation of menhirs at Burzahom (IAR, 1960-61, 1961-62) another important site in the northern group revealed occupational deposits (Period III) having Red ware pottery, Black burnished ware and few polished stone axes and bone tools.

The north-eastern group of Megalithic sites are commonly represented by menhirs and dolmens. The earliest of these were reported from Jamguri and Dimapur in Assam region (Hutton, 1923). More number of sites have come to light in the recent past through some systematic exploration in Churchandpur and Ukhrul districts of Manipur (IAR, 1983-84). Erecting Megalith is a living tradition in the north-eastern region even now. It is prevalent among the Khasis in Assam (Heimendorf, 1945) and exists among the Mao-Nagas of Manipur (Singh, O.K., 1985). No C-14 dates however have been assigned to Megalithic culture of this region.

Similarly, in the eastern region, Megalithic sites were first noticed in the Chotanagpur (Dalton, E.T., 1873) and in the Ranchi region (Roy, S.C., 1915) in Bihar. Heimendorf's (1943) work on Megalithism among the Orissan tribals is noteworthy. After a gap of about 40 years, further exploration in the Upper Brahmani valley in the Sundargarh district of Orissa (IAR, 1983-84) has brought to light Megalithic sites. The eastern Megalithic sites are mostly represented by cairn and stone circles. Since none of these sites are subjected to excavation, information pertaining to various other aspects of the culture is wanting.
Only few sites having stone circles have come to light in the Rajasthan and Gujarat area of Western India (Deo, 1985). Due to limited work, detailed information about Megalithic culture in this region is lacking. However, the excavation of Cemetery located to the north-west of the habitation site at Surkotada, a Harappan site in the Kutch region, revealing an oval pit containing pots and covered by a massive stone slab or capstone is significant for, this practice is "unusual and unprecedented" in the region (Joshi, J.P., 1972).

The central Indian region has been brought under the Megalithic cultural map of India due to the efforts of individual Archaeologists as well academic institutions. Although Beglar, an assistant of A. Cunningham reported occurrence of "upright stones" and stretch of "broken blocks of stone" in Sorara village in the central provinces as early as in 1873-74, this was never taken seriously. (Cunningham, 1873-74). Obviously, he was referring to Menhirs and cairns. Later in 1933-34 (ASI AR 1930-34) again these sites were re-examined and interpreted as "large areas of stone age cemetery". Later works however confirmed the evidence of Megalithic monuments in the eastern and southern part of Madhya Pradesh, particularly in the Raipur, Durg and Bastar districts. The three types commonly found in these sites comprise of cairn stone circles, dolmens and menhirs (Gupta, C.S., 1982). In 1956-57, excavation conducted at Dhanora in Raipur district (Dikshit, M.G.) revealed not only the mode of construction of Megaliths but also skeletal remains, beads and glass bangles. Copper vessel is another interesting evidence. Excavation of Malhar revealed Megalithic cultural remains below Chalcolithic in the region (Gupta, C.S., 1982). However, more study is required to understand the various other aspects of the culture and its exact chronological position. It is also interesting to note that till recently, some of the tribals of Bastar district, namely Murias and Marias Gonds practiced Megalithism (Sharma, 1985).
Comparatively Megalithic culture in the Deccan has been studied well particularly in the Vidarbha region. An interesting feature of the Deccan Megalithic culture is that habitation sites and burials exist side by side as for example, at Takalghat (Deo, S.B., 1970) and Naikund (IAR, 1977-78). Burial types are mainly represented by stone circles. Recently, some circles enclosing chambers and cists have also come to limelight (IAR, 1982-83; 1984-85). Besides the above, most important sites reported in the Deccan include Kaundinyapura in Amaravati district (Dikshit, 1956), Junapani (IAR, 1960-61), Takalghat and Khapa (Deo, 1970), Mahur Jhari (Deo, 1970-71), Bhagi Mohari (IAR, 1982-83) and Raipur (IAR, 1984-85) in Nagpur district; Paunar Khairwada (IAR, 1981-82) in Vardha district and sites in Chanda district (IAR, 1960-61), Ranjala in Dhulia district (IAR, 1960-61) are noteworthy. Of these, as early as in 1879, Junapani was subjected to small scale excavation by Rivet-Carnac.

Curiously, the Deccan Megalithic culture co-mingled with the preceding Chalcolithic culture unlike southern Megalithic complex which succeeded Chalcolithic stage of the Neolithic culture (Sundara, 1975). This cultural co-mingling indicated by pottery tradition was brought to light in the excavation at Tekwada, equated chronologically with Bahal IB, where Megalithic burials as well as Jorwe ware occur together. Earlier excavation conducted at Kaundinyapura (Dikshit, 1956-57) a new cultural aspect came to light represented by Black and Red pottery devoid of variation in shapes, Micaceous Red ware, painted Black on Red ware, different than the Chalcolithic painted ware and etched carnelian beads typical of the southern Megalithic complex. These evidences created a void in understanding the personality of this new culture. However, the excavation of Megalithic stone circles at Junapani (IAR, 1961-62) bridged the gap as evidenced by the presence of similar ceramic types encountered in the lowest habitational level at Kaundinyapura. The other grave goods at Junapani comprising of iron spearheads, swords, spikes, etc., have also been reported from
finials having decorated lids have also been reported from Raipur (IAR, 1984-85). Chronologically the Megalithic culture which seems to have succeeded Chalcolithic culture of Deccan is assigned to 700 to 600 B.C. if not earlier (Deo, 1985).

As is well known, South India has the largest concentration of Megalithic sites in India with varied types. In the long history of research since Babington's (1823) first work, a host of both foreign and indigenous scholars have contributed their thought till recently and significant advance has been made by them in understanding the authors of Megaliths, their origin, material culture, racial types and numerous other factors.

The work of Breeks (1837) and his attempt to co-relate the Megalithism to the customs of tribes of Nilagiris, Meadows Taylor's observation on Megaliths of 'Dekhan' (1863), Cole's work on Coorg Megaliths (1868), and the comprehensive account of Megaliths in India including South by Ferguson (1872) are some of the most outstanding works of the time. The works of Newbold (1852), Mackenzie J.S.F. (1873), Burgess (1874), Boswell (1872), Jagor (1876), Caldwell (1877) and Branfill (1881) in various parts of South India also deserve special mention. Sewell (1882), Robert Bruce Foote (1916) and Das Gupta (1930) have shed light on various facets of Megalithic culture in the form of catalogues of sites and have given descriptive notes on antiquities. Ramachandran's 'Bibliography on Indian Megaliths' (1970) is an important compilation of gist of articles/reports on exploration and excavation of Megalithic sites since 1823 till the date of its compilation.

In the beginning of 20th century, Alexander Rea (1903-1904) brought out remarkable evidence about material culture of Megalithic builders in Tamilnadu by excavating couple of burials at Adichanallur. He excavated Perumbiar in Chingelput district (1907-1908) and published
Kaundinyapura. Excavations at Paunar (Dhavlikar-Deo, 1967) further corroborated this cultural co-mingling. The overall personality of Vidarbha Megalithic culture and the relation between the habitation and the burial sites was finally ascertained by excavating Takalghat and Khapa sites respectively (Deo, 1970). Here, habitations throw more light on the settlement pattern. Houses were made of mud walls and reeds. Floors were made up of brown compact clay mixed with kankar and dressed with lime and rammed. Ceramic traditions reported from the above sites also occur here besides the Carnelian beads of southern type. In the burials, represented by stone circles all typical iron objects have been reported along with rectangular axes and the body equipped with cross-band ring-fasteners commonly encountered in the southern Megaliths. However, the most interesting evidence found in the burials viz., the "Copper ornament for the face of a horse found over the remains of horse skeleton" is noteworthy and unique in the Indian Megalithic culture. Hilted iron dagger reported from Mahurjhan is another noteworthy feature. The ceramics of Deccan Megaliths are usually represented by Black and Red ware, Micaceous Red ware and Red ware, the last two with or without paintings. A remarkable difference between the habitation and burials in the region is, while the painted ceramic tradition is prevalent in the former, the latter is devoid of the same.

Cultural affinity between the southern and the Deccan sites are attested by the occurrence of similar burial types also. Thus, the excavation at Bhagi Mohari revealed stone circles with passage chambers (IAR, 1982-83) and in Roypur, stone circles enclose cists (IAR, 1984-85). Both these types have been reported from the adjacent Andhra/Karnataka region. The cultural interaction between the South and Vidarbha region is further evidenced by the occurrence of copper lids of dishes with birds, viz., Mahurjhan, Takalghat, etc., similar to the ones reported from Adichannallur (Rea, 1902-1903). Recently,
a catalogue of antiquities from both excavations (1915). Scholarly contribution of Longhurst (1912-15), Hunt (1916-24), Yazdani (1941), Krishna, M.H. (1929-44) and Ayyappan (1941) throw a flood of light on various aspects of Megalithic culture in southern region.

It is only in the post independence era that more systematic studies were adopted in South India particularly after Wheeler's (1947) excavation at Brahmagiri where for the first time he attempted to put the Megalithic culture within a firm chronological bracket. This revolutionary attempt inspired many a scholars and a series of excavations were taken up in South India. Porkalam (Thapar, 1948) is one such attempt. During this time, considering the need to systematise the nomenclatures of various forms of Megaliths, Krishnaswami (1949) made a sincere attempt to describe them typologically. From 1960 onwards, a large number of sites have been reported in various parts of South India and their features have been described by the scholars who discovered them. The works of Srinivasan (1939 to 46), Desikan (1957 to 1963), Raman (1957 to 1969), Gururaja Rao (1957-60), Narasimhaiah (1980) in Tamilnadu; Subba Rao (1950), Subramanyam (1956), Sarkar (1966), Sampath (1980), Pulla Reddy (1986) in Andhra Pradesh; John (1974 to 1985) in Kerala; Nagaraja Rao (1964), Sundara (1975) in Karnataka are of great importance for, these works have thrown new light on various facets of the culture hitherto unknown and has brought to light new types of Megalithic burials. Observations of Gururaja Rao (1972) and Sarma (198 ) in this context are no less important. Krishnaswami's (1949) typological classification has been further reviewed by Sundara (1975) in the light of subsequent discoveries by him necessitating modifications in the terminologies and addition of new terms. His classification of Megalithic burials, based on types and characteristic traits include three main groups, viz., (a) chambered tombs, (b) the unchambered tombs and their variations and (c) stone alignments. While the first two groups are associated with burials, the third though Megalithic in character, is essentially non-burial in nature.
The amazing variety and complexity of the culture has necessitated many number of systematic excavations in South India. As a sequel, numerous burial and habitational sites have been excavated in South India to understand various problems involved, viz., their authors, chronology of types, settlement pattern, relationship between Megalithic and Chalcolithic Black and Red ware, other material culture and Iron technology, etc.


Although many of the problems relating to the culture are still subjected to various hypothesis, craving for further indepth studies, the above explorations and excavations have revealed few noteworthy evidences, viz., (a) that the Megalithic culture succeeded Neolithic/Chalcolithic culture, (b) Iron technology was introduced
first in the south, (c)Megalphism influenced by the local geological
environment had its beginning in the south and (d) the culture
continued to survive even during early historic period particularly in
Tamilnadu, where Sangam and post-Sangam literary evidences available to
similar burial customs then in vogue (Srinivasan, 1960).

Chronologically, the South Indian Iron Age Megalithic culture has
been bracketed between 1200-1000 B.C. to about 150 B.C. (Agrawal,
1982). Thus, it is clear that the study of problems pertaining to
Megalithic culture in India since 1823 has passed various stages of
development and in the process, new ideas have emerged in the
classification of types, their chronology and distribution, rituals and
customs, economy and food habits, metallurgy and ceramic industry. In
the field of racial biology of Megalithic people also, considerable
work has been done. From the study of Morphometric and statistical
analysis of human skeletal remains and cranial indices from the
Megalithic burials, Kennedy and Levisky (Misra, 1985) have opined that
"India's Iron Age populations were relatively heterogeneous and not
representative of a single homogeneous racial element".

As is well known, numerous types of Megalithic burials have been
reported from almost all the districts in Karnataka. Number of
habitational sites with Neolithic/Chalcolithic cultural material
subjected to excavation at Maska (Thapar, 1957), Hallur (Nagaraja Rao,
1971) and T. Narasipur (Seshadri, 1974) have been helpful in fixing the
chronology of Megalithic culture firmly in Karnataka.

When compared to the sites in Southern Karnataka, Northern
Karnataka is remarkable for its Megalithic remains. After Meadows
Taylor's (1853) work in Gulbarga, Raichur and Bellary, much work has
been done in this field. Sundara's work in this respect deserves
attention. His work has brought to light not only large number of new
Megalithic burials scattered in the northern districts but also
discovered an unique burial known as Greek or Latin Cross type.
Further, he has shown the influence of geology of the region on the Megalithic burials of that region.

The main types reported in the North Karnataka Megalithic complex include passage chambers of the Konnur, Kaladgi and Terdal type, port holed chambers of Rajan-Kollur, Aihole and Hirebenkal type, oblong cists, all belonging to chambered tomb group; cairn stone circles, pit burials, stone circles and barrows of unchambered group and stone alignment of non-burial group (Sundara, 1975).

As already mentioned, excavations of couple of burial and habitation sites have revealed varied information about the material culture of the people, burial systems, customs, etc. Discussing the chronological brackets for the culture, Sundara (1975) opines "The Megalithic culture in North Karnataka began from about 1200 - 1100 B.C. flourished upto 3rd - 2nd century B.C. and survived upto circa 1st century B.C. in North Karnataka".

Even though systematic survey of Megalithic burial types on the pattern done in North Karnataka is wanting, enough work has been done in Southern Karnataka, particularly in the districts of Bangalore, Kolar, Coorg and Mysore. Before discussing the types of burials noticed in the region under study, it is necessary to know the distribution pattern of Megalithic types in the neighbouring districts which would enable to know the possible influence, if any, on the distribution of the Megaliths in Malnad.

From a review of the types in the districts of Chitradurga, Kolar, Bangalore, Mandya, Mysore, Coorg and South Kanara, it is noticed that a particular type occurs in more than one district, hence, grouped districtwise. For the sake of convenience and to understand the character of the type, these have been grouped under nomenclature already used in the classification of North Karnataka types and groups (Sundara, 1975). Since the non-burial group is absent in the southern ...
region, the types available could be classified under two burial groups, viz., (a) chamber tomb group and (b) unchambered group.

(a) Chambered tombs: Under this group, three types are noticed. Dolmens with port-holes, transepted cists with passage and cists with or without port-hole.

1) Port-holed chamber types have wide spread distribution in the neighbouring districts of Coorg (Cole, 1869), South Kanara (Sundara, 1970) to the south and in the Kolar and Bangalore districts (Sundara, 1975) to the east of the region under study. Sundara (1975) has compared the types from both the regions to Rajankolur and Hirebenkal group respectively. The southern group compared with Rajankolur type has chambers of varying size and oblong plan. Rough undressed orthostats and capstone are used to raise the chamber. Port-holes are found in different directions. It is devoid of cairn circle packing. The eastern group from Kolar and Bangalore districts are of Hirebenkal type. On plan, these are squarish or occasionally oblong on plan. Chambers are either in full relief from the ground or half buried. Orthostats with or without port-holes are thick and the capstones oval or circular on plan. The port-hole is semi-circular in shape, has no specific orientation and is closed with a slab. Devoid of cairns, these are enclosed by rubble wall of orthostats. Beyond the northern limits of Malnad region in Chitradurga district, chamber tombs are designated as Brahmagiri type, different from the Rajankolur and Hirebenkal type. Since this type is not found in the Malnad region, detailed discussion may not be necessary. Besides these, there may be a few sub-types with variations which are probably due to local influence.
(11) Transcepted-cist with passage: This type has been reported from the sites east of the region under study in Kollegal taluk along the borders between Mysore and Tamilnadu (Narasimhaiah, 1980). This indicates the western limit of its spread from the neighbouring Tamilnadu where it occurs profusely in the Coimbatore district. It is not reported in other districts bordering the region under study. Hence, detailed description is not attempted.

(111) Cists: This type is found in Tumkur (Seshadri, 1952), Bangalore (Sundara, 1975) and Coorg (Subbaiah, 1978) districts. Excavations of oblong cists of Ittigebailu in Bangalore district (Gururaja Rao, 1972) are found half buried and the remaining half in relief. Oriented east-west, these were enclosed by circles of half buried boulders. Cists were built using thin slabs, one having a port-hole and covered by huge captstone. Arch stones provided in front of port-holed chambers is a noteworthy feature. Cists of the Tumkur district are totally disturbed. These are reported to be 2.5 m squares (Seshadri, 1956) devoid of stone circles. Cole's excavation (1868) of cists in Coorg revealed that the larger cists group measured 2.5 m x 1.80 m x 1.90 m in length, breadth and depth respectively. The smallest measured 1.80 m in length, 1.70 m in breadth and 1.2 m in depth. Port-holes were provided in different directions. Megalithic Black and Red ware, iron implements and jars were encountered in the excavations. In southern part of Coorg, cists are devoid of stone circle while in the northern part near Kushalnagar (Fraserpet), these are enclosed with upright slabs. Besides large number of Dolmenoid cists occur in Ramaswami kanive, Doddamolaethe, and in the vicinity of Somwarpet, all in north-Coorg.
Excavations of double chambered types, pit circles conducted at Koppa in the Piriyapatna taluk of Mysore district (Narasimhamurthy, 1977), have revealed more information about the burial architecture, pottery, iron implements and other material culture. The dolmens were divided into two halves by providing a central orthostat. In one burial, central orthostat dividing the chamber was found "placed below the level of other four outer orthostats". The other important discovery, however, is the paddy husk probably indicating the food habits of the Megalithic people.

(b) The unchambered group in the districts bordering Malnad region include cairns, pit circles, stone circles, urns and menhir.

Cairns: This type is reported from the north-eastern area of the region under study in Kolar district (Gururaja Rao, 1972). These are oval or round on plan composed of boulders and rubbles rising above the ground level measuring 40-80 cms in height. Whether these are heaped over a chamber or a pit in these sites could be known only from excavation.

Pit circles: Two extensive sites of this type are reported from Brahmagiri in Chitradurga district (Wheeler, 1948) in north-west border and in Coorg district (Narasimhamurthy, 1977) forming the southern boundary of the region under study. Strangely, this type has not been reported from the other neighbouring regions. At Brahmagiri amidst cists, about nine pit circles have also been found (Wheeler, 1948). Excavation of four of these pits have revealed that pits were either oval or circular on plan and all having ramps accommodating two or three granite blocks at the bottom floor level. One pit was found sealed by a slab having no functional aspect. The pit varying in dia from 7 m to 11 m was enclosed by single or double circles, the gap being filled with cairns or clay earth. The pits contained iron objects of varying type, human bones and the usual pottery formed the grave goods. In Coorg district, these are found in hundreds in each
site in the Upper Kaveri valley. The circles are composed of irregular granite boulders of varying height (3 cm to 65 cm). The pits dug in the centre contained the human skeletal remains and sometimes found resting on dressed stone slab along with grave furnitures (Narasimhamurthy, 1977). On the basis of ceramic evidence, antiquities retrieved from these burials and their distribution pattern, Sundara (1975) suggests "the pit-circles are regular burials probably belonging to the local people, who were previously in the Neolithic stage".

Stone circles: This type has been reported from numerous sites in the Kolar, Bangalore, Mysore, Mandya and Tumkur districts in Southern Karnataka. Seshadri (1956) and Gururaja Rao (1972) have listed them in detail. In the explorations conducted by Krishnamurthy (IAR, 1965 to 1975) in Kolar and Mysore districts under the village to village survey scheme of the Achaeological Survey of India, a large number of sites of this type have come to light. Recently (1989 and 1990), I have noticed stone circles in Valnoor in Somwarpet taluk of Coorg district and at Benegal in Periyapatna taluk of Mysore district. Though this type has wide spread distribution in Southern Karnataka, its exact nature could be known only from excavation. In the absence of surface indications, in the middle portion, it is rather difficult to ascertain whether these circles enclose a pit burial or underground cist burial.

In this context, excavations of stone circles conducted by Seshadri at Jadigenahalli in Hoskote taluk of Bangalore district is noteworthy (1960). This is the only site in Karnataka where Sarcophagus burial is reported. As is well known, in Tamilnadu, Sarcophagus burial is a common feature.

Urn burials: This type, devoid of any lithic appendage, is reported from Wobbasandra near Gudibanda in Kolardistrict. Occurrence of pottery, iron object and bones is noteworthy (Gururaja Rao, 1972). While this is the only site noticed in the north of the region under study, Sundara (1974) has reported an urn burial site at Puttur in
South Kanara, bordering the southern limits of the Malnad region. He noticed three urns in a foundation trench at an average depth of 60-70 cms. Urns of Red ware were coarse, thick in section; more than 1 m high and have wide mouth, globular body, narrow truncated bottom and neck decorated with thumb impressions. He opines that these are closely similar in fabric, type, size and decoration to that of Porkalam urns (Thapar, 1948). He retrieved two iron objects during the examination. Occurrence of gold ornaments and bronze plated iron is also noteworthy.

Menhirs: This type is reported from Garudanahalli (Cole, 1873) and Managondanahalli area (Sundara, 1975), both in Kolar district. Occurrence of menhurs inside the stone circle at the latter site is noteworthy. These rough, huge slabs are erected slanting without any specific pattern. This type does not occur in the eastern, western and southern districts bordering the Malnad region respectively.

Rock-cut caves: This is a common type in the Kerala group. Its occurrence in the South Kanara region reported by Sundara (1975) clearly indicates the extension of the type further north of Kasargod region in Kerala. The site reported by Sundara at Mudanidambur, a suburb of Udipi is cut into the laterite bed. The chamber is circular on plan (3.75 m dia) and hemispherical in elevation (2 m height). Circular opening at the top is at a depth of 90 cms from the ground level and is covered by a granite slab. He mentions of similar caves at Santure and Shivalli noticed by Dr. Bhat near Udipi.

With this background in view, an attempt is made to understand the Megalithic cultural remains, their nature, spread and chronology in the region under study.

The Megalithic remains of Malnad region attracted Mackenzie's attention as early as in 1873. He noticed numerous Megalithic burials in Hassan district and even excavated couple of burials at Sompura in the Arkalgud taluk of Hassan district. Since then, sporadic occurrence ...
of Megalithic stone circles and cists have been reported by Seshadri (1956) in both Hassan and Chikmagalur districts. Menhirs were reported at Nilaskal (IAR, 1964-65) in Hosanagara taluk of Shimoga district. Sundara (1974) reported cists at Beluvinakudige in Sringeri taluk of Chikmagalur district and chamber tombs of the cists or dolmenoid cist variety at Arehalli in Tirthahalli taluk of Shimoga district. Occurrence of jars of Kajekaru type in a pit burial at Arehalli along with Black and Red ware is noteworthy. He also reported menhir of the Nilaskal type at Guddemaradi near Shimoga.

Although Megalithic burials indicated the presence of this culture in the region, no attempt had been made to know more about their distribution - typewise - on the model attempted by Sundara in the North Karnataka districts on the one hand or like the study of Megaliths in Coorg district by Subbalah (1978) in the southern part of the region under study on the other. Besides, no habitation sites have been reported except the occurrence of Black and Red ware reported at Guddemaradi near Shimoga (Sundara, 1975).

As mentioned above, to gather more information and to understand the personality of the culture in the region, systematic exploration was taken up in the three Malnad districts of Hassan, Chikmagalur and Shimoga, revealing about 16 new burial sites and more than a dozen habitation sites yielding ceramics of Megalithic culture. The burial sites have been arranged in tabular format and their salient features have been highlighted below.
Megalithic burial sites in the Malnad region
and their main features

1.

a] Locality : Haraganahalli
b] Extent : 200 m (circum)
c] Type : Menhir
d] No. of each type : 7 Nos.
e] Distribution : Menhirs of medium size are found scattered around the eastern slopes of the hillock, all slightly leaning towards east.
f] Description : These have invariably conical top and are broad at the base. All are made on schist slabs. Quartz lumps are found scattered in the site. Mesolithic tools and broken portion of a ground axe were also found in the site.
g] Orientation : Arranged in an arc like row, north-south oriented.

*Comment* : Whether the north-south orientation roughly of erecting the menhirs is deliberately intended is difficult to ascertain for, in the other sites with such menhirs do not show any particular orientation or alignment.
2.

a] Locality : Belimallur

b] Extent : The habitation site measures 10 acres and totally disturbed.

c] Types : Menhir

d] No. of each type : 2 Nos.

e] Distribution : Menhirs are at the south-east corner of the habitation site. Distance between the two measures 2.70 m.

f] Description : These are made on schist blacks having pointed tip due to deliberate oblique cut on either side, thick broad bottom, quartz lumps are found scattered at the base. A small pit along the menhir shows a boulder below one of the menhirs.

g] Orientation : roughly east-west oriented.

h] Measurement : Maximum: 3 m (H) x 1 m (W) x 30 cms (T)
Minimum: 2.5 m (H) x 0.70 cm (W) x 0.09 cm (T)

i] Antiquity : Megalithic Black and Red ware from both the habitation site and from the pits at the bottom of menhirs was collected. Other wares retrieved from the site include All Black ware and Red ware.
3.
   a] Locality : Sunkadakatte
   
   b] Extent : 200 m (circum) (Locality 'B')
   
   c] Types : Cairns
   
   d] No. of each type : 10 Nos. of which 8 are totally destroyed in
                    Locality 'A'. 2 Nos. in Locality 'B' intact.
   
   e] Distribution pattern : Adjacent to one another. 2 m distance between
                           the two.
   
   f] Description : Situated on an elevated spot. Composed of
                 granite and quartz lumps. Circular on plan.
   
   g] Orientation : Roughly east-west oriented.
   
   h] Measurement : Dia: 3 m east-west (externally), 4 m north-south
                  Height: 20 cms.
   
   i] Antiquity : No habitational debris is noticed in the area.

... 613
4.

a) Locality : Sulebailu
b) Extent     : 10 m. (circumference)
c) Types      : Menhirs
d) No. of each type : Solitary
e) Distribution : Situated 1 Km south-east of Guddemalleswara temple at Sulebailu near a low granite outcrop.

f) Description : It is of granite irregular triangular in shape, slightly leaning towards east, reddish earth heaped at the bottom around. Few lumps of white quartz are found in the vicinity.

  g) Orientation : East oriented.

h) Measurement : Maximum height    : 3.2 m
   " breadth      : 1.3 m
   " thickness    : 0.95 cm

i) Antiquity   : No cultural debris in the vicinity of Menhir. About 1 Km away towards north-west, Black and Red ware is picked up on the slopes of the hillock where Neolithic pottery and stone tools are also found.
5.

a] Locality : Kenchapura

b] Extent : 20 m circum.

c] Types : Menhir

d] No. of each type : Solitary

e] Distribution pattern : Located adjacent to the main road in the vicinity, sand stone outcrop is also noticed.

f] Description : It is of sand stone, irregular triangular in shape, leaning slightly towards east. Top is slightly curved and the southern side seems to have been dressed.

g] orientation : East-west oriented.

h] Measurement : Maximum height : 6 m
" breadth : 2 m
" thickness : 0.25 cm

i] Antiquity : No cultural debris noticed in the vicinity of the menhir.
6.

a] Locality : Jambavalli
b] Extent : 20 m circum.
c] Types : Menhir
d] No. of each type : Solitary
e] Distribution : On an elevated spot about 20 m from the river bank.
f] Description : It is of granite with curved top. It is short and broad. It leans towards east.
g] Orientation : East-west orientation
h] Measurement : Maximum height : 1.2 m
" breadth : 0.90 cm
" thickness : 0.15 cm
i] Antiquity : No evidence of habitation site nearby.
7.

a) Locality : Nilaskal
b) Extent : 10 acres
c) Types : Menhir
d) No. of each type : 35 Nos.
e) Distribution pattern : Found scattered on the eastern slope on an elevated grassy ground known locally as "Nilaskal bane" roughly oval on plan. Extant remains do not give a clear picture of the plan of erections. The average distance between menhirs is about 3 m.
g) Orientation : Roughly north-south oriented.
h) Measurement : Maximum height, breadth and thickness measure 4 m, 2.80 m and 55 cm respectively and minimum height, breadth and thickness measure 85 cm, 90 cm and 13 cm respectively.
i) Antiquity : A few Mesolithic tools and Neolithic pottery have been found. No Megalithic cultural debris is encountered.
8.

a] Locality : Pratapakumari Grama

b] Extent : 50 m circumference

c] Types : Mehir

d] No. of each type : 2 Nos.

e] Distribution pattern : Located on an elevated spot overlooking the tank 1.5 Km to the west. The distance between the two measures 2 m.

f] Description : Both the mehirs are of granite, triangular in shape with slightly conical top, erected leaning towards north-east. Deliberate mud packing at the bottom. Quartz lumps are found at the bottom.

g] Orientation : Roughly east-west oriented.

h] Measurement : Maximum height, breadth and thickness measure 2.1 m, 2.40 m and 55 cm respectively. Minimum height, breadth and thickness measure 1.65 m, 0.12 cm and 10 cm respectively.

i] Antiquity : No other cultural debris encountered in the site.
a] Locality : Mulekalenahalli
b] Extent : 10 m circumference.
c] Types : Menhir
d] No. of each type : Solitary
e] Distribution pattern : It is located to the north-west of the village.
f] Description : It is a huge block of granite, triangular shaped with curved conical top. Southern face is dressed and smooth, whereas the northern face is rough and undressed. Bulbous bottom. It leans towards east. Mud packing alround the bottom mixed with quartz lumps.
g] Orientation : Roughly east-west oriented.
h] Measurement : Maximum height, breadth and thickness measure 2.65 m, 2.15 m and 0.75 cm respectively.
i] Antiquity : A few microliths of non-geometric group made on quartz are found strewn alround.
a] Locality : Halekalgudda

b] Extent : 100 m east-west x 150 m north-south

c] Types : Menhir

d] No. of each type : 5 Nos.

e] Distribution : Scattered on the slopes of foothills of Halekalgudda and does not indicate any plan.

f] Description : The menhirs of pinkish granite slabs almost triangular shaped with conical top and have broad base. The distance between each on an average measures 20 m. While two lean towards west, the rest lean towards east. All exhibit yellowish patination. The site overlooks the tank 0.5 Km to the south.

g] Orientation : Roughly north-south oriented.

h] Measurement : Maximum height, breadth and thickness measure 2.15 m, 1.90 m and 60 cm respectively. Minimum height, breadth and thickness measure 1.80 m, 0.15 cm and 15 cm respectively.

i] Antiquity : Except few non-geometric microliths, no other evidence of cultural debris.
11.
a] Locality : Pungame
b] Extent : 10 acres area
c] Types : Stone circles
d] No. of each type : Earlier, Seshadri had mentioned about 20 circles and menhirs. But only five circles were found in a disturbed condition.
e] Description : Circles are round or oval in shape. While two circles were composed of 12 and 14 vertical slabs and boulders of close grained haematite, the remaining circles contained 24 and 20 boulders. No evidence of cairn packing. The nature of burial could be ascertained after excavation. Large quantity of quartz strewn in the site.
g] Orientation : Roughly north-south oriented.
h] Measurement : Maximum dia: 7.60 m east-west, 7.00 m north-south. Circumference: 25.70 m. Minimum dia: 6.00 m east-west, 5.70 m north-south. Circumference: 16 m. Maximum length and thickness of boulders measure 1.70 m and 0.55 m respectively.
i] Antiquity : No cultural debris.
a] Locality : Kondajji

b] Extent : 20 acres

c] Types : Stone circles

d] No. of each type : Earlier, Seshadri had mentioned 24 stone circles. Now only 8 remain that too in a disturbed condition.

e] Distribution pattern : Extant circles scattered are on the slopes of the foothills of a hillock known as Sigegudda, overlooking a tank 0.5 Km away towards east. Distance between circles measure 4-6 m.

f] Description : The site is under cultivation. A few are remaining. Original position of stones indicating the circle is also disturbed. Some seem to have been reset. Boulder of blackish close grained stone has been used. The maximum and minimum no. of stones forming the circle are 17 and 11 respectively. Devoid of packing material. Nature of burial could be known only after excavation.

g] Orientation : Roughly north-south oriented.

h] Measurement : (a) Maximum dia. 9.30 m E-W; 9.30 m N-S.

Circumference: 33 m.

(b) Maximum length and thickness of boulders measure 80 cm and 45 cm respectively.

i] Antiquity : No other cultural debris noticed.

... 622
a] Locality : Honnavara
b] Extent : 2 acres
c] Types : Stone circles
d] No. of each type : 6 Nos.
e] Distribution : Found scattered in a field to the south of the pattern village. Three are almost intact and the remaining three are totally disturbed. The distance between each measure 6-8 m.
f] Description : The circles are being disturbed due to heavy agricultural activity. Boulder of small to medium size, partly hidden, arranged in round to oval shape. Rock material used is blackish and close grained, probably Haematite. Since disturbed, not possible to ascertain exact number of stones used for the circle. Devoid of packing material. Centre portion is flat. Nature of burial could be known only through excavation.

h] Measurement : Maximum dia. 8.35 m east-west; 8 m north-south. Circumference: 24 m.
Minimum dia. 6 m east-west, 5.70 m north-south. Circumference: 15 m
Maximum and minimum length and thickness measure 60 cm, 20 cm; 40 cm and 15 cm respectively.

l] Antiquity : No cultural debris noticed.
a] Locality : Beluvinakudige
b] Extent : 3 acres
c] Types : Stone circles (with highly disturbed cists)
d] No. of each type : 24 Nos.
e] Distribution pattern : The site is situated at an altitude of 1000 m MSL in a thick forested area. These are clustered, distance between each measure 2 m on the eastern slopes.
f] Description : Due to thick forest and grass covering the circle stones, it is difficult to ascertain the number of stones used to form the circles. From the indications available, it is clear that both slabs and boulders probably of granite have been used. The exact pattern of arrangement of cists could not be ascertained due to disturbed condition. However, average measurement of chambers measure 2 m x 2.20 m internally. Existence of port holes in the orthostats can not be ruled out.

g] Orientation : Difficult to ascertain.
h] Measurement : Maximum circumference of the circle : 15 m.
  Dia. 4 m north-south.
  Minimum circumference: 8 m.
  Dia. 2 m.

i] Antiquity : Black and Red ware is reported to have been retrieved from the burials in the site.
a] Locality : Sompura  
b] Extent : 5 acres  
c] Types :  
   A) Pit circles  
   B) Cairns  
d] No. of each type : (A) 7 Nos; (B) 5 Nos.  
e] Distribution pattern : Pit circles and cairns are scattered on the slopes of an elevated area. Five cairns are 25 m to the north-east of pit circle group.  
f] Description : (A) Pit circle groups are round in shape, varying from 1 to 3 circles. The pits seem to have been covered by a slab as is evident from portions visible on the surface. Circle is indicated by erecting thin stone slabs vertically and by keeping round boulders. Vertical members lean towards the pit. Disturbed pit sections are composed of number of granite, quartz and haematite embedded in the reddish murram.  
   (B) Cairns devoid of stone circles are composed of rubble of granite, quartz and haematite. These are round in shape.  
g] Orientation : Roughly north-south oriented.  
h] Measurement : Stone circles enclosing the pits measure 50 m to 21 m in circumference. Burial with three circles measure 50 m at the outer, 46.40 m at the middle and 18 m at the inner-most respectively. Number of vertical slabs vary from 33 to 12. Cairns measure 10-15 m in circumference and the height varies from 30 to 50 cms from the ground level.  
i] Antiquity : No other cultural material is noticed. However, earlier excavations by Meckenzy has revealed Black and Red ware, iron objects, etc.
Locality: Shigodu
Extent: 10 acres
Types:
(A) Cairn stone circles (one with a vertical slab in the circle).
(B) Cairn rectangles.
No. of each type: (A) 10 Nos; (B) 2 Nos.

Distribution: While cairn stone circles and barrows are found in one locality, in another locality, only stone circles with a vertical slab is noticed. 'A' locality is on an elevated spot and 'B' locality is in a depression. Both are near a tank.

Description: (A) Stone circles enclose cairn packing with cap stone at the centre. These are oval or circular on plan. Thin vertical slabs and roundish haematite boulders are provided around the cairns composed of lumps of quartz, granite and haematite with capstone at the centre. In one circle, a vertical dressed slab erected is noteworthy.
(B) The barrows are rectangular or oblong on plan having a capstone at the centre partially visible. Rubble heap composed of quartz and granite.

Orientation: Roughly north-south oriented.

Measurement: Maximum and minimum circumference of circles measure 25 m and 15 m respectively. Circles comprise 18 to 25 stones. Distance between each circle stone member measures 30-60 cms. Boulders measure 1 m, 55 cm and 35 cm in length, breadth and thickness respectively. The height of cairn from the ground level varies between 70 cm to 1 m. The vertical slab inside the circle measure 80 cm, 40 cm and 30 cm in height, breadth and thickness respectively.

Antiquity: No other cultural debris is noticed.
17

a] Locality : Ullenahalli

b] Extent : 30 m circumference

c] Types : Dolmens without stone circles

d] No. of each type : 2 Nos.

e] Distribution : Both are situated amidst thick vegetation. The distance between the two measures 2 m.

f] Description : The chambers are rectangular on plan. Eastern orthostat is missing in both the chambers. Orthostats arranged in clockwise pattern are rough, thick and made of pinkish grey granite. The capstone is rectangular on plan.

   g] Orientation : Probably east-west oriented.

   h] Measurement : 1.30 m north-south x 1.90 m east-west.
      The capstone measures 2.75 m east-west x 1.90 m north-south x 15 cm in length, breadth and thickness.

   i] Antiquity : No other cultural material is noticed.

... 627
18

a] Locality : Hosalli
b] Extent : 100 m circumference
c] Types : Menhir
d] No. of each type : 2 Nos.
e] Distribution : Isolated menhirs situated at a distance of 50 m from each other. Granite outcrops in the vicinity.
f] Description : Both are made on granite of pinkish and grey colour. Roughly triangular in shape. One leans towards east. Yellowish patination. Rough and thick.
g] Orientation : Roughly north-south orientation.
h] Measurement : a) Measures 1.70 m in height, 1.10 m in breadth and 65 cm in thickness.
             b) Measures 1.50 m in height, 1.10 m in breadth and 60 cm in thickness.
i] Antiquity : No other cultural material is noticed.
19.

a) Locality : Kuduvinahosalli

b) Extent : 2 acres

c) Types :
   (A) Port holed chambers with circles (disturbed)
   (B) Pit burials indicated by thick capstone.

d) Distribution pattern :
   (A) 2 Nos.; (B) 2 Nos.

e) Description :
   (A) Chambers are rectangular on plan. The four orthostats are arranged neither in clockwise nor in anticlockwise direction. These are thick and rough covered by a huge capstone. The broken northern orthostat of one of the chambers has a curved edge probably indicating port-hole. On the exterior is a stone circle of haematite boulders, 12 to 14 in number, of small to medium size.
   
   (B) Pit burials in locality 'B' are indicated by huge capstones of pinkish granite almost oval in shape, thick and rough.

g) Orientation : Both types roughly east-west oriented.

h) Measurement :
   On an average, chambers measure internally 1.75 m east-west x 1.30 m north-south and height 1.50 m. Capstones measure 2.25 m x 1.40 m x 11 cm in length, breadth and thickness.

   Maximum circumference of stone circles measures 18 m.

i) Antiquity : No other cultural debris is noticed.
20

a] Locality : Siddapura

b] Extent : 200 m circumference.

c] Types : Pit circles (without stone circles)

d] No. of each type : 4 Nos.

e] Distribution : On the slopes of an elevated thickly vegetated pattern area.

f] Description : These are indicated by slight heap visible on the surface. Megalithic nature is attested by the occurrence of few All Black ware sherds. Circle boulders seem to have been removed.

g] Orientation : Roughly east-west oriented.

h] Measurement : Maximum dia. 2 m north-south; 3 m east-west (externally)

Minimum dia. 1.5 m north-south; 2.5 m east-west (externally)

21

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>a) Locality</th>
<th>Savalanga</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>b) Extent</td>
<td>3 acres</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>c) Types</td>
<td>Stone circles (highly disturbed)*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>d) No. of each type</td>
<td>20 circles.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>e) Distribution</td>
<td>All are situated on the slopy flat surface. Distance between each about 2 m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>f) Description</td>
<td>These circles are circular in plan. Irregular shaped boulders of schist measuring 80 cms in thickness and 45-60 cms in length are used. All are single circle type. In the centre, nothing is visible. Probably these enclose a pit.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>g) Orientation</td>
<td>East-west</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>h) Measurement</td>
<td>Maximum dia. 3 m east-west; 4.10 m north-south (externally)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Minimum dia. 2 m east-west; 3.40 m north-south (externally)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>i) Antiquity</td>
<td>No habitational debris nearby.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>* Comment</td>
<td>A recent re-examination revealed that even the disturbed site is being used as agricultural land. None of the evidence noticed earlier exists now.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>a) Locality</td>
<td>Chinnukatte</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b) Extent</td>
<td>200 m north-south x 11 m east-west</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>c) Types</td>
<td>Stone circles (Single, double and one with a short menhir)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>d) No. of each type</td>
<td>20 Nos.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>e) Distribution pattern</td>
<td>Situated on an elevated area sloping towards east.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Description</td>
<td>Circles in oval or round shape are formed by arranging haematite boulders of irregular shape. The thickness and length of which vary between 90 cm to 40 cm and 1.2 m to 0.60 m respectively. Each circle contains 12-13 stones.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>g) Orientation</td>
<td>Roughly east-west oriented.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>h) Measurement</td>
<td>Maximum: 26 m circumference; 10 m dia. (north-south)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Minimum: 9 m circumference, 3 m dia (north-south)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>i) Antiquity</td>
<td>No habitational debris in the vicinity.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
As is evident, the number of megalithic sites and burials noticed in the Malnad region is very limited compared to the rich sites reported from North Karnataka as well as to the sites in the neighbouring districts bordering it. Typewise distribution is also restricted to a few pockets. Thus, southern Malnad sites along the Upper Kaveri accommodates numerous burial types compared to the sites in the northern part of the region (Shimoga district) which is dominated by habitation sites. The burials noticed in the region could be classified under five groups as follows:

a] Port-holed chambers and cists
b] Cairns
c] Pit-circles
d] Stone-circles
e] Menhirs

In the light of the above observations, it is necessary to understand the pattern of distribution of the five types found in the region and their relative position with reference to the similar types reported from the neighbouring region. This would also enable to probe the possibilities of identifying the focal as well as peripheral area of the types, if any.

a] Port-holed chambers and cists: The port-holed chambers and cists of Malnad are of varying height and size; rectangular or oblong on plan; orthostats and capstones used are thick and rough except at Beluvinakudige where thin and small slabs have been used obviously due to the very location of the site at a higher altitude. Hardly one can find a chamber "in-situ" in the Malnad sites making it rather difficult to ascertain the direction of the port-holes. Excavation by Cole (1868) and others in the adjacent Coorg district further south of the region revealed miniature and double spouted vessels which seem to be a feature of these burials. However, due to their dilapidated condition, nothing much could be known about the grave furniture of the Malnad burials of this type.
Port-holed chambers and cists of Rajankolur and Hirebenkal type reported from various sites in the neighbouring southern and eastern boundaries of the region under study have already been discussed. In the southern Malnad region, these types are found in Kuduvina Hosalliy and U llenshalliy in the Upper Kaveri valley of Hassan district. The northern extension of this type within the region under study could be located at Arehalliy in Tirthahalliy taluk of Shimoga district. In the intermediary region of Chikmagalur district, two sites with cist burials are located at Mattavara (Seshadri, 1956) and at Beluvinakudige (Sundara, 1975), the latter situated at an altitude of 1000 m above MSL further north of Hassan district. As already mentioned, these types are found profusely in the Somawarpet and Virajpet taluks in Coorg district further south of Hassan district. Interestingly, another group of Rajankolur type reported from Kajekaru (Sundara, 1975) beyond Coorg in the coastal belt is a noteworthy point for, Sundara postulates the diffusion of this type from the west coast region to the upghat region.

Thus, it is clear that the port-holed chamber-tombs of Rajankolur in Southern Karnataka are found mostly concentrated in the area comprising the upghat region of Coorg and in the west coast immediately adjacent to it. The sites scattered in the Upper Kaveri in the Hassan district and further northwards in Chikmagalur district of Malnad probably form the peripheral zone. Although similar types occur in large number in the North Karnataka region, absence of such types in the intermediary region of Dharwar and Chitradurga further corroborates the above view.

Discussing the development of port-holed chambers, Sundara (1975) opines that among other regions, Southern Karnataka having extensive distribution of this type as one of the possible areas from where North Karnataka might have received the tradition. He further opines that the sites at Belur, Badakajekaru in the western coast with port-holed chambers have direct bearing on the development of this type from the
preceding passage chamber types known as Konnur and Kaladgi types in the Northern Karnataka region. He hypothesizes the possibility of the development of port-holed chamber types of the Malnad and coastal region from the Kaladgi type, also found in the Hallur area bordering the maidan belt of Malnad. But this hypothesis does not seem to be well founded for, the distance between Hallur and Arehalli, the northern most site having this type in the Malnad region, is more than 100 Km - besides in the intermediary region no megaliths of this type have been noticed. If we take into account the distribution of large number of sites with port-holed chambers in the Coorg district and in the coastal district of South Kanara, it could be reasonably postulated that the Rajankolur type of North Karnataka and the coast-ghat port-holed type (similar to Rajankolur type) of Southern Karnataka seem to have developed independently having their respective focal and peripheral areas. Thus, as mentioned above, the Arehalli chamber tombs in Shimoga region which Sundara postulates as a link site between Hallur in the north and coastal sites in the south is in all probability forms the peripheral zone of the type with the focal area centered in Coorg and the west coast sites in South Kanara district. Similarly, the Rajankolur and the sites north of Hallur may represent the focal and peripheral areas respectively of North Karnataka region. It appears, therefore, that two independent groups of port-holed chamber type emerged simultaneously. Whether these were of native origins or due to migration through the coastal belt, is a matter of hypothesis and needs further probe.

b) Cairns: Cairns are noticed in three sites, viz., at Sunkadakatte in the Honnali taluk of Shimoga district in the northern limits and at Shigodu and Sompura in Arakalgud taluk of Hassan district in the southern limit of Malnad region. At Shigodu, cairns are found along with stone circles while in Sompura, these are found in association with pit-circles.
These are oval, oblong or rectangular on plan. Cairns vary in height from 30 cm to 70 cm. The northern group is composed of quartz and granite rubbles besides, pebbles. The exact nature is difficult to postulate. Height of cairns of southern group is prominent and traces of capstone at the middle is partially visible probably covering the chamber. Thorough excavation may reveal more information about the nature of these burials and local peculiarities, if any. Further with limited number of burials as well as sites in the region, it is rather difficult to trace any connection between the two groups in the Malnad region.

Extensive cairn stone circles have been reported from North Karnataka region (Sundara, 1975) and a few sites in the Kolar region (Gururaja Rao, 1972). A few cairns occur in the adjacent Coorg district further south of Hassan district. Further, in the absence of localities with extensive sites with cairns in and around the region and the number of cairns found is too small in each site, it is difficult to know their relative affiliation, if any, with those of either North Karnataka or adjacent regions.

c] Pit circles: Pit circles form the third type of burials in the Malnad region. These are distributed in three sites, one in Shimoga district in the Upper Tungabhadra valley and the remaining two are located in the Upper Kaveri valley in the Hassan district.

These pit circles are indicated by a capstone or by a heap at the centre enclosed by stone circles. However, at Kuduvinahasalli and Siddapura, stone circles seem to have been removed. Sompura pits are normally enclosed by single circle. Interestingly, one of the burials with three circles of upright stone slabs is also found. Whether these burials have ramps as noticed at Brahmagiri (Wheeler, 1948) or have dressed granite stone slabs in the pits as in the case of sites in Coorg district and whether these are of the people who have previously in the Neolithic stage as postulated by Sundara with regard to North
Karnataka types is a matter to be examined. Generally in the orthostatic Megaliths, the edges of each orthostat are roughly dressed to get straight edge. In the case of slab cist circles, the slabs of the circle or the top edge are well dressed. Thus, there are two kinds of dressing. Which type of dressing is noticed in the Coorg Megalithic is not clear from the description. A detailed excavation in some of the sites may throw more light on these problems.

It may be mentioned here that the possibility of missing pit circles are more considering the systematic vandalism caused due to heavy agricultural activities in the region. Moreover, the sites noticed are too meagre and no cultural debris is also encountered. Therefore, it could be reasonably surmised that the types noticed in the region are the surviving examples of a popular type and they do not contribute in identifying the influence of neighbouring regions or in identifying the focal and peripheral zones, if any.

d) Stone circles. Extensive sites with Stone circles are found in all the neighbouring districts bordering the region under study. As already mentioned, half a dozen sites of this type are found in the Malnad region proper. Of these, two are in the northern part in Shimoga district and among the remaining four sites, one is in the southern tip of Hassan district along the Upper Kaveri and the other three are in the northern end of the same district. Interestingly, in the intermediary region of Chikmagalur district, this type is reported from Sakrepatna (Seshadri, 1956). However, a re-examination of site did not reveal any evidence due to agricultural activity.

The stone circles in the northern Malnad region are found in clusters in both the sites. Although at Savalanga, the site is totally disturbed due to agricultural activity, the site at Chinmukatte indicates the basic features of this type in the region. Huge boulders have been used for indicating the circle. In one of the circles, a small dressed slab is found erected vertically. The boulder heap at
the centre does not indicate the nature of burial. Similarly, the stone circles in the sites of Hassan district are also found in clusters. A dressed black stone found erected vertically in one of the burials at Shigodu is noteworthy. This feature was noticed by Seshadri (1956) at Pungame. During the re-examination, no such evidence was encountered. At Managondanahalli (Sundara, 1975), erection of menhirs within the stone circles is a common feature. Comparatively, in the menhirs noticed in the Malnad, stone circles are dressed and small in size. On an analogy, it could be surmised that the stone circles having boulder packing at the centre (Shigodu and Chinnukatte), may or may not accommodate a cist while the other type in the northern region of Shimoga district may encircle a pit burial in view of the non-availability of suitable rock material in the vicinity. However, the observation needs to be ascertained by thorough excavations.

As regards the distribution pattern, based on the evidence noticed, tentatively it could be surmised that the sites in the Hassan district may form the peripheral zone towards west having its focal point in the eastern districts bordering Malnad particularly in the Mysore, Bangalore and Kolar region. Similar observation may hold good for the sites in Shimoga district which seem to form the peripheral zone towards south with Belary, Chitradurga forming the focal point in the north.

e) Menhirs: Menhirs are found in the Upper Tungabhadra in Haraganahalli, a border village between Shimoga and Dharwar districts in the north and as far south as at Hosalli in Hassan district in the Upper Kaveri valley. There are in all ten menhir sites scattered all over Malnad region. These are found in clusters as well as solitary ones. Sites of the latter type are more. The former group is well represented at Nilaskal, about 8 km west of Hosanagara town in Shimoga district. Interestingly, the site is situated at the mouth of the Hulikal pass connecting the coastal plains and the upghat region. Occurrence of Neolithic pottery in the site is a noteworthy feature and
in fact, it is the only Neolithic site so far noticed in the Sharavati valley (Sundara, 1975). However, few Mesolithic tools have also been collected recently by me during the re-examination of the site.

Haraganahalli menhirs are of schist while at Kenchapura in Chikmagalur district, sand stone has been used. In the rest of the sites, menhirs are of granite. This clearly exhibits the knowledge of geology of the Megalithic people and their capacity to exploit it.

In most of the sites, menhirs are big to medium in size, rectangular or triangular in shape and normally found leaning slightly towards the east. Solitary menhirs are found provided with quartz and mud packing at the bottom. At Nilaskal, there are more than thirty menhirs of varying dimensions, the largest measuring 4 m in height and 2.8 m in breadth. The menhirs here do not indicate any plan in arrangement.

Halekalgudda in district Hassan and Haraganahalli in district Shimoga are the other two sites where more than two menhirs are found in the Malnad region. In Southern Karnataka, Perisandra (Cole, 1873) and Managondanahalli in Kolar and Bangalore districts respectively are the only sites where menhirs occur, of course, not in large number. Solitary menhir of the Nilaskal type is reported from Perisandra measuring 3.40 m in height and 90 cm in breadth. Managondanahalli menhirs are found in association with port-holed cists. Outside southern Karnataka in the peninsular-gneissic-complex zone of North Karnataka, a few sites with stone alignments and menhirs have been reported (Sundara, 1975). Of these, Hanumasagar is the most extensive site accommodating about 1000 menhirs measuring 1.50 to 2 m in height, all arranged diagonally on plan. Most of these are on bouldary masses. The North Karnataka sites are situated more than 250 Km away from the Southern Karnataka sites and in the intermediary region, such types are not found. Thus, it is clear that the menhirs of northern and southern groups form separate entities with separate traditions.
This is further corroborated by the nature of these types. Excavations of the menhirs in North Karnataka showed their non-burial appendage (Thapar, 1957). None of the menhir sites in the Southern Karnataka has been excavated, hence, nothing could be known about their nature. However, in the section of a pit excavated adjacent to one of the menhirs at Belimallur in the Honnali taluk of Shimoga district in the Upper Tungabhadra valley, few sherds of Megalithic Black and Red ware were collected by me during the exploration. Whether this evidence indicates the sepulchral nature of menhirs of the Southern Karnataka has to be examined by excavation. Sepulchral nature of menhirs in Kerala is already known (Vasudeva Puduval, 1939-40).

From the pattern of distribution of sites, it is evident that the prolific site at Nilaskal situated between the west coast and western ghat in the south-west with large number of menhirs may be considered as the focal point of the site and sites at Haraganahalli in the northern limit and Hosalli in the south-eastern limit of the Malnad region may form the peripheral zone. However, further research in the neighbouring regions particularly in the taluks of Mysore district bordering Kerala may throw more light in identifying possible migration, if any, from that region towards the Malnad on the one hand and the Kolar region on the other.

It is evident from the above observations that Megalithic burials' architecture suggests continuity of the culture in the Malnad region. However, a coherent picture of the personality of the culture could be obtained tentatively through co-ordinating the burials and the pottery collected from the habitation sites particularly in the northern part of the region.

Ever since the excavations at Brahmagiri and Chandravalli (Wheeler, 1948), numerous habitation sites with cultural debris ranging from Neolithic to Early Historical cultures have been excavated in Karnataka. Most of these excavations are again reported from Northern
Karnataka, viz., Sanganakallu (Subba Rao, 1949 and Ansari & Rao, 1969), Maski (Thapar, 1957), Piklihal (Allchin, 1960), Tekkalakota (Rao, 1965) and Hallur (Rao, 1971). These excavations have provided meaningful pictures of the Neolithic and Megalithic cultures and their chronological position in that region. Comparatively in Southern Karnataka, only three sites have been excavated so far, namely, T. Narasipur (Seshadri, 1974), Hemmige (Hanumantha Rao & Nagraju, 1975), both located in the Upper Kaveri valley in the T. Narasipur taluk of Mysore district. After a gap of nearly 17 years, Archaeological Survey of India excavated an extensive site at Banahalli in Malur taluk of Kolar district from 1982-83 onwards for a few seasons. In fact, Banahalli excavation has added some new information particularly with regard to the pattern of settlement of the Megalithic people and their iron technology.

Except for references to couple of sites yielding Megalithic Black and Red ware, nothing much is known about the nature of Megalithic habitations in the Malnad region. Besides, Megalithic habitation sites are conspicuously absent in the Upper Kaveri valley in the south and in the central Malnad region. Comparatively, in the northern part of Malnad, numerous habitation sites with cultural debris represented by ceramics ranging from Neolithic, Megalithic to Early Historical period have been noticed in the Upper Tungabhadra, further south of Hallur. Interestingly, a few habitation sites with Megalithic pottery are also noticed in the Lower Tunga valley.

To obtain a clear picture of these habitation sites with Megalithic cultural materials found in the exploration in the northern Malnad and to ascertain its chronological position, it is necessary to glance through the results of the excavations of habitation sites in the neighbouring districts of Mysore and Kolar in Southern Karnataka. Excavations at Hallur in the adjacent district of Dharwar may also be added to the list as the site is located only 2 Km away towards north...
of one of the habitation sites noticed in the Upper Tungabhadra valley of Malnad and it would also help in comparing the Megalithic pottery retrieved during the explorations and to know their chronological position.

As already known, these sites are very rich and the emphasis was mainly to understand the various aspects of the Neolithic culture and the study of Megalithic cultural levels seem to be just identical. Since Neolithic features reported in these sites are not relevant for our discussion at this stage, the review of these sites is restricted to the Megalithic level proper.

Hallur, district Dharwar: Excavations of the habitation mound (Nagaraja Rao, 1971) situated on the left bank of the river Tungabhadra brought to light four cultural sequences, namely, the Early Neolithic, the Neolithic-Chalcolithic, the overlap of Neolithic-Chalcolithic and the Early Iron Age—all classified under two periods. Period I is further divided into two phases representing Neolithic and Chalcolithic cultural assemblage.

The Period II here is characterised by the overlap of Neolithic-Chalcolithic and Iron Age assemblages. The excavator mentions that features of the phase II of Period I continues in this level except the blade industry. The occurrence of Black and Red ware, All Black ware both having white paintings identified as of Iron Age Megalithic ware by the excavator in Period II does not appear to be correct for, it is already discussed in the previous chapter about the Chalcolithic appendage of the White painted Black and Red ware pottery. The Black and Red ware of both Megalithic and Non-Megalithic cultures seem to have been combined making it rather difficult to ascertain the intrusion of Iron Age ceramics. Large scale horizontal excavation and a careful analysis of Black and Red ware would help in re-assessing the chronological position of cultures in this site. The other ceramics of Megalithic culture viz., Slipped ware, has also been reported.
The Black and Red ware found here are similar to the ware found at Brahmagiri, Sanganakallu and Maski. Having thin section, it is made on good paste with polished and burnished surface. Shapes reported include bowls of varying size besides conical bowl and lid. The All Black ware also represents same fabric and shapes as Black and Red ware. Red ware of medium fabric has thin slip and slightly polished surface. Shapes include jar, platter, globular vessel and dishes. The finished iron implements found here include spear heads, knife blades, points and arrow-heads. Megalithic burials such as cairns, dolmenoid cists of the Kaladgi type have been located at 2 Km west of the site on the slopes of a hillock. On the basis of C-14 dates available for various levels, Period II has been dated to circa 1100 B.C. to 800 B.C.

T. Narasipur, District Mysore: Excavations at T. Narasipur located on the left bank of the Upper Kaveri in the T. Narasipur taluk of Mysore district revealed four periods (Seshadri, 1971), the last one being Early Historical. Period I and II represent Neolithic and the transitional stage from Neolithic to Chalcolithic respectively. Period III represented by layer 3 of the site is characterised by three typical Megalithic ceramic, viz., Black and Red ware, Black Polished ware (All Black ware), the Red polished ware and the ill fired Red ware. The last one seems to be a local feature. Black and Red ware has highly burnished and polished surface. It is wheel thrown and made of well lavigated clay found mixed with small percentage of sand and quartz probably used as tempering material. Mostly, plain but decorations with grooves, incised strokes, finger tip and nail impressions also occur. The shapes include bowls of varying size, dishes and jars. Black polished ware is identical to Black and Red ware in fabric and shapes. Red ware also has polished exterior surface. It is well fired and made on slightly inferior lavigated clay. Shapes include globular pots, jar, bowls, etc. Coarse Red ware is devoid of polished, slip and ill fired, probably used for rough work. Fragment of thin knife blade, dagger, dagger head, nail and a
fragment of wire are the only iron objects retrieved from the Megalithic level. Glass bangles, beads of semi-precious stones and terracottas are the other cultural material encountered in the site. On the basis of C-14 dated of various levels and comparing them with the internal and corroborative evidence from other similar sites, the excavator is inclined to date the beginning and end of Megalithic culture here to 1000 B.C. to 1st century B.C. respectively.

Hemmige, District Mysore: Located in the Upper Kaveri valley, Hemmige is another habitation site excavated in the Mysore district (Hanumantha Rao and Nagaraju, 1974). Excavators have identified three-fold cultural sequences starting from Neolithic, Neolithic-Chalcolithic and the Early Historical. No concrete evidence of Megalithic culture has been found in this site except a few Black and Red ware sherds in one of the trenches in Area 'B' on the Adiyantittu islands. Megalithic Black and Red ware is reported to have occurred on the surface just above the Neolithic-Chalcolithic deposits indicating the continuous occupation. However, the evidence is too meagre to assess the nature of Megalithic culture in the site.

Banahalli, Malur Taluk, District Kolar: This is the latest among the habitation sites excavated in Southern Karnataka. Excavations started in 1983 (IAR, 1983-84) continued for three seasons, revealing four periods, the upper-most being Early Historical. Period I is divided into two phases characterised by Neolithic and Neolithic-Chalcolithic assemblages. Period II is reported to be characterised by Chalcolithic-Megalithic overlap. Extended inhumation burials within the habitation appended with rubble stone cover has been postulated as one of the influences of Megalithic trait on the Chalcolithic culture. Other Megalithic cultural material encountered in this level include Black and Red ware and four iron objects comprising arrow head, nail, spear head and a shapeless object. Neolithic character of the site definitely continues in this level also, hence, it would be appropriate to designate this level as Neolithic-Chalcolithic probably overlapping with the Megalithic.
Period III essentially represents Megalithic culture. A series of iron smelting furnaces exposed during the excavation seem to be the only evidence so far encountered in the Megalithic levels in any of the excavations of habitation sites conducted so far, in South India. Native production of iron objects comprising arrow heads, blades of dagger, nails, hooks can not be ruled out. Varieties of beads made on different materials have also been reported. Pottery of the period includes Black and Red ware and All Black ware. Settlement pattern is almost similar to earlier levels with circular plan and post-holes. Earmarking of a small area within these houses for iron working is a noteworthy feature.

Thus, the excavations clearly indicate overlapping stages from Neolithic to Chalcolithic and from Chalcolithic to Megalithic, etc. The overlapping phase of Chalcolithic to Megalithic at Banahalli needs to be probed further to understand whether similar transition took place in the adjacent Andhra sites as well as to find out whether this is a regional feature. However, it is a known fact that Deccan Chalcolithic (Deo, 1985) is succeeded by the Megalithic particularly in the Vidarbha region of Maharashtra. In the absence of C-14 dates on analogy, Banahalli cultural sequence could be tentatively compared with dated stratigraphy of Hallur.

The above review indicates that the Megalithic culture in the Southern Karnataka by and large intrudes into the Neolithic-Chalcolithic stage. However, the dates of intrusion may vary from site to site. In the light of these evidences, it is necessary to analyse the Megalithic pottery retrieved from the surface of various habitation sites noticed in the Upper Tungabhadra and the Lower Tunga valleys in the Northern Malnad region.

In about a dozen habitation sites located in the 60 Km stretch of the Upper Tungabhadra between Konantale and Kudli in district Shimoga, Megalithic pottery has been retrieved from the surface. Similar...
evidence is encountered in the Lower Tunga valley between Shimoga and
Kudli also in Shimoga district. Habitation sites located in the Upper
Tungabhadra valley include Haraganahalli, Belinmallur, Didaguru,
Sasivehalli, Nagasamudra, Nimbegondi, Halelingapura, Hosalli,
Benakanahalli, Anaveri, Hadonahalli and Holehanasavadi. Pilangere and
Abbaragatte are other habitation sites noticed in the Lower Tunga. In
most of these sites, Megalithic Black and Red ware and All Black ware
were found in considerable number while the Red ware assemblage
encountered is very limited in number. Occurrence of Neolithic pottery
in these sites is a noteworthy feature. The Chalcolithic Black and Red
ware with white paintings also occur in a few sites along with
Neolithic and Megalithic pottery. Chronological position of the
Neolithic and Chalcolithic pottery has already been discussed in the
relevant chapter.

It is too well known that the Black and Red ware is the most
common fabric of Megalithic pottery. The other two being All Black
ware and Red ware. All the three fabrics have been reported from
hundreds of sites scattered all over Karnataka. Megalithic pottery
retrieved from the habitation sites in the Upper Tungabhadra and the
Lower Tunga valleys of Malañad region is no different from similar wares
reported from other sites, as for example, from the excavated sites at
Brahmagiri (Wheeler, 1948), Sanganakallu (Ansari-Rao, 1969) and Hallur
(Nagaraja Rao, 1971).

The Malnad Iron Age Black and Red ware is wheel thrown, has medium
to thin section. The clay used seem to be lavigated but slightly
inferior. Sand particles noticed in a few sherds may have been used
for tempering. The interior surface is black and have dull reddish-
pink surface on the exterior. Both the surfaces are polished while in
a few, dull surface is noticed; mostly the pottery is plain without any
applied decorations. A lone sherd found at Belinmallur has a
'graffitti'. However, this does not seem to be a common feature. The
common vessel types include bowls, dishes and vases of varying shapes.
The technology adopted to produce thin fabric, viz., 'inverted firing' and 'double firing' method is much debated one (Singh, 1982). Megalithic ceramics of Malnad do not exhibit any regional features warranting special study. Therefore, it appears that the firing techniques used seem to be universal in nature.

All Black ware of Malnad is similar to the fabrics reported from the neighbouring regions. It is made of well lavigated clay, wheel thrown and has medium section. Both interior and exterior surfaces are polished. Few have coarse surface with striations. One sherd of same fabric but Grey ware found at Abbaragatte apparently similar to some extent the plain painted Grey ware of North Indian sites is noteworthy. The vessels are of medium to small size, shallow dishes, platters and bowls are in the ware. The Red ware group is characterised by few sherds of both big and small vessels. These have coarse thick to medium sections. Surface is rough. Vessel types include jar, bowls, etc.

**Chronological position of Black and Red ware in Malnad:** The trial digging at Benakanahalli in the Honnali taluk has been very useful for Megalithic Black and Red ware sherds found in layer 1 of Pit 1A indicate the arrival of Iron Age people at a later stage in Malnad. Further, this trial excavation has also substantiated the evidence reported from the adjacent Hallur region. Sundara while commenting on Hallur Black and Red ware from the Iron Age, remarks "The Black and Red ware pottery of the region occasionally painted in dull white glue like paste on the exterior as well as in the interior". He also opines "this tradition is derived from the Chalcolithic culture as apparent from the evidences of North Karnataka". Obviously, he is referring to the Chalcolithic White painted Black and Red ware reported from Krishna and Bhima valleys. Mixed nature of Black and Red wares of Non-Megalithic and Megalithic traditions in the site seem to have prompted Sundara to pass these remarks. As already mentioned, reassessment of the Black and Red...
ware group at Hallur may throw fresh light on this problem. Selected types of Megalithic pottery is described separately.

Chronology: The problem of chronology of the South Indian Megalithic culture has been a matter of controversy over a century or more. Dates postulated for this culture by various authors ranged from 10th century A.D. to 1500 B.C. or more (Ramachandran, 1971). However, since the excavations at Brahmagiri (Wheeler, 1948), some order has been brought in this study. The recent excavations and field studies of various sites scattered all over Karnataka have enabled to date the culture more reasonably (Sundara, 1975). Accordingly, the Megalithic culture in Northern Karnataka has been dated to 1200 B.C. to 700 B.C. (Sundara, 1975). Now recently, the excavations of Megalithic burials at Tadakanahalli (Nagaraja Rao, 1981) and at Komaranahalli (Sundara, 1990) have been useful in dating the culture more accurately. In both these sites, the White painted Black and Red ware occurs along with Iron Age Black and Red ware. The Iron Age level of Hallur II period yielding the above wares has been dated to 1100 B.C. - 800 B.C. The Komaranahalli Megalithic pottery is dated by Thermoluminescence method to 1200-1000 B.C. Tadakanahalli Megalithic burials have been dated to 1000 B.C. since the characteristics of pottery there, are analogous to Hallur pottery (Nagaraja Rao, 1981). Now, in the sites under study, White painted Black and Red ware and Megalithic Black and Red ware types and fabric are exactly similar to Hallur and those from Tadakanahalli and Komaranahalli excavated Megaliths. As already discussed above, White painted Black and Red ware occurs along with the Neolithic pottery at an earlier level in Malnad at Benakanahalli than at Hallur. Therefore, it appears that the White painted Black and Red ware has a fairly early beginning in the northern Malnad region and continues along with the Iron Age Megalithic pottery in the Upper and Lower Tungabhadra region. This is clearly attested by the excavations at Hallur, Tadakanahalli and Komaranahalli. In view of the above factors, therefore, at least the Megalithic cultural levels of the
habitation sites in the Upper Tungabhadra and the Lower Tunga may be dated to 1000 - 800 B.C. if not earlier. However, this suggestion has to be corroborated by systematic large scale excavations and more exact observations of the stratigraphic context of the Megalithic pottery.

Regarding the Megalithic burial sites in the Hemavati and Kaveri valleys in the southern Malnad, no materials from the sites studied are found that may be compared with those from T. Narasipur and Koppa excavations. Even the limited number of types of Megalithic burials would not help much for relative dating. However, the port-holed chamber types of Kaduvinahosalli, Beluvinakudige and Arehalli in the Malnad falling in the peripheral zone of Coorg port-holed chambers have been classified under Rajankolur type by Sundara (1975). He opines that the Rajankolur type found in Western Ghat - coastal area represents the middle phase or transitional stage developing from the preceding Konur-Kaladgi types and is inclined to date them between 800 to 600 B.C. For the present, one can not but agree with his observations and the Malnad port-holed chamber type may also be bracketed between 800 - 600 B.C. However, excavations of these types in the region may throw more light on this problem. Similarly, the multiple circle pit burials from Sompura reminds architecturally and partially similar to multiple cist burial No. 5 at Brahmagiri (Wheeler, 1948) and No. 4 from Savanadurga (Branfill, 1881). Now, Brahmagiri Megalithic burials are reasonably dated to 800 - 100 B.C. (Sundara, 1975). Further, the beginning of the Megalithic culture at T. Narasipur in the adjacent region is dated to 900 B.C. and the end of the culture is dated on solid grounds to 1st century A.D. (Seshadri, 1971). Keeping in view of the proximity of T.Narasipur with the Upper Kaveri and the Hemavati valleys on the one hand and the architectural similarity in the Megalithic types from Sompura, Brahmagiri and Savanadurga on the other suggests a date between 800 - 200 B.C., if not earlier. However, this needs verification through further excavation and explorations. Anyway, in all probability, the beginning of the
Megalithic culture of the southern part of the region under study is later than that in the northern part.

Further, it should be noted that from the present state of preservation of the Megaliths in the thick forest, their occurrence in small number and consequently the non-visibility of all architectural and other features, as well as the remains of burial furniture, it is difficult to ascertain the relative position of the burials both in architecture and contents, hence the dating of the Megaliths at the moment can not be based on the necessary material from the region and inevitably has to be in relation to the Megaliths of the surrounding regions.
MEGALITHIC BLACK AND RED WARE (Surface collection)

1. Nimbegondi No. 5: Fragment of a featureless edge of a dish having straight sides and indistinct carination near the base, with presumably flat base. Black coarse core and medium section. Black polished surface both internally and externally.

2. Anavari No. 2: Fragment of a featureless, slightly incurved rim of a bowl presumably having round bottom; of coarse blackish core and medium section. Brownish red external surface and black interior surface slightly polished.

3. Hosahalli No. 3: Internally thickened and rounded rim of a bowl having convex body and presumably with flat base, of brown coarse core and medium section. Brownish red exterior and black interior highly polished. Groove along the edge internally.

4. Haraganahalli No. 1: Internally curved, thickened edge of a dish having convex sides and presumably terminating with a round bottom. Section 'C' thins towards the base. Coarse smoky grey core. Deep groove along the edge internally. Black interior and edge as well as brownish red exterior highly polished.

5. Sasivehalli No. 1: Internally thickened and bevelled rim of a bowl having two grooves below the edge externally and a thin groove along the edge internally. Patch of brownish red surface and black interior surface with both highly polished. Medium section and coarse core.

6. Belimalkur No. 24: Variant of 5 but with single deep groove along the edge on the exterior. A thin groove along the edge on the interior. Black surface polished from both the sides. Medium section and coarse core.
7. Holehanasavadi No. 2: Alightly outcurved featureless rim sherd of a bowl; of coarse core and medium section. Black interior and exterior surface polished. Slightly convex body presumably with round bottom.


10. Benakanahalli No. 16: Featureless edge of a vase with slight concave sides and presumably with bulging body. Coarse black core and medium section. Patch of brownish red exterior surface and black interior surface as well as edge is polished.

11. Belimallur No. 14: Varient of 10; but with highly polished brownish red exterior edge and patch of black interior. Graffiti on the exterior has three strokes converging at one point. The motif is comparable to No. 78 of plate no. 59 from T. Narasipur. Coarse core and medium section.

MEGALITHIC ALL BLACK WARE (Surface collection)

12. Abbaragatte No. 3: Featureless edge of a bowl with almost straight sides and having indistinct concave interior; presumably round bottomed. Coarse black core and medium section. Black surface polished from both the sides.
13. Abbaragatte No. 2: Variant of 12; but with slightly thickened edge of a bowl with straight sides and a deep groove along the edge on the exterior. Both surfaces slightly polished. Coarse black core and medium section.

14. Nagasamudra No. 1: Slight out turned thickened edge of a globular pot having slopy shoulders; of coarse core and medium section. Thin groove along the edge both on the interior and exterior. Polished surface.

15. Haraganahalli No. 10: Base fragment presumably of a globular vessel; of coarse blackish grey core and medium section. The disc as well as flaring body polished from both the sides.


MEGALITHIC GREY AND RED WARE (Surface collection)


18. Halelingapura No. 10: Nail headed, thickened edge of a vase having concave sides; of coarse red core and medium section. Pinkish red slip; polished both internally and externally. Deep groove below the edge on the interior.

19. Holebenavalli No. 2: Featureless edge of a bowl having almost straight sides; of coarse brown core and medium section. Thin red slip on the surface. Presumably with roundish bottom.

... 653
Index

a) Black and red ware  Sl. No. 1 - 11
b) All Black ware  Sl. No. 12 - 16
c) Grey and Red ware  Sl. No. 17 - 19.

Scale

Sl. Nos., 1, 5, 12, 13, 17 & 19 are drawn to 1:2
Sl. Nos., 3, 4, 6, 9 & 14 are drawn to 1:3/5
Sl. No., 2 is drawn to 1:3/4
Sl. No., 7 is drawn to 1:4/5
Al. Noa., 8, 10, 11, 15, 16 & 18 are drawn to 1:1
MEGALITHIC POTTERY
BLACK AND RED WARE

1

2

3

4

5

6