CHAPTER II

MIDDLE PALAEOLITHIC CULTURE

Environment

As detailed in Chapter I, Part I, the Middle Palaeolithic tools, waste flakes, etc., are scattered in the open fields on the banks of the river Manjra and its tributaries. The land of the localities is either black cotton soil or reddish brown soil. As mentioned by H.D. Sankalia (1974: p.147) regarding the period here also the nature of the tools such as scraper of different kinds, points, borers and awls indicates that the region of Biyar was perhaps open woodland with thick forests during the Middle Palaeolithic time. Some remains such as fauna in the Manjra valley of the neighbouring region and a Middle Palaeolithic site near Dangem in the region have been unearthed (Badam, C.S.; 1979: pp. 197-206). Some fossils of hydrophytes etc., found in the region is already referred to in the above Chapter at the appropriate place. The rock material which was necessary for producing the tools is available in different areas.
of the region in the form of silicious rock boulders as well as nodules. Sites with field boulders are locally called "Gāruguṭi hola". Gāruguṭi is a local Kannaṭa term for flint stone.

**Rock Material**

The flake tools are medium to small in size. The rock material for producing the flake tools is rather coarse grained material like cryptocrystalline silica or rocks with conchoidal fracture of varied hues such as white, greenish, yellowish, dark brown. The tools are made mostly on coarse cherty jasper, flint, etc.

Besides, field boulders exposed at Nekulgi, Ambasangvi, Bonagūpur, Mungnāl, Jamālpur, Handikere, etc., are of coarse cherty jasper and its varieties. But the rock material of Ambasangvi is of greenish chert.

**Density**

There are twelve factory sites of the Middle Palaeolithic culture. The distribution of the tools of the Middle Palaeolithic sites are shown in table No.1. The factory sites at Nekulgi, Khiri-Muhijol, Markuni are
located nearer to one another on the southern part of
Bidar region (i.e., eastern and western part of the Zaranja
valley) with a radius of about 8 km from the factory site
of Rekulgi. The site Ambesangvi appears to be a factory
site and is located about 20 km north-west of the above
mentioned sites. Similarly the factory site Bopagpur is
located about 15 km north of Ambesangvi.

Several flake tools, stone fragments, etc., have
been collected in and around the basins at the confluence
of the rivers the Manjra and the Zaranja near Naraja-
Sangar, north of Bopagpur. Besides in the northern
region i.e., northern part of the river Manjra in the
region, similar factory sites are found at Jamalpur,
Belkoni, Handikere, Mungnel, Tamarapalli, Taipalli. And
a few of the flakes among the collection from these sites
have slight retouch marks. But in the factory site at
Tamarapalli are found Middle Palaeolithic and Mesolithic
tools in equal proportion.

In almost all these factory sites the flake tools
are few in number but waste flakes occur more. Therefore,
the scraper-points, etc., collected from the different
localities indicate that they are factory sites. Points
and borers are few. And occurrence of flake tools in
small number in and around the other ancient habitation sites ranging from neolithic to early historic periods indicate the movements of the Middle Palaeolithic people in the region. The distribution of the tools collected from different sites are given in table No. 2.

**Tool Types and Their Characterization (Plate No. 1 and Fig. No. II, H1a, H1b).**

Among the collections there are varied type of scrapers such as side, thumb, end, rectangular, triangular, hollow and hollow-cum-end scrapers, borer-cum-hollow scrapers, points, awls and tortoise shape of flakes. The select tool types and their characteristics are described below.

A. **Side Scrapers**

1. From Sefkulgi: An elongated thick flake. Has prominent bulb of percussion on the ventral side and on one of the margins are scattered chipping marks, lime encrustation on the dorsal surface. Jasper.

2. From Hajjargit: A fine bluish flake. Has a prominent bulb of percussion on the ventral surface, and
a few scattered secondary retouch marks on both margins and a prominent ridge at the centre on the dorsal surface. The distal end is broken. Jasper. (Fig.IIa No.5).

5. From Mungnalk: A short bluish flake. A prominent bulb of percussion on the ventral surface, has been nipped indicated by scar mark. It has a prominent ridrib roughly at the centre and sloping sides on the dorsal like the above specimen (No. 2). Retouch made at one side on the ventral and on the dorsal sides and are one or two chipped marks. It may be bifacial tool. Chert.

4. From Yangunda: Roughly triangular scraper. The bulb of percussion on the ventral surface with flake scar is nipped. Has retouch marks at the sides on the ventral surface on all the margins. Prominent ridge near to one margin. Green Jasper. (Fig.II, No. 4) comparable to Salvadgi Pl.VI, No. 8 (Seshadri, M.; 1961).

3. From Belkoni: A small fine flake tool. Has deep vertical secondary retouch marks on one margin and a small hollow percussion on the other, a midrib on the dorsal. Agate. (Fig.IIb No. 20).
6. From Raipalli: A thick bladish flake. Has plain flat surface; deep vertical chippings, on one margin and irregular chippings on the other. Made on flat nodule. Chalcedony. (Fig. IIa No. 11).

7. From Jamolpur: An elongated bladish flake. Has prominent bulb of percussion nipped on the ventral surface and thick ridge cut away near the distal end. Irregular retouch on one margin and a small hollow on the other. Jasper. (Fig. IIa No. 6). Analogous to Salvadgi (VI, VI, No. 3).

8. Rectangular Scrapers

8. From Markunda: Rectangular scraper. Has positive bulb of percussion on the ventral side. On the dorsal side, at the edge of the platform it is chipped resulting in the appearance of the central part prominently. Superficially it may be mistaken for the bulb of percussion. The sides and distal end crudely chipped. Coated reddish stain. Jasper.
9. From Hijjargi: Roughly quadrilateral scraper. Has a bulb of percussion on the ventral side and rough chipping marks on the sides. Has shallow percussions on the dorsal surface. Coated reddish stain. Chert. Comparable to Solvadi (Fig. 2, No.6).

10. From Vemnapalli: Roughly quadrilateral scraper. Has bulb of percussion on the ventral surface and secondary retouch marks on the one edge. A part of the distal end broken. Jasper. Analogous to Solvadi (Fig. 2, No.6).

11. From Haraia-Sangal: Roughly rectangular. Has a bulb of percussion on ventral surface and secondary retouch marks at both the side edges. Chert.

12. From Markunda: An elongated thick flake tool. Has bulb of percussion with flake scar on the ventral surface and irregular chipped marks at the sides, large shallow percussions on the dorsal surface. Jasper.

13. From Markunda: A thick implement. The bulb of percussion on the ventral surface is flaked off. Has
shallow slightly larger percussion on one edge from the dorsal and irregular chipped marks near distal end on the other margin. Has exceedingly shining glossy surface. Jasper. Comparable to Salwağı (Fig. 3, No. 5).

14. From Hajiargi: A small thin artefact with the ridge flaked off on the dorsal. Has bulb of percussion on the ventral surface and fine retouch marks on the margins. Carnelian. Comparable to Salwağı (Pl.VI, No.1).

15. From Yengunsa: A triangular flake tool broken across near the bulbar end accounting for the missing of the bulb of percussion. Has notch like retouch marks on one margin and traces of secondary retouch marks on the other. There are two ridges on the dorsal surface. Therefore, it may be bifacial tool. Chert. Analogous to Salwağı (Fig. 3, No. 1).

B. Hollow Scrapers

16. From Chintéki: A fine irregular elongated bledish flake. Has secondary deep vertical retouch marks on one margin and also on the distal near hollow percussion on the other margin and ridge on the dorsal surface. It may be hollow-cum-end scraper. Chert. (Fig.IIa No. 7).

17. From Markunda: Roughly curved flake. Has flake scar mark on ventral surface and is beaked out side near the distal end, traces of retouch marks at the margins. Has exceedingly shining glossy surface. Jasper. (Fig.IIa No. 9).

17 a. From Jemalpu: A rectangular scraper. Has bulb of percussion on the ventral surface and traces of secondary retouch marks on the other margin and also at the distal end, and hollow percussion on the dorsal surface. Hollow-cum-end scraper. Cortex retained partially. Cherty Jasper. (Fig.IIb No. 14).

17 b. From Tuljapur: A thick elongated triangular scraper-cum-point. Has bulb of percussion with flake scar on the ventral surface with chippings vertically at the sides and deep notch from the ventral resulting in hollow distal end.
Cortex retained partially on the dorsal. Yellow Jasper.

8. **Borer-out-Hollow Scrapers**

18. From Markunda: An elongated artefact. Has irregular secondary retouch marks at the sides, hollow percussion on one margin. The point has been produced by deep chipping on one margin. Has exceedingly shining, glossy surface. Yellow Jasper. (Fig. II, No. 3). Comparable to Salvadgi (Fig. 4, No. 5).

7. **Points**

19. From Aurâsi: An elongated thick roughly triangular point-out-scaper. Has prominent bulb of percussion with flake near on the ventral surface and deep notches confined to one margin, and slight retouch at the side including pointed distal end which is neatly fashioned. With shallow percussions on the dorsal surface. Cortex retained partially. Agate. (Fig. IIIa No. 8).

20. From Namarpalli: A triangular point-out-scaper. Has bulb of percussion on the ventral surface is absent because of breakage. Has prominent ridge on dorsal surface and deep notches on both margins especially near
the pointed end on the dorsal side, shallow percussion on the ventral surface, cortex retained partially. Daniel jasper. (Fig.IIa No. 12).

21. From Vengania: An elongated thick bluish flake. Has prominent bulb of percussion with flake scar on the ventral, a ridge at the centre and traces of deep secondary retouch marks on one margin and crude chippings on the other. At the distal end deep vertical chippings on one side and shallow marks on the other has resulted in producing a short point. Green Jasper. (Fig.II, No. 2).

22. From Narasara-Pangam: An awl. Has bulb of percussion on the ventral surface and deep notches and retouch marks within the notches on the margin resulting in production of a strong point. A prominent ridge near the other margin on the dorsal. Chert. (Fig.IIa No. 10).

23. From Selkopi: An elongated leaflet like awl. Has rounded low ridge on the ventral surface; traces of deep secondary retouch marks on one margin and chippings on the other. At the distal end, deep vertical chippings on one side and notches on the other has resulted in producing a point. Bonded Jasper. (Fig.IIb No. 13).
24. From Mandapur: An awl. Has bulb of percussion has been completely flaked off on the ventral surface and deep notches and retouch marks within the notches on the margin resulting in production of a strong point. Variegated Jasper. (Fig. IIb No. 15). Analogous to Salvadgi (Fig. 5, No. 5).

25. From Tekulgi: Roughly rectangular awl. Has retouch marks within the notches vertically at one margin from the ventral and irregular retouch marks obliquely from dorsal side at the distal, also at the other margin; prominent midrib on the dorsal. Green Chalcedony. (Fig. IIb No. 19).

3. Thumb Scrapers

26. From Narada-Sanga: A flake with bulb of percussion with flake scar on the ventral surface, secondary retouch marks on both the margins and the distal end; a ridge close to margin on the dorsal. Chert. (Fig. IIb No. 17).

27. From Tuljapur: A thumb-shaped scraper. Has chipped marks on both the margins and the distal end. Has distinct platform and flaked surface on the dorsal surface. Chert. Comparable to Salvadgi (Fig. 7, No. 5).
26. From Narada-Sangam: A thumb shaped scraper. Has bulb of percussion and ripple marks on the ventral surface and traces of chippings around the periphery. Green Chalcedony. (Fig. 11b No. 18). Analogous to Salvadgi (Fig. 7, No. 5).

I. Red Scrapers

28. From Vegampuri: Roughly rectangular scraper. Has chipped vertically along the margins and slightly at the distal end; irregular deep percussions in front of prominent ridge on the dorsal surface. Chert. (Fig. 11b No. 16). Comparable to Salvadgi (Fig. 5, No. 6).

30. From Wanmarpalli: Roughly semi-circular end-scraper. Has deep notches along one margin made from ventral surface and from dorsal surface along the other. It may be bifacial tool. Has depression with an indistinct midrib at the centre on the dorsal surface. Coated with reddish stain on both surfaces. Jasper. Analogous to Salvadgi (Fig. 7, No. 1).

31. From Mandsapuri: A semi-circular end-scraper. Has traces of deep notches at the periphery of the semi-circular margin, notches made along the margin from
dorsal surface, Jasper. Analogous to Salvadgi
(Fig. 7, No. 1).

32. From Mungnál: An oval shaped end-scraper. Has
bulb of percussion on the ventral, deep notches mostly
from ventral. Chert.

J. Cores

33. From Shamballi: A tortoise shape irregular thick
flake. Has fine elongated fluting marks meeting at one
point on the dorsal surface and one or two rather deep
percussion on the ventral side. Cortex retained partially.
Chert. (Fig. II, No. 1).

34. From Toljápur: A roundish core. Has shallow
flake score meeting at the central point on the ventral
surface, the dorsal surface without flaking. Cortex
retained partially. Coated with lime encrustation (?)
Chert.

Technique

In the collections the artefacts on flakes
exclusively made on the locally available chert and
jasper etc. Usually the platforms are plain sometimes
oblique and rarely showing multiple faceting. The striking platforms are plain in majority among the finished tools, but irregular striking platform is dominant in the collections especially in the unfinished tools. The bulb of percussion on the ventral surface is prominent in many cases. The secondary retouch marks are usually from one edge of the dorsal surface and often from both surfaces. In the collections two are tortoise flakes; the scar-marks meeting at one end on the dorsal surface. All these indicate that the artefacts are produced by utilising levantine technique, as noticed elsewhere an example from Salvadi (Seshadri, R.; 1951: p. 2) and others.

And the assemblage of the scrapers of varied types; borers, points etc., in the collections from the different localities either in stray or in the factory sites on comparative basis (type-technologically) clearly are of Middle Palaeolithic period.

General Observations

In the collections most of the flakes are amorphous in form. They are coarse and have cortex retained partially. The flake tools may be distinguished into
two sizes i.e., medium and small.

The flakes, etc., collected from Rekulgi, Markunda (of southern area) have coating of red stain and are exceedingly shining glossy surface. Besides, a few of them are encrusted with lime.

The collections of flake tools typologically includes finished and unfinished tools. The finished tools are of varieties of scraper, point, awl, borer, etc. Some of the flake tools are comparable to those found in Salvadgi, Bijapur district.

Most of the artefacts are in fresh condition. And a few of them are coated with reddish staining for the artefacts of the laterite zone.

The majority of the scrapers of the region measure in length between 3 to 6 cm. Chert, Jasper and its variety are the chief rock material and the other materials are on agate, flint, carnelian, chalcedony.

The flake tools having the secondary retouch are made on both categories such as finished and other categories. The finished flake tools are scrapers of
varied types, borers, awl and point etc. Some have indications of their being used again with further retouch. There are also a few simple bladish flakes in the collections. The retouch marks made from both surfaces i.e., of bifacial tool. A few of them have the retouch marks within the deep notches. The retouch marks are usually made from dorsal surface. Besides there are simple flakes, irregular flakes and chips (which are the resultant of workmanship).
### Table No. 1: The Distribution of Middle Palaeolithic Tools in the Factory Sites of the Manjra and the Karena Valleys in Sidar District.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No.</th>
<th>Name of locality</th>
<th>Side scrapers</th>
<th>Rectangular scrapers</th>
<th>Triangular scrapers</th>
<th>Hollow scrapers</th>
<th>Awl</th>
<th>Point</th>
<th>Borer</th>
<th>Reject ed</th>
<th>Remarks</th>
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<td>2</td>
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<td>2</td>
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<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
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<td>20</td>
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<td>3.</td>
<td>Khini-Raújoi</td>
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<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
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<td>30</td>
<td>Ancient habitation site located near the site.</td>
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<td>4.</td>
<td>Anahangwai</td>
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<td>5.</td>
<td>Dongarpur</td>
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<td>90</td>
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<td>6.</td>
<td>Narada-Sangam</td>
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<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>Ancient habitation site located near the site.</td>
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Table 1. Measurements of collected from current information cycle

- **Seed**: biblical procedure
- **System**: documentation to
- **Commen**: from
- **With**: information
- **Due**: of the cycle and size yellow feet - fifteen points - check -
Fig. No. II: Nos. 1, Tortoise Flake (Shemballi); 2, Awl (Yengunda); 3, Borer-cum-hollow scraper (Markunda); 4, Triangular scraper (Yengunda).
Fig. No. III: Nos. 5, 6 & 11, Side-scrapers (Hajjargi, Jamalpur & Harpal); 7 & 9, Hollow scrapers (Chintaki & Marcunda); 8 & 12, Points (Aurad & Wanzarpancl); 10, Awl (Narada-Sanga).
Fig. No. IIb: Nos. 13, 15 & 19, Awls (Belkoni, Mamdapur & Rékulgi); 14, Hollow-scraper (Jamalpur); 16, End-scraper (Tegapur); 17 & 18, Thumb-scrapers (Narada-Sangam); 20, Side-scraper (Belkoni).