Chapter- IV

PALEOLITHIC- MESOLITHIC CULTURE

Pre-History deals with a period when writing was unknown amongst the people. In other words, people were illiterate. They did not know how to write and how to read. A few Paleolithic, Mesolithic sites, and Neolithic-Chalcolithic sites, Iron-age Megalithic sites, were noticed by Robert Bruce Foote, H D Sankalia (IAR 1955-65; 55), R S Pappu (IAR 1964-65;55-57), Dr A Sundara and Archaeological Survey of India, Bangalore Circle.

Archaeological explorations conducted in several parts of India and outside have shown the existence of pre-historic sites, mostly in and around the river valleys or near the valleys. Robert Bruce Foote laid the foundation of pre-historic studies in India. He picked up the first Paleolith at Pallavaram near Madras in 1863. It shows the earliest cultural phase i.e. early Paleolithic culture. The succeeding cultural phase Middle Paleolithic was first noticed by H.D.Sankalia at Nevasa, situated on the pravara basin in Ahmednagar district of Maharashtra state. The next cultural phase i.e. Upper Paleolithic was first noticed by M.L.K.Murthy at Renigunta situated on the bank of Rallakalava river a major tributaries of the Swarnamukhi in Chittoor district of Andhra Pradesh.

Later the next cultural phase i.e. Mesolithic was noticed by H.D.Sankalia at Bangaltota situated on the bank of River Gagari on the left side of Bellary-Moka road. The large number of sites have been noticed by Robert Bruce Foote (Sangankolla), B.Subbarao, R.E.M.Wheeler (Brahmagiri, 1948: 180-270), K.Padayya (Shorapur Doab, 1970 :165-190), R.S.Pappu. (Krishna and
The study of the region where the river Krishna, the Dudhaganga, the Vedaganga, the Ghataprabha etc. are flowing, few scholars made their sincere efforts to study river valleys.

Firstly Robert Bruce Foote report about the occurrence of animal fossils of Bos-nomadicus (rhinoceros) from the ossiferous deposit near Gokak in Ghataprabha valley.

The systematic investigations in northern Karnataka were carried out by H.D.Sankalia of Deccan College, Poona and S.S.Malwad of Kannada Research Institute, Dharwad discovered many Paleoliths.

The Krishna is the most important river with its tributaries the Malaprabha, and the Ghataprabha. The river Krishna flows in major parts of Belgaum districts. The entire river valley was surveyed and studied by Raghunath.S.Pappu, of Deccan College, Post-graduate and research Institute Poona. He made an attempt to study the geomorphology of the Upper Krishna Basin and associated Stone Age industries. He noticed nearly 12 Paleolithic sites, situated on the bank of river Krishna 7 sites and 5 sites on the river Ghataprabha. The Anagawadi site has yielded a large number of Paleoliths like Choppers, scrapers, discoids, hand axes, cleavers, chisel and flakes made from chert and quartzite (Pleistocene studies in the Upper Krishna Basin, 1966)
Ravi Korisetter studied the Prehistory and Geomorphology of the Middle Krishna valley. He noticed many prehistoric sites (Prehistory and Geomorphology of the Middle Krishna, 1979).

Later H.S.Kamble explored the Krishna valley from Kadoli to Kudalasangama. Athani taluka was intensively surveyed. Few chalcolithic sites have been noticed namely, Satti, Saptasagar, Shegunshi, Krishna kittur and Hulgabali. Totally he had discovered 31 sites belonging to different cultural phases. Mesolithic, Chalcolithic, Iron Age Megalithic, Early Historical and Medieval. (Archaeology of the Upper Krishna Region (Belgaum District) Some Aspects 1996.)

A team of scholars of the Archaeological Survey of India, Bangalore circle carried out the village-to-village survey in the Krishna valley of the region and have brought to light eight Middle Paleolithic sites, two are situated in Chikodi taluka namely Chandur and Manjari. Kolavi, Kundargi, Lolsuru and Mamdapur in Gokak taluka. yielded many tools, scrapers, points, borers, flake-blades and cores made from chalcedony, quartz and quartzite.

The lone work indicates a few sites of Paleolithic and Mesolithic in the region. The brief study of these sites are made here.

EARLY PALEOLITHIC SITES:

MANJARI:

Manjari, a small village is situated 20 kms, north-east of Chikodi and about 200 meters away from the River Krishna. Large numbers of hand axes, cleavers of the early Paleolithic culture are found, scattered in the basin of the river. The site has been brought to light by the staff of the Archaeological Survey of India,
Bangalore Circle. Along with these implements the tools of the Middle Paleolithic have also been noticed by this team. The details of the Middle Paleolithic are mentioned under Middle Paleolithic sites. These implements are made on quartzite.¹

CHANDUR:

Chandur, a small village is situated 26 kms, South of Chikodi. The village is surrounded by hillocks. There is a nallah, tributary of river Krishna. Numerous early Paleolithic tools like hand axes, cleavers, discoids and few pebble tools etc have been found in and around the nallah. The site has been brought to light by the team of Archaeological Survey of India, Bangalore Circle. Along with these implements, the team has also noticed the tools of the middle Paleolithic culture. It is being explained under the Middle Paleolithic culture. These tools are made on the quartzite.²

LOLSURU:

Lolsuru, a small village is located on the bank of river Ghataprabha, 4 kms from Gokak. The village is surrounded by hillocks. At the bottom of the hillocks is a small nallah, which joins the river Ghataprabha. It may be noted that numerous tools of the early Paleolithic culture are found in the stratified context. They are hand axes, cleavers, pebble tools, discoids etc., besides flakes, cores, etc. R.S.Pappu has brought the site to light. Along with these implements, the tools of the middle Paleolithic culture also noticed by him at the same area is explained under the middle Paleolithic site.³
KUNDARGI:

Kundargi, a small village is located on the bank of a river Markandeya 32 kms from Gokak. It is surrounded by hillocks. The nallah originated from the hillock region is a tributary of river Markandeya. Numerous tools of the early Paleolithic culture are found scattered in the basin of the river and at the foothills of the hillocks. R.S.Pappu has noticed the site. The site has yielded hand axes, cleavers, discoids and pebble tools as well as the tools of middle Paleolithic. The middle Paleolithic culture is explained under the middle Paleolithic site.4

KOLAVI:

Kolavi is a small village located 16 kms, South of Gokak. The village is surrounded by hillocks. There is a nallah, tributary of river Markandeya near the village. Numerous tools of the Early Paleolithic culture are found, scattered on the basin of the nallah and at the foothills of the hillock. The tools are hand axes, pebble tools, cleavers, discoids. R.S.Pappu noticed this site. The tools of the Middle Paleolithic culture have also been noticed at the site by him. The area is explained under the Middle Paleolithic culture. These tools are made on quartzite.5

Middle Paleolithic Site:

MANJARI:

A small village is situated 20 kms North-east of Chikodi and about 200 meters away from river Krishna. Large numbers of hand axes, cleavers, ovate etc, are found scattered along the bank of the river basin, as well as around the river valley. The staff of Archaeological Survey of India, Bangalore Circle, has noticed the site. (IAR) They collected large numbers of scrapers, points, borers, flakes and cores. All these are made on quartzite and chert.6
The site reported by A.S.I. earlier the site was examined but it does not show the remains of middle Paleolithic. A large part of river basin has been excavated to supply water for field. The large area is covered by chunks and vast material of pebble stones are found scattered. A large quantity of flakes and blades of middle Paleolithic and Mesolithic were collected. It may be noted that in the river a long tunnel has been dug in the east-western direction at the height of 2 meters on its centre. It shows more gravels. But not any pebbly bed of the early Paleolithic has shown in the river valley near Yadawad in Gokak taluka.

CHANDUR:

Chandur, a small village is situated 26 kms. South of the Chikodi. The village is surrounded by hillocks. There is a nallah, which is a tributary of river Krishna. Numerous flakes, points, borers, cores etc, have been found in and around the nallah. Those flakes tools belong to Middle Paleolithic culture. The staff of ASI, Bangalore Circle, has noticed the site. They collected scrapers, points, borers, flakes and cores. These tools were made on fine-grained chalcedony, quartzite and quartz.7

There is an ancient site in the field of Vasant Narayan Patil, and Subhash Koli. It is located 1 and ½ kms from river Krishna. The site is scattered large no. of chunks, few flakes are found in the site. So these scrapers associated with non-geometrical comparable to Middle Paleolithic and Mesolithic. Obviously they belonged to the period. Whether the same site was noticed by A.S.I. The name of the locality of the sites is hardly mentioned in A.S.I. report. But the occurrence of blade tools was reported by A.S.I.
When I went to re-examines of Chandur in the river basin. The river was completely filled with water besides the land is cultivated and grown with sugar cane. Therefore it could not help to give any result.

MAMDAPUR :

The village is located on the bank of a nallah, tributary of river Ghataprabha. It is 20 kms from Gokak. The village is surrounded by hillocks. Large number of flakes, waste flakes, hand axes, cleavers, ovates etc are found scattered along the nallah. Obviously these are classified into two cultures namely Early Paleolithic and Middle Paleolithic. These implements are made on quartzite or chert.

The site had been noticed by R.S. Pappu of the Deccan College Post Graduate and Research Institute, Poona while he was carrying out geomorphic and Pre-historic Investigations around the Ghataprabha valley.8

KUNDARGI :

The village located on the bank of a river Markandeya is 32 kms South of Gokak. Large number of flakes, waste flakes, handaxes, cleavers, ovates etc, are found scattered over the bank of the river basin as well as around the river valley. Obviously these are classified into two cultures namely Early Paleolithic and Middle Paleolithic. These implements are made on quartzite or chert.9

The site has also been noticed by R.S. Pappu of the Deccan College Post-graduate and Research Institute, Poona while carried-out the geomorphic and Pre-historic investigations around the Ghataprabha valley.
KOLAVI:

Kolavi a small village is located 16 kms South of the Gokak. The village is surrounded by hillocks. There is a nallah and a tributary of river Markandeya near the village. Large number of flakes, waste flakes, hand axes, cleavers, ovates are found on the hillock as well as on the nallah basin. These implements are classified into two cultures namely Early Paleolithic and Middle Paleolithic. These implements are made on either quartzite or chert. The site has been noticed by R.S.Pappu.10

LOLSURU:

Lalsuru, a village is located on the bank of the river Ghataprabha, 4 kms from Gokak. The village is surrounded by nallah and hillocks. Large number of flakes, waste flakes, hand axes, cleavers, ovates, etc are found scattered along the bank of the river basin as well as around the river valley, obviously these are classified into two cultures namely Early Paleolithic and Middle Paleolithic. These implements are made on quartzite, chert, cornelian and jasper.11

R.S.Pappu of Deccan College, Post-Graduate and Research Institute, Poona, conducted exploration in the middle reaches of the Ghataprhaba and Markandeya river in Gokak taluka. He noticed large numbers of Paleoliths‘ hand axes, cleavers, large flakes and ovates of quartzite levallois flakes, points and scrapers of chert.12

UPPER PALEOLITHIC SITE:

YADAWAD:

The village located 43 kms North of Gokak is situated on the nallah, tributary of the river Ghataprabha. Numerous tools of the Upper Paleolithic culture
are found scattered on the basin of the nallah. The site has also been brought to light by R.S. Pappu. The tools are blades, burin and points etc, made on chert. It may be noted that the place has rich limestone deposits. This is the only site of this period found in two taluks.\textsuperscript{13}

The site at Yadawad was reported by Robert Bruce Foote. The same site has been re-examined. The site which is located on the bank of river Ghataprabha near the Yadawad. In the river basin a long pebble-bed is spread more than 1.4 kms. At the frequent interval same cuttings have been made. Due to water flow of the river during the course of rainy season at some places. The pebble bed is thickly cemented. So this portion is necessary to re-examined. Whether it is naturally form or artificially formed.

Throughout the length and breath of the pebble bed in the river. A large number of coarse of bigger size have been found and some of have been collected. They are mostly in round form besides a few hand axes, flakes, small blades were found. The surrounding area of the river when it is re-examined. A large numbers of flakes of limestone's, a few flakes of crypto-crystalline siliceous rock are found. It may be noted that the lime stone is found exposes in large quantity in the region. The re-examination of the river bed and its surrounding area as said above does not give any clue of the Upper Paleolithic elements as reported Bruce Foote by that time. The Upper- Paleolithic elements were not stratigraphically proved by the scholars. It was proved by M.L.K. Murthy after excavating Renigunta near Tirupati in Andhra Pradesh in 1970. Afterwards this has been followed by the other scholars.
MESOLITHIC SITE:
MANJARI:

Manjari, a small village is situated 20 kms Northeast of Chikodi and about 200 meters away from river Krishna. Large numbers of points, scrapers, lunates, blades, flakes and flake are found scattered in the river basin. The site has been brought to light by the staff of the Archaeological Survey of India, Bangalore Circle. The tools of the Early and Middle Paleolithic have also been noticed in the area by the same staff of the Archaeological Survey of India, Bangalore. The other details are explained under the Early and Middle Paleolithic sites. The tools of these cultures are made on chart, carnelian and jasper.

CHIKDAULI:

Robert Bruce Foote noticed Ossiferrous deposit. A Mesolithic site has been noticed near the village Chikdauli. The site is located on the elevated black land it is under cultivation. It consists of black cotton soil. The land is located on the right bank of river Ghataprabha 1 and ¼ kms. From the villages. In the river bed several chunks, blades, some non-geometrical blades and a few blades were found. Where as in the cultivated land a few geo metrical tools associated with large no. of chunks. A few beautiful blades are also found. A thick single sided blades, is blended at back side, it is made of milky quartzite. So this blade can be comparable to the blended blades of Mesolithic blade. The other blades found in the region are non- geometrical on the basis of technology and types of Geometrical and non geometrical they are of Mesolithic culture. It indicates the existence of two traditions in the locality. The tools of non-geometrical are found in the river bed. Obliviously the primary site are not vacated because they were transported from there original locality due to natural calamities like rainfall and flood.
Foote Notes:

2. I.A.R. - A Review, 1990-91,