Chapter - V

NEOLITHIC - CHALCOLITHIC CULTURE

In the history of human culture after the Paleolithic culture, a new culture appeared i.e. Neolithic culture in which considerable cultured materials have been gradually brought to light through exploration and excavation in India and outside.


It has resulted in the knowledge that the cultural materials include neoliths, microliths, copper implements, verities of potteries, both painted and unpainted with distinctive characteristics burials, animals remains, food grains, floors of the
houses and other cultural materials. It has been established that during the period people started living permanently in particular places instead of leading a nomadic life. Their habitation sites are situated on the bank of rivers, rivulets or on the foothills etc. These habitations of the period are found in the river valley as explained above same of them are the Majara (Bidar district), Bhima (Bijapur district), Krishna, Ghataprabha, Malaprabha, Tungabhadra, Pennare, Kaveri etc in Karnataka. Some of these sites are also associated with ash mounds in many places in north Karnataka.

The region under study, the Neolithic habitation sites were explored by Sundara. A. The staff of Archaeological Survey of India, Bangalore Circle, Bangalore and Kamble.H.S.(1996) and others noticed some sites in the region during their village to village survey of Archaeological and Epigraphical remains. The details of all the sites are given below.

**KALLOLI:**

Kalloli, a small village is situated 17 km north of Chikodi on the bank of river Krishna. The village is surrounded by Examba on the south and Yadur on the east. There is an ancient habitation site in a field located on the bank of the river Krishna, on the northern side of the village. The site is totally destroyed by the agriculturists. The soil is blackish. The extent of the site is about two hectares in area.

In 1964-67 Sri A. Sundara\(^1\) when he was a research scholar of Deccan College post graduate and Research institute Poona, conducted an exploration in Chikodi taluka and discovered many Neolithic-Chalcolithic sites. Among them Kalloli is one of the sites. In this site parallel sided blade, flakes of black trap,
black painted red ware and gray ware were noticed by him. The potteries were comparable to that of Brahmagiri.

EXAMBA:

Examba is located 13 km north of Chikodi. There is an ancient habitation site. Located in a field on the Western side of village, but it is destroyed because of cultivation. A. Sundara (1964-67)\(^2\) a research scholar of the post-graduate and research institute of Poona, conducted the exploration and noticed a site at Examba where he collected cultural remains of the Neolithic, Chalcolithic period. The site yielded parallel-sided blades, flakes of black trap, black pointed red ware, which was comparable to that of Brahmagiri pottery. It may be noted that the Neoliths were produced from the pebbles, which were locally available in the locality.

SADALAGA:

The village Sadalaga is situated 18 kms away from Chikodi on the bank of the river Dudhaganga, a tributary of the Krishna river. The river flows on the western side of the Sadalaga. There is an ancient habitation site, located in a field on the Eastern side of the village, but the local people have destroyed the site because of cultivation. The soil is blackish. The extent of the site is about one hectare in area.

A. Sundara (1964-67)\(^3\) conducted the exploration and was studied a site with the cultural remains of the Neolithic and Chalcolithic site at Sadalaga. The site yielded parallel-sided blades, flakes of black-trap painted red-ware and grey ware comparable to that of Brahmagiri.
Near the site an ash-mound has been discovered (Remnants of scoriaceous ash-mound). There previous existences are indicated by the scatterings of the ash lumps. The mound has been gradually reduced to the present level by the local people. Who took away the ashy earth from the mound for domestic purposes.

KONNUR:

The village is situated 11 km from Gokak a Taluka headquarters and one km from the Railway station on the Bangalore-Miraj section of Hubli division. The village is situated on the bank of river Ghataprabha. The village is bound by Gokak falls on the East, Savalagi on the west and river Ghataprabha on the north.

There is an ancient habitation site in a field on the southern side of the village and on the bank of the river Ghataprabha. The site is destroyed due to cultivation. The soil is ashy. The extent of the site is 100 x 100 sq. meters in area. A. Sundara research scholar of Deccan College Post-graduate and Research Institute Poona conducted an exploration and noticed the site Dyaganhatti near the village. The site is represented as an ash mound. In the site at Konnur numerous cultural materials like grey, blackish-grey and pinkish-buff wares, some micaceous with incised decorations, flakes of black trap, parallel sided blades of chalcedony, Chert fragments of slick stones, Saddle querns of granite and bones etc., were recovered. Among them a finely retouched lunate, a trapeze and a small piece of black painted red ware of the Jorwe fabric are noteworthy.

KALLOL:

The village is situated 11 kms from Gokak Taluka headquarter on the Northern side. It is surrounded by hillocks and bounded by Arabhavi on the south
and northern sides. It is bound by Naganur on the East, Sangankeri on the south and Tukkanatti on the north.

There is a habitational site, located on the northern side of the village, but it is totally scattered and is under cultivation. The soil is ashy and blackish. The extent of the site is about 1 hectare in area. In 1964-67 A. Sundara conducted the exploration and a site with the cultural remains of the Neolithic and Chalcolithic period was discovered at Kallol. The site yielded parallel-sided blades, flakes of black trap and black painted red ware.

An ash mound near the site has been discovered (Remnants of scoriaceous ash-mound). Their previous existences are indicated by the scatterings of the ash lumps. The mound has been gradually reduced to the present level by the local people who took the ashy earth from the mound for domestic purposes.

CHALCOLITHIC PERIOD:

Ever since the survey of North Karnataka by Bruce Foote the region of the Krishna Valley has been explored more intensively by the Department of Archaeology of the former Hyderabad state. The Archaeological Survey of India has been carrying on village to village survey in the valleys of lower Krishna and the Malaprabha. As a result of these investigations in a large part of North Karnataka Neolithic phase, its characteristics relative chronology, contacts and correlations with the contemporary cultures of the other river valleys of the Deccan and further north, area of distribution and the Chalcolithic stage of the culture and its overlap with the immediately succeeding Iron age culture have been brought to
light. But for assessing a comprehensive picture of the Neolithic or Chalcolithic culture of North Karnataka, exploration of the area was absolutely necessary.

Dr. A. Sundara in 1964-67 had the opportunity to explore the Ghataprabha and the Upper Krishna valleys and discovered many Chalcolithic sites. Geologically it is of the Deccan trap with a thick cover of black cotton soil enriched with alluvial soil in the upper part and of Sandstones etc., of the Kaladagi series in the lower part with brown and dark red sandy soil. The rainfall is about 40 to 65 cm annually. The land bears hardly any vegetation excepting scattered trees and shrubs.

General Features of the Sites:

1. The sites are situated in the plain cultivated fields of the rich black cotton soil on or near the banks of the river and her tributaries Dudhaganga and Vedaganga. Usually the sites are distinguished by their ashy colour in contrast to the jet-black colour of the surrounding soil.

2. Unlike in the other river valleys, there is a very heavy concentration of site occurrence of two or three sites in one locality.

3. The sites of this region are much more extensive in area, unlike those of the other river valleys.

4. All sites are of one-culture. Many plain and painted potteries are abundantly found in the sites.

The Upper Krishna is comparatively rich in the Chalcolithic cultural remains and extends in the tradition of pottery types and painting a stage of exuberance and well development.
Foot Notes: