Chapter - I

INTRODUCTION

Though there has been exploration and excavation since the middle of the 18th century, the importance of the Indian Archaeology has gradually developed, which has resulted to know the existence of human culture right from the pre-historic period to the late middle period in India. To know the archaeological importance of each region, the survey has been carried out systematically in different parts of Indian sub-continent. The archaeological relics found during the course of survey are studied critically and they helped to reconstruct the history and culture of each region. The system of village survey of archaeological and epigraphical remains has been taken up as a regular programme by the Department of A.S.I. State dept., Universities and other institutions. Besides, some of them were concentrated on problem oriented topic in the archaeological research. It may be of pre-history, proto-history, art and architecture or numismatics etc, depending upon their specialization. This methodology has been taken up in South India and with particular reference to Karnataka.

In Karnataka several scholars have taken the research problem on archaeology of certain regions. This problem has sometimes restricted to only pre-history, proto-history, early historic and medieval. Only a few scholars have taken up for Doctoral research on archaeology of certain region. The study contains the pre-history, proto-history, art and architecture inscriptions etc., through the village to village survey of archaeological and epigraphical remains.
Previous Work:

Robert Bruce Foote was the first to report about the occurrence of animal fossils of the Bos-nomadicus from the ossiferous deposit near Gokak in the Ghataprabha valley. (Badam. G.L. 1979; 209) and also numerous molluscan shell were obtained from a section of the bank of a stream near the village Chikdauli about 5 k.ms east of Gokak. James Burgess (1874: 306.08) has noticed briefly the megalithic tombs located in Konnur (Gokak Tq). In the Belgaum district Gazetteer (1884) of the erstwhile Bombay state the some site is referred (mentioned) to as the passage chamber tombs of the Iron-age-megalithic culture. Later Henry Cousins has also mentioned the some tombs in his monograph on the Chalukyan Architecture (1924).

A.M.Annigeri has also given brief descriptive account of the some megalithic sites located at Konnur, Terdal and Hanagandi villages.

Ramachandra Vinayak. Joshi., (1955) had carried out the survey for Pleistocene studies in the Malaprabha basin which is located in the neighbouring region. It comprised of Ramadurga and Soundatti taluks. He has also surveyed same portion of the Krishna near Saptasagar (Athani Tq) and the Ghataprabha near Gokak (Gokak Tq). He studied the geological, geomorphic and pre-historic observation in the region.

Raghunath S. Pappu., has carried out the survey for the Pleistocene studies in the Upper Krishna Basin (1966). He has not find any sites in the region under study, but he has noticed some sites in the neighbouring regions of the Krishna basin.
Later A. Sundara has explored the Ghataprabha and the Malaprabha valley's and noticed some Iron-age Megalithic sites. He has noticed twenty five sites (Sundara A. 1971: 24:25) and has studied them critically.

Ravi Korisetter has carried out a survey in the middle Krishna for studying the pre-history and Geomorphology (1979). During the course of exploration he has noticed pre-historic sites in the Chikodi and Athani taluka.

H.S. Kamble (1996) has carried out the exploration in the Upper Krishna region and discovered some pre-historic sites as well as inscriptions in the Athani and Chikodi taluka.

The Kannada Research Institute of Karnatak University, Dharwad carried out the exploration in the region and has noticed some ancient sites, inscriptions, monuments, sculptures and other kinds of archaeological remains, published in the annual reports from 1939-1956.

In addition to these investigations some of the temples and basadis of the region are studied by some scholars, M.A.Dhaky (1996: 225-251), Gerard Fockema (2003: 254-246) have studied the temples. Where as C.C.Kempannavar (1990), R.B.Handure (2001), C.B.Taboji (2001), have studied the Jaina monuments and few inscriptions.

There are also some works covering the political, social, cultural and religious history of the region on the epigraphs, Madhure Veni (1980:19-22), Belgavi Belaku (2003, 2-21, 45-52, 75-82, 93-96), Belgavi Jilleya Bhavya Parampare (2002: 1-20, 21-48, 68-78, 111-117), Belgavi Siri (2003, 33-41, 42-44). They also supply brief account of the cultural history of the region under study.
The Gazetteer of Belgaum district published by the govt. of Karnataka (1987) contains a few illustrations of the monuments such as temples, Basadis, Darghas, forts, Bridges etc. It does not give the detailed study of these monuments.


The survey of these works informs the brief account of the pre and proto historic cultures as well as the cultural details of the historical period. The art and architecture, sculptural art and other aspects of region the archaeological remains of the historical period have not been studied in detail excepting inscriptions and monuments.

It is also fact to trace the influence of the cultural remains of the pre and proto historic period from northern area i.e., Maharasra. The other points are to trace the cultural relies of the satavahana. Vadagaon-Madhavapur, sub-urb in Belgaum, which is of about 75 kms away from the region. Karoshi located within the region under study.

Besides during the early period in some areas in Belgaum district the remaining of the early Kadamba were found. The region was ruled by many dynasties and feudatories played an important role in the region. Their political and cultural history reveals several interesting ideas.

It is against this background of after selecting the region an intensive and systematic survey of archaeological remains was carried out. It covers the cultural remains of the pre-historic and proto-historic cultures, as well as the architecture iconography and the inscription of the historical period.
Methodology:

As stated above a village to village survey of archaeological remains in of the Chikodi and Gokak taluks is undertaken. All the archaeological remains such as ancient sites with cultural remains variously ranging from ages, monuments such as temples, basadis, darghas, inscriptions noted in the course of exploration have been copied and studied. Antiquities were collected from the sites, photographs of the monuments, sculptures were taken systematically bringing out every feature.

The thesis embodies the result of my field investigation in the both the taluks i.e, Chikodi and Gokak of Belgaum district. A village-to-village survey of archaeological and epigraphical remains in that taluks was carried out in order to ascertain archaeological potentiality of the region.

The field materials have been studied in the succeeding chapters as follows.

❖ The chapter first deals with the Introduction, the earlier researches done in the field and the necessity of selecting the topic and methodology.
❖ The second chapter deals with the physiological conditions of the both taluks.
❖ The third chapter covers the political and cultural history of the regions.
❖ The fourth chapter deals with the Paleolithic to Mesolithic cultural phase and a review of the discoveries and significance in the region has been made.
❖ The fifth chapter covers the Neolithic-Chalcolithic culture of the regions.
❖ The sixth chapter covers the Iron Age-Megalithic and early historic culture of the regions.
❖ The seventh chapter deals with the monuments and sculptures of the regions.
❖ The last chapter deals with the results of the over all study taken in the regions under the conclusion.