CHAPTER VII
CONCLUSION

The area under present study is the part of Indo-Gangatic Plains, which is one of the most fertile terrains of the world. This area falls in semi-humid region and annual rainfall is between 80-100 cm. The soil is fertile and is congenial for agricultural activities. In the bygone era the area supported the dense forest flora and a variety of fauna. Because of its fertile land, the political powers of the early historical period always battled to get control over the region.

Archaeology is very important tool for the reconstruction of the human past of a region where written records of the ancient period are rarely available. It provides us a very strong base to study the ancient cultural history of the human past. In order to see the emergence of culture and for the reconstruction of the history of the study area, the researcher relied on archaeological evidences. Even when written records started appearing, the importance of archaeology did not diminish. Then, these evidences are used for corroborative purposes. But so far as the present area is concerned the archaeological evidences throw light on most aspects of various cultures of different periods. The researcher carries out exploration in the selected part of the study area in order to collect the data for reconstruction of history of the region. As a result of this effort 139 sites were explored out of which 65 sites were placed on the archaeological map for the first time. A large number of antiquities were collected, which helped us to reconstruct various facts of different periods. These sites range from the Late Harappan Culture to Medieval times. Most of the sites are either under cultivation or under modern habitation. Pottery and other
associated finds of different cultures were collected from these sites. Not only to
study the different aspects of the cultures but this effort has also plugged the major
gap of previous works. The earlier researchers’ have given selective and partly
details about the location and size of the sites. Secondly, some of the important sites
were revisited afresh and through investigation, we yielded new cultural sequence
which was not reported earlier.

**Table 10.1 showing distribution of explored sites of various cultures**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>S.No</th>
<th>Culture</th>
<th>No. of Sites</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Late Harappan</td>
<td>51</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>OCP</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>PGW</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>NBPW</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Historical</td>
<td>126</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Medieval</td>
<td>45</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Figure 7.1. Histogram showing distribution of explored sites of various cultures**
During the course of explorations, main emphasis was laid on locating the sites and observing the distribution pattern of cultural remains present there. The antiquity of sites and chronology of cultural remains found there have been decided on the basis of occurrence of well-known and dated ceramic industries of ancient cultures. The estimation about the size of the sites has been made on the basis of the area up to which deposit was found. The researchers conducted extensive village-to-village survey in the region and recorded sites with the help of GPS. This has helped us to update and correct the earlier surveys also. Correct location of the sites will help the further researchers to reconstruct the settlement patterns of various cultures.

The antiquity of Upper Ganga Valley basin can be traced back to the proto-historic times as is attested by the discovery of the sites of this period. Archaeological exploration and excavations in the region have revealed that the earliest inhabitants of this region belong to the Late phase of the Harappan Civilization. Due to the decline of trade, the urban centers could not sustain themselves and disintegration led to the formation of a number of new sites and this pressure led them to cross mighty river Yamuna and to step-in Ganga plains. In the area under present study 124 sites have yielded the remains of this phase and the present researcher explored 139 sites out of which 52 belongs to Late Harappan culture and out of these 52 sites, thirty two sites are placed on the archaeological map for the first time. In this region, the Late Harappan pottery has affinities with pottery of Mitathal Phase 6 & 7 and Bara. The classical Harappan shapes like goblets, beakers, perforated jars, dish-on-stands with long stem and bowl with nail-headed rim were reported from Alamgirpur but in restricted number, such shapes are absent
on all other sites. Perhaps the urban elites migrated in the study area from adjoining region and in the new region there was no need of such pottery shapes. The common shapes and designs in the Late Harappan pottery include storage jars with collared rim and tapering shoulders; vases with flanged rims; high neck and globular body; small vases with high neck and globular body; pedestal bowls or basins; squat vases with flaring rim and ribbed shoulder; jars decorated with rustication below belly and decorated with incised designs at the shoulders; dish-on-stands with undercut projected and highly drooping rim; bowls with carinated and concave sides. This pottery is made of welllevigated clay and is treated with slip of dull brown colour. The painted motifs includes horns crowned by an arrowhead, opposite triangles, semicircles, leaves in vertical or horizontal pattern, wavy lines with lozenges, cross-hatched, squares or rectangles with hatching, fish motif etc.

Excavation, at Sanauli, help us to understand the burial customs of the Late Harappan culture. Excavator of the site has classified the burials into five categories viz. 1) Extended burials; 2) Secondary burials; 3) Symbolic burials; 4) Double burial; 5) Triple burial. The base of this categorization is the availability of skeleton in the grave pit. Objects made of Gold, copper and various kind of semi-precious stones were found along with the human skeleton as grave goods. Apart from these precious objects various kinds of earthen vessels were also found with the burials. In some burials, more than 22 pots were recovered from a single pit. A number of Late Harappan cemetery sites (Dangi 2010; Dangiet. al 2013) has been reported from adjoining region of Haryana. A few burials visible on the surface and section were cleaned and studied by the scholars. On the basis of their study, it can be conceded
that in the Ghaggar plains normally four pots were placed with the body and only a few beads of semiprecious viz. bi-conical carnelian, disc shape steatite and tubular bead of steatite are found in the graves of Haryana. Less number of grave goods in Ghaggar basin and a good number of grave goods of Ganga basin can be answered on the basis of ecology and lavish life-style.

Researcher explored 52 Late Harappan sites in the study area and recorded the correct geo-coordinates with the help of GPS handset. Most of the sites are located in the Yamuna-Hindon doab and only a few sites are located east of Hindon. A few sites are located along with the present bed of river whereas most of the sites are located one or two km away from the present day river bank. Most of the sites in the study are rural in nature and quite small in size. A few sites can be designated as big villages.

The economy of this period was based on agriculture with little trade. The excavation at Alamgirpur, Hulas, Sanauli and surface finds of Mandihas provided the evidence of charred grains, semi-precious stone beads and copper objects, giving an idea about the economic life of the Late Harappan period. The natural sources or raw material like agate, carnelian and copper are not found in the Ganga basin. This indicates that these objectswere bought here through trade. Ornaments made of these semi-precious stone and metals were used by the people as ornaments. The Late Harappan culture appears to be the outcome of the normal
process of cultural transformation and the internal interactions of the society due to decline of the economy.

Some copper tools have been found from the Harappan sites in the area under present study. These tools are typologically similar to the Copper Hoards tools which are generally associated with OCP. Two antennae swords were recovered from Sanauli. Of these one was found in situ inside a grave (No. 14). This sword was found placed in upright position towards the head i.e. north of the burial. Its sheath was found placed with the pottery horizontally. Another antennae sword was recovered by the villagers while removing soil from the site. Later a typical copper hoard harpoon was recovered from the site by the villagers. In the adjoining region of Haryana, a number of Harappan sites have yielded typical copper hoards tools. Mitathal, Bhiwani, and Narnaund had yielded the typical copper hoard tools such as harpoons, celts and rings. This area was occupied by the Late Harappan (Mitathal-IIB) in the second millennium BCE. At Mitathal a broken harpoon was recovered from the stratigraphic context (Suraj Bhan, 1971:2).

Ochre Colour Pottery Culture is the next cultural stage in the area under present study. So far as in the area under present study, 124 sites of OCP were reported by various scholars. During the course of explorations, researcher explored nineteen OCP sites. Out of these ten sites were placed on archaeological map for the first time. During the course of pottery analysis, it was very difficult to separate Late Harappan and OCP pottery because most of the shapes, texture, manufacturing techniques were almost same. The basic difference between both the wares i.e. Late
Harappan and OCP is rubbing off surface. OCP pottery is typological similar to the Late Harappan pottery of Mitathal phase 6 & 7, Bara, Cemetery-H traditions. The main are jars with splayed out rim, storage jar with slightly beaded rim, basin with splayed out rim, bowl with everted rim, lid with central know, dish-on-stand with broad base and stem and ribbed below juncture. These shapes are quite similar to the Late Harappan pottery. The basic problem in identification of this culture is that not even a single site has been excavated horizontally so far. Some scholars think that OCP and Late Harappans were contemporary but not same. (Deshpande, 1968; Gaur, 1970). According to their opinion the OCP represents an independent culture with some influence of Late Harappan ceramic tradition. They point out that pottery recovered from Saipai, LalQuila and Atranjikhera don’t show any similarity with Late Harappan. The OCP found in the upper part of Ganga-Yamuna doab shows similarity with the Late Harappan pottery but the pottery recovered from the lower area of doab has less similarity. This can be explained as that typological similarities in the OCP and Late Harappan pottery and Copper Hoards tools recovered from various Late Harappan sites of western U.P. and Haryana indicates that the OCP of Ganga-Yamuna doab has its antecedents in the Late Harappan pottery and later it transformed. The dissimilarity of pottery in the lower doab can be explained with the spacious-temporal change in the pottery.

The last phase of the proto-historic period belongs to the Painted Grey Ware using people. Excavations at the site of Bhagwanpura, Madina and Alamgirpur have thrown a new light on the relationship between Late Harappan and PGW using people. At Bhagwanpura Sub-period IA at Bhagwanpura is
represented by the Late Harappan culture, while the sub-period IB is marked by the continuous occupation of the Late Harappans and the appearance of the PGW using people (Joshi, 1993:27). Similar evidences has been reported from Alamgirpur in the recent excavation, here “Period IB is represented by layers 5 and 6 in trench YD2, layer 7 in trench ZB2, and layer 1 in Section Cutting. The total thickness of the cultural deposit is typically around 60 cm, and has yielded Harappan ceramics and PGW together”. Dadheri, Nagar, Manda and Katpalo (Joshi, J.P1993: 241-46). This overlap of two different cultures and social groups is very significant as PGW people are often associated with the Aryans. A similar situation has also been reported from the recently excavated site of Madina, here the excavators do not claim a Late Harappan-PGW overlap but note that Late Harappan elements like pottery and antiquities continued from the lowest level to the upper level of PGW deposit (Manmohan Kumar et al. 2009: 114). This overlap of cultures is very significant and the co-existence of two different social groups tends to bridge the gap between the Late Harappan and PGW using people. In the area under the present study hundreds of sites have yielded remains of both Late Harappan and PGW times. In the absence of excavations, it is not possible to conclude that these sites have the same evidence as recovered from Bhagwanpura, Madina etc.

The last phase of the proto-historic period belongs to the Painted Grey Ware using people. There are about 417 sites, Painted Grey Ware sites are located in the area under present study and out of which 12 sites were placed on the archaeological map
for the first time by this researcher. Till now we don’t know about the origin of the PGW culture. A H. Dani and Stacul had tried to show typological similarity in the pottery and other antiquities of the Gandhara Grave Culture and PGW pottery. The pottery found from the sites of Gandhara Grave culture is largely represented by tall vases, open mouth cups with flaring rim, narrow and short necked bottles, pedestalled cup, etc. In grey and painted grey ware the fabric of the pottery is coarse and thick but in PGW the most common types are dishes and bowls and the fabric is medium to fine and thin. In the Gandhar region (Gandhara Grave Culture) most of the sites are cemetery sites, but in the PGW culture sites are habitation sites. The only common thing in both the cultures is use of iron and horse. Hence, we can’t trace the roots of PGW culture in Gandhara Grave Culture. Shankalia points out some similarities in the PGW and pottery recovered from Shahi-Tump, Baluchistan (Shankalia, 1994: 40-43). Earlier A. Stein reported some PGW type sherds in southern Baluchistan and Sistan (Stein, A. 1931). Some PGW sites were reported by Mughal in the Cholistan region. Two horses figurine has been reported from Madina (Manmohan Kumar, et. al 2009: figure 131; 42, 63), which are exactly similar to the horse figurine found from the Pirak. It indicates that there was some relation between both these Iron Age cultures. In the absence of any proto PGW site in the region or adjoining region it is assumed that these people came here from outside. But from where? This we can’t pin point at this juncture. Further excavations and explorations in Indian and Pakistani Punjab, Sind and Baluchistan may yield some clue to this problem. There is a variation in the ceramics of this culture of North India. Grey ware and Painted Grey ware is similar in both the regions but
the associated red wares have a lot of variations. In the Anupgarh region of Ganganagar district the red ware is of medium to fine fabric not even a single sherd of coarser fabric was noticed (Dangi, 2010:). Some of the sherds were found decorated with black bands in the north-west Rajasthan, where as in the Upper Ghaggar basin and area under present study the red ware pottery is largely coarse in fabric and is unpainted (Dangi, 2010).

The economy of the Painted Grey Ware people was based on agriculture as well as animal husbandry. The evidences of rice and wheat, jujube (ber) and bathuawere reported from various sites. Bones of cattle, buffalo, goat, sheep, dog, peacock/fowl, deer, wolf, antelope, tortoise, horse, pig, bandicoot, etc. were found at a number of sites. Most of these are domesticated species. The evidence of the wild animals was found in the form of bones of wolf, dear and antelope which indicated that hunting also was practiced by the people. No detailed report except a few sites is published and hence, we have little evidence of the economy of PGW people. Some beads of agate and carnelian iron and copper implements give an idea about their trading activities. One the basis of presence of Iron we can divide the Painted Grey ware culture in two phase viz. Pre-Iron and Iron Phase. The study of the remains found from various sites indicates that the Painted Grey Ware using people had rural society with no urban elements. Their antiquities and other artifacts were made of locally available material and the use of semiprecious stones was scare. The well-to-do people may have had more stably constructed house with terracottatiles and mud-lined chulhas or ovens (haras), whereas the ordinary people lived in thatched huts and their chulhas were very simple. These were dug into the soils
without any mud lining. The discovery of horse bones from various sites in the area and the terracotta figurine representing horse rider at Madina, points to the fact that the simple clan-based society gave way to a horse centric aristocracy.

Next cultural phase in the area under present study is the Northern Black Polished Ware (NBPW). It is marked by the use of iron on large scale, well stratified and economically sound society, expansion of new religious sects like Buddhism and Jainism, introduction of coins and script with state institutions. In the area under present study Ahichchhatra, Hastinapur, Kausambi, etc. are the important excavated sites. Stratigraphic position of NBPW is clear in the area under present study and adjoining areas. In Punjab, Haryana, northern part of Rajasthan and in western U.P., NBPW is preceded by Painted Grey Ware with an overlap phase between the two cultures. In the eastern part of U.P, Bihar, NBPW is preceded by Black and Red Ware.

NBPW pottery is made of well-levigated clay and turned on fast wheel, well fired and the core is free from impurities. Apart from black, NBPW is found in silver, golden, steel blue, pinkish and brown colours. Sometimes this pottery is found painted with simple geometrical motifs. During this period development of big, fortified and well planed cities like Hastinapur, Atranjikhera, Kausambi, etc. were established. Structures made of sun baked and kiln baked bricks came in to use on large scale. The common sizes of the bricks were 43 x 25 x 7 cm, 27 x 22 x 7 cm, 30 x 15 x 7 cm.

During this period elaborated drainage system came into use. At Hastinapur a brunt brick drain provided with a brick floor and lining was found during the
excavations. At a number of places soakage jars were also reported. For the first time in Indian history terracotta ring wells were found at a number of sites during the excavation. Sallow ring wells were used to dispose refuse water and deeps were used as wells.

A considerable progress was made in the metal technology during the NBPW period. Variety of objects made of iron, copper, gold and silver were reported from excavations and explorations. Chisels, knives, borers, pins, antimony rods, bagles, spearhead, arrow head, etc. are the objects found in copper. Iron was used on the large scale during the phase of history, among the agriculture tools, axes, adzes, chisels, hoes, sickles are common, where was in the weapons arrow-head, spearheads, javelin-heads and swords are found. Apart from these tool, iron knives, hooks, nails, rings and bells are common.

Coins were introduced in India for the first time in India during the NBPW period. Silver punch marked coins were found for the first time in the mid phase of this period. Introduction of coins indicates that trade and commerce was on its zenith. Material culture recovered from the excavations indicates that NBPW peoples were engaged in overseas and far furlong trade. Agriculture was also the important part of economy of this period paleo-botanical studies indicates that these peoples grow rabi and kharif crops. Animal husbandry was a part of economy.

The researcher not only gave the exact geo-co-ordinates of explored sites but also tried to give exact size of the settlements. Future researchers shall have data on which they can easily bank upon. The researcher has explored hundreds of sites in the study area and it was noticed that most of the archaeological sites are either converted
into the agriculture fields or the soil is removed from here for making roads, canals and domestic structures. The situation is very grim because in a few years it will be very difficult for the archaeologist to get any site for excavations. Even now it is very difficult to get an intact mound. Hence, the present study has its own importance as the sites are now recorded for posterity which may not exist in future. Here, this researcher would like refer to example of the site Sanauli. The researcher visited the site after excavation at that time most of the portion was intact. When the researcher visited the site in November 2010 and 2011, most of the site was removed by the villagers to use soil for bricks manufacturing and heap of human bones and fragment pottery was dumped at number of places. But still some sites viz. Kurdi, Ishapur Till, Bamnoli, Barnava-1, Bhura-3, and Asara-2, have rich archaeological potentialities and if excavated at an early date they can throw welcome light on the history and culture of the region. Otherwise, like other sites these important sites are doomed to vanish without any trace and the future generations shall be deprived of vast archaeological heritage.