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RESEARCH PAPER

Nature and Numbers of Buth Jo Daro: An Indus period site in lower Sindh

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ABSTRACT

This study presents statistical data on surface findings, analyzing the total number of artifacts, the ratio of the most abundant to the least available artifacts, and their distribution through tables and bar charts.site is rich in artifacts contents of all three major Indus periods like early, mature and late Indus. Being nearer to border of Baluchistan, site never faced the dearth of raw material for preparing and processing of stone objects and semi-precious stone used in jewelry making, not only Baluchistan being source area but it was trade route to Persia and Mesopotamian regions where the presence of Indus artifacts further consolidate the idea of trade relations of Indus civilization with west Asian regions. This region of Buth Jo Daro has complete cultural occupational sequence, a Buddhist period site lies 3 km of north of Butho Daro which clearly depicts ancient town network which is continued to up to date.

KEYWORDS Buth Jo Daro, Manjhand, Indus Period Site, Statistics of Surface Collection

Introduction

Pakistan is prominently known for the cultural history, which includes the material and the non-material cultures that are traced back to Mesolithic, Neolithic, and even Urban Ages. Of them all, the bronze age Indus valley civilization is one of the most wonderful archeological discovery ever(Chapman, 2018). This civilization preceded the Mesopotamian and the Ancients Egyptians with its well-developed complex, carefully laid out cities. Histories Describe over one thousand fifty-two sites associated with the Indus valley civilization which spanned from Mundigak in what is now Afghanistan in the west to the regions of including, Kashmir, Kalibangan, Lothal, Banawali, and the city of Dholavira in northwestern India (Kenoyer, 2000). Buth jo Daro is located in Manjhand taluka, about 66 km away from the district headquarter of Jamshoro, the site of Butho Daro is on left bank of Indus River on Jamshoro Sehwan Indus highway. This site was accidently discovered due to digging of R.B.O.D (Right Bank Outfall Drain). The site is named behind adjoining village of Butho which is approximately 560 meters in north-west of the site. Khirthar mountain of Baluchistan are in the west and nearer to the site which enhance its strategic location in ancient past. Amid Baluchistan and Sindh Butho Daro is been considered as the transitional site of two culturally rich regions of south Asia in Pakistan. Multiple types, sizes and textures of artifacts have been found on the surface, like broken bangles, pot sherds of various types, stone blades made of chert and flint materials, copper objects and pieces of shells.

Literature Review

M. Rafique Mughal commenting on the similarity of the Kot Dijian pottery with that of Damb Sadat and Loralai and Zhob 1972. A significant feature is the "wet" pottery design, which was discovered in the early levels of Mohenjo-Daro and also in Baluchistan. Nonetheless, distinctions between these designs and those of the Early Indus period can be distinguished (Ul Ain, 2021). As George F. Dales 1973, Balakot is the most fully published coastal site and is occupied by the Mature and Early Indus period that has six meters of

Early Indus deposits. These pottery traditions from Balakot are closely related to the painted pottery of Baluchistan province. From archaeological data one can deduce that the means towards possessing a South Asian civilization did not have to be imported but developed from within. The social landscape that was evolved during the Early Indus period gives evidence of the environment conditions, technologies etc. which have led to formation of the Mature Indus period (Baloch, Razzaq, Naseer, & Mengal, 2015).

Bridget Raymond Allchin 1982 opined that Early cultures in and around Baluchistan and including Zhob, Kulli Quetta and Nal were Path finder's leading towards EH or Early Indus sites. Some of them gradually merged into Sindh and other area cultures. In later years, Allchin supplemented the Early Indus data with artifact-centered investigations of the Early Indus settlements, including Amri, an Early Indus site on the right bank of the Indus River(Mallah, 2008). As Majumdar pointed in 1929, and later Casal did in a more detail Amri contained a range of pottery with monochromic and bi-chromic decorations and an assortment of motifs. Casal also mentioned likelihood of several other Early Indus sites in the same geographical zone (Dales, Kenoyer, & Alcock, 1986). Indus sites, according to Brett C. Hoffman and Heather and M.L. Muller 2009 , Increase rapidly, possessed complex tradition and technological developments prevailed at the Indus and Ghaggar-Hakra rivers from 6500 to 1300 BCE. Copper was widely used by Indus metallurgists and was combined with other metals to forge a large number of sophisticated tools, weapons and decorative accessories such as saws, spears, knives, ornaments, utensils and the like (McIntosh, 2007). Rafi U. Sami 2000, in his book Ancient Indus Civilization about Rehman Dheri, located north of Dera Ismail Khan. Archaeological investigations by Peshawar University and CAM-bridge University exposed six strata; the Kot Dijian stratum that has been calibrated through radiocarbon dating to 3340–3240 BCE (Ameri, Costello, Jamison, & Scott). Regarding pottery, knobs, pipal leaves motifs, geometrical designs and peacock designs where found within this layer. The samples collected from the upper level of the sequence were assigned to the Mature Indus period. It was also an important centre for bead making and cutting, drilling and polishing beads specific to the period 3340–3160 BCE and a trade mart (Coningham & Young, 2015). Yan Y. Dhheansky further highlighted the religious aspects of the Indus Civilization and said that yoga had its roots with this civilization. Later archaeological surveys carried out during the seven-year period between, 1920 and 1930 gave this belief credence. While there are no particular religious' structures attributable to this culture that over 2 500 steatite seals on Proto-Shiva have been found. Here vindicate the hypothesis that Hindu religion practices can be linked to the Indus civilization (Miller, 2004). C.C. Lamberg-Karlovsky in his work of 1972, trade refers to the process of moving goods or materials by persons or groups. He identified three major categories of trade: Purchases can be divided into categories such as, direct trade, exchange and the central trade activity. He also pointed out that the details of trade between the Indus and Mesopotamia still has not been fully explained (Valentine, 2013). All these plans to directly trade with West Asia are still contentious because transportation costs are rather prohibitive than manufacturing locally. In addition, there were few commonalities of architectural patterns between the two Zones and few, if any, artifacts had been transported between them, obviously meaning that their trade relations were probably indirect or by middlemen.

Material and Method

The present study is descriptive in nature and provides a review of the site, analysis of artifacts, and illustrated descriptions, and conclusion. Other characteristics of descriptive research methods are also a part of this specific study to warrant systematic and documentation of the site's archaeological importance. Thus, the interaction with archaeological data must be rigorous and highly systematic, and archaeologists must approach the task with great care in order to achieve meaningful results after laboring day and night, without any positive outcome. A method of associating artifacts with the site has been created in order to document architectural materials, craft workshops, and other

components of site features and other significant archaeological aspects. It also helps to identify the role of the site within the region and vice versa within the context of the given approach. The source of data for the study is therefore mainly through surface collection that falls under the auspices of rescue archaeology where detailed surface surveys form part of the modes for artefact collection. Different approaches have been used as a means of undertaking this study. These consist of using colorful ribbons to label pottery, stones, kiln zones, and other objects to recognize and highlight group arrangements of items on the site's surface. While surface collecting, artifacts are photographed and mapped live and the location and coordinate of every find are recorded using satellite imagery. Furthermore, for the chronological context of surface collected artifacts, a test trench has been dug to serve as a record of the sites stratigraphy. The research includes the largely valuable data from the opinions of archaeologists and historians for data collection. Field visits, photography, measurements, and cataloguing are essential activities of the study. The surface survey began in the first week of March 2019 to last for three weeks. For purposes of efficiency and flexibility in the work plan, the schedule has been subdivided in stages.

In order to define the scope and the perimeters of the archaeological area through the assessment of the limitations of the archaeological record. For a surface collection which involves placing small colored flags at the point of discoveries to mark points that have similar objects in order to gain insight on where manufacturing were carried out and where craft activities occurred. To have further investigations and to obtain related relics from the debris consists of the right bank drainage works for preparation and detailed drawing and then for analysis. Physical features of the area have been studied in details**.**

Results and Discussion

Result outcomes of this research work are very encouraging and milestone in understanding scientifically that how skills and craftsmanship of Indus Civilization locally and regionally evolved, developed & spread with time span, fact and figures of surface collection of site explains that clay was the primary source for making cultural artifacts initially, exuberance number of terracotta objects further widened the opt for making more sophisticated artifacts from different materials, like metals, especially from the copper objects, other metal like gold, silver and lead. It was not easy task for artisans to accurately alloy different metals for hardening copper and gold. Number of stone objects has been catalogued as second major material largely found after clay for making large number of stone objects including blades, stone weights, aero heads and other artifacts .After pottery making the burnt bricks are in great number present on the surface of the site , brick size has slight variation in size found at Mohen jo Daro and Buth jo Daro site but one the is amazing in throughout the Indus masonry is the burnt bricks, which specify the grandeur of Indus towns and cities throughout the bronze era. Presence of semi-precious stones further points out the skills of mining the precious stones in ancient times, shaping and finishing the stones in required forms is matter of great skills, drilling, polishing techniques made semi-precious stones increased the demand for religious and social purposes. All statistics of discovered artifacts is enough to consider that the Buth Jo Daro site as major craft producing urban city strategically located between Baluchistan and Sindh.

It is very important to discuss the socio economic aspects of Buth jo Daro site here, the statistics of site shown in this research paper make it more explicit that being more closer to mountain valleys of Kirthar the site has easier and exuberant access to raw material from which the different cultural artifacts were made, the craftsman of Buth jo Daro site were well capable of using simple to complex methods and techniques for making cultural artifacts, which played pivotal role in strengthening local to regional socio economic activities during early and Mature Indus period.

Figures mentioned here show that artifacts made of clay were in great abundance that suggests the idea of availability of raw material like suitable clay sources, for making terracotta objects the selection of clay has been remained matter of great deliberation. In Indus period sites selection of soil has been not remained easier to obtain required clay, sometimes for making clay objects the fine clay was being transported from far away areas nearer to river indus. Presence of micro shell disc beads further consolidate the complex expertise of Buth jo Daro craftsmen, presence of shell disc beads in Indus town sites shows the uniform skilled craftsmanship throughout the Indus civilization, complete copper chisels found on surface is enough evidence of having excel in metallurgy.

Buth jo Daro site being transitional site between Baluchistan and Sindh has great contrast with the sites found in Baluchistan, compared with other Indus period sites in Baluchistan the site of Buth jo Daro and other Indus sites located in fertile plains of Indus has glaring variety cultural artifacts. Availability of large number of skilled craftsmen in Indus plains of Sindh suggest that presence and access to raw material sources caused further strengthen socioeconomic development in Indus plains rather than hilly areas of Baluchistan. Trade activities of major towns of Indus plains were passing through the Baluchistan; Baluchistan has been trade corridor between central Indus sites to Sistan Iran, which can be seen through Indus period sites located in Iran.

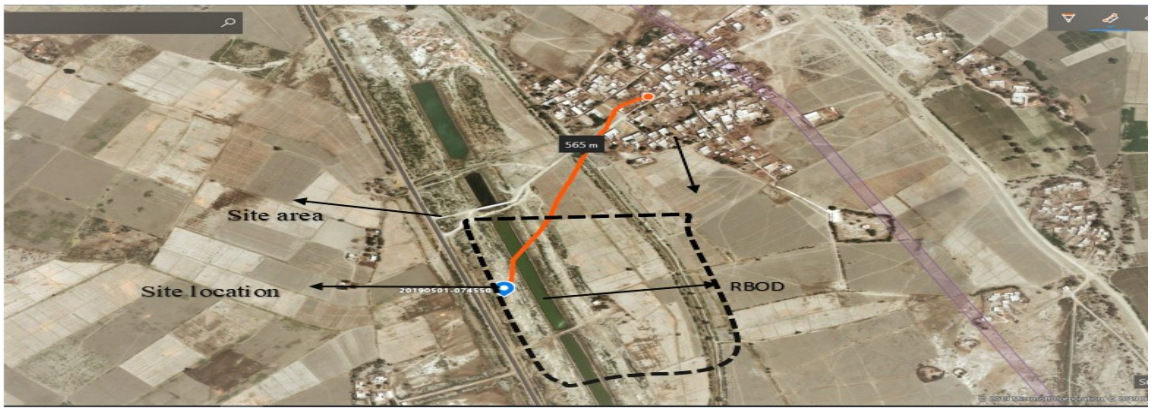

Fig No.01 Satellite view and location of site (Source: Researcher& Google map)

Fig No.02 Site view of nearby passing National Highway, Source: Researcher

Fig No.03 Site clay mound scattered artifacts can be seen on surface, Source: Researcher

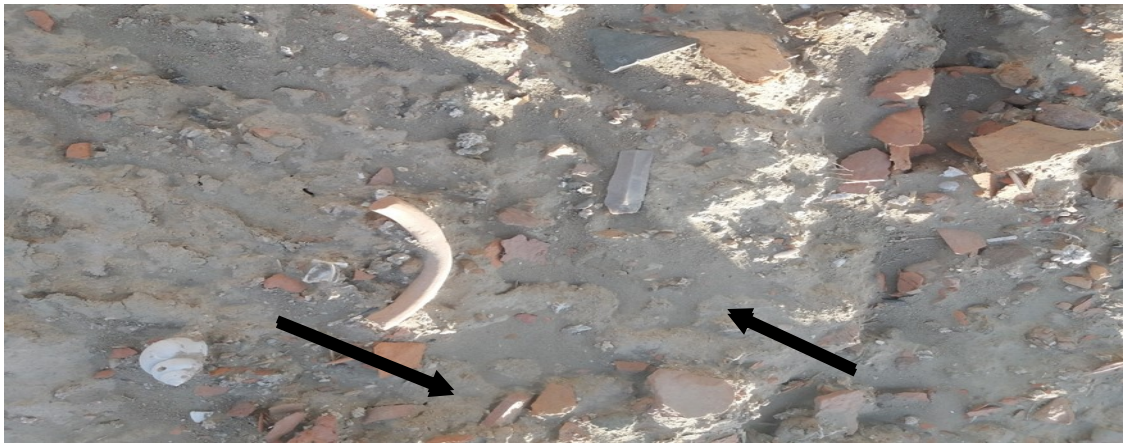

Fig No.04 Artifacts laying on site Surface, Source: Researcher

Fig No 05 Potsherds on site surface, Source: Researcher

Fig No 06 Source: Researcher (Some significant found artifacts)

Table 1
Surface Statistics

S. No	Object Name	Weight of objects in grams	Percentage Ratio of weight	Number of objects	Percentage/ Ratio of total number
1	Over burnt bangles	137	0.35	15	2.21
2	Normal baked bangles	293	0.74	25	3.69
3	Over burnt potsherds	1838	4.70	68	10.05
4	Perforated potsherd	356	0.911	09	1.33
5	Large potsherds	4782	12.2	44	6.50
6	Bowel rims	2657	6.79	51	7.54
7	Pot body sherds (plain)	1217	3.11	43	6.36
8	Pot body sherds painted	1800	4.60	70	10.35
9	Dish on stand sherds	760	1.94	10	1.47
10	Rims of painted pots	310	0.79	23	3.40
11	Plain pots with short rims	1316	3.36	50	7.39
12	Bowel sherds with inverted rims	430	1.100	12	1.77
13	Large pots with buff slip	1100	2.81	27	3.99
14	Early Indus large pots incised rope impression	537	1.37	14	2.07
15	Miniature pots	186	0.47	07	1.03
16	Bull cart frames	180	0.46	05	0.73
17	Bull toys	40	0.1	02	0.29
18	Pot base sherds	510	1.3	16	2.36

19	Coated jars for kilns/ vitreous paste	210	0.53	02	0.29
20	Coarse texture/porous big pot sherds	559	1.43	07	1.03
21	Short rim potsherd	710	1.81	20	2.96
22	Large pot plain rims	2350	6.01	38	5.62
23	Late Indus sherds	79	0.20	02	0.29
24	Misalliance potsherds	470	1.20	16	2.36
25	Complete Chert blades	69	0.17	18	2.66
26	Broken Chert blades	27	0.069	13	1.92
27	Arrow head Chert stone	08	0.02	01	0.14
28	Flint scrapper	76	0.194	04	0.59
29	Burnt Chert flakes and pointed tools.	114	0.29	06	0.88
30	Chert scraper	36	0.009	02	0.29
31	Banded Chert scraper	155	0.39	02	0.29
32	Stone weights	2320	5.93	09	1.33
33	Terra cotta cakes	1060	2.71	12	1.77
34	Fossil stone used as grinder	4420	11.31	12	1.77
35	Red ocher color stone for pot painting	226	0.57	01	0.14
36	Copper chisels and knob	108	0.27	03	0.44
37	Shell objects (bangles)	31	0.079	11	1.627
38	Burnt Bricks	7600	19.44	06	1.124

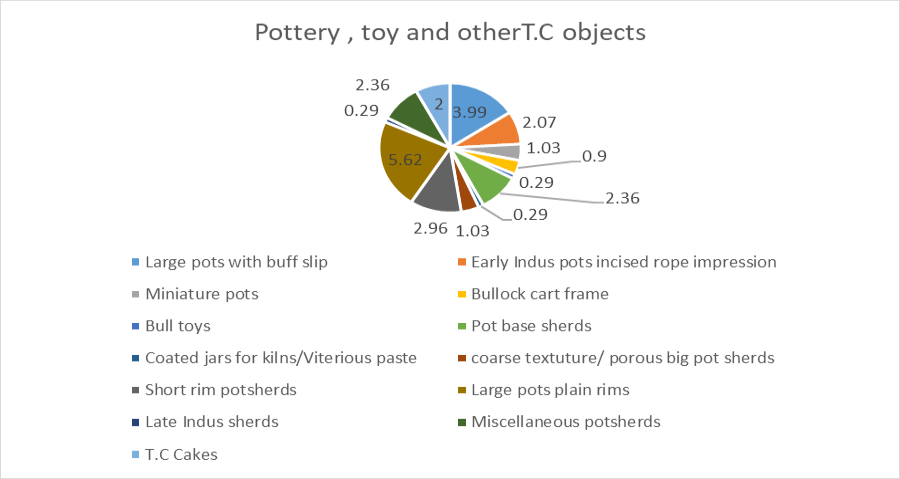

Figure:7 Percentage of Pottery, toys and other Terracotta Objects

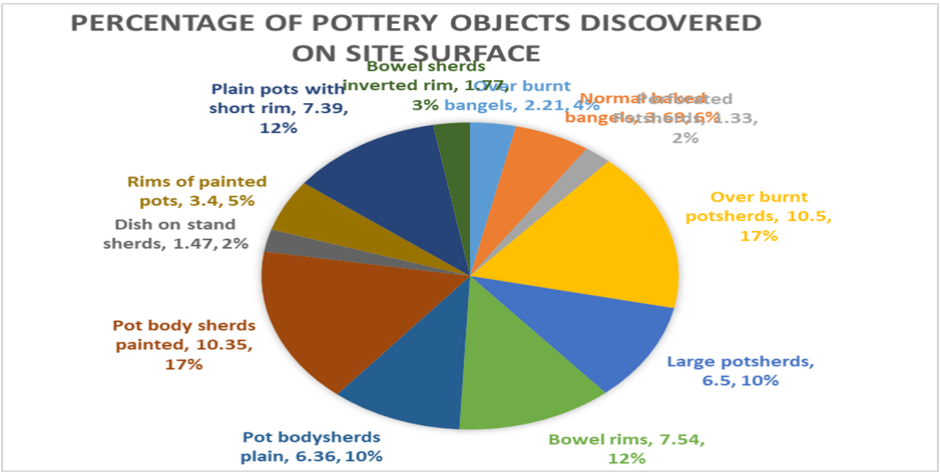

Figure:8 Pottery Artifacts percentage found on site surface

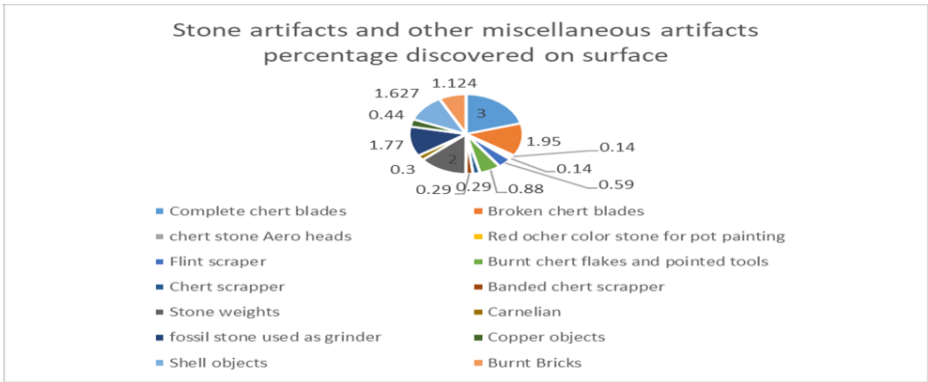

Figure:9 Percentage of stone and other miscellaneous artifacts discovered on site surface,

Conclusion

Butho Daro site is strategically located at ideal place to have raw material access for many artifacts from Baluchistan, after preparing & processing the artifacts were transported and traded into the territories of Sindh and Baluchistan. Careful artifact statistics clearly shows that site has produced simple to complex artifacts which determine the manufacturing techniques and skills of Buth jo Daro peoples had at that time more beyond to 3500 BCE, variety of pottery objects like hand made to wheel made, thick to thin, plane to painted pottery objects, terracotta cakes, terracotta bangles unleashes the technical and expertise of local potters. Stone grinders, blades chert and flint aero heads, beads, stone weights recognize complete statistics of stable trade and commerce of Buth jo Daro. Abundance of shell objects shows the complex jewelry working capabilities and relation to sea areas. Burnt bricks in large number clearly suggest that inhabitant had houses made of burnt bricks like other town sites of Indus civilization with Indus masonry. The relation with its surrounding sites seems stronger which made this town site more viable and sustainable from early Indus to late Indus even to Buddhist period found in surroundings of Buth jo Daro, trade routes to Persian and Mesopotamia via Baluchistan helped the peoples of Buth jo Daro in making their sustainable entity.

Recommendations

- The site needs to be protected from such danger as the presence of the illegal clay transporters, cattle grazing and instances of vandalism which contributes to the degradation of the site and theft of antiquities that are on site.
- The assessment should involve archaeologist, field surveyor and other government agencies that deals with such issues on site. There should be a good definition to the whole site and also erect a periphery wall that would act as protection.
- Large scale excavation should be conducted to determine the layout and depth of all structures and cultural strata, thus making them more comprehensively useful.
- It is also suggested to hold an international conference devoted to this object which will attract attention of more scientists to the analysis of this site further.
- There should be a site museum to represent safe keep age or preservation and display of the artifacts found on the surface of the finds. The local people should be sensitized and informed on the general need to protect cultures that belong to them so as to be proud proprietors. Students and researchers can also learn a lot for the museum's showcased educational experiences.
- To promote Sindh's cultural heritage, efforts should be made to secure representation in national and international print and electronic media, raising awareness and appreciation of the region's rich history.

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