International Journal of Law, Education, Social and Sports Studies (IJLESS)
A Peer Reviewed (Refereed) International Research Journal
Homepage:www.ijless.kypublications.com

RESEARCH ARTICLE

ISSN:2394-9724

THE LOWER PALAEOLITHIC CULTURE BOLLAPALLI IN THE NAGULERU VALLEY GUNTUR DISTRICT, ANDHRA PRADESH

Dr. K. AJAYA KUMAR
Reader in History, Andhra Muslim College, Guntur, Andhra Pradesh.
E-mail Id: ajaykonakala@gmail.com

Article Info
Article Received:02/11/2014
Revised ON:20/11/14
Accepted on: 23/11//14
Available online:30/12/14

ABSTRACT

Studies related to the stonage remains of the Nagarjuna Konda and the adjacent areas of the Naguleru Valley in Guntur District have provide good insights into the life and culture of the stone age hunter gatherers. But the prevalent approaches to pre-history was then a matter of discovery and typological description. But recent studies in stone age archeology have incorporated many dependable models for explaining the culture. Viewed from the present day analytical approach to archeology the primary aim of the present investigation in the Bollapalli to identify the cultural succession. It is to intend to understand the status of stonage. I was inspired to take up detailed investigation in the Bollapalli.

Keywords: Hand axes, Cleavers, Scrappers, Retouched flakes, acheulean culture.

General

Andhra Pradesh has been a veritable ground for investigation related to Stone Age remains. Right from the beginning of twentieth century investigation done by Foreign and Indian scholars to bring to light the Stone Age Cultures of the Region.

Previous work

Exploration conducted in search of prehistoric antiquities revealed that the stone age remains occur in Andhra Pradesh, as elsewhere, along perennial water courses, on the slopes of the hills and in colluvial and alluvial deposits. In Andhra Pradesh evidences about the acheulean occupations have come to light from the literal zone along the east coast. The Rock terrains distributed across the Deccan Plateau and the alluvial belts plating the major and minor river courses.

During the excavations at Nagarjuna Konda, Soundara Rajan K.V. (1958) reported a number of stonage locations in the region submerged by the Nagarjuna Sagar Reservoir. During the investigations he reported stonage sites close to Karampudi on the Naguleru Valley which lies adjacent to the Nagarjuna Konda Valley. In this contest I was inspired to take up detailed investigations of the Naguleru Valley and adjacent areas for the pre Neolithic finds spot. The primary aim of the present investigation in the Bollapalli is to record pre neo-lithic stonage succession of the Naguleru Valley. I found artifacts indicated to the Lower Paleolithic culture.

Bollapalli

North Latitude	:	16 deg 12’
Eastern Longitude		:79deg 41’30”
Contour	:	140 mts
Sample area		:100 x 100 mts.

Bollapalli is a major village located at a distance of 15 kms. North-West of Vinukonda. Close to the village on the eastern side flows a small stream which has to local name. The region around Bollapalli is surrounded by ranges of hills, which form part of the Eastern extensions of the Nallamalas. The ranges located to the east are locally known as Borra Bodu. Those which are located to the North and North-East are known as Nallakonda and Lingalakonda respectively. Further North is Suchimotukonda and to the North-West is Peddakonda. These ranges variously reach heights upto 400-500 meters. In addition due East of Bollapalli area a few isolated hills, one of them being called Kalvelakonda. To the immediate west of the village is also a range of hills with no local name. At a distance of 5kms. North of the village are the famous copper mines of Agnigundala.

The above mentioned ranges are today covered by the Guttikonda reserved forest. It is fairly dense and occasionally turns out to be mixed jungle. Here and there open scrub jungles also occur as patches.

TABLE-1

Sl. No.	Type	Number of Total	Percentage	
			1st %	2nd %
1	Choppers	11	7.91	4.62
2	Chopping tools	14	10.07	5.88
3	Hand axes	29	20.86	12.18
4	Cleavers	11	7.91	4.62
5	Discoids	09	6.47	3.78
6	Knives	13	9.35	5.46
7	Scrapers	23	16.54	9.66
8	Points	09	6.47	3.78
9	Re-touched flakes	20	14.38	8.40
Sub-Total		**139**	**99.96**	
10	Blade-flakes	18		7.56
11	Flake blanks	32		13.44
12	Broken hand axes	04		1.68
13	Cores	27		11.34
14	Fragments	18		7.56
Grand Total		**238**		**99.96**

About a kilometer north of Bollapalli a few wet weather rills originate on the Nallakonda and Peddakonda ranges and drain into a local unnamed stream. The dendric drainage has cut across the local red earths of fluviatile origin. Thereby deep gullying has resulted in the production of a bad land topography. Across the residual heaps of exposed gravel and scree deposits a number of artifacts belonging to the Lower Palaeolithic period have been exposed. The specimens do not show any sign of drift. They are also devoid of post depositional alterations. The specimens were collected in the middest of modules of raw material and waste products.

Methodology

For achieving the two parts of the aim of our investigation explorations were conducted in the entire Bollapalli Village in the Naguleru Valley right it's from origin till it meets with the River Krishna. In order to collect to the samples of stone remains probabilistic sampling method was adopted. I was tried to collect data through small trenches. I was applied probabilistic sampling method for quick recovery of historic data. The artifacts so collected were examined for post depositional alterations and where ever possible the edge wear

is examined under magnifying glass. For the artifact analytic numerical taxonomy is adopted for comparing the artifact assemblages culture wise Robinsons (1951) method of the matrix for agreement scores is adopted. Also the method of proximity analysis suggested by the Collin Renfrew and gene stead (1969) was adopted.

Choppers

Choppers are crude tools which find a universal representation in the Lower Palaeolithic industries of the Naguleru Valley. The raw material chosen are very commonly of quartzite in nature and the grain size of the medium is from medium grained to course grained.

Chopping Tools

Chopping tools are usually considered to be specimens having bimarginal working or bifacial working. The flake scars on the specimen in the most of the cases are deep and large and their number is as high as 10.

Hand Axes

Derived from top deposits concealed under mantles of Aeolian soils, the specimens made on thick plates, chunks and very rarely on flake nodules, the cross sections approximate to a long triangular are a parallel grammatical shape recalling examples from the Stellen Bosch industry of South Africa. Quartzites bearing a range of grains size were chosen as the raw material.

Sub types of Hand axes: I found the sub types of Hand axes in the hand axes family.

Ficrons: They are heavy duty tools, resulting from the re-working of pointed ends of hand axes. When the tool user realizes that the pointed working end is becoming blunt, he would re-work the side margins close to the working end. Sometimes the working end of a fibrin may look like a narrow speculate.

Ovate: They are fabricated perhaps to employ them as cutting tools possibly some of them could as well be employed for peeling bark or skin.

Lemandes: Lemandes are specimens which posses one of the side margins convex about the long axes while the other margin is parallel or nearly about the vertical axes. Functionally the specimens are useful as cutting tools.

Prodnik: Prodniks are pointed specimens with thick butt ends narrow elongated working ends. These specimens are usually made by unofficial working and functionally they are efficient as digging tools.

Lanceolates: Is basically considered to be a specimen which can be hafted to a piece of bamboo or wood. The specimens usefully possess a pointed working end and a thin hittable base. The proximal end is made thin by careful chipping.

Victoria – West Form: Victoria west form for all practical purposes serves like a hand axes. The only difference is that it maintains a slightly different body contour.

Cleavers: Cleavers are functionally heavy duty tools intended for cutting purpose. They sometimes do complimentary role with hand exes and thick knives. It is stated that cleavers occur in large numbers across the Acheulen sites, where the surrounding ecological background is characterized by thick wooded forests. On typo-technological basis it is apparent that cleavers served all functions connected with the possessing of wooden objects and sometimes the processing of food caches. Cleavers are made on quartzite's of brown and grey colours with a range of the grain size in the Naguleru Valley.

Discoids: Discoids are roughly circular specimens fabricated on stone. Technically we have a number of specimens exhibiting bi-facial working close to the margin. Quartzite is the choicest raw material.

Knives: Knives are of common occurrence in the Lower Palaeolithic industries of the Naguleru Valley. They are in a majority of cases, made on thick flakes and fragments. The usual raw material is medium gained quartzite of grey and brown colours.

Scrapers: Scrapers are equipment with steep employed units. Depending upon the shape of the edge they are classified, into a variety of forms like straight, convex, concave, sided scrapers end scrappers etc.

Cores: Cores are an integral part of stone age industries. They occur in various stages. Functionally some of the cores could have served the purposes of hammer stones. Cores could have been utilized for breaking open the bone for extracting narrow by the hunter gatherers communities.

Fragments: Fragments constitute waste products, unused fragments of rock and other debitage. Small fragments of stone are utilized as planes and wedges while working on wood. Probably during the pre-historic times some of the fragments served a few functions as known from the ethnographic data. Fragments of a variety and size have been collected at almost all the locations in the area under study.

Discussion: The foregoing typo technological analysis indicates that the Naguleru Valley though it a tributary of the river Krishna on its right bank preserved the artifacts in the original settings. Form analysis indicated various sub-types of hand axes which are very common in the acheulean culture of Europe, Africa and India. Particularly interesting are the Victoria-westform. They are also known as Stellen Bosch type. It is also interesting that the various in sites in the Naguleru Valley give a picture of acheulean succession. This succession is also to be noticed in the Nagarjuna Konda Valley. As all the tool types and sub types are included in the collection. The lower Paleolithic phase of the Naguleru Valley represents a graphic picture of the lower Paleolithic in the region. Impact this becomes an index which can be compared with any other lower Paleolithic industry as at Attirmpakkam of Coretalair Valley of Tamilnadu.

RESULT

In that result after applying the methodology of the Bollapalli industry on a typo technological basis the artifacts from the Bollapalli are assigned to the early and middle phases of the acheulean tradition.

Bibliography

[1]. Allchin B. 1959: The Indian Middle Stone Age: Some new sites in the Central and Southern India and their Implications. Bull. Inst Arch:11: 1-36.
[2]. Binford L.R. 1962: Archaeology as Anthropology American Antiguity 285 (2) Salt hake cite.
[3]. Binford L.R. 1980: Willow smoke and dogs Tails Huntergeathes settlement systems and archaeological site formation. American Antiquity 45: 4-20.
[4]. Burkitt M.C. and Cammiact L.a. 1930: Fresh light on the stone age of Eastern India Antiquity: 4:15.
[5]. Cammiade L.A. 1924: Pygmy implements of the lower Godavari man in India. Vol. 4 Ranchi.
[6]. Colin Renfrew and Gene strevd 1969: Close proximity Analysis: A rapid method for the ordering of at chaeological materials. American Antiquity vol. 34, No. 3. Salt LKE City.
[7]. Issac N. 1960: The Stone Age Culture Kurnoal. Ph.D. Thesis unpublished Deccan College Ponna.
[8]. Murti D.B. 1977: Middle Stone Age Site at Modduru, District Guntur, it ninas (Journal of A.P. Archiever) Vol. V. No. 1.
[9]. Murti D.B. and Srinivasulu K. 196: Middle Palaeoliths from Nagarjuna Nagar and Tummalapalem, District Guntur, A.P. & S.M.S. Lxx1 No. 1 and 2.
[10]. Murti D.B. 1992: Prehistoric Investigation in the Naguleru Valley A Metrical Approach. Proceedings of Indian History Congress 52 Session. New Delhi.
[11]. Murthy M.L.K. 1970: Blade and Burin and hate stone age Industries around Renigunta, Chittoor District. Indian Antiquity, Vol. N, No. 1-4.
[12]. Robinson W.S. 1951: A Method for Chronologically ordering Archaeological Deposits. American Antiquity Vol XVIL No. 4, Salt Lake City.
[13]. Sankalia H.D. 1974: The prehistory and proto history of India and Pakistan Deccan College, Poona.
[14]. Sarma I.K. 1974: Indian Archaeology – A Review 1973 – 74: 89.
[15]. Soundara Rajan K.V. 1952: Stone Age Industries Near Giddalur, Kurnool District, Ancient India No. 8: 64 – 92.