

Indus Valley Civilization: A Socio-Historical Study

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Abstract:

Indus valley civilization or the Harappan civilization was the earliest recognized urban culture of the Indian sub-continent. It is very important that the more striking Indus region was the home to the biggest of the four old urban civilization establishments of Egypt, Mesopotamia, South Asia and China. Harappa was a metropolis in the Indus human advancement that flourished approximately 2600 to 1700 B.C.E. in the western piece of South Asia. The civilization was first recognized in 1921 at Harappa in the Punjab area and after that in 1922 at Mohenjodaro near the Indus River in the Sindh area.

Key Words: Indus Valley Civilization, Harappa, Socio-Historical

Backdrop:

The credit of question of this unclear human development goes conveyed to Ray Bahadur Dayaram. He exposed this position in the year 1921 under the way of Sir John Marshall. After around 1 year in 1922 at the period of finding one more place was found in Larkana at Pakistan. Noted that the idea of this position it was acknowledged that this human advancement was restricted just to Sindhu Valley only. The present titled "Indus Valley Civilization: A Socio-Historical Study" will highlight the sociological and historical important of the Indus Valley Civilization.

Main Focus of the Study:

The Indus cities are mainly renowned for their urban development, a technological and political method concerned with the use of land and plan of the urban background. They are highlighted for their baked brick houses; elaborate drainage method, water supply techniques and clusters of large, nonresidential structures.

Statement of the Problem:

There are so many researches on the Indus Valley Civilization for its historical evidence and archeological perspectives, but the socio-historical significance of Indus Valley Civilization in the contemporary is of great value.

Review of Literature:

Some of the important reviews are as under-

1. Aashaq Hussain Bhat (2017) in the paper titled "The Indus Valley Civilization" highlights that Indus region was the home to the main of the four ancient urban civilization establishments of Egypt, Mesopotamia, South Asia and China.
2. Samar K Kundu (2013) in his paper titled "Indus Valley Civilization" focuses the historical and chronological importance of Indus Valley Civilization.

Objectives of the Study:

The main objectives of the study are mainly-

1. To highlight the historical identity of Indus Valley Civilization.
2. To focus the sociological significance of the Civilization.

Research Question:

1. Is there any historical identity of Indus Valley Civilization?
2. Is there any sociological relevance of the Indus Valley Civilization?

Rationale:

The Indus Valley Civilization has two utmost cities namely Mohenjo-daro and Harappa, came out circa 2600 BCE along the Indus River valley in Punjab and Sindh.

Research Methodology:

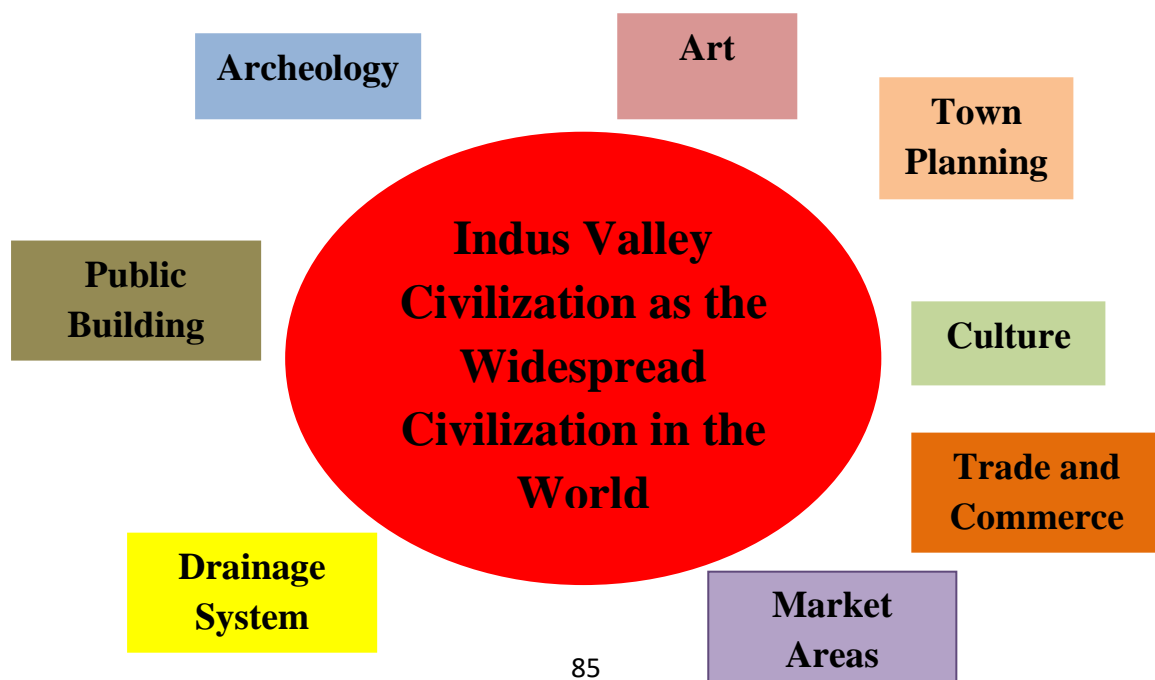
The research paper is based on secondary sources like books, periodicals, research papers, research articles, journals, newspapers etc. The paper is historical in nature with its sociological significance.

Discussion and Results:



Sources: <http://www2.demis.nl/mapserver/mapper.asp>

1. The recognition of the Harappan development in the early twentieth century was measured to be the most noteworthy archaeological exploration in the Indian Subcontinent, not since it was one the earliest development of the world, but since it extended back the antiquity of settled life in the Indian.



2. The Indus Valley Civilization grew and developed at the same time when other civilization in other parts of Africa and Asia, mostly in the Valleys of the rivers the Nile, the Euphrates, the Tigris and the Hwang-Ho.
3. The Harappan Culture became significant and vital about 4,500 years ago, or as people normally says, in about 2,500 B.C.
4. The varied terracotta facts give us the best data about the social and economic life of the people. Almost certainly Merchant class was ruling the Indus Valley development and its civilization.
5. The varied weapons for example axes, bows, arrows, and gada were used.
6. The Indus Valley Civilization has a population of over 5 million people about. The Indus Valley people covered of Australoids, Mediterranean, Mongoloid and Alpine races.
7. The Indus people did not have an organized spiritual system, as they did not construct temples. They Worship gods in the form of tree i.e. **Pipal** and animals i.e. **unicorn**.
8. The urban population of the Indus people needed more, utilized weights and measures for trade and varied exchanges. A variety of utensils utilized for weights have been found. They basically show that in weighing for the most part 16 or its some others were utilized.
9. A lot of spindles were explored at the Harappan sites and it highlights the use of cotton for weaving social cloths. Almost certainly wool was used. The garments might have been sewn.
10. The status of women is of great value and wore a short skirt which was held at the waist by a girdle. The men wrapped long pieces of cloth about themselves.
11. The Indus valley peoples sowed seeds in the surge fields in November when the surge water subsided and procured their harvests of wheat and Barley in April before the coming of the following surge.
12. The Harappan people mostly used the wooden plowshare.
13. The Indus valley civilization has a trading connection with the people of Sumer and towns lying along the Persian Gulf.
14. The trade and commerce system was mostly accepted by ships from Lothal and incoming goods were also received here.

The Concept Harappa:

Harappa is the ancient city and one of the centers of the Indus civilization which flourished from 2500 to 1700 BC; perhaps destroyed by the Indo-European invaders. The area of Saptasindhu river is a area of our Indian culture. The civilization developed here is identified as the Indus valley civilization as the

cities which thrived near the Indus River. Nevertheless, the modern historians call it as the Harappan Civilisation since Harappa was the first city to be explored.

Commodities which were imported by the Harappa citizens:

1. **Afghanistan:** Tin, Silver, Gold, Led Himalaya - Mineral pitch
2. **Iran:** Tin, Silver, Led Khetadi - Copper
3. **Baluchistan:** Copper, Stealite South India - Gold, Shell, Grey
4. **Faras:** Gold Rajasthan - Stealite, Led
5. **Mesopotamia:** Lapis, Lazuli Gujarat - Stealite
6. **Badaksha:** Blue Diamond. Maharastra - Sapphire
7. **Saurashtra:** Shell, Grey
8. **Neelgiri:** Green Stone.

Commodities which were exported by Harappa citizens:

1. **Faras (bay):** Gold, Silver, Copper, Lapis Lazuli, bead of stone, ivory comb, Soot, Many types of Wooden, Diamond, Monkeys, Peacock.
2. **Sumar:** Marbal seals, Diamond, Images Wooden.
3. **Greek:** Cotton
4. **Babylon:** Cotton
5. **Mesopotamia:** Diamonds
6. **Egypt:** Diamonds, Neckless, Stool, Images, Candle stand, spoons.

Seals

The Harappan Seals were prepared of clay or stone. The varied seals had a plan on one side; typically, the image of a bull, a tree or some scene and above the image was a way of pictographs. The varied vital seals were maybe used by merchants and traders to stamp their commodities.

Causes of Decline of the Indus Valley Civilization:

The decline of Harappan culture has evoked the historians to find out its causes.

1. Law of the natural world
2. Flood conditions
3. Earthquakes and its impact
4. Change of the Course of the Indus Valley Civilization
5. Plague
6. Foreign attack

Some Facts

1. The first mention of possibility of the Harappan Civilization was made early as 1826, by Charles Masen.
2. The Civilization was named "Indus Valley Civilization" by Sir John Marshal (1924) after its discovery by Daga Ram Shana and Vatsa in 1921-22.
3. A maximum number of sites were explored by S.R.Rao in Gujarat (190).
4. Around 2600 sites have been found in which 350 have been excavated.
5. The Mohenjadroo is the largest in Indus Valley Civilization. Aladdin is the smallest.
6. Dholavira and the Rakhigarshi are the largest sites in India.

Findings:

The major findings of the study are-

1. The development of the Indus Valley Civilization has the similarity with other old history civilization.
2. The earliest facts of human civilization in South Asia are from the Mehrgarh region (7000 BC to 3200 BC) of Pakistan.
3. The Indus Valley Civilization is one of the world's ancient urban civilizations (3300–1300 BCE), in the Northwestern area of the Indian subcontinent, covering of what is now chiefly present-day Pakistan and Northwest India.
4. The Indus Valley Civilization has two greatest cities like Mohenjo-daro and Harappa; they came out circa 2600 BCE with the Indus River valley in Punjab and Sindh area.
5. The development of the Indus Valley Civilization with a writing method, urban centers, and diversified social and economic structure.
6. Indus Valley civilization was chiefly an urban culture sustained by surplus agricultural development and trade and commerce, the latter counting trade with Mesopotamia.
7. The first widespread excavations at Harappa were started by Rai Bahadur Daya Ram Sahni in the year 1920.
8. The Harappan civilization is sometimes identified the Mature Harappan culture to distinguish it from varied cultures and traditions.

Conclusion:

The Indus Valley Civilization started in South Asia in at (7000 BCE -3200 BCE) highlights the place of the Indus Valley with the value to the early stages of the ancient world. It is also remarkable that the Indus Valley Civilization is one of the world's ancient urban development's (3300–1300 BCE), in the Northwestern area of the Indian subcontinent, covering of what is at the present mostly present-day

Pakistan and Northwest India. The very civilization extend across the Indus River basin East, West, North and South over 500,000 square miles, assembling it the largest recognized ancient civilization and had a population of five million inhabitants.

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