



Exploration of Megalithic Tombs in Jalipentehill.

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Abstract

The Present Paper Makes An Attempt To Analyse The Archaeological Significance Of Megalithic Tombs Explored In Jalipentehill And Bommanagundu Villages In Molakalmuru Taluk In Chitradurga District, Karnataka. The Author Has Also Examined The Drawings Of Human Beings Engraved In White Colour In This Region.

Keywords: Megalithic, Chambers, Dolmenoid

Introduction

Molakalmuru Taluk Has Occupied A Special Place In The Archaeological Studies. This Is The Place Where The Rock Edicts Of Emperor Asoka Have Been Located Besides Having Many Antiquities Of Iron Age. Jalipentehill Is 31kms Away From Molakalmuru Taluk Headquarters. It Is Bound By Devalarahally, Mattajanahally Villages Of Sanduru Taluk To The South, Motalakunte, Bommanagundu Jinivaladahill And Haluru Villages To The North. The Topography Of Jalipentehill Has Natural Flora And Fauna, Streams And Natural Granite Stone Terrain Have The Enriched The Geographical Area. Thus, The Sites Of Jalipentehill Indicate That There Were Sufficiently Flourishing Iron Age Sites With People Leading Civilized Life With Noble Values.

Review Literature

In 1892, B.L. Rice Located The Rock Edicts Of Ashoka In Brahmagiri, Siddapura And Jatangirameshwara, Thus Placing Molakalmuru As The Prominent Archeological Site. The Excavations Of Rice Resulted In Attracting Archeological Studies In This Area By National And International Scholars. H.M.Krisna, In 1940, Conducted An Archeological Survey In Brahmagiri And Unearthed The Sites Of Mesolithic, Neolithic, Megalithic And Pre-Historic Times. Citing Lack Of Scientific Approach In The Excavations Conducted By H.M. Krishna, Martimer Wheeler Conducted A Detailed Survey In 1947 And Submitted A Comprehensive Report On These Sites. This Led To Exclusive Studies By Robert Bruce Foot, A.Sundara, Lakshman Telagavi, C.S.Vasudevan, Virupakshi Poojarahally, Thippeswamy S, S.Y. Somashekhar, H. Thippeswamy, Ullanally Jayanna, Ramadas Reddy, Charulatha, Sharath Babu, Manjunath And Other Eminent Scholars. Ullanally Jayanna In His Research Study On The Topic Archeological Environ Of Molakalmuru Taluk In 2002 Has Discovered As Many As 24 Megalithic Sites In This Area. The Mass Of Sites Identified In This Region Has Inspired Comprehensive Studies By Scholars Of National And International Repute.

The Present Study

The Recent Study Visit To Jalipentehill And Bommanagundu Villages In Molakalmuru Taluk Has Located Stone Burial Chambers Of Megalithic Age, Drawings Of Human Beings In White Colour And A Natural Stream. This Study Intends To Analyze The Significance Of These Sites.

The Stone Burial Chambers Of Megalithic Age Have Been Located In Sanna Kothigundu And Dodda Kothigundu Near Jalipentehill. Along With This, Drawings Of Human Beings Engraved In White Color And A Natural Stream Have Also Been Discovered In This Place. The Natural Stream Is Locally Called *Vadludoni* And *Konanadoni*. Since The Land Is Wet Owing To The Natural Stream, It Has Become Easy To Grow Paddy. The Word *Vadlu* in Telugu Means Paddy In English. Therefore, The Locals Call This Stream *Vadludoni*. Many Inter-Disciplinary Research Studies Have Discovered That The People Of Neolithic Age Were In The Habit Of Growing Food Grains. It Has Also Been Discovered That *Beckeyeria Ramosa* And Other Food Grains Were The Staple Food Of Neolithic Age. The *Vadludoni* In

Jalipentehill Is Still A Potential Area To Grow Such Type Of Paddy. Likewise, There Is Another Stream Named *Konana Doni*. It Is Said That A Buffalo Drowned In This Stream, Thus Came To Be Called *Konana Doni*. Though No Exploration Have Unearthed Remnants Of Neolithic Age In This Place, Burial Chambers, Paintings, Caves And Menhirs Of Megalithic Age Have Been Explored Here.

The People Of Iron Age Intelligently Selected The Sites Which Had The Natural Availability Of Resources And Materials Needed For Human Habitation. The Caves And The Stone Burial Chambers Discovered In Jalipentehill Indicate That This Was A Habitat Of The People Of The Megalithic Age. The People Of Megalithic Age Continued The Practices Of Stone And Bronze Age. The Cultural Practices Of Megalithic Times Have Larger Foot Prints In The Evolution Of Man. The People Of This Age Planted Burial Chambers After Cremating The Dead Bodies. Such Megalithic Tombs Can Be Seen In Jalipentehill. Some of the Types Of Burial Chambers Are; Dolmens, Stone Circles, Menhirs, Cist, Pit Burials And Dolmenoid Cists. As Many As 15 Stone Burials, Resembling Dolmens, Have Been Discovered In Jalipentehill. Majority Of Them Have Been Dilapidated Except A Few Which Are In Good Condition. The Dolmens Constructed With The Locally Available Granite Slabs Which Are Neatly Filed With Iron Implements. One Such Dolmen Has Measured 2 Meters Long And 1 Meter Wide. The Dolmen Is Covered With A Slab Which Is 1 Meter In Length. Another Dolmen Is In Rectangular Shape, Measuring 2 Meters In Length, 1 Meter In Width. This Is Covered With A Slab Which Is 1 Meter In Length. Likewise, More Than 20 Stone Burial Chambers Have Been Discovered In Bommanagundu Village, Said To Be Constructed In The Memory Of The Dead During Megalithic Times.

Conclusion

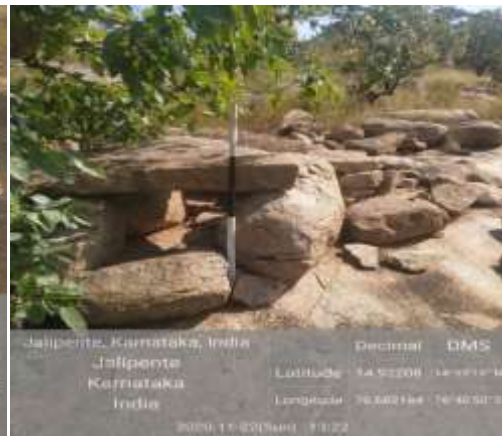
The Archaeological Evidences Have Substantiated That Jalipentegudda And Bommanagundu Were The Habitat For People Of Megalithic Age. At Haluru Village, 1 Km Away From Bommanagundu, A Stream Locally Called *Yarravanka* (Red Stream) Flows To East From West. On The Bank Of This Stream One Can Notice The Memorial Stones Of Post-Vijayanagara Period And The Statues Of Lord Anjaneya. This Has Been Recorded By Marikunte Thippeswamy In His Book *Molakalmuru Taluku Darshana*⁴. It Is A Very Sorry

State Of Affairs That Treasure Hunters Have Ransacked These Sites In Their Bid To Dig Treasure. The Author Of This Paper Found, During The Study Visits, That Pieces Of Earthen Pots, Iron Metal, Bricks And Ashes In This Area Which Can Be Very Significant Sources For The Research Scholars. There Is A Need To Conduct Comprehensive Studies In This Aspect. (The Author Is Indebted To Manjanna, K.M. Himanthraj And Bangari For Their Kind Co-Operation Extended During The Study Visits)

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Figures



1. Dolmen (jalipente)

2. Dolmen(Bommanagundu)



3. Dolmenoid Cist(Bommanagundu)



4. Iron slag(Haaluru).