



RESEARCH PAPER

Peer Surahayo: A Pre Indus Kotdijian Period Archaeological site Discover in Khairpur Sindh

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ABSTRACT

Peer Surahayo is a newly discovered site of Pre Indus Kotdijian to the Indus valley civilization site in southeast corner 2 kms west of famous shrine of Adham Sultan and just close to the edge of Rohri hills. The site is feeling like a heap of debris but micro examining over surface feeling cultural mound with little bits of broken pottery chipped stones objects are rarely scattered on top surface. The main objective is to see the total depth of the site and its cultural affiliation than use the methodology later decided which spot selected for test trench to acquire the Archaeological data from the deposition. To lay the test trench some southern wall of the shrine measuring 1X1 meter with 30 cms in depth data collected for analysis. The benefits of this research is fixes the accurate chronology of the site from Pre Indus Kotdijian dated 2800 BC to 2500 BC to 2450 BC to 1750 BC and to see the relationship to the surrounded settlements as Kotdiji, Taloor ji Bhit and Bhandu Qubo Kotdijian period sites and also highlight the awareness to youth of locals for further research on archaeological sites of the region.

KEYWORDS Archaeology, Atreifact, Chronology, Geography

Introduction

The four famous civilizations of the world as Mesopotamian civilization located along the banks of the Euphrates and Tiger River Egyptian civilization is located on the bank of Nile River, Indus civilization is located along the banks of Indus river which is considered largest river of the Pakistan and China civilization located along the bank of Hong Howa River in China. Mesopotamian civilization and Indus valley civilization have their respective places in history of the world and called cradle of civilizations. The geography of Pakistan is divided into three major zones as Hilly where high and low mounds plains and deserted all these areas are occupied by the primitive and modern societies. A century ago in colonial ear the area was investigated archaeologically by various experts and administrative but some of archaeological sites are excavated. After the discovery of largest site of Mohen-jodaro by R.D Banerji in 1918, than excavated by John Marshal superintendent of archaeological survey of India (Allchin, 1982)

At the same time Archaeological exploration work carried out in Sindh. In 1927 Aurel Stien undertook a detail survey in Wasiristan and northern Baluchistan (Stein 1929) and discovered a large number of chalcolithic sites in the Zohb and Loralai valley. N. G. Majumdar in 1929 explores the lower Indus and the hilly tracts of Johi, Sehwan and Kohistan of Sindh (Shashi, 1985). Same year another historian Henery Cousen came and survey the all type of sites selected sites as Amri a early Indus period site located in present Jamshoro district and Kahu Jo Daro a Buddhist stupa located in close to north of Mirpurkhas (Cousens, 1929-1998). Majority of sites are documented in systematic and scientific way. In 1934 Mr Gury investigated the Khairpur reports Naru waro dhoro and Pre Indus period site of Kotdiji.

It is located 20 kilometres south of Khairpur town along the right side of old national highway and just opposite of Kotdiji fort a medieval fort of Talpur Ameers. The site was excavated by F.A Khan from 1955-57 conducted large scale excavation. He chose horizontal excavation from north western corner from bottom to top reported 16 cultural layers shows layer 1 to 2 belongs to mature Indus period dated (2450 BC to 1750 BC) Layer 3 is considered ash layer and 4 to 16 layers are considered Kotdijian culture dated 2800 BC to 2450 BC (Khan Dr, 2003).

It was the period of 1959 thirty years later the site of Amri was again excavated by J.M. Casal a French Archaeological Mission from top to bottom reports 5 cultural layers as Period I called Amrian IA to ID at mound A. Also opinion that, Kotdijian pottery is reported in Amri period ID.

Before the discovery of Sarai Kola It was believed that there is no prehistoric settlement in the vicinity of Islamabad but later in 1964 Mr Halim ex-Director of northern Circle Department of Archaeology Lahore first explored some south of Islamabad on the Grand Trunk road near Bhir Mound. Excavation conducted from 1964 to 1972 found 4 cultural periods in which period II is called typical Kotdijian culture or Kotdijian type pottery are found dated 2800 BC to 1750 BC (Halim, 1972).

In 1976 the department of Archaeology university of Peshawar report a site of Rehman Dheri located 23 kilometres north of Dera Ismail Khan at Gomal plain. The mound measures 1200 X 900 meters with the height of 7 meters. Site was excavated by F.A. Durani in 1981 reported Rehman Dheri I Lowest-Proto Kotdijian, Rehman Dheri II - Intermediate Kotdijian and Rehman Dheri III Upper most- Evolved Kotdijian in which all features of Kotdiji site are appear (Durani , 1981).

An important site Loal Mar is first reported by H.T. Lambrick during his visit in upper Sindh (Lambrick, 1964). It is located north of village Syed Imam Ali Shah in Taluka Pano Aakil District Sukkur. The site occupies 180 meters North-South and 143 meters East-West with one meter in height. The artefacts scattered on the surface includes Plain and painted pottery with various designs. The pottery is mostly short necked everted rim with thick black band from outer surface and fish scale black design shows typical Kotdijian pottery other includes Indus valley civilization period (Mallah 2014-15)

Other significant site is Taloor ji Bhit located 5 kilometres north east of Kot Lalo Chaudagi in Taluka Faizganj District Khairpur. The site is first reported by Muhammad Mukhtiar Kazi ex Chairman Department of Archaeology in 1992 (Kazi, 1992). The measurement of the site is 443 meters East-West and 467 meters North-South. It is divided into two portions Mound A is located west side within alluvial plain and B surface scatter located on the sand dunes. The cultural material shows Kotdijian period and continued to the Indus period (Mallah, 2000-2001)

Bhir site is located in the left bank of Nara canal and six kilometres east of Rohri hills district Sukkur. The site two meter high from the surrounded cultivated land. Different cultural material from different level shows some Kotdijian period sherds were collected.

Bhando Qubo site is located four kilometres east of Rato dero and 37 kilometres North-East of Mohenjo Daro. The extent of the site is 350X300 meters and 4.50 meters high from surrounding plain. The site is preoccupied by the historical tomb named Bhando Qubo built in 1740 AD (Cousens, 1929-1998). The site was accidentally discovered when Indus highway was being constructed and a portion of the site on the northern side was exposed and damaged.

In 1997 the team from Department of Archaeology SALU Khairpur documented the exposed section and open small test pit measuring 1X2 meter to verify the continuity of cultural occupation. This investigation confirmed that the site was initially occupied during Kotdijian period and continued into Mature Indus civilization. In the same Ganero-8 near Thari Mirwah and Ganero -12 north eastern edge of Sain sim of Thari Mirwah and Jamal Shah-5 at saline water lake named Jamal Shah Sim reports pottery sherds of Kotdijian period (Mallah Q. H., 2000-2001).

Other important workshop of Kotdijian phase documented clusters of Chert tools manufacturing are discovered Kandharki -1, II and III southern tip of Rohri hills and Rohri Hills Bypass some south of Rohri town.

Literature Review

The second Kotdijian site is located in Taluks Kotdiji, District Khairpur Mirs first reported by Syed Bachal Shah Bukhari in 1988 than, site was archaeologically examine by the researcher in 1990 along senior Professor of Department of Archaeology Shah Abdul Latif University Khairpur Dr Ghulam Mustafe Shar. After site was selected for MSc final dissertation. And for this research site was again visited.

Material and Methods

For this research work selected quantitative research method in which used scientific surveying tools as tripod with table stuff rod measuring tapes geometry box graph paper and butter paper for tracing papers and drawing material are used and in laboratory uses the washing material as distal water to remove the salinity from the pottery objects proper numbering than analysis for final interpretation.

Location of Site

The site Peer Surahayo is situated 68.48" East and 27.33" North in Deh Rajpari at the east of salinity channel from samp station No 33 and western edge of Rohri hills near the tomb of Adham Sultan, Taluka Kotdiji, and District Khairpur. The site lies on the western edge of high lime stone rand of Rohri hills which is the great source of chert stone from the Palaeolithic era to the modern age with the distance of 3 kilometres. The modern village Khanan Buraro are located west of the site with the distance of one kilometre. The nature of the site are two mounds Mound A and B with small distance.

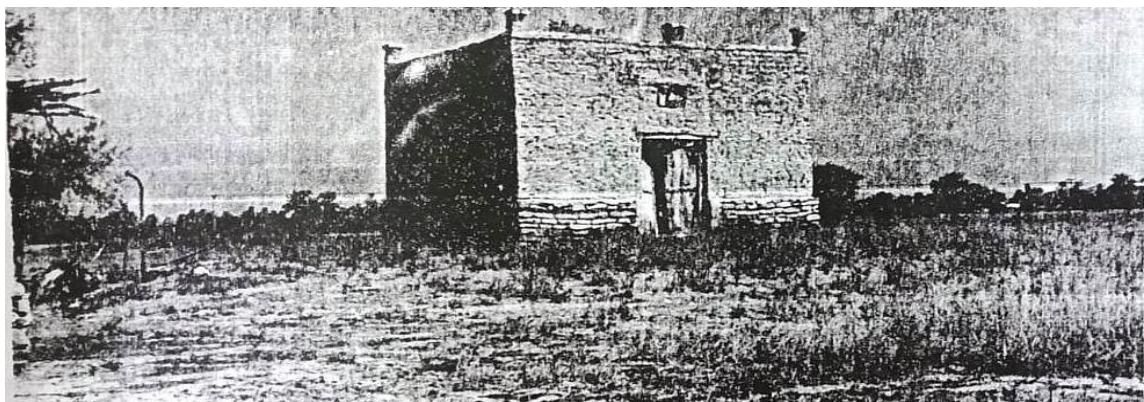


Fig 1 General view of the site Peer Surahayo at mound A (Courtesy Laghari 1990)

Mound A

It is located half kilometre from the pamp station No 33 to the east. Mound is measured length is 64 meters width is 52 meters with one meter high from the present

surface site covering an area 1528 square meters. On the top surface of the site is the modern structure made with stone blocks which carried from Rohri hills and mud bricks in which, inside a grave of Peer Surahayo The structure is measured length is 5.50 meters width is 4.95 meters and height is 3.30 meters and other is the shelter made with wood for the devotees who came there and pay their appreciations and sometime stay there one night or more locally called Otaro means where devotees stay there At the southern wall of the structure selected spot for small test trench measuring 1X1 meter excavated 20 centimetres below the top collected artefacts as pottery, chert stone cores blades flakes terracotta objects as bangles and cakes are collected (Fig#1).

Cultural Material

After the excavation small test trench the following cultural selected material are examine in the Departmental laboratory according to the science of Archaeology from mound A. the majority of the cultural material is Pottery and stones objects. In pottery there are plain painted in bi-chrome almost black designs of water vessels with everted rim short neck with thick black band on outer surface thin in body wall belongs Pre Indus period Kotdijian pottery 2800BC to 2500 BC (Fig# 2)The measurement of each broken sherd is given scientifically (Table#1)

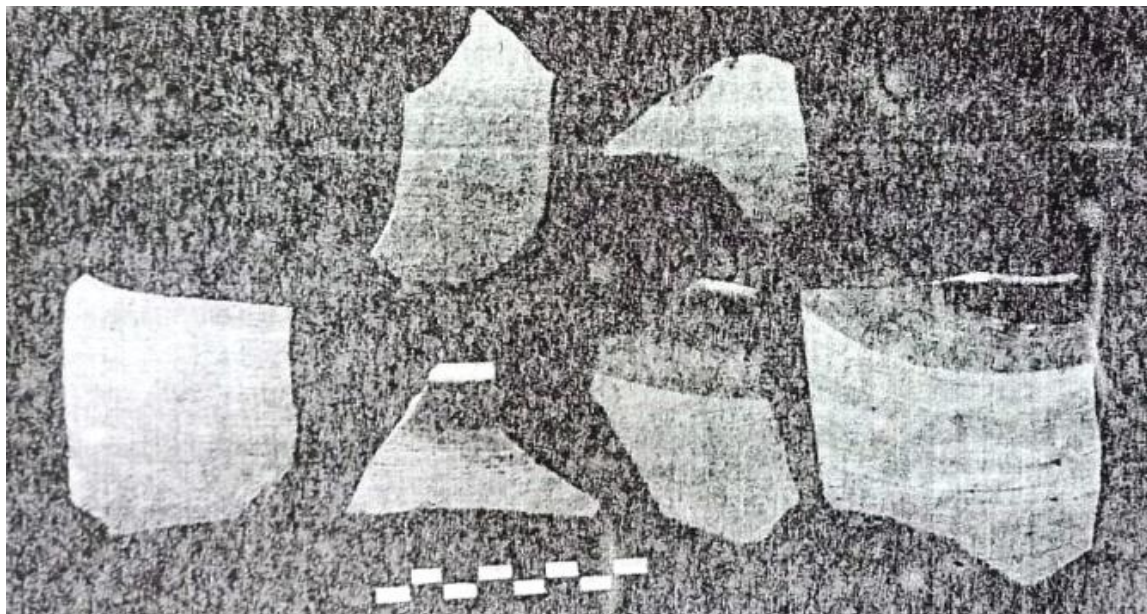


Fig 2 shows the typical Kotdijian pottery 2800 BC. (Courtesy Laghari 1990)

Table 1
Size of Kotdijian Pottery 2800 BC-2450 BC

Sr.	Abb:	Catalogue No:	Category	Part	Length (cms)	Width (cms)	Thickness (cms)
1.	PS	477	Pottery	Rim, Body	10.0	9.00	0.5
2.	PS	476	=	=	8.3	4.9	0.6
3.	PS	478	=	=	7.3	5.00	0.7
4.	PS	475	=	=	6.2	3.1	0.9
5.	PS	577	=	=	4.00	3.8	0.5
6.	PS	481	=	Body	8.1	6.6	0.5
7.	PS	483	=	=	8.5	4.3	0.5
8.	PS	360	=	=	7.00	5.1	0.5
9.	PS	495	=	=	5.9	5.6	0.6
10.	PS	68	=	=	5.3	4.00	0.4
11.	PS	69	=	=	9.4	8.3	0.7

Indus period artefacts

Other vessels have thick in body wall upper part of broken plate of dish-on-stand (Fig#A) Broken perforated Jar (Fig#B) cord mark impression design (Fig#C) painted with floral and geometrical designs on fine red slip (Fig#D Table#2) Terracotta Bangles of various sizes (Fig#E) small chert cores prepared with pressure technology (Fig#F Table#3) small chert blades remove from the cores (Fig#G Table#4) broken flakes remove from the cores which is consider discarded objects (Fig#H Table#5) and some broken terracotta cakes (Fig#I) in large number are collected These characteristics of the pottery of Peer Surahayo is consider the similarities of Indus valley civilization period / centralization era dated 2450 BC to 1750 BC at the alluvial land of Pakistan.)



Fig A Comb mark design of plate

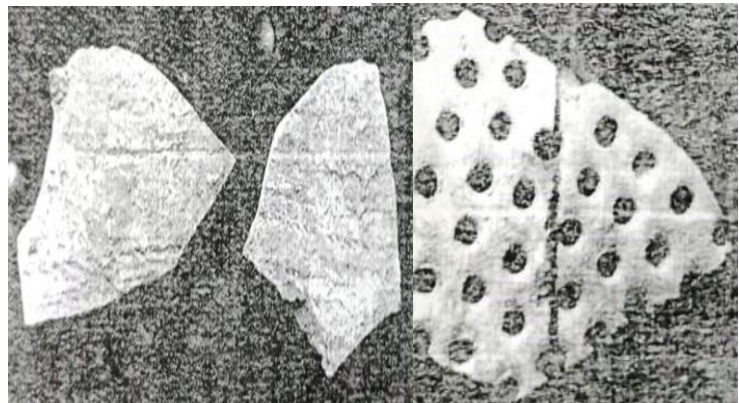


Fig B. Perforated Jar

Fig C. Cord mark design



Fig D. Thick painted pottery

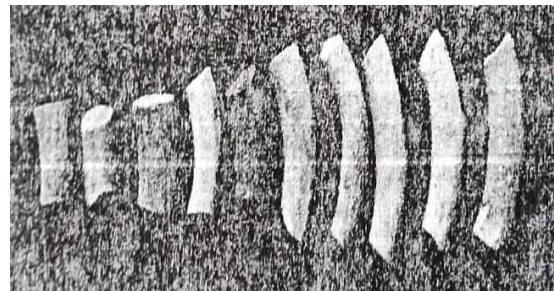


Fig E. Terracotta Bangles

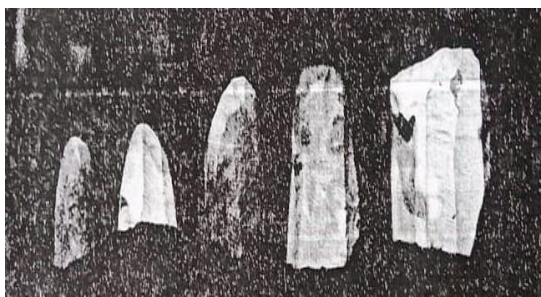


Fig F. Chert cores

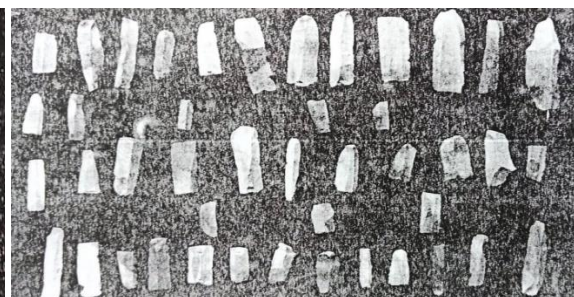


Fig G Chert Blades

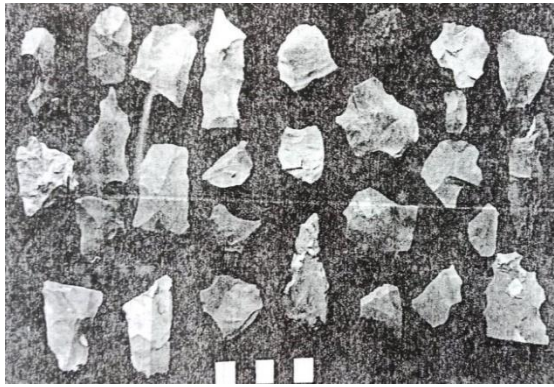
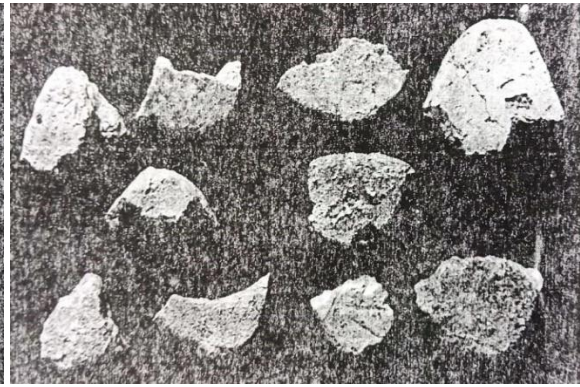


Fig H Chert Flakes



FigI Broken Terracotta Cakes

Table 2
Mature Indus Pottery 2450 BC-1750 BC

Sr.	Abb	Catalogue No:	Category	Part	Length (cms)	Width (cms)	Thickness (cms)
1.	PS	70	Pottery	Rim, Neck	19.5	7.9	1.2
2.	PS	575	=	=	16.5	7.1	0.9
3.	PS	67	=	Body	12.6	4.1	1.8
4.	PS	166	=	=	8.1	6.8	1.8
5.	PS	372	=	=	12.3	5.8	1.2
6.	PS	395	=	=	7.5	6.9	1.1
7.	PS	510	=	=	13.8	8.9	1.1
8.	PS	59	=	=	7.4	5.9	1.1
9.	PS	72	=	=	9.4	4.8	0.9
10.	PS	89-90	=	=	14.3	5.2	0.9
11.	PS	859	=	=	5.3	3.6	0.9
12.	PS	549	=	=	3.6	2.8	0.6
13.	PS	363-64	=	Perforated	9.6	7.6	1.2
14.	PS	383	=	Plate	7.00	5.9	1.7
15.	PS	87	=	Lid	9.2	6.5	1.1

Table 3
Size of Chert Cores

S. No:	S. Abb:	Catalogue No:	Length	With	Thickness
1.	PS	351	3.9	2.2	1.6
2.	PS	350	4.2	2.5	1.7
3.	PS	349	4.2	3.6	2.7
4.	PS	471	2.4	1.9	1.4

Table 4
Size of Chart Blades

S.No:	S. Abb	Catalogue No:	Length (cms)	Width (cms)	Thickness (cms)
1.	PS	196	3.7	0.8	0.2
2.	PS	167	4.1	1.1	0.2
3.	PS	185	4.7	1.3	0.3
4.	PS	190	4.4	1.9	0.4
5.	PS	432	3.4	1.4	0.2
6.	PS	170	3.0	1.2	0.3
7.	PS	417	3.6	1.5	0.3
8.	PS	194	4.3	0.9	0.2
9.	PS	161	3.9	0.9	0.3
10.	PS	94	2.8	1.2	0.2
11.	PS	168	3.7	1.4	0.3
12.	PS	191	2.8	1.0	0.2
13.	PS	213	2.9	1.1	0.3

14.	PS	183	3.9	0.8	0.3
15.	PS	169	3.7	1.1	0.3
16.	PS	187	3.6	1.1	0.3
17.	PS	207	2.5	0.9	0.3
18.	PS	451	2.5	1.3	0.3
19.	PS	217	2.1	1.2	0.3
20.	PS	440	3.1	1.1	0.2
21.	PS	188	3.2	1.2	0.3
22.	PS	165	5.2	1.8	0.3
23.	PS	198	2.8	0.8	0.2
24.	PS	50	2.6	1.1	0.2
25.	PS	197	3.3	1.1	0.2
26.	PS	175	3.4	0.7	0.2
27.	PS	204	3.0	1.1	0.2
28.	PS	189	3.0	1.1	0.2
29.	PS	93	2.9	0.8	0.3
30.	PS	452	2.4	1.1	0.3
31.	PS	173	3.1	1.0	0.3
32.	PS	219	2.1	1.0	0.2

Table 5
Size of Chert Flakes

S. No:	S. Abb:	Catalogue No	Length	With	Thickness
1.	PS	253	4.9	1.9	0.6
2.	PS	06	5.1	1.2	0.6
3.	PS	227	3.1	2.7	0.5
4.	PS	228	3.9	2.5	0.4
5.	PS	268	3.2	2.5	0.3
6.	PS	271	2.6	2.0	0.3
7.	PS	261	3.4	2.1	0.4
8.	PS	481	5.9	2.5	0.4
9.	PS	287	2.6	1.7	0.4
10.	PS	286	3.2	1.6	0.4
11.	PS	281	3.3	1.4	0.3
12.	PS	297	3.3	2.4	0.3
13.	PS	119	2.9	1.9	0.3
14.	PS	57	2.4	1.8	0.3
15.	PS	118	2.4	1.8	0.4
16.	PS	291	2.4	1.2	0.2

Mound B

Mound B is reported at the distance of 125 meters north east of mound A at the agricultural land of local owner Muhammad Bux Buraro. It is smaller mound from Mound A. Its length is 42 meters and width is 28 meters and one meter high from the present surrounded land. No structural remains are found. During investigation observe round nodules and like pebble chipped by the prehistoric man are scattered (Fig#3). The site was deeply examined but no remains of pottery sherds or stone objects and any artefacts are reported from this mound (Fig#3).



Fig#3 General view of the mound B (Courtesy Laghari 1990)

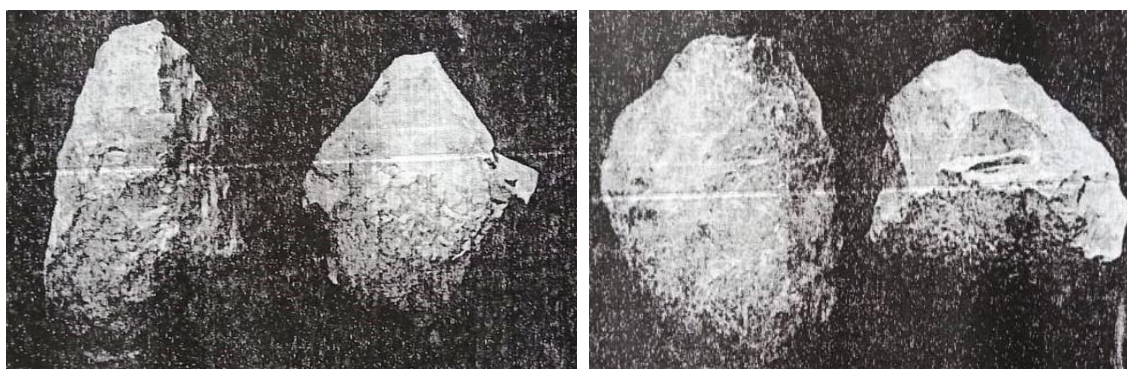


Fig 4 stone objects shows like tool (Courtesy Laghari 1990)

Table 6
statistical data of the Surface Collection of Site

S. No:	Category	Item	Quantity	Percentage
1.	Pottery	Lid Sherd	3	0.4 %
		Rim Sherd	1	0.1 %
		Rim with body Sherd	26	3.8 %
		Incised Sherd	10	1.4 %
		Plain Body Sherd	10	1.4 %
		Plain Base with body Sherd	8	1.1 %
		Painted Sherd	15	2.2 %
		Cord mark	3	0.2 %
		Perforated Sherd	2	0.2 %
		2.	Terracotta	Terracotta Cake
T.C Bangles	10			1.4 %
3.	Stone	Chert Blades	136	20.3 %
		Chert Flakes	414	61.9 %
		Chert Cores	6	0.8 %
		Grinding Stone	1	0.1 %
		Total Objects	668	100 %

Catalogue of Artefacts

PS 90#476. Short everted rim body sherd of water vessel with off white slip and thick black band on outer surface. Thin in body wall Kotdijian.

PS 90#477. Broken Short everted rim body sherd of water vessel with off white slip and thick black band on outer surface. Thin in body wal Kotdijianl.

PS 90#478. Broken rim body sherd of large water vessel painted with off white slip and thick black band on outer surface. Thin in body wall Kotdijian.

PS 90#481. Red body sherd of water vessel painted with light off white slip from outer surface thin in body wall Kotdijian.

PS 90#482. Red body sherd of water vessel painted with light off white slip from outer surface thin in body wall Kotdijian.

PS 90#483. Red body sherd of water vessel painted with light off white slip from outer surface thin in body wall.

PS 90#577. Broken red rim with body sherd of heavy Jar thick in body wall Plain.

PS 90#501. Red plain rim with body sherd of heavy Jar thick in body wall.

PS 90#499. Red plain rim with body sherd of heavy Jar thick in body wall.

PS 90#515. Plain red rim sherd thick in body wall.

PS 90#70. Plain red rim of jar surface is faded due to salinity affected.'

PS 90#68. Broken red sherd of pot with incised lines from outer surface.

PS 90#365. Plain red body sherd of large jar thick in body wall.

PS 90#509. Red body sherd of large jar with red slip from outer surface.

PS 90#474. Red rim of lower part of Dish-on-stand painted with thick black line from outer surface.

PS 90#510. Plain sherd of large pot thick in body wall.

PS 90#87. Broken body sherd of Vas thick in body wall.

PS 90#72. Plain body sherd of water vessel with incised lines from outer surface.

PS 90#67. Plain sherd of large pot thick in body wall.

PS 90#90. Body sherd of water vessel painted with thick black line and thick dot on outer surface thin in body wall.

PS 90#374. Body sherd of heavy jar faded due to salinity affected thick texture and incised lines from outer surface.

PS 90#69. Plain base body sherd medium texture.

PS 90#195. Plain body sherd thick in body wall with incised lines on outer surface.

- PS 90#375.** Plain body sherd thin in body wall.
- PS 90#73.** Body sherd of heavy vessel with four coated / applique lines from outer surface.
- PS 90#488.** Red body sherd of large jar with clay coated / applique lines on outer surface.
- PS 90#551.** Red body sherd thick in body wall.
- PS 90#378.** Body sherd of large jar painted with fine red slip on outer surface.
- PS 90#475.** Averted Rim body sherd of water vessel painted with thick black band.
- PS 90#367.** Red body sherd thick in body wall with incised lines on outer surface.
- PS 90#76.** Red body sherd thick in texture painted thick black dot on outer surface.
- PS 90#548.** Body sherd of big jar with coated / applique design on outside.
- PS 90#77.** Red base body of lid.
- PS 90#377.** Body sherd of vessel with clay coated / applique design from outside.
- PS 90#560.** Red body sherd painted with red slip on outer surface.
- PS 90#350.** Body of plate with black slip on inner surface.
- PS 90#21.** Red base body of open pot with incised line from outer surface.
- PS 90#574.** Body sherd of water vessel with incised lines from inner surface.
- PS 90#485.** Body sherd of water vessel with incised lines from inner surface.
- PS 90#566.** Body sherd of large jar with salinity affected.
- PS 90#388.** Broken base of lower part of dish-on-stand
- PS 90#542.** Body sherd of big jar with black line from inner surface.
- PS 90#361.** Base of lower part of dish-on-stand with red slip on outer surface.
- PS 90#520.** Red base body sherd of large jar thick in body wall.
- PS 90#79.** Body sherd of large jar thick in body wall with incised lines from outer surface.
- PS 90#385.** Body sherd of cooking pot vetrified/overfired.
- PS 90#81.** Body sherd of open pot with fine red slip medium in body wall.
- PS90#555.** Body sherd medium in texture with fine red slip from outer surface.
- PS 90#384.** Base body of cooking pot medium in texture.SS
- PS 90#88.** Body sherd of pot medium in texture with red slip from outer surface.
- PS 90#362.** Thick body sherd of large jar painted with two thick black parallel lines on fine red slip from outer surface.

- PS 90#419.** Red base body of vessel with incised thread cut lines on base.
- PS 90#489.** Plain body sherd of water vessel with potter mark/graffiti mark on outer surface.
- PS 90#83.** Short neck everted rim sherd thin in body wall contemporary Kotdijian.
- PS 90#499.** Plain body sherd thin in body wall Kotdijian period.
- PS 90#355.** Rim sherd of jar with black line on red slip.
- PS 90#71.** Rim body of open pot medium in body wall with incised lines from outer surface.
- PS 90#86.** Body sherd of cooking pot with black line on fine red slip.
- PS 90#390.** Body sherd of vessel with dull off white slip thin in texture typically Kotdijian.
- PS 90#496.** Body sherd of water vessel with incised lines.
- PS 90#480.** Rim of plate thick black band from both sides.
- PS 90#306.** Plain base body sherd of big jar thick in body wall.
- PS 90#74.** Broken plain pot sherd with incised line from outer surface.
- PS 90#492.** Plain body sherd thick in texture.
- PS 90#552.** Plain body sherd thick in body wall with fine red slip on outer surface.
- PS 90#366.** Plain body sherd thick in body wall.
- PS 90#85.** Thick base of cooking pot overfired.
- PS 90#511.** Plain body sherd thin in texture Kotdijian.
- PS 90#386.** Broken rim sherd medium texture.
- PS 90#564.** Plain body sherd thin in texture Kotdijian.
- PS 90#519.** Broken body sherd of pot medium in texture.
- PS 90#389.** Short neck everted rim thin in texture Kotdijian.
- PS 90#493.** Base of upper plate of dish-on-stand thick in texture.
- PS 90#383.** Base of upper plate of dish-on-stand with comb impression design.
- PS 90#559.** Broken thick body sherd.
- PS 90#571.** Faded body sherd of big jar.
- PS 90#518.** Broken body sherd of small pot, thin in texture.
- PS 90#568.** Broken rim sherd of small pot.
- PS 90#363.** Broken body sherd of perforated jar thick in body wall.

PS 90#364. Broken body sherd of perforated jar thick in body wall.

Chronology of the site

On the bases of cultural material which was excavated and collected from the surface of the site brought to the departmental laboratory for process of further treatment its washing process, numbering, conservation if required the artefact and for final interpretation. Almost broken plain and painted sherds show their own cultural affiliation as the shape and its design and decoration. The artefacts of the site Peer Surahayo shows two periods as

Period II Indus Valley Civilization era Dated 2450 BC to 1750 BC

Period I Pre Indus /Kotdijian Culture Dated 2800 BC to 2500 BC

Conclusion

The cultural data was collected randomly collected from the surface of the site and laid test pit measuring 1X1 meter from the southern wall of the shrine excavated material when analysis in laboratory shows Kotdijian culture period and Indus valley Civilization. But this site when deeply examine may be there is differences.

Recommendations

The hidden site of Peer Surahayo is considered second purely Kotdijian culture period and Indus valley civilization period site of located in Khairpur district. It is observed that, (1) site is preserved by owner of surrounded agricultural land (2) over the mound A is the shrine of Peer Surahayo locals respected it (3) each season of harvesting of rice crop owner keep there the bundles of the rice husk so surface of the site is swept. When this research highlighted the site and it create new thoughts about the settlement and also awareness the young researchers. Site needs proper scientific excavation and diagnostic artefacts must be exhibited publically.

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