

SOCIAL AND CULTURAL INFORMATION REVEALED BY THE NEW EXCAVATION AT ADICHANALLUR PROTO-HISTORIC SETTLEMENT IN SOUTH INDIA

HMYP. Wicramasinghe¹

Adichanallur is an important urn burial site belonging to the proto-historic period, located in the Thuththukudi district of Tamil Nadu state in South India. A new excavation was done here in 2004 and the final report was released in 2021. The objective of this research is to bring out the social and cultural information revealed in its burial patterns, pottery, copper tools, bones, and plant remains. For this, non-field study methods such as libraries, and internet studies were used to provide information. When examining the burial pattern, they belonged to 3 eras: the lower, middle, and upper phases. Redware, and black and redware potteries are mainly found here. Funeral items were buried with the bones as well as separately. There are two methods: primary burial (the whole body is placed in the urn) and secondary burial (only a few bones representing the body are buried with the grave goods). A nude female figure on a clay lid fragment found here may represent the mother goddess. A small number of copper objects and many iron objects have also been found. The examination of the bones found here confirms that the Dravidian people have lived here with various human races such as Mongoloids, Australoid, Negronis, and other human races. In terms of religious beliefs and population composition, there seem to be similarities between the Indus Valley Civilization and this settlement. In conclusion, this research uncovers many important social and cultural information about the protohistoric community at Adichchanallur.

Keywords: Adichchanallur, Proto-historic settlement, new excavation, social and cultural information

¹ Department of Archeology, University of Kelaniya. yasangapraveenwick@gmail.com