



RESEARCH PAPER

Sudheran-jo-Thul: Historical and Archaeological Perspectives

¹Dr Muhammad Hanif Laghari ² Saima Siddiqui ³Zaheer Ahmed Shaikh

1. Assistant professor Archaeology, Department of Anthropology and Anthropology, University of Sindh, Jamshoro, Sindh, Pakistan
2. Assistant Director, Quaid Azam House museum, Culture, Tourism Antiquities and Archives Department Government of Sindh, Karachi, Sindh, Pakistan
3. Assistant Director, Exploration and excavation branch, Culture, Tourism Antiquities Archives Department Government of Sindh, and Karachi, Sindh, Pakistan

***Corresponding Author** hanif.laghari@us.edu.pk

ABSTRACT

The Sudhern-jo-Thul is located in Taluka Mula Katyar, District Tando Muhammad Khan along the eastern edge of present Indus River. Its western is the hilly and remaining surrounded are the agriculture area. The Thul / Stupa is built with mud clay and mud bricks, and broken vessels of plain and painted are scattered. This historical site is described by the historian but they have not provided the archaeological evidences in details. And also focus the current situation of the site. Researcher visited site many times collected archaeological evidences to analysis scientifically uses Global Position System (GPS), compass and survey tools to record the site as well as the photographic information was also collected. It has been resulted that the site belongs different chronology / cultural affiliation of the history of human. It shows the site is belonging to the 1st century BC to 2nd century AD. It has been suggested that necessary attention be given to the site and sign boards should be installed over the surface of the site and to save it.

Keywords: Archaeology, Artifacts, Chronology, Geography, History

Introduction

The site was first visited and reported by Mr; Frere in 1857 he published his report in the Journal of the Royal Asiatic society. Frere reported that the ruins of the Tower are situated called Sudheran,s, he also mentioned the Tower was built with mud brick faced at the junction of the Goonee and Phulallee District Tando Muhammad Khan and he describing that many terracotta ornaments and clay votive were depicted around the plate form of stupa (*Frere 1857*) Again it was visited by Henery Cousins in 1929 in his preliminary report Antiquities of Sindh published by Culture Department Government of Sindh, Karachi. Describing the name Sudheranis connected by tradition with a mythical Hindu King Neru who reigned at Hyderabad hence its old name, perhaps of Nerun of Nerun Kot (*Cousen, 1998*).Further, Raverty says; "In the plain, close to where the Fulleli branch of Indus used a few year back to unite with the Guni, the county for miles around is covered with broken bricks and the ruined foundations of large buildings (*Raverty, 1892*). Traditions says that a large and flourishing city once covered the plain and extended as far as the range of limestone hills on the extreme northern part of which, some eighteen miles further north. Hyderabad stands.

The mound before visiting rose to a height of about 20 feet, with a case diameter for about 137 feet. Out of this rose a weather worn and deeply scored mud cone or tower all that was left of the original brick tower of the stupa which like others of its own kind was built of sun dried burnt bricks, regularly laid with an outer shell or casing of ornamental burnt brick (*Raverty, 1892*). But the latter has disappeared, much of it possibly, have been

used up in the canal construction close by. The original tower must have been about three diameter of the present mud cone. It was not an isolated building, for the ground to the south-west, for a mile or so, it still covered with small mounds brick debris and pottery sherds, the remains perhaps of monk's establishment; and as Raverty shows, it must have been neighbourhood of a large town or city. The small mound close by, which is said to cover the remains of Neru's Queen, is evidently a spot upon which cremations took place, as it was found to be composed layer upon layer of ashes interspersed with potsherds.

The lower course of the basements of walls of stupa were found in the mound, and these showed that, at the ground level, the lower part of the structure was oblong in plan, measuring 98 feet 6 inches from north to south, and 76 feet 9 inches from east to west (Raverty, 1892). Again, the site was visited by many historian prominent scholars and educated personalities show the history of the site. In 1972 Mr Gulzar Ahmed Khan, former Director of Pakistan Department of Archaeology, Government of Pakistan Islamabad put the first location of the site on the map of the region (Farooq, 1974-1986).

Keeping in the view, above objectives researcher use latest scientific approaches and operate the survey equipment and (GPS) Global Position System for exact location of the site. The collected cultural material brought to the lab for laboratory analyses and observation for final interpretation In 2020 researcher visited and observe it is in critical position many illegal ditches for the shifting of earth, encroachment of the local bricks and precious artifacts robbery.

Material and Methods

Keeping in the view, above objectives researcher use latest scientific approaches and operate the survey equipment and (GPS) Global Position System for exact location of the site. The collected cultural material brought to the lab for laboratory analyses and observation for final interpretation In 2020 researcher visited and observe it is in critical position many illegal ditches for the shifting of earth, encroachment of the local bricks and precious artifacts robbery. In 2020 researcher visited and observe it is in critical position many illegal ditches for the shifting of earth, encroachment of the local bricks and precious artefacts robbery.

Name and Location

The author of Antiquities of Sindh Henry Cousins mentions the name of the site he connected Sudheran tradition with a mythical Hindu King Neru who lived at Hyderabad (**Cousen, 1998**). Located in Taluka, District Tando Muhammad Khan 5 miles from Tando Mohammad Khan town on Kotri Badin branch line. It is situated three Kilometer East of Drighio Wah and one kilometre south of Malik Wah and one and half kilometres south east corner of the tomb of Norai Sharif (**Shaikh, 1975**). It is near the railway line visible from it. The site of the Stupa lies on the eastern outskirts of a big city remains which are all strewn with brick bats and immense quantity of potsherds.



Fig I Shows General view of the site and Sudhern-jo-Thul

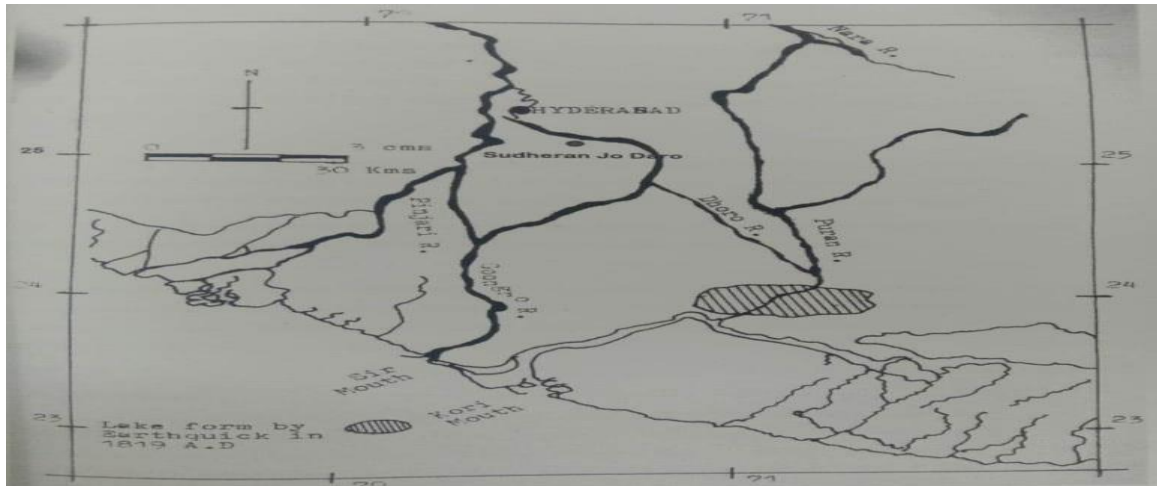


Figure 2 Shows the exact location of the site and Thul (Author 2021)

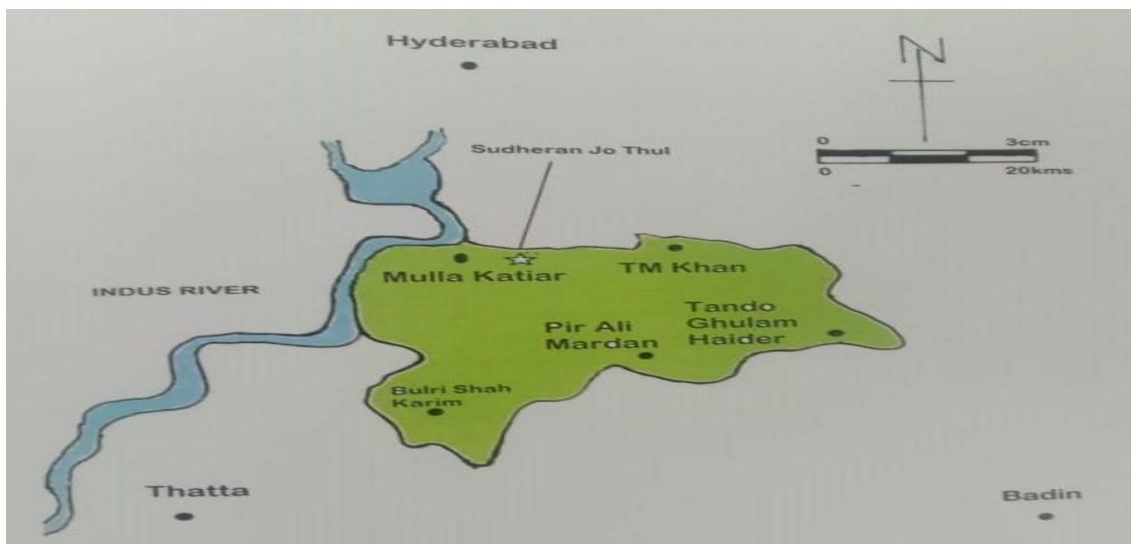


Figure 3 Talukas / Tahsils of the District Tando Muhammad Khan (Author2021)

Cultural Analysis

On the basis of cultural material, found on the site Sudheran Jo Daro. Researcher found broken pieces of plain and painted rim body and base sherds of water vessels, some of them thin medium in texture and some are thick in texture are painted on red slip on black painted designs and some are cream slipped on red and black painted and a piece of glazed blue turquoise pottery is reported. Such glaze pottery again found from the archaeology site of Mansurah. (*Laghari, 2020*) The broken part was with buff ware which is cream slipped on outer side and inner is black slip. There is also clay coated / appliqué design of cooking pottery is reported. In terracotta hubble-bubble and spout of water vessel, and also broken cut pieces of the frame of the Buddha images found with animals' depictions and have floral depiction carved on the image of Buddha. Lids with knob are also reported on the site, base storage jar and incised design of broken pottery is reported. In metal objects the broken pieces of knife almost rusted id reported, shell objects includes mother shell, conch shell and broken bangles of shell is reported. Snails and snail's fossils in also reported. Heavy black stone and polisher/grinder is collected and reported. After the laboratory analysis its washing, numbering, classifications diagnostic sherds are included in this research according to the manual of archaeology.

Pottery Analysis

During the investigation of the site researcher found informative artefacts which was scattered over top surfaced has planned, painted with various design black on the red inside shreds of various vessels of water jar bowls plates or shell objects and beats of precious stones or reported which are discussed blew

Rim Sherds

The broken pieces of water vessels called pottery sherds in which parts of vessels are dividing into different categories as rims, body and base. Some vessels are plan, painted and glazed are incised lines, During investigation of the site randomly collected large quantity of plan and painted rim sherds of different water vessels almost rim are narrow and white body sherd are medium in textures. Inside thin micas is observed which shows the riverine sand used by pottery maker. Some rims are black painted on inside of the upper lips. Sherd no3 are painted with 2 black parallel lines from inside and four incised impressed parallel lines on upper lip outside in thick black band on neck. Sherd no 8 have a 3 dull black parallel lines on upper lip of rim. Sherd no 7 have a 2 incised lines and black vertical lines on dark red slip. Sherd no; 5 have black/horizontal and vertical lines and from its outer lip have cut design. Rim no; 9 have circular dotted lines. Sherd no; 10 have a black parallel line with leave design.



Fig 4 Show the plain and painted broken rims of various vessels (Author2021)

Body Sherds

The Broken pieces of body sherds of water vessles are medium in texture. Sherd no 17 have dull black painted parallel 5 thin lines in 2 pairs inside little mica have observed sherd no 18 have dull black parallel line and little mica outside and inside. Sher no 16 have 2 black parallel and above the black line is black connected triangles and blow the parallel line is thick dark red band. Sherd no 21 have black incised line. Sherd no 23 have inside red slip and 3 black parallel lines in middle. Sherd no 24 have red slipped and thick black band design. Sherd no 40 have red slipped with black parallel band with mica outside. Sherd no 46 have black parallel line. Sherd no 75 is thin body wall miniature jar, parallel line above the blk line in thick red black band below the line black design on fine cream slipped. Sherd no 71 thick in texture and have floral design on cream slipped. Sherd no 76 black parallel lines with dotted on cream slipped thin in body wall. Sherd no 77 have black parallel line on turquoise glaze of open pot.



Fig 5 show the painted black parallel lines, floral and geometric designs of pottery (Author2021)



Fig 6 show black parallel lines, dark red lines on plain surface (Author 2021)

Appliqué/Clay coated design

It is cooking vessels and clay coated different forum sometime desing shows sometimes only to get the layer of mud fixed on the lowest part of the cooking vessel but it's in mostly rough form.



Fig 7 Show applique / clay coated for resist the heat design of pottery (Author 2021)

Buff ware

During collection, found that 2 pieces are broken body of vessel, its clays mixed with the fuller earth are reported from the Johi Taluka of district Dadu (*Majumdar, 1929*). Inside are black slipped medium in body wall. Sherd no 56 is locally made, medium in body wall from outer surface is light cream slipped inside in thick mica.

Shell Objective

During investigation of the site Sudheran jo Thul, reported broken piece of conch shell which is reported from early Indus/mature Indus sites of coastal site Balakot which is reported and excavated by Dr Dale, American Archaeological mission in 1971, preliminary report is published in habitant of the Balakot only to collect the shell object from the sea to distribute other contemporary settlements inside and abroad (*Dale, 1977*). And during survey reported shell bangles of different size in broken forum and including mother pearl shell / sippi are reported



Fig# 8 show the broken mother pearl shell, conch shell and broken bangles (Author2021)

Chronology

During the investigation of site Sudheran Jo Daro, on the basis of typology of materials, research has found two periods. In which one glaze post sherd defines that blue turquoise glaze is first reported Arab period 711 A.D in Sindh at Bhambhore site was excavated by Ramesh Chandra Majumdar in 1928 and later by Laslie Alcock in 1951. (*Khan, 1976*)

Cultural Affiliations

The pottery remains in the site of Sudheran Jo Daro broken sherd of pottery of various designs are collected shows the cultural affiliation dated back to Arab period from 711 AD to Kalhora period 1783 AD. Further, the evidence of stupa made by mud clay and animal figurines with burnt clay images depicted/broken bricks are dated back to early Buddhist period 5th century AD to Kalhora period 18th century AD (Table#1).

Table1
Chronology of the site

S.No	Period	Cultural Affiliation
1	Period 3	Late Mughal and Early Kalhora 17 th & 18 th Century
2	Period 2	Arab Period 711 A.D.

Conclusion

In conclusion the researcher declare following recommendations

- The site of Sudheran Jo Daro required quick repair and renovation work.
- To fix there sign board for introduction and awareness and instructions for visitors.
- To appoint the watchman/guard/chawkidar for the proper care and safety from the visitors / locals. And also, responsible to take attention during heavy monsoon rain fall.
- Proper scientific excavation conducted by the professionals to examine the total depth of the site and strati graphical analysis.
- To find the accurate chronology of the site.
- This information provides us the history of the region and open new directions or study to the young generations.

References:

- Cousen, H. (1998). *The Antiquities of Sindh* (3rd ed.). Culture Department Government of Sindh, Pakistan.
- Dale, G. F. (1977). *The Balakot Project Summary of Four years excavations in Pakistan*. South Asian Archaeology.
- Farooq, A. (1974-1986). *Excavation at Mansurah: 13 season*. Pakistan Archaeology NO 10-22 Department of Archaeology and Museums, Karachi.
- Frere, H. (1857). *Royal Asiatic Society Vol. 5*. Oxford university press
- Khan, F. (1976). *Bhanbhore A preliminary Report on the Recent Archaeological Excavations at Bhanbhore*. Karachi, Sindh, Pakistan: Department of Archaeology and Museums Ministry of Education and provincial Coordination .
- Laghari, M. H. (2020). *Mansurah the First Islamic Arab Capital of Sindh*. Khairpur, Sindh Pakistan: (Un published PhD Dissertation) Department of Archaeology, Shah Abdul Latif University).
- Majumdar, N. (1929). *Exploration in Sindh Memories of Archaeological survey of India*. Karachi: Indus Publication.
- Raverty, H. (1892). The Mehran of Sindh and its Tributaries: A geographical study *Journal of Asiatic Society*. Vol. 4. iss. 3
- Shaikh, M. S. (1975). *Culture and History of District Badin*. Badin, Sindh, Pakistan: Larr Adbi Society Saraj Bazar.