



DRAVIDIANS – FOUNDERS OF THE INDUS VALLEY CIVILIZATION

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ABSTRACT

One of the most famous civilizations of the world history is the Indus Valley Civilizations. The people of the Indus Civilization lived an Urban life. Some historians say that the Indus people are the mixed race of the Mediterranean race. The Mediterranean race first migrated from their homeland and got settled in the North-West region of India and got intervened with the native Indian people Arminods and they formed the new race called Proto-Dravidians, ancestors of the present-day Dravidians. The language relativity was a proof for this claim. Few other historians claim that the Indus people are the decedents of the Dravidians who were initially living in the Kumari Kandan and migrated to Indus side due to natural disaster. They later formed the Indus Civilization. No matter how many theories are said, it is a fact that is slowly getting accepted by the historians is that, the Indus people are the Dravidians. There are many evidences that supports the fact. The places names in Pakistan, Afghanistan are too similar to the names in Tamil Nadu. The Graffiti marks, the dialect of the Brahui region and Archaeological evidences are few examples.

KEYWORDS

Indus Civilization, Proto-Dravidians, Lemuria, Brahui Language, Graffiti marks

1. INTRODUCTION

Since the day Indus valley civilization was discovered, the answer for the question about the ancestors of Indus people was not answered. Many archaeologists and historians gave various opinions and theories about this mystery. One such opinion or theory is that, the Indus people are from Proto-Dravidian race. These Proto-Dravidians are the ancestors of present-day Dravidians. Basically, Dravidian society belongs to South India. There are many sources that serve as evidence to strengthen this point i.e., Indus people are originally Dravidians. Archaeologists found numerous similarities between the Indus and the Dravidian archaeological findings. Many names of places in Dravidian region are similar to the place names around the Indus sites. Another well-known example for the similarity is the Brahui language. This language is a Dravidian spoken in Pakistani Baluchistan, Iranian Baluchistan, and Afghanistan and in area around the Marw Oasis in Turkmenistan. So, this article aims to claim that Indus people are originally from the Proto-Dravidian race who is the ancestors of present-day Dravidians. This article also details about the origin of Dravidians, how they came to the Indus region and the theories surrounding it, the sources that are helpful in assuming this opinion and how these Proto-Dravidians moved to southern peninsular region of the Indian Subcontinent.

2. THEORIES ON THE DRAVIDIAN'S ORIGIN

The origin of Dravidians is itself a mystery. Some says that Dravidians are originally from the submerged continent called 'Lemuria'. While others say that they are a mixed race from the migrants of the Mediterranean race. This theory that the Dravidians are from Mediterranean race is based on linguistic relativity and some claim that this theory is on the basis of study on human skull remains found in both Mediterranean and the Dravidian Regions. Yet some authors and historians say that, Dravidians are an indigenous group of people whose home land is Southern Peninsular region and they spread around the Indian subcontinent in later period.

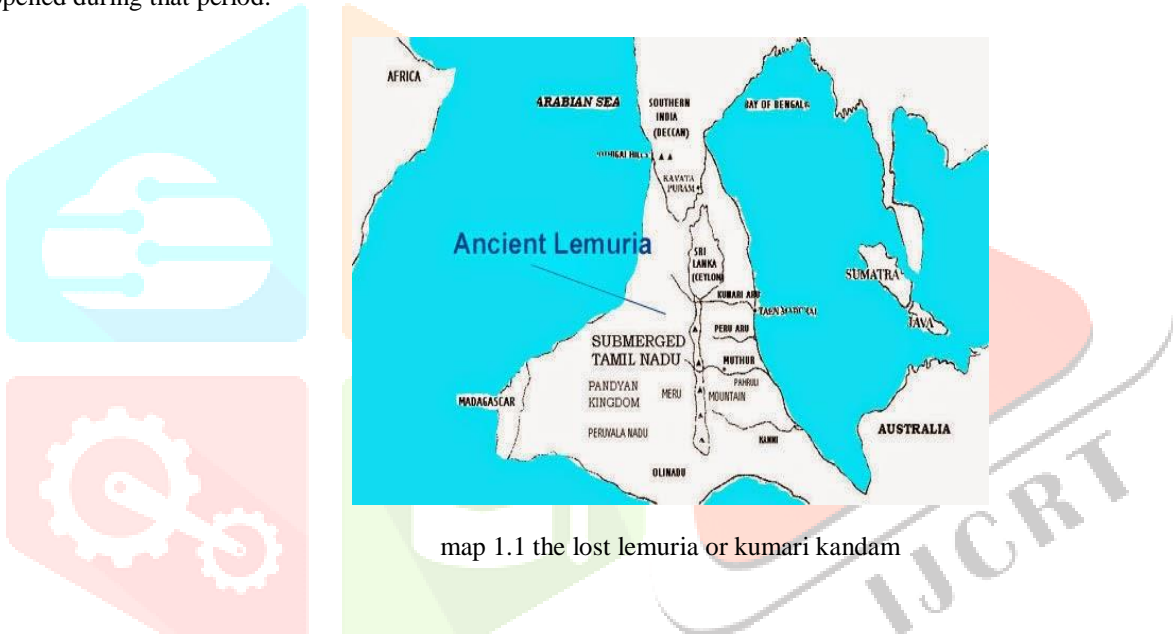
2.1 LEMURIAN THEORY

Kanda Puranam, Tholkappiyam, Silapathikaram and Kalithokai have scattered verses about a land situated to the South of Kanyakumari. The Indian Ocean had a continent connecting Malay Archipelago on the east and Madagascar on West, connecting South India with Africa and Australia. The continent was called as 'Kumarikandam' by the Tamil scholars. The Geologists call this continent as Lemuria. These texts also claim that the Dravidian's original home was this continent. They moved towards north and spread over present peninsular region of India due to the mass tsunami which resulted in the submerge of the said continent or land area. Some of the verses that say about this are,

பஃறுளி யாற்றுடன் பன்மலை அடுக்கத்துக்
குமரிக் கோடும் கொடுங்கடல் கொள்ள
வடதிசைக் கங்கையும் இமயமும் கொண்டு,
தென்திசை ஆண்ட தென்னவன் வாழி.

– சிலப்பதிகாரம், காடுகாண்காதை:19-22

These lines are taken from a Sangam literature called Silapathikaram. In these lines, it is said that 'the Pakruli river, Kumari land and many mountains are submerged into Indian Ocean due to a great tsunami. Then the Chera king, Cheran Senguttuvan marched towards north and was successful in capturing both Ganges valley and Himalayas.' By this, it is evident that there was some kind of land mass located to the south of Kanyakumari. This land also Pakruli river and series of mountains. The above lines also say that this land was submerged into the Indian Ocean due to the Tsunami happened during that period.



map 1.1 the lost lemuria or kumari kandam

2.2 MEDITERRANEAN THEORY

Few historians like Prof. Grafton Elliot Smith, James Hornell, Dr. Slater believe that, the Dravidians are a group of people who migrated to India are originally from the Mediterranean region. According to James Hornell, the Proto-Dravidians, who are the ancestors of Dravidians are a group of Mediterranean people who migrated from their home to the North-Western region of India. This migrated race mingled with the native race of India called the Arminods. This mixture formed a new race called the 'Dravidians'. The Brahui is a place in Western Pakistan and the language spoken here is called the Brahui language which is a part of the Dravidian family. This serves as a reason to claim that the Dravidians are the decedents of Mediterranean race.

3. THE DRAVIDIAN SETTLEMENT IN INDUS

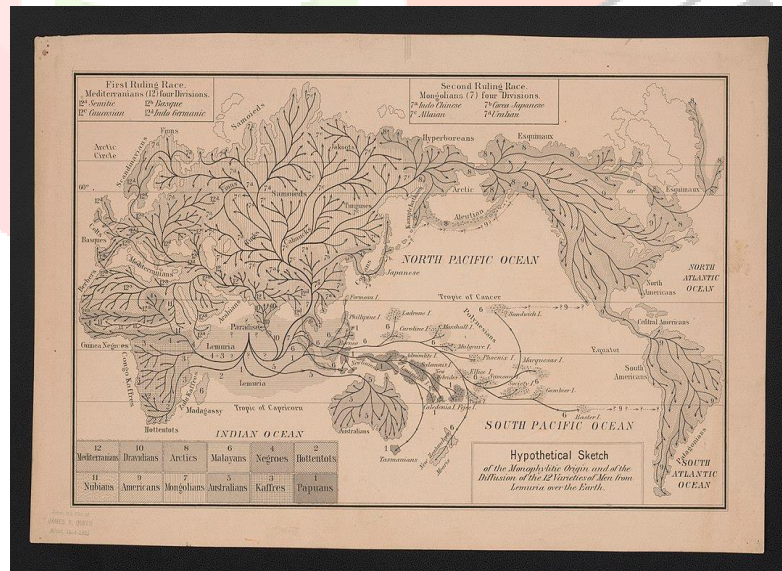
The people in the Indus region lived a very settled life. Their civilization was an Urban Civilization. To understand the Indus Civilization, we should also know about the Origin of the people. This was the basic step before studying the Civilization. It is a fact that the Origin of the Indus people are still a unsolved problem. There are two famous theories that are accepted by some historians with evident resources to support their theory. The two theories are as follows.

3.1 THE MEDITERRANEAN SETTLEMENT

Tamil, Telugu, Malayalam, Kanada are important languages in the Dravidian family languages. Tamil is the oldest one in this language group. The original home land of Dravidians is the place where the Tamil language was spoken for the first time. In the regions of Anatolia, Armenia, Elam, Asia Minor and Caucasus mountains we can see an unmistakable affinity with Dravidians. It is on debate that a great culture complex spread into Indus from the Mediterranean region. An inscription from Asia Minor states that, the Lucians called themselves as 'Trimkali'. This term Trimmali was similar to the word 'Dramila' which is used to define the Tamils. Caldwell shows several connections between the Lucians and Dravidians. The Dravidians were actually a mixed tribe. When the Dolichocephalic Mediterraneans moved into Indus, they got intervened with the aborigines of Indus called the Brachycephalic Arminods. This mixture of people formed a new race called the Dravidian race, to be precise they formed the Proto-Dravidian race. They established themselves in North India in the fourth millennium BC. Later these people established a civilization called the Harappan or Indus Valley Civilization.

3.2 THE LEMURIAN SETTLEMENT

As we seen before, the theory of Lemuria says that the Tamils are from the Lemurian continent submerged in the Indian Ocean. It is said to be the Cradle of the Tamils. The continent was located in the south of the Kanyakumari extending from the Madagascar and Archipelago. The land had a river called Pakruli river. It was also filled with many mountains. People lived here was leading a good life until the Great Tsunami swallowed this land inside the Indian Ocean. Due to this natural hazard, many Tamil people migrated from their homeland. We are not sure about their life style. So even if we assume that they led a sophisticated life, the fear of life may have made them rush to safe area to avoid another massive destruction. They might not have got the enough time to gather their necessities when their life is at a risk. So, we can assume safely that they left to their next safest place in a rush. Many moved to the nearest African and Mediterranean area and settled there. This settlement later mingled with the natives of the new areas and formed the respectable civilizations. Few moved toward North and got settled at the present Sothern Peninsular region. The other few moved to the North-West side and established their settlements in the Baluchistan and the Indus region. They might have faced a very hard way of life, after escaping the natural disaster and ending up in a very new place without their basic necessities. This is why we find the confusing evidences from the excavations done in the North-Western region of Indian Subcontinent. The escaped people somehow managed to live a life in their new settled area and this resulted in the formation of the new civilization of India i.e., Indus Civilization. Today Indus Civilization is highly appreciated and respected civilization in the world. Thus, Lemuria is also called as the Cradle of Civilizations as the People migrated from here formed the most remarkable civilizations around the World.



Map 1.2 The Route of how the Dravidians migrated from Lemuria

We cannot say in definite about which theory is possibly true. But we can clearly say that, both the theories point out that the Indus people were the Dravidian people. Maybe they migrated from the Lemuria or they are from Mediterranean Sea, it is safe to say that they are the Dravidian race people based on the two above mentioned theories.

The Dravidians or the Indus people are peace loving and they were not much feared or disturbed by foreign invasions. Mortimer wheeler, a famous British Archaeologist said that, the invasion of Aryans put up an end to the Indus civilization. Thus, we can assume that, this attack of Aryans might be a surprise to the peace-loving Dravidians. The less

amount of disturbance they faced might left them in unpreparedness. This resulted in them failing against the Aryans. Some of the defeated Dravidians became the inferior community in the caste system formed by the Aryans. They are called 'SUDRAS' or 'DASYUS'. They served for the Upper communities of the Aryans and remained as the Lower caste of the society later formed. Other remaining Dravidians moved to the south and settled in the southern peninsular region of India. These people are the present-day Dravidians.

4. THE INDUS PEOPLE ARE DRAVIDIANS - REASONS

There are various evidences that support the theory of Indus people being the decedents of the Pro-Dravidians, the primate of the Dravidians. In the last paragraph we detailly saw about how the Proto-Dravidians originated and how they settle in the Indus site. We already know that, Aryans driven out this people from their settlement when they invaded the Indus region. Even though they were forced to get out of their settlement, these Dravidians left behind various sources and glimpse of their life in the areas they lived. In this following paragraph, we shall see about thesources that are helpful in assuming the theory of Indus people being Dravidians.

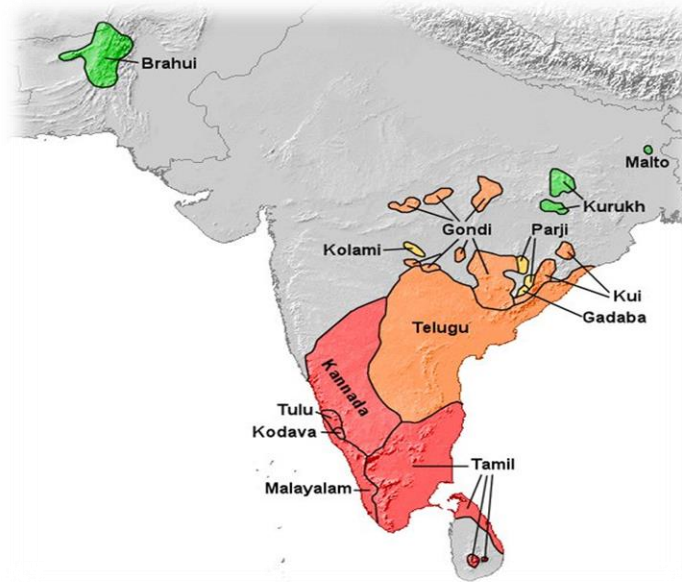
4.1 LANGUAGE

The Brahui language was widely spoken in the region called Brahui which is located in the Western Pakistan. This Brahui language was identified to be a family of Dravidian language. The similarity between the Tamil and Brahui languages is noteworthy. These people are the descendant of Indus Valley Civilization. When the Aryans invaded the Indus and forced the natives to leave the place, many choose to move towards the South. But few people moved to the West side and settled at Brahui region. According to Josef Elefenbein (1989) 'The Brahui were part of a Dravidian migration into northwestern India in the third BC unlike other Dravidian who migrated to the south they remained in Sarawan and Jahlawan.' There was a striking similarity between the Brahui and the Tamil Language. Some of the examples that could possibly show the similarities between Tamil and Brahui language are given below (Table 1.1). Take closer look to know how the words are almost said in the same way in both the regions.

	TAMIL LANGUAGE	BRAHUI LANGUAGE
Eye	Kan	Xan
Stone	Kal	Xal
Milk	Pal	Pal
You	Ne	Ne
Come	Vaa	Baa
Mother	Amma	Amma
Two inquiry or ask are understand	Ari	Harrifing

Table 1.1 Comparison of words in Tamil and Brahui

The following map (map 1.3) shows how the language speaking people are separated far away from the rest of the Dravidian speaking people. Even though the Brahui people are at a relatively far away, it is fascinating to know how they still preserve their Dravidian dialect. While Brahui is spoken by close to two million and it does not have any link or connection with the languages spoken around the area. But the connection of Brahui with Dravidian languages still amazes the scholars. Take a look at the map (Map 1.3) to understand the distance between the areas speaking these two languages.



Map 1.3 The Location of Brahui and the other Dravidian regions

4.2 PLACES

There are many reasons to believe that the Indus people are the decedents of the Dravidians. One such reason is the similarity in the way many sites from the region around the North-Western regions have names that sounds like Tamil names. For example, In Pakistan and Afghanistan, there is place called Korkai. This Korkai was also the name of a place in Tamil Nadu, which was a port city during its period. There are many places in Pakistan and Afghanistan especially around the Indus region which sounds very much similar to the Tamil names. Names like Thondi, Kanchi, Karuro, Cheran, Kanchi, Kundru etc., are some of the places in Pakistan. All these places are in Tamil Nadu also. Kanchi, in Tamil Nadu is the short form of the Pallava capital Kanchipuram. Pumpuhar was a name of the place in Afghanistan. Even today these places exist and were called by the same name. Pumpuhar was the famous port of the Cholas. It also served as a capital for the early Chola Kingdom. The following Map 1.4 shows the places that are named in Tamil at the countries of Pakistan, Afghanistan and Iran.



Map 1.4 Places similar in Tamil and in Pakistan and Afghanistan

4.3 GRAFFTIE MARKS

The Indus people used the Pictographic language. That is used signs as a way to write down the things. But this writing was not yet decoded. Few Historians claim that the Indus script was the ancient form of the Tamil language. The present Tamil language was the developed and the evolved version of the language used in Indus. After the invasion of Aryans, the language adopted its own script called the Brahmi script. Those who migrated from the Indus site settled in the forests and the mountain areas of the Western region of the Indus. By this, they protected the Language from the mixing of the other foreign language and stayed with its pure form. For example, The Brahui language was from the Dravidian Family. As the settlement was little away from the Aryans reach, the uniqueness and the originality of the dialect remained the same.

The Indus people and Dravidians both used the Potteries. The potteries identified in both the regions had several marks on the pot shreds. At first it was a confusion about what these marks are and how they are made i.e., whether these marks are made for purpose or these marks are formed accidentally. The Archaeologists who excavated these made researches and found out that the marks on the pot shreds are made by the potter with purpose. During the ancient time, Pot was the basic utensil of the people. Everyone had pots and sometimes it would be a confusion to find the rightful owner of the part. Thus, these signs maybe used as an indication to notify the owner of the pot and they can avoid the confusion. These marks are called Graffiti marks. The surprising thing is that, the Graffiti marks found in the pot shreds of Tamil and the Indus are more or less similar. There is slight change in the marks. But they are similar to one another. Take a look at the figure 1.1. The similarity in the graffiti marks used as an point to prove the theory of Indus people being the Dravidians.

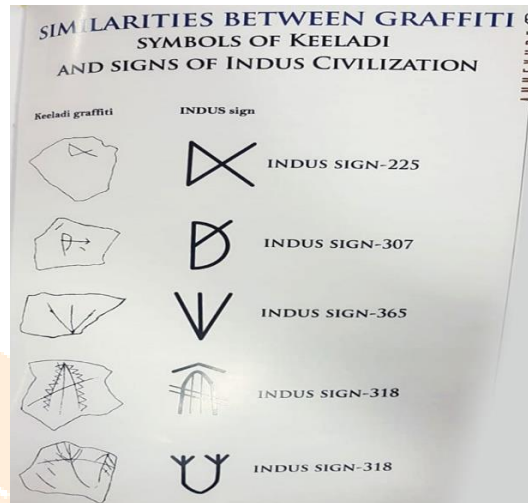


Fig 1.1 Graffiti marks from Indus and Keezhadi

5. CONCLUSION

The graffiti marks, the similarities between the Dravidian languages spoken in the southern peninsular region and north west regions of Indian subcontinent, archaeological evidences show the possibility of the Indus people were descendants of the Dravidian race. We may not be sure about which theory of origin of Indus. But for one thing we can be so definite is that; Indus people were the people of Dravidian race. These much similarity cannot be found between any other races. It was astonishing to know the relativities. A Museum at Mexico shows a picture of the world map. The interesting fact is that, the Indian subcontinent was marked and was named as the **Dravidica** country. The pottery making, the drainage systems were almost similar in both the Keezhadi and the Indus Sites. The Indus towns were basically divided into two. They are Citadel and the Lower town. The same can be found in the Vaigai civilization i.e., the Dravidian civilization. The Meezhadi and the Keezhadi was a proof of Citadel and Lower town type of Urban settlement. Thus all these things points to the one single fact that, Dravidians were the Indus people.

6. REFERENCE

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