



A comparative study between Harappa culture and Vedic culture

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1. Introduction

The contribution of both Harappa culture and Vedic culture is very important in Indian history. Vedic culture developed in the history of India after the end of Harappa culture. Archaeologists are of the opinion that the Aryans, being more powerful, put an end to their culture by defeating the Harappa culture people. The time of Harappa culture is BCE 3500 to 2200 and the time of Vedic culture is BCE 2500 to 1000. Both cultures were cultures of two different races. The Harappa culture was older than the Vedic culture. The researcher of the present article has tried to explain both the ancient civilizations of India.

Key Terms: *Harappa culture, Vedic culture, Comparative study*

2. Definition of Key terms

2.1 Harappa culture

The Harappa culture is the earliest known culture of the Indian subcontinent of the kind now called “urban” (or centered on large municipalities), and the largest of the four ancient civilizations, which also included Egypt, Mesopotamia, and China. The society of the Indus River Valley has been dated from the Bronze Age, the time period from approximately 3500 to 2200 BCE. It was located in modern-day India and Pakistan, and covered an area as large as Western Europe.

2.2 Vedic culture

A few centuries after the decline of the Harappan civilization, a new culture flourished in the same region and gradually spread across the Ganga-Yamuna plains. This culture came to be known as the Vedic culture. There were significant differences between this culture and the culture that preceded it. The Aryans settled on the banks of rivers Indus (Sindhu) and Saraswati (which is now nonexistent). They composed many hymns in honor of the gods and goddesses they worshipped. These were compiled in four Vedas

2.3 Comparative study

Comparative study is the act of comparing two or more things with a view to discovering something about one or all of the things being compared. Comparative study helps to define the organization structure of the subjects as well as give the differential points between the subjects matter.

3. Objective of the study

1. To study Similarities between the Harappa culture and the Vedic culture.
2. To study Differences between the Harappa culture and the Vedic culture.
3. To motivate students for comparative historical study.
4. To inculcate the essence of historical research in the students.

4. Similarities between the Harappa culture and the Vedic culture

People of both cultures ate the same type of food. People from both cultures made the same kind of weapons and wore the same kind of clothing. They wore both cotton and wool. The inhabitants of both cultures were jewelers, both men and women were fond of jewelry. The occupations of the people of

both cultures were farming and animal husbandry. Cows, oxen, dogs, sheep, goats, etc. were both domesticated animals. People from both cultures believed in religious sentiments. People of both cultures incorporated many religious features into later Hinduism. People of both cultures were materially prosperous. However, there were differences in their religious beliefs and customs. This indicates that the two cultures had considerable similarities in various fields, but the Harappa Civilization was in a developed state when the Aryans entered India.

5. Differences between Harappa culture and Vedic culture

Time and residence - Planning: Before studying the differences between Harappa Civilization culture and Vedic culture in the field of time, the first thing to keep in mind is the fact that there is a time gap between the two cultures. The time of Harappa culture is BCE 3500 to 2200 and the time of Vedic culture is BCE 2500 to 1000. Thus, the Harappa Civilization was more ancient than the Vedic Civilization. **In the field of habitat:** It is clear from the remains obtained from the production of Harappa Civilization that Harappa Civilization was a municipality. There are strong evidences of houses, roads, streets, alleys, set up sewers - town - administration, etc. corresponding to the town. Harappa Civilization people used to build planned houses of backed bricks. The huge baths and fountains available during the production from there give the Harappa Civilization a form of developed culture. Harappa Civilization town Mohenjo-daro, Harappa, Lothal, Rojdi, Ropad, Dhola Veera, etc. were the predominant towns established. **Arya culture was the 'rural culture'** The Arya-Samaj reflected in the Vedas was partly a herdsman and partly a farmer. They did not go beyond the rural level. He had no knowledge of urban life. Their houses were mostly made of bamboo-leaves. Dr. R. S. Sharma writes, "The significant difference between the material life of the people of the Arya and Harappan cultures lies not in the use of metal, but in the almost complete absence of towns in the Rig Veda era. The Aryans were not the builders of the cities, but the destroyers. "In short, in the words of Sir John Marshall, "The Harappa Civilization culture was the town culture with trade as the main occupation, while the Aryan culture was the rural culture with agriculture as the main occupation." **Social life:** In the field of social level, the social life of the Harappa culture people was happy and prosperous and they lived a life of luxury and opulence, while the social life of the people of Vedic culture was simple and their life was based on holiness. The social life of the Indus-culture was matriarchal, while the social life of the Vedic culture was patriarchal. **In the field of food consumption:** The main food of the people of Harappa Civilization was wheat and fish, while the main food of the people of Vedic culture was barley and rice. According to Sir John Marshall, "The Vedic Aryans were carnivores, but they had a general aversion to beef and fish, as there is no direct mention of fishing in the Vedas, while fish was the common food of the Harappa Civilization." Harappans ate the flesh of all birds and cattle. Somras was a favorite drink of the Aryans, which was not prevalent among the people of the Harappa Civilization". **Clothing and Apparel -** There were differences between the two cultures in the field of dress and costume. Harappan women wore skirts and wrapped around the waist. The Aryans wore leather garments as well as jaridar garments. The people of the Harappan culture wore mainly cotton, while the Aryans of the Vedic culture wore woolen clothes in addition to cotton. **In the field of recreational equipment,** the people of the Harappa Civilization culture preferred indoor recreation such as bargaining, chess, music, dance, etc., while the people of the Vedic culture had a special interest in outdoor recreation such as hunting, chariot racing. This means that unlike the Aryan people, the people of the Harappa Civilization were not much interested in outside entertainment such as hunting and chariot racing. **In the field of use of weapons:** The people of the Harappa Civilization were of a peaceful nature. They fought only for self-defense, while the people of Vedic culture were belligerent and belligerent. They were adept at defensive and offensive warfare. The people of the Harappa Civilization made weapons (swords, daggers, spears) from copper, bronze and stone, which were of inferior quality. The Aryans made sharp iron weapons, the level of which was higher than that of the Harappa Civilization. The offensive weapons of the people of the Vedic culture were bows, swords, spears, daggers and axes and the protective weapons included shirts, shields, etc. While the people of the Harappa Civilization were completely unaware of the use of protective weapons such as headscarves and shields.

The Harappa Civilization was the main bronze culture in the use of various metals, so the people there mainly used stone. They also used copper and bronze a lot. Their utensils were made of stone and copper. They used more silver than gold. The people of Indus civilization were totally unaware of the use of iron: the people of Vedic culture used various metals like copper, bronze, silver and iron for various purposes, while the people of Indus culture did not make weapons and everyday items from stone. The Aryans used iron. In the field of making pottery, the people of Harappa Civilization culture used to make pottery on wheel 'chakda' and also used to give them red and black glitter. There was no such feature in the making of utensils by the people of Vedic culture. Their utensils were plain.

In the field of religion: In the field of idol worship, people of Harappa Civilization culture were mainly idol-worshippers and worshiped Shiva and Shakti. People from Vedic culture were generally opposed to idol worship - they did not believe in idol worship and their main deities were Indra, Agni, Varuna, Surya, etc. and they praised them. In the field of worship of Param Nari (Mother Goddess), the inhabitants of Indus culture were worshippers of Mother Goddess as an adorable goddess. In their religion, the place of female deities was equal to that of male deities, while in the Aryan religion of the Vedic age, the place of female deities was always secondary. In the field of Shivling worship, people of Indus culture worshiped Shivling, while people of Vedic culture hated Ling worship. In the field of importance of Agni, Havan and Yajna: In the religion of the people of Indus culture, the action of Agni Havan, Yajna, etc. was not of special importance. Religious activities like Agni, Yajna - Havankund, etc. were of special importance in the religion and life of the people of Vedic culture they considered Agni to be sacred and considered Agni to be an adorable and revered deity in the field of importance of bathing. Indus - Many more available than excavations in the valley. Bathrooms are its proportions. During the excavation of the Mohenjo-daro, the remains of a large bathhouse (180 feet long and 108 feet wide) were found. People bathed in it during religious festivals. Thus, the religion of the Harappa Civilization was in its infancy as compared to the religion of the Vedic culture as a whole from a religious point of view. In the field of writing art, the people of Indus culture had complete knowledge of writing art. Postures shed light on the writing of the time. It is clear from his study that the people of the Harappa Civilization used to read and write from left to right and from right to left. They used hieroglyphics like the ancient Sumerians in the field of writing. He was well versed in Aryan writing, his writing instruments included Bhojpatra, Kamalpatra, etc., on which was written with peacock feathers, but the Indus script has not yet been read or solved, so there is still ignorance about his literary development, while Aryan Vedic Sanskrit It is the mother of Indian languages and has a profound influence on almost all Indian languages.

Economic life: In terms of economic status, the economic life of the people of the Harappa Civilization was prosperous and advanced as well as based on industrial specialization and localization. They were very skilled in making clay toys and utensils as well as polishing them, while the economic life of the people of Aryan culture was rural. They were utterly unknown in the art of glazing earthenware. In the field of trade-agriculture the Indus-valley culture was trade-oriented. Compared to the Vedic culture, trade was in a developed stage during the time of Indus culture. The people of the Harappa Civilization used 'weights' for weighing in trade. Many weights (baats) have become available from there. Small businesses were also operating at the time. Vedic culture was agriculture. Aryans lived in villages. At that time, the medium of trade was exchange. Agriculture and animal husbandry were the main occupations of the Aryans. The Aryans were well versed in many agricultural activities including plowing the fields, the only evidence of Harappan culture being found in plowing the fields in Kalibangan. In the field of animal husbandry: People of Harappa culture and Vedic culture kept cattle, buffaloes, goats, oxen, dogs, etc. or had knowledge about 'pets' animals. Numerous mudras found during excavation bear the mark of 'bull', so the people of Indus culture gave special importance to bulls and worshiped bulls, they did not consider 'cow' more sacred. Harappa Civilization people were familiar with tigers and elephants, but they had no knowledge of horses. In Gujarat, some bone remains of a horse and a baked clay idol in the shape of a horse have been found from 'Surkotda'. Horses were an important part of the Aryan herd. With their help the Aryans conquered many races. The Aryans (people

of the Vedic age) were unfamiliar with tigers. As well as the elephant being mentioned only nominally in their religious texts (Vedas), the people of the Vedic culture worshiped the 'cow' and considered it very sacred. In Vedic culture, cowherds were punished. Cows were also given in the form of prizes. Sir Han Marshall rightly writes, "For the Vedic Aryans, the cow was considered the highest (sacred) of all animals with respect. The cow took the place of the cow among the people of Mohenjo-daro and Harappa."

In the field of art: People of Indus culture were amateurs. From the pieces of his time, coins, amulets, paintings on pottery, etc., it is known that he was a clapper. Tidy towns, huge houses, construction of sewers and wide roads, etc., show that the people of the Harappa Civilization were proficient in the art of building. The Aryans were also amateurs, but their art was not as high as that of the people of the Harappa Civilization. This means that the excellence and uniqueness of Aryan art is not over-mentioned. They were as ignorant of the art of bringing luster on pottery as the people of the Harappa Civilization.

6. Conclusion

Thus, at the end of the comparative description of various aspects of the life of the people of Indus-culture and Vedic culture, it can be concluded that the culture of Harappa Civilizations considered being quite different from the Aryan culture of Vedic age and more ancient. This fact seems to be correct in the general sense of the 'accepted time calculation scheme', as historians and archaeologists have dated the time of Harappa culture is BCE 3500 to 2200 and the time of Vedic culture is BCE 2500 to 1000. From this it can be said that the influence of Indus civilization may have been directly or indirectly on Vedic culture and also, Vedic culture is not the original source of all the cultures developed in India since then. The Harappa Civilization has not only served as an important factor in the development and progress of the culture of this country, but has also influenced it. Even today, people in some parts of India, like the people of the Harappa Civilization, worship Pipal, Tulsi, etc., also believe in ghosts; He also worships Shivling and Parvati and understands the importance of yoga. The influence of Indus culture can be seen on all these features of our current religious life. In fact, Indus-culture has profoundly influenced Vedic-culture. Finally, both cultures are two of the oldest and most important historical events in the development of Indian culture and civilization, as well as two powerful pillars of the development of Indian culture and civilization."

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